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NATION | NEWS

South Indian states must stand united for growth: D.K. Shivakumar

WORLD | NEWS

UK 'SUPPORTS UKRAINE 100%', BURNHAM SAYS, AFTER RUSSIA'S DRONE WARNING

CINEMA | NEWS

RAASHI KHANNA TURNS A SHAWL INTO STYLE

Dipke urges politicians to experience rural students' plight

Hingoli: Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijit Dipke on Tuesday, August 18, said ministers and politicians should send their children to village schools for at least a day to understand the challenges of rural students who are forced to walk several kilometres to get access to education.

During a protest in Hingoli over school-related issues, he criticised the Maharashtra government for failing to provide basic transport for rural school-children, saying leaders could arrange buses and trains for election rallies but were unable to provide even a single bus for poor students.

Dipke, who last week launched the 'School Think Karo' campaign from his native village in Hingoli district, claimed that over the past decade, political debate divided people along caste and religious lines, while core concerns such as education and employment remain unaddressed. Children in remote areas are often forced to walk 7 to 10 kilometres to reach schools, particularly during the monsoon when roads become muddy and waterlogged, the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) convenor noted.



"Will these ministers send their own children to school walking like the children of villagers?" Dipke asked while talking to reporters.

"Ministers, MLAs and MPs should send their children to village schools for one day and make them walk to school like village children. Then they will understand what these children have to face," he said.

Dipke said the government is responsible for ensuring that such things do not recur and vowed to continue his fight for tribal and poor children.

"The life of a tribal child should have the same value as the life of a minister's child. The

life of that child is not worth any less," he added. Referring to recent student fatalities in tribal residential schools, he noted that one student had died in Melghat in Amravati and others in Gadchiroli.

Dipke said he had chosen to hold the protest in Hingoli because he had personally seen his siblings walking to school as children. "Even today, girls in rural areas have to walk to school. My sisters used to walk to school. I have seen my brothers walking to school. I have personally seen this," he said.

"Even after 15 years, the situation has not changed. This is shameful. Politicians can arrange buses and trains for election rallies, but they are unable to provide a single bus for poor children travelling to school," he charged. Dipke said his campaign was not against village sarpanches or residents and that they should instead be involved in improving schools.

"Our fight is not against sarpanches or villagers. We want to work with them. Where do the sarpanches' children study? Their children do not go to big schools like the children of ministers or MLAs," he said.

SC panel members must have unimpeachable record: Saurav Das



New Delhi (TSIT):

CJP co-convenor Saurav Das said on Tuesday that members of the high-powered committee proposed by the Supreme Court to examine allegations of police excesses during protests must be independent and have an unimpeachable record.

The Supreme Court said it would constitute a committee comprising a former Supreme Court judge, a former High Court Chief Justice and a senior retired police officer to conduct a fact-finding exercise into allegations of police excesses and violence against police personnel during protests.

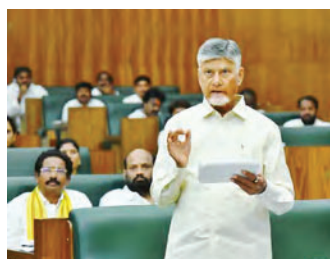
Das said the CJP would accept the court's decision to

constitute the panel but insisted that its members must have strong credentials and a proven record of independence.

He said the protesters, youth and the wider young generation would closely watch the functioning of the committee and the Supreme Court's proceedings. Das stressed that the panel should be seen as an independent body of the Supreme Court rather than a government-appointed committee.

The Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, along with Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana, said the committee would submit periodic reports to enable the court to issue further directions.

34% BC quota to boost political representation: CM Naidu



Visakhapatnam (TSIT)

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said the State government was committed to empowering Backward Classes (BCs) through education, skill development, employment, entrepreneurship and political representation. Addressing the Legislative Assembly, Naidu said the proposed 34 per cent reservation for BCs in rural local bodies was aimed at increasing their participation in decision-making and ensuring social justice. He said BCs constitute 50.54 per cent of the State's population and deserved greater opportunities. Naidu said BC residential schools would be developed into institutions of excellence and educational facilities for BC students would be strengthened. He also stressed the need to combine traditional skills of BC communities with modern technology to create employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.

SCAN FOR E-PAPER



OM NAMO VENKATESAYA

17-08-2026
Total pilgrims: 78,415
Tonsures: 36,834
Handi Kamukala: 4,890 CR
Ladli sale: 3,95 Lacs
Aashil hospital: 3,392
Present Situation on 18-08-2026:
Waiting Compartments...Out side
line sitting at Shirdi
Approx. Darshan Time for Saravardhanam
(with out SSD Tokens): 20-24 H.

Short Takes

8 UP labourers killed in Bhind truck collision

Gwalior/Lucknow: Eight labourers from Uttar Pradesh were killed and several others injured after the pickup vehicle carrying them collided with a dumper truck in Madhya Pradesh's Bhind district in the early hours of Tuesday. The accident occurred around 1 a.m. near Chhimaka village in the Gohad area. Preliminary investigations indicate that the speeding pickup driver lost control while attempting to avoid a herd of cows on the highway and collided with an oncoming dumper, officials said.

8 Andhra fishermen missing in Bay of Bengal

Amaravati, Aug 18: Eight fishermen from Andhra Pradesh's B. R. Ambedkar Konaseema district went missing at sea, officials said on Tuesday. The fishermen, who had set out on a boat in the Bay of Bengal for fishing on August 3, were scheduled to return on August 12. The families of the fishermen were anxious as there had been no communication from them since the time they ventured into the sea. Andhra Pradesh officials have alerted the Indian Coast Guard, and the search was on for the missing fishermen.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu held a review meeting with officials regarding the incident in which a boat carrying fishermen from Odalarevu, Dummalapeta.

Several injured after blast hits school in Afghanistan's Kabul

Kabul, Aug 18: Several students were seriously injured after a blast outside a private school in western Kabul, Afghanistan, Kabul police spokesman Khalid Zadrani confirmed Monday night. Zadrani said relevant teams had arrived at the scene and an investigation into the incident was underway. According to local media, students were leaving the school when the blast occurred, with most of them being girls. A witness said around 30 injured people had been taken to a local hospital, Xinhua news agency reported. Earlier in June, a child was killed and six others sustained injuries after two unexploded devices left over from the wars went off in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province, provincial director for information and culture Mullah Abdul Bari Rashid said.

India likely to reach 62 pc 5G adoption by 2030

New Delhi, Aug 18: India is projected to reach 62 per cent 5G adoption by 2030, significantly ahead of the Asia Pacific average of 50 per cent, a report said on Tuesday. The report from GSMA said India is identified as one of the region's 'Leading Nations', alongside Bangladesh, Indonesia and Pakistan, where regulatory modernisation is important to accelerating digital-economy growth and supporting mobile-industry sustainability.

India's connectivity challenge is increasingly shifting from coverage to usage and adoption as the South Asia coverage gap has fallen from around 30 per cent to less than 5 per cent.

It has made affordability, device access, digital skills, perceived value, trust and online safety the main barriers to mobile internet adoption.

Mobile technologies and services are projected to contribute \$1.4 trillion to the Asia Pacific economy by 2030, a 40 per cent increase from the \$1 trillion generated today. The next phase of digital growth will be shaped by how governments, operators and technology providers respond to four converging priorities: the rapid rise of artificial intelligence (AI), declining digital trust, demand for more resilient digital



infrastructure, and growing interest in digital sovereignty.

The report highlighted BharatNet and PMGDISHA as examples of India's efforts to address these challenges, with PMGDISHA having trained more than 64 million rural citizens in foundational digital skills. Digital trust is emerging as an economic priority for India, with information-security spending expected to grow 11.7 per cent in 2026, reflecting increasing demand for cybersecurity, identity, privacy and other trust-enabling services.

India's Digital Personal Data Protection Rules are contributing to the broader shift towards trusted environments for storing, processing and governing sensitive data, alongside growing interest in sovereign cloud envi-

ronments for local, auditable and secure AI workloads, the report noted.

The firm also linked network resilience with technology resilience, highlighting India's Atma Nirbhar Bharat Approach and BSNL's deployment of an indigenously developed 4G stack that is technically upgradeable to 5G.

India is also among the countries that have published a 6G spectrum roadmap, reflecting its longer-term approach to connectivity and spectrum planning. The report mentioned that 5G, AI and IoT will deliver significant productivity gains across Asia Pacific, particularly in manufacturing and services, which together are expected to account for more than half of the economic benefits generated by advanced mobile technologies.

Govt proposed five-year age extension for EVs, hydrogen, CNG commercial vehicles

New Delhi, Aug 18: The government has proposed extending the permissible age of battery-operated, hydrogen fuel-based and natural gas-driven commercial vehicles covered under the national permit system by five years.

According to a recently issued notification by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), the proposal is part of a draft amendment to simplify national permit procedures and increase the use of digital processes.

Under the proposed changes, the existing age limits of 12 years and 15 years for vehicles covered by the national permit system would be extended to 17 years and 20 years, respectively, for battery, hydrogen and natural gas vehicles, it added.

However, the proposed extension would not apply to all commercial vehicles and would be limited to vehicles.

The decision comes amid efforts to promote cleaner commercial transport.

The government has also proposed allowing national permit holders to opt for authorisation for up to five years instead of renewing it annually. While the fee would remain at Rs 16,500 per year, making the fee for a five-year



सड़क परिवहन एवं राजमार्ग मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
सत्यमेव जयते



authorisation Rs 82,500. Moreover, the VAHAN database could also be used to reduce paperwork. The draft also proposes changes to temporary registration rules.

A chassis without a body would receive temporary registration valid for six months from the date of issue. Where the chassis remains in a workshop beyond six months for body fitting or due to unforeseen circumstances beyond the owner's control, the registering authority could extend the validity by 30 days at a time on application and payment of the

prescribed fee.

For fully built vehicles being converted into adapted vehicles or registered in a state different from the state where the dealer is located, temporary registration would be valid for 45 days.

Additionally, the proposed amendments also seek additional information in vehicle registration and permit forms. The ministry has invited objections and suggestions on the proposed amendments for 30 days from the date the notification is made available to the public.

Houthis claim fresh drone attack on Saudi refinery



Sanaa, Aug 18: Yemen's Houthi group said on Tuesday it had launched a fresh drone attack on a Saudi Aramco oil refinery in the southwestern Saudi region of Jazan. There was no immediate comment from Saudi authorities or Aramco on the Houthi claim, and no information was immediately available on possible casualties or damage.

A number of drones targeted the refinery and the strike was "precise," said a

military source within the group, cited by the Houthi-run Saba news agency.

The source said the attack was carried out in response to "Saudi violations of the airspace" over the Houthi-held northern provinces of Saada and Hajjah.

Tuesday's announcement marked the latest Houthi claim of an attack on the Jazan refinery. On Thursday, the group said two drones had targeted the same facility, also cit-

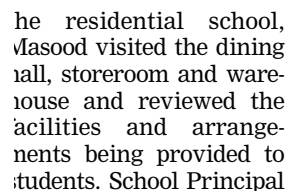
ing alleged Saudi air activity over Saada and Hajjah, reports Xinhua news agency.

The recent escalation has coincided with a series of Houthi missile and drone attacks on government-held areas in Yemen, including targets in the Red Sea port city of Mocha and the oil-rich province of Marib, as well as attacks on commercial vessels in the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandab.

Yemen has been mired in

conflict since late 2014, when the Houthis seized much of northern Yemen, including the capital Sanaa, prompting a Saudi-led coalition to intervene the following year in support of the internationally recognised Yemeni government. A UN-brokered truce that took effect in April 2022 expired six months later without a formal extension, but a fragile de facto ceasefire has largely held until the recent escalation.

The inspections were conducted to assess the



functioning of the minority residential educational institutions and ensure that required standards, facilities and arrangements are properly maintained.

Special awareness campaigns should be con-

Officials urged the public to share information about drug supply or usage with the police. Authorities assured that the identities of informants would be kept strictly confidential.

late the Government of Telangana, the TMS team, Megha Engineering & Infrastructure Pvt Ltd., and all stakeholders on this important achievement."The IGBC Green Healthcare Facilities Rating System promotes the development of healthcare facilities that minimize environmental impact while enhancing the health, safety, comfort and well-being of patients, visitors and healthcare professionals. The rating framework encourages hospitals to adopt measures covering energy efficiency, water conservation, sustainable materials, waste management, indoor environmental quality, and site development. The IGBC Gold Rating for TMS, Sanath Nagar, underscores the growing importance of sustainable healthcare infrastructure and Telangana's strong leadership potential in developing healthier, resource-efficient and future-ready public healthcare facilities.

