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Mamata Protests Baruipur Minor Rape-Murder, Alleges House Arrest



Kolkata: Former West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Mamata Banerjee on Monday led a candlelight protest march in Kolkata over the alleged rape and murder of an 11-year-old girl in Baruipur, South 24 Parganas. Holding a lit candle, Banerjee walked from her residence on Harish Chatterjee Street in Kalighat, accompanied by senior party leaders, MPs and supporters, who carried placards demanding justice for the victim and her family.

Addressing supporters during the protest, Banerjee alleged that she was under constant police surveil-

lance. I am being kept under police watch as if I am under house arrest," she said. She also accused the BJP of attempting to intimi-

date her party and claimed that the police were acting in the interests of the saffron party. "Women were beaten. We had the court's order. The BJP threatened us this morning as well... The police have become BJP cadres," Banerjee alleged.

Several senior TMC leaders joined the protest, including Rajya Sabha MPs Dola Sen and Derek O'Brien, Joynagar MP Pratima Mondal and former Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee. The march moved through Kalighat Road before concluding outside Banerjee's residence. A heavy police presence was deployed throughout the route to

maintain law and order. Earlier in the day, a delegation of TMC leaders visited the family of the victim in Baruipur to express solidarity and assure them of legal and other assistance. The delegation, comprising Biman Banerjee, Dola Sen and Pratima Mondal, met the girl's parents and pledged the party's support as the investigation into the alleged kidnapping, rape and murder continues. According to reports, the 11-year-old girl had gone out to buy a birthday gift for a friend on Saturday evening but never returned home. Her body was later recovered, triggering widespread outrage and protests across the state.

Smart Security, Fast Immigration: Centre Plans Key Airport Upgrades



New Delhi: The Centre has announced a series of measures aimed at overhauling passenger movement, airport security and immigration services across India's airports, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah directing authorities to implement technology-driven systems, expand immigration infrastructure and streamline passenger flow.

The decisions were taken during a high-level review meeting chaired by Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah, along with Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu. The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Ministry of

Home Affairs, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the Intelligence Bureau.

Among the biggest announcements was the decision to roll out the Automatic Tray Retrieval System (ATRS) in a phased manner

across airports nationwide. The system, already used at several major airports globally, is expected to reduce waiting time at security checkpoints while lowering manpower requirements. Shah also directed that all newly developed airports should incorporate ATRS as

a standard feature. To address congestion at airports, the Home Minister directed officials to prepare a comprehensive framework covering every stage of a passenger's journey-from entry gates and check-in counters to security screening and immigration. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, a coordinated plan has already been prepared for every touch-point to ensure seamless passenger movement and minimise delays. The government also set an ambitious timeline for airport infrastructure development. Shah instructed authorities to prioritise the development of 21 airports currently under construction, along with another 41 airports based on passenger traffic and security requirements laid down by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

Ram Temple Donation Theft Probe Widens; Ex-Trustee Anil Mishra Likely To Be Named Accused

Ayodhya: The investigation into the alleged theft of offerings at the Ram Temple has widened, with former Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust member Dr Anil Mishra likely to be named as an accused. Police sources said the Special Investigation Team (SIT) report will form the basis for the proposed action, while investigators have also gathered addi-

tional evidence that is being verified. No official statement has been issued so far. Since the case surfaced, three names had remained at the centre of discussions: former general secretary Champat Rai, former trustee Anil Mishra and Gopal Rao. While the SIT report does not directly mention Champat Rai or Gopal Rao, it specifically details Mishra's role.

Sources said investigators have found multiple pieces of evidence against Mishra, which are currently being corroborated as part of the ongoing probe.

Police have incorporated the SIT report into their investigation and are expected to add Mishra's name to the case in the coming days. The report states that Mishra bore direct responsibility for ensuring

that security measures governing the collection and counting of donations were effectively implemented. It concludes that he failed to enforce the prescribed safeguards despite being entrusted with the responsibility. Investigators believe Mishra was aware of serious lapses in the counting process but did not take effective corrective measures. Since the alleged thefts con-

tinued despite this knowledge, police are examining whether conspiracy charges can also be invoked against him. The probe has also brought several bank officials and employees under scrutiny. Police sources said evidence suggesting the involvement of some bank personnel has emerged during the investigation. Action against three to four

bank employees is likely after verification of the evidence. The SIT found that Mishra supervised the trust's financial affairs and cash collection management. He was responsible for ensuring that the counting of cash donations was carried out according to the prescribed protocol and had represented the trust while finalising counting procedures with the bank.

Rs.10 Lakh Compensation for Families of Missing Fishermen



From Our Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, July 8: The government has provided compensation to the families of fishermen who went missing in the Visakhapatnam sea. As immediate assistance, compensation of Rs.10 lakh each was granted to the affected families. On Wednesday, Minister Kollu Ravindra handed over compensation cheques to the families of the missing fishermen. The assistance in-

cluded Rs.5 lakh under a Central Government insurance scheme and Rs.5 lakh from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. The minister said that the government would stand by the families of the missing fishermen in every possible way. He stated that, for the first time in the country, a government had provided immediate assistance of Rs.10 lakh to fishermen's families. Kollu Ravindra also said that 63 insurance claims due

to fishermen had remained pending during the previous government's tenure. He noted that claims worth Rs.3.15 crore were also cleared on Wednesday. The minister assured that the government would extend all necessary support to the affected families.

