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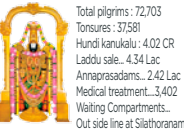
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VENKATESAYA

18-06-2026



Total pilgrims: 72,703
Koranes: 3,758
Hundi Koranes: 4,02 CR
Laddu sale: 4.34 Lac
Annaprasadam: 2,42 Lac
Medical treatment: 3,402
Waiting Pilgrims: 1,402
Our side line at Stationnam

Approx. Darshan Time for Sarvadarshanam
(without SSD Tokens): 24 H

SF recover arms, dismantle bunkers in multi-district operations in Manipur

IMPHAL (TSIT): Security forces conducted intensive search operations across multiple districts of Manipur on Wednesday recovering arms and ammunition, dismantling bunkers, and destroying unauthorised check posts, police said on Thursday. In the most significant operation of the day, forces searched four villages — Leilon Vaiphei, Leilon Khunou, L. Munkui, and Konsakhul — under the jurisdiction of Leimakhong Police Station in Kangpokpi district. The searches yielded 11 single-barrel breech-loading (SBL) guns, 294 live rounds of 12-bore ammunition, two packages of gunpowder, 34 empty cartridge cases, and six bullet-proof vests. Thirty bunkers, outposts, and strategic camp sites found in the vicinity of these villages were subsequently dismantled. Four individuals were detained for further verification. In a separate operation in the Churachandpur district, forces destroyed an unauthorised check post and a bunker at S. Nabil village and Loilamkoi village, both under Churachandpur Police Station. In the Kangpokpi district's Saikul Police Station area, four morcha/bunkers were demolished — two each at Thingphai Village and C. Kholen Village.

Italy's Meloni says Trump 'completely made up' story that she 'begged' him for photo at G7

New Delhi (TSIT) A diplomatic spat between Washington and Rome escalated on Friday after Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani cancelled a planned visit to the United States in protest against remarks by US President Donald Trump that appeared to mock Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. Tajani, who was scheduled to travel to Miami on June 21 and 22 to meet with senior American officials, announced that he was scrapping the visit, describing Trump's comments as "serious and offensive" and saying they had insulted not just Meloni but the whole of Italy. "The serious and offensive words of President Trump towards Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni offend all of Italy. For this reason, I have decided to cancel my visit to the United States scheduled for the next 21 and 22 June," Tajani wrote on X.

Telangana to Emerge as Education and Sports Hub CM Revanth

HYDERABAD TSIT BUREAU:

Chief Minister A.Revanth Reddy reaffirmed the Telangana Government's commitment to transforming the state into a premier Education and Sports Hub by introducing far-reaching reforms in education, skill development and sports infrastructure.

Speaking at the launch of the Young India Student Kits distribution programme for 27.5 lakh students and the foundation stone-laying ceremony for sports complexes across various districts at LB Stadium on Friday, the Chief Minister said the establishment of Young India Integrated Residential Schools and the Young India Sports University reflects the government's vision of producing future Olympic medalists while ensuring quality education for every child.

Highlighting the challenges posed by rapid technological changes, Revanth Reddy warned that the growing impact of Artificial



Intelligence (AI) could reduce employment opportunities in several sectors. To address this challenge, the government is focusing on skill development initiatives aimed at creating a large pool of skilled blue-collar workers. He said Telangana has introduced German and Japanese language training programmes alongside English education and upgraded ITIs into Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs), besides establishing a Skill University to prepare youth for global employment opportunities.

Chief Minister urged students, particularly those

studying in social welfare institutions, to aspire to become doctors, IAS and IPS officers, and political leaders. Calling them active partners in the reconstruction of Telangana, he said the future of the state lies in its classrooms and that education alone has the power to transform lives and society.

Criticising the previous BRS government, Revanth Reddy alleged that it had weakened the education system over the past decade by neglecting schools and failing to enhance diet and cosmetic charges for students. He said the present government increased these alloca-

tions immediately after assuming office and reopened several schools that had been shut down earlier. Responding to criticism regarding the absence of a dedicated Education Minister, Chief Minister said he deliberately retained the Education portfolio to personally oversee reforms and ensure quality education for students from economically weaker sections.

He noted that the government has revived public education by introducing pre-primary classes in government schools and improving facilities, resulting in increased admissions. Many government schools are now displaying "No Admission" boards due to growing demand, he said.

Revanth Reddy further highlighted that the government has allocated 8.5 per cent of the total state budget to education, amounting to 26,600 crore in the 2026-27 financial year, reflecting its commitment to investing in future generations.

Disagreement among rebel MPs for ministerial berth, those left out will get Rs 25 crore more: Raut

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Friday claimed that there was disagreement among the party's dissident MPs over who would become a Union minister, and that a settlement has been reached to provide additional Rs 25 crore to those who do not get the opportunity.

Sena (UBT) MPs Sanjay Dina Patil, Sanjay Deshmukh, Sanjay Jadhav, Bhausaheb Wakchaure, Nagesh Patil-Ashtikar and Omprakash Raje Nimbalkar are likely to join the ruling Shiv Sena led by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. These lawmakers did not attend the Sena (UBT) parliamentary party meeting convened on Thursday, confirming their breach with Uddhav Thackeray's leadership.

Talking to reporters, Raut said, "There are clashes in the rebel group over who will become minister at the Centre."

"Only one among the six can become minister, so a settlement has been made that the rest will be given an additional



Rs 25 crore (for the switch-over)," he alleged.

Slamming Mumbai Northeast MP Sanjay Dina Patil for rebelling, Thackeray said there was no reason for him to abandon the party. Even his daughter, Rajool Patil, was given a ticket for the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) ignoring a "loyalist". Rajool won the civic polls earlier this year.

"We were very confident that Sanjay Dina Patil will

attend the meeting called by the party in New Delhi on Thursday," Raut said. He also attacked the Maharashtra government for granting 'Y-plus' security to rebel MPs, and dared them to roam without any protection. "The police department is only for the protection of traitors. This is a waste of public money," Raut said, adding that the dissident MPs should first resign and seek fresh mandate from the people.

CM Naidu urges bankers to facilitate economic activity across Andhra Pradesh

AMARAVATI (TSIT):

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday urged bankers to extend their cooperation to facilitate economic activities across the state. The Chief Minister chaired the 235th State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) meeting held at the Secretariat. The meeting discussed the Annual Credit Plan for 2026-27 and reviewed the credit extended to the agriculture sector, MSMEs, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and tenant farmers.

Banks reported extending loans worth Rs 3,86,249 crore to the agriculture sector in 2025-26. They informed the Chief Minister that loans worth Rs 1,17,357 crore were given to the MSME sector and Rs 5,19,693 crore to the priority sector. Bankers noted that credit disbursement in Andhra Pradesh



stands at 137 per cent higher compared to other South Indian states. Chief Secretary Sai Prasad, Union Bank of India MD & CEO Ashish Pande, Union Finance Ministry Director Neelam Agarwal, RBI Regional Director AO Basher, NABARD GM KVS Prasad, and others attended the meeting. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu will release Rs 3,125.47 crore under Annadata Sukhibhava-PM Kisan scheme from Linganguntla village in Chilakaluripet Mandal of Palnadu district on Saturday.

Akhilesh Yadav targets UP Minister over alleged ticket, transfer and contract deals

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday launched a sharp attack on a minister in the Uttar Pradesh government, citing a news report that alleged widespread corruption linked to promises of election tickets, transfers, postings and government contracts, and claiming that those who allegedly paid money in advance are now searching for the minister after realizing they had been misled. In a post on his WhatsApp channel, Yadav used satire and political innuendo to target the unnamed minister, referring to reports that disgruntled aspirants, officials and contractors were now holding meetings to locate him and seek accountability for alleged



financial dealings.

"Until yesterday, only those aspiring candidates who had paid advances in the hope of getting election tickets were searching for the rumour-driven minister. But now people have realised that the claim of getting '30 seats' was merely a rumour. Not only is he unlikely to get even a single seat, but even if he somehow gets one, he is not expected to win,"

Yadav wrote.

The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister further alleged that the circle of dissatisfied people had widened beyond political aspirants. According to Yadav, Assistant Engineers (AEs), Junior Engineers (JEs), AMA officials and departmental contractors who had allegedly paid money in exchange for transfers, postings and contracts were now also looking for the minister.

"Now that the truth is coming out, it is being heard that AEs, JEs, AMA officials and departmental contractors are sitting together in 'panchayats' to search for him, after paying advances for transfers, postings and contracts," the Samajwadi Party chief said.

Right to walk on demarcated footpath is fundamental right: SC

THE DECLARATION BY THE TOP COURT CAME IN AN UNFORTUNATE MOTOR ACCIDENT COMPENSATION CASE WHERE A FATHER LOST HIS FIVE-YEAR-OLD SON WHILE TAKING HIM TO SCHOOL.

NEW DELHI (TSIT):

The right to walk on a demarcated footpath is a fundamental right, the Supreme Court on Thursday ruled. In a significant verdict, the top court held that this right shall have priority over motorised vehicles on demarcated paths and it forms part of the right to movement guaranteed under Article 19(1)(d) and other fundamental rights including Article 21 (right to life and liberty).

A bench of justices PS Narasimha and AS Chandurkar held that a citizen's fundamental right to walk on a demarcated footpath is primary and shall have priority over movement by motorised vehicles. The



declaration by the top court came in an unfortunate motor accident compensation case where a father lost his five-year-old son while taking him to school.

"The right to walk is a fundamental right under Part III of the Constitution. It is integral to the right to movement guaranteed under Article 19(1)(d), read with Article 19(1)(a), Article 19(1)(b), Article 19(1)(c) and Article 21 of the Constitution of India. The fundamental right to walk will take within its

sweep the right to demarcated footpaths. These rights are primary and shall have priority over movement by motorised vehicles," the bench ruled.

It held that the fundamental right to walk on demarcated footpaths has a correlative duty and "If the road exists, there is a duty to ensure that there are demarcated and well-maintained footpaths for walkers".

The bench said the duty bearers are the urban development authorities, municipal corporations, municipalities and even panchayats, who must endeavour to demarcate, construct, maintain, and safeguard footpaths and other necessary pedestrian infrastructure, as walking is integral to life.

Trump says PM Modi among world's 'toughest leaders'

WASHINGTON (TSIT)

US President Donald Trump has singled out Prime Minister Narendra Modi as one of the world's toughest leaders, a view he expressed both in a newly published Axios interview and during his recent bilateral meeting with the Indian leader in France.

In an interview with Axios, excerpts of which were published on Thursday, Trump named Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Modi as the world leaders he most admires.

According to Axios, Trump praised Xi as "all business" and PM Modi as "a very tough cookie".

This closely mirrored Trump's remarks during his meeting with PM Modi in Evian, France, where the two leaders met on the



sidelines of the G7 outreach summit amid ongoing negotiations over a bilateral trade agreement and discussions on regional security.

Asked how close Washington and New Delhi were to finalising a trade deal, Trump responded with a lengthy tribute to PM Modi's negotiating skills. "Very close. We've been there for a little while. He's a very tough negotiator, one of the toughest,

actually," the US President said. Trump then described PM Modi as a leader whose mild public demeanor concealed formidable political instincts.

"So, you look at this man - I'll give you a lesson - he's the most beautiful looking man, he looks so nice, he's like an angel. But actually, he's as tough as - he's a killer." "He's as tough as they come, but he looks so good. So, he gets you by surprise," the US President

said. Trump's comments offered a rare glimpse into how he views one of Washington's most important international partners. Throughout the meeting, he repeatedly linked India's growing global influence to PM Modi's leadership.

When asked whether India could play a role in efforts to stabilise West Asia following the recent US-Iran understanding, Trump replied: "Yeah, I do. I think India plays a big role in everything." "As long as he's the leader, India is going to play a big role." Trump also highlighted the personal rapport he has developed with PM Modi over the years. "He's been my friend for a long time now and we've always had a great relationship," he said at the start of their meeting.

FOR ADVERTISEMENT PLEASE CONTACT: 9948480279, 7330778889

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II Triveni complex at Hyderabad O.A.No.252 OF 2026

Between: IDBI Bank Ltd LB Nagar Branch Hyderabad Rep by its Branch Maanager ...Applicant

And
Mr.Rohith Madhu Proprietor of M/s.Rehoboth Enterprises ...Defendants

SUMMONS BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

Mr.Rohith Madhu Proprietor of M/s. Rehoboth Enterprises s/o. Sri.Ravikumar Madhu, age 33 yrs, Male, Occ:Business, R/o.Flat No.101, 11-4-641/A, Anushka Manzil, Opp: PTI Building, AC Guards, Lakdikapool, Hyderabad, T.G. - 500 004

Also at: Mr.Rohith Madhu Proprietor of M/s.Rehoboth Enterprises s/o.Sri.Ravikumar Madhu, age 33 yrs, Male, Occ:Business, Plot No.1/6 part, Road No.15, IDA Nacharam, Hyderabad — 500 076 ...Defendants

Please take the summons in the above O.A. No.252/2026 filed by the applicant for recovery of money of Rs.88,41,705.24/- against you. The Honble Tribunal ordered summons to you by way of paper publication in English and Telugu daily newspapers and posted the matter to 29/07/2026 In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under;

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under;

(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;

(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;

(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;

(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest in created and l or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;

(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are directed to appear before Debts Recovery Tribunal - II, 1st Floor, Triveni Complex, Abids, Hyderabad - 500001 in person or through an Advocate and file written statement on 29/07/2026 at 10.30 am. and show cause as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take Notice that in case of default the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this day 17th June 2026.

(By order of the DRT II, Hyderabad)

Signature of the Officer to issue Summons

Form No.3 (See Regulation 15(1)(a)) DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD (ORT II) 1st FLOOR, Triveni Complex, Hyderabad 500001

Case No: O.A No. 172 OF 2026
Summons under sub-section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule 2(A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993

Union Bank of India, Kohapet
(Micro Finance) Branch

Vs.
M/s. Sri Paadha Dairy Products & Ors

1. M/s. Sri Paadha Dairy Products, Rep. by it Partners, D.No 8-62/H/6 & 7, in RS No. 202, 203 & 204, Ward No.8, Block No.2, Karmanghat Village, Sarconagar Revenue Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana - 500079.

goldlifeplus@gmail.com ...DEFENDANT No.1

SUMMONS

Whereas, OA No. 172 of 2026 Now as listed before Honble Registrar on 10-06-2026

Whereas, this Honble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/notice on the said Application under Section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs.3,59,98,864.91 Ps (Rupees Three Crore Fifty Nine Lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty Four Rupees And Ninety One Paise Only). In accordance with sub-section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-

(i) To show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;

(ii) To disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;

(iii) You are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;

(iv) You shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;

(v) You shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 23-07-2026 at 10.30AM failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this the 10th day of June, 2026

Registrar DRT-II,
Hyderabad

Hyderabad Emerging as India's Innovation Capital Minister Sridhar Babu

Hyderabad, TSIT: Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu said Hyderabad is rapidly emerging as India's Innovation Capital and invited entrepreneurs and innovators to bring their ideas to Telangana, assuring government support for growth and success. Speaking at the inaugural Hyderabad Economic Forum (HEF) 2026 at SAS iTower, Sridhar Babu highlighted Telangana's innovation-driven initiatives, including AIKAM, TGDeX, a Rs.1,000-crore Fund of Funds for Startups, the proposed AI University, Skill University and 100 Advanced ITIs. He said the state is building a strong ecosys-



tem for startups, innovation and future-ready skills, while equipping nearly 20 lakh government school students through AI-enabled classrooms and AI literacy programs. Over 500 business leaders, investors, policymakers and entrepreneurs participated in the forum, which focused on Hyderabad's future as a global hub for innovation, investment and economic growth.

Traffic Rules Essential for Safe Travel: DCP Shivam Upadhyay



RANGAREDDY : Future City Commissionerate Traffic DCP Shivam Upadhyay said adherence to traffic rules is essential for safe travel and accident prevention during a traffic awareness programme held at Kothur Y-Junction on Friday. He urged motorists to wear helmets and seat belts and warned against drunken driving. Police personnel educated commuters on road safety norms and counselled two-wheeler riders travelling without helmets.

Telangana Launches School Education Services on WhatsApp

Hyderabad, TSIT: Telangana Government on Friday launched School Education Services on WhatsApp, bringing a wide range of educational services and updates directly to more than 18 lakh students and parents across the state. The initiative was launched by Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla and Chief Minister A.Revanth Reddy during a programme held at LB Stadium, Hyderabad.

Developed by the ESD-MeeSeva Division of the Information



Technology, Electronics and Communications Department in collaboration with the School Education Department, the platform aims to strengthen communication between schools, students, parents and the government through WhatsApp. Students and parents will receive regular updates on academic progress, examinations, scholarships, educational material distribution, school activities, health and well-being programmes and other important announcements.

