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India's youth is aware, socially conscious, serious about their duties: PM Modi

New Delhi, Aug 2: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that the commitment of the new generations towards eradicating the problem of drug addiction from society has reaffirmed his belief that the youth of India is "aware, socially conscious, and serious about their duties".

Trump cancels Iran sTrikes sub-jecT To deal being made 'rapidly'

WORLD PAGE



Will Ritika Nayak Score A Hat-Trick Hi With Kanakaraju?

CINEMA PAGE



SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

01-08-2026

Total pilgrims : 86,231
Tonsures : 32,017
Hundi karukulu : 3,74 CR
Laddu sale : 47.1 Lac
Annaprashadams : 2.47 Lac
Medical treatment : 3,285
Waiting Compartments : 31

Approva. Densan Time for Saravandhanam (with out SSS) 10.14

JAGAN ACCUSES NAIDU OF VENDETTA POLITICS, VOWS TO FIGHT 'FALSE CASES'

Hyderabad, Aug 2: YSR Congress Party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Sunday accused Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu of pursuing "politics of vendetta" and "authoritarian governance", asserting that his party would continue to resist what he described as the misuse of police and criminal cases against political opponents. Reiterating his demand for the resignation of Education Minister Nara Lokesh over the alleged irregularities in the District Selection Committee (DSC)-2025 teacher recruitment process, Jagan claimed the government was avoiding accountability by targeting opposition leaders. In a post on X, the former Chief Minister told Chandrababu Naidu that political power, police authority and false criminal cases were temporary, and maintained that the YSR Congress Party would continue to stand with victims, challenge injustice and oppose what he termed authoritarian rule. "You may be able to arrest individuals, but you cannot break the courage that resides in the hearts of the people, nor can you silence the questions they continue to ask," he said.

TERRORIST ARRESTED WITH ARMS IN JOINT OPERATION IN J&K'S BARAMULLA

Srinagar, Aug 2: A terrorist was arrested along with arms and ammunition during a joint security operation in the Fathagadh area of Sheeri in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Saturday, officials said. The operation was carried out jointly by the Indian Army's 46 Rashtriya Rifles, the Jammu and Kashmir Police, and the 53 Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). According to officials, security personnel apprehended one terrorist during the operation and recovered arms and ammunition from his possession. The identity of the arrested terrorist and details of the weapons seized are yet to be disclosed. An official statement is expected later. The arrest comes days after two migrant labourers were killed in a terrorist attack at a brick kiln in the Kelam area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district. The victims, Deepak Ratray and Bopinder, both in their 20s, were shot dead on Friday evening. The Resistance Front (TRF), a group considered a proxy of the Pakistan-backed Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), claimed responsibility for the attack and reportedly issued threats of further attacks targeting outsiders and Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel.



CM Revanth offers prayers at Ujjaini Mahankali Temple

Hyderabad, TSIT BUREAU:

Telangana Chief Minister A.Revanth Reddy offered special prayers at the historic Ujjaini Mahankali Temple in Secunderabad on the occasion of the Bonalu festival.

The Chief Minister had darshan of Goddess Ujjaini

Mahankali and prayed for the peace, prosperity, good health, and overall well-being of the people of Telangana.

State Ministers Konda Surekha, Ponnamp Prabhakar, and Seethakka accompanied the Chief Minister during the visit. Several MLAs, MLCs, public representatives, senior

government officials, temple priests, and devotees were also present on the occasion.

The temple witnessed elaborate traditional rituals and tight security arrangements as thousands of devotees gathered to seek the blessings of Goddess Ujjaini Mahankali.

TN to withdraw cases against students involved in NEET protests



Chennai (TSIT):

The Tamil Nadu government will withdraw all cases registered against students who participated in protests against the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), School Education Minister Rajmohan announced on Sunday. The decision was taken on the directions of Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay and is expected to benefit students booked by the police during demonstrations held across the state against the medical entrance examination.

In a post on X, Rajmohan said the government has

decided to withdraw all cases registered against students in connection with anti-NEET protests.

Further details regarding the withdrawal process and the cases covered by the decision would be announced shortly, he added. The announcement comes days after widespread protests over NEET were held in several parts of the country, with students and youth organisations raising concerns over the examination system and demanding changes. Tamil Nadu also witnessed a series of demonstrations, including rallies, flash protests and other forms of agitation. Various student organisations and political groups organised demonstrations at several locations in the state. In Chennai, protesters staged a continuous agitation at Balan Illam, the State headquarters of the Communist Party of India (CPI). Flash protests were also reported from some parts of the state.

Rahul urges Congress workers to aid Kerala rain victims

New Delhi (TSIT)

Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Sunday expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives and widespread devastation caused by heavy rains across Kerala, extending his condolences to the bereaved families and urging Congress workers and volunteers to actively assist ongoing relief and rehabilitation efforts.

In a post on social media platform X, Gandhi said he was "deeply saddened" by the destruction caused by incessant rainfall in the state, which has claimed at least eight lives and left several people missing. "Deeply saddened by the devastation caused by heavy rains across Kerala. My heartfelt condolences to the families of the eight people who have lost



their lives. May those still missing be found safe, and the injured make a swift recovery," Gandhi said.

The Congress leader said the Kerala government was making every possible effort to support affected families and coordinate relief and recovery operations in the rain-hit areas.

"The state government is making every possible effort to support affected families and coordinate relief and recovery operations. I urge all Congress workers and volunteers to assist these efforts in

every possible way," he said.

Appealing to people to exercise caution, particularly in vulnerable areas, Gandhi urged residents to remain vigilant and follow the directions issued by the authorities. "Please remain vigilant, especially in the hilly regions, and follow the guidance of the authorities," he said.

Reaffirming his solidarity with those affected by the disaster, Gandhi said, "Kerala stands united in this difficult hour. I stand firmly with every affected family." Kerala has been witnessing heavy rainfall over the past several days, triggering landslides, flooding and widespread disruption in several districts. Rescue and relief operations are underway as state agencies continue efforts to assist affected residents and restore normalcy.

Ujh project revived after 100 years, phased rollout planned: Jitendra Singh

New Delhi (TSIT)

union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Sunday reviewed the status and phased implementation roadmap of the Ujh Multipurpose Project (UPP) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, which has been revived after nearly 100 years. The Minister held a detailed meeting with officials of WAPCOS Ltd and the Ministry of Jal Shakti, which has been entrusted with implementing the project.

Dr Singh emphasised the need for expeditious implementation so that the benefits of the strategically important project reach the people at the earliest.

He advised WAPCOS to explore innovative solutions and implementation strategies while maintaining the highest standards of quality, safety and efficiency. The Minister was informed that the project would be implemented in phases. Work will commence while acquisition of the remaining land is pursued simultaneously, without waiting for completion of the entire land acquisition process.

The implementing agency is also working out the project site and related requirements. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dr Singh said, long-pending national projects are being taken forward with renewed urgency.

He noted that the Ujh Multipurpose Project, conceived nearly a century ago, had remained in limbo for decades, while the Shahpurkandi project had remained pending for about four decades.



The delay in implementation of these projects, he said, resulted in the waters of the Ravi River and its tributaries continuing to flow into Pakistan.

The Minister said that even when the Indus Waters Treaty was in force, Ravi, Satluj and Beas were India's three rivers under the Treaty, with Ravi being the major river among them. He noted that the Treaty is now in abeyance. Dr Jitendra Singh said that the revival of the Shahpurkandi project in 2019, which is now almost complete, and the revival of the Ujh Multipurpose Project in 2026 reflect the Government's resolve under Prime Minister Narendra Modi to realise long-delayed projects, optimise the use of India's water resources and deliver tangible benefits to the people.

The Ujh Multipurpose Project, located on the Ujh River, a main tributary of the Ravi River, is designed to generate around 186 MW to 212 MW of electricity. It is expected to provide irrigation to nearly 90,000 hectares of agricultural land in Kathua and Samba districts of Jammu and Kashmir and Pathankot and Gurdaspur districts of Punjab. The project will also supply drinking water to Kathua district and provide industrial water availability.

Monsoon fury: Assam flood toll rises to 82; six dead in Kerala, Odisha flood alert intensifies

New Delhi (TSIT):

The southwest monsoon continued to wreak havoc across Assam, Kerala and Odisha on Saturday, claiming more lives, displacing thousands and affecting lakhs of people as flood and rain-related emergencies persisted in several regions.

In Assam, the flood-related death toll rose to 82, while nearly 1.93 lakh people remain affected despite water levels receding in some areas, according to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA). Relief and rehabilitation operations are continuing in the worst-hit districts.

Kerala reported six rain-related deaths, with six others still

missing, the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said. Search and rescue operations are underway with the assistance of multiple agencies, elected representatives and local residents.

The state has opened 65 relief camps sheltering 1,465 people. Officials said 17 houses have been completely destroyed, while 127 others have suffered partial damage due to heavy rainfall.

Although rainfall has eased in some areas, rescue operations continue. Anakkampoyil in Kozhikode recorded 340 mm of rainfall over 35 hours, while Meppadi in Wayanad received 177 mm during the same period.

Meanwhile, Odisha remains on high alert as floods affected more than 8.34 lakh people across



20 districts. Floodwaters from the swollen Mahanadi and the overflowing Salandi, Brahmani, Baitarani, Jalaka and Budhabalang rivers have inundated low-lying areas, damaged

infrastructure and submerged large tracts of agricultural land.

More than 1,300 houses have been damaged, with Bhadrak emerging as the worst-affected district, followed by Jajpur,

Balasore and Mayurbhanj.

Authorities have placed 10 districts downstream of the Mahanadi under high alert as the Hirakud Dam continues releasing excess water through 22 gates. The districts include Angul, Boudh, Sambalpur, Subarnapur, Nayagarh, Cuttack, Puri, Khurda, Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapada, with special focus on the vulnerable Mahanadi delta region.

Officials said the water level at the Hirakud reservoir stood at 625.47 feet against its full reservoir level of 630 feet. With inflows touching around 4.15 lakh cusecs, the reservoir level is expected to rise further, although discharge at the Mundali barrage near Cuttack has declined.

'Others have mothers too': Raj Thackeray urges PM to rein in BJP's troll culture

Mumbai, Aug 2 Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray on Saturday said that while the abusive language used against Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the recent Jantar Mantar protest was unacceptable, the Prime Minister should also advise leaders and supporters of his own party to refrain from using similar rhetoric. Addressing the 20th anniversary programme of the Maharashtra Navnirman Vidyarthi Sena (MNVS) in Mumbai, Thackeray said he fully agreed that no individual should be subjected to objectionable language, but argued that the same standards must apply across the political spectrum."The language used against Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the protest at Jantar Mantar was inappropriate. We agree with that. I 100 per cent agree that such low-level language should not be used against anyone. I only want to tell the Prime Minister - please convey this to the people in your party as well," he said. The response follows a video shared by Prime Minister Modi on Instagram on Friday night, in which he raised objections to the offensive language used against him and his mother at Jantar Mantar. In the video, PM Modi stated that he forgives the youths involved and appealed that no legal action be taken against them. Critiquing the political culture over the past decade, the MNS chief accused the BJP of fostering aggressive online trolling. "Look at the language your team of trolls uses against everyone from Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Indira Gandhi to us. Many artists in Maharashtra are afraid to speak up. Teams have been set up in every state - tell them too not to abuse people," Thackeray said. He further added, "This culture of trolling started over the last 12 years."

Lucknow to host BRICS NSO meet from Aug 3, focus on quality statistics and data innovation

New Delhi, Aug 2: India will host the Meeting of Heads of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of BRICS countries in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, from August 3 to 4 under its BRICS Chairship 2026, with discussions set to focus on strengthening statistical cooperation, innovation and data quality.

According to an official statement, the meeting will bring together representatives from Brazil, Russia, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The initiative is part of India's BRICS Chairship, which is guided by the theme, "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability (BRICS)." Under the BRICS Statistics Track, India has adopted the theme "Quality Statistics as Driver of Change," highlighting its commitment to improving data quality, fostering innovation, ensuring effective



dissemination and building people-centric statistical systems capable of meeting the growing demand for high-frequency, granular and reliable official data for evidence-based, sustainable and inclusive development.

The statement said robust statistical systems have become central to policy-

making within BRICS by enabling governments to monitor development, formulate policies and strengthen cooperation. Since 2010, BRICS nations have jointly published the Joint Statistical Publication (JSP), while the Snapshot BRICS JSP, introduced in 2020, provides harmonised and easily accessible statistical data. Over

the years, cooperation has expanded beyond data compilation to include harmonisation of standards, innovation and improved statistical practices for policy-makers, researchers and the public.

As part of the annual BRICS Statistics Track, two key meetings are held every year, including a technical meeting of NSOs and the meeting of heads of NSOs. The technical meeting for 2026 was held on April 16-17 to finalise the framework for the Joint Statistical Publication and Snapshot BRICS JSP 2026, allocate responsibilities among member countries and establish timelines for contributions.