Principal Dr. B.L. Raju, management representatives, deans, department heads, faculty members, students, parents and well-wishers attended the programme.



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SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

The notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable / movable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank**, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **08.09.2026 (10.30 AM to 11.30AM)**, for recovery of **Rs. 1,09,13,90,021.93/- (Rupees One Hundred and Nine Crores Thirteen Lakhs Ninety Thousand and Twenty One and paise Ninety Three only)** as on **11.08.2026** with further interest and cost thereon due to the **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank** from **(1) M/s Kashyap Constructions Pvt Ltd, No.216/1, 1 Floor, 3rd Phase 100 Ft Ring Road, BSK 3rd stage, Bangalore-560085, (2) Santhosh L.S, (3) Sreeranga Raju L.V, (4) Bharathi B.R, 5.Mrs. Vani M, SI no 2 to 5 residing at: No 537, Jyeshtha, 3rd Main Road,Hosakerehalli Cross,BSK III Stage, Girinagar,Bangalore-560085, (6) Mr. Ashok Raj A, (7) Mrs. JocyeMettleda, SI no 6 to 7 residing at: No 8, 13th Cross, Ramesh Nagar,Marathahalli, Bangalore – 560 037, (8) Venkateswara Ravi Prasad J, H No 51/936-C,Opp New Bus Stand, Bellary Road, Kurnool 518001, (9) Basavara Patel, No 32, Sankar 4th Cross,1st Main R K Garden, New BEL Road, Bangalore 560054. (10) J. Gopal, 10. J. Gopal No 51/92, Opp. New Bus Stand, Bellary Road, Kurnool 518001 (11) Bhaskar J, No 51/913-A, Opp New Bus Stand Bellary Road Kurnool 518001. (12) Mr J Sudhakar S/o Juturu Chinna Sesaiah Shetty, No 51/1967-47 Illuru Nagar, Kurnool 518001.**

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of **E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanchnet.com)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through **RTGS/NEFT** in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **07.09.2026 -5.00 pm.** (₹. in Lakhs)

Lot No	Description of the Property	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Incremental value
1	EMT of commercial building at "Kamala Lodge" at D No 51/936 G in Sy nos 403/2A3, 404B/2C & 404/A3, 51st ward. Opp New APSRTS Bus stand, Bellary road, Kurnool. Standing in the joint names of J Gopal, J Bhaskar, J Sudhakar, J Venkateswara Ravi Prasad. Land measuring 3702.28 sq.ft. Coordinates of the property Latitude- 15.8255150, Longitude- 78.0279510	₹. 912.00	₹. 91.20	₹. 5.00
2	EMT of commercial building "JCS Complex" at No 51/939 A in Sy nos 403/2A3, 404B/2C & 404/A3, 51st ward. Opp. New APSRTS Bus stand, Bellary road, Kurnool. Standing in the joint names of J Gopal, J Bhaskar, J Sudhakar, J Venkateswara Ravi Prasad. Total Carper Area 6529.50 Sq.ft. Coordinates of the property Latitude- 15.825509, Longitude- 78.028149	₹. 665.00	₹. 66.50	₹. 5.00
3	EMT of vacant residential site No 46A, 45/A, 44/A, CMC, Khatha No 57, 56, 55, Talakaveri Nagar, Vibutipura village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, BBMP Ward No 81, Vignananagara Bangalore 560 037. standing in the name of Mr. Ashok Raj and Mrs.Joice Mettleda. Site measuring 9489 sq.ft. Coordinates of the property Latitude. 12.965605.N Longitude 77.682366E	₹. 366.00	₹. 3.66	₹. 5.00
4	EMT of vacant residential site No 43/A, 42/A, 41/a, 40/a, 39/a, CMC, Khatha No 54, 53, 52, 51, 50, Talakaveri Nagar, Vibutipura village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, BBMP Ward No 81, Vignananagara Bangalore 560 037. standing in the name of Mr. Ashok Raj and Mrs.Joice Mettleda. Site measuring 5205 sq.ft. Coordinates of the property Latitude. 12.965605.N Longitude 77.682366E	₹. 186.00	₹. 1.86	₹. 5.00

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link **"E-Auction"** provided in **Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com)** or **E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanchnet.com)** portal and may contact **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.080-25310066,9486092152 and 8508442767** during office hours on any working day.

Date :17.08.2026
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

CM Chandrababu Reviews Missing Fishermen Incident

ORDERS INTENSIFICATION OF SEARCH OPERATIONS



Visakhapatnam (TSIT): Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday reviewed the incident involving the disappearance of a fishing boat carrying eight fishermen from Konaseema district and directed officials to intensify search operations until the missing boat and fishermen are traced. The Chief Minister held a review with CMO officials and enquired about the search and rescue efforts being undertaken to trace the eight fishermen from Odalarevu, Dummalapeta and Vasalatippa villages in Allavaram mandal of B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district. Officials informed

the Chief Minister that the fishing boat had left the Odalarevu jetty at around 10 a.m. on August 3 for fishing in the sea. The fishermen remained in phone contact with their family members until around 11 a.m., after which communication was lost. The boat was equipped with a VHF communication set, while the fishermen were also carrying mobile phones. Officials said the boat was believed to have reached its fishing area at around 6 p.m. on the same day. It was expected to return by August 12, but failed to arrive, following which special search operations were launched to trace the vessel and its occupants.

The Coast Guard has been alerted and its vessels have been deployed for the search, officials informed the Chief Minister. Fishing boats operating from Kakinada, Bhairavapalem, Visakhapatnam and Paradip have also been alerted and are being used to gather information regarding the missing vessel. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu directed the officials to maintain continuous contact with the families of the missing fishermen and keep them informed about the progress of the search operations. He instructed the authorities to utilise every available resource and undertake all necessary measures in a coordinated manner to locate the fishermen safely. The Chief Minister further directed the Coast Guard, Fisheries Department and district administration to continue coordinated search operations until the missing boat is traced. He assured the affected families that the government would stand by them and provide all possible support during the difficult situation.

COALITION GOVERNMENT GIVES SPECIAL FOCUS TO HEALTH AND SAFETY OF STUDENTS

Visakhapatnam (TSIT) The State government is giving special attention to the health and safety of students studying in Ambedkar residential schools and welfare hostels, Social Welfare Minister Dr. Dola Sri Bala Veeranjaneya Swamy said. The Minister said



students who fall ill are being identified promptly and provided timely corporate medical treatment. He said the government had also introduced the Swanthana scheme to support the families of students who unfortunately die due to health-related issues. As part of the scheme, the Minister distributed financial assistance cheques worth Rs.21 lakh to the families of seven Ambedkar Gurukulam students who died due to health problems. Each family received

Rs.3 lakh at the Secretariat in Amaravati on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said the Swanthana scheme was introduced with a corpus fund of Rs.5 crore following the directions of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. So far, financial assistance worth Rs.33

lakh had been provided to the families of 11 students under the scheme, he said. The Minister said the initiative reflected the government's commitment to the health of poor students and the welfare of their families. He claimed that such a support scheme for poor students was not available in any other State. Parents send their children to residential institutions, staying away from them, with the hope of providing them with a better future, he said.

Green Mission Takes Root in Industries

Visakhapatnam (TSIT): The State government's efforts to ensure that industrial growth goes hand in hand with environmental protection are gaining momentum, with the directives of Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Forest and Environment Pawan Kalyan being translated into action. The Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) has launched a special action plan across the State to ensure that industries develop green cover over at least 33 per cent of their premises. As part of the first phase of the initiative, one industry from each district was selected, with 26 industries across 26 districts taken up for a special 14-day green cover drive. The programme, which commenced on July 28, concluded on August 11. All the selected industries achieved their prescribed green cover targets within the stipulated period.

During the special drive, industrial units planted 43,300 saplings across 129 acres. Priority was given to native plant species suited to local climatic and soil conditions. Fruit-bearing plants, ornamental species and varieties such as neem, pongamia, peepal and Indian jujube were among those planted to



enhance greenery and ecological balance around industrial establishments. The initiative is aimed at reducing the impact of air pollution generated by large industries and creating a healthier environment for future generations. The government has emphasised that industrial development should not be confined to production and employment generation but must also ensure environmental sustainability. With

industrial activity in the State witnessing increased momentum, the government has underlined the need for industries to take greater responsibility for environmental protection. The successful completion of the first phase of the 33 per cent green cover initiative has encouraged the authorities to expand the programme to other industrial units. Pawan Kalyan has directed Pollution Control Board officials to ensure strict implementation of the green cover targets in all remaining industries and to closely monitor progress at the field level. Industries have been urged to actively participate in increasing greenery within their premises and contribute to the State's broader environmental goals.

The government has also called upon every department and industrial establishment to work responsibly towards achieving the State's target of increasing green cover to 50 per cent, in line with the 'Viksit Bharat-2047' vision.

GITAM Opens Chemical and Bio-Waste Management Centre

Visakhapatnam (TSIT) GITAM Deemed University has inaugurated a dedicated centre for the safe management of hazardous chemical and biological waste generated from laboratories and research activities across the campus. The centre was inaugurated on Tuesday by Professor S. Anantha Ramakrishna, Dean, GITAM School of Science. It has been established with financial support from the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under the Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence (PURSE) programme. The facility will support the safe storage and management of used acids, hazardous organic solvents and biological waste generated from various laboratories and research



activities at the university. Speaking on the occasion, Professor Anantha Ramakrishna said responsible management of hazardous chemical and biological waste was essential for maintaining a safe and sustainable research environment. He said the new centre would play an important role in promoting safe research practices across the university. GITAM Research

and Development Director Professor U.A. Ramagopal, DST-PURSE Coordinator Professor Ravikumar Gurajada, Head of the Department of Chemistry Professor Venugopal, Deputy Directors of Research and Development Dr. P. Shanmukha Anand and Dr. T. Manjunath, faculty members and research scholars attended the programme.

SVIMS workshop highlights hemodynamic monitoring in critical care

Tirupati, August 18: The Department of Medicine at Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences (SVIMS) organised a workshop on hemodynamic monitoring on Tuesday, focusing on its importance in the management of critically ill patients.

The workshop, held at the Sri Padmavathi Auditorium as part of Sri Venkateswara Medical Services, was inaugurated by SVIMS Director and Vice-Chancellor Dr. R.V. Kumar, along with senior faculty members and representatives of the Indian Society of Critical Care Medicine.

Dr. R.V. Kumar said modern hemodynamic monitoring techniques play a crucial role in assessing cardiac function, circulatory status and other vital parameters of critically ill patients. He urged medical students, postgraduate



doctors and healthcare professionals to make effective use of such training programmes. Head of the Department of Medicine Dr. Alladi Mohan stressed the need for comprehensive assessment of a patient's hemodynamic status using advanced clinical and monitoring methods rather than relying only on basic vital signs.