Robotic cancer surgeries improve outcomes: Specialist

Mancherial, June 19: Surgical oncology specialist E. Rajesh Goud said robotic-assisted cancer surgeries are delivering better outcomes with higher precision, less pain and faster recovery. Speaking at a press conference, he said the technology is being effectively used in prostate, gynecological, kidney, colorectal and lung cancer treatments. He highlighted that advanced 3D imaging, arti-



ficial intelligence and robotic instruments help surgeons perform complex procedures safely. He added that robotic surgery reduces blood loss, shortens hospital stay and improves quality of life. The hospital is also conducting awareness programmes to educate the public on the benefits of robotic cancer care.

Traffic police station, Bharosa Centre proposed in Nagarkurnool

Nagarkurnool, June 19: District Collector Hemanta Keshav Patil and SP Sangram Singh G. Patil inspected government land near Kollapur Crossroads in Nagarkurnool town for the proposed construction of a Traffic Police Station and Bharosa Centre. Officials reviewed the suitability of the site, including connectivity and accessibility, and directed revenue authorities to submit detailed land proposals. The initiative aims to improve traffic manage-



ment and strengthen safety and support services for women and children. The proposed Bharosa Centre will offer counselling, legal aid, medical support and police assistance, while the Traffic Police Station will enhance road safety in the district headquarters.

BJP trying to alter Constitution, alleges Jagga Reddy

Sangareddy, June 19: TPCC Working President T. Jagga Reddy alleged that the BJP-led Central Government is attempting to alter the Constitution drafted by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and mislead democratic institutions. Speaking at the 56th birthday celebrations of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, he urged people to remain vigilant and protect constitutional values. He said the Nehru-Gandhi family has contributed to the country's development



and welfare. As part of the celebrations, bicycles were distributed to school students. Jagga Reddy also criticized the Centre over unemployment and unfulfilled promises, asserting that Congress ideology supports the welfare and empowerment of weaker sections.

POSSESSION NOTICE				
(Under Rule 8 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)				
Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of Unity Small Finance Bank Limited (hereinafter referred to as "USFBL"), Having its registered office at 5th Floor, Tower 1, Seawoods Grand Central, Sec-40, Seawoods, above Seawoods Darave Railway Station, Navi Mumbai – 400 706 under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002), and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated mentioned below under Section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon you being the borrowers (names and addresses mentioned below) to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower mentioned herein below having failing to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers mentioned herein below and to the public in general that undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with the Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The borrowers mentioned herein above in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the Charge of Unity Small Finance Bank Limited for an amount as mentioned herein under and interest thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.				
Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower (s)	Description of Immovable Properties is as Under	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date of Possession
1	Loan A/C. No(S). : USFBHYDLOAN000005016731 1. Girinadh Hotel (Borrower) Represented Through By Doda Jagan Reddy 2. Jagan Reddy Doda (Co-Borrower) 3. Doda Sukanya (Co-Borrower & Mortgagor) Add For Sr. No. 1 : Plot No- 57, 58, 61/ P 62, Bhadrappally, Dommara Pochampally, Dundigal, Hyderabad, Telangana- 500043. 1 India, Hyderabad Telangana 500043 Also Add For Sr. No. 1: 2/ P 120/ 19, Situated At Sai Poja Colony Of Dommara Pochampally Village, Dundigal Municipality, Dungal-Gandimaisamma Mandal, Medchal-Malkajigiri District And Bounded As Follows - Boundaries - Boundaries (As Per Mortgage/Sale Document): East : Road, West : House No. 6- 173, North : House No. 6- 181/ 1 Part, South : Toddy Shop;	Property 1 : - All That The House Bearing No. 6- 181/ 1, Admeasuring 88 Sq. Yds. , Out Of 188 Sq. Yards, In Sy. No. 120/ 19, Situated At Sai Poja Colony Of Dommara Pochampally Village, Dundigal Municipality, Dungal-Gandimaisamma Mandal, Medchal-Malkajigiri District And Bounded As Follows - Boundaries - Boundaries (As Per Mortgage/Sale Document): East : Road, West : House No. 6- 173, North : House No. 6- 181/ 1 Part, South : Toddy Shop;	07.02.2026 Rs. 36,07,522.52 (Rupees Thirty-Six Lakh Seven Thousand Five Hundred And Fifty-Two And Fifty-Two Paise Only) As On 07/02/2026	16.06.2026
2	Loan A/C. No(S). : USFBHYDLOAN000005017267 1. Bhavani Filling Station (Borrower) Represented Through By Hari Teja 2. S Manjula (Co-Borrower & Mortgagor) 3. Hariteja Surtli (Co-Borrower) Add For Sr. No. 1: 1-2, Marikal, Mahabubnagar Mahabub Nagar Austi Telangana 509351. Also At : Sy No- 2, A, Marikal Village And Mandal, Narayanpet Dist. Mahabub Nagar Telangana 509351. Also At Schedule- B, Item No. 17 - Land I, Sy. No. 2ru, To An Extent Of 127. 78 Sq. Yds, Marikal Village And Mandal, Mahabub Nagar Telangana 509351. Add For Sr. No. 2 & 3 : H No- 11- 13- 1181 3 107, Tr 1 Vaishnovi Apartments, Near Ashtalakshmi Temple, Vasavi Colony K V Rangareddy Telangana 500035	Property 1 : - Open Plot Land Admeasuring 505.555 Sq. Yds. , In Survey No. 2/Ru Situated At Marikal Village And Mandal, Narayanpet District The Boundaries Of The Property Are As Under- Boundaries (As Per Mortgage/Sale Document): East : Others Of Balakistaah & Others, West : Shops Plot, North : Gp Road, South : 5 Ft Seri And Plot Of Rajgopal And Others	07.03.2026 Rs. 1,15,01,516.86 (Rupees One Crore Fifteen Lakh One Thousand Five Hundred And Sixteen And Eighty-Six Paise Only) As On 06/03/2026	16.06.2026
3	Loan A/C. No(S). : USFBHYDMSME000001021 1. Padmavathi Angels Stores (Borrower) Represented Through By Satish Kumar 2. P Satish Kumar (Co-Borrower & Mortgagor) 3. P Nareesh Kumar (Co-Borrower & Mortgagor) 4. P Phansi (Co-Borrower) Add For Sr. No. 1, 2, 3 & 4 : 1- 2, 18-2-236, Jangammet Falaknuma, Hyderabad, Charminar, Telangana - 500053. Add For Sr. No. 1 : 18- 2- 235 To 237 Ground And First Floor Jangammet, Hyderabad, Charminar, Telangana - 500053.	All That The House Bearing Municipal No. 18-2-235 To 237/A (New), 18-2-235 To 237 (Old), Admeasuring 58.90 Sq. Yards, Rn 49.24 Sq. Meters, Having its Total Plinth Area Of 1000 Sq. Feet (Consisting Of 500 Sq. Feet In Ground Floor & 500 Sq. Feet In First Floor), In Ward No. 18 & Block No. 2, Situated At Jangammet, Hyderabad, Telangana State, And Bounded By -Vide Ghmc Ptn No. 1085502522. Boundaries (As Per Mortgage/Sale Document): East : 3, House No. 18-2-235 To 237, West : House Of Laxmi Bai, South : Road Qadri Chaman To Jangammet.	09.09.2026 Rs. 25,61,549.96/- (Rupees Twenty-Five Lakh Sixty-One Thousand Five Hundred And Ninety-Fine And Ninety-Six Paise Only) As On 05/09/2025	17.06.2026
4	Loan A/C. No(S). : USFBHYDMSME000002474 1. Jagan David Lingamdinne (Borrower & Mortgagor) Represented Through By Isaac Samuel David Lingamdinne 2. Isaac Samuel David Lingamdinne (Co-Borrower) Add For Sr. No. 1 & 2: H.No- 970/ 2, Kalasiguda Boland, Hyderabad, Near Cantonment Hospital, Telangana Tirumalagiri Telangana 500010. Add For Sr. No. 1 : H-no-3- 125/ 78/ 2 On Plot No- 78 Part Sai Mahalaxmi Residency Dever Yamzal Village Thumkunta Municipality Shamirpet Mandal Medchal Malkajigiri Tirumalagiri Telangana 500010.	All That The Residential House Bearing No. 3- 125/ 78/ 2, On Plot No. 78 Part, Having Builtup Area Of 500. 0 Sq. Fts, Together With The Land Admeasuring 106. 66 Sq. Yds Or 89. 16 Sq. Mtrs, In Sy. Nos. 3 Part, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 Part, 16, 18, 19, 20, 743, 758, 759 And 799 Part, In The Layout Known As M/ S. Sai Mahalaxmi Residency Developed By M/ S. Sai Mahalaxmi Real Es And Approved By Huda Vide Its Approved Layout Letter No. 11609/ Mp/2 Pig/ Huda/ 04 Dated 02. 05. 05, For Formation Of Residential Layout, Situated At Devar Yamzal Village, Under Thumkunta Municipality, Shamirpet Mandal, Medchal- Malkajigiri District, And Bounded As Follows - East : Plot No. 78 Part, West : 40- 0 Wide Road, North : Plot No. 78 Part, South : 60- 0 Wide Road	07.02.2026 Rs. 26,39,246.00/- (Rupees Twenty-Six Lakh Thirty-Nine Thousand Two Hundred And Forty-Six Only) As On 07/02/2026	17.06.2026
5	Loan A/C. No(S). : USFBHYDMSME0000010369 1. Tea Time (Borrower) 2. Bharathi Anugu (Co-Borrower) 3. Anugu Anji Reddy (Co-Borrower) 4. B Chandrasekar Reddy (Co-Borrower) 5. Bal Reddy Gari Shiva Lakshmi (Co-Borrower & Mortgagor) Add For Sr. No. 1 : Plot No 6 Saregudem Dommara Pochampally, Dommara Pochampally, Dundigal Gandimaisamma, Medchal Malkajigiri, Tirumalagiri Telangana 500043 Also At : All That The House Bearing No. 5- 13, Situated At Bowrampet Village & Quthbullapur Mandal Ranga Reddy District, Telangana 500043. Add For Sr. No. 2 & 3 : 4- 3/ 1/ B/ 3 Srinivas Colony, Gandimysamma Dommara Pochampalle Telangana, Medchal Malkajigiri, Telangana Tirumalagiri Telangana 500043. Add For Sr. No. 4 & 5 : 5- 11/ 2 Bowrampet K V Rangareddy, Bowrampet, Medchal Malkajigiri, Telangana Tirumalagiri Telangana 500043	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Immovable H. No. 5- 13, Land Admeasuring 141. 19 Sq. Yds , In Gramkanta Situated At Bowrampet Village, Quthbullapur Mandal, Ranga Reddy District The Boundaries Of The Property Are As Under- Boundaries (As Per Mortgage/Sale Document): East : Open Place Of Jagadamba, West : Open Place Of P. Bal Reddy, North : Open Place Of Laxma Reddy, South : Road	08.12.2025 Rs. 46,94,204.88/- (Rupees Forty-Six Lakh Ninety-Four Thousand Two Hundred And Four And Eighty-Eight Paise Only) As On 05/12/2025	16.06.2026
6	Loan A/C. No(S). : USFBWARLOAN000005005751 1. Balu Fly Ash Bricks (Borrower) Represented Through By Kadapa Balu 2. Kadapa Balu (Co-Borrower & Mortgagor) 3. Gaje Ravali (Co-Borrower) Add For Sr. No. 1 : 23- 6- 128/ B/ 20, Hunter Road, Hanamkonda, Warangal, Telangana, 506001 Add For Sr. No. 1, 2 & 3 : 23- 1- 29, New Shyampet, Hunter Road, Warangal, Near Bodrai, Warangal, Telangana- 506001.	All That Piece And Parcel Of Rcc Roof House With Open Place Bearing Gwmc House No. 23-1-29, To An Extent Of 146.33 Sqyards Or 122.35 sq.meters, Situated At Shyampet Jagir, Kazipet Mandal, Hanamkonda, District, Previously In Warangal Urban District, Within The Limits Of Greater Warangal Municipality Corporation And Registration District And Joint- Sub Registrar, R. O. Warangal And Bounded By: Boundaries (As Per Mortgage/Gift Deed): East : House No. 23-1-23/2 Of R. Jagu, West : Open Plot Of R. Varalaxmi, North : House Of Others, South : House No. 23-1-29/A Of S. Pavan Kumar.	05.09.2025 Rs. 11,58,965.36/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh Fifty-Five Thousand Nine Hundred And Thirty-Five And Thirty-Six Paise Only) As On 05/09/2025	18.06.2026
7	Loan A/C. No(S). : USFBWARLOAN000005006615 1. Sri Sai Kiranam And General Stores (Borrower) Represented Through By Bontha Srinivas 2. Bontha Srinivas (Co-Borrower & Mortgagor) 3. Bontha Rajitha (Co-Borrower) Add For Sr. No. 1 : 2- 33, Chennaraopeta, Narsampet, Warangal Warangal Telangana 506332. Also At Rcc House Of Bearing House No. 4- 104/ 1, Situated At Chennaraopeta Village & Mandal, Warangal District, Warangal Telangana 506332. Add For Sr. No. 2 & 3 : 4- 104/ 1, Chennara Pet, Narsampet Warangal, Near Govt School Warangal Telangana 506332	All That Land And Parcel Of The Property On Part And Measuring 672.71 Sq. Yards. , With Built Uparea Aca: 387.75 Sq.ft., Bearing Door No-4-104/ 1 Situated At Chennaraopeta, Narsampet, Warangal Dist., Within The Limits Of Office Sub-Registrar, Narsampet, Dist. Registrar Warangal, Being Bounded By: Being Bounded By: East : House Of R. Sathnandam, South : G. p C. Road, West : House Of Sura Saraiah, North : G. p C. Road.	07.02.2026 Rs. 19,61,807.71/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Sixty-One Thousand Eight Hundred Seven And Seventy-One Paise Only) As On 07/02/2026	18.06.2026
8	Loan A/C. No(S). : USFBWARLOAN000005014101 1. Gowrishankar Stone Crushers And Rock Telerate (Borrower) Represented Through By Chintanippu Narsimharao 2. Chintanippu Narsimha Rao (Co-Borrower & Mortgagor) 3. Chintanippu Bhavani (Co-Borrower) Add For Sr. No. 1: 392&395, Chilikoyalapadu, Mannegudem Warangal Telangana 506101. Also At : H No- 6- 32/ 2/ H/ 1, Plot No. 19, Sy. No. 305/ B, Edulapuram Revenue Village, Gram Panchayath, Khammam Rural Mandal, Khammam Dist. Code 507003, Warangal X Road, Khammam Khammam Telangana 507003. Add For Sr. No. 2 & 3 : 6- 32/ 2/ H/ 1, Marathi Nagar, Warangal X Road, Near Krishnarajuna Rice Mill Telangana Khammam 507003	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Open Place In Plot No. 19 R. C. Roof House With Built Up Aera 3270 Sq.ft. With Bearing H. No. 6- 32/ 2/ H/ 1 In Sy. No. 305/ B To An Extent Of 200.00sq. Yds Or 167. 22sq. Mts Situated At Yedullapuram Village, Khammam Rural Mandal, Khammam And Within The Registration District Khammam & Joint- Sub Registrar Kusumanchi And Bounded By Boundaries (As Per Mortgage/Sale Document): East : Plot No. 40, West : 30- 0 Wide Proposed Road, North : Plot No. 18 South : Plot No. 20	07.02.2026 Rs. 44,39,692.78/- (Rupees Forty-Four Lakh Thirty-Nine Thousand Six Hundred And Ninety-Two And Seventy-Eight Paise Only) As On 07/02/2026	19.06.2026
9	Loan A/C. No(S). : USFBWARMSME000003417 1. Padma Sweets And Bakery (Borrower) 2. Challa Sagarika (Co-Borrower & Mortgagor) 3. Challa Ravi Kumar (Co-Borrower) Add For Sr. No. 1 : 6-3-99/14, Nehru Centre, Mahabubabad, Mahabubabad, Telangana -506101 Also At 15-6-20/1 Papiapahet Bommala Sathiah Street, Hanamkonda, Warangal, Telangana - 506101. Add For Sr. No. 2 & 3 : H No 4- 5-61/1, Nehru Center, Mahabubabad, Telangana, 506101.	All That Piece And Parcel Of The House Being The Ground Floor, First Floor Building House And Open Bearing Municipal No. 15-6-20/1 (Corporation) Corresponding To 15-6-20 (Old) Further Corresponding To 15/451 (Old) Situated At Papiapahet, (Bommala Sathiah Street), Warangal City And District, Extent: 41.00 Sqyards Equivalent To 34.27 Sq. Meters Within Plinth Area G F 333.00 Sq. Ft And Floor 354.00 Sq.ft Within The Registration District Warangal & Sub Registrar Warangal (Fort) And Bounded By- Boundaries (As Per Mortgage Document): East : House Of Peddi Shobha Rani, West : House Of Peddi Chandrasekar, North : 30.00 Feet Wide Public Road, South : House Of Jannu Korumah.	18.12.2025 Rs. 20,04,324.48/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Three Hundred And Forty-Eight And Forty-Eight Paise Only) As On 18/12/2025	18.06.2026
10	Loan A/C. No(S). : USFBWARMSME000014061 1. Vigneswara For Industries (Borrower) Represented Through By Thejavath Vennela 2. Thejavath Vennela (Co-Borrower & Mortgagor) 3. Thejavath Dasu (Co-Borrower) Add For Sr. No. 1 : 58/ C/ 1/ 2/ 2, Thanamcharla, Thanamcharla, Mahabubabad, Mahabubabad, Thanamcharla Road Opposite Indian Petrol Bunk, Telangana Maripeda Telangana 506315. Also At: All That The Land In Survey Nos. 58/ C/ 1/ 2 & 58/ C/ 1/ 2/ 2, Situated At Thanamcharla Village, Maripeda Mandal, Mahabubabad District, Within In The Registration District Warangal Telangana 506315. Add For Sr. No. 2 & 3 : H. No C- 072, Vallyahanda, Thanamcharla, Maripeda, Mahabubabad, Near Ganga Bhavani Temple, Telangana Maripeda Telangana 506315	Property 1 :- All That The Industrial Property With Open Place With H. No. 3- 1, To An Extent Of To Ac. 0. 108 Sq. Yds, 58/ C/ 1/ 2/ 2, Situated At Thanamcharla Village, Maripeda Mandal, Mahabubabad District, Within In The Registration District Warangal And Sub- Registration District Mahabubabad And Following Boundaries - Boundaries (As Per Mortgage/Sale Document): East : Land Of Inrural Jagannama, West : Land Sold To Banoth Ramlal And Nukala Abhinav Reddy, North : 15 Feet Wide Road, South : Land Of Bachu Ramesh	07.01.2026 Rs. 36,69,471.00/- (Rupees Thirty-Six Lakh Sixty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred And Seventy-One Paise Only) As On 06/01/2026	19.06.2026