The BRICS Statistics Track seeks to strengthen core statistical publications, promote reforms and innovation in national statistical systems, improve data dissemination and accessibility, and enhance macroeconomic and sectoral statistics across member nations.

DFCCIL Sets Historic Freight Record in July



Visakhapatnam (TSIT) The Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) has achieved a historic milestone by recording its highest-ever monthly freight performance in July 2026, registering 10,544 million Net Tonne Kilometres (NTKMs). The achievement represents a 20 per cent increase over the corresponding period in July 2025, reflecting the growing efficiency and capacity of India's dedicated freight rail network. According to DFCCIL, the record performance highlights the crucial role of the Dedicated Freight Corridor in meeting the country's rising freight transportation demands. Modern infrastructure, advanced signalling systems, efficient train opera-

tions, and enhanced network management have significantly improved freight movement across the corridor.

The dedicated freight network has reduced transit time, improved asset utilisation, and increased the reliability of rail-based cargo transportation. The improved logistics performance has benefited industries, manufacturing units, agricultural supply chains, ports, and logistics service providers by ensuring faster and more dependable freight movement. Enhanced punctuality has also strengthened domestic trade and supported India's import-export operations.

DFCCIL stated that the outstanding performance achieved in July reflects the organisation's opera-

tional excellence, expanding freight-handling capacity, adoption of advanced technology, and efficient management practices. The corporation reiterated its commitment to reducing logistics costs, accelerating freight transportation, and providing world-class rail freight services to industries across the country. The organisation further emphasised that it remains focused on developing world-class freight infrastructure and promoting environmentally sustainable rail transport to strengthen India's logistics ecosystem. DFCCIL said it would continue to enhance freight capacity and play a vital role in supporting the country's economic growth in the years ahead.

CBI files Rs 1,816 crore EPFO investment fraud case against Reliance Capital

New Delhi, Aug 2 The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday said it has registered an FIR against Reliance Capital Limited in Mumbai, its former Chairman Anil Ambani, unknown public servants and other unknown persons, for allegedly causing a wrongful loss of Rs 1,007.55 crore, along with an interest liability of Rs 808.67 crore, by committing offences including criminal conspiracy, cheating, criminal breach of trust and criminal misconduct. The FIR was registered on the basis of a written complaint received from the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), Ministry of Labour and Employment. According to the agency, it is alleged in the com-

plaint that, during 2013 and 2014, Reliance Capital Limited (RCL) issued secured Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs), in which the EPFO invested Rs 2,500 crore through four portfolio managers including Reliance Capital Asset Management Limited. The NCDs were due to mature during 2023 and 2024. It is further alleged that the accused persons indulged in fraudulent transactions and diversion of funds, resulting in the default in redemption of the NCDs by Reliance Capital Limited and causing a total alleged loss of Rs 1,816.22 crore to the EPFO. "Investigation has been taken up to identify the role of all persons involved, including public ser-

vants and private individuals, examine the alleged criminal conspiracy, and trace the end use of the invested funds," according to the investigative agency. The CBI statement further said that it may also be recalled that it has earlier registered seven FIRs against Reliance Communications Limited (RCom), Reliance Home Finance Limited (RHFL), Reliance Commercial Finance Limited (RCFL) and Reliance Telecom Limited (RTL) on the basis of complaints received from various Public Sector Banks and LIC. The CBI has so far filed four chargesheets and arrested seven accused persons in the Reliance ADA Group cases.



TN CM Vijay defers Bengaluru visit, Karnataka seeks postponement of talks

Chennai, Aug 2 Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, C. Joseph Vijay, has decided to defer his proposed visit to Bengaluru on August 3 after Karnataka Chief Minister, D.K. Shivakumar, requested that the meeting be postponed amid heightened political and public tensions over the Cauvery water-sharing dispute. The proposed visit, which was expected to mark the first direct engagement between the two Chief Ministers on the long-pending Cauvery issue, was put on hold following developments in Karnataka after the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) directed the State to release 3,500 cusecs of water per day to Tamil Nadu for 15 days from July 29. The directive triggered widespread protests in several parts of Karnataka, prompting the State government to seek a postponement of the talks. Before taking a final decision on the visit.

Bharatiya Yoga Sansthan Organises 'Women's Empowerment, Health and Well-being' Programme

Hyderabad: Bharatiya Yoga Sansthan, Vagdevi Zonal, organised a special programme on the theme "Women's Empowerment, Health and Well-being" at Rajarajeshwari Colony in Hayathnagar. The event brought together women practitioners from three yoga centres—Vinayak Nagar, Ellareddypalem and Rajarajeshwari Colony—on a common platform to promote health, self-confidence and holistic living. The programme featured a series of inspiring talks by distinguished guests.

Chief Guest Mrs. P.S.S.R. Sai Lakshmi delivered an enlightening address on the themes of "Justice, Injustice and the Laws of Nature." She explained that although Ravana was a great scholar with profound knowledge, he became a symbol of evil because he acted against the laws of nature and righteousness. In contrast, Lord Rama, by following the path of dharma and trusting the natural order, emerged victorious and came to be revered as a divine figure. Her thought-provoking examples encouraged the audience to reflect on the importance of right-



teous living. Guest of Honour Mrs. Y. Adilakshmi, a Bhagavad Gita teacher, explained the essence of the Bhagavad Gita and Lord Krishna's guidance to Arjuna in a simple and practical manner. She highlighted how the teachings of the Gita continue to inspire and guide women in leading meaningful and balanced lives. Senior Speaker Sri Y. Vasanta Sitarama Sharma shared his life experiences and emphasised the importance of yoga, moral values and disciplined living for achieving physical health, mental peace and a righteous life. Special Guest Sri Singidi

Muralidhar Reddy, President of the Rajarajeshwari Colony Association, stressed that "Health is the greatest wealth." He encouraged everyone to practise yoga every day, stating that regular yoga benefits not only individuals but also contributes to the well-being of their entire families. The programme conveyed a strong message encouraging women to lead healthy, value-based and confident lives through the regular practice of yoga and adherence to moral principles. Yoga instructors and practitioners from the Vinayak Nagar, Ellareddypalem and Rajarajeshwari Colony centres actively participated in making the event a grand success.

Kalasalingam University Awards Degrees to 4,835 Students at 39th Convocation



Srivilliputhur: Kalasalingam University celebrated its 39th Convocation Ceremony on Sunday, conferring degrees on 4,835 students across various disciplines in the presence of academic leaders, industry experts and parents.

The ceremony was presided over by Pro Chancellor Dr. S. Arivalagi Sridharan, while Vice President Dr. S. Shasi Anand declared the convocation open. Vice President Er. S. Arjun Kalasalingam, Vice Chancellor Dr. S. Narayanan, Registrar Dr. V. Vasudevan and Executive Council member and UGC nominee Dr. P. Kathiresan

were present. The Vice Chancellor presented the university's annual report. Chief Guest Prof. (Dr.) Venu Gopal Achanta, Director of CSIR under the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, presented degrees, medals and certificates to 145 rank holders. Addressing the graduates, he urged students to develop multidisciplinary skills to promote research and innovation. He noted that India's youth constitute nearly 35 per cent of the global youth population and said their active participation would contribute significantly to global economic growth.

Breastfeeding is a Baby's First Investment in Health

- KIMS Cuddles Kondapur Organises Walkathon to Promote Breastfeeding Awareness

Hyderabad, August 2, 2026: As part of World Breastfeeding Week, KIMS Cuddles, Kondapur is conducting a week-long awareness campaign to highlight the importance of breastfeeding and encourage a supportive environment for mothers. The initiative aims to strengthen awareness among families, healthcare professionals and the wider community about the critical role they play in helping mothers successfully breastfeed.

As part of the campaign, a breastfeeding awareness walkathon was organised on Sunday to reinforce the message that breastfeeding is not solely the responsibility of the mother but a collective responsibility shared by families, healthcare providers and society.

The walkathon witnessed enthusiastic participation from obstetricians, neonatologists, paediatricians, nurses, lactation



consultants, hospital staff, expectant mothers and parents of young children. Participants emphasised the need for greater awareness and community support to enable mothers to exclusively breastfeed their infants.

Throughout the week, KIMS Cuddles is organising a series of educational programmes for pregnant women, new mothers and their families. These include antenatal breastfeeding counselling, live demonstrations on cor-

rect breastfeeding techniques, continuing medical education (CME) sessions for healthcare professionals, quizzes, myth-busting discussions and skit competitions focusing on lactation. The campaign also reinforces the recommendation that infants should be exclusively breastfed for the first six months of life, followed by appropriate complementary feeding while continuing breastfeeding for two years or beyond.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Aparna C., Regional Director – Neonatology Academics & Research, Telangana Units, and Head of the Department of Neonatology, KIMS Cuddles, Kondapur said, "Breast milk is a baby's first investment in lifelong health. It provides complete nutrition, strengthens immunity, supports healthy brain development and fosters a strong emotional bond between mother and child. While many mothers are willing to breastfeed, they often need the right guidance, encouragement and practical support. Our objective is to create an enabling environment where every mother feels confident and empowered to breastfeed her baby."

Ms. Archana Reddy C., Lactation Consultant, KIMS Cuddles, said, "Most breastfeeding challenges can be successfully addressed with timely information, expert guidance

and consistent support. Encouragement from family members and healthcare professionals plays a crucial role in helping mothers continue breastfeeding successfully. Although breastfeeding is a natural process, awareness, counselling and practical assistance are equally important."

Dr. B. Bhaskar Rao, Chairman and Managing Director, KIMS Group of Hospitals, said, "Breastfeeding is one of the most effective and cost-efficient public health interventions for improving the health of both mothers and babies. Hospitals have a responsibility to support women from pregnancy through the postnatal period with evidence-based guidance and expert care. At KIMS Cuddles, we remain committed to empowering every mother through scientific medical care, lactation support and continuous awareness initiatives."

Massive landslide on tracks near Arebetta disrupts Bengaluru-Mangaluru train services

Sakleshpur, Aug 2: Due to continuous heavy rainfall in the Western Ghats region, a massive landslide occurred on Saturday night near Arebetta, between the Yedakumari and Shiribagilu railway stations in the Mysuru railway division.

Following the landslide, huge quantities of soil and massive boulders crashed onto the railway tracks. This has completely disrupted the crucial train services connecting Bengaluru to Mangaluru and other parts of the coastal region.

Prioritizing passenger safety, the South Western Railway (SWR) initially partially cancelled several services, leaving hundreds of passengers stranded at various stations. However, to facilitate passenger movement, the SWR has now announced alternate diversion routes for several major trains for journeys commencing on Sunday, August 2.

17377 Vijayapura - Mangaluru Central Express: Diverted to run via SSS Hubballi, Londa, Castle Rock, Madgaon, Karwar, Thokur, and Mangaluru Jn.

17378 Mangaluru Central - Vijayapura



Express: Diverted to run via Mangaluru Jn, Thokur, Karwar, Madgaon, Castle Rock, Londa, and SSS Hubballi.

16586 Murdeshwar - SMVT Bengaluru Express: Diverted to run via Murdeshwar, Thokur, Mangaluru Central, Kannur, Shoranur Jn, Palakkad Jn, Podanur, Jolarpettai, and SMVT Bengaluru.

16512 Kozhikkode - KSR Bengaluru Express: Diverted to run via Mangaluru Central, Kannur, Shoranur, Palakkad, Podanur, Jolarpettai, and SMVT

Bengaluru.

16511 KSR Bengaluru - Kozhikkode Express: This train will now originate from SMVT Bengaluru and run up to Mangaluru Central on a diverted route via Jolarpettai, Podanur, Palakkad, Shoranur, and Kozhikkode.

Partially cancelled services:

16585 Bengaluru-Murdeshwar Express: Journey terminated at Hassan; service cancelled between Hassan and Murdeshwar.

16595 KSR Bengaluru-Karwar Express: Will ter-

minate at Sakleshpur; service suspended between Sakleshpur and Karwar.

Rain hinders clearance operations

Continuous rainfall at the landslide spot is severely hindering operations to clear the soil and boulders from the tracks. Railway staff are engaged in the clearance work with the help of heavy machinery. Meanwhile, the South Western Railway has requested passengers to check the running status of their trains before commencing their journey.

DyCM Dr. G. Parameshwara Chairs Rajya Dharmika Parishad Meeting

Bengaluru : Deputy Chief Minister and Revenue Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara directed officials to purchase land in the name of 'A' and 'B' category temples across the State. He issued the necessary directions after chairing a meeting of the Rajya Dharmika Parishad at Vidhana Soudha today and holding detailed discussions with its members.