He added that search operations for the missing fishermen were continuing with the involvement of various departments of the state government.

Lokesh Invites Korean Companies; APEX-Korea Launched in Busan



South Korea/Amaravati, July 8: Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh continued his visit to South Korea, holding a series of discussions with Korean companies regarding investment opportunities in Andhra Pradesh. During the visit, the APEX-Korea Investor Facilitation Center was inaugurated in Busan. The center was launched

by Lokesh under the aegis of the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB).

APEX-Korea is expected to serve as a bridge between Korean companies and the Andhra Pradesh government. The center will provide comprehensive support to Korean firms interested in investing in the state and will also assist



Korean companies already operating in Andhra Pradesh. APEX-Korea has been established with the objective of attracting investments and promoting industrial expansion. On the occasion, Minister Lokesh and explained the investment opportunities available in Andhra Pradesh. He also held discussions with senior representatives of BNK Financial Group. Lokesh invited the group to establish a branch in

Amaravati and requested support in providing infrastructure finance for Amaravati and industrial parks across the state.

He invited Korean companies to invest in sectors such as electronics, semiconductors, and shipbuilding, and urged them to choose Andhra Pradesh as a hub for investment and manufacturing. Lokesh also invited BNK Financial Group to partner with RTIH (Ratan Tata Innovation Hub) to

support startups and MSMEs. Representatives of BNK Financial Group said they would review the proposals submitted by the Andhra Pradesh government before taking a decision. BNK Financial Group has consolidated assets worth approximately 79.64 lakh crore and operates through three banks and several financial institutions. The group has 398 branches across South Korea and 75 overseas outlets.

Minister Anam Targets Jagan and Associates, Accuses Them of Promoting Religious Hatred

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, July 8: Andhra Pradesh Endowments Minister Anam Rama Narayana Reddy expressed strong anger, stating that supporting individuals who make remarks that hurt the sentiments of Indians and Hindus amounts to undermining the Constitution of India. He alleged that certain actions and statements were insulting democracy, misinterpreting the Constitution, and hurting public sentiments.

"Are They Inciting

Religious Hatred?"

The minister questioned whether attempts were being made to provoke religious hatred in order to attract sections of society. He alleged that a person using the name "Ravan" had been trying to hurt the sentiments of Hindus and had gone to the extent of criticizing religious heads and spiritual leaders. Anam criticized what he described as the "Jagan and Co." camp for encouraging such actions. He further



questioned whether such behavior was endorsed in what he referred to as "Raja Reddy's Constitution." The minister demanded that Y.S. Jagan

Mohan Reddy respond to allegations that he was encouraging activities that could adversely affect social harmony and the well-being of ordinary people.

"The Constitution Protects Religious Freedom"

Anam stated that just as Article 19(1)(a) guarantees freedom of expression, the Constitution also protects religious beliefs and the freedom to practice one's faith. He alleged that Jagan was using an individual named Joseph

Ravan to promote views aimed at creating divisions among communities and religions while claiming freedoms not granted by the Constitution. The minister demanded that Jagan explain which provision of the Constitution permits insulting religions. He added that the law should take its own course against those involved in such activities. Minister Anam Rama Narayana Reddy said appropriate legal action should be taken wherever necessary.

YSRCP's Support to Ravan and Prakash Raj Is an Attack on the Nation: Vijayasai Reddy

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, July 8: Former MP Vijayasai Reddy made strong remarks regarding the Joseph Ravan controversy. He questioned who was supporting Joseph Ravan and actor Prakash Raj. In a post on X, he asked what cultural heritage they represented and raised questions about their backgrounds and origins.

Vijayasai Reddy said that those who make inappropriate or offensive remarks should be corrected by both the law and society. He warned that strict action

should be taken against individuals who make such statements. He further alleged that attacking religious beliefs through objectionable comments had become a trend. He criticized certain families from communities that had converted religions, claiming that they were spreading hostility against Hindutva. Vijayasai Reddy stated that



YSRCP's support for Joseph Ravan and actor Prakash Raj should be viewed as an attack on the nation. He urged governments to deal firmly with what he described as anti-national conspiracies and activities.