Place : Telangana
Date : 20.06.2026

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
Unity Small Finance Bank Limited

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032 Administrative Office: 6th Floor(level 2), Building No.Q2, Arium Q park, Gen 4/F, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors/ mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD, (Formerly known as Shriram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shriram Transport Company Limited name Changed as Shriram Finance Limited) We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non-Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD, under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 calling upon the following borrowers /guarantors /mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc., until the date

Mummadi Venkateswara Prasad Assumes Charge as Joint Director of Information & Public Relations Department



The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : Mummadi Venkateswara Prasad assumed charge as Joint Director at the Information and Public Relations (I&PR) Directorate, Vijayawada Commissionerate, on Friday. Later, he paid a courtesy visit to K.S. Viswanathan, Director of the Information and Public Relations Department, at the State

Secretariat in Velagapudi and presented him with a bouquet. On the occasion, Director K. S. Viswanathan congratulated Mummadi Venkateswara Prasad on taking charge and advised him to discharge his responsibilities efficiently for the betterment of the department. Speaking after assuming office, Mummadi Venkateswara Prasad said he would

strive to effectively publicize the State Government's development, welfare initiatives, and public welfare schemes through various media platforms under the guidance of I&PR Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy and Director K.S. Viswanathan. Prasad joined the Information and Public Relations Department on June 2, 1987, and has served in various capacities for nearly 39 years. During his career, he worked in Kadapa, Chittoor, Anantapur, Khammam, Prakasam, Nellore, Vijayawada, and Krishna districts. He earned appreciation from District Collectors and senior officials for his efficient service and is widely recognized as a capable and dedicated officer.

Transforming Andhra Pradesh into a Global Tourism Destination is Our Goal: Minister Kandula Durgesh



Visakhapatnam : Andhra Pradesh Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh said the state government is committed to transforming Andhra Pradesh into a world-class tourism destination and making tourism a major driver of economic growth and employment. Addressing the media in Vijayawada, he highlighted the achievements of the three departments during the past two years. The Minister stated that the government has signed agreements with 117 organizations and attracted investments worth nearly 20,000 crore under the new Tourism Policy. These projects are expected to generate over one lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities. Permissions have been granted for 50 new hotels, with a target of creating 50,000 hotel rooms across the state within five years. Domestic tourist arrivals increased by 17 percent over the last two years, reaching 370 million footfalls, while foreign tourist arrivals rose to 2.62 lakh. As a result, Andhra Pradesh improved its national tourism ranking from 16th to 13th place. The government is developing Visakhapatnam, Araku, Rajamahendravaram, Amaravati, Srisailam, Gandikota, and Tirupati as major tourism hubs. Durgesh said the government has revived the cultural sector through awards, artist welfare measures, and music tourism initiatives. Plans are also being made to establish a music college in every district. To boost the film industry, a new film policy is being formulated.

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan Lays Foundation Stone for 'Aranyaramam' Complex



The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Forests and Environment Pawan Kalyan laid the foundation stone for 'Aranyaramam', a new facility that will serve as the monitoring and coordination centre for the state's forest and environmental research and training activities. The building will be constructed near AIIMS at Brahmanandapuram, Mangalagiri, at an estimated cost of 24 crore. Ministers Nadendla Manohar and Kandula Durgesh, along with senior forest department officials, participated in the groundbreaking ceremony. Aranyaramam will function as a common facility centre coordinating research, training, environmental conservation initiatives, and various forest department activities across the state. The facility will serve as the command centre for H.A.N.U.M.A.N. operations, a monitoring hub for the Andhra Pradesh Great Green Wall programme, and a coordination centre for tiger conservation, forest fire pre-

vention, ecosystem restoration, climate resilience, eco-tourism development, and digital environmental governance. It will also support scientific research and centralized monitoring of field-level conservation activities through advanced technology. After the ceremony, Pawan Kalyan reviewed the architectural model of the proposed complex and visited a photo exhibition showcasing wildlife rescue operations carried out under the H.A.N.U.M.A.N. initiative. Officials informed him that the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department successfully conducted 185 wildlife rescue operations and resolved 36 human-wildlife conflict incidents during 2024. The Deputy Chief Minister commended the forest personnel for their dedication and service. The event was attended by Principal Secretary for Forests and Environment Kanthilal Dande, PCCF P. V. Chalapathi Rao, Guntur District Collector Sai Kanth Varma, Superintendent of Police Vakul Jindal, and several senior officials from the Forest Department.

Crack Down on Substandard Medicines: Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav

Visakhapatnam (TSIT) Andhra Pradesh Minister for Health, Medical and Family Welfare, Satya Kumar Yadav, directed officials to strengthen the drug regulatory mechanism and ensure strict action against the circulation of substandard medicines in the state. He inaugurated the newly established State Drug Testing Laboratory and the Drug Control Administration Headquarters in Vijayawada on Friday. Addressing the gathering, the minister said that significant progress had been achieved in drug sample collection and testing over the last two years. While only around 4,000 samples were tested annually earlier, the upgraded Vijayawada laboratory now has the capacity to test up to 13,000 samples per year. He noted that the percentage of substandard medicines in the market had come down from 2.13 percent to 1.02 percent, appreciating the efforts of the officials. However, he warned that negligence and violations of regulations would not be tolerated. The minister reiterated that the government would not compromise on public health and emphasized the need to completely eliminate the circulation of poor-quality medicines. He also announced that the activities of the Drug Control Administration would be integrated with the Institute of Preventive Medicine (IPM) to strengthen surveillance against substandard drugs and adulterated food products.



Dedicated Commission Reviews BC Reservation Issues in Local Bodies, Receives Public Representations in Tirupati



Tirupati, June 19: Dedicated Commission Chairman Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, IAS (Retd.), has stated that the Commission is conducting a comprehensive state-wide

study on Backward Classes (BC) reservations in local bodies in accordance with the guidelines of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. A review meeting and public interaction session were held on Friday at the Collectorate Conference Hall under the aegis of the BC Welfare Department, focusing on BC reservations and receipt of representations from stakeholders in rural and urban local bodies.

Sai Krishna's Death is a Government Killing, CBI Probe Must Be Ordered: Former Minister Gudivada Amarnath

The South India Times, Visakhapatnam : YSR Congress Party West Godavari Regional Coordinator and former minister Gudivada Amarnath alleged that the custodial death of Gade Sai Krishna at Krishnalanka Police Station was a clear case of a "government killing" and demanded a comprehensive investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Addressing the media at the YSRC city office in Visakhapatnam on Friday, he said the registration of an attempt-to-murder case against Circle Inspector Nagaraju itself amounted to an admission by the government that Sai Krishna had died while in police custody. Amarnath stated that Sai Krishna's mother had spent nearly a month searching for her son and visiting police stations seeking information, but authorities failed to provide any clarity. He said it was only after the family approached the court that the facts surrounding the case began to emerge. He described the incident as



inhuman and alleged that the victim was subjected to severe torture while in custody. The former minister accused the government of trying to make a single police officer a scapegoat while protecting higher-ranking officials. He demanded an inquiry into the role of the Police Commissioner, the Director General of Police (DGP), and other concerned officials. He questioned the credibility of the ongoing investigation, stating that appointing an SP-level officer to probe senior officials would not bring out the truth and appeared to be an attempt to dilute the case. Expressing con-

cern over allegations that Sai Krishna was subjected to third-degree torture, Amarnath questioned who had authorized the police to use such methods. He alleged that the misuse of the police machinery for political purposes had led to such incidents and warned that the state's law-and-order situation was deteriorating. He further demanded that the case be handed over to the CBI to ensure justice for Sai Krishna's family and to identify and punish all those responsible. He also called upon the government to release the complete CCTV footage from Krishnalanka Police Station to place the facts before the public. Accusing the government of diverting attention from public issues, Amarnath said crimes.

RS. 650 CRORE WORTH DEVELOPMENT WORKS TAKEN UP IN CONSTITUENCY: HOME MINISTER VANGALAPUDI ANITHA

,Visakhapatnam (TSIT) Grand celebrations were held in Payakaraopeta constituency on Friday to mark the completion of two years of the NDA coalition government. A massive rally was organized by coalition leaders and party workers from Doddigallu Junction to Vempadu Toll Plaza in Nakkapalli mandal. Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha participated in the rally and later addressed a public meeting held at Bharathi Convention Hall. Speaking on the occasion, the Home Minister said the government was taking the achievements of the past two years in development and welfare directly to the people. She stated that serving the people remains the primary objective of the NDA government. Recalling her journey from being a school teacher to entering politics without any political background, she said that the trust and blessings of

the people had enabled her to become a minister. Anitha revealed that development works worth nearly Rs.650 crore had been undertaken in the Payakaraopeta constituency over the last two years. She said the long-pending Panduru Bridge, neglected by the previous government, would soon be inaugurated. A retaining wall is being constructed at Somidepalli at a cost of Rs.9 crore, while a Rs.3-crore road project is underway to connect the tribal village of Anuku. She also highlighted the establishment of a Revenue Division with Addaroad as its headquarters. The Home Minister said the government is working to fulfill its promise of creating 20,000 jobs for the youth in the constituency. She praised Minister Nara Lokesh for his efforts in bringing a steel plant to the region and noted that the project would become a reality through the sacrifices of local farmers.



Amaravati Quantum Valley Achieves Historic Quantum Hardware Milestone at -269°C

Visakhapatnam.: Amaravati Quantum Valley (AQV) has achieved a major breakthrough in India's quantum technology journey, with its indigenous Dilution Refrigerator successfully reaching 4 Kelvin (-269°C) at the Quantum Reference Facility located in Medha Towers, Amaravati. The achievement marks a significant step toward building a fully indigenous quantum technology ecosystem in India and strengthens Andhra Pradesh's ambition to become a global hub for advanced technologies. The initiative traces its origins to September 2025, when scientists, researchers, startups and industry leaders met Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and IT Minister Nara Lokesh and presented an assessment indicating that nearly 85 percent of the components required for quantum computing infrastructure could potentially be developed within India. Inspired by this opportunity, the state leadership envisioned a complete indigenous quantum hardware ecosystem under the banner of "Made in Amaravati for the World." To realize this vision, AQV partnered with Qbit Force and Qubitech to identify opportunities for domestic development



of quantum hardware, particularly in cryogenic technologies that are essential for advanced quantum computing systems. This effort led to the establishment of India's first Quantum Reference Facilities at Medha Towers, Amaravati, and SRM University-AP in April 2026. The achievement of 4 Kelvin is the first major technical milestone from this initiative. Operating at such ultra-low temperatures enables testing and characterization of superconducting devices, quantum sensors, cryogenic electronics, single-photon detectors, microwave systems, quantum communication components and advanced quantum materials. These technologies form the

foundation for future quantum computers, secure communication networks, advanced sensing platforms and next-generation scientific innovation. The milestone demonstrates India's growing expertise in advanced cryogenic engineering and establishes a critical national capability for quantum hardware testing and validation. It also showcases the country's ability to design, build and operate world-class quantum infrastructure domestically. The cooling system will now continue toward ultra-low mill kelvin temperatures required for advanced superconducting quantum computing applications. Once achieved, it will unlock the next phase of quantum hardware testing and support future quantum processor development in India. The facility is expected to serve as a collaborative platform for startups, universities, research institutions and industry partners working on quantum technologies. AQV acknowledged the support and guidance of the National Quantum Mission and the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, whose encouragement has played a key role in advancing India's indigenous quantum technology ecosystem.

Pan India Jewels Show Sets New Benchmark with Grand Jewellery Exhibition in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, June 21, 2026:The Pan India Jewels Show, one of India's largest premium jewellery exhibitions, concluded on a grand note at OM Convention, Narsingi, Hyderabad, attracting thousands of jewellery enthusiasts, buyers, designers, and industry professionals over three spectacular days from June 19 to 21, 2026.

Founded by Sajja Annappurna and Niranjana, the exhibition brought together 60+ premium jewellery brands from across India, making it one of the most comprehensive jewellery showcases in the region. Visitors witnessed an extraordinary collection featuring over 2 lakh exquisite jewellery designs, reflecting exceptional craftsmanship, heritage artistry, and contemporary innovation. The exhibition showcased a diverse range of



jewellery collections including Gold, Diamond, Polki, Jadau, Kundan, Silver Jewellery, and the latest trendsetting Lab-Grown Diamond Jewellery. From elegant daily wear ornaments to luxurious bridal collections, the exhibition offered something for every jewellery lover under one roof. A major highlight of the event was the attractive offers and exclusive exhibition discounts provided by

participating brands, enabling visitors to purchase their dream jewellery pieces at exceptional value. The event was graced by distinguished personalities including Dr. Preeti Reddy, Vice Chairwoman of Malla Reddy Vishwavidyapeeth, who attended as the Chief Guest. Speaking on the success of the event, the founders Sajja Annappurna and Niranjana expressed their gratitude to par-

ticipating brands, exhibitors, partners, and visitors for making the exhibition a remarkable success. They emphasized that the overwhelming response reflects Hyderabad's growing demand for premium jewellery and its position as a key market for the jewellery industry. The Pan India Jewels Show successfully created a platform where leading jewellery brands connected directly with customers, showcased their finest creations, and celebrated India's rich jewellery heritage and evolving design trends. With an impressive turnout, exceptional collections, and enthusiastic participation from leading jewellery houses, the Pan India Jewels Show has firmly established itself as one of the most sought-after premium jewellery exhibitions in the country.

Coalition Government Delivered Significant Welfare and Development in Two Years: Minister Dola Sree Bala Veeranjaneeya Swamy

,Visakhapatnam (TSIT): The "Two Years of Trust - Welfare and Development" programme was held at the Andhra University Convention Hall on Friday to mark the completion of two years of the coalition government. District In-charge Minister Dola Sree Bala Veeranjaneeya Swamy attended as the chief guest and highlighted the government's achievements during the period. Addressing the gathering, the Minister said the government had implemented several welfare and development initiatives benefiting the poor and accelerating the state's growth. He noted that schemes such as social security pensions, Talliki Vandanam, Stree Shakti and Divyang Shakti were being implemented effectively, ensuring direct benefits to citizens. He added that Visakhapatnam was emerging as a major investment hub with the arrival of global companies and large-scale investments. Prior to the meeting, the Minister visited 13 exhibition stalls set up by various government departments



showcasing their achievements over the last two years. He later distributed sanctioned autos and tractors to beneficiaries under DRDA and SC Corporation schemes. A mega cheque worth Rs.84.24 crore was also handed over to Self-Help Group members. BJP State President P.V.N. Madhav said Visakhapatnam was progressing rapidly and that investments from global companies such as Google would contribute significantly to the city's future growth. Visakhapatnam MP M. Bharat stated that projects such as Bhogapuram Airport connectivity roads and smart traffic initiatives would further strengthen urban development. District Collector M. Abhishikt Kishore said that

more than half of the investments coming into Andhra Pradesh were being directed to Visakhapatnam and that the government was targeting the creation of 1.5 lakh jobs through investments worth Rs.75,000 crore. Among those present were BJP State President P.V.N. Madhav, Visakhapatnam MP M. Bharat, Government Whips Vepada Chiranjeevi Rao and P.G.V.R. Naidu (Ganababu), MLAs Palla Srinivasa Rao, Ganta Srinivasa Rao, Velagapudi Ramakrishna Babu, P. Vishnu Kumar Raju and Vamsi Krishna Srinivas, District Collector M. Abhishikt Kishore, GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg, public representatives, officials of various departments and members of Self-Help

Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar Calls for Grand Success of 12th International Yoga Day Celebrations in Tirupati



Tirupati, June 19: District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar has directed officials to ensure the grand success of the "Yoga Andhra" programme being organized on the occasion of the 12th International Yoga Day on June 21 at the district level. The Collector held a tele-conference with concerned officials on Friday and issued instructions for the smooth conduct of the programme scheduled at Tarakarama Stadium, Tirupati, at 6:30 AM on June 21. He noted that as part of the International Yoga Day celebrations, Yoga Andhra programmes are being conducted across the State from June 7 to June 20, with the concluding district-level event planned as a major public gathering.

