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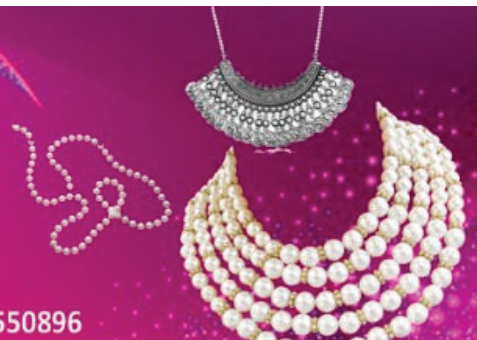
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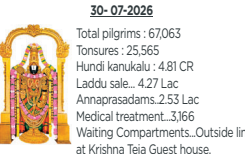
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OVER-SPEEDING CAUSED 82,124 ROAD ACCIDENTS IN 2025: GADKARI

NEW DELHI: Over-speeding caused 82,124 road accidents in India in 2025, accounting for around 16 per cent of all road accidents, Parliament was informed on Thursday. In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said driving on the wrong side and lane indiscipline caused 4,089 accidents, followed by jumping red lights (276) and the use of mobile phones while driving (136). The number of road accidents in India rose by 5.3 per cent to more than 5.13 lakh in 2025, with road crashes claiming the lives of 21 people every hour, according to government data. On average, 59 road accidents occurred every hour in the country. "A total of 5,13,563 road accidents have been reported by police departments of states and Union Territories in the country during the calendar year 2025, claiming 1,83,382 lives," Gadkari said. The minister also said that police departments in states and Union territories reported a total of 2,85,770 road accidents across the country during the first six months of 2026.

DELHI POLICE WON'T TAKE ADVERSE ACTION AGAINST CJP PROTESTERS ON ONE CONDITION: GOVT ORDER

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police will not take any legal adverse action against individuals who participated in the Cockroach Janta Party-led protest in the national capital, but those with criminal background will have to face action, according to a Delhi government order. In its order, the home department said that with regard to arrests or detentions, if already made, the process for reviewing the arrests and releasing the arrested persons will be undertaken expeditiously. Delhi Police has registered 13 FIRs in connection with violence during 'Chalo Sansad' march by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on July 20. The police have also identified more than 2,800 people with criminal background who participated in the protest march. "Government of NCT of Delhi does not propose to take any further adverse action against the individuals involved in the protests, and the matter shall be treated as closed without any future proceedings on this account," the home department said in its order.

LS to take up motion seeking more time for JPC examining bills on removal of Ministers after prolonged custody

New Delhi (TSIT)

The Lok Sabha is scheduled to take up a motion on Friday seeking an extension of time for the presentation of the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) examining three key bills that propose the automatic removal of the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers and Ministers if they remain in judicial custody for 30 consecutive days in connection with serious criminal charges.

According to the List of Business for the Lok Sabha, Bharatiya Janata Party MP Aparajita Sarangi, who chairs the 31-member Joint Parliamentary Committee, and BJP MP Vishnu Dayal Ram will move a motion requesting the House to extend the deadline for the panel to submit its report.

The motion states: "That this House do extend time



for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, 2025; the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2025; and the Government of union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2025 upto the first day of last week of the Winter Session, 2026."

The committee was constituted to scrutinise the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, 2025, the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and

the Government of union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2025, all of which were introduced in the Lok Sabha by union Home Minister Amit Shah on August 20, 2025.

The proposed legislation seeks to establish a uniform legal framework under which the Prime Minister, union Ministers, Chief Ministers and other ministers would cease to hold office if they are arrested in connection with an offence punishable with imprisonment of five years or more and remain in custody for 30 consecutive days.

Cauvery protests: Please don't come now, Karnataka CM tells TN CM Vijay

Two days ago, Shivakumar had said he offered to take Vijay on a helicopter tour of the areas fed by Cauvery water to show the scarcity there

CHENNAI/
BENGALURU
(TSIT):

With the protests over Cauvery river water sharing intensifying in the State, Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday requested Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay to defer his scheduled visit to the neighbouring State on August 3.

Vijay's visit to Karnataka, though mentioned repeatedly by the government and leaders in Karnataka, has not been officially confirmed by the Tamil Nadu government. Two days ago, Shivakumar had said he offered to take



Vijay on a helicopter tour of the areas fed by Cauvery water to show the scarcity there.

However, the situation changed after widespread protests across Karnataka, particularly in Mandya, where demonstrators tore posters of Vijay's film 'Jana Nayagan' and forced theatres at some places to

halt its screening.

Let's meet in more conducive, cordial atmosphere

In his appeal, Shivakumar urged Vijay to defer his proposed visit to Bengaluru in view of the charged atmosphere in the State following the CWMA's decision upholding CWRC's direction to

TOMCOM Offers Passport to Placement

CM Revanth Reddy announces end-to-end overseas employment support, skill training and global placements



Hyderabad
(TSIT Bureau):

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday announced a major expansion of the Telangana Overseas Manpower Company (TOMCOM), which will provide end-to-end "passport-to-placement" services for youth seeking overseas employment.

Chairing a review meeting of the Shakti Department at the Secretariat, the Chief Minister said TOMCOM will assist candidates with skill training, passport services, job fairs and overseas placements. The initiative is aimed at protecting job seekers, particularly those from North Telangana, from fraudulent recruitment agents operating in Gulf countries. Revanth

Reddy directed TOMCOM to sign agreements with manpower agencies in destination countries and maintain a comprehensive database of workers sent abroad. He also announced that a former Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer would be appointed as TOMCOM Chief Executive Officer to strengthen overseas employment initiatives.

The Chief Minister also proposed setting up a research centre at Young India Skills University and directed officials to introduce foreign language training in German, Japanese, Korean, Chinese and Russian. He called for advanced courses in Electric Vehicle (EV) servicing and drone technology, besides internship opportunities for students of government engineering colleges, ITIs and polytechnics.

India likely to record below-normal rainfall in second half of monsoon: IMD

New Delhi (TSIT)

India will receive below-normal rainfall during August-September, which is the second half of the monsoon season. India Meteorological Department (IMD), in a press conference on Friday, said the cumulative rainfall in July was 283.3 mm making it the 12th lowest since 2001, indicating that the season ranked among the driest in the historical record. IMD said that rainfall over the country in August is likely to be below normal- less than 94% of the Long Period Average (LPA), which is 254.9 mm. "Monthly average maximum temperatures are likely to remain above normal over most parts of the country. However, some areas of Northwest and Central India, along with isolated regions of the Southern Peninsula, are likely to experience normal to below-normal monthly average maximum temperatures," IMD said in a statement.

Trump says Iran 'being decimated', vows US strikes will continue

United States (TSIT)

US President Donald Trump on Friday, July 31, said the United States would continue its military campaign against Iran, claiming Tehran had been "decimated" by five months of sustained attacks and insisting it would never be allowed to acquire a nuclear weapon.

Speaking during the first televised Cabinet meeting at Camp David, Trump said Iran had lost most of its naval, air force and air defence capabilities, although it still retained some limited military strength. "They're being decimated. They have no navy, they have no air force, they have no anti-aircraft. Doesn't mean they don't have any capabilities — they have some, but very



little," Trump said.

Asked whether Washington would pursue a ceasefire after recent exchanges of attacks, Trump replied, "We just want to win," adding that the United States would continue hitting Iran "very hard" in the coming weeks.

He predicted Tehran would eventually conclude that it could no longer withstand sustained American bombing.

**Iran nuclear programme remains
US red line**

Trump reiterated that preventing Iran from

obtaining a nuclear weapon remained Washington's central objective. "Iran will not have a nuclear weapon. If they did, the Middle East would've been wiped out," he said. The US president accused Iran of negotiating in bad faith, saying he had lost confidence in Iranian officials because they "lie". However, he also claimed Tehran continued to seek an agreement with Washington.

Trump said senior officials, including special envoy Steve Witkoff, Jared Kushner, Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, were participating in discussions related to Iran. He criticised the pace of negotiations, saying Iran could resolve the matter in minutes but instead prolonged talks for hours.

KTR appears before court in Formula E-car race case



Hyderabad (TSIT):

Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao on Friday appeared before the special ACB Court here in the Formula E-car race case.

Rama Rao and other accused in the case personally appeared in the court

in response to the summons issued in May.

Indian Administrative Service officer Arvind Kumar and former Chief Engineer of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority, B.L.N. Reddy, also appeared before the court. KTR and others paid sureties of Rs 1 lakh each and completed other formalities. The court later adjourned the hearing in the case to August 25.

Former Ministers Sabita Indra Reddy, Mahmood Ali, MLA Kaushik Reddy, BRS leader Praveen Kumar and several other party leaders and a large number of party workers also reached Nampally Court Complex to show solidarity with KTR.

Life imprisonment for Tahir Hussain, 4 others for killing IB officer during Delhi riots in 2020

New Delhi (TSIT)

A Delhi court on Friday sentenced former AAP councillor Tahir Hussain and four co-convicts to life imprisonment for the murder of Intelligence Bureau officer Ankit Sharma during the 2020 Delhi riots, saying the case did not fall within the "rarest of rare" category warranting the death penalty.

The judgement was pronounced by Additional Sessions Judge Praveen Singh in the presence of Hussain and others amid tight security. South Asians & Diaspora The judge awarded the sentence after hearing arguments on the quantum of sentence and



denied the state contention to award death penalty to the convicts, saying the prosecution was not able to prove that they were beyond reformation. The courtroom was packed with lawyers and senior Delhi Police officials including Crime Branch's Joint Commissioner and DCP.

In its order, the court said, "I find myself unable to agree based on the SPP that the convicts are beyond reformation or have such a fiendish character that their continued existence, even in prison, will be a menace to society. For the other offences the convicts have been found guilty of, they must face

the full force of the law."

It said that the state has not bought anything on record to establish that any of the convicts has any violent disposition or propensity to crime.

"The final test that law requires me to undertake before I conclude that this case invites capital punishment is whether the convicts are beyond redemption and there being no chance of reformation, it is now firmly established in our criminal jurisprudence that death penalty is of the last absorption," the judge said. On being asked about his sentence, Hussain said the high court will serve him justice.

139 Indian nationals released from Russian Army: MEA

New Delhi (TSIT):

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed on Friday that 139 Indian nationals have been released from the Russian Army till now, and work is underway to get the remaining two dozen Indians released soon.

"We have been following up with the Russian side for the release of the remaining Indian nationals in the Russian army.

So far, our efforts have led to the release of 139 Indian nationals; we continue to pursue the release of the remaining two dozen Indian nationals who are reportedly in the Russian army," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated during a bi-



weekly media briefing. He also cautioned people regarding accepting job offers that include risk and are made by shady people or organisations.

"Once again, we would like to caution our people against job offers that are fraught with risk and made by unscrupulous individuals and agencies," the spokesperson reiterated. The Ministry said in December that 202 Indian nationals were believed to have been recruited into the Russian armed forces.

ECI Secretary Reviews Voter List Revision, Urges Faster Completion of SIR Process



Hyderabad City TSIT July 31: Election Commission of India (ECI) Secretary Naveen Kumar on Thursday reviewed the progress of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, digitisation of enumeration forms and polling station mapping in Medchal-Malkajgiri district. The review meeting was held at the Medchal Collectorate with District Election Officer and Collector Mikkilineni

Manu Choudhary and other election officials. Addressing the officials, the ECI Secretary said that while the district and sub-district teams had been working efficiently, a few areas were still lagging behind compared to other districts. He directed officials to make optimum use of the remaining two days by working closely with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to complete all pending targets ahead of schedule.

Employees launch pen-down, shutdown stir over service demands

Khammam (TSIT): Employees of the VB-G RAM-G wing under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) launched an indefinite pen-down and shutdown agitation across Khammam district on Friday, demanding implementation of pay scales, service rules, promotions, job security and other service benefits.