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OS 399/2016
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పుట్టి హనుమంతరావు & ఇతరులు ... ప్రతివాదులు

టు,
ఆర్ 5). కొల్లా రఘు శేఖ, తండ్రి: కొల్లా శ్రీనివాసరావు, డోర్ నెం. 16-07-328, ఫ్లాట్ నెం. 3, గాయత్రి అపార్ట్మెంట్, 11వ బ్లక్, వికాస్ నగర్, గుంటూరు ఆర్ 6). కొల్లా రఘు శేఖ, తండ్రి: కొల్లా శ్రీనివాసరావు, డోర్ నెం. 16-07-328, ఫ్లాట్ నెం. 3, గాయత్రి అపార్ట్మెంట్, 11వ బ్లక్, వికాస్ నగర్, గుంటూరు. ఈ నెం. దానూ క్యాన్సర్ నోట్ కేసులో డీడీ మరియు పరిశోధన అంశంపై నిమిత్తం వారుల దాఖలు చేసియున్నారు. నడరు దానూలో పాల్గొన్న ముఖ్యులు చేయమని కోరుచూ బీబీసర్వో ఐఎ 25/2026ను దాఖలు చేయగా శ్రీ కోర్టువారు సేవర్ ప్రకటన ద్వారా 5, 6 రెస్పాండెంట్లకు నోటీసు నిమిత్తం డి. 24-08-2026 నకు వాయిదా వేసియున్నారు. కనుక తెలియజేయ ద్దమైనది. కనుక వాయిదా నామ పై కోర్టు వారి ఎదుట ఉ. 10.30 ఏ.కు హాజరై ఆఫీసులు తెలుపుకోవలెను. లేని యెడల పరార్దముగా తీర్మానించబడును.
ఎ.ఆర్. శ్రీనివాస్ మూర్తి బీబీసర్వో తరపు అడ్వోకేట్
2వ బ్లక్, క్రిష్ణనగర్, గుంటూరు-6.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE					
ICICI Home Finance Registered Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051 Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059 Branch Office: North Side, 1st Floor, Plot No. A 36, 2nd Block, 76-1-4; Lalitha Bhaskar Enterprises, Gandhi Puram-II, Rajamahendravaram, AP- 533103 Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.					
Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of property/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch	
1.	Murthy Kuppala (Borrower), Sireesha Kuppala (Co-Borrower), 4-22/18, Lakshmi Narasimha Nagar Dowlishwaram Rajahmundry- 533124 Andhra Pradesh, LHRJY00001388285	1st Item: East Godavari District, Within The Jurisdiction of Kadiyam Registrar Office In The Limits of Hukumpeta Village Area Present In Rajahmundry Municipal Corporation Area, D.Nos 3-17-9-G1, 3-17-9/1-G2 Bearing T.S.No. 461/ Part, 464/ Part Laidout Vide In The Name Style of "Adarasa Nagar Colony According To That Bearing Plot No. 49 An Extent of 386 Sq.yards Site Bounded By North: Road. South: Plot No. 50 Site. East: Plot No. 55 Site Belongs of Rasamsetti Lakshmi Sujatha. West : 33 Ft Wide Layout Road. The Above Site Measuring 386 Sq.yards i.e., 322-73 Sq.meters In Which An Unspecified Undivided And Unequal 1/11 Share of 35.09 Sq.yards or 29.33 Sq.meters Along With Common And Joint Rights Including The Rights of Easement Etc., Schedule-B Flat No. G-1 " Sri Lalitha Mansions "South- West Corner In Ground Floor Plint Are 800 Sq. Feet With Common Areas Including The Rights of Corridor, Stair Case And Parking In Basement Area Etc., Bounded By (D.NO. 3-17-9-G1) East: Stair Case & Corridor. South: Open To Sky. West: Open To Sky & Road. North: Parking Area. 2nd Item: East Godavari District, Within The Jurisdiction of Kadiyam Registrar Office In The Limits of Hukumpeta Village Area Present In Rajahmundry Municipal Corporation Area, D.Nos 3-17-9-G1, 3-17-9/1-G2 Bearing T.S.No. 461/ Part, 464/ Part Laidout Vide In The Name Style of "Adarasa Nagar Colony According To That Bearing Plot No. 49 An Extent of 386 Sq.yards Site Bounded By North: Road. South: Plot No. 50 Site. East: Plot No. 55 Site Belongs of Rasamsetti Lakshmi Sujatha. West : 33 Ft Wide Layout Road. The Above Site Measuring 386 Sq.yards i.e., 322-73 Sq.meters In Which An Unspecified Undivided And Unequal 1/11 Share of 35.09 Sq.yards or 29.33 Sq.meters Along With Common And Joint Rights Including The Rights of Easement Etc., Schedule-B Flat No. G-2 " Sri Lalitha Mansions "South- East Corner In Ground Floor Plint Are 800 Sq. Feet With Common Areas Including The Rights of Corridor, Stair Case And Parking In Basement Area Etc., Bounded By (D.No. 3-17-9/1-G2) East: Open To Sky. South : Open To Sky. West: Stair Case & Corridor. North: Parking Area./ Date of Possession 13-Aug-26	16-05-2026 Rs. 67,678.27/-	Rajahmundry	
2.	Murthy Kuppala (Borrower), Sireesha Kuppala (Co-Borrower), 4-22/18, Lakshmi Narasimha Nagar Dowlishwaram Rajahmundry- 533124 Andhra Pradesh, LHRJY00001388287	1st Item: East Godavari District, Within The Jurisdiction of Kadiyam Registrar Office In The Limits of Hukumpeta Village Area Present In Rajahmundry Municipal Corporation Area, D.Nos 3-17-9-G1, 3-17-9/1-G2 Bearing T.S.No. 461/ Part, 464/ Part Laidout Vide In The Name Style of "Adarasa Nagar Colony According To That Bearing Plot No. 49 An Extent of 386 Sq.yards Site Bounded By North: Road. South: Plot No. 50 Site. East: Plot No. 55 Site Belongs of Rasamsetti Lakshmi Sujatha. West : 33 Ft Wide Layout Road. The Above Site Measuring 386 Sq.yards i.e., 322-73 Sq.meters In Which An Unspecified Undivided And Unequal 1/11 Share of 35.09 Sq.yards or 29.33 Sq.meters Along With Common And Joint Rights Including The Rights of Easement Etc., Schedule-B Flat No. G-1 " Sri Lalitha Mansions "South- West Corner In Ground Floor Plint Are 800 Sq. Feet With Common Areas Including The Rights of Corridor, Stair Case And Parking In Basement Area Etc., Bounded By (D.NO. 3-17-9-G1) East: Stair Case & Corridor. South: Open To Sky. West: Open To Sky & Road. North: Parking Area. 2nd Item: East Godavari District, Within The Jurisdiction of Kadiyam Registrar Office In The Limits of Hukumpeta Village Area Present In Rajahmundry Municipal Corporation Area, D.Nos 3-17-9-G1, 3-17-9/1-G2 Bearing T.S.No. 461/ Part, 464/ Part Laidout Vide In The Name Style of "Adarasa Nagar Colony According To That Bearing Plot No. 49 An Extent of 386 Sq.yards Site Bounded By North: Road. South: Plot No. 50 Site. East: Plot No. 55 Site Belongs of Rasamsetti Lakshmi Sujatha. West : 33 Ft Wide Layout Road. The Above Site Measuring 386 Sq.yards i.e., 322-73 Sq.meters In Which An Unspecified Undivided And Unequal 1/11 Share of 35.09 Sq.yards or 29.33 Sq.meters Along With Common And Joint Rights Including The Rights of Easement Etc., Schedule-B Flat No. G-2 " Sri Lalitha Mansions "South- East Corner In Ground Floor Plint Are 800 Sq. Feet With Common Areas Including The Rights of Corridor, Stair Case And Parking In Basement Area Etc., Bounded By (D.No. 3-17-9/1-G2) East: Open To Sky. South : Open To Sky. West: Stair Case & Corridor. North: Parking Area./ Date of Possession 13-Aug-26	16-05-2026 Rs. 24,89,791/-	Rajahmundry	
The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgage properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Date: August 19, 2026 Place: Rajahmundry Authorized Office, ICICI Home Finance Company Limited					

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE					
ICICI Home Finance Registered Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051 Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059 Branch Office: North Side, 1st Floor, Plot No. A 36, 2nd Block, 76-1-4; Lalitha Bhaskar Enterprises, Gandhi Puram-II, Rajamahendravaram, AP- 533103 Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.					
Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of property/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch	
1.	Bhamidipati Sirrama Murthy (Borrower), V S V Ramani (Co-Borrower), D.No. 59-B-3/E3 V G M Apartment P and T Colony Rajahmundry 533107 Andhra Pradesh, LHRJY00001591451	East Godavari Rajahmundry District, Pdimgoyya Office, Kolumuru Grama Panchyath and Post Rajahmundry Rural 1 Block, R.S. No. 761/1A, Near, D. No. 9-16, Plot No. 36 Total Extent of 150 Sq.yards Bounded By- North By: Site In Plot No. 35, South By: Site In Plot No. 37, East By: Site In Plot No. 23, West By: 30 Feet Road/ Date of Possession- 13-Aug-26	16-03-2026 Rs. 30,23,910.4/-	Rajahmundry	
2.	Swamy Seelam (Borrower), Seelam Durgadevi (Co-Borrower), D No. 1-135 Ravichettu Veedi Hukumpeta, Rajahmundry Rural, Bungalow, Hukumpeta, Rajahmundry 533107 Andhra Pradesh, LHRJY00001631176	A Schedule of Property: East Godavari District, Pidimgoyya Sub Registrar, Rajahmundry Rural Mandal, Pidimgoyya Grama Panchayathi Area, Kavalogoyya Village, R.S. No. 478/1, Full Extent of Ac. 4.09 Cents In Which Northside Subsequently Dsubdivisoned as R.S. No. 478/1B on an Extent of Ac. 2.09 Cents Land In Which Souterside on an Extent of 2881.25 Sq.yards or 2409.01 Sq.mts Site Bounded By East: 90.0 Feet Layout Land. South: 280.9 Feet Layout Land. West: 90.0 Feet Kavalogoyya To Butchiyanagar 40 Ft Wide Road. North: 295.6 Feet Remaining Land In This Survey No. an Undivided and Unspecified 40 Sq.yards of Joint Right, From Out of Total Extent of 2881.25 Sq.yards of Site, Along With All Easement Rights. B- Schedule Property In The Above Mentioned Total Site, Plan Approved Guda With B.a. No. 1104/009/ Brmrd/ Pdmg/2019, Dated 4.7.2019 Named As "P.J. Paradise" Flat Constructed, In Which 2BHK Flat No. 110 In Ground Floor With 1300 Sq.ft, Plint Area (Including Common Area & Car Parking) Bounded By East: Common Corridor. South: Common Corridor. West: Open To Sky. North: Open To Sky/ Date of Possession-13-Aug-26	16-05-2026 Rs. 34,98,006.92/-	Rajahmundry	
3.	Swamy Seelam (Borrower), Seelam Durgadevi (Co-Borrower), D No. 1-135 Ravichettu Veedi Hukumpeta, Rajahmundry Rural, Bungalow, Hukumpeta, Rajahmundry 533107 Andhra Pradesh, LHRJY00001631222	A Schedule of Property: East Godavari District, Pidimgoyya Sub Registrar, Rajahmundry Rural Mandal, Pidimgoyya Grama Panchayathi Area, Kavalogoyya Village, R.S. No. 478/1, Full Extent of Ac. 4.09 Cents In Which Northside Subsequently Dsubdivisoned As R.S. No. 478/1B on an Extent of Ac. 2.09 Cents Land In Which Souterside on an Extent of 2881.25 Sq.yards or 2409.01 Sq.mts Site Bounded By East: 90.0 Feet Layout Land. South: 280.9 Feet Layout Land. West: 90.0 Feet Kavalogoyya To Butchiyanagar 40 Ft Wide Road. North: 295.6 Feet Remaining Land In This Survey No. An Undivided and Unspecified 40 Sq.yards of Joint Right, From Out of Total Extent of 2881.25 Sq.yards of Site, Along With All Easement Rights. B- Schedule Property In The Above Mentioned Total Site, Plan Approved Guda With B.a. No. 1104/009/ Brmrd/ Pdmg/2019, Dated 4.7.2019 Named As "P.J. Paradise" Flat Constructed, In Which 2BHK Flat No. 110 In Ground Floor With 1300 Sq.ft, Plint Area (Including Common Area & Car Parking) Bounded By East: Common Corridor. South: Common Corridor. West: Open To Sky. North: Open To Sky/ Date of Possession-13-Aug-26	16-05-2026 Rs. 1,29,394.82/-	Rajahmundry	
4.	Swamy Seelam (Borrower), Seelam Durgadevi (Co-Borrower), D No. 1-135 Ravichettu Veedi Hukumpeta, Rajahmundry Rural, Bungalow, Hukumpeta, Rajahmundry 533107 Andhra Pradesh, LHRJY00001631270	A Schedule of Property: East Godavari District, Pidimgoyya Sub Registrar, Rajahmundry Rural Mandal, Pidimgoyya Grama Panchayathi Area, Kavalogoyya Village, R.S. No. 478/1, Full Extent of Ac. 4.09 Cents In Which Northside Subsequently Dsubdivisoned As R.S. No. 478/1B on an Extent of Ac. 2.09 Cents Land In Which Souterside on an Extent of 2881.25 Sq.yards or 2409.01 Sq.mts Site Bounded By East: 90.0 Feet Layout Land. South: 280.9 Feet Layout Land. West : 90.0 Feet Kavalogoyya To Butchiyanagar 40 Ft Wide Road. North: 295.6 Feet Remaining Land In This Survey No. An Undivided and Unspecified 40 Sq.yards of Joint Right, From Out of Total Extent of 2881.25 Sq.yards of Site, Along With All Easement Rights. B- Schedule Property In The Above Mentioned Total Site, Plan Approved Guda With B.A. No. 1104/009/ Brmrd/ Pdmg/2019, Dated 4.7.2019 Named As "P.J. Paradise" Flat Constructed, In Which 2BHK Flat No. 109 In Ground Floor With 1200 Sq.ft, Plint Area (Including Common Area & Car Parking) Bounded By East: Open To Sky. South: Common Corridor. West: Common Corridor. North: Open To Sky/ Date of Possession-13-Aug-26	16-05-2026 Rs. 33,51,683.08/-	Rajahmundry	
The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgage properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Date : August 19, 2026 Place: Rajahmundry Authorized Office ICICI Home Finance Company Limited					

EDITORIAL

10 Years of the RPwD Act: Progress, Gaps and the Work Ahead

The success of a disability law is not measured only by what it promises. It is measured by whether a child can enter a neighbourhood school without being treated as an exception; whether a job applicant can seek accommodation without risking rejection; whether a wheelchair user can reach a public office; whether a Deaf citizen can access information; and whether a person with a psychosocial or intellectual disability can exercise legal agency without being spoken over. Ten years after the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, India has built a stronger legal foundation for these rights. But the distance between statutory recognition and everyday freedom remains substantial. The Act was a significant departure from the narrower framework that preceded it. It expanded the list of recognised disabilities from seven to 21 and brought concepts such as equality, non-discrimination, reasonable accommodation, accessibility, inclusive education, social security, and community participation into Indian law. It also strengthened reservations for persons with benchmark disabilities in government employment and higher education.