Vaishnaw reviews station masters' challenges to ensure safer, passenger-centric operation

NEW DELHI: Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw held a review meeting with senior railway officials to discuss issues and challenges faced by over 6,000 station masters across the country, according to a statement issued on Friday.

The minister, along with officials, deliberated on a comprehensive framework aimed at empowering station masters to ensure safer, more efficient and passenger-centric railway operations at the meeting held on Thursday.

“During the review, detailed discussions were held to identify operational and administrative challenges faced by station masters in their day-to-day working and to develop solutions to strengthen their effectiveness,” the ministry stated.

It added, “The meeting also discussed strengthening the role of station masters. In addition, proposals relating to enhanced administrative and operational powers, improved career progression avenues and greater opportunities to rise to higher levels of management were reviewed.” To address grow-



ing operational requirements, discussions were focused on the provision of additional station masters in multi-track and high-density sections where traffic levels and operational complexity have increased significantly.

“The need for expeditious filling of vacancies in the station master cadre was also reviewed, with emphasis on treating these vacancies on priority,” the ministry said.

Officials said the ministry is also deliberating upon introducing mobile app-based paperless working for station masters and developing an integrated Station Management System that would enable better coordina-

tion among various railway departments and facilitate faster resolution of passenger-related issues at stations.

To enable quicker resolution of local issues and improve passenger convenience, proposals relating to enhancement of financial powers of station masters were reviewed, they added. Station masters' unions have been holding protests for the past several months to press their demands for zero vacancies and the rationalisation of duty hours. According to them, infrastructure expansion has significantly increased their responsibilities, while vacant positions have further added to their challenges.

HMDA Holds Pre-Bid Meeting for Hakeempet Land E-Auction, Draws Strong Investor Interest



Hyderabad, June 19, 2026: The Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) conducted a pre-bid meeting for the proposed e-auction of a prime land parcel at Hakeempet, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, at Hyatt Place, Banjara Hills, on Friday. The meeting witnessed an encouraging response, with over 50 prospective bidders participating.

During the session, Mr. Sandeep of JLL presented a detailed overview of the

State Government's vision, Hyderabad's rapid growth trajectory, the strategic location of the Hakeempet site, its key advantages, and the significant development opportunities in the area. The presentation highlighted the investment potential of the land parcel and its suitability for premium development projects.

Representatives of MSTC also made a detailed presentation on the e-auction process, explaining

bidding procedures and addressing queries raised by participants to ensure transparency and clarity.

The meeting was attended by senior HMDA officials, including Sri B. Ravinder, Chief Engineer; Smt. Rajitha, Superintending Engineer; Sri A. Ravinder Reddy and Sri B. Prasad Rao, Chief Planning Officers; Sri Y. Sudarshan, Deputy Collector, HMDA; and officials from the Estates, Public Relations, Engineering, and Enforcement Departments. The Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO), Shaikpet, was also present.

Participants appreciated the transparent auction mechanism and expressed confidence in the growth prospects associated with the project. The successful conduct of the pre-bid meeting is expected to boost investor interest and pave the way for a competitive e-auction of the strategically located land parcel.

MEDICOVER CANCER INSTITUTE SUCCESSFULLY PERFORMS COMPLEX ORAL CANCER SURGERY ON 65-YEAR-OLD WOMAN



Hyderabad, June 19, 2026: Doctors at Medicovert Cancer Institute successfully performed a highly complex cancer surgery on a 65-year-old Kamamma, who was suffering from oral cancer, giving her a new lease on life. Kamamma, a resident of a rural area, was diagnosed with oral cancer that had affected her jawbone, requiring surgical removal of the impacted portion. Due to her age and fear of undergoing surgery, she was initially hesitant to proceed with treatment. However, with proper counseling and reassurance from the medical team, she agreed to undergo the procedure.

The surgery was successfully performed under the leadership of Dr. Ajay Varun Reddy, Senior Robotic Surgical Oncologist, with the support of Dr. Prajyoth Reddy, Reconstructive Surgeon. During the procedure, the cancer-affected portion was removed, and the oral structure was reconstructed using tissue harvested from the patient's leg. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ajay Varun Reddy said that with advanced medical technology and the support of multidisciplinary medical teams, even highly complex cancer treatments can now be successfully performed in elderly patients.

GITAM Celebrates Unsung Heroes with MUDITA 4.0 Employee Recognition Programme

Visakhapatnam: GITAM Deemed to be University celebrated MUDITA 4.0, the fourth edition of its annual employee recognition and appreciation programme, honouring the institution's hospitality, campus life, and support services teams for their dedicated service in ensuring a safe, welcoming, and well-functioning campus environment.

Derived from the Sanskrit word Mudita, meaning joy in the happiness and success of others, the initiative reflects values of gratitude, teamwork, service, and collective achievement. Over the years, MUDITA has grown into a meaningful tradition at GITAM, recognising the vital contributions of staff who work behind the scenes to support the university ecosystem. The programme, organised by the Directorate of Hospitality and Campus Life, brought together employees from housekeeping, dining services, maintenance, engineering, gardening, landscaping, resi-



dences, utilities, transport, projects, IT, audio-visual services, human resources, finance, and administration. The event featured

employee recognition awards, service excellence honours, appreciation ceremonies, and cultural performances, celebrating individuals and teams who have

demonstrated excellence, innovation, dedication, and long years of service.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambika Philip said the university's support teams create “a little bit of magic every day” through their commitment to serving students, parents, faculty, staff, and visitors, adding that their work ensures smooth and meaningful campus experiences.

University leadership highlighted that institutional success depends not only on academic excellence but also on the selfless efforts of support staff. They noted that MUDITA serves as a tribute to those whose contributions often remain unseen but are essential to the university's growth and functioning.

MUDITA 4.0 concluded with a message reaffirming GITAM's commitment to fostering a culture of appreciation, inclusivity, respect, and service excellence, recognising the collective strength that drives the university community.

NTPC Provides Advanced Medical Equipment to Gandhi Hospital Under CSR Initiative

Hyderabad, June 18, 2026: Reinforcing its commitment to community healthcare and social development, NTPC has provided advanced medical equipment to the Orthopedics Department and Mortuary of Gandhi Hospital, Hyderabad, under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Programme for 2025-26.

The equipment was formally inaugurated by Shri Surya Narayan Panigrahi, Executive Director (HR) and Regional Head of HR (North & South), NTPC Limited, in the presence of Dr. N. Vani, Superintendent and ADME of Gandhi Hospital, during a programme held at the hospital premises.

The initiative is aimed at strengthening healthcare infrastructure and enhancing the hospital's ability to deliver quality medical services to thousands of patients who depend on Gandhi Hospital, one of Telangana's largest government healthcare institu-



tions. The CSR support includes the provision of C-Arm Imaging Machines, C-Arm Compatible Orthopedic Fracture Operating Tables, Cordless Battery-Operated Drill Machines, and Modern Autopsy Dissection Tables equipped with attached shadowless lamps.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Surya Narayan Panigrahi reiterated NTPC's commitment to nation-building through impactful CSR initiatives in healthcare, education, skill development, and community welfare. He said strengthening public healthcare infrastructure remains a key priority for

the company and expressed confidence that the new equipment would improve patient care and operational efficiency.

The initiative also received appreciation from Telangana Health Minister Damodara Raja Narasimha, who commended NTPC's contribution towards strengthening healthcare facilities in the state.

Dr. N. Vani thanked NTPC for its continued support and noted that the equipment would significantly enhance patient services and hospital operations. Senior officials from Gandhi Hospital and NTPC Southern Region Headquarters attended the inauguration ceremony.

Super Six Guarantees Strengthen Public Trust, Says Minister M. Ramprasad Reddy at Chittoor Two-Year Governance Event

Chittoor, June 19: State Roads & Transport Minister and District In-Charge Minister M. Ramprasad Reddy has said that the successful implementation of the “Super Six Guarantees” over the past two years has significantly strengthened public confidence in the coalition government.

He was speaking at the district-level programme titled “Two Years of Trust – Development and Welfare,” organised at PVKN Degree College grounds in Chittoor to mark two years of governance. The event showcased development initiatives and welfare programmes implemented across the district.



Sankalp Yuva Pratishthan Distributes Free Umbrellas to Students and Teachers in Rural Pune During Monsoon



Khed, Junnar (Pune): As part of its annual monsoon initiative, the Mumbai-based charitable organisation Sankalp Yuva Pratishthan has distributed free umbrellas to students and teachers in rural, remote, tribal, and hilly regions of Pune district to ensure uninterrupted school attendance during the rainy season.

The distribution programme was held at Zilla Parishad Primary School, Vahagaon-Deshmukhwadi, a

remote school in the northern part of Khed taluka, and at Z.P. Primary School, Vadgaon Kandali in Junnar taluka.

The initiative was carried out in the presence of Sankalp Yuva Pratishthan President Manik Bhawar. Umbrellas were provided to all students and teachers of the participating schools as part of the organisation's yearly effort to support education during the monsoon months.

Several members of

the organisation, including Sunil Navale, Sandeep Panmand, Jamal Khan, Sunil Shinde, Kiran Navale, Vishal Jadhav, and Pradeep Yadav, took part in the programme.

The event was compered by teachers Bandu Bhongale, Gorakh Navale, and Kedari. The initiative was widely appreciated by the school communities for helping students continue their education without disruption during heavy rains.

Dr. Rajashekhar Completes Historic Seven Summits Challenge After Scaling Mt. Denali

Hyderabad, June 19, 2026: Indian mountaineer and orthopedic surgeon Dr. Rajashekhar has successfully summited Mt. Denali, the highest peak in North America, completing the prestigious Seven Summits challenge—climbing the highest mountains on each continent. With this achievement, he has become the first doctor from South India to accomplish the feat.

Dr. Rajashekhar's journey is marked by resilience, determination, and recovery from personal adversity. A specialist in hip and knee surgery and a robotic surgeon, he had a distinguished medical career in Hyderabad, working alongside leading orthopedic surgeons and



training young professionals. His life took a turning point during the COVID-19 pandemic when he contracted the virus and was hospitalized. Following a prolonged recovery marked by fatigue and loss of motivation, he stepped away from his profession for nearly a year. Seeking to rebuild his physical and mental strength, he turned to mountaineering.

Sri Mahalakshmi Deepotsavam Held with Devotional Fervour in Tirupati

Tirupati: Sri Mahalakshmi Deepa Puja was conducted with great religious fervour at Sri Ramachandra Pushkarini on Friday, drawing a large number of devotees who participated in the spiritual event. The programme, marked by the lighting of thousands of lamps, resonated with Govinda Namasmarana as priests performed Vedic rituals, Deepalakshmi worship, and special prayers seeking pros-



perity, peace, and well-being. Speaking on the occasion, TTD Joint Executive Officer Dr. A. Sarat said that the Sri Mahalakshmi Deepa Puja initiative is aimed at promoting spiritual well-being.

Media's Role Crucial in Promoting Government Schemes :DPRO P. Srinivas at PIB Vartalap Workshop

Mahabubnagar, June 19: Journalists should play a vital role in creating public awareness about the welfare schemes and development programmes implemented by the government, District Public Relations Officer (DPRO) P. Srinivas said.

A special 'Vartalap' Media Workshop was organised in Mahabubnagar on Friday by the Hyderabad Regional Office of the Press Information Bureau (PIB) as part of the nationwide campaign on “12 Years of Trust, Development and Public Welfare.”

Inaugurating the workshop, DPRO P. Srinivas stressed the importance of fact-checking in the age of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital information. He said it is the responsibility of journalists to verify information before publication and emphasized that ethical journalism contributes significantly to creating awareness in society.

Speaking on the occasion, PIB Hyderabad Media and Communication

Officer Varganti Gayathri explained the significance of the Vartalap programme. She said the initiative serves as an important platform for disseminating information about government welfare schemes and development programmes to the public. She added that PIB plays a crucial role in bridging the information gap between the government and citizens by providing reliable and transparent information.

During the workshop, senior journalist M u d d a m Narasimhaswamy delivered a comprehensive presentation on the achievements of the Central Government over the past 12 years. He highlighted major welfare schemes, development initiatives, and governance reforms, providing journalists with a detailed understanding of the government's programmes and accomplishments.

Fact-check trainer B.N. Satyapriya conducted a session on fact-checking in the digital era, focusing on identifying

misinformation and verifying information through credible sources. She underscored the importance of responsible reporting and urged journalists to prioritize accuracy and credibility while covering government policies and programmes.

Around 140 journalists participated in the workshop. The participants engaged in discussions with experts on journalism, communication, digital media practices, and professional ethics. Experts also addressed queries raised by journalists and offered insights into adapting to the evolving media landscape while maintaining accuracy and ethical standards in reporting.

Concluding the programme, DPRO P. Srinivas appreciated the active participation of journalists and said that such workshops help strengthen the media's role in delivering accurate and reliable information to the public in a timely manner. This version follows standard English newspaper style and is ready for publication.

EDITORIAL

Near 50% Seats in ITIs Stay Vacant: India's Skill Crisis is Hidden in Plain Sight

India's skilling ecosystem is undergoing a silent crisis. Across the country's 15,000-odd Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), half of all seats go unoccupied every year – nearly 13 lakh vacant places across government and private institutions combined. The reason is not a shortage of young people looking for skills training. It is a crisis of relevance and trust.

A 2024 study by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship found that more than half of ITI graduates remain unemployed. When parents see that, they steer their children elsewhere. India's much-anticipated demographic dividend begins to look like a demographic delay. Two major structural fault lines reveal the reason. The first is gender. Less than 15% of ITI students are female and the system is built to keep it that way, with training almost entirely segregated along gender lines. The second is relevance. The trades ITIs offer is overwhelmingly skewed towards traditional manufacturing sector leaving the service sector – the largest and fastest-growing source of skilled employment in the country – almost entirely unused.

Misaligned trades

The trade dominating ITI enrolment today – electrician, fitter, diesel mechanic, welder, wireman – are essentially those catering to the manufacturing sector, which employs about 10% of India's total workforce. Just two trades – electrician and fitter – account for 50% of all occupied seats in the country as per the latest National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) MIS data. Meanwhile, India's service sector, which accounts for 60% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and approximately 34% of employment is almost invisible inside ITI course catalogues. Information Technology, healthcare, financial services, logistics: these are the engines of job creation in 21st century India, and the ITI ecosystem, has mostly failed to address this need.

Occupational Segregation in ITI Training

Buried within this supply-demand mismatch is an equally troubling structural flaw: the trade wise near absolute gender segregation. The State of Working India 2026 report's analysis reveals that the top 10 male-dominated trades account for roughly 80% of total enrolment in ITIs, with male students comprising over 90% in almost every one of them. The only exception is Computer Operator and Programming Assistant (COPA), with a 60% male share. Female students, less than 15% of total enrolment, are clustered almost exclusively in trades such as Sewing Technology, Dress Making, Fashion Design and Technology, Cosmetology, and Stenography – each seeing female enrolment approaching 90 percent. The pattern is not incidental but institutional.

Gaps in ITI Reforms

India has made consistent progress towards introducing innovative skills policies. The establishment of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) in 2014, the National Skill Development Policy of 2015, and successive ITI upgradation schemes represent genuine institutional intent. But intent has consistently outpaced implementation.

The Harsh Transactional Reality Behind India-US 'Strategic Partnership'

The highly anticipated meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump is over, and the Ministry of External Affairs can heave a sigh of relief. No disruptive comments were noted, and Trump, in fact, was lavish in his praise of India's leader. Everything played out well. But this is no time to let our guard down. First, the meeting itself. Both sides noted 'satisfaction' at the progress in ties, and PM Modi raised the critical issue of the safety of commercial seafarers. Trump's response was swift, asserting that the US would never allow anyone to target India while PM Modi was at the helm.

As a politician, Trump naturally respects a counterpart with massive democratic longevity. He is also unlikely to have forgotten the echoing legacy of the "Abki baar, Trump sarkar ka campaign. Whatever the geopolitical ups and downs, he has never denigrated the Indian Prime Minister - a courtesy he has frequently withheld from core allies like French President Emmanuel Macron. Does this personal chemistry alter structural realities? Hardly. But it plays exceptionally well to domestic audiences in both New Delhi and Washington. Indian policymakers must adjust to a shifting Washington paradigm: democratic credentials no longer carry currency in America's transaction-first strategic partnerships. The current White House administration views geopolitics through a strictly bilateral, commercial lens. The 2020 perception of India as America's most "consequential partner" has given way to a more cautious global posture by Washington. The White



House has consistently chosen selective de-escalation with major adversaries, freezing massive arms sales to Taiwan while managing relations with Beijing. More telling is the reduced salience of regional frameworks, highlighted by the failure to convene the Quadrilateral Summit during India's chairmanship and the symbolic reverting of the Indo-Pacific Command back to its historic moniker, the Pacific Command.