EDITORIAL

Rights abuses in PoK

It is an undeniable truth that even a cat will turn away if it is confined and tortured within four walls. This is what is happening in the case of Pakistan. The Pakistani rulers, who have never cared about the welfare of the people of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and not only plundered the resources of the region, are now paying the price for it. The riots that have been taking place in PoK for the past three years have gradually turned into a storm, taking the form of a public movement and reaching a point where they are putting the Pakistani government in a difficult position. The country, which is already in financial crisis and has not been able to raise any money for several years, is struggling. In addition, terrorism is taking root in Balochistan and the Afghan borders and is tormenting the country. In these circumstances, the Pakistani government is struggling with the public movement that has arisen in PoK like a flood on its nails. The situation turned into a disaster when the army was used to impose an iron fist on the protesters, ignoring the fact that repression could not stop the popular movements. The government has been discriminatory towards the people of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir since the beginning. Although 3500 MW of electricity is generated annually through hydroelectric power plants in PoK, it is charging a meager fee of over Rs 30 per unit from the people. The people of PoK are starving due to the food crisis and are not even getting enough wheat flour to eat. As if this is not enough, the 53-seat PoK Legislative Assembly has allocated 12 seats to Kashmiri refugees, but the Pakistani government is making PoK unrepresented by appointing people of its choice and those who bow down to its feet in those seats. While the people, fed up with such discrimination, have been protesting for three years, it is resorting to repression by making arrests here and there and killing those who resist. Three years ago, academics and social activists formed the Jammu and Kashmir Awami Action Committee (JAAC) to protest the anarchy of the Pakistani government and intensified the agitation. The government, which should have sought a solution to the problem with a harmonious approach, is acting in a factional manner and has stopped the supply of essential goods and medicines to PoK, which has further angered the people. They are voluntarily coming out on the streets and protesting. In this context, the JAAC has put forward 38 demands to the government and warned that they will take direct action if they are not resolved, leaving the Pakistani government at a loss as to what to do. It is natural for the people of PoK, who are suffering under severe restrictions and oppression, to look to India with the hope that it will support them. However, it should be noted at this juncture that free trade between the neighboring countries has come to an end. The Indian government stopped the small-scale barter trade from the Salamabad and Chakan-da-Bagh points on the border seven years ago on the grounds that drugs and illegal weapons were entering our country through these routes. As a result, there is no help from India for PoK at present. In the light of the latest developments, there is also an argument for the merger of PoK with India. Although PoK also wants to separate from Pakistan like Bangladesh, it is in India's best interest to exercise restraint given the current political situation. If India intervenes in the matter of PoK, there is a possibility that China will also enter the field using the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor passing through PoK as a weapon. In this context, India should bring the current situation in PoK to the attention of the international community and hold Pakistan guilty before the world. The issue of human rights being brutalized in PoK should be reported to the International Human Rights Commission. On the other hand, the expansion of infrastructure and the strengthening of democratic processes in Jammu and Kashmir should also be effectively explained. In the current circumstances, it is very necessary for India to play its role so that justice is done to the people of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Prashant Kishor Is Now Facing The Hardest Test Of His Entire Career

For more than a decade, Prashant Kishor has been an unusually visible invisible man. He helped craft campaigns, read voter moods, found language for leaders, shaped alliances, advised parties, and often seemed to understand Indian politics better than many who practised it full-time. Yet his power lay in remaining adjacent to authority. He could influence outcomes without having to suffer the permanent injuries of elected politics. Bankipur changes that.

The by-election for Bihar's Bankipur Assembly seat is scheduled for July 30. The seat fell vacant after Nitin Nabin resigned as MLA following, first, his elevation as the BJP National President, and then his subsequent election to the Rajya Sabha. Ordinarily, this may have been treated as a routine vacancy in a safe seat. But it has acquired disproportionate interest because Jan Suraj's Prashant Kishor has announced that he will contest from here, marking his first real plunge into the electoral arena.

During the 2025 assembly elections in Bihar, Kishor had repeatedly generated speculation around his own candidature but eventually stayed out of the contest. Jan Suraj contested widely but failed to win a seat. His decision not to contest was widely seen as one of the reasons the party's poor performance hurt its credibility more than it might otherwise have. Bankipur is, therefore, not a debut in the romantic sense. It is a corrective examination after a failed first attempt. The strategist who once told parties how to win must now prove that he knows how to be chosen.

From Congress's War Room To Bihar's Mohalla

There is a revealing thread running through Kishor's political journey. In 2021 and 2022, when his talks with the Congress appeared serious, the central issue was not whether he had ideas. The Congress did not doubt his skills. The problem was authority.

Kishor reportedly wanted a free hand to revamp the party's political strategy, alliance-making, and election machinery. The Congress, in its familiar style, appeared willing to create panels, but not necessarily the kind of executive freedom he sought. There were old anxieties, too: should he be treated as a consultant, an office-bearer, a member, a strategist, or a disruptor? Kishor's eventual break with the Congress was not just a failed negotiation; it also marked a psychological turn. If established parties would not give him the authority to change them, he would build a vehicle of his own. Jan Suraj came out of that conviction.

Bankipur Is An Opportunity And A Trap

Bankipur is a tempting battlefield for Kishor. It is one of Patna's most talked-about and VIP urban seats. It is part of the Patna Sahib Lok Sabha constituency and sits inside the capital's political imagination. It is urban, visible, media-friendly, and politically alert. Voters here are likely to respond to the vocabulary of governance, public services, corruption, jobs, infrastructure, and middle-class aspiration. For a leader who speaks the language of systems and state capacity, Bankipur offers a constituency that can understand his argument. But it is also a trap. Bankipur is not some virgin land. It is a BJP fortress, and, by most measures, an unusually strong one. The seat came

into existence after the 2008 delimitation. Before that, this area was part of the Patna West Assembly seat. In the 1980s, the Congress and Janata Dal influence was visible here. But from the mid-1990s, the constituency and its predecessor space began turning decisively towards the BJP. In 1995, BJP leader Nabin Kishore Prasad Sinha won from here and remained MLA till 2005. After his death, his son Nitin Nabin inherited the political legacy. Between father and son, the family has given the BJP a near-continuous hold over this urban seat: Nabin Kishore Prasad Sinha won four times, and Nitin Nabin followed with five victories of his own. Since 1985, except for two occasions, the BJP has won every time at Bankipur. Turnout has often been modest, but BJP victories have been emphatic.