District Joint Action Committee (JAC) president C.H. Kotaiah alleged that despite serving the MGNREGS for nearly two decades, VB-G RAM-G employees were yet to be granted regular pay scales. He said the government had repeatedly assured implementation of pay scales but had failed to fulfil its promise. The employees were also deprived of service rules, promotional avenues, job security and other legitimate employment benefits, he added.



Stating that the agitation was launched to secure their long-pending demands, Kotaiah urged the government to immediately implement the pay scale and resolve all service-related issues. The employees later submitted a memorandum to the District Collector, requesting that their grievances be brought to the notice of the government and resolved at the earliest. They warned that the pen-down and shutdown agitation would continue until their demands were addressed.

South Indian Bank Opens New Branch, ATM at Kondapur

Hyderabad, July 31, 2026: Continuing its growth strategy across high-potential urban markets, South Indian Bank today inaugurated a new branch & ATM at Gachibowli Road, Kondapur, further strengthening its presence in one of the country's leading business and technology hubs.

The branch was inaugurated by Mr. N Akhilesh Reddy, Industrialist, while the onsite ATM was inaugurated by Dr. Sadanandam Dasari, Former Scientist, Horticulture (KVK ICAR GOI). The onsite strong room was inaugurated by Mr. Uta Krishna, Premise Owner, in the presence of Mrs. Lakshmi Ramakrishna Srinivas, Independent Director, South Indian Bank, along with senior officials of the Bank. Strategically located in



Hyderabad's western corridor, the branch is designed to cater to the evolving banking needs of retail customers, MSMEs, entrepreneurs, corporates and residents in the rapidly growing Gachibowli and Kondapur region. The branch will offer a comprehensive suite of banking products and services, supported by the Bank's technology-driven and customer-centric approach. This expansion aligns with South Indian Bank's strategy of strengthening its presence across key growth markets while bringing its relationship-driven banking model closer to customers.

Waqf Board Meetings Remain Stalled, Delay Raises Concerns Over Protection of Properties

Hyderabad City TSIT July 31: The functioning of the Telangana State Waqf Board has virtually come to a standstill, with its governing body meetings remaining suspended for more than a year and a half. The prolonged delay has raised concerns over the protection of Waqf properties, appointment of mosque and dargah management committees, lease renewals and the handling of legal disputes involving valuable religious assets.

According to officials and Waqf Board sources, the last governing body meeting was held in October 2024. Since then, no further meetings have been convened, reportedly following directions issued by the State

Government during the process of implementation of the amended Waqf Act. Despite repeated requests by the Waqf Board Chief Executive Officer seeking permission to convene meetings, no approval has reportedly been granted. The absence of board meetings has affected several key administrative decisions. The appointment of Mutawallis and ad hoc management committees for mosques, dargahs and other Waqf institutions has been delayed, while expired lease agreements have not been renewed. Officials say the inability to revise lease rentals in line with market rates and approve new leases has also affected the Board's revenue, with hundreds of files remaining pending.



Another major concern is the delay in submitting the revised list of Waqf properties under Section 22-A of the Registration Act, which prohibits the registration of protected government and institutional lands. While departments such as Revenue, Forest and Endowments have already submitted updated lists of prohibited properties,

the Waqf Board is yet to furnish its revised inventory to the Registration Department.

According to Waqf records, the number of Waqf properties has increased from about 33,900 properties covering nearly 77,000 acres to around 53,000 properties following field surveys and updated registrations. However, as the revised list has not been incorporated under Section 22-A, allegations have surfaced that transactions involving several Waqf lands are continuing without adequate safeguards.

The issue is particularly significant in the rapidly developing districts of Rangareddy, Medchal-Malkajgiri and Sangareddy, where land values have increased substantially.

SRM University-AP Bags Three EDex Awards 2026

Amaravati, July 31: SRM University - AP, Amaravati, has won three prestigious honours at the EDex Awards 2026 (6th Edition) held in Chennai, in recognition of its excellence in higher education, innovation and academic leadership.

The awards, presented by Indianpreneur Magazine, recognised the outstanding performance of the university's three academic schools—School of Engineering and Sciences (SEAS), Easwari School of Liberal Arts (ESLA), and Paari School of Business (PSB).

The School of Engineering and Sciences was named Best Engineering College of the Year 2026 – South India for its industry-oriented curriculum, research achieve-



ments, strong placement record and advanced engineering programmes. The Easwari School of Liberal Arts received the Best Liberal Arts School of the Year 2026 award for excellence in multidisciplinary education, while the Paari School of Business was honoured as the Best B-School of the Year 2026 – Andhra Pradesh for its future-focused curriculum that integrates manage-

ment, technology, innovation and experiential learning.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Ch. Satish Kumar said the recognition reflects the university's commitment to academic excellence, research, innovation and entrepreneurship. He added that SRM University-AP will continue to promote holistic student development through quality education and

global academic standards.

The awards were received by Prof. C.V. Tomy, Dean of the School of Engineering and Sciences; Dr. Nafesathul Basariya Mohamed Iqbal, Assistant Professor, Paari School of Business; and Dr. Ayesha Parveen Haroon, Head of the Department of Psychology, Easwari School of Liberal Arts.

TKR College Hosts AICTE-ATAL FDP on Quantum Computing and AI

Hyderabad (TSIT): The Department of Information Technology at TKR College of Engineering and Technology, Hyderabad, successfully organised a six-day AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy-sponsored Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on "Integration of Quantum Computing and AI in Healthcare, Agriculture, and Transportation" from July 20 to 25.

The programme featured expert sessions by eminent academicians and researchers from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, University of Hyderabad (UoH), Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad (JNTUH), and

GITAM University. Participants received in-depth knowledge on Quantum Computing, Quantum Machine Learning (QML), Quantum Algorithms, Quantum Neural Networks (QNN), and Photonic Quantum Communication, along with their real-world applications.

A major highlight of the FDP was its practical training sessions, where participants learned to install and use IBM Qiskit and gained hands-on experience in Quantum Machine Learning for healthcare diagnostics, Quantum Approximate Optimization Algorithm (QAOA), Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) using

Minister Vakiti Srihari Visits Fish Canteen at Masab Tank, Reviews Food Quality and Hygiene



Hyderabad, TSIT: Telangana Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries, Youth Services and Sports Vakiti Srihari on Friday paid his first visit to the State Fisheries Department headquarters at Masab Tank and inspected the Fish Canteen operated by the department. Minister was received by Fisheries Director Nikhila, Additional Director Muralikrishna,

and other department officials. During the visit, he reviewed the canteen's management, hygiene standards, food quality and customer services. He also enquired about the menu and the variety of fish-based dishes being served. Speaking on the occasion, Vakiti Srihari said the government's objective is to provide quality, hygienic and nutritious fish-based food to the public.

Build Expo 2026 to Be Held in Karimnagar on August 1 & 2



Karimnagar: Representatives of the Association of Consulting Civil Engineers India (ACCEI), Karimnagar Centre, announced that the 6th Build Expo 2026 will be organized on August 1 and 2 at the Indoor Stadium, Karimnagar. The primary objective of the expo is to introduce the public to the latest technologies and innovative products in the construction industry.

Speaking at a press conference held at the Indoor Stadium, ACCEI Chairman Nalla Laxmaiah, Expo Convener Paka Pavana Krishna, Secretary Sabbani Srinivas, and Sponsorship Committee Head Velpula Sravan said that the exhibition will be open from 9:30 AM to 9:00 PM on both days.

They stated that the expo would help homeowners and the general public make informed choices about quality construction materials while also creating awareness about modern construction methods. The event is held once every two years, and this year's edi-

tion marks the 6th Build Expo. Visitors will find everything related to building construction—from foundation to interior finishing—under one roof. Products on display will include steel, cement, paints, hardware, plywood, laminates, elevators, waterproofing chemicals, electrical and sanitary products, uPVC windows, PT slab technology, and many more.

Representatives from leading companies across India will showcase their latest products and technologies.

Engineers and technical experts from various regions will also provide free guidance and professional advice to visitors. Civil engineers, architects, builders, contractors, technical professionals, students, and the general public from the undivided Karimnagar district, as well as Mancherial, Warangal, Siddipet, and Mahabubnagar, are invited to make use of this opportunity.

PM to dedicate to nation projects worth Rs.17,900 cr in Andhra Pradesh

Visakhapatnam, July 31 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate to the nation various development projects worth over Rs.17,900 crore during his visit to Andhra Pradesh on Saturday.

He will lay foundation stones and inaugurate multiple projects at the inauguration of Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram district.

The Prime Minister will lay the foundation for the ASIP Semiconductor Project at Visakhapatnam, being developed with an investment of over Rs.460 crore. The facility is being developed by ASIP



Technologies Pvt Ltd in partnership with APACT, Republic of Korea.

According to an official release, it is Andhra Pradesh's first semiconductor manufacturing facility approved under the India Semiconductor Mission. The facility will

manufacture around 96 million semiconductor chips annually and create high-skilled employment opportunities, while also fostering a robust ancillary ecosystem to support semiconductor manufacturing. The Prime Minister will lay the foundation

stone for the Transmission System for Integration of Kurnool-IV Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) - Phase-I (4.5 GW), being implemented by POWERGRID through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), with an investment of about Rs.5,550 crore.

He will also inaugurate the Transmission System for Kurnool Wind Energy Zone/Solar Energy Zone (Andhra Pradesh) - Part A & Part B, implemented at a cost of around Rs.3,550 crore, and the Transmission Scheme for Solar Energy Zone in Ananthapuram (2,500 MW) and Kurnool (1,000 MW), implemented by POWERGRID at a cost of

over Rs.820 crore.

These transmission projects will enable the evacuation of power generated from the renewable energy zones in Kurnool and Ananthapuram and the transmission of power to beneficiaries across the country through the National Grid.

They will facilitate the integration of a large quantum of renewable energy into the grid, improve the availability of clean power for demand centres, and contribute to India's energy transition and decarbonisation efforts by reducing dependence on fossil fuel-based power generation, said the release.

CM Naidu Reviews Arrangements for Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport Inauguration



Visakhapatnam : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday reviewed the arrangements for the inauguration of the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram through a video conference with senior officials. He directed them to ensure that the inauguration ceremony is conducted in a grand and befitting manner.

The Chief Minister instructed officials to make elaborate arrangements to accord a warm welcome to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who will inaugurate the airport. He said the airport premises should reflect the richness of Telugu culture, traditions, and heritage through its decorations and presentation. Mr. Naidu also asked officials to organise the traditional tribal

Dhimsa dance on a scale that could create a world record, making it a memorable highlight of the Prime Minister's visit.

Officials informed the Chief Minister that all preparations for the inauguration had been completed. They briefed him on security arrangements, traffic management, protocol, cultural programmes, and other logistical measures put in place for the event. The video conference was attended by Ministers K. Atchannaidu and Y. Satya Kumar Yadav, Chief Secretary K. Sai Prasad, Special Chief Secretary (Industries & Infrastructure) M.T. Krishna Babu, MLA Palla Srinivasa Rao, District Collectors, and other senior officials.

Superannuation Celebrations of Three employees of KITSW held at KITS Warangal



Warangal, July 31, TSIT : Professor V. Ramaiah, department of EEE, Dr. G. Manjulatha Devi Senior Assistant Professor in English and V. Prasad(Driver) have completed their superannuation successfully, said by the Principal Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy.

The Staff Club, Kakatiya Institute of Technology & Science Warangal (KITSW) organised the Superannuation Celebrations of Professor V. Ramaiah, eminent Professor, Department of

Electrical & Electronics, Engineering (EEE), Dr. G. Manjulatha Devi, Senior Assistant Professor in English, Department of M & H and V. Prasad, Driver held at Silver Jubilee Seminar Hall, KITS Warangal on Friday told by the Principal Prof. K. Ashoka Reddy.

Former Rajya Sabha, MP and KITSW chairman, Capt. V. Laxmikantha Rao and KITSW treasurer P. Narayana Reddy & former MLA and Additional Secretary, Vodithala Satish Kumar have appreciated and congratulated the Prof. V. Ramaiah, Dr. G. Manjulatha Devi and V. Prasad for their dedicated services to the institute and also the Management members have blessed them a happy retirement life.