This shift mattered because it changed the language available to disabled people. Inaccessibility was no longer merely unfortunate. Refusing a necessary accommodation could be understood as discrimination. Exclusion from education, employment, transport, or public services could be challenged as a rights violation rather than accepted as an individual misfortune.

The law also helped widen public understanding of disability. It recognised conditions that had long remained invisible or poorly understood, including autism, specific learning disabilities, multiple sclerosis, thalassemia, and acid attack-related disability. This broader recognition created pathways, however uneven, for people previously left outside official systems of support.

Judicial interpretation has further developed the law's potential. Courts, particularly the Supreme Court, have clarified that equality does not always mean identical treatment. In *Vikash Kumar v. UPSC*, the court placed reasonable accommodation at the centre of substantive equality and cautioned against reducing disability rights to rigid percentage thresholds. This was an important reminder that an individual may face a real barrier even when they do not fit neatly within an administrative category. Government programmes have also moved disability higher on the policy agenda. The Unique Disability ID system has sought to standardise certification and improve access to entitlements across states. The Accessible India Campaign has drawn public attention to the accessibility of buildings, transport, and digital systems. Accessibility standards, institutional policies, and compliance requirements are now more visible than they were a decade ago. These developments should not be understated. Yet recognition is only the first stage of reform. Uneven implementation The largest weakness of the past decade has been uneven implementation. The experience of the Act depends heavily on geography, institutional capacity, awareness, and the willingness of officials to act. A right available in a metropolitan court or central university may remain largely theoretical in a rural school, district hospital, local transport system, or small workplace.

WHEN NATIONAL SYMBOLS BECOME POLITICAL FOOTBALL

National symbols belong to the nation, not to a political party. They are among the few things in public life that should rise above ideology, electoral rivalry and partisan loyalties. The Tricolour, the national anthem and the national song *Vande Mataram* occupy a special emotional space in the Indian imagination because they evoke the country's freedom struggle, its civilisational memory and the sacrifices through which India became a republic. That is precisely why any political leader who appears to disrespect or dismiss a national symbol must expect public scrutiny.

On August 15, 2026, Congress leader Sonia Gandhi was seen agitated and hand gesturing midway through a full rendition of *Vande Mataram* at the Congress headquarters entailing public wrath online. Her questionable 'conduct' and the subsequent lame defence provided by her partymen have therefore provoked questions that go far beyond the immediate political controversy. That such a misconduct has come from senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi - who had built a non-controversial public image until now - is disappointing. For common public - be it a Congress or the BJP supporter - the public disrespect shown to the national song is aggravating and demeaning.

■ **CONGRESS'S CONTENTIOUS STANCE**

The Congress has historically had a complicated but important relationship with *Vande Mataram*. The song was deeply associated with India's freedom movement and was sung at several important sessions of the Indian National Congress. It was adopted as the national song by the



Constituent Assembly on January 24, 1950, with President Dr. Rajendra Prasad declaring it equal in status to the national anthem. More so, when the Congress has long projected itself as a party with a special claim to the legacy of India's freedom movement, the misconduct of its senior leaders is puzzling. They cannot simultaneously invoke the sacrifices of the freedom struggle and appear casual about symbols that emerged from that very struggle.

There is, of course, an important distinction between legitimate disagreement over the political use of a national symbol and disrespect towards the symbol itself. In a democracy, nobody should be compelled to surrender their political beliefs. But national symbols require a degree of restraint precisely

because they represent something larger than the political moment. The larger concern is the message such gestures send. India is already a deeply polarised political society. Political parties routinely accuse one another of being anti-national, communal, elitist or authoritarian.

■ **FALSE PUBLIC IMAGE**

The controversy also becomes more significant because of Sonia Gandhi's long curated public image. For years, the Congress president and its most powerful figure was perceived, even by many political opponents, as someone who generally maintained a measured and dignified public persona. Her politics could be criticised, her decisions could be challenged, and her leadership could be opposed, but she

largely avoided the kind of theatrical political behaviour that has become increasingly common. That image appears to be changing. Recently, people were also witness to Sonia Gandhi's remark referring to her party spokesperson Pawan Khera as the "white-haired man". This too has removed the myth about Sonia Gandhi being 'graceful' in her public conduct. Such personal remarks about age or appearance does not behove the 'first family' of the Congress party towards its loyal workers as it bespeaks of their lowly and insignificant existence.

In the age of technology and social media - when every little act, sigh and murmur are audible and visible - such gross behaviour tends to diminish the dignity of the person making them. Every politician is aware of

this 24/7 scrutiny. The higher the political stature, the higher the expectation of restraint.

■ **LESSONS FROM THE CONTROVERSY**

There is a broader lesson here for India's political class. National symbols cannot become another battlefield in the permanent war between parties. The Tricolour does not belong to the ruling party, just as the Constitution does not belong to the Opposition. These are common possessions of Indians. Similarly, *Vande Mataram* can't be bracketed as a 'Congress's song' or 'BJP's song'. Indeed, one of the saddest developments in contemporary politics is the tendency to convert everything into a partisan identity marker. A song becomes a test of ideology. A salute becomes a political statement. A

national celebration becomes an opportunity for party mobilisation. The result is that things which should unite citizens become instruments for dividing them.

The answer cannot be to demand uniformity of thought. It must be to restore a culture of constitutional and national courtesy.

Criticism of Sonia Gandhi or the Congress on this issue should therefore not be dismissed as merely 'BJP propaganda'. Nor should every Congress supporter be painted as someone who blindly endorses everything the party does. Millions of Indians support political parties while retaining independent judgment. The democratic health of the country depends precisely on citizens being willing to question their own political camps.

And that is perhaps the most important point. National pride should not be a monopoly of the Right. Nor should secularism be a monopoly of the Left. Patriotism should not require party membership. A person can disagree profoundly with the BJP and still stand respectfully for *Vande Mataram*. A Congress supporter can oppose the government's policies while holding the Tricolour with pride. India is large enough for all these contradictions.

Instead of living in denial, the Congress party in all its wisdom must acknowledge the disrespect and apologise to the nation. Because ultimately, the question is bigger than Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Narendra Modi or any political party. Politicians come and go. Governments change. Elections are won and lost. Political reputations rise and fall. The nation remains.

Mumbai's 'Marathi' Test For Cabbies, And The Art Of Fixing The Wrong Problems

Mumbai has long possessed the legendary, slightly chaotic ability to absorb every dialect, dish, and economic refuge that lands upon its humid shores. It is a city whose soul is forged in transit, fuelled by cutting chai, and sustained by an army of auto-rickshaw and taxi drivers navigating standard traffic jams while keeping up a running commentary on local politics. Recently, however, the Maharashtra state government threw a linguistic spanner into the gears by insisting that non-Marathi-speaking cab and auto drivers undergo formal language training to master the local tongue. The deadline arrived, rain disrupted the classes, and political factions immediately demanded a grace period, not out of a sudden bout of leniency, but because the monsoon managed to drown the logistics before the grammar lessons could fully sink in. The controversy highlights a classic urban tension: is this policy a reasonable expectation of basic integration, or is it unnecessary provincial chest-thumping that undermines the financial capital's famous cosmopolitanism?A Valid Argument - Almost To understand the impulse behind the directive, one must first empathise with the anxieties of local cultural preservation. Language in India is rarely just a tool for commerce; it is an inheritance, a flag, and, occasionally, a battlefield. The argument for requiring transit workers to learn Marathi rests on a straightforward, pragmatic premise. If you are operating a public service within a state, possessing a rudimentary grasp of the state's primary lan-



guage is not a tyrannical demand; it is a courtesy to the millions of local residents who use those services daily. When a commuter steps into a yellow-and-black taxi after a long day in the suburbs, negotiating a fare or explaining a shortcut shouldn't require complex pantomime or an emergency translation app. Proponents of the new rule can reasonably argue that expecting a driver to learn basic vocabulary, to understand and specify directions, numbers, or addresses (and also to offer polite greetings, but cabbies are not usually known for those!) is hardly an oppressive act of cultural erasure. It is simply the baseline of civic integration, ensuring that the local culture is respected rather than treated as an inconvenient background detail in its own home. Yet, the moment one shifts focus from civil courtesy to mandatory enforcement, the logic begins to wobble under the weight of Mumbai's economic reality. The city did not become India's financial locomotive by enforcing strict linguistic purity at the entry gates. It thrived precisely because a driver from Uttar Pradesh, a passenger from Bengal, and a

street vendor from Bihar could communicate in a fluid, grammatical mutant known as 'Bambaiya Hindi', a vernacular constructed almost entirely out of shared survival instincts, a collective disregard for the niceties of grammar, and expressive hand gestures. Demanding formal Marathi proficiency transforms an informal, working solution into an administrative hurdle. Only In Mumbai The irony of the situation is heightened by the administrative rollout itself: a state mandate issued at the peak of the monsoon season and promptly derailed by heavy rains, leading politicians to plead for a hundred-day extension so drivers can learn how to say "straight ahead" in proper Marathi. The entire episode captures the theatre of Indian governance, where grand cultural crusades inevitably collide with the mundane reality of flooded schoolhouses and missing instructors. Critics also reasonably point out that targeting cab and auto drivers carries a whiff of selective enforcement, if not outright class bias. The corporate boardrooms of Bandra-Kurla Complex and the luxury high-rises of Worli are populated

by international executives, bankers, and tech entrepreneurs who haven't mastered a single sentence of Marathi - they might even order a 'vada pav' in Hindi - yet no one threatens to revoke their permits or mandate afternoon grammar classes. The burden of carrying the torch of regional heritage falls disproportionately on those at the bottom of the economic ladder, who are already working fourteen-hour shifts in stifling heat. Some of Mumbai's taxi drivers could well benefit from remedial driving lessons, but putting them into a classroom feels less like an attempt at genuine cultural enrichment and more like political theatre designed to appease local vote-banks during election cycles. When regional pride becomes an entry barrier to basic livelihood, cosmopolitanism gives way to parochialism, signalling to the rest of the country that Mumbai's famous openness comes with fine print written strictly in the local script. Whose Anxieties? And yet, framing the debate as a stark choice between total open-market globalisation and narrow nativism misses the pragmatic middle ground where Mumbai actually lives. A middle-class commuter navigating the city's streets does not require a driver to quote seventeenth-century Marathi poetry; they simply need to get to the station without a communication breakdown. Likewise, a driver attempting to make a living has little interest in ideological debates over sub-national identity; they simply want to earn their daily fare without fear of harassment or bureaucratic penalties.