This stems from the reality of the expansionist 'Donroe Doctrine' - a blend of isolationist transactionism and aggressive hemispheric pressure. Look no further than the rhetoric coming out of the State Department, which openly questions the traditional

"rules-based international order" in favour of a world redivided by economic muscle.

On paper, bilateral cooperation looks phenomenal. The COMPACT (Catalyzing Opportunities for Military Partnership, Accelerated Commerce & Technology) initiative covers everything from critical minerals to space exploration. However, the operational progress remains sluggish. Defense cooperation has hit supply-chain bottlenecks; GE Aerospace's F404 and F414 engines for India's Light Combat Aircraft have faced persistent delivery delays, choking domestic timelines.

While framework agreements like the Security of Supplies Arrangement (SOSA) have eased some

bureaucratic hurdles and Indian private players like Kalyani Defence and Tata Aerospace are deeply integrated into global aerospace supply chains - the broader commercial climate remains volatile. Threat of sweeping tariffs, strict supply-chain compliance laws, and sanctions targeting third-party entities dealing with Russia or Iran mean that Indian enterprises face a minefield without ironclad political guarantees.

This begs the fundamental question: Are India and the US true strategic partners? If strategy implies a alignment of core economic and military interests, the US agenda is clear: open up the Indian consumer market and accelerate American defense exports. Defense Secretary

Pete Hegseth's recent call at the Shangri-La Dialogue for partners to ramp up defense spending to 3.5% of GDP to buy American hardware underscores this worldview.

The ambition is to expand American military and industrial dominance. The question for New Delhi is whether it seeks a balanced strategic partnership or an asymmetric alignment.

In short, the geopolitical trajectory is set. For the current US administration, money speaks louder than shared values. Western capital remains deeply tethered to existing manufacturing hubs, and economic nationalism dominates Washington's thinking.

While New Delhi is rightly moving to diversify its for-

eign direct investment sources and diplomatic capital, the Indian bureaucracy must recognise that the global discourse has fundamentally changed. Lavish praise from the White House makes for excellent headlines, but yields little structural value. Clout is measured entirely by economic velocity. To sit comfortably at the high table, India must aggressively slash red tape, streamline investor processes, enforce transparency, and modernise its industrial infrastructure. Muscle matters, but as global growth stumbles, economic resilience is what buys a seat at the table. Until then, the wisest course is to keep our heads down and focus on internal consolidation.

Romila Thapar's Life, History and the Strange Death of Liberal India

Just Being? A publisher might have hesitated before accepting such a tepid title but this book is already flying off the shelves because of the person who is narrating her life-story. It could well have been called *The Autobiography of the Most Well-Known Indian*



city, joined those whom Khushwant Singh invited for Sunday walks and picnics at the sites of older cities. For west Punjabis, Delhi could never be a substitute for Lahore (both cities were mourning those snatched from them). New Delhi was the first modern Indian city, a magnet that attracted people from all over India, a launching-pad connecting to other cultures and other young nations. Careers and networks were being built, as were habitats, fields being transformed into spacious enclaves, peripheral spaces becoming precarious homes for hundreds of construction workers.

Thapar's own assessment was cryptic: "As a capital, Delhi attracted the best and the worst". (p.133). For newcomers, this patchwork-quilted landscape polarised into mental geographies, snobberies and senses of envy – not of 'Purani Dilli' and its Urdu culture that linked it to Lahore, but of 'Lutyens' Delhi', seen as a self-regarding remnant of imperialism. Romila Thapar was located

in "Lutyens' Delhi" but she was also part of another constituency, that of academia. In the aftermath of Partition, Delhi had little of the intellectual vibrancy of Calcutta, Bombay or Madras University. The year 1857 had seen the founding of the three Presidency universities, followed by that of Lahore's Punjab University in 1882. Delhi was known more by its undergraduate colleges (St. Stephens 1881, Hindu 1899, rather than by the University which was constituted in 1924. Delhi University did not have the equivalent of the Calcutta coffee-house or the Madras beach.

Its sparse campus was a footnote to the new capital city, locationally a modification of what had been Delhi cantonment. After a brief spell at the new Kurukshetra University, Thapar joined the DU history faculty in 1963. The contrast with the other history teachers was marked – they were very senior, their lectures laid-back. She missed the atmosphere of London. The university

began to change shortly after, opening gates to new disciplines – economics, sociology, anthropology. These, as well as the department of history, attracted scholars who had just returned from European and American universities. And the arts faculty coffee house became the place to be seen in – until it had a competitor in the new one at the Delhi School of Economics. There were also winds of intellectual change blowing in from overseas. In a world just recovering from six years of war, it was as natural for historians to reassess the past as it was for rulers to plan the future. Indian scholars, excited by the newly-achieved independence, drew inspiration from both their own 'traditions', and from European scholars of the social sciences, and from the slogans of the 1968 students' agitation. Within a few years, in 1971, there would be another vast new campus that colonised the southern Ridge, like the new redbrick universities in England challenging Oxbridge in the '60s.

For Minors in Observation Homes, There is Little Hope for Rehabilitation

Jaiपुर: Two towering iron gates stand between the observation home and the outside world. The first has to be locked before the second can be opened. Curtains hang across the doors just beyond the second gate, ensuring that those inside can neither see outside, nor be seen from outside. The overall security arrangement gives the impression that society is being protected from those inside. Except, those inside are children. On my first day inside an observation home in Jaiपुर, a desk is placed for me in the middle of the premises so I can interview some of the resident children inside. A security guard sits beside me, but quickly drifts off to sleep. I am given the impression that the premises are unsafe with such vigour and by so many, that I briefly consider waking him up. A few minutes later, I am interviewing a child who landed in conflict with the law because he had an abiding love for scooters and could not resist taking one for a ride when he saw that the keys had been left inside. Another had snatched smartphones because, he says, he loved to take selfies. A third says he stole money given as offerings to certain temples ever since he was turned away hungry from one during a community function years ago. These were not hardened offenders, but children with stories far more complex than their case files suggested. I interviewed 108 children in conflict with law to study the effectiveness of mental and psychological



rehabilitation under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, as part of my LL.M. dissertation at National Law University, Delhi. The study was conducted across three districts of Rajasthan – Jaipur, Sikar and Jhunjhunu – after obtaining permission from the Rajasthan high court and the Rajasthan Department of Child Rights. Separate observation homes are maintained for boys and girls. However, the number of girls in these homes is significantly lower, and girls are typically detained only in cases involving heinous offences, such as murder. Most of the children were booked for petty offences such as theft (22), assault (six), and chain snatching (two). A majority – 59 – were booked under The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, while only a few (18) had been accused of heinous

offences like murder. One was there for cyber fraud. Why they do the things they do A lot of the debate around juvenile justice revolves around the question – should children who commit offences be rehabilitated or punished? What I expected to study was rehabilitation, but troublingly, there was not much of it in the observation homes in Rajasthan. The real question is whether there is any rehabilitation taking place even in the case of children who have landed on the “rehabilitation” side of the debate. Behind the legal labels are stories of poverty, school dropouts, neglectful parents, step-parents, and bad company. Many children are from families where survival itself was a daily struggle. One of the boys mentioned earlier proudly says that he has been booked three times for stealing scooters. “Why?” I ask. “I like driving Action,” he says. His

plan would be simple. If he found a scooter with keys left inside, he would take it for a ride until the petrol ran out. He laughs, "I am unlucky. The petrol usually runs out near a traffic policeman." Another boy admits that he has snatched smartphones twice – not to sell them or to make money. His immediate purpose was to take selfies. Yet many of them, with stories that make it apparent to any adult as to how their tellers should be tended to, have spent weeks and sometimes months and years inside observation homes. As the interviews continue at the Jaipur observation home, I notice one older boy helping me coordinate the interviews. He calls names, maintains order and appears unusually mature. When his turn comes, he sits calmly and says he has committed murder. Unlike many others, he does not deny his agency in the crime.

TN Assembly unanimously adopts resolution against Mekedatu project; CM accepts LoP Udhay’s suggestion



CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on Friday unanimously passed a resolution strongly opposing the proposed Mekedatu dam project of the Karnataka government and urging the Union government not to grant any approval for the project.

The resolution was moved by Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay and was adopted by a voice vote after members across party lines extended their support. During the discussion,

Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin suggested that the State government should urge the Union government to establish a separate Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal to deal exclusively with issues relating to the Cauvery river. Accepting the suggestion, the Chief Minister requested Speaker JCD Prabhakar to incorporate the proposal into the resolution as an additional concluding paragraph.

Before moving the reso-

lution, Vijay stressed the need for political unity on issues concerning Tamil Nadu’s water rights and the welfare of farmers.

“Our commitment is conscientious democracy. We must work for the welfare of our people and farmers. Water is one of our fundamental rights, and all of us must stand united on the Cauvery river issue without indulging in blame games,” the Chief Minister said. The resolution recorded the Assembly’s strong objection to Karnataka’s proposal to construct a dam across the Cauvery at Mekedatu. It stated that the project violated the final award of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and the judgment of the Supreme Court, besides lacking the concurrence of the basin States and

VCK has grown into indispensable political force in TN: Thirumavalavan



MADURAI: Asserting that the VCK has grown into an indispensable political force in Tamil Nadu, party president Thol Thirumavalavan claimed forming a state government is no longer possible without the party’s support.

Addressing a gathering after paying tributes at the memorial of slain Dalit leader and former VCK Madurai district organiser Maaaveeran Mudakathan Pandian, Thirumavalavan said his party’s current political standing was comparable to that of major state players like the DMK and the

AIADMK.

“Even if attempts are made to isolate or sideline us, I have often declared on stage that we are the centre. That became a reality during the recent assembly elections. A situation has emerged where a government cannot be formed without the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal,” he claimed.

Recalling the party’s early struggles against dominant casteist forces, Thirumavalavan paid homage to Pandian, who was ambushed and murdered by “caste fanatics” for his active grassroots work. He noted that the killing took place during his tenure as the Mangalur MLA. The VCK chief recounted that the party’s subsequent call for a state-wide bandh to protest the murder led to his arrest, along with numerous cadres.



PATTALI MAKAL KATCHI LEGISLATURE PARTY LEADERS AND MEMBERS CALLED ON THE HONBLE CHIEF MINISTER AND THANKED THE GOVERNMENT FOR ANNOUNCING A SOCIAL JUSTICE AUDIT

DMK lacks opposition spirit, disregards people’s mandate: TN Minister Rajesh

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Congress Legislature Party leader and Tourism Minister S Rajesh Kumar on Friday reaffirmed the party’s support for the State government’s special resolution on the Cauvery water dispute and the proposed Mekedatu dam project, while accusing the DMK of failing to respect the people’s verdict in the polls.

In a statement, Rajesh Kumar said Tamil Nadu has been compelled to fight every year for its rightful share of Cauvery water despite favourable orders from the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and the Supreme Court. He alleged that Karnataka continues to deny



Tamil Nadu its due share of water and said the Congress fully supports the government’s stand that the Mekedatu project cannot proceed without Tamil Nadu’s consent.

“The Congress party stands firmly with the State government in its efforts to

protect the interests of Tamil Nadu’s farmers and safeguard the State’s water rights through all available legal means,” he said.

Rajesh Kumar also welcomed the government’s decision to pursue legal measures against the Mekedatu project and reiterated that

not even a single brick should be laid for the project without Tamil Nadu’s approval.

He also welcomed Governor Rajendra Arlekar’s address in the Assembly, saying it reflected the government’s commitment to protecting State rights and upholding federal principles. Criticising the DMK, Rajesh Kumar said the opposition appeared unwilling to accept the verdict delivered by the people. He took exception to remarks made by Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin against the month-old government and said such criticism reflected political frustration rather than constructive opposition.

Despite parting ways, Rahul hopeful of teaming up with Stalin in the fight against BJP

Chennai: Despite parting ways with the DMK immediately after the assembly elections and joining the ruling Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam government of Joseph Vijay, much to the chagrin of the Dravidian major, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha and Congress leader and birthday boy Rahul Gandhi is still hopeful of teaming up with MK Stalin for a united fight against the BJP.

Putting aside the bitterness and the war of words following the Congress’s exit from their company and the DMK seeking a separate seating arrangement in Parliament to keep off

from their former ally, DMK president Stalin and the women’s face of the Dravidian party, Kanimozhi, MP, have extended their birthday greetings to Rahul through ‘X’. Chief Minister Vijay was among those who wished ‘brother’ Rahul on the occasion.

And, Rahul, responding to greetings from Stalin, though a formal one lacking the camaraderie and warmth of the past, expressed hope that there is still political space for both the Congress and the DMK to work together in the days ahead. “Our shared resolve to defend the idea of India, our Constitution, and feder-

alism will continue to guide us - this is the fight for the very soul of our democracy, and we will wage it together, until we win,” was Rahul’s response, thanking Stalin for the birthday greetings.

This is the second time Rahul publicly underscored the importance of not dumping the DMK but taking the Dravidian major in the fight against the BJP. Earlier, in his address at the INDIA Bloc meet, he had recognised the DMK as a partner in that political endeavour. It is also driven by the reality of the DMK having a large contingent of MPs in Parliament. With most of the TMC MPs switching over,

the DMK’s relevance for the secular opposition has only increased, though the Congress might remain with the TVK of Vijay in Tamil Nadu, explain observers. Interestingly, on June 3, the birth anniversary of the late DMK patriarch M Karunanidhi, both Sonia Gandhi and Rahul, as well as AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, paid floral tributes to a portrait of the former Chief Minister and praised him as an architect of modern Tamil Nadu. And this was cited by Congress veteran P Chidambaram, to drive home the point that the Congress-DMK relationship has not snapped.

Blue Monday isn’t real, but sadness is – and it plays a vital role in children’s development

January can feel exhausting. With the magic of Christmas and New Year fading fast, returning to routine brings with it an undeniable emotional slump. But is it really the saddest month?

The idea of “Blue Monday” caught on in 2005, when British psychologist Cliff Arnall announced that he had identified the saddest day of the year using a mathematical formula that factored in climate, post-holiday debt, and dwindling motivation in keeping up with New Year’s resolutions. The scientific community quickly (and correctly) dismissed the idea as pseudoscience – far from a psychological finding, Arnall’s formula was revealed to be a marketing ploy designed for a travel agency. The agency’s proposed cure for the winter blues was, naturally, to purchase a holiday.

You can’t schedule sadness

term Blue Monday continues to appear each January in the media and in ad campaigns, despite a total lack of evidence that one specific day on the calendar is linked to an overall peak in unhappiness.

Sadness is a complex human response, not a programmed event. While winter weather can certainly affect your mood, there are commercial interests surrounding the concept of sadness, which seek to influence behaviour by encouraging people to consume objects or experiences.

Indeed, some brands have made sadness into a profitable resource, presenting products or experiences as solutions to the same unhappiness they perpetuate. They use the idea of the “saddest day of the year” to influence consumption patterns, leveraging the “misery is not miserly” effect which links low emotional states to increased spending.

This kind of marketing can also influence the emotional dynamics of many households. It creates expectations that are difficult to fulfil, encourages materialism, and creates tensions between adults and children. This all feeds into broader feel-



ings of unhappiness.

But there is further risk when these messages reach children directly. When young people are told that “negative” emotions can be combatted through shopping or digital, artificial distractions, it weakens their ability to recognise, understand and manage what they feel. This makes it vital that we factor media discourse into children’s emotional education.

Sadness and the developing mind

from an obstacle to be overcome, sadness plays a fundamental role in children’s development. At a very early age, they learn that expressing sadness can gain them the support of parents and carers, and that in most cases, it is much more effective than other emotions in getting attention and solace. Furthermore, sadness helps to readjust goals after a failure, allowing children to modify their approaches and expectations in the face of adverse situations. It also drives introspection processes that allow children to reflect on what they feel, their values, and how they relate to others.

Experiencing sadness therefore contributes to moral growth.

Emotions linked to loss, disappointment and injustice help children to build their sense of right and wrong, develop sensitivity to the suffering of others, and strengthen their empathy. In fact, recent studies have found that experiencing sadness is linked to an increased ability to put oneself in another’s shoes.

Adult responses to sadness

The way adults respond to sadness has a decisive impact on how children learn to manage it. A warm, sensitive and caring family environment benefits emotional development, while tense, cold and critical interactions hinder it. Family dynamics – the emotional models that determine the quality of conversations and availability of support – are what shape the way a child interprets and expresses sadness. School and social environments are also key. Children who feel supported not only experience sadness less intensely, but also develop greater confidence to cope with it.

Guiding children in recognising and managing sadness is a

way to help them develop resilience. When they learn strategies for coping with difficult emotions – talking, asking for help, putting their feelings into words, identifying what they need – they acquire internal resources that enable them to face future challenges. This resilience translates into stronger self-esteem and a more realistic and confident perception of their own abilities.