Chief Secretary Orders Statewide Rain Preparedness



Hyderabad, July 31: Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju has directed district collectors and officials of all departments to remain on high alert and take coordinated precautionary measures to prevent loss of life and property in view of the heavy rains across Telangana.

During a video conference from the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat with dis-

trict collectors, police commissioners and senior officials, the Chief Secretary said the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast heavy rainfall for the next two days. He instructed all districts to operate 24x7 control rooms, monitor the situation round the clock and prevent public access to waterfalls, rivers, lakes and other risky tourist

spots. Officials were also asked to shift people living in low-lying and flood-prone areas to safer locations whenever necessary.

Sanjay Jaju said NDRF and SDRF teams have been kept on standby for rescue operations. In view of the possibility of below-normal rainfall in September due to El Niño, he advised collectors to create awareness among farmers on alternative crops and vegetable cultivation.

Director General of Police C.V. Anand said police had identified 249 hazardous reservoirs and picnic spots and 167 tourist destinations, where public entry is being restricted during heavy rains. He added that 12 SDRF companies are ready for emergency operations.

Bhogapuram Airport to Give Wings to North Andhra's Dreams, Shape Its Future: Minister Kandula Durgesh

Visakhapatnam (TSIT) The Andhra Pradesh Tourism Department on Friday organised a grand Curtain Raiser event at the Rushikonda Blue Flag Beach ahead of the inauguration of the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram. State Minister for Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Kandula Durgesh, who attended as the chief guest, described the airport as a transformative project that would "give wings to the dreams of North Andhra and steer its future." With Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan set to inaugurate the airport on August 1, the pre-launch

celebrations drew large crowds of tourists and visitors. The beach came alive



with impressive sand art installations, cultural performances, themed selfie points, and a striking sand sculpture of the Bhogapuram International Airport. Addressing the gathering, Mr. Durgesh said that improved connectivity through air, road, rail, and sea transport is

essential for attracting industries, boosting tourism, and creating large-scale employment opportunities for the youth. He said the international airport would become a major growth engine for North Andhra and recalled that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu had aptly described the project as "Wings to the Dreams of North Andhra." The Minister expressed gratitude to the farmers who parted with their land for the airport project and appreciated the inclusion of the message "Thanks Farmers" in one of the sand sculptures.

Bhogapuram Airport to Transform North Andhra: Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy

Visakhapatnam (TSIT) Andhra Pradesh Minister for Information & Public Relations and Housing Kolusu Parthasarathy on Friday described the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram as a "game changer" that will

redefine the future of North Andhra. Addressing the media at the airport site, the Minister said the inauguration of the international airport would transform the region's economic landscape and accelerate development across sectors. He



said the coalition government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is giving top priority to the comprehensive development of North Andhra through several landmark infrastructure projects aimed at improving public welfare, employment, tourism, transportation and economic growth.

Mr. Parthasarathy said more than three lakh people are expected to attend the airport inauguration and that elaborate arrangements have been made to ensure the smooth conduct of the event. Around 5,000 to 6,000 buses have been arranged to facilitate public transportation, while public representatives are also mobilising additional vehicles and mini-buses for the convenience of people. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate development projects worth around 17,900 crore during his visit. The Minister added that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has been personally monitoring the preparations, while Minister Nara Lokesh has also been reviewing the arrangements twice daily and issu-

ing necessary directions to officials and public representatives.

Highlighting the government's publicity campaign, Mr. Parthasarathy said the Information and Public Relations Department has launched an extensive awareness programme on the Bhogapuram airport and the development prospects it will bring to North Andhra. Around 200 hoardings and 50 LED screens have been installed across

Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts. Five drones are also being deployed for promotional activities, while digital and social media platforms are being extensively used to showcase the airport's significance. The Minister said the airport's 25,000-metric-tonne cargo terminal would provide a major boost to exports from North Andhra, particularly by improving access to domestic and international markets. He noted that the airport would create significant opportunities in trade, industry and logistics while generating large-scale employment.

NORTH ANDHRA ON THE GLOBAL AVIATION MAP: ALLURI SITARAMA RAJU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SET TO TRANSFORM THE REGION

R. VARAPRASAD DEV, VISAKHAPATNAM.

A new chapter in the development of North Andhra is set to begin with the inauguration of the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram district. Built at an estimated cost of 4,727 crore under the Greenfield Airport Policy, the airport is expected to become a major gateway connecting North Andhra with global destinations. Equipped with world-class infrastructure, advanced technology and architecture

momentum in 2023, the coalition government accelerated the project by completing critical infrastructure and bringing it to completion in about 31 months. Spread across 2,703 acres, the airport includes 2,203.32 acres for the runway and terminal, 500 acres for an Aviation Hub and 136.63 acres for an Aviation University and Education City. The Andhra Pradesh Government invested over 1,583 crore towards land acquisition and supporting infrastructure such as water supply and power connectivity.



inspired by the region's rich cultural heritage, the airport is poised to boost industrial growth, tourism, trade and employment.

A Long Journey The need for a new airport arose because the existing Visakhapatnam Airport operates within the Indian Navy's INS Dega airbase, limiting night operations and the movement of large international aircraft. Recognising the need for an independent international airport, the project received in-principle approval from the Government of India in October 2016. After the initial foundation stone was laid in 2019 and construction activities gained

World-Class Facilities Developed by GMR Visakhapatnam International Airport Limited (GVIAL) under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model on a DBFOT basis, the airport features a striking terminal building designed in the shape of a Flying Fish, symbolising the Bay of Bengal and North Andhra's maritime heritage. Traditional Telugu Rangavalli (Muggu) motifs on the roof add a distinct cultural identity to the modern structure. The airport boasts a 3,800-metre Code-E runway, capable of handling wide-body aircraft including the Boeing 777, Boeing 787 Dreamliner, Airbus A330 and Airbus A340.

BEFORE THE INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL (cum) LABOUR COURT AT PONDICHERRY
I.A. No. 1 /2025
in I.D.(L) No. 29 of 2006
Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.,
Rep. by its Authorized Signatory,
Mumbai. Vs. ... Petitioner/Respondent.No.2
1. The President
Somkan Staff and Workers Union ...Respondent.No.1/Petitioner
2. The Managing Director
M/s. Somkan Marine Foods Ltd.,...Respondent.No.2/Respondent.No.1
3. The Standard Chartered Bank,
Rep. by its Authorized Signatory,...Respondent.No.3/Respondent.No.3
4. The Managing Partner,
M/s. Image Feeds, ...Respondent.No.4/Respondent.No.4
NOTICE TO 2nd RESPONDENT
Please take notice that the above I.A. No. 1/2025 in I.D.(L) No. 29 of 2006 petition filed by the Petitioner against 2nd Respondent i.e. The Managing Director, M/s Somkan Marine Foods Ltd., Adavipolam, Yanam 533 464 to Condone the Delay, in which he has filed the above I.A. No. 1/2025 the said petition is posted on **04.08.2026** at 10 am before aforesaid Honorable Court for your appearance and objections if any in the matter. Take further notice if you fail to appear on said date, the matter will be decided on merits in your absence.
Counsel for the Petitioner
V. Anicet Aroquiardj - Advocate
B.Sc., M.B.A., LL.B
No.115, 5th Cross, Sudhagar Nagar, Reddiarpalayam, Pondicherry – 605 010.

BEFORE THE INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL (cum) LABOUR COURT AT PONDICHERRY
I.A. No. 1 /2025
in I.D. (L) No. 19 of 2007
Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.,
Rep. by its Authorized Signatory,
Mumbai. Vs. ... Petitioner/Respondent.No.2
1. P. Srinivas Rao ...Respondent.No.1/Petitioner
2. The Managing Director
M/s. Somkan Marine Foods Ltd.,...Respondent.No.2/Respondent.No.1
3. The Standard Chartered Bank,
Rep. by its Authorized Signatory,...Respondent.No.3/Respondent.No.3
4. The Managing Partner,
M/s. Image Feeds, ...Respondent.No.4/Respondent.No.4
NOTICE TO 2nd RESPONDENT
Please take notice that the above I.A. No. 1/2025 in I.D. (L) No. 19 of 2007 petition filed by the Petitioner against 2nd Respondent i.e. The Managing Director, M/s Somkan Marine Foods Ltd., Adavipolam, Yanam 533 464 to Condone the Delay, in which he has filed the above I.A. No. 1/2025 the said petition is posted on **04.08.2026** at 10 am before aforesaid Honorable Court for your appearance and objections if any in the matter. Take further notice if you fail to appear on said date, the matter will be decided on merits in your absence.
Counsel for the Petitioner
V. Anicet Aroquiardj - Advocate
B.Sc., M.B.A., LL.B
No.115, 5th Cross, Sudhagar Nagar, Reddiarpalayam, Pondicherry – 605 010.

BEFORE THE INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL (cum) LABOUR COURT AT PONDICHERRY
I.A. No. 1 /2025
in I.D.(L) No. 1 of 2007
Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.,
Rep. by its Authorized Signatory,
Mumbai. Vs. ... Petitioner/Respondent.No.2
1. K.S.B.S Ramalingam, ...Respondent.No.1/Petitioner
2. The Managing Director
M/s. Somkan Marine Foods Ltd.,...Respondent.No.2/Respondent.No.1
3. The Standard Chartered Bank,
Rep. by its Authorized Signatory,...Respondent.No.3/Respondent.No.3
4. The Managing Partner,
M/s. Image Feeds, ...Respondent.No.4/Respondent.No.4
NOTICE TO 2nd RESPONDENT
Please take notice that the above I.A. No. 1/2025 in I.D.(L) No.1 of 2007 petition filed by the Petitioner against 2nd Respondent i.e. The Managing Director, M/s Somkan Marine Foods Ltd., Adavipolam, Yanam 533 464 to Condone the Delay, in which he has filed the above I.A. No. 1/2025 the said petition is posted on **04.08.2026** at 10 am before aforesaid Honorable Court for your appearance and objections if any in the matter. Take further notice if you fail to appear on said date, the matter will be decided on merits in your absence.
Counsel for the Petitioner
V. Anicet Aroquiardj - Advocate
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No.115, 5th Cross, Sudhagar Nagar, Reddiarpalayam, Pondicherry – 605 010.

BEFORE THE INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL (cum) LABOUR COURT AT PONDICHERRY
I.A. No. 1 /2025
in I.D. (L) No. 17 of 2007
Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.,
Rep. by its Authorized Signatory,
Mumbai. Vs. ... Petitioner/Respondent.No.2
1. M. Srinivas ...Respondent.No.1/Petitioner
2. The Managing Director
M/s. Somkan Marine Foods Ltd.,...Respondent.No.2/Respondent.No.1
3. The Standard Chartered Bank,
Rep. by its Authorized Signatory,...Respondent.No.3/Respondent.No.3
4. The Managing Partner,
M/s. Image Feeds, ...Respondent.No.4/Respondent.No.4
NOTICE TO 2nd RESPONDENT
Please take notice that the above I.A. No. 1/2025 in I.D. (L) No. 17 of 2007 petition filed by the Petitioner against 2nd Respondent i.e. The Managing Director, M/s Somkan Marine Foods Ltd., Adavipolam, Yanam 533 464 to Condone the Delay, in which he has filed the above I.A. No. 1/2025 the said petition is posted on **04.08.2026** at 10 am before aforesaid Honorable Court for your appearance and objections if any in the matter. Take further notice if you fail to appear on said date, the matter will be decided on merits in your absence.
Counsel for the Petitioner
V. Anicet Aroquiardj - Advocate
B.Sc., M.B.A., LL.B
No.115, 5th Cross, Sudhagar Nagar, Reddiarpalayam, Pondicherry – 605 010.