"Temples have sufficient funds. Along with undertaking development works, land must be purchased in the name of the temples. Such property will remain with the temples permanently and facilitate infrastructure for devotees as well as comprehensive development," he said. Dr. Parameshwara said the Chief Minister had directed that CCTV cameras be installed to monitor temple donation boxes and prevent the misuse of offerings. "This work must be completed by the end of August. It should not be taken lightly," he said.

Pulling up officials over the lack of basic amenities at several prominent temples in the State, he said, "When I visit and inspect some temples, I am left wondering which era we are living in. No one is taking responsibility and working. How can the sanctity of temples be maintained under such circumstances?" He said there was no shortage of funds to provide basic facilities to devotees at tem-



ples and added that officials had been directed to prepare master plans. "There should be no negligence in this regard," he warned. Dr. Parameshwara said 'C' category temples should not be handed over to any organisation for adoption in the name of development. "Those who adopt temples in the name of development may later claim rights over temple properties. Therefore, 10% of the grants of 'A' category temples must be utilised for development works at 'C' category temples," he said. He said strict instructions had already been issued to clear encroachments on temple lands. "Encroached temple properties must be surveyed on a priority basis, cleared and handed over to

the Muzrai Department. The process must be completed within three months," he directed Additional Chief Secretary to the Revenue Department Rajendra Kumar Kataria. As the academic year had begun, Dr. Parameshwara also directed officials to invite applications for scholarships for the children of priests and employees working in notified temples.

Additional Chief Secretary to the Revenue Department Rajendra Kumar Kataria; Muzrai Commissioner Sharath; Rajya Dharmika Parishad members K.M. Nagaraju, Dr. A. Radhakrishna Raju, Dwarakanath, Mallika Prashanth Pakkala and Ravishankar Shetty; and others were present.

Pilot Implementation of the Enforced Easy Flow Corridor (EEFC) by the East City Corporation to Ensure Smooth Traffic Flow

Bengaluru: With the objective of reducing traffic congestion, ensuring smoother vehicular movement and enhancing road safety within the Bengaluru East City Corporation limits, BECC has successfully implemented the Enforced Easy Flow Corridor (EEFC) concept on a pilot basis at the Kaggadasapura Railway Crossing and Kaggadasapura Main Road, said Additional Commissioner Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar.

The project is an innovative traffic management model that enables smooth movement of vehicles by optimally utilizing the existing road infrastructure without undertaking major civil construction works. Under the EEFC



concept, traffic patterns at major junctions are scientifically studied, congestion-causing factors are identified, and quick, location-specific engineering interventions are implemented to improve traffic flow.

The EEFC pilot project has been implemented around the Kaggadasapura Railway Crossing, covering approximately 175 metres of roadway in three directions:

- Around 50 metres from the railway crossing towards

Kaggadasapura Main Road.

- Around 50 metres on the road towards Vignan Nagar.
- Around 75 metres on the road towards Mahadevapura.

A detailed assessment of vehicle movement in the area was carried out to identify critical congestion points, following which the traffic circulation pattern was redesigned accordingly. The barricades are interconnected through a push-pull chain system, enabling efficient traffic regulation. Special traffic signboards have also been installed at the entry points of the corridor. Additional traffic chains have been provided to the Traffic Police to regulate traffic efficiently during peak hours.

U.T. Khader, Health Minister of Karnataka, flags off Acer Run 2026 in Bengaluru

Bengaluru : Guru Prasad and Babi Verma emerged champions in the men's and women's Open 5K categories, respectively, in the Acer Run 2026, as more than 2,400 participants came together at Bengaluru's Sree Kanteerava Stadium to celebrate health, fitness and community spirit. Guru Prasad clocked 14 minutes and 39 seconds to win the men's title, ahead of Harish Sheoran (14:40) and Neeraj Solanki (15:03), while Babi Verma secured the women's title in 17:24, followed by Nitu Kumari (17:30) and Kavita Yadav (17:33).

The run, organised as part of Acer's milestone celebrations marking 50 years globally and 27 years in India, was flagged off by U.T. Khader, Health Minister of Karnataka, in the presence of Harish Kohli, President and Managing Director, Acer India Group, Sudhir Goel, Chief Business



and Strategy Officer, Acer India Group, senior Acer India officials, Dr. Vishal Rao, Director and Senior Consultant at HCG Hospital and Member of the High Power Committee on Tobacco Control and Cancer Control for the Government of Karnataka, and other distinguished guests.

Designed to encourage healthier lifestyles, Acer Run 2026 featured multiple race categories, bringing

together professional runners, fitness enthusiasts, corporate employees, families and first-time participants. The event also honoured winners across the Open Championship, Beyond Limits (Persons with Disabilities) categories and special award categories, highlighting Acer's commitment to inclusivity and community wellness. Speaking at the event, Harish Kohli, President and Managing

Director, Acer India, said, "As Acer celebrates 50 years globally and 27 years in India, we wanted this Acer Day to be different from the celebrations we have hosted over the years. We chose to focus on something that truly matters—health. Acer Run is our way of encouraging people to make fitness a priority, especially at a time when sedentary lifestyles have become increasingly common, particularly among technology professionals. Staying active keeps us healthy, energised and ready for the future, and we are delighted to see such an overwhelming response from the community." He added, "More than 2,400 participants registered for the event, and we also witnessed additional walk-in participation. It is truly heartening to see so many people choosing to spend their Sunday morning celebrating fitness and wellness with us."

Basavaraj Bommai Urges State Government to Safeguard Farmers' Interests in Cauvery Water Dispute

Bengaluru: "Good rainfall in the Cauvery basin is nature's temporary relief to the water scarcity. However, this is only a temporary respite and not a permanent solution. The state government must present proper arguments in the Supreme Court based on comprehensive data available with it. Otherwise, if a harsh order comes from the court, the state government will face trouble again," warned former Chief Minister and MP Basavaraj Bommai.

Speaking to the media following an all-party meeting on the Cauvery river water distribution led by Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, he stated, "Recent heavy rainfall in Wayanad, Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru, and Sakleshpur regions has provided temporary relief from

nature for the Cauvery water crisis." However, he added, "The state government cannot afford to remain complacent. Ensuring drinking water for the state throughout the year and supplying water for farmers' agriculture remains a major challenge."

Present Strong Arguments in the Supreme Court

of the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) are held every 15 days, and the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) meets monthly, requiring water releases based on distress-sharing formulas. "Since DMK has already filed a petition in the Supreme Court and the hearing is scheduled for coming Monday, the state government must present valid arguments backed by solid data. Failing to do so could result in a severe



court order, putting the government in distress once again," he urged.

Not an Achievement of the Government
Bommai expressed strong

objection to the government portraying the reduction of water release from 9,500 cusecs to 3,000 cusecs as a major achievement. "If water had been released to farmers, canals, and lakes, it could have been called an achievement. Boasting about an achievement without releasing a single drop of water from the KRS dam to our farmers is unacceptable," he criticized.

Demand for Proper Compensation to Farmers

Despite the government advising against sowing due to water shortage for both Kharif and Rabi crops, farmers have completed nearly 70% of the sowing. Bommai questioned, "After asking them not to engage in agricultural activities, what compensation is the government providing to offset the loss of their entire year's

livelihood?"

He further urged the government to act cautiously so that drinking water and agricultural water supplies to Bengaluru, Mandya, and Mysuru regions remain unaffected during the upcoming summer months of January and February, when water scarcity and orders to release water are likely to recur. Support for Mekedatu Project

"They have suggested that we should all work together on the Mekedatu project, to which we have given our principle approval. We have consistently extended our support on various matters in the larger interest of the state. However, we have issued a stern warning to this government regarding the welfare of farmers and drinking water for the general public. Water management must

be handled properly; otherwise, the people of this region will not forgive you," Bommai stated firmly.

Do Not Release Water from KRS

In response to a query about the advice offered to the government, he said, "This is only a temporary relief, and the government should not sit idle assuming the problem is solved. They must continuously monitor the situation and ensure that the state's interests regarding drinking water and crops are protected—that should be the top priority. Let the excess water flow out on its own. Now that inflows into KRS have increased, no water should be released from there until it reaches full capacity. Instead, release water to our farmers, canals, lakes, and for drinking purposes."

EDITORIAL

*To Those Who
Stood When I Did
Not, I am Sorry*

Some debts cannot be repaid with money. Some debts cannot even be repaid with apologies. They remain, quietly gathering weight over the years, until one day they become too heavy to carry in silence. This is about one such debt. I am a Hindu retired Army officer. For decades I wore the uniform of India, believing that every Indian life was equally worthy of protection, irrespective of religion, caste or language. That belief was not merely professional. It was deeply personal. Yet somewhere after taking off the uniform, I failed to live up to it. Over the last decade, there were many moments when several lakh Indian Muslims stood up in public against what they believed was an assault on constitutional values. Whether every slogan they raised was perfect is beside the point. Whether every political opinion they held was correct is also beside the point. What matters is that they stood. I did not. Neither for the cause, nor for them. That sentence has become increasingly difficult for me to live with. Like many others from the majority community, I watched, I analysed, I discussed. I found reasons to wait. I told myself that someone else would speak. That the institutions of the republic would eventually correct themselves. That perhaps this was not my battle. But silence is not neutral. Silence has benefits. Today, when I look back at Shaheen Bagh, I no longer see merely a protest. I see thousands of fellow citizens, mostly vulnerable womenfolk, standing in the open while people like me remained safely behind closed doors. I often ask myself a painful question. Had lakhs of us stood beside them – not because we agreed with every demand, but because we believed that no Indian community should ever have to defend constitutional liberties alone – would history have unfolded differently? No one can answer that with certainty. But my conscience has already answered it. It tells me that our absence mattered. It tells me that when citizens from the majority community fail to stand beside a vulnerable minority, the minority becomes easier to isolate, easier to caricature and easier to dismiss. That's the difference between the fate of Umar Khalid and Kanhaiya Kumar, Shaheen Bagh and Jantar Mantar. There is no other difference. That thought haunts me. That is not a legal conclusion. It is a moral one. And it is directed not at the State, but at myself. I have often admired courage in uniform. It took me 73 years to realise that another kind of courage is rarer still – the courage to stand beside fellow citizens when they are unpopular, misunderstood or feared. A scene from A Few Good Men haunts me on some nights. When the two young marines were dismissed from service for applying 'Code Red', one of them cried out, 'But we did nothing wrong. We did it under orders.' His senior solemnly reminded him, 'Yes, we did. We were supposed to fight for people who couldn't fight for themselves.' This lesson has nothing to do with being in the army. It has everything to do with the values of a good citizen, particularly a good Hindu. That is the courage I lacked. Many people tell me that one person could not have made a difference. Perhaps. History is not changed by one voice. But history is changed by millions of individuals each deciding that their own voice is too small to matter. I was one of those millions. I regret deeply that..

MODI AND HIS DESIRE TO
CONTROL THE MINDS OF CITIZENS

What's the worth of democracy if it can't protect personal liberties? If the state controls citizen's political consciousness, compelling them to do only what suits the ruler's interests, what's the purpose of individual freedom and rights? Liberty isn't an ornament to embellish the individual; it empowers people to decide their choices, question the government's unconscionable acts and dissent against injustice. British historian Lord Acton whose timeless dictum – power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely – reverberates across the world, also said, "Liberty is not a means to a higher political end; it is itself the highest political end." Liberty bleeds when the police hunt down citizens who participated in protests against Narendra Modi. Reports suggest that the government identified protesters through sophisticated surveillance techniques and started chasing them across cities. Young boys and girls, who wrote placards, shouted slogans and, in some cases, crossed the line by heaping abuses on the prime minister are now treated like the enemy of the state. Their homes have been raided, parents threatened and even FIRs registered against a good few. This happened despite a formal deal between the organisers of the protest and the government that no coercive action would follow. No government can dream of constructing a citizen of its own liking. Citizens are not toys running on batteries gifted by governments. They have a mind and a heart of their own. Politicians win elections with the limited mandate to govern; electoral victory doesn't make them the authorised arbitrator of morality and righteousness. Giving free ration to the poor doesn't mean the government has earned the right to ration their freedoms. People who



think differently, whose vision doesn't align with the philosophy of the incumbent rulers will differ and dissent. A confident nation and a genuine leader allow citizens to freely express themselves. Ideas emerge through this social churning, challenging status quo and triggering political renewal. Modi occasionally pays lip service to democratic ideals and invites citizens to criticise his policies but such a performative flair is meant only to steal some personal legitimacy against the ill-effects of his undemocratic deeds. He reveals in sycophancy. If he were truly democratic, he would have faced questions from independent media instead of fooling the world with orchestrated conversations. Even a rickshaw-puller knows the little girls who shouted slogans at Jantar Mantar are hounded by the police as well as the Sangh Parivar goons. If Modi created a constitutional culture in governance, the police