Cultural values and beliefs also play a part in determining which expressions of sadness are accepted, considered appropriate, or suppressed. This means the expression and regulation of sadness vary significantly between cultural and social environments. Understanding these differences allows us to better support children’s emotional processes, and avoid misinterpreting their behaviour. When faced with commercial messages like those surrounding Blue Monday, adults must recognise that this emotion is a natural part of growing up – not just one day of the year – and offer children spaces where they can feel heard, supported and understood.

Demographic crisis: China tries everything to make babies

Declaring childbirth a patriotic act. Nagging newlyweds about family planning. Taxing condoms. To get its citizens to have babies, the Chinese Communist Party has pulled every lever. The efforts have largely failed. For the fourth year in a row, China reported more deaths than births in 2025 as its birth rate plunged to a record low, leaving its population smaller and older.

The government said 7.92 million babies were born last year, down from 9.54 million in 2024. The number of people who died in 2025, 11.31 million, continued to climb. The latest figures were reported alongside economic data showing China’s economy grew 5% in 2025.

The number of births for every 1,000 people fell to 5.63, the lowest level on record since the founding of the People’s Republic of China, according to official data. Around the world, governments are contending with falling birth rates. But the problem is more acute for China: Fewer babies mean fewer future workers to support a rapidly growing cohort of retirees. A worsening economy has made addressing the challenge even more difficult. “China is facing a severe challenge posed by an extremely low fertility rate,” said Wu Fan, a professor of family policy at Nankai University.

China’s top leaders have redoubled their efforts to try to boost the national birth rate enough to reverse the decline, something that demographers said is probably impossible now that China has crossed a demographic threshold where its fertility rate is so low that its population is shrinking.

Xi Jinping, China’s top leader, has called for a “new type of marriage and childbearing culture,” urging officials to influence young people’s views on “love and marriage, fertility and family.” Local officials have responded with increasingly ham-handed measures to get citizens to have babies, including tracking women’s menstrual cycles and issuing guidelines to reduce abortions that are medically unnecessary.

Many of the measures have been met with a collective shrug by young people who do not want to start a family.

On Jan. 1, officials placed a 13% value-added tax on contraceptive drugs and condoms, a move that has been met with a mix of indifference, mockery and derision. While the policy was not explicitly directed at boosting the birth rate, it was immediately interpreted by a skeptical



public as yet another futile attempt to encourage more children. Jonathan Zhu, 28, said the price increase would have little effect on his habits. “I’ll still use them,” he said, citing financial pressure as his reason for delaying fatherhood until marriage. His girlfriend, Hu Tingyan, 26, agreed, noting that the cost of condoms does not influence her willingness to have children. “I don’t feel the time is right yet,” she said. Some of the government’s other baby-boosting measures, such as offering cash and subsidized housing for couples, have also failed to move the needle.

“The empirical evidence from other countries so far is that monetary incentives have almost no effect in raising fertility,” said Wang Feng, a professor of sociology at the University of California, Irvine. For many young people, the high costs of raising a child are especially discouraging amid a slowing economy and a property crisis. Youth unemployment remains high, and many recent college graduates are struggling to land a steady paycheck, falling back on their parents with little support from a threadbare social welfare system. “With China’s economic woes, young people may want to wait and see, and that’s not good news for raising fertility,” Wang said.

China arrived at this problem much sooner than it anticipated even a decade ago, when officials relaxed the one-child policy to permit couples to have two children. It adjusted its birth policy again to allow three babies in 2021. This has left the government with less time to fix its severely underfunded pension and health care systems.

At the same time, China experienced a sudden and rapid decline in the working-age population, as the number of citizens age 60 and over is projected to reach 400 million by 2035. Young people often express reluctance to contribute to the public pension fund because of the financial burden.

Reliance succession plan near completion: Ambani

New Delhi: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani on Friday, June 19, said the transfer of day-to-day management responsibilities at his oil-to-telecom-and-retail conglomerate Reliance Industries to his children is “almost complete”, marking the final stages of a closely watched succession process at India’s most valuable company. Speaking at the annual shareholders meeting, Ambani said Akash, Isha and Anant are now leading key businesses across the group and will drive the conglomerate’s next phase of growth, including major initiatives in telecommunications, retail, digital services and new energy. Ambani, 69, lavished praise on his three children as he said the “generational transfer of day-to-day management at Reliance is almost complete”, signalling that the succession process at India’s largest conglomerate has entered its final phase. “The future of your company is not only in safe hands, but in hands that will take Reliance to far greater heights,” he told shareholders. Just like the previous year, he gave the floor to twins Akash and



Isha, 34, to present a business plan for the telecom and retail segments, respectively. Youngest, Anant, 31, who in May last year was appointed as executive director on the board of Reliance — the first among the siblings — for a second year in a row, delivered a business update for the energy segment. Succession has long been one of the most closely watched issues at Reliance. Ambani, who joined the company’s board in 1977 at the age of 20, assumed control of the conglomerate following the death of founder Dhirubhai

Ambani in 2002. He, however, had a protracted dispute over control of the conglomerate with his younger brother, as their father did not leave a will. For investors, the leadership transition carries added significance as Reliance evolves from a traditional oil-and-petrochemicals group into a consumer, technology and clean-energy powerhouse, with billions of dollars earmarked for digital services, retail and renewable energy. “Isha, Akash, and Anant have now completed three transformative years on the Board of

Reliance Industries. Isha leads consumer businesses. Akash leads technology businesses. Anant leads the energy businesses,” he said. “While leading individual business verticals, they are simultaneously working towards the holistic growth of everything under the Reliance ecosystem. They are three bodies, one soul. Their soul is Reliance. One single indivisible Reliance, now and forever.” Asia’s second-richest man said that while he continues to provide hands-on leadership, as many as 500 young leaders in

their 30s and 40s have been groomed in various businesses to assist his three children, “They bring top-notch domain expertise, technological fluency, and the first generation’s passion to surpass expectations. They are being mentored by seniors to ensure that the institutional culture of Reliance is upheld, and the bar is continually raised.” After Akash, who has been working at Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd since 2014, presented a digital business plan, Ambani said, “Splendid Akash.” “I can see the passion, dedication and hard work you and your team are putting into this mission. When work is done with such devotion, hard work becomes heart work. I am confident that this heart work will make Jio’s second decade even more scintillating, more purposeful and more transformational,” he said. On his daughter’s retail plan, he said, “That was truly impressive, Isha.” “Let us applaud Isha and the entire retail and consumer product teams for what they have built and for the clarity and courage with which they intend to build the next phase of Reliance Retail.

Bandhan Bank opened Corporate Banking Branch in BKC, Mumbai



Hyderabad, June 2026: Bandhan Bank today announced that it has inaugurated a dedicated Corporate Banking Branch in Mumbai, marking a significant step in strengthening its presence in the financial capital of India. The new branch located at INS Tower, BKC Mumbai, was inaugurated by Mr. Partha Pratim Sengupta, MD & CEO, Bandhan Bank, in the presence of Mr. Rajinder Kumar Babbar, ED & CBO, Mr. Ratan Kumar Kesh, ED & COO and Mr. Satish Kumar, Head-Wholesale Banking, along with other senior officials of the Bank. This specialized Corporate Banking Branch has been designed to exclusively cater to the needs of corporate and institutional clients, offering a comprehensive suite of tailored financial solutions. The branch will focus on delivering end-to-

end banking services to large corporates, mid-sized enterprises and institutional clients. By setting up a dedicated corporate banking hub in BKC, Bandhan Bank aims to deepen client relationships, enhance service delivery, and provide faster, more specialized support to its growing corporate customer base. The branch will also serve as a key centre for relationship management, structured finance solutions, and sector-specific advisory services, ensuring a high-touch, consultative approach for corporate clients. Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Partha Pratim Sengupta, MD & CEO, Bandhan Bank, said “We are delighted to announce the launch of our dedicated Corporate Banking Branch at BKC. This initiative reflects our strategic focus on expand-

ing our corporate banking franchise and providing specialized, relationship-led services to our corporate customers. As we continue to strengthen our network, we remain committed to sustainable growth and to delivering innovative, flexible banking solutions across customer segments. Our corporate banking vertical will play a key role in driving this next phase of growth.” Bandhan Bank is currently present in 35 out of the 36 states and Union Territories in India and serves more than 3.2 crore customers through a robust network of over 6,380 banking outlets. The launch of the Corporate Banking Branch in Mumbai highlights the Bank’s commitment to diversifying its offerings and strengthening its position as a full-service bank catering to both retail and corporate clients.

20 years of leadership amid evolving global dynamics: ArcelorMittal Executive Chairman Lakshmi Mittal marks 20th anniversary highlighting India as a key driver of global growth

NEW DELHI, JUNE 19: India set to power the next phase of global steel demand, driven by infrastructure, urbanisation and the energy transition. Scale and diversification strengthened resilience, helping ArcelorMittal navigate major global shocks over the past two decades. The steel industry has become faster, more global and technology-driven than it was in 2006. Long-term outlook remains positive, supported by emerging market growth, infrastructure investment and industrial policy. ArcelorMittal Executive Chairman Lakshmi Mittal has stated that the last 20 years has been characterized by China’s remarkable growth. Now it is India’s turn, with massive infrastructure expansion, rapid urban housing growth, and energy transition infrastructure all on the cards. “If I look back over the 20 years, I genuinely believe that the merger did indeed create a stronger company, benefiting from greater scale, diversification, resilience and strategic reach. Clearly – as is always the way - there have been events we did not anticipate. The aftershocks of the Global Financial Crisis are still with us, and the fall-out from COVID has been similarly dramatic. I am adamant though that we navigated these shocks better



together than we could have done separately,” Mr. Mittal said in a video message delivered to attendees at the World Steel Dynamics annual Global Steel Dynamics Forum 2026, held in New York. “Operating in 2026 is obviously very different to 2006. Today markets move faster, competition is more global, technology changes constantly, and companies are expected to adapt in real time. Even traditional industries like ours operate in a faster, more global, more data-driven, and more environmentally constrained world than they did in 2006. There are plenty of reasons to remain optimistic and excited about

the future. I have no doubt that we will continue to face plenty of challenges and unexpected events. But honestly, I can say that after 50 years in the steel industry, there is no place I would rather be.” Ahead of its 20th anniversary on July 31 this year, ArcelorMittal Executive Chairman Lakshmi Mittal, recalled the speech he gave at the event, shortly before the merger of Mittal Steel and Arcelor was reached. Reflecting on the past two decades, Mr. Mittal highlighted how the combination created a stronger, more resilient business with the scale, diversification and reach to navigate major global shifts - from the financial crisis to the COVID-19 pandemic to the rise of China’s steel industry. He also set out how industry has evolved, with faster-moving markets, greater technological change and a more complex operating environment than in 2006. Looking ahead, Mr. Mittal expressed confidence in the long-term outlook for steel, underpinned by demand from emerging markets such as India, infrastructure renewal in developed economies and the energy transition. He also underlined the growing role of domestic industrial policy and the importance of maintaining a strong, competitive steel industry.

TIRUPATI EMERGES AMONG INDIA’S FAST-GROWING PET CARE MARKETS

Tirupati, June 2026: The future of India’s pet care market is increasingly being shaped by cities like Tirupati. As one of the country’s fastest-growing pet care markets, Tirupati is part of a broader wave of growth beyond metros, where pet parenting is moving firmly into the mainstream. Nationwide, Instamart recorded a 41% growth in pet care orders over the past year, while Tier II+ cities outpaced metros with 96% year-on-year growth. From grain-free meals and specialised nutrition to grooming products and treats, pet parents are spending more on their pets’ health, comfort, and happiness than ever before. While Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Delhi remain the biggest pet care markets overall, the real headline is happening elsewhere: Tier II+ cities posted 96% year-on-year growth in pet care orders. India Is Having a Cat Moment Settling the dog vs cat-lover debate, data shows that cat food now makes up nearly 60% of all pet food demand on Instamart. Cat



food is the single most-searched pet term on the platform. On the feline front, Mumbai is crowned India’s cat capital, followed by Bengaluru, Chennai, and Kolkata. Kolkata stands out

as India’s most cat-dominated city, with more than 8 in 10 cat-and-dog food orders going to cats. Bengaluru is India’s most dog-loving city, followed by Hyderabad, Mumbai, Chennai and

Delhi. The real dark horse? Bird food, up 178% YoY, with rabbit food close behind at 130% growth. Beyond Food: Grooming Goes Mainstream The pet food bowl is getting a glow-up, too, and so is the rest of the pet care basket. “Dog shampoo” is now Instamart’s fastest-growing pet search term. Grain-free pet food grew 152% YoY, making it the fastest-growing nutrition segment on the platform. Wet food now accounts for nearly 45% of all pet food orders. Pet supplements and wellness products are up 42%, with premium nutrition showing no signs of slowing down. Bengaluru Has India’s Most Pampered Pets Nearly 66% of all pet-care spending in the city goes toward treats, toys, and premium products, making it India’s undisputed pet-pampering capital, with Gurgaon, Noida, and Hyderabad close on its heels. Gurgaon tops India’s Pet Treat Index, clocking 37 treat orders for every 100 food orders. Pet indulgence is going mainstream.

IDBI Bank Launches Hackathon “IDBI Innovate 2026” to Drive Banking Innovation



India: IDBI Bank announced the launch of its hackathon, “IDBI Innovate 2026,” a forward-looking initiative aimed at fostering innovation and accelerating digital transformation across the banking ecosystem. The event was formally inaugurated by Shri Rakesh Sharma, MD & CEO, IDBI Bank, marking a significant step in the Bank’s commitment to embracing next-generation technologies. Built around the theme “Build. Integrate. Transform.”, the hackathon invites participation from start-ups, fin-

techs, developers, and innovators from across India. The initiative is designed to harness creative and technological talent to address real-world challenges faced by the banking industry. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Rakesh Sharma, MD & CEO of IDBI Bank, said: “With ‘IDBI Innovate 2026,’ we aim to create dynamic solutions that bring together bright minds and innovative ideas to reimagine banking solutions. This hackathon reflects our commitment to digital excellence and customer-centric innovation.”

Gen Z Women Lead with 48% Share of Andhra Pradesh & Telangana Bus Bookings Amid Growth in Pilgrimage Travel: redBus

Hyderabad, 19 June, 2026: redBus, the world’s largest online bus ticketing platform, is witnessing a strong surge in intercity travel from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The surge is led by pilgrimage journeys to Tirupati ahead of the weekend travel window and temple festivities such as Jyesthabhishekam. Bus bookings from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are projected to grow by 22% between 14 June - 20 June 2026, compared to the same period last year. This surge reflects strong demand for spiritual travel to Tirupati, home to the Sri Venkateswara Temple and one of India’s most visited pilgrimage destinations. The temple continues to attract devotees from across India, with over 44 million servings of meals and beverages distributed between January and May 2026 alone, highlighting the scale of pilgrimage activity at the shrine. Beyond pilgrimage travel, weekend getaways and seasonal travel patterns con-

tinue to drive intercity mobility across the region, with families, students, young travellers, and devotees undertaking short-window journeys. Some key travel trends, as per bookings on the redBus platform, are:

Top Routes and Key Destinations (by traffic):

Intra-region

Hyderabad-Vijayawada
Vijayawada-Tirupati
Tirupati-Hyderabad
Hyderabad-Nellore

Inter-region

Hyderabad-Bangalore
Tirupati-Bangalore
Hyderabad-Chennai
Hyderabad-Pune
Nellore-Bangalore

Top Boarding Points by Traffic in Hyderabad:

MGBS Bus Stand
Kukatpally
Gachibowli
Miyapur

Lakdikapul
Ameerpet
Traveller Preferences

65% of bookings are for AC buses, indicating a strong preference for comfortable travel during the pilgrimage and summer travel period. Sleeper buses account for 58% of bookings, while seater services account for 42%, reflecting traveller preference for overnight and long-distance journeys to the region and for Tirupati. Traveller Demographics Travellers in the 18-30 age group account for 47% of the seat share, underscoring strong participation from younger devotees and leisure travellers. Male travellers account for 64% of the total bookings, of whom 46% are young travellers (18-30). Women travellers make up 36% of total bookings, of whom 48% are young travellers (aged 18-30). 42% of travellers begin their journeys from Tier 1 cities, while 21% depart

from Tier 2 towns and 37% from Tier 3 towns and villages, reflecting strong metro demand alongside steady momentum in the non-metro market. Together, these trends indicate a strong rise in pilgrimage-led travel across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, supported by advance travel planning and the growing preference for comfortable intercity bus services. As devotees undertake spiritual journeys to key destinations, redBus continues to strengthen access across these pilgrimage corridors, enabling travellers from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to plan and complete their journeys with greater ease and reliability. To support this, redBus offers travellers up to 2500 off on using the code PILGRIM on bookings made between 01 May 2026 to 30 June 2026 to travel from Hyderabad, Chennai and Bangalore to Tirupati via redbus.com or the redBus mobile app.