BEFORE THE INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL (cum) LABOUR COURT AT PONDICHERRY
I.A. No. 1 /2025
in I.D.(L) No.21/2007
Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.,
Rep. by its Authorized Signatory,
Mumbai. Vs. ... Petitioner/Respondent.No.2
1. K.S Chakravarthy
The President
M/s Somkan Staff and Workers Union ...Respondent.No.1/Petitioner
2. The Managing Director
M/s. Somkan Marine Foods Ltd.,...Respondent.No.2/Respondent.No.1
3. The Standard Chartered Bank,
Rep. by its Authorized Signatory, ...Respondent.No.3/Respondent.No.3
4. The Managing Partner,
M/s. Image Feeds, ...Respondent.No.4/Respondent.No.4
NOTICE TO 2nd RESPONDENT
Please take notice that the above I.A. No. 1/2025 in I.D.(L) No.21/2007 petition filed by the Petitioner against 2nd Respondent i.e. The Managing Director, M/s Somkan Marine Foods Ltd., Adavipolam, Yanam 533 464 to Condone the Delay, in which he has filed the above I.A. No. 1/2025 the said petition is posted on **04.08.2026** at 10 am before aforesaid Honorable Court for your appearance and objections if any in the matter. Take further notice if you fail to appear on said date, the matter will be decided on merits in your absence.
Counsel for the Petitioner
V. Anicet Aroquiardj - Advocate
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EDITORIAL

India's Defence Deals Have A Serious Problem Nobody Talks About

For more than two decades, India's defence offset policy aimed to be a powerful instrument to strengthen indigenous defence manufacturing, attract cutting-edge technologies, and reduce dependence on foreign suppliers. The concept was straightforward: if India spends billions of dollars on importing military hardware, a portion of that expenditure should return to the country through investments, technology transfers, local production, research partnerships, and industrial development. Basically, the policy was well-intentioned, having looked at developing countries striving to build a military technological base while purchasing military equipment from advanced countries. However, it looks like that never worked in India. Even I recall my discussion with then Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar, and he understood the problem, then told me: "Plan to get rid of offset policy; it does not do much good." Not to say that the policy did not produce any gains. Large defence contracts did generate substantial business for Indian companies, expanded the private sector, and enabled many MSMEs to become suppliers to global aerospace and defence manufacturers. Several Indian firms today manufacture components for international defence companies - an outcome that would have been difficult without offset obligations. Yet, despite these achievements, the policy has fallen significantly short of its original strategic objectives. India continues to rely heavily on imports for advanced military technologies and critical components. The country's ambition of using offsets to build tech sovereignty remains only partially fulfilled. The Public Accounts Committee (PAC), in its Fiftieth Report on the "Management of Defence Offsets," adopted on June 4 and presented to Parliament this month, provides perhaps the most comprehensive assessment of the programme's shortcomings. The report makes it clear that the problem extends far beyond delayed vendor obligations. It reveals deeper structural weaknesses in planning, project evaluation, technology selection, and contract management. Large Pending Obligations The most immediate concern is the pace of implementation. Among 26 ongoing offset contracts, the total offset obligation stands at nearly USD 9.92 billion. However, vendors have submitted claims worth only USD 5.47 billion, representing just 55.14 % of the obligation. Nearly USD 4.45 billion, or 44.86%, remains unsubmitted. Such a large pending obligation raises serious questions regarding execution and monitoring. While delays are often attributed to vendors, the PAC correctly observes that responsibility also lies with the Ministry of Defence. Several projects approved during contract negotiations later proved commercially or technically unviable. This indicates weaknesses in project appraisal, partner selection, and post-contract supervision rather than mere vendor non-compliance. So, it's important that experts in the MoD now look at technological and commercial aspects on a separate, clear basis and the vendor's long-term commitment in India. Completion Does Not Mean Success The Ministry has signed 56 offset contracts over the years. Of these, only 20 contracts, roughly 35.7%, have been fully completed, audited, and closed. Another 10 contracts remain under final audit, while 26 contracts, almost half the programme, continue to remain operational.

WHY CHINA'S LATEST 'CHIP' Breakthrough Is Shaking The World

Have you ever watched the closing stages of a marathon? For most of the race, the leader looks comfortable. Every now and then, he glances over his shoulder and sees a runner who never seemed much of a threat. Then, almost without anyone noticing, that runner begins to close the gap. His stride lengthens. His pace quickens. And just when the leader thinks the finish line is safely within reach, the challenger suddenly looks capable of sweeping past. That is increasingly what the global semiconductor race looks like. For years, the United States and its allies built an overwhelming lead in the technologies that power the modern world. Taiwan dominated the most advanced chips. South Korea dominated memory chips. The Netherlands produced the world's most sophisticated lithography machines. American companies designed the processors powering everything from iPhones and AI chatbots to fighter jets. China, despite its manufacturing prowess, remained largely dependent on others for the most advanced technologies. That equation may now be changing. The Lithography Breakthrough Early this week, Reuters reported that China has begun mass-producing domestically developed immersion deep ultraviolet (DUV) lithography machines, marking a major milestone in Beijing's long campaign to reduce dependence on foreign technology. According to Reuters, the effort is being led by Shanghai Aishengna Electronic Technology Group, a relatively unknown state-owned company that has brought together engineers from several of China's leading lithography startups. On its own, that is significant enough. But it comes alongside reports from Chinese



researchers claiming huge progress towards something even more ambitious: they are poised to produce a home-grown Extreme Ultraviolet (EUV) lithography machine. If those claims are true, they could represent one of the biggest shifts in the semiconductor industry in decades. China, in other words, has crossed one technological milestone. It is now claiming to be approaching another. These reports have coincided with the blockbuster stock market debut of memory chipmaker ChangXin Memory Technologies (CXMT). Right now, it's the toast of eager investors. Together, they suggest the chip war may be entering a new phase. DUV And EUV Lithography With enough engineering ingenuity, Chinese engineers are now using DUV machines to produce advanced 7-nanometre chips. EUV takes the technology to an entirely different level. It allows manufacturers to produce the world's most advanced processors - the 2nm, 3nm, and 5nm chips, now powering artificial intelligence systems, high-end smartphones, and the next generation of super-

computers. Without EUV, building those chips becomes vastly more difficult. That is why EUV has long been regarded as the holy grail of semiconductor manufacturing. For years, one company that stood at the summit of the DUV and EUV machines was ASML, based in the Dutch town of Veldhoven. ASML dominates the global market for advanced immersion DUV lithography systems and has an effective monopoly on commercial EUV machines. No other company has successfully brought an EUV system to market. Its machines are among the most complicated products humanity has ever built. Each one costs hundreds of millions of dollars, weighs well over 150 tonnes, and contains tens of thousands of precision components sourced from companies spread across Europe, America, and Asia. It can take months simply to assemble and install one machine. It took ASML decades to perfect the technology. That explains why China's reported progress has attracted so much attention. The Sanctions That Backfired Western govern-

ments often use sanctions and export controls to slow down competitors' progress or prevent them from making any progress at all. President Donald Trump, in his first term itself, and later President Joe Biden, persuaded the Dutch government to stop ASML from exporting its most advanced machines to China. The restrictions did not stop there. The US also tightened controls on advanced processors, chipmaking equipment, and sophisticated software used to design leading-edge chips. Chinese companies, including Huawei and Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation, better known as SMIC, suddenly found themselves cut off from technologies they had relied upon for years. The logic was that if China could not buy the world's best chipmaking tools, it would struggle to manufacture the world's most advanced processors. For a while, that strategy appeared to work. Many analysts concluded that China would remain several generations behind industry leaders such as TSMC in Taiwan, Samsung in South Korea,

and Intel in the United States. China, however, had other ideas. Rather than treating semiconductor manufacturers as simply another industrial sector, it elevated them to the level of national strategy. Tens of billions of dollars flowed into research, manufacturing equipment, materials, universities, and private companies. Reducing dependence on foreign technology was not just an economic objective but a national security issue. China Wasn't Supposed To Get This Far In August 2023, while US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo was visiting Beijing, Huawei quietly launched its Mate 60 Pro smartphone. When tech experts dismantled the phone, they discovered a domestically produced 7-nanometre processor manufactured by SMIC. The finding stunned the Americans. Why? Precisely because they had calculated that sanctions and restrictions were enough to prevent China from producing 7nm chips. They thought it was impossible for China to achieve this feat. Instead, SMIC had produced it using older DUV technology combined with highly sophisticated engineering techniques. This was the first indication that sanctions might not be producing the outcome that the Americans had expected. Now, the Western media's confirmation that China is mass-producing its own immersion DUV lithography machines has again raised eyebrows in Washington. Building An Ecosystem There's this resignation in the West that China's progress is unstoppable. But what is it that China is doing that is so different? One of the biggest misconceptions about China's semiconductor ambitions is that everything revolves around Huawei or SMIC. It doesn't. Unlike Taiwan, whose remarkable

success rests largely on one company - TSMC - China has spent the better part of a decade building an entire semiconductor ecosystem. The strategy has been to strengthen every link in the chain, from chip design and manufacturing equipment to materials, memory chips, and fabrication plants. If one company falls behind, another moves forward. Isn't that impressive? Indeed, that strategy is beginning to pay dividends. The clearest example came recently with the spectacular stock market debut of memory chipmaker ChangXin Memory Technologies (CXMT). Investors rushed to buy into the company, seeing it as evidence that China is becoming a serious force in memory chips - one of the most important building blocks of the AI revolution. Memory Chips vs Processor Chips Memory chips are very different from processors. Processors - the CPUs and GPUs made by companies, such as Nvidia, AMD, and Apple - do the thinking. Memory chips store the information those processors need to work. Modern artificial intelligence systems require vast amounts of both computing power and memory. Without one, the other becomes far less useful. For years, South Korea's Samsung and SK Hynix, together with America's Micron, dominated the memory business. China is now beginning to challenge that dominance. CXMT has rapidly become the world's fourth-largest producer of DRAM memory chips, which provide the temporary working memory computers need to process data. Yangtze Memory Technologies, better known as YMTC, has emerged as a significant manufacturer of advanced NAND flash memory, which stores data permanently in smartphones, laptops, and data centres.

World's Biggest Military Now Has A Supply Problem. Inside US' Weapons Crisis

The United States' growing munitions deficit is not merely the consequence of the ongoing conflict with Iran; rather, it reflects a deeper structural imbalance between America's strategic ambitions and the capacity of its defence industrial base. Decades of post-Cold War assumptions, that major interstate wars were unlikely, encouraged successive administrations to prioritise efficiency over surge capacity. The result has been an industrial ecosystem optimised for peacetime procurement rather than sustained, high-intensity warfare. The wars in Ukraine and the Middle East have exposed the limits of this model. The immediate causes of the shortage are clear. Sustained military assistance to Ukraine, including millions of 155 mm artillery rounds, Patriot interceptors, Javelin anti-tank missiles, and Guided Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (GMLRS), had already reduced US inventories. Continued support for Israel, prolonged operations against the Houthis in the Red Sea, and, most recently, the 2026 military campaign against Iran have further accelerated the depletion of critical stockpiles. Reports suggest that the Iran campaign consumed a significant proportion of advanced precision munitions, including Tomahawk cruise missiles, Precision Strike Missiles (PrSM), Patriot and THAAD interceptors, and naval air-defence missiles such as the SM-3 and SM-6. Consumption rates have significantly exceeded peacetime production levels, exposing the mismatch



between operational requirements and industrial output. The roots of this problem, however, lie in the gradual erosion of the American defence industrial base. Following the Cold War, consolidation within the defence sector reduced the number of suppliers, while production lines for critical inputs, including solid rocket motors, explosives, shell bodies, rare-earth components, and microelectronics, were either scaled back or allowed to stagnate. The emphasis on lean supply chains and cost efficiency created multiple single-source bottlenecks, leaving the United States with limited capacity to rapidly expand production during crises. Equally significant has been the decline in skilled manufacturing labour and ageing production infrastructure, both of which constrain the speed with which industrial output can be increased. Efforts to reverse this trend have produced only modest results. Despite substantial investments to expand artillery shell production, output has grown far more slowly than planned, with persistent shortages of explosives,