would never indulge in surveillance and persecution of children. True to his character, Modi slipped into the slumber of silence and apathy for several days before waking up to declare that he was willing to forgive and move ahead. The troll army threatening and abusing Modi's opponents He condemned the abusive trait among the younger generation, without acknowledging that the troll army threatening and abusing his opponents and critics on social media functioned under his government's patronage. He follows some of the most abhorrent X handles. The gang that runs the campaign to vilify the Nehru-Gandhi family is dominated by his followers. Modi must have received the feedback that suppression of children is proving counterproductive. If the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the prime minister demand total obedience, India's democratic mass will

rebel. Citizens who are committed to constitutional principles will rise against the designs to crush equality, justice, liberty and fraternity. People who are humane and conscientious will oppose divisive politics. Students, farmers, women or workers will revolt if policies and performance harm their interests. Hannah Arendt, whose work on such toxic politics has earned international acclaim, wrote, "For the totalitarian, the territory to be taken is the mind. In achieving this objective, truth becomes irrelevant and propaganda reigns." Isn't it scary to be in a situation where truth becomes irrelevant? Poet Ummeed Fazli warned, "Aasmanon se farishtey jo utaaare jayen/ wo bhi iss daur mein sach bolne toe maare jayen (Even if angels are sent down from the skies, they too will be killed if they speak the truth in this era)." Protesters do abuse. The state has force – mild or lethal. They can warn,

threaten, use water cannons, resort to lathicharge and, in exceptional cases of madness, fire pellet guns and AK-47 rifles. Protesters can taunt, scream, cry and abuse. Filthy abuses, at times. That's how they give vent to their frustration and helplessness. It's undesirable. But that's how democracy lives. We have heard contemptuous yells of – F**k Trump – from the high podium of Oscar awards. All kinds of mischievous elements join mass protests. At the Anna Hazare-Arvind Kejriwal protest, pamphlets carrying wildest allegations and abuses against Sonia Gandhi were distributed by some people. A few went so far as to abuse Mahatma Gandhi, declaring that he was solely responsible for all the ills Indian polity was afflicted with. Manmohan Singh government never chased down anybody. Language of revolution is not defined. Even in normal times, people abuse the prime minister and the

chief ministers at parks, petrol pumps, grocery shops and vegetable markets when prices soar savagely. Nothing is recorded; no facial recognition, no witch-hunt. Prime ministers or ministers are not emperors. Nobody expects special immunity from criticism in a democracy. Modi said he is a chowkidar; a servant. Pradhan Sevak, in his own words. Society knows how chowkidars are treated when they are suspected of conniving with thieves. Filthiest abuses rain from all sides. Abuses are undesirable but it's a social reality. Anybody familiar with literature, in any language, knows conversations aren't devoid of profanities. Normal conversations contain expletives. When public opinion turns hostile, language often acquires a tempestuous tenor. In protests, particularly after such sacred means like fast-unto-death fails to draw governmental response, it becomes a weapon to hurt. In case of extreme anger and cynicism, when unbridled youth energy is flowing, criminalizing expletives is uncivil. After all, their primary method and intent of the protest were peaceful. India has suffered outfits which rejected the Tricolour and the Constitution for decades. India saw intellectuals describing freedom as fake and meaningless. India tolerated the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi. India, under Modi, saw a minister in Parliament describe the political contest as a battle between Ram-zaade and Haram-zaade. India, after such a vast and painful experience, should show tolerance for dissent and anger. The state will firmly deal with criminals but the tendency to criminalise dissent has to be opposed. After all, students crossed the line in communication. They didn't fire pellet guns and AK-47. They were not fighting for power.

WHAT EXACTLY IS THE FUTURE POLITICS
OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION?

Saurabh Varshney

Indian politics is passing through a phase where not only political parties but also voters are changing rapidly. Today, the country's greatest strength lies not merely in electoral strategies or alliances, but in the young generation known globally as "Gen Z." Generally, this generation comprises youth born between 1997 and 2012. They have grown up in the era of the internet, smartphones, social media, and artificial intelligence. Their mindset differs from that of previous generations. Consequently, the landscape of Indian politics in the coming years is likely to be significantly shaped by the priorities and participation of this generation. The question arises: what will Gen Z politics look like? Will it perpetuate traditional caste- and religion-based politics, or will it prioritize issues such as employment, education, technology, the environment, and good governance? This question is particularly significant because India is one of the youngest nations in the world, with millions of new voters joining the electorate in every election. Politics of Results Over Ideology A defining characteristic of Gen Z is that it is not swayed by ideology alone; it seeks tangible results. If a government generates employment, provides quality education, expands digital services, and improves the standard of living, the generation is likely to support it. Conversely, if expectations remain unmet, this same generation is quick to raise questions via

social media. For them, schemes that directly impact their lives hold greater importance than political rhetoric. This is why, in the future, political parties will need to win public trust based on concrete achievements rather than relying solely on grand slogans. Social Media: The New Political Platform There was a time when political messaging was confined to rallies, posters, and newspapers. The landscape has changed today. Platforms like Instagram, YouTube, X (formerly Twitter), and Facebook have transformed both the language and style of politics. Gen Z does not rely solely on TV channels for news; instead, they gather information from diverse sources, watch videos, listen to debates, and form their own opinions. However, this comes with significant challenges—fake news, incomplete information, and disinformation. Consequently, a major responsibility facing this generation is to cultivate the habit of verifying the authenticity of information. **Employment: The Major Election Issue** If one were to list Gen Z's priorities, employment would top the list. Securing a respectable job and a good income after completing their education are the primary expectations of this generation. From young people preparing for government jobs to entrepreneurs launching startups, everyone desires policies that expand opportunities. In the coming years, the political party that proves most effective will be the one that goes beyond mere promises of employment to present poli-

cies fostering skill development, industry, investment, innovation, and entrepreneurship. **New Demands for Education and Skills** Gen Z seeks skills, not just degrees. This generation recognizes that the future belongs to artificial intelligence, robotics, data science, cybersecurity, and the digital economy. Therefore, they desire an education system that is aligned with employment needs. For political parties, this signals that merely including education in election manifestos is insufficient; serious investment in quality schools, modern universities, research, digital education, and vocational training is essential. **Balancing Nationalism with a Global Outlook** A sense of national pride is also evident among Gen Z. India's achievements in sports, science, space exploration, defense, and on global platforms inspire this generation. Yet, they also aspire to connect with the wider world, valuing opportunities for education abroad, global employment, technical collaboration, and international exposure. Consequently, their political perspective is not limited in scope but focuses on India's role within the arena of global competition. The Growing Importance of Environment and Climate In the past, the environment was not a major topic in election debates. However, climate change, pollution, water crises, and natural disasters are now directly impacting the future of the youth. Gen Z desires development, but not at the cost of the environment. Clean energy, green

transport, afforestation, water conservation, and sustainable development could become key themes in political discourse in the near future. Identity Politics Will Not Disappear Entirely It would be premature to say that Gen Z will completely move away from the politics of caste, religion, language, and regional identity. India's social fabric is still influenced by these factors. However, it is also true that urbanization, digital education, and increased social interaction have changed the way young people think. They have begun to attach equal importance to opportunities, development, and personal progress alongside issues related to identity. Increasing Political Participation of Women The role of women in Gen-Z politics appears stronger than ever. Issues such as education, employment, safety, equal opportunities, and leadership are evolving from being merely "women's issues" into mainstream political priorities. Today, a large number of young women are active in politics, administration, journalism, entrepreneurship, and social leadership. In the future, political parties will need to treat women's leadership and participation with greater seriousness. **Politics of the Digital Economy** UPI, digital payments, online education, e-commerce, and startup culture have transformed the mindset of the youth. Gen-Z wants the government to further strengthen digital infrastructure, ensure affordable and secure internet access, and foster innovation.

The Choreography of Cruelty and Care

It looks like incoherent chaos. The prime minister in a benevolent mode, forgiving the very young people that his ecosystem continues to hunt. The same day, injured policemen are paraded before cameras. A girl is booked for abusing the prime minister. An army of friendly influencers descends on Gen Z to lecture them about their manners. And the police, meanwhile, cannot quite explain how a truck laden with stones travelled from their own custody to the edge of a protest. But it is not chaos. It is choreography. This is the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) method at its most refined. Every element performs a distinct function for a distinct audience. In the process, unleashing another cycle of hate, intimidation, and ridicule at the young who protested, delegitimising the protest, while ostensibly posing to appeal for harmony. The disdain for Parliament and democracy is written large in the prime minister's appeal, who refuses to address Parliament and talks on Instagram. No explanation, no remorse, no questions, just patriarchal patronage. No accountability, no acknowledgement of anything gone wrong, just an assessment that propaganda tools have changed, moved on to Instagram. For him, Instagram was the problem, Instagram is the solution! The agitation that sat for over a month at Jantar Mantar, the protests that the Congress youth wing and student organisation carried to scores of cities across two months, was absolutely peaceful. The only day of violence was on the day the police cracked down. Not before that. Not after that. And it is that single



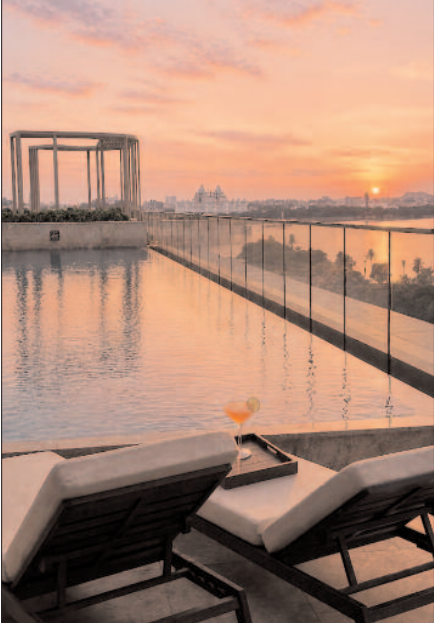
day, that is now being held up as the true face of the protest. A month of restraint is erased; an afternoon of confrontation is promoted to the headline. Regardless of who actually threw the first stone, who was in disguise, and who instructed them, both the government and, curiously, some protestors like Wangchuk reached for the same phrase: national security threat. And that preface is now being used to pit police families against young protestors. BJP is not merely deflecting blame. It may be noted that there is yet no investigation into the indiscriminate use of weapons on protestors. No inquiry into how a stone-laden truck and a van slipped out of police custody and materialised at the protest site, ready-made props for a narrative of citizen savagery. No action against the officers in whose custody those vehicles sat. No questions about who authorised the deployment of pellet guns in Delhi, or the AK 47s in Bihar. The Modi-Shah government is remarkably incurious. It is not at all concerned with any such criminal irregularities. BJP is not merely deflecting blame; it is busy drawing

another hate-filled dividing line in society. Families of police are being pitted against citizens who protested. A new demarcation line is being drawn, where the police community is separated from the rest of society. Police is no more the protector; police is the victim. " A profession is being quietly severed from the public it serves and handed a grievance against it. Notice what this does to the police themselves. An officer's injury in the line of duty was once a matter of professional hazard and, yes, of pride too, the risk a uniform accepts. It is now repackaged as emotional evidence in a political trial, proof of assault by hostile citizens. The pride of sacrifice is being reduced to lament and a call for pity. That is no honour. It is a demotion dressed as a tribute. The state under the BJP has discovered a bold new principle of jurisprudence: that a pellet gun and a slipper are the same weapon, provided the slipper is thrown at the government. That a nail-driven lathi unleashed on a protesting citizen is somehow a lesser violence, while the protester who flinches or fights back is the

aggressor. We are asked to weigh the injury of the man holding the tear-gas gun against the injury of the boy he was aiming it at, and to find them, somehow, morally identical. This is called balance. In every other context it is called changing the subject. Apparently, a narrative is being set by BJP that the difference between the armed and the unarmed is a technicality, which only ungrateful citizens keep raising. The same establishment that could not spare its men and women a name badge or a uniform is now outraged that the crowd failed to recognise them. One does admire the ambition of expecting protestors to identify police men and women in civil clothes. And there is no consternation or objection by aggrieved police families that their men and women in duty were asked to dress up in civil clothes and posted anonymously. This effectively took away the protection of law available to police forces. They were on duty as common individuals. Protection of law is available to police only when he or she is in uniform and with name badge.