Credibility Before Power

A single bypoll will not alter Bihar's power structure. The government will not fall. The opposition will not be resurrected. Bankipur will not redraw the state's map. But it can redraw Kishor's credibility. The immediate stakes are not legislative power but political seriousness. Jan Suraj's biggest challenge after 2025 is not that it lost. New parties lose. Its deeper problem is that it did not convert intellectual and moral energy into enough electoral weight. It was discussed more than it was voted for. Bankipur can repair that gap. A victory would transform Kishor from commentator to claimant. It would give him an Assembly platform, constant visibility, and a direct constituency. It would also puncture the comfortable argument of his rivals that he is only a vote-cutter or a media-savvy strategist who



cannot survive real politics. A respectable performance would also matter. If Kishor disrupts the BJP's margin, consolidates urban anti-incumbency, or overtakes the opposition in a visible seat, he will be able to say that Jan Suraj has found a starting constituency: urban, aspirational, impatient, and open to a governance-first appeal. But a weak result would be brutal. It would suggest that Bihar listens to Kishor, but does not yet trust him with power.

What BJP And Opposition Will Watch

When it comes to Bankipur, there is also a larger BJP calculation at play. Since the 2024 Lok Sabha election, where the party fell short of a majority on its own, it has had reason to be cautious about avoidable Lok Sabha bypolls. Every parliamentary seat is valuable. This is why the party has generally avoided creating unnecessary Lok Sabha

vacancies by moving MPs into state roles or constitutional offices. In Bihar, the assembly arithmetic offers more comfort. The BJP is in a position where it can remain in government with allies even without needing the same level of seat-by-seat anxiety that exists in the Lok Sabha. This perhaps explains why Nitin Nabin could be moved out of Bankipur and sent to the Rajya Sabha. The party appears confident it can retain the assembly seat. The opposition will watch Kishor with equal interest. The Congress may be tempted to support him, but the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) is expected to field its own candidate. A triangular contest may make the BJP's task easier. But it also gives Kishor what he seeks most: a stage where he is not merely an observer of Bihar politics, but a principal actor in it. For the RJD-led opposition, Kishor's rise carries a different anxiety.

Pak Has A Kashmir Crisis - And It May Already Be Planning To Export It To India

The level of anger in what Pakistan chooses to call "Azad Kashmir" is unprecedented. Unlike other regions of unrest, such as Balochistan and the tribal areas, this is truly a people's movement, apparent from the thousands who have thronged the streets demanding justice. The rage is palpable. Clearly, after years of protests and piecemeal concessions, matters have come to a head. Islamabad has, as always, resorted to the usual repressive measures, arresting leaders and starving the landlocked region of basics like food and medicine, leading to open demands from the movement's leaders that India intervene. That's dangerous talk on both sides. Meanwhile, resistance fronts in other parts of Pakistan, including the Pashtuns and Baloch, are declaring support. In the latter case, that took the form of an unusually heavy strike against the Coast Guard post in Jiwani. It is all at a boiling point.

Pakistan Has Misunderstood The JAAC

First, the protests themselves. It is now common knowledge that 'Azad Kashmir' is anything but free. The whole place is run by a Joint Secretary-level office from Islamabad, and the 'King' of the region is the Prime Minister of Pakistan. True, there is a 'President' and a 'Prime Minister' of sorts, with limited powers. From time to time, constitutional amendments have been made to the 'Interim Constitution' - since it is supposed to be 'reunited' with Kashmir - but in the final analysis, the local administration has little say in anything. This is clear through a list of 38 demands that lie at the core of the protests. None of these are new and have been in place for years, but they were codified after the Joint Awami Action

Committee (JAAC) was formed in 2023. This is no political party, and its members are people who suffer daily problems - transporters, shopkeepers, and the like. Proof enough is the list of people who have been punished for supporting them, which includes low-level government employees, including 42 from the education department - among them one lecturer and 32 teachers - 12 from the health department, five each from the electricity and public works departments, three from the local government and rural development department, and two each from the agriculture and forests departments. Retired teachers have had their pensions revoked. The leadership is also from middle-class families, like Sardar Aman Khan, who has a bounty of some PKR 10 million on his head after he called for Indian intervention; Khwaja Mehran, an advocate from Punjab University who is unlikely to get off lightly since he accused the Pakistan army of providing guns to Kashmiris; and the now-arrested Shaukat Nawaz Mir, a former trade union leader.