Rs 1.05 Lakh Crore Lost: INSIDE THE DANGEROUS RISE OF INDIA'S GEN Z STOCK TRADERS

India's investor profile is dynamically shifting to its core demographic dividend: a tech-savvy, enterprising youth population that seems to be taking on more risk in the stock market for higher returns. Reports indicate how the average Indian investor is barely in their early 20s, with half of them being in the under-30 age group. From being 25% of the total NSE registered investors in FY20, the Gen-Z segment rose to account for 40% of them in FY25. RBI data also confirms this sharp demographic change: the share of sub-30 age investors had jumped from 22.6% in March 2019 to 38.9% by July 2025. The National Stock Exchange's Market Pulse report for June 2026 records that the median age of the Indian investor has fallen from 38 in March 2020 to 33 today. Investors under 30 now account for 37.9% of the total investor base, up from 23.5% five years ago. They also made up 59% of all new registrations so far this financial year. The country's demat accounts, which stood at roughly 21.3 crore in November 2025, are estimated to have crossed 23 crore by June, and a large share of that growth - just brokerages alone put the figure near three in four new accounts - belongs to investors below 30. This is not a marginal trend. It is close to becoming the market's centre of gravity. What merits greater attention beyond this shift is the extent to which India's youth is walking into one of the most information-asymmetric arenas in finance, where the safeguards between risk and return on



investment are blurry. With graduate unemployment at record highs, secure jobs scarce, and asset prices outpacing incomes, equities (and especially derivatives) have become the default "Plan B" for a generation that was otherwise told that education guarantees stability in upward mobility towards higher-income and wealth accumulation. A Generation Without a Safety Net It would be tempting - and not entirely wrong - to read this as a story of desperation amongst youth, who are keen to achieve higher income-returns on risk-driven investment. The Periodic Labour Force Survey 2023-24 shows Gen Z unemployment (among those aged 15 to 26) running at 11.9%, against just 2% for millennials. Among Gen Z graduates specifically, joblessness stands at 29% for men and 36.9% for women. Barely one in five employed Gen Z workers has any social security cover at all. A college degree, which was meant to be a ticket to stability, has for a large section of India's youth become simply a longer wait

in a more crowded queue. It would be too easy to stop here. But desperation alone can not explain why so much of this new money is flowing specifically into equities, and, increasingly, into the riskiest end of equities, rather than into gold or real estate, or simply staying in a bank account, as it did for their parents' generation. Something else has changed about how young India relates to the market itself. How a Volatile Market Became The Answer Part of the answer lies not with young investors but with the system that shaped them. Over the last two decades, India quietly replaced the idea of a guaranteed pension with the market-linked National Pension System, made the Systematic Investment Plan the default answer to savings, and built, through Jan Dhan accounts, Aadhaar-based KYC and UPI, the easiest on-ramp into formal finance anywhere in the world. This was, by most measures, a successful and necessary reform integrating the state-society compact for better digitisation and adop-

tion of technology. But it also had a side effect, wherein an entire generation grew up being told, correctly, that fixed deposits lose to inflation and that equities are where real wealth is built. They are doing what they were taught to do. The problem is not that they entered the market. It is what happens once they are inside it. This is where India's specific moment has an interesting trajectory and where the "higher information asymmetry" reasserts at the heart of equity investing itself. Recent research on Indian brokerage apps finds that gamified features such as streaks, badges, leaderboards, and social trading feeds correlate strongly with higher trading frequency and shorter holding periods, and that the effect is sharpest among the youngest and least experienced users. Alongside this has grown the influence of the "influencer", an unregulated but highly trusted content maker for many young investors, whose advice on options and small-cap bets travels faster than any SEBI disclosure ever could.

Rift widens as Saudi Arabia scrutinises UAE bank transfers

Riyadh: Saudi Arabia has quietly subjected bank transfers bound for the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to the kind of enhanced scrutiny normally applied to high-risk countries, pointing to a deepening rift between the two Gulf powers. Reuters reported, citing three sources with direct knowledge of the move, that Saudi Arabia's central bank had this year directed major banks to treat settlements with the UAE the way they would transactions with countries flagged for money-laundering or terror-financing risk. The instruction was never made public and explains companies struggling for months to move money out of Saudi accounts into the UAE. Saudi central bank denies targeting UAE Asked about the matter, the Saudi central bank told Reuters it imposed "no direct restrictions on specific countries" and that its banks applied



risk-based controls in line with Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards. A UAE official said the country's economy ministry had received no complaints from businesses about transfer delays and described the two nations' commercial ties as deep and longstanding. According to Reuters, six businesspeople described transfers being delayed or returned by Saudi banks without explanation, three bankers said UAE-bound payments now pass

through extra layers of compliance review, with some transactions stretching on for weeks and others failing entirely, and three business owners said they had begun routing payments through third countries to avoid the bottleneck. One investor told the news agency that Saudi clients had been advised by their own authorities not to transact with UAE-based firms, even for sums as small as under AED 1 million that would once have cleared in days.

Currency In Circulation Continues To Rise Despite Higher Digital Transactions, RBI DG Murmu Says



Even as the adoption of digital payments in India has risen sharply over the last decade, cash in circulation has not declined, especially in rural and semi-urban areas, among low-income groups, older populations, and small businesses, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor Shirish Chandra Murmu said in a speech at an event organised by Bank Indonesia in Jakarta, on August 13. "Currency in circulation continues to grow at double-digit rates even as cash's share of individual transactions declines, thanks to growing digital payment adoption. That combination makes future demand harder to predict, which complicates our planning for production and distribution capacity," he said. Over the

past few years, the deputy governor said RBI has produced between 28 and 30 billion banknotes annually across six denomination and disposed roughly 21 billion pieces a year. Currently, 176 billion banknotes are in circulation in India. By comparison, roughly 56 billion US dollar bills and 30 billion euro banknotes were in circulation at the end of last year. "One caveat, in fairness to the comparison: our count is driven partly by a denomination mix weighted toward lower-value notes, which naturally means more pieces change hands for the same value of transactions. Even so, the volume gives you a sense of the scale of the logistics we manage every day," he said. To ensure durability of currency, the RBI is exploring ways to extend the life of banknotes, including surface coatings on the substrate, and polymer notes for lower denominations. The regulator is also working to reduce the carbon footprint of the cash cycle: optimising our distribution network for efficiency and moving up the value chain in how we dispose of banknote briquettes.

MobiKwik profitable for third consecutive quarter; delivers PAT of Rs. 7.6 Cr, a positive swing of Rs. 49.5 Cr YoY

Hyderabad, August 2026: One MobiKwik Systems Ltd. (MobiKwik) (NSE: MOBIK-WIK / BSE: 544305), India's largest digital wallet, today announced its earnings results for the quarter ended June 30, 2026 (Q1 FY27). The Company reported its third consecutive profitable quarter, with a PAT of 7.6 Cr, a positive swing of 49.5 Cr YoY, reinforcing its position as one of India's fastest-scaling and profitable fintech platforms.

KEY FINANCIALS:

Q1 FY27 v/s Q1 FY26
Profitable Growth
Momentum Continues
Q1 FY27 marks a continuation of MobiKwik's profitability journey. Contribution Profit grew by 66% YoY, reflecting disciplined cost management and strong monetization across Payments and Financial Services. Platform GMV hit a new quarterly high, while Financial Services delivered resilient revenue growth along with favourable Gross Profit margins.

Commenting on the performance, Bipin Preet Singh, Co-founder, MD & CEO, MobiKwik said: "Our Q1 FY27 performance reinforces that profitability is embedded in our business model, with three consecutive profitable quarters alongside con-



tinued investments in growth. In Payments, we have delivered a record GMV streak of 14 straight quarters, achieving 50% YoY growth with improved unit economics. In Lending, we grew Gross Profit 5.6x YoY, demonstrating robust credit quality and strong portfolio recoveries. We remain focused on deepening our Payments leadership, expanding our digital Financial Services ecosystem, and creating sustainable long-term value for our customers and shareholders."

Headline Results for the Quarter Ended June 30, 2026

Consolidated Financials
Revenue from operations stood at 281.5 Cr, up 4% YoY; Total Income at 289.2 Cr, up 3% YoY
Direct costs declined 21% YoY, underscoring continued focus on cost efficiency
Contribution profit increased 66% YoY to 128.6

Design Democracy 2026 Announces its Fourth Edition

INDIA'S MOST CELEBRATED DESIGN FESTIVAL RETURNS TO HYDERABAD



Hyderabad, Telangana, 18th August 2026: Design Democracy, India's Most Celebrated Design Festival, today announced the fourth edition of its flagship event, to be held on 18-19-20 September 2026 at the HITEX Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad. Over the last three years, Design Democracy has established itself as one of India's most influential platforms for architecture, interiors, furniture, product design, lighting, furnishings, accessories, art and craftsmanship. The 2026 edition promises to be its largest and most immersive yet, bringing together over 200 leading design brands, 150+ speakers, and an expected 30,000+ visitors from across the country. Spread across four distinctive halls, Canvas, Muse, Atelier and Alchemy, the festival is backed by powerhouse brands such as:

Sunroof, Magpie, Specta Vox: Launch Party Sponsor
Choice: Satellite Party Sponsor
Brown Profiles: Museum of Telangana Sponsor
In addition to the above, Design Democracy 2026 is also headlined by global luxury brands such as Azzurra Ceramica, Newform,

Zuccheti, and Indian design aces like Essentia Homes, Diviana, RAVOH, Sita Nanda, Sitolia, Casa Interio, and more. This year's edition introduces an exceptional line-up of curated exhibitions, each celebrating a unique dimension of design and creativity: Museum of Telangana,

curated by Supraja Rao of Design House
Gallery of Sustainability, curated by Jasem Pirani & Huzefa Rangwala of MuseLab
Precious Objects, curated by Monika & Sarah Choudhary of Habitat Architects
The Art Edit, curated by Anish Gawande in collaboration with Sakshi Art Gallery
The Fabric of Design, a new immersive textile showcase featuring celebrated names including Gaurang Shah, Divani, and Yavi, exploring the intersection of heritage, craftsmanship and innovation.
Speaking about the fourth edition, Pallika Sreewastav, Co-Founder, Design Democracy, said: "Design Democracy was born from a simple belief that great design has the power to inspire, connect and bring people together."

Swiggy Turns 'Indian-Owned' As Shareholders Cap Foreign Stake At 49.5%



Swiggy shareholders have approved a proposal to move the company towards becoming an Indian-owned and controlled company (IOCC), marking a significant step in the food delivery and quick-commerce major's efforts to strengthen domestic ownership and control. The proposal had been rejected by shareholders in May. The latest approval allows the company to proceed with a 49.5% foreign ownership cap, bringing Swiggy closer to meeting the requirements for IOCC classification. The move is significant for Swiggy as achieving IOCC status could provide greater operational flexibility under India's foreign investment rules and potentially give the company more room to pursue a path towards profitability. Swiggy disclosed that aggregate foreign investment in the company stood at approximately 49.76% of its total paid-up equity share capital on a fully diluted

basis as of July 6. However, the company clarified that the current foreign ownership level does not by itself change Swiggy's ownership or control status. Company Secretary and Compliance Officer Cauveri Sriram said the current shareholding does not affect the company's share capital, management, business operations, voting rights or rights attached to equity shares. Swiggy added that any material development would be disclosed as required under applicable laws. Under current Foreign Exchange Management Act rules, a company can qualify as an IOCC if more than 50% of its ownership is held by resident Indian shareholders and effective control rests with resident Indian citizens or eligible Indian entities. The proposed shift is particularly important for Swiggy because IOCC classification could provide greater flexibility under India's foreign investment framework.

Active Green Products Announces South India Expansion with 15 New Franchises

Hyderabad, 18th August 2026: Active Green Products Pvt. Ltd., popularly known as Active.in, a Hyderabad-based provider of premium windows, façades, railings, automation and smart-building solutions, has announced plans to expand its presence across South India and Bhubaneswar with 15 new franchise outlets over the next 12-18 months. The expansion will cover Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Goa and Bhubaneswar, strengthening Active.in's presence across key residential, commercial and infrastructure markets. The announcement marks the next chapter in the company's growth journey. From a team of 15 employees, Active.in has grown into a 400+ employee organisation, combining global technology partnerships with its own manufacturing, product development and execution capabilities in India. The company's portfolio spans aluminium and uPVC windows and doors, façades, skylights, pergolas, railings and balustrades, wooden doors,



motorised screens and fresh-air systems, home automation, lighting and building management solutions. Active.in's technology ecosystem is supported by partnerships with global companies including Schüco, Aluplast and Q-railing from Germany; Renson from Belgium; Sandor from Malaysia; and Lutron, Legrand, Siemens, Bosch and ENDO. Building manufacturing capabilities closer to the market As part of its expansion, Active.in has developed its own showroom in Bengaluru, while its new manufacturing unit in Karnataka is getting ready to commence operations. The facility is being developed to

cater specifically to the growing requirements of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, strengthening the company's ability to serve customers across the region. Active.in's manufacturing network is anchored by two existing facilities in Telangana. The Sultanpur facility exclusively manufactures Schüco aluminium windows, façades, motorised pergolas, screens and curtain tracks. The facility has a maximum production capacity of approximately 2 lakh sq. ft. per month and is currently producing more than 1 lakh sq. ft. per month. At the Pashamylaram facility, Active.in manufactures its

own Active-branded aluminium windows, façades and railings, which are designed and developed by the company and tested for safety and standard parameters. The unit has a production capacity of approximately 1 lakh sq. ft. per month and is currently operating at around 70% utilisation. Active.in has been offering its own branded products to private homes, villas, apartments and institutional projects for the past six years, building a growing portfolio of projects across residential and institutional segments. Speaking on the expansion, Mudunuri Venkata Subba Raju, Managing Director, Active Green Products, said: "Our growth has been built on bringing global technology to India while developing strong local capabilities around manufacturing, product development and execution. From a 15-member team to an organisation of more than 400 employees, we have steadily built the infrastructure needed to support our customers and partners. Our expansion across South India is the next step in that journey."