Hyderabad's Newest Rooftop Resto-
bar Vayu, Makes a Compelling Case
for Regional Indian Cuisine

Vayu's menu journeys across India's land-
scapes, drawing inspiration from regional
ingredients, time-honoured traditions and
bold 'avour profiles that de'ne Indian din-
ing today. Perched above the city, Vayu
arrives as a new rooftop destination that
re'ects the changing status-quo of
Hyderabad's social energy. Conceived as a
social destination where food, cocktails,
music and conversation exist in equal
measure, Vayu is designed for a generation
of well-travelled, experience seeking indi-
viduals who value the social atmosphere as
much as what is served on the table. Named
after the Sanskrit word for wind, Vayu
takes inspiration from the force that
crossed India long before highways con-
nected them. The concept is built around a
simple proposition: the wind was India's
'rst traveller, moving across coastlines,
mountains, plains and deserts, and it is this
same spirit of movement and memory that
shapes the space itself. Designed as an open
rooftop retreat, Vayu balances contem-
porary architecture with layered interiors.
The spatial planning moves seamlessly
between intimate corners, communal tables
and the bar, creating an environment equal-
ly suited to after-work gatherings, weekend
celebrations and long evenings. As day
transitions into night, the space evolves
into a lively social hub where the city's cre-
ative, entrepreneurial and culturally curi-



ous communities converge. The smaller
plates travel with equal range. Shrimp
Pickle with Masala Brioche reinterprets a
familiar coastal preserve through a tem-
porary format. Chicken Wings Vepudu
draws from Andhra 'avours, while
Steamed Kalimpong Momos and
Jeedipappu Pakoda bring in'uences from
the hills and the south.

Petrol, diesel sales soar on weak
monsoon; LPG demand shifts

New Delhi: Petrol and diesel
sales by India's three state-run
fuel retailers rose sharply in July
as below-normal monsoon rain-
fall boosted fuel demand from
farmers and motorists, prelimi-
nary industry sales data
showed. Petrol sales by Indian Oil
Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum
Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan
Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL)
climbed 9.7 per cent to 3.45 mil-
lion tonnes during July, com-
pared with 3.14 million tonnes in
the corresponding period a year
ago. The volume was also 15.1 per
cent higher than 2.99 million
tonnes sold during July 2024 and
36.1 per cent above the level
recorded in the same period of
2023. Petrol sales fell 1.1 pc, diesel
sales rise Compared to June,
however, petrol sales fell 1.1 per
cent from 3.48 million tonnes.
Diesel sales, a key indicator of
economic activity in India, rose
10.7 per cent year-on-year to 7.12
million tonnes in July from 6.43
million tonnes a year earlier.
Diesel is India's most widely used
fuel, powering freight transport,



agricultural machinery and irri-
gation. Below-normal monsoon
rainfall boosted irrigation
demand during the peak sowing
season. The volume sold in July
was 11.5 per cent higher than in
the corresponding period of 2024
and 12.7 per cent above the July
2023 consumption. On a month-
on-month basis, diesel sales
declined 9.2 per cent from 7.85
million tonnes in June. Late
arrival of monsoon affects fuel
sales Fuel sales typically moder-
ate with the onset of the mon-

soon, which reduces demand for
running agricultural irrigation
pumps as well as slows vehicular
movement. But this year, the
monsoon rains arrived late,
which led to farmers using diesel
to run pumps to irrigate farms.
Month-on-month, sales in July
remain lower because in June
holiday travel picks up due to
school and college holidays. Jet
fuel (ATF) sales inched up by 2.9
per cent to 659,900 tonnes during
July — volumes that were 2.3 per
cent more than the consumption

of 641,300 tonnes in July 2024 and
16.5 per cent more than 566,600
tonnes of July 2023. Month-on-
month, the consumption fell 4.6
per cent from 691,700 tonnes of
June. LPG sales continue to drop
Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)
sales continued to fall, dropping
17.4 per cent to 2.37 million
tonnes. Industry officials said
this was largely because some
volumes have shifted to piped
natural gas since the West Asia
crisis. LPG sales have been
declining since the onset of the
West Asia crisis disrupted sup-
plies, leading to the imposition of
consumption restrictions in sec-
tors like hotels and restaurants.
The curbs were lifted last month,
and sales saw an 8.6 per cent rise
to 2.18 million tonnes consumed
in June but were lower year-on-
year as some industrial and com-
mercial users are now using
piped natural gas for their needs,
they said. The July LPG con-
sumption was 13.3 per cent lower
than 2.73 million tonnes of July
2024 and 1.1 per cent lower than
2.39 million tonnes of July 2023.

TAAPMA Announces HIPLEX
2026 to Drive Innovation in
India's Plastics Sector



HYDERABAD, India — The
Telangana and Andhra
Plastics Manufacturers
Association (TAAPMA) has
announced the upcoming
schedule for the Hyderabad
International Plastics Expo,
HIPLEX 2026. Positioned as
India's third largest plastics
trade exhibition, the event
will take place from August 7
to August 10, 2026, at the
HITEX Exhibition Centre in
Hyderabad.
The expo spans 25,000 square
metres and acts as a strategic
hub for South and Central
India's polymer value chain.
It brings together raw materi-
al manufacturers, machinery
suppliers, tech innovators,
and government bodies to fos-
ter investment and technical
collaboration.

Key Exhibition Elements
Market Shift & Technology:
Serves rising demand across

packaging, automotive, medi-
cal, infrastructure, and con-
sumer goods sectors.
Exhibits include automated
machinery, raw materials,
and processing tools.
On-Floor Commercial Deals:
Unlike footfall-only events,
past editions show high con-
version rates for B2B con-
tracts, establishing it as a pri-
mary platform for transac-
tions.
Recycling & Sustainability:
Features a dedicated recy-
cling pavilion highlighting
technology geared toward
green regulations and a cir-
cular economy.
Exhibitor Operational
Support: To support live
machinery demonstrations,
organizers provide standard
compressed air, water con-
nections, and power supply
on-site at no cost, requiring
only a basic connection fee.
**Infrastructure Initiatives for
Exhibitors**
To ease operational con-
straints during the four-day
event, organizers are provid-
ing complimentary utility
infrastructure for live dis-
plays. Confirmed exhibitors
will have direct access to
standard compressed air,
water connections, and elec-
trical lines at no operational
cost, requiring only basic
physical connection fees. "A
live machine demonstration
is a massive operational com-
mitment for an exhibitor.

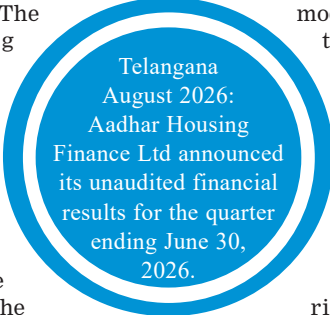
Aadhar Housing Finance delivers 19% growth
in Profit, 18% growth in AUM in Q1 FY27

Telangana August 2026:
Aadhar Housing Finance
Ltd announced its unau-
dited financial results for
the quarter ending June
30, 2026. The Company
reported a strong start to
FY27, supported by robust
AUM growth, stable asset
quality, and continued
profitability. With a strong
performance in the quar-
ter, the Company is well
positioned to achieve the
targets set for this year.
**PERFORMANCE HIGH-
LIGHTS:** Q1 FY27
· Assets under management
(AUM) grew by 18% YoY to
? 31,364 crore as of June 30,
2026, from ? 26,524 crore as
of June 30, 2025 · Total
number of loan accounts
as of June 30, 2026, stood at
3,40,000+ · Profit after
tax grew by 19% YoY to ?
282 crore in Q1 FY27 from ?
237 crore in Q1 FY26 ·
Net worth stood at ? 7,853
crore as of June 30, 2026 ·
Return on assets (ROA)
stood at 4.0% and Return
on equity (ROE) stood at
14.7% for Q1 FY27 ·
Gross NPA as of June 30,
2026, stood at 1.3% reflect-
ing stable asset quality.
Commenting on Q1 FY27
performance, Mr. Rishi
Anand, MD & CEO of
Aadhar Housing Finance
Ltd said: "Aadhar Housing
Finance has begun FY27
on a steady note, sustain-

ing its growth momentum
with healthy business
expansion, consistent dis-
bursement growth and sta-
ble asset quality. Assets
Under Management
(AUM) stood at Rs 31,364
crore as of June 30, 2026,
registering a year-on-year
growth of 18%, while
Profit after Tax for the
quarter increased by 19%
YoY to Rs 282 crore. The
operating environ-
ment for L o w
Income housing
finance remained
favourable during the
quarter, sup-
ported by resilient
demand, stable affordabil-
ity and continued strength
across Tier II and Tier III
markets. Long-term funda-
mentals remain strong,
underpinned by low mort-
gage penetration, rising
urbanisation and the coun-
try's sizeable affordable
housing requirement, par-
ticularly across the EWS
and LIG segments. As
PMAY-U 2.0 implementa-
tion accelerates and credit
conditions ease, the out-
look for the sector remains
constructive, with

Housing Finance
Companies well positioned
to capitalise on these
opportunities through
their diversified funding
profiles and stable access
to liquidity. We remain
committed to expanding
access to housing finance
in underserved markets
with significant growth
potential. Our 'Urban and
Emerging' branch
model continues
to drive this
strategy, with our
network expanding
to 628 branches
across 22
states and
union territo-
ries. By com-
bining deeper mar-
ket penetration with
improved branch produc-
tivity, we are well po-
sitioned to capitalise on the
growing demand for
affordable housing
finance. Our continued invest-
ments in technology are
strengthening the way we
originate, assess and serv-
ice loans. During the quar-
ter, we enhanced our AI
and digital capabilities
across key business
processes, improving oper-
ational efficiency, credit
assessment, and customer

experience. As these capa-
bilities evolve, we remain
committed to robust gov-
ernance, aligning our AI
framework with the RBI's
draft Model Risk
Management guidance
while ensuring appropri-
ate human oversight.
Execution excellence and
disciplined risk manage-
ment remain central to our
operating philosophy.
Through prudent under-
writing, effective collec-
tions, and a strong risk
framework, we continue to
maintain portfolio
resilience while enhanc-
ing productivity and deliv-
ering sustainable growth.
With the low-income hous-
ing finance sector support-
ed by favourable structur-
al drivers, we believe
Aadhar Housing Finance
is well positioned for its
next phase of growth. Our
focus remains on expand-
ing home ownership,
strengthening operating
capabilities and maintain-
ing sound underwriting
standards to create long-
term value for customers,
shareholders, and all
stakeholders" The
Company's strong first-
quarter momentum rein-
forces its confidence in
achieving the medium-
term guidance on dis-
bursement, AUM, and
profit.



ICICI PRUDENTIAL LIFE
INSURANCE PAYS TOTAL BENE-
FITS OF RS. 4,666 CRORE TO
CUSTOMERS IN Q1-FY2027



Mumbai, 2026: ICICI
Prudential Life Insurance
reported a growth of 27.8%
year-on-year in net profit to
? 386 crore for the first
quarter ended June 2026.
Notably, the Term plan
(retail protection) business
of the company grew by
60.4% year-on-year in Q1-
FY2027. The Board of the
Company approved propos-
al to rename the Company
as 'ICICI Life Insurance
Limited'. The Company's
MD & CEO, Mr. Anup
Bagchi, said, "Customer-
first remains the core of
our strategy. Our industry-
leading claim settlement
ratio of 99.3% in Q1-FY2027,
with an average turn-
around time of just 1 day
for non-investigative
claims underscores our
commitment to supporting
customers and their fami-
lies when they need us the
most. During the quarter,
we settled ? 1,306 crore of
death claims and paid ?
3,360 crore as maturity &
survival benefits reflecting
our continued focus on
delivering timely financial
protection and peace of
mind to our policyholders.

Furthermore, in FY2026,
we settled ? 5,149 crore of
death claims and paid ?
15,363 crore as maturity
and survival benefits. Our
Company's Profit After
Tax increased by 27.8%
year-on-year to ? 386 crore
in Q1-FY2027. Notably, we
registered a strong growth
of 60.4% year-on-year in
our retail protection busi-
ness in Q1-FY2027, demon-
strating our continued
commitment towards
addressing India's protec-
tion needs. We shall contin-
ue to leverage economies of
scale, technology, Artificial
Intelligence (AI) and digital
capabilities to improve effi-
ciency and enhance cus-
tomer experience.
Importantly, our savings
cost-to-premium ratio
reduced by 50 basis points
(bps) to 13.6% in Q1-FY2027,
enabling us to reinvest in
innovation, strengthen digi-
tal capabilities and sup-
port future growth. The
Board of Directors recently
approved a proposal to
rename the Company as
'ICICI Life Insurance
Limited', subject to rele-
vant approvals.