NCW RECOMMENDS ANNUAL POSH AUDITS, STRONGER SAFEGUARDS

New Delhi: The National Commission for Women (NCW) on Friday, June 19, issued an advisory to all states and Union Territories, recommending mandatory annual POSH audits, and a host of measures to strengthen workplace safety and effective implementation of guidelines under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. The advisory has been sent to chief secretaries and directors general of police of all states and UTs and has also been disseminated to district magistrates, senior superintendents of police and commissioners of police across the country for grassroots-level enforcement and accountability. “A woman should never have to choose between her dignity and her livelihood. Every workplace must be a space of safety, respect and equal opportunity,” NCW chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar said. “Effective implemen-

tation of the POSH Act is not merely a legal obligation but a collective responsibility towards ensuring women’s empowerment and participation in nation-building,” she said. In a statement, the commission said that the advisory seeks to ensure that every workplace, whether in the government, private, organised or unorganised sector, strictly complies with provisions of the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (of Women at Workplace) (POSH) Act and fosters a safe, inclusive and gender-sensitive working environment for women. Mandatory POSH audits for all establishments with 10 or more workers in a major step towards institutional accountability, the commission has advised all states and UTs to establish dedicated POSH monitoring cells or digital compliance dashboards to track implementation of the POSH Act, the statement said.

ISRAEL AND HEZBOLLAH AGREE TO CEASEFIRE, US OFFICIAL CONFIRMS

Lebanon was drawn into the war between Israel, the US and Iran at the beginning of March, with Hezbollah launching rockets into Israel in retaliation for an Israeli strike that killed Iran's supreme leader. Israel responded by launching a bombing campaign across Lebanon and invading a significant part of the country's south, with the aim of driving back Hezbollah fighters from its northern border. At least 3,912 people have been killed, among them women and children, and a further 11,699 others wounded since the latest conflict began, according to Lebanon's health ministry. About a million people remain displaced, while dozens of communities in the south have been completely destroyed. Hezbollah has vowed to continue with its attacks as long as the invasion persists. The IDF has confirmed that there is a ceasefire in place between Lebanon's Hezbollah and Israel. IDF Spokesperson,



Brigadier General Effie Defrin, says in a statement: "We are in a ceasefire. The IDF is prepared to continue fighting if called upon to do so." The first point in the US-Iran deal declares an "immediate and permanent" termination of military operations on "all fronts", including Lebanon. It also commits all sides to ensuring Lebanon's "territorial integrity and sov-

ereignty". Centred around 14 points, the memorandum of understanding also includes reopening the Strait of Hormuz, a requirement that Iran will never have a nuclear weapon, a \$300bn (£224bn) plan for Iran's "reconstruction", and the US terminating "all types of sanctions" on Iran. US officials have previously said that while Lebanon was covered

by the ceasefire framework, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory was not a condition of the deal and that Israel would retain the right to self-defence. The announcement comes after at least 18 people were killed in southern Lebanon following a series of Israeli air strikes overnight, according to the country's health ministry. Israel's mili-

tary says four of its soldiers were also killed. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) also earlier said it has struck 80 targets linked to the Iran-backed armed group Hezbollah and killed "dozens" of its members. The developments come a day after the US and Iran signed a deal aimed at ending the conflict in the Middle East, including a permanent cessation of hostilities in Lebanon. "We'll bring you the latest updates right here on this page. At least 18 people have been killed in southern Lebanon following a series of Israeli air strikes overnight, the country's health ministry has said - while the Israeli military says four of its soldiers were also killed. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said it had struck 80 targets linked to the Iran-backed armed group Hezbollah and killed "dozens" of its members. It comes a day after the US and Iran signed a deal aimed at ending the conflict in the Middle East, including

a permanent cessation of hostilities in Lebanon. Both Israel and Hezbollah have carried out strikes against each other since the agreement was announced, raising questions about the future of the truce between the US and Iran. The US-Iran deal calls for an end to hostilities on all fronts, and for Lebanon's territorial integrity and sovereignty to be respected. However, Israel has said it has no intention of withdrawing its forces from Lebanon and has insisted that its conflict with Hezbollah is separate from the war on Iran. Lebanon's state news agency described the overnight bombardment across the Nabatieh district of southern Lebanon on Thursday as one of the most intense of the war, with at least 18 killed, 33 injured and several buildings hit. Hezbollah said it had ambushed an Israeli group in southern Lebanon, destroying three tanks with guided missiles, and targeting troops with rocket and artillery fire.

UK actress charged with importing meth worth almost A\$300m into Australia

A British actress, who appeared in an Eastenders spin-off and a Jason Statham movie, has been charged with trying to smuggle 320kg of meth into Australia from West Africa. Emma Hussen, 34, appeared in a Sydney court on Thursday after she was charged with attempting to import a commercial quantity of methamphetamine into Australia. The maximum penalty is life in prison. Police allege Hussen, along with a couple from South Australia, tried to import meth hidden in bags of charcoal in shipping containers from Ghana. The drugs had an estimated street value of A\$296m (US\$208m; £157m). Hussen was refused bail in an earlier court decision and is due back in court in August. Hussen played the character Naz in an Eastenders spin-off E20 which first aired in 2010. She was also in Jason Statham's 2013 action thriller Hummingbird, which was released in the US as Redemption. Australian police launched



an investigation in April after border authorities detected anomalies in two shipping containers that had arrived at Sydney's Port Botany from Ghana. Authorities found a "white crystallised substance" after they X-rayed the contents of the containers, which were listed as bags of charcoal. Further testing confirmed it was meth. Police removed the drugs from the ship before it was delivered to a storage facility in GIRRRAWEE in Sydney's western suburbs. Police allege that Hussen went to the facility and supervised as several men unpacked the container.

IN TRUMP'S SHADOW, VANCE BECOMES FACE OF IRAN DEAL



As he defended the US-Iran deal at the White House press briefing on Thursday, Vice-President JD Vance brushed aside a question about whether President Donald Trump had positioned him as the "fall guy" for an agreement that is broadly unpopular with Republicans in Washington. "I think the president was joking," Vance said, referring to Trump's comment the previous day that he might blame the vice-president if the deal collapses. Vance has spent the week defending the memorandum of understanding with Iran. Yet he was often contradicted or overshadowed by Trump - and his uncertainty about the logistics of a signing ceremony he was planning to attend in Switzerland with Iranian leaders only further underscored his challenges in handling a defining issue of his vice-presidency. Late Thursday, the White House announced that Vance would ultimately not be travelling for the ceremony, at least for now. Despite all the challenges, Vance has still delivered a forceful defence of the deal. He also delivered a blunt rebuke of Israel's response to the agreement, going further in

his criticisms than anything Trump has said in recent days. The timing is awkward for Vance, who just days ago published a memoir that intensified speculation about a possible presidential run in 2028. It will be hard for him to sell this interim deal to a party that is divided between anti-interventionist Maga supporters who opposed the war from the start, and conservative Iran hawks who believe the White House has ultimately capitulated to Tehran. Other senior administration officials, meanwhile, are not facing quite the same pressures as Vance when it comes to Iran. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, a potential rival for the 2028 Republican nomination, has manoeuvred himself out of the spotlight on this war. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth has been a vocal defender of the military campaign, but has not been deeply involved in the diplomatic talks to end it and is not the face of this agreement in the same way Vance is. Some Republicans said Vance's Iran war portfolio has turned into a thankless assignment from a president long known for blaming his subordinates for unpopular policies.

MANGIONE'S LAWYERS REVERSE COURSE ON PSYCHIATRIC DEFENCE IN STATE MURDER TRIAL



Lawyers for the defendant accused of gunning down UnitedHealthcare Chief Executive Brian Thompson will no longer argue a psychiatric defence at his state murder trial. Luigi Mangione's attorneys reversed course a day after telling Judge Gregory Carro that they would try to show he was suffering from "extreme emotional disturbance at the time of the occur-

rence". Mangione, 28, has pleaded not guilty in both the federal and state cases against him for the fatal shooting of Thompson in midtown Manhattan at the end of 2024. The BBC has contacted Mangione's attorneys. The Manhattan district attorney's office declined to comment. The reversal came ahead of a Thursday deadline Mangione's legal team was facing to provide prosecutors at the Manhattan district attorney's office with information in support of the psychiatric defence claim. If Mangione had pursued the psychiatric defence, and the jury accepted it, then he could have faced a shorter prison sentence as he might have faced a conviction for manslaughter, instead of murder.

Italy's Meloni says Trump 'made up' story that she 'begged' him for photo at G7

Italy's foreign minister, Antonio Tajani, has cancelled a trip to the US after President Donald Trump told Italian TV that Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni had "begged" him for a picture with her. Meloni has said his comments were entirely "made-up". The highly public exchange between the two leaders was an indication that their earlier close ties have frayed in the months since Trump's decision to go to war with Iran. Trump and Meloni were seen in close conversation at the G7 summit at Evian-les-Bains in eastern France this week, and the Italian leader later told reporters their relationship was unchanged and there had been "no recriminations". However, Trump has since given a phone



interview with Italy's La7 TV channel in which he alleged: "She begged me to take a photo with her; I felt sorry for her." The two leaders were filmed several times at Evian, including while they appeared engrossed in conversation on a small sofa, with Meloni smiling as they talked. "She's probably happy I spoke to her," he said. La7 did not produce

Trump's original words in English, but voiced them over in Italian. Meloni reacted in total disbelief, saying she was "frankly stunned", in a brief address to her seven million followers on Instagram. "I don't know why the US president behaves this way towards allies," she said, adding it was not the first time it had happened. "I can only say it

is regrettable he does not show the same determination towards the enemies of the West and towards the enemies of the US - [enemies] whose leaders he instead appears to be far more accommodating with." "But there is one thing he needs to remember: neither I nor Italy ever beg." The BBC has approached the White House for comment. Meloni's evident shock at Trump's outburst comes after a series of incidents that have weakened what had begun as a close political relationship. Elected in 2022, Meloni was the sole European leader to attend Trump's inauguration in January 2025 and was widely seen by her EU colleagues as a potential bridge-builder with the US president.

Obama moved to tears by wife Michelle's speech

Former US President Barack Obama was visibly moved as his wife Michelle Obama saluted his work during the opening of the new Obama Presidential Center in Chicago. He appeared to wipe away a tear as the former first lady hailed his achievements in office, including his efforts to expand healthcare and his attainment of a Nobel Peace Prize. The latter remark was widely interpreted as a jibe at his successor, Donald Trump, who has coveted the same accolade during his own time in office. Living former presidents Bill Clinton, George W Bush and Joe Biden attended the event but Trump, who has long feuded with the Obamas, was not invited. The BBC has contacted the White House for comment. The Chicago attrac-



tion, a monument to the eight years the couple spent in the White House, has been in the works since Obama, the 44th president, left the Oval Office a decade ago. The Obamas chose the Jackson Park neighbourhood on the South Side for the 20-acre campus, near the home where they lived before moving to the White House. Obama said he hoped the cen-

tre would "remind us what we can achieve when we embrace our shared responsibilities as citizens". Michelle Obama used her speech to address her husband directly and salute his resilience. "Barack, you gotta look at me," she said, drawing laughter from her audience. "Eight years in the crucible and not once did you melt from the heat." Her hus-

band had done "the people's work", she went on to say, touting his record on the economy and the raid that killed Osama Bin Laden, alongside his achievements on healthcare and the Nobel prize. Barack Obama had been held to a "higher standard" as America's first black president, she added. She told her husband he had battled "lies about your birthright, your faith, your patriotism". When he took the microphone, Barack Obama addressed the emotions of the day, saying of his wife: "She knew she was going to mess me up, and she did it anyway." Obama, who was president from 2009-17, told visitors that the centre had been planned as a "vibrant, living celebration of community".

Zimbabwe MPs pass bill to extend president's time in power



Zimbabwe's lower house of parliament has passed a bill to extend presidential terms from five to seven years, which would allow President Emmerson Mnangagwa to remain in power until 2030. More than 200 lawmakers voted in favour of the draft legislation on Thursday, surpassing the vote threshold required for a two-thirds majority to amend the constitution. The bill also scraps direct presidential elections, with future presidents chosen by parliament. Mnangagwa, 83, took power in 2017 after ousting long-time ruler Robert Mugabe with the backing of the military - and went on to win disputed elections in 2018 and 2023. The bill now heads to the senate, where it is also expected to secure approval, before being enacted by the president. This is the culmination of a campaign by the ruling Zanu-PF party - in power since independence in 1980 - to amend the constitution and extend

presidential terms, a plan that received cabinet backing in February. The president had previously described himself as a constitutionalist and pledged to respect term limits. During Thursday's vote, Speaker of Parliament Jacob Mudenda announced that 216 lawmakers had backed the legislation, surpassing the 187 votes required to amend the constitution. Forty-two lawmakers voted against it. Opposition parties, civil society groups and constitutional lawyers have argued that such fundamental changes should be put to a national referendum rather than being approved solely through parliament. Initially hailed by supporters as a reformer who would restore economic growth and democratic governance, Mnangagwa's presidency has instead been marked by economic challenges, disputed elections and growing concerns over democratic backsliding.



Lebanon says Israeli strikes kill 18 as Israel says four soldiers killed by Hezbollah

BOY, 12, WINS HEARTS AFTER TRYING TO CHECK SICK CHICKEN INTO ETHIOPIAN HOSPITAL

Growing up in rural Ethiopia, 12-year-old Markos Abaye developed a deep affection for animals. So when his beloved chicken fell sick earlier this month and did not respond to any at-home treatments, Markos popped his shoes on and did what made the most sense to him - he rushed the bird to the local hospital. A video of the unlikely couple, recorded by a nurse at Denbecha Primary Hospital in the Amhara region, racked up 770,000 views on TikTok, with many Ethiopians struck by Markos' compassion. "She is wheezing," Markos tells the nurse in the video, cradling the poorly chicken with a worried expression on his face. The nurse, Umer Chane, responds: "Listen, there



are doctors who treat animals. You have to take her there. This is a hospital for humans. Okay, dear?" He then took her to a vet, where the chicken was treated. The youngster wound up at the hospital after his uncle, also his guardian, suggested getting professional help for the hen. There are vets in Denbecha, but Markos was not aware they existed. In

BCCI Breaks Silence On 'Discussion' Over Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli's 2027 World Cup Future

The deliberations on India's roadmap for the 2027 World Cup are "not meant for public consumption", BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said in an interview to PTI, refusing to be drawn into any discussion on individual players and their much-speculated future in the team. Veterans Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli dominate the chatter whenever there is any talk around the Indian team's 2027 global campaign but Saikia is categorical that "strategic discussions in the board room" are best left inside. While both former skippers are determined to play the mega-event, chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar and head coach Gautam Gambhir have been non-committal on whether the squad will have space for the white-ball legends. Rohit, 39, and Kohli, 37, are only active in the ODI format for India, having retired from the other two. However, despite being in relatively good form, Saikia's response over their



future leaves more questions than answers. Much like Gambhir and Agarkar, Saikia has maintained a non-committal stance on Rohit and Kohli's 2027 World Cup chances, which does not provide definitive clarity over the spots of the two Indian batting greats. Asked if the BCCI has had any internal conversations on the matter, Saikia said all stakeholders are aligned in

their views in what is essentially an ongoing process. "We have a very well-knit team and a lot of experts. All stakeholders are taken on board," Saikia told PTI during an exclusive interaction. "Whatever decisions that are made involve the cricket committee, the selectors and all other stakeholders, including the support staff, the head coach and the players concerned. "There are

regular conversations taking place. For that reason, we do not need any special session of interaction. This is an ongoing process," the secretary said, keeping all his cards close to his chest. He maintained that he would not divulge any board room information. "I do not think I should disclose anything before the media or the public because these are strategic discussions. I am

not authorised to speak about them before the media. Secondly, these are matters that should remain within the boardroom." Along with a dominance-extending series clean sweep, India will eye substantial runs from KL Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal in the third and final ODI against Afghanistan here on Saturday. While Rahul's spot in the one-day squad has never really been in doubt, Jaiswal would welcome a heavy knock to stake his claim for a space in the already-crowded top-order. Jaiswal was brought back to the 50-over format for the first time since December 2025, and he was dismissed for 4 in the second match against the Afghans at Lucknow. The left-hander had made an unbeaten 116 against South Africa at Visakhapatnam in his previous appearance but since then the return of Ishan Kishan has added one more contender to the top-order positions.

MEXICO FIRST TO BOOK FIFA WORLD CUP KNOCKOUT SPOT AFTER BEATING SOUTH KOREA 1-0

Mexico took advantage of a defensive blunder by South Korea to win 1-0 and become the first team to advance to the knockout stage of the World Cup on Thursday. It marks a major triumph for a team that failed to get out of the group stage in 2022 and now has won twice on home soil in front of jubilant crowds. Luis Romo scored in the 50th minute after South Korea goalkeeper Kim Seung-gyu collided with defender Lee Gi-hyuk and dropped the ball inside the area. Romo easily found the open net after picking up the loose ball. The South Koreans nearly equalized in the 87th minute when Mexico goalkeeper Raul Rangel stopped a header from close range by Cho Gue-sung, then made an even better save on the rebound, extending his right arm to keep the ball from crossing the line. Mexico has six points from



two Group A matches, three more than South Korea and five more than the Czech Republic and South Africa, who drew 1-1 earlier Thursday in Atlanta. The top two teams from

each group move on to the knockout stage, along with the best eight third-place teams. A round of 32 is being played for the first time at the World Cup after the tournament was expanded to 48 teams.