Gig Work Delivers Up to 2.5x Higher Net Earnings, Above minimum wage benchmarks, Strengthening India's Livelihood Economy: Redseer

INDIA, 18, AUGUST 2026: India needs to create millions of non-farm jobs every year, and conventional employment alone is not keeping pace. Redseer Strategy Consultants' Gig Internet Workforce in India suggests that gig internet work can bridge as much as ~70% of this gap by 2030 — and it explains why workers are choosing it: internet platforms enable gig workers to earn roughly 2.5x of fulltime comparable formal and informal jobs, while offering something conventional employment rarely delivers in one package — control over working hours, low barriers to entry, and a growing layer of worker protection. Across delivery, ride-hailing and home services, gig workers make an average net hourly earnings of approximately ₹138, around 2.5 times the roughly ₹54 earned across comparable formal and informal occupations. In Hyderabad, this compares favourably with the estimated minimum

wage equivalent of approximately ₹75 per hour, with gig workers earning around 1.8x the prevailing wage benchmark. For many workers, the ability to decide when and how much they work is just as important as what they earn. More than 90% of monthly active gig workers choose part-time participation, allowing gig internet work to fit alongside a regular job, education or other responsibilities. Redseer identifies three broad groups within the workforce, comprising those who rely on gig work as a primary livelihood, those who use it to supplement a regular income, and those who turn to it for a limited period while pursuing education, migration or a career transition. The worker accounts in the study show how this plays out in everyday life. A factory worker earns ₹15,000 from his primary job and adds another ₹6,000 through ride-hailing on weekends. A nursing student uses gig

work to pay her college fees before moving into her chosen profession. Elsewhere in the study, a cook in Bengaluru describes driving a taxi in the evenings and on weekends, with his gig earnings sometimes exceeding what he makes from cooking. Gig work can also influence where workers go from here. Around 70% of surveyed workers believe their platform experience has improved their future earning opportunities, with customer handling, time management, digital tools and navigation among the skills developed on the job. Platforms also provide workers with a demonstrable work history and exposure to customers and networks that can support a move into better-paying gigs, formal employment or entrepreneurship. Kushal Bhatnagar, Partner, Redseer Strategy Consultants, said, "For India, the value of gig work lies in the room it creates for people to earn around the

realities of their lives. A regular salary can be supplemented over a weekend, college fees can be funded without giving up an education, and a period between jobs need not become a period without income. These choices matter in a country where people enter the workforce from very different circumstances and with very different ambitions. As earnings, skills and social protection become stronger, gig work can play an important part in improving household resilience and widening participation in India's economic growth, while bridging the unemployment gap." Worker protection is becoming a stronger part of the ecosystem as well. Accident insurance, emergency assistance and skill development have broad coverage across gig platforms, while benefits such as health insurance, maternity support, medical assistance, loss-of-pay insurance and credit facilitation are available across parts of the sector.

UK 'SUPPORTS UKRAINE 100%', BURNHAM SAYS, AFTER RUSSIA'S DRONE WARNING



UK Prime Minister Andy Burnham has said his government will continue "to support Ukraine 100%", after Moscow warned of "consequences" following confirmation that British-made drones were used in recent Ukrainian strikes in Russia. "We are not fair-weather friends, we will be there in Ukraine's hour of need and that won't change," he said. The Russian embassy to the UK earlier accused Britain of "deliberately opting for an escalation of the Ukraine crisis", adding that "the deeper its involvement in the conflict... the higher the price it will pay". Ukraine has stepped up attacks on Moscow and elsewhere deep inside Russia, particularly targeting oil refineries and logistics sites for its online retailer Wildberries. Asked about the Russian threat, the prime minister maintained the UK was "providing support so that Ukraine can defend itself and that's been the British position all the way through this conflict, by previous prime ministers - it remains the case with me". Russia has warned the UK in the past over its role in providing Ukraine with drone technology, as well as Storm Shadow missiles.



■ Student killed in Philippines Catholic school shooting

IVF staff accused of misleading UK parents about sperm and egg donors in northern Cyprus

At least 30 children, most of them British, are feared to have been conceived by IVF treatment in northern Cyprus using the wrong sperm or egg donors. In each case, the parents suspect they did not get the donors they had selected. The figure is one of several new findings in a BBC investigation that, earlier this year, uncovered the first seven cases. All the parents say they carefully selected anonymous donors based on information such as their medical history, appearance, personality, education and hobbies. However, they have concerns the requested sperm and egg donors may not have been used in their fertility treatments. Half of the 30 children were born from procedures at one clinic, Dogus IVF Centre. "It's absolutely scandalous," said one of the mothers,



Rachel, who recently learned that she received the wrong sperm donor from the clinic. Three people - Dr Firdevs Uguz Tip, Dr Sevet Alpturk, and a patient co-ordinator Julie Hodson - were involved in the care of many of these patients at Dogus. Parents suspect these members of staff may have misled them. Firdevs denies any wrongdoing and neither Alpturk or Hodson have responded to

our questions. In northern Cyprus - a territory where European Union laws do not apply and which is only legally recognised by Turkey - clinics are loosely regulated and promise patients low prices, high success rates and a wide choice of sperm and egg donors. The Turkish-occupied territory is one of the most popular destinations for British people seeking fertility treatment abroad. We first

revealed the emerging scandal in March where a small group of parents appeared to have been misled about donors. Responding to the allegations, the territory's Ministry of Health said it had launched an official investigation. However, it has not responded to our repeated requests for more information. Since then, more parents have contacted us and their stories have concerning similarities. The majority said the clinics they had used had promised them screened, healthy donors from Western Europe, but that they had become suspicious after their children were born. Eleven of the 30 children have now taken commercial DNA tests which show they have inherited genetic ancestry from Turkey or surrounding countries.

Inside secret police warehouse as Germany targets small boats gangs



Inside a warehouse in a secret location in Germany, thousands of life jackets and dozens of dinghies are stacked on top of each other after being seized in a raid on smuggling gangs. Germany has become a staging post for criminals organising crossings on the English Channel, and authorities have now carried out their first raids under a new law making it a crime to facilitate migrant smuggling to the UK. The BBC was given special access to a police storehouse, housing more than 9,000 life jackets and dozens of dinghies and boat engines in an operation in western Germany. The boats could have taken more than 2,000 migrants across the Channel illegally, the UK's National Crime Agency said. Smuggling gangs have long used garages or warehouses to store equipment in western Germany before transporting it to northern France. Until recently, however, key anti-smuggling laws in Germany only applied to nations within the EU's zone of free movement, not to third countries, which included the UK after Brexit. Raids have happened in Germany before, but often relied on French or Belgian warrants. In 2024, Germany said it would tighten its laws to make it easier to prosecute those helping to ferry migrants to the UK, as part of a new plan agreed between the two countries. It followed a

BBC investigation which exposed the country's role in the small boat supply chain. Germany's Interior Ministry confirmed that these raids marked the first time enforcement measures had been taken under the new law, but did not confirm if the law had been employed more than once. The BBC was able to see the results of the raid, which took place in the North Rhine-Westphalia region and involved French, German and UK investigators, at an undisclosed police storehouse in western Germany. The stash has been kept much as it was found. The dinghies, that officials say measure approximately 9m (29ft), are deflated and mainly packaged up in cardboard boxes. The massive haul also included 360 pumps. In June, when the National Crime Agency first revealed the raids had happened, it was estimated that the equipment could have taken more than 2,000 people across the Channel - which would work out to about 65 people per dinghy. That number is less than the so-called mega dinghies seen this summer but matches recent averages as well as the general trend of rising passenger numbers. Oxford's Migration Observatory believes the emergence of these mega dinghies is likely connected to increased enforcement, as there is an "additional incentive for smugglers to fit as many people as possible into available boats".

TUPAC MURDER TRIAL:

'ALL HELL BROKE LOOSE' NIGHT OF RAPPER'S SHOOTING, WITNESS SAYS

In the opening day of Tupac Shakur's murder trial, prosecutors painted former gang leader Duane "Keffe D" Davis as someone seeking revenge before masterminding the drive-by shooting that killed the iconic rapper. Witnesses took a Las Vegas jury back in time by three decades, to the night Shakur was shot, when gangs had a hold over '90s hip-hop and distrust in police led to a lack of cooperation. Davis, 63, is charged with Shakur's murder - one of the most famous cold cases of the last century. Prosecutors allege that although Davis did not fire the gun that killed the influential rapper, he orchestrated the killing. Davis has denied the allegations and pleaded not guilty. In its opening arguments, the prosecution portrayed Davis as the ringleader of the group responsible for the shooting - and point to a memoir he co-authored in which he wrote in detail about the night of the shooting. "Let's be clear, Duane Davis did not pull the



trigger. But he did plan the shooting in retaliation of the beating of his nephew," Chief Deputy District Attorney Binu Palal said, referring to an incident that took place earlier in the day when Shakur was shot. "Remarkably, you will learn that from Duane Davis himself," Palal told the jury. Davis's lawyers called the narrative "fiction", dubbing the case a product of a flawed decades-long investigation. Davis has distanced himself from the memoir, saying he didn't write all of it and that parts were fictionalised to sell more copies. Davis, wearing a



navy suit and blue tie, sat with his defence team as they questioned why no one had been arrested for nearly three decades and asked why "no-one corroborates any of this". "What facts do they have after 30 years?" his lawyer Michael Sanft asked. The prosecution's first witness was Garry Dale, who was working for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department at the time of the shooting in September 1996. The officer detailed travelling in an ambulance with Shakur after he'd been shot. He said the rapper refused to offer any information on what happened and who had

shot him. "We'll take care of it," Shakur said, according to the officer's testimony. At the core of the case is East Coast vs West Coast rap rivalries and turf wars between the Bloods and the Crips street gangs that were immortalised in rap lyrics and news reports in the 1990s. Police have long said said a lack of co-operation in the case led to dead ends in their investigation. Members of the rapper's entourage, though, have accused authorities of initially treating them like suspects and failing to follow important leads. Throughout proceedings on Monday, prosecutors painted that picture for the jury, explaining that there were no formal criminal charges in the shooting because in the world of guns and gangs "silence means survival". But "one person" who had a hard time staying silent was the defendant, prosecutors said, noting that Davis gave a "number" of statements on the case between 1998 and 2003.

DOCTORS REMOVE 3.1KG STONE FROM MAN'S BLADDER AND CLAIM RECORD



Doctors in Sri Lanka have removed a 3.1kg (6.8lb) bladder stone from a man - which they believe to be the largest of its kind on record. The procedure was carried out last week at a hospital in Trincomalee, in the east of the country. The 55-year-old patient had been admitted to hospital after suffering a stroke. But while receiving treatment, doctors found stones in his urinary bladder after noticing that he was experiencing difficulty urinating. During surgery, doctors removed the bladder stone - it weighed as much as a full-term baby and was around the size of an ostrich egg. "According to available records, it is the largest blad-

der stone ever documented and removed through surgery," Dr Prahalathan Balakrishnan, who led the surgery, told BBC Sinhala. He added that the patient was in "very good health". The patient remains at the hospital and is continuing to receive treatment for his other medical conditions, doctors said. Dr Balakrishnan added the stone would have been in the patient's bladder for about five to 10 years. Bladder stones are formed when minerals in the urine crystallise, turning into solid lumps. They commonly occur when the bladder does not empty completely, leaving concentrated urine that can turn into crystals.