Zigly Pet Care in Begumpet, Secunderabad Celebrates
Third Edition of International Happy Pets Day

**Secunderabad, August 02nd
2026:** Zigly Pet Care, India's
first omnichannel pet care
brand, celebrated the third
edition of International
Happy Pets Day (IHPD)
at its Secunderabad Zigly Pet
Care Centre. Building on
the success of the previous
two editions, the annual
celebration, coinciding with
Friendship Day, brought
together pet parents and
their furry companions to
celebrate the special bond
they share while promoting
pro-active pet healthcare.
During the event, Zigly Pet
Care also reaffirmed its
commitment to strengthen-
ing India's pet care ecosys-
tem by making quality vet-
erinary care more accessi-
ble, integrated and commu-
nity-driven. The day-long
celebration, hosted at 35
centres in 15+ cities across
the country, witnessed the
participation of over 2,500
pets and more than 3,500
pet parents. Under the theme
"Life is Simply, Undeniably
Better Together,"
International Happy Pets
Day 2026 featured a range of
engaging experiences for
pets and their parents,
while encouraging proac-



tive healthcare with compli-
mentary health check-ups
and wellness consultations.
The event also marked the
launch of Pet First Aid Kits,
reinforcing the brand's
focus on proactive pet
healthcare. As part of the
event, pet parents at the
Secunderabad Zigly Pet
Care Centre also participat-
ed in the veterinarian-led
pet first aid workshop,
where they learned essen-
tial emergency care tech-
niques. Commenting on the
occasion, Saurabh Jain,
CEO, Zigly Pet Care, said,
"International Happy Pets
Day has always been about
celebrating the uncondi-

tional love between pets
and their families. This
year, we wanted to build on
that purpose by placing
proactive pet healthcare at
the heart of the celebration.
Alongside bringing pet
communities together, we
are expanding our veteri-
nary ecosystem through
upgraded 24x7 facilities,
dedicated veterinary serv-
ices across more centres, and
the launch of Pet First Aid
Kits. Together, these initia-
tives reflect our vision of
creating India's most trust-
ed and comprehensive pet
healthcare ecosystem,
where pet parents can
access quality care, expert

advice and essential health-
care services whenever
they need them." To make
the event more interesting,
a diverse lineup of games
such as Snuffle Mat chal-
lenge, Best Trick
Showdown, Pet Bingo,
among others strengthened
the bond between pets and
their parents. To keep these
memories alive and cele-
brate the journey so far, pet
parents also enjoyed the
caricature and photo booth
sessions. The celebrations
in Secunderabad culminat-
ed with the Zigly Pet Care
Awards, recognising inspir-
ing stories from the pet
community, followed by a
group celebration that
brought together pet par-
ents, creators and animal
lovers. Adding purpose to
the celebrations, 100 per-
cent of the proceeds from
International Happy Pets
Day ticket sales, worth INR
6 lakhs, were handed over
to the Zigly Foundation.
The proceeds will help to
support initiatives such as
anti-rabies vaccination,
deworming, reflective col-
lar drives, rescue efforts,
and facilitating adoptions
for community dogs.

The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) hosts the second
Defence MSME Manufacturers Forum to strengthen India's
Defence and aerospace manufacturing ecosystem

Hyderabad, August 2026:
Supporting India's vision to
become a global hub for
defence manufacturing, the
Indian Chamber of
Commerce (ICC) today host-
ed the 2nd edition of the
Defence MSME
Manufacturers Forum
(DMMF) at Taj Deccan,
Hyderabad. The forum,
under the theme "Make in
India for the World:
Empower MSMEs for India's
Defence & Aerospace
Future," was attended by sen-
ior government officials, poli-
cymakers, DPSUs, OEMs,
industry leaders, startups,
and MSMEs to discuss and
deliberate on issues concern-
ing India's defence and aero-
space manufacturing envi-
ronment. The Indian defence
industry is witnessing an
unparalleled era of growth
due to the Government of
India's emphasis on self-
reliance, manufacturing and
technology. The production
of the defence goods was ?1.78
lakh crore in the fiscal year of
2025-26 while the export of the
defence goods was ?38,000
crore which indicates that
India has established itself as
a trustworthy exporter of



defence goods and technolo-
gies globally. The policy
changes along with increased
procurement have made
MSMEs contribute signifi-
cantly to the defence supply
chain of India. Hyderabad,
definitely regarded as India's
Defence Capital, continues to
play a pivotal role in this
transformation. The city is
home to leading Defence
Public Sector Undertakings,
DRDO laboratories, missile
and aerospace manufactur-
ing facilities, defence elec-
tronics companies, advanced
engineering firms and a rap-
idly expanding network of
technology-driven MSMEs
and startups. The opening
session also featured address-

es by Chief Guest, Shri
Krishna Aditya, IAS, Special
Secretary, Department of
Industries & Commerce,
Government of Telangana
special guests like, Cmde P.R.
Hari, IN (Retd.), Chairman &
Managing Director, Garden
Reach Shipbuilders &
Engineers Ltd. and
Chairman, National Expert
Committee on Defence,
Aerospace & Space, ICC,
Vishnu Malpani, Executive
Director, Azad Engineering
Ltd.; Shri Praveen P.A.,
Director, Aerospace &
Defence, Government of
Telangana; Shri Nikhil
Chakravarthy J. (IA&AS),
Director, Industries &
Commerce, Government of

Telangana; Dr. S. V. S.
Narayana Murty, Chairman
& Managing Director, MID-
HANI and Dr. Rajeev Singh,
Director General, Indian
Chamber of Commerce
During the session, ICC also
released the report "MSMEs—
A Force Multiplier for India's
Defence Ecosystem Edition 2
and the introduction of the
Southern Region Defence
Chair." The forum empha-
sized enhancing the partici-
pation of MSMEs in India's
defence and aerospace manu-
facturing supply chain, along
with fostering cooperation
among industry, start-ups,
academic institutions,
research organizations, and
government officials.

FIVE DEAD, 41 MISSING, AFTER
INDONESIA FERRY
CATCHES FIRE



Five people have been found dead and 41 are missing after an Indonesian ferry carrying at least 250 people caught fire while at sea, officials say. The captain of the ship reported the fire - off Madura island - as the vessel sailed from the country's second-largest city, Surabaya in East Java, to Makassar in South Sulawesi, according to Basarnas, the National Search and Rescue Agency. Footage played by local Indonesian news outlet iNews shows large numbers of people in life jackets on what appears to be a lifeboat. Other clips show people climbing down from the ferry that has flames and plumes of smoke coming from the top of the vessel. Basarnas posted a video to its TikTok, with a statement saying at 08:24 (02:24 GMT) the Surabaya Search and Rescue office received information that passenger ship KMP Mutiara Sentosa 2 was on fire. "Based on information from the shipping company, the fire occurred at

around 06:00-07:00 (00:00-01:00 GMT)." Later, Basarnas said it got confirmation the ferry "was almost entirely engulfed in flames" as "passengers held on in the ship's bridge and bow while awaiting rescue". It was unclear how the ferry caught fire, the statement said. In some of the footage, can be seen jumping into the sea, with crowds of people in life jackets gathering and lifebuoys being thrown to some before they are carried into a rescue ship. Authorities later determined the ferry's location, about 19 nautical miles (35km) north of Buruan Sapudi Island, after establishing communication with a nearby cargo vessel. The ship, however, was unable to approach the burning ferry because it was carrying flammable cargo. Footage released by Basarnas of the incident showed thick black smoke billowing from the ferry as passengers wearing life jackets gathered on deck awaiting rescue.



■ Helicopters fighting Greece wildfires collide in mid-air

TRUMP CANCELS IRAN STRIKES SUBJECT TO DEAL BEING MADE 'RAPIDLY'

Donald Trump says he has cancelled strikes against Iran, provided a deal is struck "rapidly" with the country. In a post on Truth Social, the US president said he had been asked by Iran and other countries in the Middle East to "hold off" on any attack as the "perimeters" of a deal had been agreed. Trump's comments came after reports that the US and Israel may have been planning new, intense strikes on Iran. It is not the first time that Trump has issued apocalyptic warnings, only to subsequently insist that diplomacy was being given a chance. Iran's semi-official Mehr news agency denied that Tehran had asked the US to hold off on further military action, saying Trump's claims were "nothing but a new lie". Iran's act-



ing Defence Minister Majid Ibn al-Reza said Tehran viewed every threat from its adversaries as "real and credible" even if it formed part of psychological warfare. "We will neither be caught off guard nor remain passive," he added. The raised tones followed reports in the US media that the US and Israel were planning what would be one of the harshest bombing campaigns to date against energy

infrastructure targets in Iran. The plan came up during Trump's cabinet meeting on Friday, sources told CBS News, the BBC's news partner in the US. The US government had also urged Americans across the Middle East to be alert and ready to leave "should there be escalation" in the region. In his post on Saturday, Trump said the US was "locked and loaded and ready to go against the

Islamic Republic of Iran, at levels of Military Terror, Strength, and Power not seen since World War II". He said cancelling the attack would be "for the future benefit of the world and, likewise, the survival of a successful and prosperous Iran". Back on 7 April, the US president warned that "a whole civilisation will die tonight" if Iran refused to engage in peace talks. He threatened to destroy civilian infrastructure and power plants, a move that many said would be a war crime. That threat did result in historic face-to-face talks in Pakistan, led by Vice-President JD Vance. For supporters of the president, it was vindication. Bellicose threats - often referred to as the "Madman Theory" - resulted in talks with the Iranians.

ITALY PUTTING NEARLY ALL MAJOR CITIES ON HIGHEST HEAT ALERT



Italy is putting nearly all of its major cities on the highest "red" alert for high temperatures, as a new heatwave grips the country. Health officials say 19 cities from north to south - including the capital Rome, Milan, Venice and Naples - are already at red alert, and by Monday all but two cities will be. Temperatures hit mid-30s C in many places on Saturday, and authorities are warning of risks to even healthy and active people - not just groups including the elderly, very young children and people with chronic illnesses. The warnings come as several European nations battle devastating wildfires after a succession of heatwaves that have created favourable conditions for blazes. In its latest heatwave bulletin published on Saturday, the Italian health ministry says that by Monday, some 25 of the country's 27 major cities will be on red alert. It says it expects only two - Reggio Calabria in the southern tip of Italy's "boot" and Messina, facing it across on the island of Sicily - to be on the second-highest "amber" alert. The ministry urges residents in the affected areas to avoid exposure to heat and direct sunlight during the hottest hours between 11:00 and 18:00, stay indoors and drink plenty of fluids. The extreme heat is being caused by a subtropical anticyclone from North

Africa that is now strengthening over the Mediterranean. Meanwhile, firefighters in Greece, France, Portugal and Spain are still tackling blazes spanning thousands of hectares. In France, some 2,500 people were evacuated in the south-eastern Var region on Friday evening after a blaze - which had been contained for several days - reignited, local officials said. But a massive fire in the south-western Gironde region is now under control, and some 200,000 local evacuated residents have been able to return to their homes. In Greece, hundreds of people - mostly tourists - have been evacuated by sea from a coastal town of Viotia hemmed in by one of the many wildfires raging across the country. And in Spain, more than 200,000 hectares of land has burnt in 2026 - roughly five times above the average by this point in the year - while the burnt land in Portugal is also higher than usual, EU data shows. Climate change is driving up temperatures around the world, and Europe is the fastest warming continent, heating up twice as fast as the global average, according to the Copernicus Climate Change Service. This is causing increased summer heatwaves, greater pressure on Europe's water supply, and more intense wildfires.

How Spain's migrant crisis created a political storm - whipped up by social media

Most of the tens of thousands of migrants who swam into the Spanish exclave of Ceuta on Thursday have now returned to Morocco, escorted to the border by Spanish soldiers and police. But the extraordinary surge of arrivals has left at least 72 people dead, their bodies pulled from the sea where they floated alongside abandoned rubber rings and flippers. This week's events have also shaken Europe politically, once again exposing divisions over the sensitive issue of migration. And they've left lingering questions about what sparked the sudden influx: whether social media posts promising an easy path to Europe just went viral or this was something more deliberate, even organised. The politics Whatever the cause, Spain's socialist prime minister is angry with the response. Pedro Sanchez has hit out at some in the EU for "attacking" Spain in this crisis, playing politics instead of showing support. He meant Italy, above all. Fratelli d'Italia, the hard-right party of Prime Minister Giorgia



Meloni, had been quick to post images of migrants racing through the streets of Ceuta. "This is the Sanchez model the Italian left wing likes so much," the caption crowed. Meloni then announced she was suspending Italy's Schengen agreement with Spain that allows for the free movement of people, citing a security threat. Madrid is fuming. The way Spain sees it, the crisis has been contained and Ceuta is not in the Schengen zone so Moroccan migrants were never going to head for mainland Europe, unchecked. Meloni knows that. But she faces elections next year with her coalition losing ground to

a new and virulently anti-immigrant party. This was a chance to sound tough herself and claw back votes and she leaped on it. Italy is not the only country to see Spain as soft on migration, though. Meloni's call for an urgent meeting of interior ministers to be held on Tuesday was signed by almost two dozen EU heads of state, calling for the elimination of all policies that could be "pull factors" to Europe. Above all, they mean Spain's controversial move to allow hundreds of thousands of undocumented migrants apply for residence and work permits and "regularise" their status. The government's pragmatic: Spain is

ageing and needs workers. But those who flocked to the beaches of Ceuta this week were not heading to sign up for a campaign that's already closed. Sanchez himself points instead to a recent ruling by Spain's Supreme Court: it said those who enter by sea cannot be pushed back immediately. The prime minister argues that was misrepresented by smugglers to promise an easy path to Europe. The crowd heading for Ceuta didn't need to pay smugglers, though, because most were Moroccan and the route is well known. The message was actually spread online. Migrants have shown social media posts to reporters with people shouting that "Spain is Open" and jumping into the sea. Multiple accounts we've checked ourselves show young people in wetsuits and flippers, or filming themselves already swimming, mixed with pictures from inside Ceuta itself. Some have only been active for weeks. Several have tens of thousands of likes. All their promises were false.