Do The Math

Now consider the demands themselves. One is compensation for those killed in protests in the last two years. That includes those who were fired upon by the police for opposing the rising cost of flour and electricity. Things turned ugly by 2025, with security vehicles torched, and some police personnel briefly held hostage. The demands eventually broadened to include putting an end to the privileges given to the elite - that is, all Pakistanis who have been injected into top government positions, not to mention a horde of Punjabis who have settled here, bringing with them the 'Pajero



culture'. Another demand was politically sensitive - an end to the system of 12 reserved seats for refugees in the autonomous region's legislative assembly. These are people who migrated from India and settled elsewhere in Pakistan, mostly in Punjab. Most have never even been to PoK. This suits Islamabad and mainstream political parties, who look at that slice as theirs to use however they see fit. Constituencies are also deeply imbalanced, with roughly 4.3 lakh voters for the six Jammu refugee seats against only about 30,000 voters for the six refugee seats in the Kashmir Valley. Now look at the math. A total of 53 seats in the house, with 45 elected seats, including these 12 outside of PoK entirely, while the eight 'nominated' seats are open to 'direction' and include an overseas Kashmiri. So, roughly 20 seats of a total of 53 are used to influence the outcome in the house. An interesting conclusion was reached by the AJK Supreme Court Chief Justice Raja Saeed Akram Khan and Justice Khalid Yousaf Chaudhary in an "advisory opinion", which noted that "the 12 refugee seats ... can be altered, reduced, or abolished

only through a constitutional amendment enacted strictly in accordance with Article 33". That article states that no amendment can be made without the assent of the Government of Pakistan. So, it could be done. Islamabad just has to see the light and give that concession.

This Is Pakistan's Lifeline

Then there are other demands that simply require Islamabad to prod the bureaucracy in the state, which, unsurprisingly, is almost wholly Pakistani. This includes the entirely justified demand for land, affected by the Mangla dam raising project that was finished in 2009 and which displaced 40,000 people from their ancestral lands. Other demands include an international airport at Mirpur, better hospital facilities, lower taxes on property transfer (which, currently, are almost double what Punjab pays), and an allocation of Rs 10 billion for upgrading a decrepit electricity network. Remember that even when PoK quite literally holds the key to Pakistan's power, providing the mainland with abundant hydropower potential, it suffers from almost continuous blackouts. If PoK goes 'independent', that quite liter-

ally may be the end of Pakistan. As major JACC leaders now ask openly for Indian help, the security scare is only going to grow. Few people realise, or openly acknowledge, that Kashmir is, in fact, Pakistan's 'jugular vein'. That is also why Pakistan's terrorism sponsorship policy in the region has been going on for decades now. Apparently, for Pakistan, India's over-generous allocation of 80% of the water through the Indus Water Treaty is simply not enough. It wants it all.

India Is In A Very Tough Spot

As the protests continue, so does the repression. All this has raised some interesting and uncomfortable points for India. First, since Delhi sees PoK as its own territory, it has a right to intervene in at least a humanitarian context. Remember, that means a convoy carrying aid, facing up to the inevitable armed opposition at the border. The United Nations has made 'parties to the conflict' legally bound to deliver aid. The question is whether India is a 'party' here. If it is, then international humanitarian law obliges it to provide aid. The trouble, however, is that none of these laws holds water in actual conflict hotspots.

School Education Commissioner Inspects Government Schools in Rampachodavaram



Rampachodavaram, July 8 (Pen Power): Andhra Pradesh School Education Commissioner Tameem Ansariya said the State Government is committed to providing quality education, digital classrooms, and effective implementation of the Dokka Seethamma Mid-Day Meal Scheme in all government schools. On Wednesday, the Commissioner, accompanied by Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar, Joint Collector S. Prashanth Kumar, and Regional Joint Director of School Education Nagamani, inspected the Mandal Parishad School, Gurukula Boys School playground, the playground near the Degree College, and the Government Junior College playground in Rampachodavaram. Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner directed officials to ensure that all government schools strictly implement quality education, digital learning under the Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Vidyamitra Kits initiative, and the Dokka Seethamma Mid-Day Meal Scheme in accordance with government guidelines. She instructed teachers to explain lessons in a manner that students can easily understand and, whenever necessary, repeat lessons to improve comprehension. She also emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness on school campuses, giving special attention to students' health, and ensuring that every student receives textbooks and uniforms on time. The Commissioner reviewed stu-

dent attendance, maintenance of toilets, availability of safe drinking water, campus hygiene, kitchen management, food quality, and adherence to the approved mid-day meal menu. She stressed that there should be no compromise in the quality and nutritional standards of meals served under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme. Officials were also instructed to take preventive measures to control mosquito breeding in school premises. The Commissioner reiterated that the State Government is giving top priority to the development of government schools and is taking all necessary steps to provide students with a better learning environment. During her visit to the Mandal Parishad High School, she interacted with students to assess whether they were receiving mid-day meals regularly and whether they understood the lessons taught by their teachers. The inspection team also visited the playgrounds of the APRJC School, the Degree College, and the Government Junior College. The programme was attended by Tribal Welfare Deputy Director Rukmandayya, District Educational Officer G. Sriram Murthy, Agency DEO Y. Malleswara Rao, Executive Engineer I. Srinivasa Rao, DE Bhavani, Assistant Tribal Welfare Officer Jalli Shambudu, Mandal Education Officers Srinivasa Rao, Muthyala Rao, T. Malleswara Rao, Satyanarayana, Balu Dora, Narasimha Rao, CMO Chinababu, Karam Suribabu, and other officials.