metal components, and qualified manufacturing capacity limiting progress. Similar challenges affect the production of high-end missile systems. Weapons such as Patriot interceptors, THAAD missiles, and Tomahawk cruise missiles require long production cycles, highly specialised supply chains, and industrial investments that cannot be created overnight. Financial allocations alone cannot rapidly generate the workforce, facilities, and supplier networks necessary for sustained expansion. Policy choices have compounded these structural constraints. Procurement patterns characterised by fluctuating orders, prolonged acquisition timelines, and an emphasis on sophisticated platforms rather than stockpile depth discouraged industry from investing in excess capacity. Globalised supply chains and inadequate pre-crisis planning further reduced resilience. Although recent initiatives, including expanded defence funding, the use of the Defense Production Act, and long-term industrial agreements, represent important correc-

tive measures, they are unlikely to produce meaningful increases in output in the immediate future. Operationally, the United States has retained sufficient inventories to sustain military operations against Iran under the current scope of the conflict. Conventional air-delivered munitions, including JDAMs, Small Diameter Bombs, and Hellfire missiles, remain available in substantial numbers. Nevertheless, the extensive use of high-end stand-off weapons and missile-defence interceptors has narrowed Washington's strategic flexibility. Decisions regarding escalation have increasingly been shaped not only by political considerations but also by concerns over inventory management. The strain on stockpiles has also complicated continued military assistance to partners and affected the readiness of naval and air assets deployed across multiple theatres. The broader strategic implications extend well beyond the Middle East. American war games have repeatedly demonstrated that a high-intensity conflict in the Indo-Pacific, particularly over Taiwan, would consume precision-guided munitions at a pace far exceeding current production capacity. The depletion of inventories during the Iran campaign thus widens an already recognised capability gap. While it does not fundamentally undermine US deterrence against China, it reinforces concerns regarding America's ability to sustain simultaneous operations across multiple theatres and prolonged conventional conflicts against peer competitors.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION OR GLORIFICATION OF OBSCENITY?



Jantar Mantar is a public forum in democratic India where citizens gather to convey their views to the government and society. This place symbolizes the freedom of expression guaranteed by the Constitution. But when language is violated during protests, profanity is used as a tool of resistance, and obscenity is celebrated as a symbol of courage, it is natural to question: what are the limits of freedom of expression? Does protest in a democracy mean legitimizing all forms of language and behavior? Or does freedom also entail responsibility? In recent days, the public use of highly offensive language by some protesters at Jantar Mantar became a topic of discussion. A segment of society appeared to support this, calling it a "rebellion against patriarchy" and "the voice of a fearless woman." On the other hand, many considered it a violation of social decorum, public decency, and constitutional responsibility. This debate is not about a single incident, but about the direction society is taking to redefine the boundaries of expression. Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution guarantees every citizen the freedom of expression. However, the same Constitution, through



Article 19(2), also makes it clear that this freedom is not absolute. Reasonable restrictions can be imposed on this freedom on grounds such as public order, decency, morality, defamation, contempt of court, and national security. Thus, the Constitution itself recognizes that freedom and responsibility go hand in hand. The right to protest is essential in any democracy. Criticism of the government, questioning policies, and dissent are the strengths of a democratic system. However, if the language of protest begins to promote hatred, obscenity, or violence in society, it cannot be evaluated solely on the basis of "free speech." The language used in public life also impacts society's culture and future generations. It's also worth considering whether, if a man were to use similar language on a public platform, would society and the law react the same way as it would against a woman? If the answer is "no," it cannot be considered consistent with the principle of equality.

Equal rights also imply equal responsibility. If the law takes action against obscene or offensive expressions made by men, the same standard should apply to women. Similarly, if inappropriate language against women is unacceptable, such language against men should not be normalized. There is a concern in social discourse today that ideological commitments sometimes trump objectivity. If an event is evaluated based on a person's views, political leanings, or gender, both justice and equality are affected. Blind support for any side undermines democratic discourse. Practices and principles, not individuals, should be the basis for evaluation. Patriarchy, gender inequality, and injustice against women are real social issues. Struggles against them are necessary. But if this struggle is conducted with dignity, logic, and constitutional propriety, its moral force is greater. Obscene language or abusive behavior cannot be justified simply because the

objective is to oppose a system. The means are as important as the objective. In the age of social media, inflammatory language instantly goes viral. This often creates the illusion that the more aggressive or controversial an expression is, the more effective it will be. However, the true beauty of democracy lies in the power of ideas, not the harshness of words. History shows that lasting change comes from reason, dialogue, and moral courage, not mere incitement. All citizens are equal before the law. This is the fundamental spirit of the Indian Republic. Therefore, if obscene language, indecent exposure, or statements derogatory to any class in public places constitute crimes under the law, they should be assessed based on the individual's conduct, not their identity. Equality does not mean special privileges, but equal standards. It is also essential that a clear social and legal understanding be developed between freedom of expression and hateful or obscene speech.

CABINET CLEARS RS 84,000-CRORE SCHEME FOR OFFSHORE OIL, GAS EXPLORATION

The Union Cabinet on Friday approved 'Samudra Manthan', a Rs 84,084-crore National Offshore Exploration Scheme aimed at accelerating oil and gas exploration in India's offshore basins and reducing dependence on energy imports. The Central Sector Scheme, to be implemented by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas through FY2030-31, seeks to strengthen domestic exploration, expand production capabilities and build an integrated offshore energy ecosystem, according to an official government statement. According to a government press release, the approval follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day 2025 call for a modern-day 'Samudra Manthan' to unlock India's offshore energy potential. "The Scheme translates the Prime Minister's vision of unlocking India's vast offshore energy potential and marks a landmark step



towards strengthening India's energy security, accelerating domestic exploration and production, promoting technological leadership, and advancing the vision of Viksit Bharat," the government said. The programme includes large-scale seismic data acquisition and interpretation, accelerated deep-water and ultra-deepwater exploratory drilling, scientific drilling in frontier basins, development of shared offshore production and evacuation infrastructure, and creation of an integrated Oil & Gas Manufacturing and

Services Zone. It also provides for digital programme management, capacity building, technology adoption, stakeholder engagement and international outreach to support offshore exploration and production, according to the Cabinet decision. The government expects the initiative to help add more than 600 million metric tonnes of oil equivalent (MMTOE) to hydrocarbon reserves, increase domestic oil and gas output, generate employment and encourage investments across the exploration and production value chain.

IOC Q1 Results: Loss At Rs 2,661 Crore Sharply Beats Worst-Case Street Estimate; Revenue Up 26.2%

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) reported a consolidated net loss for the first quarter, but the performance was significantly better than the Street's worst-case expectations, aided by stronger-than-expected revenue and a positive operating profit. The state-run oil marketing company posted a net loss of Rs 2,661 crore for the quarter, compared with Bloomberg estimates of a loss of Rs 20,295 crore. The company had reported a profit of Rs 11,378 crore in the preceding quarter. Revenue from operations rose 26.2% sequentially to Rs 2.62 lakh crore, comfortably beating analysts' estimate of Rs 2.36 lakh crore. Revenue stood at Rs 2.08 lakh crore in the March quarter. IOC reported an Ebitda of Rs 1,947 crore during the



quarter, significantly outperforming expectations of an Ebitda loss of Rs 14,473 crore. However, operating profit declined sharply from Rs 20,716 crore reported in the previous quarter.

IOC Q1 Result Highlights (Cons, QoQ)
Net Loss at Rs 2,661 crore versus profit of Rs 11,378 crore. Revenue up 26.2% at Rs 2,62,000 crore versus Rs 2,08,000 crore.

Ebitda down 90.6% at Rs 1,947 crore versus Rs 20,716 crore. Margin at 0.7% versus 10%. Ebitda fell 90.6% sequentially, while the Ebitda margin contracted to just

0.7% from 10% in the preceding quarter, reflecting significant pressure on refining and marketing profitability. Despite the steep decline in earnings compared with the previous quarter, the results were considerably better than feared by the market, particularly at the operating level. The company remained Ebitda positive against expectations of a substantial operating loss, while the reported net loss was far lower than consensus estimates.

IOC SHARE PRICE TODAY
The shares of Indian Oil Corp. closed 0.16% higher at Rs 140.17 per share. The shares rose 1.10% in one week and 0.44% in one month. However, year-to-date shares fell 15.61% and they were down 3.87% in one year.

SBI Card, Google Pay Launch Co-Branded Flex Credit Card



New Delhi (TSIT): SBI Card and Google Pay have jointly launched the Google Pay Flex SBI Card, a co-branded credit card designed to simplify everyday digital payments while offering rewards, flexible repayment options and seamless account management. Launched as part of the Flex by Google Pay offering, the new card enables users to earn reward Stars on everyday spending across categories such as groceries, utility bill payments, travel bookings,

shopping and other online and offline purchases. Customers can earn up to 18,000 Stars annually, with instant redemption available at the time of payment. The card offers an integrated digital experience, allowing customers to apply, make payments, track rewards and manage their account directly through the Google Pay app. It also provides the option to convert outstanding bills into easy EMIs for greater financial flexibility.

Available on both RuPay and Visa payment networks, the RuPay variant can be linked to UPI, enabling payments at millions of UPI-enabled merchants across the country. Both variants support tokenisation on Google Pay for secure tap-to-pay transactions. Speaking on the launch, Salila Pande said the partnership combines convenience, security and meaningful rewards to redefine the everyday payment experience. Sharath Bulusu said the new card aims to make digital credit as accessible and convenient as UPI payments. The Google Pay Flex SBI Card comes with a Rs.1,000 welcome benefit, a joining fee of Rs.499 plus applicable taxes, and a renewal fee waiver on annual spends of Rs.1 lakh. Cardholders can also earn up to 8 Stars for every Rs.500 spent upon meeting specified monthly spending milestones.

Maruti Suzuki Q1 Results: Falls 11% As Material Cost Surges; Margins Shrink



ing the period. Operating performance, however, came under pressure. Ebitda declined 14.5% year-on-year to Rs 4,312 crore from Rs 5,043 crore, while the Ebitda margin narrowed sharply to 8.2% from 13.1% a year ago. The decline in profitability was primarily due to a steep increase in input costs. Cost of materials surged 46% year-on-year to Rs 32,000 crore, offsetting the benefits of higher sales and weighing on operating margins. Maruti Suzuki Q1 Result Highlights (Cons, YoY) Net Profit down 10.8% at

Rs 3,352 crore versus Rs 3,758 crore. Revenue up 35.9% at Rs 52,456 crore versus Rs 38,593 crore. Ebitda down 14.5% at Rs 4,312 crore versus Rs 5,043 crore. Margin at 8.2% versus 13.1%. Despite the pressure on earnings, Maruti Suzuki delivered a strong operational performance during the quarter. The company recorded its highest-ever quarterly total sales volume of 682,724 units, up 29.3% year-on-year. Exports increased 28.6%, while

SUV sales rose 44.6%, reflecting sustained demand for the company's utility vehicle portfolio. Net sales grew 36.4% during the quarter, supported by healthy domestic volumes and overseas shipments. Maruti Suzuki also strengthened its leadership position in the domestic passenger vehicle market, with market share improving to 41.2%, a gain of 2.3 percentage points from a year earlier. The company attributed the increase to strong growth in both its small car and SUV segments.