Young guns for hire - the teenage hitmen recruited to kill across Europe



In a Stockholm suburb a man dressed in black appeared out of the winter night. Carrying a handgun, he approached 20-year-old Murad Abdelkader, a student on his way back from a shift at McDonald's. The gunman opened fire, shooting again and again as he approached his target. He fired the last shot into his victim's head as he lay helpless on the ground. The killer was 18-year-old Atilla Azimov. On that February night last year, he had killed the wrong man. He had done it for money - hired by the Foxtrot Network, an

organised crime group with links to the Iranian regime which has become notorious for its violence-as-a-service (VaaS) tactics. Since 2022, the Foxtrot Network is thought to have been responsible for about 35 murders as well as a number of attacks and attempted attacks on Israeli targets in Europe including two involving explosives and hand grenades. The gang recruits teenagers to carry out the attacks for cash, but it almost never has to pay out as they often get caught. Like Johannes Natland, a Norwegian teenager who was convicted of conspiracy to murder by a jury at the Old Bailey in London on Wednesday for a planned killing in West Yorkshire. According to Operational Taskforce (OTF) GRIMM, the Europol group set up to tackle the problem, the teenage hitmen are recruited on social media, and are given their instructions in a "gamified" way, imitating how computer games work.



At least 13 killed in Israeli strikes on Gaza after Hamas agree disarmament deal

Ukraine says major Russian oil refinery and airfield hit, as Moscow reports eight deaths

Ukraine has said it carried out overnight strikes deep inside Russia, hitting a major oil refinery and an airfield that houses Russian strategic aviation. President Volodymyr Zelensky said the Engels airfield and the refinery, both in the Saratov region some 600km (373miles) from Ukraine's border, were hit. An oil depot was also struck in Kaluga region and a drone launch site in Bryansk. Russia said eight people were killed in the Ukrainian strikes, and 635 drones shot down or intercepted. It also reported yet another strike on a warehouse of Russia's biggest online retailer Wildberries. Meanwhile, Moscow said its forces attacked overnight two Ukrainian ports and two vessels in the Black Sea. Later



on Sunday, Ukraine said one person was killed in a Russian strike on a postal terminal near the north-eastern city of Kharkiv. Both Russia and Ukraine have recently intensified attacks focusing on major cities, energy facilities and warehouses, as the vast front line remains virtually static and US-led mediation attempts to

end the war have shown no breakthrough. Russian President Vladimir Putin launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. In Sunday's post on social media, President Zelensky described the latest Ukrainian strikes as "our long-range sanctions" against Russian facilities that he says finance

Moscow's war. He said the Engels airfield and Saratov oil refinery were "strategic facilities". The Ukrainian military said in a separate statement that its attack triggered a blaze at the airfield - one of the main bases of Russia's strategic aviation. It said Tu-95MC and Tu-160 bombers were regularly using Engels to launch missile strikes against Ukraine. Saratov regional Governor Roman Busargin admitted that "a drone attack caused damage to civilian infrastructure in Saratov and Engels". He later said that two people were killed. Separately, three people were reported killed in a Ukrainian drone attack on a civilian vehicle in Russia's Udmurtia region, and another three in the Belgorod region bordering Ukraine.

25 SIXES, 13 FOURS: ABHISHEK SHARMA SETS INTERNET ON FIRE WITH 233 OFF 91 IN LOCAL MATCH

Abhishek Sharma shone with a stunning knock in a Punjab Inter-District Senior match. He smashed 233 runs off 91 balls with the help of 15 fours and 25 sixes. It had a strike rate of 256.04. The southpaw played the innings for his Amritsar senior team against Tarn Taran. His sensational knock has come at a time when he is going through a lean patch in international cricket. Pictures of the scorecard, as well as Abhishek's batting, are going viral on social media. The ICC's No. 3-ranked T20I batter, who began the year at No. 1, returned from Zimbabwe with 11 runs in three innings at an average of 3.66. That is not an isolated failure. It is the latest chapter in a slump that has stretched for months. Against England, he scored 131 runs in five T20Is at an average of 26.2. Against Ireland, he managed 49 runs in two matches at an aver-



age of 24.5. Across his last 10 T20I innings, there has been just one fifty. More worrying than the runs is the manner of the dismissals. Blessing Muzarabani dismissed him in all three games against Zimbabwe. The first time, Abhishek threw his hands at a wide delivery and sliced a simple catch into the deep. The second time, he poked at a rising ball and chipped it straight to backward point. The third time, he tried to manufacture room against the angle, edged behind and

walked off shaking his head. These were three different shots, but the same mistake. He never looked in control against pace outside off stump. This was Zimbabwe, not Australia or South Africa. If this series was designed as a confidence-builder, it achieved the opposite for Abhishek. Zimbabwe had clearly done their homework. They began with Sikandar Raza's off-spin, the same type of bowling that exposed Abhishek repeatedly during the T20 World Cup.

Judo Heartbreak: Ishroop Narang Misses Out On Bronze Medal At Commonwealth Games 2026



Judoka Ishroop Narang gave her all in the bronze medal play-off but lost to Canadian Coralie Godbout by yuko as India's judo campaign ended at the Commonwealth Games without any medal on the concluding day of the quadrennial event Sunday. The hopes to add one more medal in the Indian tally were riding on Ishroop after she jumped into medal contention following her tremendous win over Cameroon's stronger and taller Georgika Wesley Djengue Moune in the repechage round of women's -78 kg. The 19-year-old won by waza-ari after her oppo-

nent scored two yukos. However, an aggressive Godbout proved a tough nut to crack for Ishroop, who received two shidos in the regulation time and eventually lost in the golden score time. Yash Ghangas and Avtar Singh, the other Indian judokas in the fray on the final day, faded in the round of 16. India have so far won 39 medals, including 13 gold and 17 silver, with just one contender left in the Games in Lisha Das who will compete in women's C4C5 1000m Time Trial Final. Judo contributed four medals, including two historic gold.

Lovlina Borgohain Points Out Missing Northeast On India Map At Glasgow Restaurant. Owner Responds

Assam boxer Lovlina Borgohain on Sunday said she felt "hurt" after noticing that India's Northeast was missing from a map printed on the napkins and displayed outside a popular Indian restaurant in Glasgow. The owners acknowledged the mistake and promise to rectify it. The incident occurred when the Indian boxing contingent visited Mister Singh's India, The Home of Curry for a celebratory dinner after scripting history with an unprecedented haul of 10 medals - seven gold and three silver -- at the ongoing Commonwealth Games. Lovlina, who won a silver medal, noticed that the map of India used in the restaurant's branding omitted the Northeast and immediately brought it to the attention of the management. "Please don't take this the wrong way. I felt a little hurt by this. In the map of India, our



North East is missing. Yes, even outside, the map that's displayed has cut off the North East. As someone from the North East, that really hurts us. That's all I wanted to say. Please keep this in mind next time. 'Thank you so much,' Lovlina said during an online interaction. Boxing Federation of India president Ajay Singh, who was present at the restaurant, said there was no confronta-

tion. "There was no confrontation. It was an aberration and we pointed that out, me and Lovlina. They accepted their mistake and assured us that it will be corrected," Singh told PTI. The restaurant, a well-known Indian dining destination in Glasgow, has hosted several touring sports teams and dignitaries over the years.

Sunil Chhetri Urges Tata Group To Reconsider Jamshedpur FC Exit From ISL: "Punch To The Gut"

Former India captain Sunil Chhetri has made an emotional appeal to the Tata Group to reconsider its decision to shut down Jamshedpur FC's first-team operations, describing the development as "a punch to the gut" and warning that Indian football cannot afford to lose one of its strongest institutional supporters. Reacting to the club's decision in a post on X on Sunday, Chhetri reflected on the difficult state of Indian football and the importance of long-term stakeholders. "It takes a lot to be a stakeholder in Indian football. It has been like that for some time now. But when everything around looks like it will crumble, you bank on family to hold on to each other. And more often than not, it is the elders in the house that you turn to for assurance," Chhetri wrote. Paying tribute to the Tata Group's contribution to the sport through the Tata Football Academy and later Jamshedpur FC, the veteran striker added, "All of you at the TATA Group, through TFA first, and then @JamshedpurFC, have been one of



our pillars." Expressing his disappointment over the club's withdrawal, Chhetri said, "To know that Jamshedpur has folded first team operations is a punch to the gut." He also highlighted the immediate impact of the decision on players and staff, noting that while many may eventually find new opportunities, Indian football stands to lose much more. "The players and staff will be without clubs, and they might find one by the end of

it all. The League will have a team less, but the season will go on. However, not having the TATA group involved in the top tier of Indian football - that would be a disaster with no alternative," he said. Acknowledging that sporting decisions are often influenced by commercial realities, Chhetri nevertheless appealed to the Tata Group to reconsider. "I understand that some tough decisions in sport are down to what makes sense in

the board room. But I can only request and hope that the think tank at TATA picks their heart over head and reconsiders this call. It might be a poor business decision, but it will be the one Indian football needs the most at this hour," he added. Jamshedpur FC had announced on Friday that it would withdraw from the Indian Super League (ISL) from the 2026-27 season onwards. The decision was confirmed by Jamshedpur Football and Sporting Private Limited (JFSPL), the Tata Steel-owned entity that operates the club. While confirming its exit from the ISL, JFSPL said it would continue contributing to Indian football through grassroots development and youth programmes, reiterating its commitment to identifying and nurturing young talent across the country. Founded ahead of the 2017-18 ISL season, Jamshedpur FC spent nine seasons in India's top-flight league. The club's greatest achievement came in the 2021-22 campaign when it won the ISL League Shield under head coach Owen Coyle.

Alexandra Eala Stuns Naomi Osaka To Book Washington Final Against Jessica Pegula



Alexandra Eala stunned former world number one Naomi Osaka 6-4, 6-2 on Saturday to reach the women's final of the WTA and ATP Washington Open, where she will face third-ranked Jessica Pegula. The 21-year-old Philippines left-hander delivered an impressive victory over the four-time Grand Slam winner from Japan to reach her second WTA final, having lost her first last year at Eastbourne. "I'm super proud of my performance," Eala said. "I played really well and I had a great mentality and I stayed locked in until the end." Eala, set to jump to a career-best 24th in the world rankings, had previously ousted second seed Elina Svitolina for her sixth top-10 victory of the year after dethroning 2025 Washington champion Leylah Fernandez. It was the first meeting of the Asian stars, Eala facing one of the idols of her youth. "She definitely has an aura and she definitely has power," Eala said of Osaka. "I remember watching her finals in the Australian Open and US Open, so really a great experience to share the court with her."

Jasprit Bumrah Ruled Out Of Sri Lanka Test Series Due To Knee Injury: Report

Premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah is set to miss India's two-Test tour of Sri Lanka as he is yet to recover from his knee injury. The swelling in his knee seems to be more serious than it initially looked and the Sports Science team at Bengaluru's Centre of Excellence doesn't want to rush the seasoned pacer to the grind of international cricket, keeping in mind a packed calendar ahead. The Sri Lanka series begins August 15 in Galle. The 32 year old had missed out on the third ODI against England at Lord's after sustaining an impact injury. He recently reported at the Centre Of Excellence in Bengaluru and was expected to be match-fit by the time series begins in two weeks. However it has been learnt that Bumrah is still feeling



some discomfort and even if he gets fit before August 15 or the second Test starting August 23, the medical team isn't sure if Test match is correct format due to a massive workload on the docile tracks. It will be interesting to see of selectors pick Jammu and

Kashmir pacer Auqib Nabi or Vidarbha's Yash Thakur as Bumrah's replacement. India are already without Nitish Kumar Reddy (hamstring), Harshit Rana (hamstring) and Washington Sundar (hamstring) will miss at least the first Test.