Three-Day National Faculty Development Programme on Research and Publications Concludes at Vignan



Visakhapatnam, July 8 (Pen Power): The Research and Development (R&D) Department of Vignan Institute of Information Technology (Autonomous) successfully organized a three-day National Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on "Research and Publications" from July 6 to 8. The programme aimed to enhance faculty research capabilities, develop skills in writing high-quality research papers, and strengthen the research culture within the institution. Faculty members from various departments actively participated in the programme. The keynote resource person was Dr. Rahul Jashwantbhai Pandya, Associate Professor, Department of Electrical, Electronics and Communication Engineering, and Faculty In-charge, Students' Welfare at IIT Dharwad. He delivered expert sessions on research methodology, proposal writing for research grants, AI-assisted academic writing, publication ethics, plagiarism prevention, journal indexing, bibliometric indicators, peer-review processes, open-access publishing, and the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence tools

to improve research quality.

During the three-day programme, participants gained practical insights into identifying research gaps, preparing quality research manuscripts, using AI-based research tools, selecting suitable journals, and adopting best practices for publishing research papers in reputed national and international journals. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Kranthi Kumar Gangu, Dean – Research & Development. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. J. Sudhakar, Principal, and Dr. V. Madhusudana Rao, Rector, stated that such faculty development programmes play a vital role in strengthening the institution's research ecosystem, fostering innovation, encouraging quality research, and motivating faculty members to publish in high-impact international journals. They reaffirmed that Vignan remains committed to promoting research, innovation, academic leadership, and the continuous professional development of its faculty.

No Compromise on the Quality of Mid-Day Meals in Schools: District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha

Vijayawada, Pen Power, July 8: Stressing that nutritious food is the foundation of a healthy future for students, District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said there should be no compromise under any circumstances in the quality of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme being implemented in schools.

On Wednesday, the Collector paid a surprise visit to the Zilla Parishad High School at Penuganchiprolu to inspect the implementation of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme. He reviewed the quality of the food being served, verified whether meals were prepared according to the prescribed menu, and inspected the cleanliness of the kitchen, availability of safe drinking water, storage of cooking materials, and the overall cooking process. He also issued necessary instructions to the concerned staff.

The Collector directed officials to ensure that students are served hot, hygienic, and nutritious meals every day. He emphasized the need to maintain clean kitchens and to conduct regular monitoring of the quality of food ingredients. Later, Dr. Lakshmisha interacted with the students and enquired about their studies, the quality of the



mid-day meals, and the facilities available at the school. He encouraged students to make the best use of the educational and welfare schemes, as well as the infrastructure provided by the government, and strive to achieve their academic goals.

Government Invites Property Owners to Register on IT Infra Portal



Ongole, July 8 (Pen Power): District Collector P. Rajababu said the government is taking steps to promote the IT sector and urged owners of commercial buildings, office spaces, and land to register their properties free of cost on the <https://itinfra.ap.gov.in> portal. The portal has been developed to create a comprehensive database of properties available for sale, lease, or rent, helping attract IT investments. For more information, property owners may contact District IT Manager Lakshmi Durga at 9182612050.

Collector Directs Officials to Improve Hostel Facilities and Focus on Student Excellence

Visakhapatnam East, July 8 (Pen Power): District Collector M. Abhishikt Kishore has directed officials of various welfare departments to provide quality facilities in government hostels and implement a special action plan to help students achieve academic excellence and higher career goals. Chairing a review meeting at the Collectorate on Wednesday with officials from the Social Welfare, Tribal Welfare, BC Welfare, and Welfare of Persons with Disabilities Departments, the Collector emphasized the need to ensure safe drinking water, proper maintenance of RO plants, clean toilets, mosquito nets, adequate furniture, uninterrupted electricity, and hygienic surroundings in all hostels.

He instructed officials to expedite repair works and complete the construction of hostel buildings within the stipulated timeframe. Solar water heaters should be installed wherever feasible for the convenience of students.

The Collector also directed officials to complete the hostels under construction at Madhurawada and Bhemili at the earliest and prepare proposals for new hostels wherever required. He stressed the importance of conducting special academic programmes to improve students' performance in examinations and continuing intensive coaching for competitive exams such as IIT-JEE and NEET. He suggested adopting models like Super-60 and Super-30 to identify talented students and prepare them for higher achievements.

He called for the effective utilization of educational volunteers, proper conduct of study circles, and special programmes focusing on personality development, communication skills, sports, and other life skills. Hostels with playgrounds should be equipped with adequate sports



facilities to encourage students' participation in physical activities.