Yuvraj Singh To Start Coaching Career In IPL 2027, Set To Join This Team: Report

An Indian cricket legend could be gearing up for his first coaching stint in the Indian Premier League (IPL) come 2027. According to reports, former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh is set to join the Delhi Capitals (DC) coaching staff ahead of IPL 2027. Former India captain Sourav Ganguly's return to the DC support staff is imminent, and he wants Yuvraj in the dugout too, as per a Times of India report. The wholesale changes are set to take place as JSW Group takes control of the franchise's operations IPL 2027 onwards. According to the report, a senior DC official confirmed that Yuvraj is all set to join the franchise. For the uninitiated, Delhi Capitals is run in alternate two-year cycles by co-owners GMR Group and JSW Group. With GMR having run the team in 2025 and 2026, JSW is set to take over for the next two years. Sourav Ganguly was a key figure in the franchise's support staff during the previous JSW cycle, and is likely to return for 2027. Ganguly served as JSW's

Director of Cricket for Delhi Capitals for the last two seasons, during which Hemang Badani was appointed as the head coach. However, Delhi Capitals could be set for a reshuffle after two underwhelming seasons in IPL 2025 and IPL 2026. Captained by Axar Patel, DC failed to reach the playoffs in both years, despite boasting star players like KL Rahul, Mitchell Starc and Kuldeep Yadav. In IPL 2025, DC got off to an excellent start but their campaign faltered in the second half of the season, and they finished fifth. In IPL 2026, DC's season was much more inconsistent, and they finished sixth in the standings. These results have put Badani's position as head coach at risk, with Ganguly expected to return to the support staff helm in 2027. And it seems like Ganguly wants Yuvraj in the support staff as well. According to PTI, Yuvraj is likely to join Delhi Capitals as the team's batting coach for IPL 2027.



Usyk ref had seen enough to end fight before bell

The referee at the centre of the controversial fight between Oleksandr Usyk and Rico Verhoeven last month told a boxing commission he had seen enough to stop the bout in the 11th round before the bell sounded. Verhoeven, 37, who lost the fight in May, appealed to the Middle East Professional Boxing Commission (MEPB) against the result. He claimed referee Mark Lyson ended the contest in Egypt after the official bell had sounded, and appealed on that basis. In its ruling, seen by BBC Sport, the commission agreed that the fight had been concluded after the bell sounded - but said it had no bearing on the outcome. Dutchman Verhoeven had revealed on Wednesday that his formal protest had been dismissed. He looked to be on the verge of a major upset against box-



ing great Usyk, but the Ukrainian produced a late surge that sent him to the canvas. Verhoeven beat the count, but a follow-up flurry in the closing seconds of the round prompted referee Mark Lyson to step in and wave it off - a decision that looked harsh on the challenger. Usyk was named the

winner and retained his world heavyweight titles. MEPB said Lyson acted in good faith "and with the paramount objective of boxer safety", and said it could have only overturned the result had the referee not acted that way. The ruling added Lyson stated unequivocally: "I decided I wanted to stop the

contest... I had already seen enough." The commission also stressed how the referee had the authority to end a contest whenever they saw fit. "Under its rules the referee is the sole arbiter of the contest and retains the full and unfettered right to stop the contest at any time," it said. "There is no distinction in authority or effect between a stoppage effected during the round and a stoppage effected between rounds or during the rest period." A timing discrepancy identified by official timekeeper Brad William also did not meet the commission's threshold to overturn the referee's discretionary decision. The panel acknowledged William's evidence, but said "even if the physical wave-off occurred fractionally after the bell, this is, at its highest, a procedural timing discrepancy."

JAY SHAH MEETS SRI LANKA PRESIDENT ANURA KUMARA DISSANAYAKE, REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO CRICKET IN THE COUNTRY

ICC chairman Jay Shah met Sri Lanka's President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on Friday and discussed the current state of cricket in the island nation, with a focus on expanding opportunities for emerging players, strengthening grassroots and youth development programmes, and using the sport as a catalyst for social impact and economic growth. In a post on social media, Shah described the meeting as a privilege and highlighted Sri Lanka's enduring contribution to world cricket. "It was a privilege to meet His Excellency President @anuradissanayake today and discuss the current status of cricket in Sri Lanka. Our discussions focused on increasing opportunities for emerging players, supporting grassroots and youth development programmes, and leveraging cricket as a vehicle for social impact and economic growth. "We also exchanged views on the role Sri Lanka continues to play in hosting major international events and contributing to the global development of our sport. Sri



Lanka holds a



special place in the history of cricket, and I look forward to working closely with all stakeholders to further strengthen the game and create new opportunities for future generations. My sincere thanks to His Excellency for his time and unwavering support for cricket," Jay Shah posted on X. The meeting between ICC chairman Jay Shah and Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake comes at a delicate time for the country's cricket environ-

Ugly Scenes At FIFA World Cup 2026 As Qatar, Canada Players Clash On Field

The FIFA World Cup 2026 Group B match between Canada and Qatar witnessed a massive brawl at the final whistle on Friday. Canada dominated the game throughout and were able to clinch the match 6-0 in Vancouver. However, the victory was slightly marred by a serious injury suffered by Ismael Kone and players from both teams got into a heated spat as soon as the match ended. The midfielder had to be carried out on a stretcher after suffering a dangerous challenge from Qatar's Assim Madibo. It was Qatar's second red card in the match after Homam Ahmed was also sent off. Canada was extremely unhappy with the tough tackles from Qatar and tempers flared after the final whistle as the players from both teams were seen shoving each other. Even the



Canada head coach Jesse Marsch got involved in a tense exchange with Qatar's Julien Lopetegui as both coaches were not happy with the on-field scuffles. Coming to the game, Jonathan David scored three goals and Canada won its first World Cup match while all but securing a spot in the knockout round with a 6-0 victory over Qatar on Thursday. Qatar was reduced to nine players because of red cards in the

chaotic match. Assim Madibo was handed a red early in the second half after a tackle on Ismael Kone, who was stretched off with a serious injury to his lower left leg. Homan Ahmed was sent off in the first half for a challenge on Tajon Buchanan. Canada Prime Minister Mark Carney attended the match after missing the team's opener in Toronto last week because of the G7 summit in France.

TWO-TIME OLYMPIC MEDALLIST PHILIP RETIRES



British two-time Olympic medallist Asha Philip has announced her retirement from athletics. The 35-year-old was part of the 4x100m relay teams that won bronze at the 2016 Rio Olympics and 2020 Tokyo Games. After a 19-year career which involved Philip overcoming a serious knee injury in 2007, she leaves the sport having won multiple world, European and Commonwealth medals alongside her Olympic success. "Sport has been a way of life and I am so grateful for everything it has given me," said Philip. "My true resilience showed after a serious knee injury in 2007 threatened my sport-

ing career. "To be able to come back from that challenging period and become a two-time Olympic medallist, a three-time world medallist, alongside multiple European, Commonwealth and British gold medals, has been the greatest achievement of my life." At the age of 16, Philip became the first British woman to win a global 100m title in any age group when she triumphed at the World Youth Championships in 2007. Alongside two silver and one bronze 4x100m relay World Championship medals, Philip is also a four-time European champion and two-time Commonwealth champion.

Virat Kohli To Return In England ODI Series? Report Makes Huge 'Injury' Claim

Indian cricket team star batter Virat Kohli has been making significant progress in his recovery from a hamstring injury and he can return to the team for the upcoming ODI series against England, according to a report by Times Of India. Kohli has started his rehabilitation, and his injury is healing quickly. He is expected to report to the BCCI's Centre of Excellence for his fitness assessment and clearance soon. If his recovery goes as planned, Kohli is expected to make his comeback to the team in the upcoming England series," a source told the publication. Kohli was ruled out of the ODI series against Afghanistan due

to the hamstring injury and it was reported that he could end up missing the ODI series. However, the report said that the BCCI selectors are expected to pick the squad later in the week and it is a possibility that Kohli can make his way back in time for the series. "The selection committee meeting to pick India's ODI team for the England tour will be held in the next three to four days," BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia told TOI on Thursday. The ODI series

between India and England will be played from July 14 to 19. Earlier, Harshit Rana has joined the India squad for the third and final ODI against Afghanistan after completing his rehabilitation from a knee injury, the BCCI announced on Friday. Rana, who suffered a ligament strain in his right knee during India's T20 World Cup warm-up match against South Africa and subsequently underwent surgery in February, has linked up

with the squad ahead of Saturday's series finale here. India have already sealed the three-match series, taking an unassailable 2-0 lead. "Mr Harshit Rana, who has completed his rehabilitation at the BCCI Centre of Excellence (COE), has linked up with the ODI squad in Chennai," BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said in a media release. The injury had forced the 24-year-old fast bowler to miss both the T20 World Cup and the Indian Premier League.

Spider-Man: Brand New Day Telugu Trailer Out Now:

Tom Holland's Superhero To Arrive in Cinemas on 30th July

The second trailer for Spider-Man: Brand New Day has finally arrived, bringing Tom Holland's beloved superhero back into action after a four-year wait. Unveiled amid much fanfare at a special event in Amsterdam, the trailer offers fans their most exciting look yet at the next chapter in Peter Parker's journey. The film is also releasing in Telugu and the trailer has been released. The trailer showcases Holland donning the iconic Spider-Man suit again as he faces new threats while navigating life in the aftermath of Spider-Man: No Way Home. With the world having forgotten Peter Parker's identity, the trailer hints at the superhero who is learning to embrace a new reality while continuing to protect his neighbourhood. The trailer also offers a glimpse at his complicated relationship with MJ, played by Zendaya. Spider-Man: Brand New Day promises bigger action, menacing new villains, and challenges unlike anything Peter has faced before. Among the most highly anticipated films of the year, Spider-Man: Brand New Day enjoys a massive global following, India being one of the franchise's strongest markets. The excitement reached a new height when Sony Pictures Entertainment announced that the Spider-Man: Brand New Day's release date had been moved



up by a day, sparking a frenzy among fans. It's a BRAND NEW DAY for Peter Parker. Fighting crime full-time as Spider-Man in a world that doesn't remember him—and the pressure of seeing his old friends move on without him—sparks a

change in Peter he may not have the power to control. But that transformation might also be the only thing that can stop a shocking new threat to the city and those he loves - a powerful villain no one can even see. The world may have forgotten

Peter Parker, but he hasn't forgotten them. Directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, Spider-Man: Brand New Day stars Tom Holland as Peter Parker/Spider-Man, alongside Zendaya, Jacob Batalon, Jon Bernthal, and Sadie Sink.

VISHWANATH AND SONS FIRST SINGLE "NENO BUTTERFLY" EMERGES AS THE NEXT BIG MUSICAL SENSATION

One of the most anticipated and exciting combinations today, Vishwanath And Sons starring Suriya and directed by Venky Atluri has officially locked August 14, 2026 for its grand worldwide theatrical release. The makers recently unveiled the film's first single Neno Butterfly and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. From the very first listen, the song strikes a chord with its infectious melody and refreshing vibe making it one of the most promising musical releases of the season. Going by the early response, the song is expected to create a strong impact and grow into a major favorite among music lovers in the coming days. When it comes to melodies, GV Prakash Kumar never misses the mark and once again he has delivered a magical composition. His successful collaboration with director Venky Atluri continues to impress audiences further raising expectations for the film's musical album. Sung by Subhalashini whose impressive run with recent blockbuster tracks has made her one of the most sought after voices today. Adding further depth to the composition are the lyrics penned by Saraswathi Putra Ramajogayya Sastry perfectly capturing the innocence, excitement and emotions of love. Ever since its announcement, Vishwanath And Sons has generated tremen-



dous positivity and excitement across audiences and trade circles alike. Every promotional asset released so far has managed to create a strong impact emerging as a talking point among movie lovers. The anticipation surrounding the film continues to grow as audiences eagerly await what promises to be a wholesome,

emotional and heartwarming experience mounted on a grand scale. The film is produced by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi along with Sai Soujanya under the banners of Sithara Entertainments in association with Fortune Four Cinemas and Presented Srikara Studios. Naga Vamsi who has earned widespread acclaim

for backing successful films such as Vaathi and Lucky Baskhar once again brings together a powerful combination with all the ingredients of a grand theatrical celebration. Vishwanath And Sons is shaping up to be one of the biggest and most celebrated family entertainers to watch out for in 2026.

Lost Everything for 'Spirit is Not One'; Prabhas Garu, You Are Our Only Hope" — Women Farmer cum Producer Narsamma



In a heartbreaking turn of events, a woman farmer and independent film producer, Narsamma, has made an emotional public appeal to Pan-India superstar Prabhas and director Sandeep Reddy Vanga. Under her banner 8th Wonder Cinemas, Narsamma produced a small-budget film titled "Spirit is Not One". However, due to a sudden legal dispute raised by the

makers of Prabhas' upcoming big-budget venture "Spirit", her movie's release has been stalled, pushing her family to the brink of financial ruin.

A Dream Shattered by Legal Notices
Speaking about her plight, Narsamma stated that producing this film was her childhood dream. To fund the project, her family of farmers sold off their lands

and assets, exhausting all their life savings. The movie had completed all formalities, including securing a Censor Certificate a year before Prabhas' "Spirit" even began its shoot. 8th Wonder Cinemas had actively promoted the film across various news portals, YouTube channels, and newspapers. However, just last month, as they printed posters and finalised the theatrical release, they were slapped with two consecutive legal notices from Bollywood giant T-Series, headed by Bhushan Kumar (the producers of Prabhas' Spirit). "Like a hammer crushing a sparrow, they used legal notices to stop our small movie. Sandeep Reddy Vanga's manager collected our address and details under the guise of an enquiry, only to pass them on to T-Series to serve us these notices," a tearful Narsamma alleged.

'Nagabandham' visually provides a grand theatrical experience to the audience: Director Abhishek Nama at the trailer launch event



The trailer of the film 'Nagabandham' – The Secret Treasure' has raised expectations even higher with the release of its latest trailer. Director Abhishek Nama has directed this epic adventure thriller with Virat Karna playing the lead role. The trailer, which is a blend of myths, secrets, supernatural powers and adventure elements, takes the audience into a wonder-

ful world. The trailer presents the story as revolving around a centuries-old mystery. The sacred Brahma Lotus, preserved in the Anantha Padmanabha Swamy temple, seems to be a key element in the story. The story takes interesting turns as evil forces try to take possession of the Brahma Lotus, which has been protected for generations. As the story progresses, ancient, spiritual secrets

and mysterious powers come to light one by one. The emergence of Lord Shiva and the entry of Naga Sadhus make the story more thrilling. The 'Nagabandham' seen at the end of the trailer will be the focal point of the main conflict in the story of the divine protection power. The main attraction of this trailer is the magical world created by director Abhishek Nama.

ANANYA PANDAY TURNS EVERY STREET INTO A RUNWAY



Ananya Panday may not have found success in Telugu cinema with Liger, but the actress has remained busy with a string of Bollywood and OTT projects. While her recent film Chand Mera Dil failed to make an impact at the box office, Ananya continues to enjoy strong popularity among young audiences and on social media. The actress recently shared stunning pictures from her glamorous foreign getaway and fashion events. From a breathtaking beige gown with a dra-

matic trail to a stylish white backless outfit overlooking the sea, Ananya effortlessly showcased her fashion-forward personality. The photos quickly grabbed attention online. Though box-office results have been mixed, Ananya has managed to stay relevant through her screen presence, brand endorsements, and glamorous appearances. As she continues to explore new opportunities in films and OTT, fans are hoping the actress will soon deliver a major hit to match her growing popularity.

Director Vaibhav Koundinya's "Gossip" Unveils First Single "Sippu Sippu"

The makers of Gossip, directed by Vaibhav Koundinya, have officially launched the film's first single, "Sippu Sippu." Starring the talented and energetic Rashi Singh in the lead role, the film is being produced by Yethi remella under the banner of YBHAV CINESCULPT STUDIOS. Blending contemporary emotions, a beautiful love story, and a sharp social satire, Gossip is being crafted as an engaging entertainer that resonates with today's generation while appealing to family audiences as well.

The recently released promo of Sippu Sippu received an overwhelming response from music lovers.

Continuing the film's musical journey, the makers have now released the full lyrical version of the song through Aditya Music. Composed by

Shakthikanth Karthick, Sippu Sippu is an energetic pub dance number featuring vibrant beats and catchy rhythms. The song is penned by Kasarla Shyam, while singer Malavika brings it to life with her captivating vocals, making it an instant chartbuster contender. As the first song from

Gossip, Sippu Sippu perfectly reflects the youthful and vibrant tone of the film. The movie revolves around the life of a middle-class young woman and explores relatable emotions through an entertaining narrative filled with humor, romance, and social commentary. With its fresh sound and energetic presentation, the song is expected to strike a chord with audiences. The choreography by suneeal sunnapu Master and Phalguni Bangera adds further appeal, elevating the visual and entertainment quotient of the track.