JLR India DELIVERS RECORD Q1 RETAIL SALES PERFORMANCE

Mumbai : Record Q1 retail sales at 1,665 units, up 11% YoY — JLR India's strongest ever first-quarter performance Wholesale momentum also continues: 1,694 units, up 4% YoY Range Rover, Range Rover Sport and Defender accounted for 85% of total India retail sales in Q1, with Defender continuing to be JLR India's highest selling model SV and Bespoke demand accelerates following revised pricing under India-UK FTA JLR India well-positioned for FY27 with a strong product pipeline JLR India delivered its strongest first-quarter retail sales performance on record, with 1,665 units retailed in Q1 FY27, up 11% year-on-year (YoY). Wholesales for the quarter stood at 1,694 units, up 4% YoY. Range Rover, Range Rover Sport and Defender models accounted for over 85% of total retail sales in Q1 FY27, highlighting their strength in the India luxury SUV segment. Defender also remained the company's top selling model, illustrating continued appetite for its 'tough luxury' proposition in

India. During the quarter, JLR India introduced revised pricing for Range Rover SV and Range Rover Sport SV under the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA), with benefits up to ? 75 lakhs depending on the model. The announcement has driven an uptick in client interest, with a notable rise in SV enquiries and growing demand for Bespoke commissions across both models. Mr. Rajan Amba, Managing Director, JLR India, said: "We have started FY27 strongly with our best-ever Q1 retail performance. Demand continues to grow for Range Rover, Range Rover Sport and Defender, and we are seeing interest for SV and Bespoke increase following the India-UK FTA. We welcome the FTA as a key moment for luxury automotive in India. It allows us to bring more of our curated SV products, exclusive Range Rover special editions, and bespoke creations to our consumers, tailored to their aspirations. With a strong product pipeline ahead, we are well-placed to sustain this momentum in FY27."

JLR India offers greater ownership flexibility with assured buyback programme and enhanced financing

MUMBAI, INDIA JULY 2026: JLR India has launched a new assured buyback programme, offering eligible clients a guaranteed future vehicle value of up to 55 per cent of the ex-showroom price. Available on selected Range Rover, Defender and Discovery models, a programme tailored for the India market. Combined with enhanced financing solutions, the initiative provides greater financial flexibility and ownership convenience for clients. By guaranteeing a minimum future value at the start of ownership, the programme helps reduce uncertainty and supports easier vehicle upgrades. The initiative reinforces JLR India's commitment to delivering a modern luxury ownership experience that extends beyond the vehicle itself. JLR India today announces the introduction of its Assured Buyback Programme and enhanced financing solutions designed to make ownership of Range Rover, Defender and Discovery vehicles more accessible.

tion of its Assured Buyback Programme and enhanced financing solutions designed to make ownership of Range Rover, Defender and Discovery vehicles more accessible, predictable and convenient for clients across India. JLR specifically developed the programme for the Indian market to combine a pre-determined future value with attractive financing options, helping clients benefit from greater certainty throughout their ownership. Eligible customers can now avail a minimum assured buyback value of up to 55 per cent of the ex-showroom value, with flexible ownership tenure – within the

agreed mileage cap, subject to model eligibility and pre-agreed retailer-specific terms and conditions. The Assured Buyback Programme addresses one of the most important considerations for luxury vehicle buyers – future value. By establishing a guaranteed minimum vehicle value at the start of ownership, customers benefit from enhanced confidence and greater financial predictability when planning their next vehicle purchase or upgrade. Mr Rajan Amba, Managing Director, JLR India, said: "The Assured

Buyback Programme reinforces confidence in clients guaranteeing them a future value of their vehicle, making luxury ownership more assuring. Additionally, exclusive financing solutions complement the programme, giving clients enhanced financial flexibility and reassurance. At JLR India, we are committed to delivering modern luxury ownership experience that extends well beyond the vehicle itself. Through initiatives like these, we are making the aspiration of owning a JLR vehicle more attainable while offering confidence and long-term value throughout the ownership journey." The programme complements JLR India's broader client-first approach by allowing customers to plan future upgrades with greater certainty while benefiting from flexible monthly payment structures.

Nuvama delivers its highest ever quarterly profit of 306 Cr in Q1 FY27 Client assets crossed 5 lakh crore

Mumbai, July 2026: Nuvama Wealth Management Limited (NSE, BSE: NUVAMA), one of India's leading wealth management companies, announced its financial results for the quarter ending 30th June 2026. Nuvama delivered a strong quarter, driven by a healthy all-round performance across businesses. Wealth Management continues to deliver strong and sustainable growth with profits increasing by 20% YoY. Asset Services maintained strong growth momentum, while Capital Markets demonstrated resilience, supported by a diversified platform and exceptional performance in Fixed Income. Client assets crossed 5 lakh crore, reaching a significant milestone, reflecting deepening client trust and franchise strength.

NUVAMA GROUP'S CONSOLIDATED PERFORMANCE
Commenting on the performance Ashish Kehair, MD & CEO of Nuvama Group said, "We are pleased

to begin FY27 on a strong note, delivering our highest-ever quarterly profit exceeding 300 Cr, revenues crossing 900 Cr, and client assets surpassing 5 trillion. Our performance reflects the strength of Nuvama's diversified platform, disciplined execution, and the deep trust that clients continue to place in us across market cycles. Wealth Management demonstrated sustained growth, supported by client acquisition, healthy net new flows and consistent margins. Across both, Nuvama Wealth and Nuvama Private, we continued to invest in talent, technology and client proposition enhancements. We are also seeing encouraging progress in newer initiatives including offshore wealth and AI-enabled productivity tools. Asset Management advanced on multiple strategic priorities, including the receipt of mutual fund licence and successful close of our commercial real estate fund. Beyond these, our institutional businesses continued to contribute meaningfully to growth. Asset Services

delivered strong revenue growth, driven by deeper engagement with existing clients and the acquisition of new mandates. Capital Markets maintained its performance despite a volatile market environment. Overall, the Nuvama Group delivered a strong performance reinforcing the strength and resilience of our integrated platform model. As the industry evolves, we believe the value of independent, client-first and full-platform wealth management firms will become even more pronounced. Our strategy remains unchanged to invest in organic growth, deepen client relationships, embrace technology and AI, and maintain the highest standards of governance and capital allocation. We remain excited about the long-term opportunity ahead and are committed to building a larger, stronger and more resilient franchise for all our stakeholders."

Key Highlights
Wealth Management Revenues: 447 Cr in Q1,

grew by 19% YoY PBT: 149 Cr in Q1, grew by 20% YoY Client Assets: Stood at 3,63,892 Cr as at end of Q1, grew by 12% YoY Nuvama Wealth: Revenues: 250 Cr in Q1, grew by 13% YoY, led by continued traction in the MPIS solutions. MPIS revenues grew faster at 20% YoY PBT: 90 Cr in Q1, grew by 19% YoY Net flows: Delivered highest ever quarterly MPIS NNM of 3,044 Cr, representing 8% of opening MPIS assets. MPIS Assets stood at 42,795 Cr, grew by 32% YoY Nuvama Private: o Revenues: 198 Cr in Q1, grew by 27% YoY, supported by continued ARR momentum and strong transactional opportunities. ARR revenues grew 14% YoY PBT: 59 Cr in Q1, grew by 22% YoY Net flows: ARR NNM stood at 1,083 Cr; excluding outflow from select low cost mandates, underlying flows remained healthy over ~1,800 Cr

Peru's ex-president has 15-year jail sentence for corruption charges overturned



Peru's constitutional court has overturned a 15-year jail sentence handed to the country's former president after he was found guilty of corruption.

Ollanta Humala, who led the country from 2011 to 2016, was convicted in 2025 of accepting illegal funds from the Venezuelan president and Brazilian construction company Odebrecht to fund his election campaigns in 2006 and 2011. The former president had said he would appeal against the verdict, and now Peru's constitutional court has declared the entire criminal proceedings against him null and void. Humala is expected to be released from Barbadillo Prison in the capital Lima, according to local media. After the ruling, Humala's lawyer Julio Espinoza Goyena wrote on social media that the court had decided the contributions his client received on electoral campaigns "do not constitute money laundering". He said: "The

Criminal Chamber currently handling the case must order the definitive dismissal of the proceedings and the FREEDOM of former President Ollanta Humala". When Humala was convicted, his wife Nadine Heredia was also found guilty of money laundering and sentenced to 15 years in prison. However, she was granted safe passage to Brazil after seeking asylum in the Brazilian embassy. Humala was the first of four Peruvian presidents to be investigated in connection with the Odebrecht scandal. Alejandro Toledo, who governed from 2001 to 2006, was sentenced last year to more than 20 years in prison for taking \$35m (£26m) in bribes from the company. Alan García, president from 1985 to 1990 and 2006 to 2011, killed himself in 2019 as he faced imminent arrest over allegations he was bribed by Odebrecht. He had denied the accusations.



■ About 60,000 migrants arrive in Ceuta in 24 hours, Spanish territory's leader says

Hundreds escape Greek wildfire by sea as blazes continue across Europe

Hundreds of people in central Greece are being evacuated by sea after the coastal town they were in became hemmed in by one of the many wildfires raging across the country. Around 500 people, mostly tourists, were left stranded after the fire broke out near Agios Vasileios in Viotia on Friday morning and rapidly spread on strong winds, local media report. Another fire has broken out further along the coast, while firefighters continue to battle a large wildfire on the Greek island of Crete that ignited earlier this week. Greece is one of several European nations suffering devastating wildfires after a succession of heatwaves created favourable conditions for them. Firefighters in Portugal and Spain are still tackling blazes



spanning thousands of hectares, with a new heatwave this week raising the risk of a massive fire near Madrid reigniting. The area of central Greece where the two fires broke out this morning was considered the most at-risk due to high winds complicating firefighting efforts. More than 200 people have been evacuated and another 100 are due to be taken by boat from Agios

Vasileios, while emergency workers are attempting to safely remove those still in the town, according to Greek news agency Amna, citing fire officials. People there had earlier been told by authorities to move further inland before the fire reached the outskirts of the town. The fire further along the coast burnt through farmland before moving through the rural town of Xironomi.

Firefighters on Crete continue to tackle persistent hotspots in a wildfire that has torched thousands of hectares of land and prompted the temporary evacuation of 8,000 people. Fires have also broken out on the islands of Paros, Andros and Kalymnos. Most wildfires are sparked by humans, whether intentionally or accidentally, but climate change is making the conditions for them more common. Last winter was mild and wet, encouraging vegetation growth, which has then dried out in successive hot spells, generating fuel for wildfires. In Spain, more than 200,000 hectares of land has burnt in 2026 - roughly five times above the average by this point in the year - while the burnt land in Portugal is also higher than usual.

NIGERIA REMOVED FROM SOUTH AFRICAN POP STAR TYLA'S UPCOMING WORLD TOUR



Just days after South African singer Tyla released the dates for her upcoming world tour, Nigeria has been removed from the list of destinations. On Monday, the Grammy winner announced details of her headline tour in the wake of last week's release of her second album A*POP. Her official website initially named 34 cities, including Lagos, Johannesburg and Cape Town, where she would be performing, but by Friday, an updated list was published without the Nigerian city. No reason has been given for the change but there have been growing calls in Nigeria for the 24-year-old to cancel her concert in the country over the recent wave of anti-migrant sentiment in South Africa. Relations between Nigeria and South Africa soured recently over allegations that Nigerians have been the target of xenophobic violence. Nigeria, alongside other African countries, has accused South Africa of not doing enough to deal with attacks on foreign nationals. There have also been a series of protests with people calling for all undocumented migrants to leave South Africa. Tens of thousands of foreigners have left the country, including Nigerians, many of whom boarded specially chartered repatriation flights. While there have been diplomatic efforts to calm

tensions, most recently with a meeting between their foreign affairs officials in Abuja, the issue has spread beyond politics. On Wednesday, an online petition titled "Ban Tyla from entering Nigeria until xenophobic attacks stop in South Africa" was launched in Nigeria and it has already attracted thousands of signatures. On Tyla's social media pages, where the initial tour dates still appear, Nigerians cautioned her against performing in the country as they criticised her for failing to speak out against the protests in South Africa. Tyla has so far not responded to a BBC request for comment. Tyla is not the only South African artist facing a backlash for their seeming silence on the anti-migrant protests. Comedian Trevor Noah also came under fire following an advert he fronted for the Tourism Business Council of South Africa. The promotional clip, shared across the council's various social media accounts, generated many comments criticising the former Daily Show host for promoting South Africa but failing to call out xenophobic attitudes. Users even went as far as to add context under the video saying South Africa was "a xenophobic country [that] doesn't allow visiting migrants". The South African government has pushed back on the growing wave of criticism.