The Collector instructed officials to work actively at the grassroots level so that the benefits provided by the government are clearly visible to the public. He also directed constituency and mandal special officers to visit hostels every month and review their functioning. Emphasizing the importance of students' future, he said that quality education, improved infrastructure, and efficient hostel management should be given the highest priority. The meeting was attended by Social Welfare Department Deputy Director K. Rama Rao, SC Corporation Executive Director Satyapadma, BC Welfare Officer Rajeswari, BC Corporation Executive Director Shankara Rao, Women and Child Welfare Officer Ramalakshmi, Assistant Director for Welfare of Persons with Disabilities Kavitha, Tribal Welfare Officer Suresh, and other officials.

Aim is to Ensure Voting Rights for Every Eligible Citizen: Commissioner K. Mayur Ashok



Guntur, Pen Power, July 8: The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) programme is being implemented on a priority basis to ensure that every eligible citizen is included in the electoral roll, said Guntur East Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) and Municipal Commissioner K. Mayur Ashok in a statement issued on Wednesday.

The Commissioner said the Election Commission has introduced the innovative "Self-Enumeration from Home" facility for the convenience of voters. Citizens who have

recently shifted residence, are currently away from their hometown, or are concerned that their names are missing from the electoral roll can complete the enumeration process online without waiting for a Booth Level Officer (BLO) to visit their homes.

He explained that voters can access the official Election Commission website using a mobile phone or laptop, enter their EPIC (Voter ID) number, log in using the OTP sent to their registered mobile number, and verify their details securely through e-Sign using their Aadhaar number.

The online facility enables citizens to complete the process within minutes from the comfort of their homes, saving both time and effort. Describing voting as both a right and a responsibility, the Commissioner appealed to all eligible citizens within the Guntur Municipal limits to complete the online self-enumeration process and participate in strengthening democracy.

He also informed that citizens who have already filled out enumeration forms may submit them at their nearest Secretariat, where they will be entered into a special register and forwarded to the concerned BLO. In addition, ward-wise help desks are being established to assist voters with the enumeration process.

Late YS Rajasekhara Reddy was the addressee of development and welfare schemes in AP



Madanapalle, July 08: During the Congress Party rule, with the full support of the high command, late Chief Minister Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy (YSR) became the caretaker's address for welfare and development schemes in Andhra Pradesh politics, said Madanapalle constituency Congress Party senior leader S Reddy Saheb. The 77th birth anniversary celebrations of YS Rajasekhara Reddy were held grandly at the Congress Party office in Madanapalle, Annamayya district headquarters, under the patronage of Congress Party Madanapalle constituency senior leader S Reddy Saheb. First, floral garlands were placed on the portrait of the late Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy and a grand tribute was paid. Speaking on the occasion, S Reddy Saheb said that YSR has become an immortal in the history of the Congress Party Chief Ministers and has become a public leader in the hearts of the people. With the full support given by the Congress Party leadership, allocation of funds, and encouragement given for the implementation of welfare schemes, the revolutionary schemes introduced by the late Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy for the upliftment of the poor, middle class and lower class people have left an indelible mark in the hearts of the people even today. He explained that the key welfare schemes introduced by YSR started during the then Congress Party

regime and are still continuing in various forms today. He said that the YSR Arogyasri scheme introduced to provide free corporate medical treatment to the poor has become an ideal for the country, and the 108 system has been brought in very effectively to save lives in times of emergency, and this scheme has brought medical services closer to remote villages. He said that the decision to make the government bear the entire tuition fees through the fee re-imbursement scheme with the aim of enabling poor students to pursue higher education is historic. He said that a policy of providing quality free electricity to farmers for continuous agriculture has been initiated, irrigation projects have been expedited in the state, construction of the Handri-Neeva canal to irrigate fallow lands, farmer loan waivers have been done, etc. He explained that interest-free loans have been provided to Dwakra groups to ensure their financial stability, subsidized Indiramma houses have been sanctioned to all the poor who do not have their own homes, and projects have been developed under the name of Jalayagnam. Senior Congress party leaders Meena Kumari, Sarath Kumar Reddy, Mubarak Khan, Afsar Sharif, Eswariah, Mohammed Sharif, Mahabub Peer, Khader Basha, R Nagaraju, Paleti, Eswaramma, Mohammed Ali, Nagaraju and others participated in this program.

Details of Cancellation of VIP Break Darshans from July to September

Tirumala, 08 July : In view of various festivals and religious events scheduled at the Srivari Temple, VIP Break Darshans will remain cancelled on the following dates from July upto September 30, 2026. Date and Reason for Cancellation: - July 14: Koil Alwar Tirumanjanam. - July 17: Anivara Asthanam. - July 19: Pedda Maryada to the Swamiji of Sri Andavan Ashramam. - July 29: Chaturmasya Sankalpam of the Tirumala Jeeyar Swamijis. - August 22: Ankurarpanam for Pavitrotsavams. - August 24: Pavitra

Samarpana on the second day of Pavitrotsavams. - September 8: Koil Alwar Tirumanjanam in connection with Srivari Brahmotsavams. - September 14: Ankurarpanam for Srivari Brahmotsavams. - September 15 to 23: Srivari Brahmotsavams. On the day preceding the above-mentioned dates, VIP recommendation letters will not be accepted, except the Protocol Dignitaries. Devotees are requested to take note of these restrictions while planning their pilgrimage to Tirumala and cooperate with TTD.