After Historic CWG Success, BFI Chief Challenges Boxers To Go Bigger At Asian Games



Boxing Federation of India president Ajay Singh on Sunday lauded the Indian pugilists for their remarkable 10-medal show at the Commonwealth Games and urged them to work even harder to repeat the exceptional performance at the Asian Games in Japan next month. Indian boxers returned with a record haul of 10 medals from the CWG, including seven gold and three silver, a first in the history of the Games for the

country. "We had an exceptional and historic last two days. Winning seven gold and three silver in boxing is the biggest performance in the last 100 years history of Commonwealth Games," Singh said during an online interaction from Glasgow. "This is also a preparation for future events, the Asian Games and 2028 Olympics. We can replicate such a performance in Asian Games, we are top 3 in Asia in boxing but for that we need to

prepare hard from now and be focussed to produce a strong performance." The BFI chief said those boxers who have won medals at the CWG have automatically booked their Asian Games berths. "We had already announced that boxers who are going for CWG and enter medal rounds will automatically be selected for Asian Games," Singh said. "We are very hungry for a historic performance in Asian Games. But we need to become stronger, better in many weight categories. A lot of work has to be done, this was just a stepping stone. "We are an athlete-centric federation and our programme is ready till 2028. We want to restart league format or professional format domestically this year to give more exposure to boxers."

BOXER JAISMINE LAMBORIA TO BE INDIA'S FLAG-BEARER FOR COMMONWEALTH GAMES CLOSING CEREMONY



Reigning World champion and two-time medalist Jaismine Lamboria will be the country's flag-bearer during the closing ceremony for the Commonwealth Games on Sunday. The 24-year-old boxer won the gold medal in the 57kg weight class adding to her bronze from Birmingham at the 2022 edition. One of the most consistent Indian boxers in recent times, Jaismine won the world championships last year in Liverpool before adding a silver at the Asian Championships earlier this year. India are set to host the next edition of the Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad in 2030.

The Commonwealth Games will be handed over to India. India's vibrant culture and its shared values with the Commonwealth family will be showcased during the handover segment of the Glasgow Commonwealth Games closing ceremony at the Hydro. The 'Handover Segment' will unfold over three Acts, taking the audience on a journey that celebrates shared values, culture and connection, according to a release. Reigning World champion and two-time medalist Jaismine Lamboria will be the country's flag-bearer during the closing ceremony for the Commonwealth Games.

"YOUNGER GENERATION WILL LEARN A LOT": MIRABAI CHANU ON INDIA HOSTING COMMONWEALTH GAMES IN 2030



Fresh from scripting history with a third successive Commonwealth Games gold medal, Olympic silver medallist Mirabai Chanu expressed excitement over India hosting the 2030 Commonwealth Games, saying it would inspire a new generation of athletes in the country, while reflecting on the sacrifices, family support and mental resilience that shaped her career. Mirabai, who won the women's 48kg gold at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow with record-breaking lifts, said hosting the Games in India would create new opportunities for aspiring sportspersons across the country. "The happiest news is that India is hosting the

Commonwealth Games in 2030 and the younger generation will get to learn a lot, and more players will be motivated to move forward," Mirabai told IANS. Reflecting on the journey that took her from a young athlete in Manipur to becoming one of India's most decorated weightlifters, Mirabai credited her family for standing by her through every challenge. "Talking about the journey, there are so many things... From where I started, how I reached here, going to the national camp, and everything I had to face along the way—all of that. But I am very happy that I have a family who provided so much support throughout my journey so far.

That is something that makes players feel truly lucky, to have such support," she said. The 31-year-old also opened up on the physical and mental challenges elite athletes face, especially while dealing with injuries during major competitions. "In a player's life, there are many ups and downs; you have to face a lot. Sometimes training goes well, and sometimes it goes bad. During those tough times, thoughts creep in about what will happen next and how we will compete if training continues like this. And above all, injuries—injuries happen most when you are at your peak or preparing for a big competition. Injuries affect every player in

every sport. Facing those moments while keeping a strong mindset is essential, because these challenges will keep happening in our lives everywhere. So first of all, hard work, sacrifice, and maintaining discipline are crucial to moving forward," she said. Mirabai's latest Commonwealth Games triumph came after she recovered from a missed opening snatch attempt to lift a record-breaking 85kg before sealing the title with a 105kg clean and jerk. The victory made her the first Indian weightlifter to win three successive Commonwealth Games gold medals and further cemented her legacy as one of the country's finest sporting icons.

Sonu Sood Unveils A Highly Energetic Dirty Gangsters Lyrical Video Song From Anakapalli

F ikram Sahidev, Sandhya Vashishta, and Tarak Ponnappa play the lead roles in the raw and rustic action drama Anakapalli, produced by Kandregula Naidu and Thrinadha Rao Nakkina under the Bhavya Sri Movie Makers and Nakkina Narratives banners. The film is directed by Khagesh Thammeneni. Kandregula Kumar Raja is the co-producer. Along with providing the story and screenplay, Thrinadha Rao Nakkina also plays an important role in the film. Anakapalli is all set for a

grand theatrical release on August 7. The film's songs, teaser, and trailer have already received a good response on social media. Freshly, the makers have released a mass number called "Dirty Gangsters." The lyrical video was launched by Real Hero Sonu Sood. After releasing the song, Sonu Sood wished the entire team all the best and expressed confidence that the film would become a success. The song gives a clear idea of the film's raw and rustic atmosphere. The lyrics were penned by KK, while

Prithvi Chandra and EK crooned the song with full of energy. Composer Davzand has delivered an intense and energetic tune that creates an adrenaline rush. The song is expected to connect instantly with mass audiences. The visuals in the lyrical video, including the locations and action sequences, look very natural and realistic. The film has cinematography by Maaya V and editing by Srikrishna Attaluri. While Thrinadha Rao Nakkina has written the story and screenplay, the dialogues are penned by Uday Bhagavatula.



Yellamma First Look Presenting DSP As PARSHI Is A Blockbuster Material



A fter delivering the critically acclaimed and commercially blockbuster hit Balagam, National Award-winning filmmaker Venu Yeldandi is presently working on his most ambitious project, Yellamma. Presented by renowned producer Dil Raju and produced by Shirish under the esteemed Sri Venkateswara Creations banner, the film blends strong emotions with a deeply rooted cultural narrative. Adding to the excitement is the acting debut of Rockstar Devi Sri Prasad, who takes on the lead role while also composing the music, making Yellamma a landmark

project in his career. In a move that has taken the entire film industry by surprise, the makers of Yellamma today unveiled the first look of Devi Sri Prasad as PARSHI. The poster, released on the occasion of DSP's birthday, has already set the internet ablaze with excitement and admiration. What makes this first look truly stand apart is its refreshing simplicity. At a time when Indian cinema has become accustomed to larger-than-life mass posters and over-the-top visual spectacles, the Yellamma team has chosen a different path, and it pays off brilliantly.

Friendship Day Special Poster Released from "Summer Holidays"



S uccessful producer and distributor Dheeraj Mogilineni, known for backing content-driven films, is producing the children's entertainer "Summer Holidays" under his banner, Dheeraj Mogilineni Entertainments. Directed by Sreekar, the film is based on a heartwarming story that brings back cherished childhood memories. Master Rohan, Master Arun, and Baby

Khushi play the lead roles. The film is gearing up for a grand theatrical release soon. On the occasion of Friendship Day, the makers extended their wishes to all friends by unveiling a special poster from the film. The poster features Rohan Roy and Arun, who play the key roles, joyfully splashing around in a village canal, perfectly capturing the carefree spirit of childhood friendship.

A Soulful Song Kaasula Kala From Ameer Log Released, Leaves A Strong Impact



Promotional activities are in full swing for the youthful entertainer Ameer Log. The makers of the movie, produced by Madhavi Reddy Soma under

the Awwal Number Productions banner, have released a beautiful new song titled Kaasula Kala. The film is directed by Ramana Reddy Soma, while

Manohar Reddy Manchuri serves as the co-producer. The movie stars MC Hari, Manoj, and Shashidhar in the lead roles, with Vedha Jalandhar, Ravan Nitturu, Vishwender Reddy, and Sai Yogi playing important characters. Presented by Rana Daggubati's Spirit Media, the film is all set for a grand Telugu theatrical release on August 21. As part of the musical promotions, all the songs released so far have received a great response from the audience. Now, the team has unveiled Kaasula Kala, a soulful track that reflects the emotions and struggles of middle-class life. The song beautifully captures the dreams, hardships, and everyday realities of common people. The meaningful lyrics written by Niklesh Sunkoji leave a strong impact, while Smaran Sai's heartfelt composition perfectly matches the song's emotional tone. Eknath's expressive vocals add even more depth, making the track touching and memorable. With a strong local flavour, Ameer Log promises to present a fresh and authentic side of Hyderabad.

Dixit Shetty, Shashi Odela release the song Nuvve Topu from SLV Cinemas #KJQ (King - Jackie - Queen)



S uccessful producer Sudhakar Cherukuri is producing a period crime drama #KJQ (King - Jackie - Queen) under the banner of SLV Cinemas. Set in the 1990s, the film stars Dixit Shetty, known for his films like

'Dussehra' and 'The Girlfriend', in the lead role. Along with him, newcomers Shashi Odela and Yukthi Tareja are playing key roles. This is the last film for director KK, who passed away last year. It stands as a tribute to his

creativity and dedication to cinema. The theatrical trailer, which has already been released, has raised expectations on the film. The makers have recently released the song Nuvve Topu. Poornachandra Tejaswi has composed this song with powerful beats. The lyrics written by Kasarla Shyam are catchy. Aniruddha Sastry's vocals elevate the intense emotions even further. The way Dixit Shetty and Shashi Odela's characters were presented in this song increased interest in the story. Director KK has crafted this period crime drama with a wonderful blend of emotions, conflicts, and interesting scenes. Produced by SLV Cinemas, this film has been released with the highest production values. The film will have a grand release on August 7th.

Will Ritika Nayak Score A Hat-Trick Hit With Kanakaraju?

Young actress Ritika Nayak is slowly making a name for herself in Telugu cinema. She started her career on a positive note with Ashoka Vanamlo Arjuna Kalyanam, which becomes decent hit at box office with positive reviews and word of mouth. Her next film, Mirai, also turned out to be a successful venture, giving her two hits from her first two releases. More than anything, she found a lot of fame in her career but did not sign back-to-back films. Now, all eyes are on her upcoming film Korean Kanakaraju, starring Varun Tej. If the film becomes a box-office success, Ritika will achieve a rare feat by scoring a hat-trick of hits with her first three movies. Not many actresses have done that in the past. Apart from her performances, Ritika has also impressed audiences with her cute Cameo presence in films like Hi Nanna, and this has made her one of the promising young talents in Tollywood. However, one aspect that could work against her is the long gap between her films. In an industry where visibility matters, staying away from the screen for a long time can slow down momentum. Industry insiders feel that Ritika should sign more projects and be in the limelight. But the



scene with Varun Tej is different, as he needs to score a hit at any cost to make a comeback. Will Ritika bring luck to Varun and get a solid hit under her belt? Only time will tell. Korean Kanakaraju has been directed by Merlapaka Gandhi and is up for release on August 7, 2026.

SAMANTHA GLOWS IN FIRST OFFICIAL BUMP PICTURE

A

amantha Ruth Prabhu confirmed her pregnancy a while back, but fans finally got their first proper glimpse of her baby bump. In the latest picture, she was seen in a striking mustard-yellow cape gown, paired with statement turquoise drop earrings and her hair pulled back into a sleek bun, a look that instantly caught everyone's attention. At 39, Samantha looked absolutely stunning, glowing through her pregnancy while keeping her effortless style intact.

SHRUTI HAASAN BREAKS AWAY FROM BLACK

S

hruti Haasan, who is mostly known for her love of black outfits and monochrome looks, is now exploring new shades. The actress recently shared fresh pictures in a beautiful green saree, and fans are loving this change in her style. In the pictures, Shruti looked graceful in a rich emerald green saree with golden hand embroidery, paired with matching jewellery and soft open curls. Her elegant expression and relaxed pose added a soft, dreamy touch to the whole look, proving she can pull off colours just as effortlessly as black. Meanwhile, on the work front, Shruti has an exciting project lined up,

Aakasamlo Oka Tara, a Telugu film directed by Pavan Sadineni. The film stars Dulquer Salmaan and Satvika Veeravalli in the lead roles, with Shruti playing a key part. The film is set to release in multiple languages including Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Malayalam and Kannada. Shruti was seen sitting on the floor of her new residence, participating in the puja. The pictures showed sweets arranged for the celebration and the keys to her new home. The pictures were shared by her fan pages on Instagram. A paparazzi page also shared pictures from Shruti's new house. "Shruti Haasan steps

into a beautiful new chapter! The actor-musician celebrates her new Chennai home with a traditional griha pravesh puja, surrounded by love, blessings, and fresh beginnings," read the caption. Meanwhile, Shruti's Mumbai home tells the story of her passion for music, her love for gothic and rustic decor, and large spaces. The living room, divided into three sections, including a music room, sitting area, and dining area, boasts unpainted walls, high ceilings, large windows allowing natural light to seep in, vibrant paintings, warm ambient lighting, and plants to brighten up the space.