Four climbers killed and six feared missing after avalanche hit Nirmal Purja's team

Four climbers have died and another six are feared missing after an avalanche on Pakistan's Broad Peak, one of the world's highest mountains. Two of the four bodies have been identified, while authorities are in the process of identifying the other two, according to the tourism minister for region of Gilgit Baltistan. Search and rescue operations have been suspended for the day because of weather conditions and are set to resume tomorrow, the Faisal Ehsan Pirzada, home secretary of Gilgit Baltistan, said. An American, a Chinese national, a Pakistani, an Omani and six Nepalis are said to be part of the climbing group, which was led by renowned Nepali-born climber Nirmal Purja, according to the Alpine Club of Pakistan. Searches began for a ten-member international mountaineering team led by Purja after reports an avalanche hit on Thursday on the 8,047-metre (26,400 ft) peak in the Karakoram range. Purja, the expedition leader, is known for climbing all 14 of the world's 8,000-metre plus



mountains in just over six months in 2019. The two confirmed dead have been named by the Alpine Club of Pakistan as Nadhira Ahmed Abdullah Al Harthy from Oman and Pur Bahadur Gurung from Nepal. The identities of the other two bodies that have been recovered have not been released. Earlier on Friday, the Alpine Club said two rescue helicopters had been sent by the Pakistani army, carrying rescue personnel and additional specialised equipment to support the rescue operation. In a separate statement, the Alpine Club said it had been "in constant contact" with the authorities to ensure that "all

available resources are mobilised at the earliest opportunity". "The Club prays for the safety and successful rescue of all the climbers and stands in solidarity with their families and the international mountaineering community during this difficult time," it added. Purja joined the British Army in 2003 and joined the Special Boat Service - the special forces unit of the Royal Navy - in 2009. He went to Everest Base Camp in 2012, and instead of returning to Kathmandu, he submitted the 6,119m Lobuche East mountain in Nepal - his first peak. Climbing alongside Purja

was American Mallory Geis. In mid-June, she had posted on social media that she had new boots ready for what she called "her first big kid climbing expedition in Pakistan". She is tagged in a post from a travel company, Moving Mountains. The post says that Mallory would be with Sohail Saki - a Pakistani national who is also listed among the missing. This would be his last 8,000m peak in Pakistan, and Mallory's first attempt, the social media post added. Besides Purja, Saki and Geis, there are a few other significant names among the missing climbers, including Pur Bahadur Gurung - also known as Yukta - and Kili Pemba Sherpa. Yukta is certified by the International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations (IFMGA), and is very close to completing the 14 peaks challenge, where climbers attempt to summit the world's 14 mountains that rise at least 8,000m above sea level. Kili Pemba has so far summited Everest 15 times. In 2021 he was a member of a historic K2 winter expedition.

UK rapper Yung Filly found not guilty of raping woman after Australian show



UK rapper Yung Filly has been found not guilty of raping a fan after performing at a nightclub in Australia in 2024. On Friday a jury in Western Australia found him not guilty for three counts of sexual penetration without consent. But he was found guilty for two counts of assault occasioning bodily harm. The YouTuber, whose real name is Andres Felipe Valencia Barrientos, had been accused of sexually assaulting the woman, then 20 years old, in his hotel room after he performed in Hillarys, a coastal suburb of Perth. The jury could not

come to a decision on three other counts of rape. Barrientos was also found not guilty for one count of assault occasioning bodily harm and also for strangulation. The 30-year-old social media star, who pleaded not guilty to all charges, cried when the verdict was read out, local media reported. He will remain on bail until 21 August, when the court will decide his sentencing date. Prosecutors will also decide on the next steps for the three hung jury verdicts - whether to press ahead or not on those rape charges. Barrientos has been on bail since being charged and was allowed to fly home to the UK in September for four months, before returning to Western Australia ahead of his trial. During the trial, Barrientos had told the court that he had "fancied" the woman when they met at the concert venue. Barrientos, who was born in Colombia and brought up in the UK.



Hamas agrees to Trump's plan to disarm in Gaza

Massive Attack investigated after reports of pro-Palestinian display in Singapore show

Singapore authorities are investigating Massive Attack after the British band reportedly expressed pro-Palestinian sentiments during a performance in the city-state. According to local media reports and eyewitness accounts on social media, two members of Massive Attack held up a Palestinian flag at the show on Wednesday, and reportedly shouted "Free Palestine", with some in the audience joining them. The BBC has contacted the organisers of the Singapore show and Massive Attack's management company for comment. Neither have responded yet. Singapore has strict rules on public speech and what it deems as demonstrations, arguing that it is necessary to regulate them to protect social harmony. Authorities



have previously investigated public events related to the Israel-Gaza war. Earlier this year they fined several people for organising an unauthorised walk in support of the Palestinian cause. In response to BBC queries on Friday, a spokesperson for the police and the media authority said that "reports were lodged and investiga-

tions are ongoing". The spokesperson also said that the media authority is investigating a possible breach of licence conditions. Performances in Singapore, including concerts, usually require a permit. The BBC has asked Singapore authorities whether the band members or anyone involved in the production of the show

have been detained or barred from leaving Singapore pending investigations. Authorities have yet to respond. Massive Attack is currently on a world tour, with Wednesday's performance their only date in Singapore. Their next show is due to be held in Seoul on Saturday. The band, which pioneered the trip-hop genre, has long been known for its openly political stance on a number of issues, including the war in Gaza. Massive Attack's frontman Robert Del Naja was arrested earlier this year when he took part in a demonstration in London. He was accused of showing support for Palestine Action, which is a proscribed organisation in the UK. Strict rules in Singapore It is not yet clear what charges the band could face.

President Droupadi Murmu Congratulates CWG 2026 Medal Winners Lovepreet Singh, Seema Kaliramna

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday congratulated Lovepreet Singh and Seema Kaliramna on winning medals in men's weightlifting and women's discus throw events respectively at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games. "Warm congratulations to Lovepreet Singh on clinching Silver Medal in the Men's 110 kg weightlifting event at Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026. Your remarkable performance reflects your unwavering determination, remarkable strength and relentless pursuit of excellence. Your achievement has brought immense pride and joy to every Indian. I wish you many more laurels in the years to come," she said in a post on X. Hailing from Bal Sikander village in Punjab's border district of Amritsar, Lovepreet comes from a humble family. His father is a tailor, while his grandfa-



ther earned a living selling vegetables. He shattered the Commonwealth Games snatch record and came agonisingly close to gold before finishing just a kilogram behind New Zealand's David Andrew Liti to claim silver in the men's 110kg weightlifting competition in the CWG. "Heartiest congratulations to Seema Kaliramna on winning Bronze Medal in the Women's Discus Throw event at Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026. Your achievement is a

testament to your perseverance, dedication and hard work. "Your success will inspire young women to strive for excellence in sports. May you continue to bring glory to the nation," the president said in another post. Kaliramna, who overcame post-pregnancy arthritis to resume her sporting career just last year, clinched a bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow despite marginally falling short of her personal best in the event.

UNNATI HOODA, TANVI SHARMA ENTER SEMIFINALS OF TAIPEI OPEN



India's Unnati Hooda and Tanvi Sharma won their respective women's singles matches to enter the semifinals of the Taipei Open badminton tournament on Friday. Kiran George, however, lost his men's singles quarterfinal match against Japan's fourth seeded Yudai Okimoto 21-12 21-10 in 33 minutes. Hooda clinched a straight-game 23-21 21-16 victory over compatriot Devika Sihag to reach the last four stage, while Tanvi got the better of Thailand's Supanida Katethong 21-15 18-21 21-14 in a gruelling 54-minute quarterfinal clash. Earlier in the day, the all-

Indian quarterfinal contest between Hooda and Sihag started with a fiercely contested first game, where the former held her nerve to win it 23-21. Hooda was off to a great start, racing to an 11-3 lead before Sihag staged a spirited comeback to level the scores at 21-21. However, Hooda held her composure in the closing stages, winning the next two points to clinch the opening game. In the second game, the third seeded Hooda maintained her momentum and capitalised on her leads to wrap up the match 21-16 against eighth seed Sihag in 42 minutes.

SAFFRON JERSEY ROW: HOCKEY INDIA CHIEF DEMANDS EXPLANATION FROM BOARD OFFICIALS

The jersey colour change controversy has taken a sharp new turn, with Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey writing to Executive Board members to demand clarity on the behind-the-scenes discussions that led to the Indian men's and women's teams switching from blue to saffron. While Tirkey had previously urged that the issue not be politicised, internal communications accessed by NDTV reveal he was kept entirely in the dark about the move. This prompted him to issue a stern directive to federation officials, demanding an immediate explanation for bypassing the Executive Board and noting that the Government of Odisha has also sought clarification from him. The development comes amid growing criticism of Hockey India's decision to replace the traditional blue colour with saffron. While the federation initially framed the shift as a technical adjustment to enhance player visibility on blue turfs, Tirkey's communications reveal deep internal



friction and procedural lapses at the highest level of Indian hockey administration. By calling out the lack of consultation with elected leadership, the former India captain has effectively turned the spotlight back onto Hockey India's governance and decision-making system. In his initial email to board members, Tirkey wrote: "I wish to bring to your attention the recent change in the colour of the Indian national

team's jersey. This decision appears to have been taken and implemented without being placed before the Executive Board for discussion and without my prior knowledge. "My concern is not with the choice of saffron itself. However, a decision of this significance, involving the identity and representation of our national team, should ideally have been discussed with the elected leadership and the Executive Board before

implementation. "The matter has since attracted considerable media attention and, unfortunately, political interpretation in certain quarters. With the World Cup approaching, I have publicly clarified that the change was purely a sporting decision so that the focus remains on the team and its preparations. "I have also been asked by the Government of Odisha to provide clarification regarding this matter. I therefore request the concerned Hockey India officials to provide me with a written clarification at the earliest, outlining the basis for the decision, the process followed, and the circumstances under which the change was approved and implemented. This will enable me to respond appropriately and accurately." In a follow-up email, Tirkey posed five specific questions to officials, demanding details on the authority under which the decision was taken and the reasons why top board members were not informed before the public announcement.

JUDOKAS HARSH SINGH, ASMITA DEY, YAMINI MOURYA ENTER CWG FINALS, ENSURE 3 MORE MEDALS FOR INDIA

India's judokas guaranteed the country at least three silver medals at the Commonwealth Games as Harsh Singh, Asmita Dey and Yamini Mourya progressed to the finals of their respective weight categories on Friday. Young Asmita fought valiantly to snatch the win from the jaws of defeat, beating Scotland's Summer Shaw by yuko to progress to the women's 48kg final where she will meet Canada's Heidi Quach later in the day. She had earlier sailed into the semifinals with an easy win over Scotland's Eva Ewing, defeating her via ippon. An ippon is the highest possible score in judo. It means a full point, and ends the match right away, while yuko is a lower-level scoring value in judo



that was reinstated by the International Judo Federation (IJF) for the La 2028 Olympic cycle. Harsh then edged past Australia's Pedro Carlos Antun Neto via waza-ari to progress to the final. He had earlier defeated Chikondi Kathewera of Malawi via ippon to sail into the men's 60kg quarterfinals, where he beat Vanuatu's Alan Montheouel to make it to the

last four-round. Harsh will take on another Australian in Joshua Katz in the final later tonight. A waza-ari in judo is the second-highest score a fighter can achieve, worth a major advantage. It is awarded for a throw that lacks one element of an ippon or a ground hold lasting 10 to 19 seconds. Two waza-aris is equal to an ippon, which immediately results into a win.