China censors public mourning as it holds former premier's funeral

Hayden Panettiere's ex Wladimir Klitschko says family in 'profound shock and grief'

Hayden Panettiere's ex-partner Wladimir Klitschko has posted an emotional tribute to the "talented" late Heroes and Nashville star, who he said has "left this world too soon". The former world heavyweight boxing champion, who shares an 11-year-old daughter with Panettiere, said the family is going through "profound shock and grief" following her death at the age of 36. Panettiere died in Greenville, South Carolina, on Sunday and police said there were not "any signs of foul play or suspicious circumstances". She had struggled for years with substance abuse and audio from police dispatchers and crews said they were responding to a "cardiac arrest" and detailed their efforts to resuscitate the woman after a possible "overdose". The Greenville County



Coroner's Office said crews treated a woman in "cardiac arrest" and her autopsy showed "no signs of trauma", but that the cause of death has not been confirmed. Darker side of industry' Klitschko posted that the announcement of Panettiere's "tragic death saddens me deeply". "She left this world far too soon. Hayden was, although no longer my partner, an impor-

tant part of my life and the mother of our daughter, Kaya. "She built an incredible career through immense talent, while also facing the darker sides of a very demanding industry. Nothing will erase the times we shared or the place she had in our lives." The pair, who met in around 2009, announced their engagement in 2013 and had their daughter together the following year.

They never married. "To our daughter Kaya, I will always speak of her mother with respect and make sure she remembers the person she was," he continued. "I extend my deepest condolences to Hayden's parents, her friends, and her fans, who are also grieving today. Young and talented people like Hayden should not leave this world so soon. "I ask everyone to please respect our family's feelings and privacy during this incredibly difficult time. For now, this is all I wish to say. "Thank you to everyone who is supporting my family and expressing their sincere condolences. "Rest easy, Hayden. May you find eternal peace." Strong bond Panettiere met Klitschko, who was 13 years older than her, at a party in Los Angeles when she was 19.

KL RAHUL'S BROMANCE WITH DEVDUTT PADIKKAL AFTER PERFECT DRS CALL SAVES HIM VS SRI LANKA

India's intent on Day 4 of the first Test against Sri Lanka was clear: score fast. After Yashasvi Jaiswal departed in the first over, first-innings centurion Devdutt Padikkal and KL Rahul kept India going at a good pace, and India's lead swelled past the 225-run mark in the first hour of play. Rahul ultimately fell for 35, but he could have departed much earlier if not for a timely intervention from Padikkal. On the last ball of the 11th over of India's innings, bowled by Prabath Jayasuriya, Rahul was adjudged LBW. Jayasuriya got one to dart in as Rahul's forward defence was beaten and the ball struck his pads. Rahul almost started walking before Padikkal convinced him to take a review. The replays showed no bat involved, and the impact was in line. However, due to the height of the delivery, the ball was missing the stumps. A relieved Rahul



gave Padikkal a big hug. Earlier on Day 3, Sonal Dinusha's maiden Test hundred rescued Sri Lanka as the home side was bowled out for 284 in the first innings of the opening Test against India on Monday. Dinusha scored 100 off 168 balls, including four fours and two sixes, and put on 146 runs for the sixth wicket with Niroshan Dickwella (80). The duo saved the day after Sri Lanka had slumped to 90/5, but India remained in a strong position after posting 462 earlier. India's bowlers started the day

strongly, with Mohammed Siraj having Nishan Madushka caught at slip for a two-ball duck. Left-arm spinner Manav Suthar struck with the first delivery he bowled, having Dinesh Chandimal (4) caught behind. Kamindu Mendis (14) and Lahiru Udara (27) resisted with a 26-run stand for the third wicket until Suthar ended the partnership by having Udara caught at point. Three overs later, Shubman Gill took a stunning one-handed diving catch at cover off Kuldeep Yadav to send Mendis back.



David Warner Convicted And Handed Hefty Punishment Over Drink-Driving Incident

Former Australia cricketer David Warner has been fined A\$1,500 and ordered to use an alcohol interlock device on his car for 12 months after being convicted of mid-range drink driving by a Sydney court on Tuesday, reported Sky Sports. Warner, 39, pleaded guilty last month after being arrested on Easter Sunday following a random breath test on the outskirts of Sydney. He

recorded a blood-alcohol reading of 0.104, more than twice the legal limit, after driving from a friend's apartment. The Waverley Local Court heard that Warner had consumed three glasses of white wine before getting behind the wheel. He stopped his vehicle after spotting the roadside breath-testing operation and attempted to swap seats with a female passenger. While handing down the sentence, Judge Clare Farnan acknowledged that Warner was unlikely to repeat the offence but stressed the broader consequences of drink driving. "I accept Mr Warner is unlikely to re-offend," Farnan said, as per Sky Sports. "(But) regrettably, drink-driving is still a significant factor in many crashes in New South Wales." The former Australia opener was also ordered to have an alcohol interlock device installed in his vehicle. The device prevents a car from starting if it detects alcohol in the driver's system. Warner's lawyer had argued

before sentencing that his client had already faced additional punishment through extensive media coverage and should be spared a conviction. Warner did not comment as he left the court, where he was met by a large media contingent. The former cricketer retired from international cricket in 2024 after a career that included 112 Tests and more than 250 appearances across limited-overs formats for Australia. He has since continued his involvement in cricket through commentary and franchise cricket. Warner currently serves as captain of Sydney Thunder in Australia's Big Bash League and Karachi Kings in the Pakistan Super League. The incident could also have implications for his position with Sydney Thunder. The franchise is part of a New South Wales government campaign promoting safe driving, while Cricket NSW is yet to announce any decision regarding Warner's long-term role as Thunder captain.

ARSENAL PRIMED FOR PREMIER LEAGUE TITLE DEFENCE AS RIVALS FACE QUESTIONS

Arsenal and Manchester City find themselves in unusual positions heading into the Premier League season, but there is no question which of the title contenders feels more comfortable with their new status. For the first time since the 2004-05 season, Arsenal will start a campaign as English champions when they host promoted Coventry in the opening game of the season on Friday. In contrast to the buoyant mood at the Emirates Stadium, City have stepped anxiously into life without Pep Guardiola after the Spaniard ended his remarkable 10-year reign at the end of last season. After years spent in City's shadow, Mikel Arteta's side triggered a seismic shift in the Premier League's balance of power last season as they finally clinched their first top-flight title in 22 years. Arsenal finished seven points above runners-up City and are flying high as they begin their bid to win successive English titles for the first time since the 1930s. Arteta won't let his players rest on



their laurels, with the painful defeat against Paris Saint-Germain on penalties in the Champions League final in May serving to strengthen Arsenal's desire for more silverware. On the evidence of Arsenal's emphatic 3-0 win over City in the Community Shield on Sunday, the Gunners have already widened the gap between the clubs since last season. Arteta's side have added Newcastle midfielder

Bruno Guimaraes and Christos Tzolis to their title-winning squad, with both impressing in the demolition of City. "The desire comes because I want to live that moment again," Arteta said. "We know the difficulty of the task. We know that it's going to demand something special and we are ready for it." Guardiola failed to win the title in his last two years at the Etihad Stadium after taking the trophy six

times in seven seasons until 2024. Former Chelsea boss Enzo Maresca has been hired to replace Guardiola, but the Italian faces an almost impossible task to replicate his predecessor's astonishing haul of 20 trophies in an unforgettable decade in charge. Maresca won the UEFA Conference League and Club World Cup with Chelsea, but he lasted less than two years at Stamford Bridge before an abrupt departure sparked by his tense relationship with the club's hierarchy and fan frustration at his dull tactics. It's a privilege' Catching Arsenal while finishing the rebuilding job started by Guardiola, who began to replace his ageing stars with younger recruits, is a daunting prospect for Maresca. City, who host Bournemouth in their first game on Sunday, have splashed out £116 million (\$157 million) on Nottingham Forest midfielder Elliot Anderson. But the sale of World Cup-winning Spain star Rodri to Barcelona is a huge blow for Maresca.

'BOWLERS GET ANGRY': Ajinkya Rahane Lifts Lid On Rishabh Pant's Behind-The-Stumps Antics

Apart from India's dominating show against Sri Lanka in the first Test in Galle, the one thing that was back on display was Rishabh Pant's constant chatter behind the stumps. From becoming a weatherman with statements like, "Bhai chalo chalo jaldi, waha se badal bhi aa rahe hain (Brothers, let's get going quickly, clouds are approaching from there)," to egging on the bowlers with one-liners such as, 'Phir sabhi milkar talwar chalayenge! (Then we'll all swing the sword together)," Pant just didn't stop. Ajinkya Rahane, who has played with Pant for a long time, said that while it is entertaining, it can sometimes be distracting too. "He is always like this. He is very entertaining. The Sri Lankan players don't understand Hindi, but if you keep talking like this, the batter's



focus wavers. You have to focus in the slips and at short leg, and the bowlers start getting angry. If there is an edge and the ball goes by your side, and you are not able to put in your best effort, the bowlers get angry. Ashwin and Jadeja were there (when Rahane was part of the Indian team). You had to tell him to disturb the batter and not our own players," Rahane said on Sony

Sports. On Day 3, India wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant and substitute fielder Sarfaraz Khan left everyone in splits with their hilarious conversation, which was caught on the stump mic during the first Test against Sri Lanka on Monday. India found themselves in a brilliant position as the bowlers, led by Manav Suthar, reduced Sri Lanka to 99/5 at lunch.

WHAT'S GOING ON AT CADILLAC AND HAAS?

After a four-week summer break, Formula 1 returns with the Dutch Grand Prix this weekend. Mercedes' Kimi Antonelli has a 50-point lead in the drivers' championship going into the race at Zandvoort. There are 12 races remaining on the 2026 schedule, though uncertainty remains over whether Qatar and Abu Dhabi will go ahead because of the conflict in the Middle East. Before the season resumes, our F1 correspondent Andrew Benson answers your latest questions. Is the Cadillac reorganisation too hasty? Surely the team would have been better served by evaluating at the end of the debut season? - Tim.



Badminton World Championships Day 2 Highlights: Lakshya Sen, Treesa Jolly-Gayatri Gopichand Emerge Victorious

Lakshya Sen overcame early jitters to prevail over Collins Valentine Filimon of Bulgaria in three games to progress to the second round of the men's singles event at the BWF World Championships. Sen registered a 16-21 21-8 21-4 win over Filimon in his opener that lasted 45 minutes. Sen will next play the US' Garret Tan, who defeated Switzerland's Tobias Kuenzi 21-4 21-15. The unseeded Indian pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand stunned 16th seeds Lauren Lam and Allison Quynh Lee of the United States in straight games to sail into the pre-quarterfinals of the women's doubles event. Treesa and Gayatri took just 38 minutes to beat their



fancied opponents 21-15 21-12 and progress to the next round. India witnessed a disastrous outing in the mixed doubles event with the pairs of Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde, and Ashith Surya and Amrutha Pramuthesh crashing out in the opening

round. Rising Indian women's singles shuttler Unnati Hooda progressed to the second round with a hard-fought 22-20 21-16 win over Thet Htar Thuzar of Myanmar in a 40 minute contest. Unnati will next take on 13th seed Michelle Li of Canada.

HAALAND'S MAIN RIVALS FOR THE PREMIER LEAGUE GOLDEN BOOT



The Manchester City striker has won the Premier League's Golden Boot in three of his four seasons in English football. The Norwegian scored a record 36 goals in 2022-23 and won it in the next campaign - and again last season - with 27 each time. With 112 goals in 132 English top-flight games, he will take some stopping again - even if he is now under a new manager in Enzo Maresca. The 26-year-old comes into this campaign after a seven-goal World Cup for Norway - a total which would have won the Golden Boot in more than half of the previous tournaments. Alexander Isak (Liverpool) It is almost easy to forget about the British record signing in this discussion, after the Swede spent so much of last season injured. The 26-year-old finished second in the Golden Boot race in 2024-25 with 23 goals, outscoring Haaland and only finishing behind Salah. But he only managed four goals in 22 games in all

competitions for Liverpool last season after his £125m move from Newcastle. If he can stay fit and new Reds manager Andoni Iraola can provide him with the service he was sorely lacking last season, he will hope to show why Liverpool paid £125m for him. Thiago will hope to avoid being a one-season wonder for Brentford - assuming he stays with the Bees. The 25-year-old scored 22 Premier League goals in his first proper season playing in England - having missed most of the previous season through injury. He finished second only to Haaland in the Golden Boot race. That form led to him playing for Brazil at the World Cup, having never been capped before this year. Manchester United are among the clubs reportedly interested in him. Joao Pedro (Chelsea) Joao Pedro will be hoping to build on his 15 Premier League goals last campaign for Chelsea following his move from Brighton.

WILLIAMS SISTERS CRASH OUT OF CINCINNATI OPEN; ALEXANDER ZVEREV ADVANCES

Serena and Venus Williams lost in their first doubles match together since 2022 while men's top seed Alexander Zverev battled into the fourth round on Monday at the ATP-WTA Cincinnati Masters. The Williams sisters, with 14 Grand Slam titles and three Olympic gold medals together, were side-by-side for the first time since the 2022 US Open but lost to American Payton Stearns and Marta Kostyuk of Ukraine 6-2, 1-6, 10-8. "It was fun and special. We kicked off a little rust," Serena Williams said. "I didn't come here to win this tournament. It's about having fun and I did

want to do the best I could." German star Zverev, the reigning French Open champion, won his ATP season-best 46th match of the campaign by defeating Terrance Atmane 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (8/6). Zverev finished the Frenchman, a 2025 Cincinnati semi-finalist, with a sizzling backhand down the line. "He was playing incredibly aggressively, hitting forehands all over the court," Zverev said. "He made it difficult for you to play aggressive yourself." Serena, 44, and Venus, 46, each lost serve once in the first set, dropping six of the final seven games, but dominated the second set and

rallied from 8-2 down in the 10-point tie-breaker third set only to lose on a Venus double fault. "It was weird to be in a full stadium. This is not my usual Monday night," said Serena, who noted with the US Open approaching that their reunion is a limited-time attraction. "This is not forever. It's... not long," she said. "We don't have to play every week. It's a bit different." Alexandra Eala, the 17th-seeded Filipina, lost to US ninth seed Amanda Anisimova, who recovered after losing a 65-minute opening set for a 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 victory. The opener featured a 20-minute fifth game,

with Eala, 21, coming back from a break down before Anisimova battled back. Men's fifth seed Alex de Minaur battled through multiple rain interruptions to defeat Arthur Fery 7-5, 7-6 (7/3). The Australian was up a set and 5-1 after a 30-minute stoppage before Wimbledon semi-finalist Fery caught fire, but he took the tie-break to advance despite 29 unforced errors. "You never want to go into a rain delay leading 5-1," he said. "It was a tough day with all the interruptions. I can't remember a match that started and stopped so many times.





ACTRESS POOJA HEGDE WAVES TRICOLOUR AT NY PARADE

Pooja Hegde had a special moment as she was invited as the Guest of Honour at the India Day Parade in New York. The actress shared how proud and honoured she felt seeing so many Indians come together to celebrate the country on foreign soil. For the special occasion, Pooja looked radiant in a yellow and mint-green organza saree with delicate floral embroidery, paired with a matching sash. She kept her look traditional yet elegant with a choker necklace, jhumka earrings, and soft waves, completing the outfit with a bindi that added a graceful, festive touch. She posted pictures on

Instagram, where she is seen holding the Indian flag while standing atop a car during the parade. She was also given a sash that read “Chief Guest.” Pooja called it a matter of immense pride to witness the streets of New York filled with Indians celebrating everything that connects them to home. She also thanked the organisers for the special experience. The parade, held on Madison Avenue, is known



as the largest India Day celebration outside India. Actor Adivi Sesh also joined as chief guest. On the work front, Pooja has an exciting lineup ahead, she will lead Kanchana 4, the next installment of the popular horror-comedy franchise directed by Raghava Lawrence, who also co-stars. She will also be seen in Sri Sri starring Dulquer Salmaan, a romantic Telugu film directed by Ravi

Nelakuditi, and Sanki, a high-octane action thriller alongside Ahan Shetty. She captioned her post: “It was truly an honour and a matter of immense pride to be the Guest of Honour at the India Day Parade in New York. There was something incredibly surreal about seeing the streets of New York come alive with so many Indians, proudly celebrating our country and everything that connects us to home.” She went on to thank the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) and city officials for organising the celebration, adding that representing the country abroad is a privilege she doesn’t take lightly.

ACTRESS ANANYA RAJ PASSES AWAY AT 35



Actor Ananya Raj, known for working in movies such as “7 Hours To Go”, “The Final Exit” and “Ghost”, died last month, her family has said. The 35-year-old actor died in her sleep in the early hours of July 15, according to a statement shared by her family on Instagram more than a month after her death. “With great pain, we have to announce that Ananya passed away in the wee hours of 15th July. She passed away peacefully in sleep. “For over a year she was going through physical and mental discomfort. And she fought like a warrior to over-

come them. She was a strong spirited girl and lived like a Queen,” read the statement. The family further said they wished to maintain privacy during a difficult period. Raj began her Bollywood career with “7 Hours to Go” in 2016, followed by “The Final Exit” in 2017 and “Ghost” in 2019. She also appeared in music videos for labels including T-Series, Zee Music and Times Music. The 35-year-old actor died in her sleep in the early hours of July 15, according to a statement shared by her family on Instagram more than a month after her death.

SARDAR SARVAI PAPANNA” PRE-RELEASE EVENT HELD GRANDLY IN THE PRESENCE OF SEVERAL FILM AND POLITICAL PERSONALITIES

Sardar Sarvai Papanna” is an animation movie based on the life story of the historic warrior Sardar Sarvai Papanna, who earned fame as the “Bahujan Emperor.” The film has been written, directed and produced by Venkatesh Goud Lingampally. The movie is presented by V.G. Movie Makers, with Deepak Nyathi overseeing production responsibilities. The animation movie is gearing up for a grand theatrical release on the 21st of this month through Dr. Prathani Ramakrishna Goud’s RK Films. The pre-release event of “Sardar



Sarvai Papanna” was held grandly in Hyderabad today in the presence of

several prominent personalities from the film and political fields.

Acclaimed Romantic Drama Chennai Love Story Premieres on Sony LIV on 21st August

Celebrated for its refreshing take on first love and emotionally resonant storytelling, Chennai Love Story is set to make its digital premiere on Sony LIV on 21st August. A ₹60 Cr+ grosser that won audiences over in theatres with its heartfelt narrative, soulful music, and charming performances, the romantic drama now arrives on streaming for viewers across the country in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada and Hindi Directed by Ravi Namburii, with the screenplay handled by Ravi Namburii and Sai Rajesh Neelam, the film is written by Sai Rajesh and produced by SKN and Sai Rajesh Neelam under the banners of Amrutha Productions and Mass Movie Makers. Kiran Abbavaram and Sri Gouri Priya play the lead roles. Set against the vibrant backdrop of Chennai, the coming-of-age romance follows two young hearts as they navigate the excitement, innocence, and heartbreak of first love, discovering that growing up is as much about finding yourself as it is about finding each other.



RAASHI KHANNA TURNS A SHAWL INTO STYLE

Raashi Khanna, who never fails to amaze with her stunning looks, has once again nailed it with her latest photoshoot. The actress was seen draped in a cozy red shawl that added a touch of elegance and warmth to her otherwise minimal outfit. In the first look, she paired the oversized red shawl with a plunging neckline, letting it fall off one shoulder for a sultry yet sophisticated vibe. Her tousled waves and soft smoky eyes complemented the fuss-free glam, while a nude-toned lip tied the whole look together. In the second click, Raashi got creative with the same shawl, wrapping it like a stole and pairing it with a

checkered mini skirt. The fringe detailing on the shawl added texture and movement to the frame, while the contrast between the bold red and the monochrome check print made for a striking style statement. The actress’s ability to turn a single piece of clothing into two distinct looks, one glamorous and one playful, is proof of her effortless fashion sense. On the work front, Raashi Khanna has an interesting lineup ahead. She has Dharman in the pipeline, a Tamil film currently in the filming stage. She also has Rowdy and Co, where she plays Bindhu, which is currently filming as well. Her Hindi project Bridge is in production too.

‘The Red Bag’ Will Appeal to Audiences Across All Sections: Producer Harikrishna Somisetty

Produced by Harikrishna Somisetty under the Memory Makers banner, The Red Bag is a different suspense thriller directed by Ravi Kumar Seerapu. The film features Kabir Singh, Prasad Behara, Raadhya, Monica, Sneha Singh, Akanksha, Eeshan Shankar, Avinash Badal, Bhargavi and Raasi in key roles. PVR INOX Pictures is set to release the film on a grand scale on August 21. As the film gears up for its theatrical release, producer Harikrishna Somisetty shared his confidence in the movie and spoke about the response to its promotional content. *Producer Harikrishna Somisetty said* , “There is a good amount of hype surrounding The Red Bag. Every piece of content we have released so far has received an encouraging response. The glimpses, teaser and songs have all trended on YouTube, and our content has received appreciation from all quarters. “Everyone who watched the promotional content appreciated the stylish presentation of the film and the action sequences. The movie will create ten times more impact

Highlights

■ Produced by Harikrishna Somisetty under the Memory Makers banner, The Red Bag is a different suspense thriller directed by Ravi Kumar Seerapu.



than what audiences have seen in the content released so far. Nobody will be able to guess the twists in the film. “The story keeps the audience engaged with thrilling moments until the very end. We have made the film with elements that will appeal to audiences across all sections. It has all the essential elements, including action, suspense and thrilling sequences. “The artistes and the entire technical team extended their complete support to the project. We are now gearing up for a grand theatrical

release on August 21. “PVR INOX Pictures has been providing us with tremendous support in terms of the release. With their cooperation, we are able to bring the movie to audiences across a large number of screens. I am confident that The Red Bag will appeal to audiences and entertain everyone,” he concluded. The Red Bag is gearing up for a grand theatrical release on August 21, promising audiences a stylish suspense thriller packed with action, thrills and unpredictable twists.

We will see a very new Ravi Teja in 'Irumudi': Director Shiva Nirvana

Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja’s most awaited movie ‘Irumudi’. Priya Bhavani Shankar is playing the heroine. Directed by Shiva Nirvana and produced by Mythri Movie Makers, this movie has already raised huge expectations with its glimpses, trailer and songs. The movie, which is going to hit the theaters on August 21, is going to provide the audience with a different family entertainer experience with emotions and action. On this occasion, director Shiva Nirvana shared the features of the movie in a press conference.



THERE IS A BUZZ ON SOCIAL MEDIA THAT RAM CHARAN WILL BE SEEN IN THIS FILM. WILL HE REALLY BE SEEN? -No. It’s just a social media campaign. Ram Charan is a devotee of Ayyappa. He has that vibe. Maybe the fans wanted it that way. But there is no truth in the campaign that Charan will be seen in this. I hope Ram Charan likes this film. There have been a lot of expectations ever since the title of ‘Irumudi’ was announced. The promotional content that came later has increased those expectations even more. Will the film live up to these huge expectations?

‘There will be a total of three layers in this film. One is the background of Ayyappa Swamy Mala, as well as the family, and the other is the crime angle. I have also planned the promotions according to that content. According to that plan, we have been revealing every single thing related to this film. As the trailer approaches, everyone has now got clarity about what is going on in the film. Everyone is prepared to see what is in the film. The film will definitely meet those expectations.

Pawan Kalyan garu Personally Called Me and Spoke to Me After Seeing My Work

With impressive projects like Aay, Save the Tigers, Vikatakavi and Gurthukostunnayi to his credit, music director Ajay Arasada has carved a distinct identity for himself among Telugu audiences. With several promising offers coming his way, Ajay Arasada opened up about his journey in the film industry and shared several interesting experiences. Here are excerpts from his conversation:



TELL US ABOUT YOUR BACKGROUND. - Art and music run in my family and are in my blood. I am from Vizag. I also worked at TCS for seven years. While I was working, I got an opportunity to work on two films. Devi Sri Prasad is my inspiration. It was because of the support from my mother and wife that I could enter this industry. Sricharan, who is also from Vizag, is a very good friend of mine. He brought me on board as a keyboard programmer for Goodachari.

What challenges did you face while working on smaller films? - I never faced any difficulties working on small films. Since I worked with good production houses, there were never any issues with payments. So, I did not really face any major challenges in that regard.

Are you trying to establish a distinct identity for yourself? - I want to work across all kinds of genres and stories. My intention is to do justice to every story that comes my way. If I get a mass story, I will create mass music for it. There is a perception among some people here that if a music director comes from Tamil cinema, he will bring something new, and if someone comes from Malayalam cinema, he will bring a fresh sound. I don’t think that should be the approach.

YUKTI THAREJA NAILS CASUAL GLAM BY POOL