"We Are Not Able To Eat Food Properly," Boxer Preeti Pawar On Cutting Weight



Indian boxer Preeti Pawar opened up about the gruelling process of weight cutting before a crucial bout after securing her spot in the women's 54kg final of the Commonwealth Games, describing the process as tough as players don't get to eat properly, but stating that it motivates her to progress further and win the medal. Preeti Pawar became the first Indian boxer to book a place in the final on Friday, defeating Zambia's Catherine Mwape 5-0

in the women's semifinal. She will face Canada's Scarlett Delgado in the final. Reflecting on the tough preparation required ahead of crucial bouts, Preeti shared, "It is a part of our training. It motivates us. It is a little tough because we are not able to eat food properly. But it motivates us that we are one step away from the final." The semifinal victory followed another impressive performance in the Round of 16, where Preeti advanced after the referee

stopped the contest in the second round against Malawi's Mtenje, and a dominant unanimous decision victory over Nicole Clyde of Northern Ireland in the quarterfinal. In the semifinal, both Preeti and Catherine started evenly, but the Indian quickly took control using her sharp jabs and strong lefts. Mwape was forced to take her first standing eight-count. Mwape kept pushing forward, but Preeti stayed calm and outmanoeuvred her.

BOULTER TO LEAD GB AT BILLIE JEAN KING CUP FINALS



Katie Boulter will lead the British team at the Billie Jean Cup Finals in Shenzhen, China. Emma Raducanu, who has struggled with injury and illness throughout the year, has not been named in the squad. British number two Boulter replaces Katie Swan in a

qualifying win against Australia, in Harriet Dart, Mika Stojsavljevic and Jodie Burrage. Britain begin their campaign against the Czech Republic on Tuesday, 22 September. In April, 17-year-old Stojsavljevic starred with a singles win over world number 56 Talia Gibson as Britain upset the home side in Melbourne to qualify for their fourth finals in five years. "I'm pleased to select Katie Boulter, who knows what it's like to step up on occasions like this, and the three women who played with so much heart and courage to upset Australia earlier this year," said Great Britain captain Anne Keothavong. "Czechia will be a very challenging first match for us but the players and I believe in our chances, since we have a very strong record in recent finals." Wimbledon champion Linda Noskova and runner-up Karolina Muchova are in the team for 11-time winners Czechia, who Britain face in the quarter-finals.

Rohit "Looking 10 Years Younger": Fans React As India Star's New Look Goes Viral

India's veteran batter Rohit Sharma is enjoying his time away from cricket in London. He signed off the three-match ODI series against England with a superb 138 off 110 balls, albeit in a losing cause. It was a vintage knock from Rohit, who has already made his intentions clear about playing in next year's ODI World Cup, set to be held in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia in October-November. Rohit has already turned 39 and will be a year older by the time the marquee event begins. The player, who has retired from Tests and T20Is, has been working hard on his fit-

ness, and the results are there for all to see. On Friday, a picture of Rohit posing with Ravi Shastri went viral on social media. The India captain was sporting a new look, and fans felt he looked nearly 10 years younger. Former Pakistan captain and batting great Zaheer Abbas believes Indian stalwarts Virat Kohli and Rohit still have plenty to offer and is convinced the duo will feature in next year's ODI World Cup. Speaking on a Pakistani television channel, Zaheer, popularly known as the 'Asian Bradman' for his prolific run-scoring feats, said both Indian batting maestros remain

among the best in the game and that age should not stand in the way of their World Cup ambitions. "Both are very, very good in terms of skill and, given their experience, I don't see any reason why they should not play the World Cup. Age should not be a factor as long as they are fit and continue scoring runs," he said. The former Pakistan batter, who scored more than 100 first-class centuries during an illustrious career, said India would benefit immensely from the duo's experience at the 2027 ODI World Cup, which will be jointly hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. "I watched Rohit score

a hundred against England, and it is still a pleasure to watch him bat. He plays so effortlessly and with such sweet timing," Zaheer said. Rohit will next be seen in action in September when India host the West Indies for a three-match ODI series, starting on September 27. His transformation is WOW. He is definitely aiming. The unfinished man is more dangerous than a new potential man.



SPIDER-MAN BRAND NEW DAY SHATTERS RECORDS AT THE INDIAN BOX OFFICE

Spider-Man: Brand New Day has taken the Indian box office by storm, registering a phenomenal 780 crore gross on its opening day. With this achievement, the film has become the biggest Hollywood opener ever in India. The opening has surprised trade analysts as the film witnessed outstanding collections across major markets, proving once again that Spider-Man remains one of the most loved superheroes among Indian audiences. The Telugu states played a

key role as the film recorded an impressive 79 crore gross on day one, highlighting the massive fan following enjoyed by the franchise all over. Spider-Man is creating similar waves internationally as reports suggest that the film is heading towards a record-breaking collection of \$70-75 million in North America with just previews. The opening weekend is currently projected to cross a staggering \$325 million globally. With such an extraordinary start, trade predicts that the film will continue its

dream run in the coming days. It is also likely to affect the theatrical run of Telugu releases Chennai Love Story, Srinivasa Mangapuram, and Newton's 3rd Law in the days to come. Internationally, the blockbuster has clocked a staggering 71,000 crore gross worldwide, underscoring the character's massive global pull. In India, Spider-Man: Brand New Day will enjoy a clear run, with n o

major films scheduled to challenge its dominance. Its only notable holdover competition comes from Christopher Nolan's The Odyssey, which currently reigns as the year's highest-grossing Hollywood release in the country. In terms of other records, the film is also set to deliver the highest opening weekend for any Hollywood release in Indian history.



Rashmika Mandanna has reportedly sustained a serious injury while filming a dance sequence



The actress is currently working on the films Ranabaali and Mysaa. According to reports, the continuous action sequences and dance performances for these projects resulted in a complete tendon detachment in her hip area. Doctors are said to have been surprised by the severity of the injury, noting that such tendon damage is usually seen only in athletes who undergo intense physical training. Medical experts have advised Rashmika to take complete rest for six

weeks. They have also recommended a rehabilitation program to help the tendon heal and regain strength. Rashmika is currently one of the busiest pan-India actresses, juggling the shoots of four major films. In addition, she serves as the brand ambassador for around 30 products. Due to her injury, the shooting schedules for her films as well as several advertising campaigns are expected to be affected. Fans and well-wishers are hoping for her speedy recovery.



Spider-Man and Allu Arjun Crossover Breaks the Internet! Pushpa Actor Attends Grand Premiere of Brand New Day in Hyderabad With Kids

The much-awaited Spider-Man: Brand New Day blockbuster kicked off with a grand premiere

in Hyderabad, where Allu Arjun attended with his family. The latest outing of everyone's favourite neighbourhood superhero, Spider-Man: Brand New Day is witnessing phenomenal demand across the Telugu states. Audiences are turning out in large numbers for the latest chapter in the Spider-Man saga. The film's celebrations kicked off with a grand premiere at Allu Cinemas - India's largest and most advanced Dolby Cinema

screen in Hyderabad. The evening saw Allu Arjun attend with his wife Sneha Reddy and their children, making it a memorable family movie night. Also present were Allu Aravind, Allu Sirish, Bunny Vas, directors Chandoo Mondeti, Sai Rajesh, Harish Shankar and Boyapati Sreenu, actress Rashya Gorak, Mythri Movie Makers producer Ravi, a producer from Haarika & Haasine Creations, Chinna Babu and producer Guneet Monga. The star-studded turnout at the Hyderabad premiere underscores the immense anticipation surrounding Spider-Man: Brand New Day, as the film continues to generate exceptional buzz and strong audience demand across the Telugu market.

M.S. Raju's Mystic Divine Thriller 'Agadha' Trailer to Release on August 3rd



Public interest is growing day by day in 'Agadha', a mystic divine thriller directed by the renowned M.S. Raju. Following the tremendous response to the previously released teaser and posters, expectations for the film have soared. Heightening this anticipation, the film unit has announced that the 'Agadha' trailer will be released on August 3rd at 12:00 PM. A poster released for the occasion—featuring a female ascetic standing amidst a mysterious forest atmosphere—further piques curiosity about the secrets hidden within the story. The poster clearly suggests

that 'Agadha' will transport the audience into a unique world of spiritual mystery. Produced by Kasi Visalakshi Balusu under the Sri Adi Varaha Productions LLP banner, the film is presented by Ajay K.R. M.S. Raju himself has handled the story, screenplay, and direction. Made in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, and Hindi, 'Agadha' is set for a grand worldwide release on August 14. Having already created a sensation with its teaser, the film unit is confident that the trailer will elevate expectations to even greater heights.

Actor Sudigali Sudheer's upcoming film Sudheer's Joker has announced acclaimed actress Abhirami as part of its ensemble cast

Sudheer's Joker stars Sudigali Sudheer in the lead, while Bigg Boss fame Ayesha is making her debut as the female lead. The film also features Abhirami, Murali Sharma, Ajay Ghosh, Ramesh Indira, Vishnu Oi, and Muralidhar Goud in key roles. Following the critically acclaimed and unique film Parada, producers P.V. Srinivasulu, Vijay Donkada, and Sridhar Makkava are bankrolling this project under the Ananda Media banner. The film is written and directed by P.S. Sunil Puppala. The makers today unveiled an exciting update by introducing Abhirami's character. She will portray Gayathri Devi, a significant role that promises to leave a lasting impact on the audience.



Along with the announcement, the team released their first-look poster featuring the caption, "A promise

made to a mother lives forever," which has struck an emotional chord with viewers.

Grand Launch of the Trailer and Audio of the Distinctive Investigative Crime Thriller "Niram"



Movie Set for a Grand Theatrical Release Soon Starring Mugen Rao, Preethi Asrani, and Tanya Hope in the lead roles, "Niram" is presented by K Square Cinemas and produced by K. Bindumadhavi under the Unit of K Square Ventures banner. P. Rajesh serves as the co-producer, while

Balaram Krishna has directed this unique investigative crime thriller. The film is gearing up for a grand theatrical release soon. The Telugu trailer and audio launch event of "Niram" was held in Hyderabad in a grand manner. Speaking at the event were Lyricist Bharathi Babu said, "I

have written two songs for this film, while Vanamali garu has penned the other two. Director Balaram Krishna has a strong command of Telugu and worked closely with us to bring out meaningful songs. The film explores the intriguing theme of how people change their true colors.

Kiara Advani's Alluring & Enigmatic Birthday Special Poster From Yash's Toxic

ocking Star Yash's Toxic has added a special touch to Kiara Advani's birthday celebrations by unveiling a stunning new poster introducing her character, Nadia. Directed by Geetu Mohandas, and produced by KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations, Toxic is set for release on August 26. The team opted for aggressive promotional campaign, and the birthday poster immediately catches attention.



Sobhita Dhulipala Gets Draped Into Goddess Mode

Sobhita Dhulipala has been steadily establishing herself as one of the most sought-after faces for brand endorsements and promotions lately, and her latest appearance takes that game to a whole new level. She recently closed designer Rahul Mishra's grand finale showcase at India Couture Week 2026, presenting his celebrated "Devi" collection. Sobhita stunned in an ivory and champagne-toned couture ensemble with intricate crystal beadwork, and the show turned theatrical when a richly embellished lehenga was ceremonially draped over her live on the

ramp, evoking the imagery of a goddess being adorned. On the work front, Sobhita was last seen in the Amazon crime thriller film directed by Sharan Koppisetty and written by Chandra Pemmaraju Cheekatilo. Sobhita Dhulipala brought the curtains down on Rahul Mishra's much-awaited grand finale at India Couture Week 2026, commanding the runway as the showstopper for the designer's acclaimed 'Devi: The Eternal Muse' collection. Dressed in a breathtaking couture creation that celebrated Indian craftsmanship and feminine divinity, Sobhita's ethereal presence

transformed the runway into a tribute to mythology, art and haute couture. The actress walked down the runway wearing a beautifully crafted temple-art-inspired ensemble. Her look featured a divine, sculptural mesh corset-style jumpsuit with intricate layered-necklace embroidery that mimicked the heritage architecture of the Ajanta Caves. Her waist was cinched with an ornate crystal-encrusted belt featuring beadwork and dangling embellishments. The bottom of the jumpsuit featured a fitted silhouette in a nude shade with asymmetric ivory satin drapes outlined in crystal piping.