Dombivli Hospital Assault Case: Shiv Sena Corporator Ramesh Mhatre Arrested After Massive Outrage



Dombivli : Shiv Sena (Shinde) corporator Ramesh Mhatre was arrested on Wednesday in connection with the alleged assault on doctors and hospital staff at KDMC's Shastrinagar Hospital in Dombivli, a day after the incident triggered widespread outrage among the medical fraternity.

Confirming the arrest, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Atul Zende said an FIR had been registered at Vishnunagar Police

Station and that three accused were arrested on Tuesday night. They were produced before a competent court and remanded to two days of police custody. "We have now arrested the fourth accused, Ramesh Mhatre, and are proceeding with the investigation as per legal provisions," the DCP said. Earlier in the day, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Suhas Hemade confirmed the arrest of Mhatre's aides, Akshay Karande, Rajesh

Pawar and Pramod Nikam. He said the four accused, including Mhatre, allegedly assaulted on-duty doctors and nursing staff following an argument over the treatment of a female patient. Dombivli, Maharashtra: On the assault of doctors and nurses at Shastri Nagar Municipal Hospital, Assistant Commissioner of Police Suhas Hemade says, "In this assault case, there are about four accused, including one woman. They are local corporator Ramesh

Mhatre, and three other. According to police, the dispute began after the family of a woman who had undergone a caesarean section objected to doctors advising that her newborn be shifted to another hospital for specialised neonatal care, as Shastrinagar Hospital does not have a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Hospital authorities alleged that Mhatre and his supporters entered the hospital premises, abused and assaulted medical personnel, including two doctors, two nurses and two women employees. The entire incident was captured on CCTV cameras. Following the attack, doctors suspended OPD services in protest while continuing emergency care. Police are examining CCTV footage and witness statements as part of the ongoing investigation, while the KDMC Municipal Commissioner has permitted the assaulted staff to lodge formal complaints.

KDMC Hospital Assault Case: MP Dr Shrikant Shinde Promises Action, Doctors' Strike Continues

Dombivli: The assault on doctors and women staff at KDMC's Shastrinagar Hospital has snowballed into a major political controversy, with Kalyan MP Dr Shrikant Eknath Shinde condemning the attack in the strongest terms, promising strict legal and party action against those responsible, while NCP (Sharad Pawar faction) MLA Rohit Pawar warned of an agitation if the accused are not arrested immediately. Meanwhile, private doctors across Kalyan-Dombivli suspended OPD and IPD services in protest, demanding enhanced security for healthcare professionals. The incident, which allegedly involved Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde faction) corporator Ramesh Sukanya Mhatre and his supporters, has triggered outrage within the medical

fraternity and intensified pressure on the police over the pace of the investigation. Condemning the attack, MP Dr Shrikant Shinde, himself a medical professional, said violence against healthcare workers was completely unacceptable and assured that the law would take its own course. As a doctor, I know that treating patients is not merely a profession but a service to humanity. Doctors, nurses and hospital staff continue to serve people under extremely stressful circumstances. Any attack on them is highly condemnable he said. He further clarified that no one involved in the incident would receive political protection. Anyone found guilty will face strict action under the law. The



party's stand is equally clear those responsible will also face disciplinary action within the organisation," Shinde stated, adding that ensuring the dignity, safety and fearless working environment of doctors and medical staff was a collective responsibility. The Vishnunagar Police have registered an FIR against corporator Ramesh Sukanya Mhatre and several of his supporters. In-

vestigators are examining CCTV footage from the hospital as part of the probe. The incident also led to a widespread protest by private medical practitioners across Kalyan and Dombivli. Members of the Indian Medical Association (IMA), National Integrated Medical Association (NIMA) and KEMPA suspended OPD and IPD services on Wednesday, while continuing emergency medical treatment.

NCW Seeks Time-Bound Action, Accountability In Rajasthan Minor Gang Rape And Trafficking Case

New Delhi: The National Commission for Women (NCW) on Wednesday took serious cognisance of the alleged gang rape and trafficking of a 13-year-old girl in Rajasthan's Sri Ganganagar district, directing authorities to ensure a speedy investigation, fix accountability, and strengthen child protection mechanisms. The Commission, which held a hearing under the chairpersonship of its Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar, observed that the incident pointed to serious administrative lapses, shortcomings in policing, and inadequate monitoring systems that allowed the alleged crimes to continue unchecked. It stressed the need for effective coordination among the police, medical authorities, and forensic agencies to ensure a comprehensive and expeditious investigation.

The NCW directed the investigating authorities to pre-



pare and file the chargesheet before the competent court within the prescribed timeline and ensure that the trial begins without delay to facilitate speedy justice for the survivor. In India, a girl of only 13 years old was kidnapped, sold, and gang-raped by 32 men over 5 days in Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan. Taking note of the ongoing Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe, the Commission said that 18 accused have

reportedly been arrested so far, including hotel owners, managers, and other individuals allegedly linked to the crime. However, it emphasised that the remaining accused should be arrested at the earliest and the investigation completed in a time-bound manner. The hearing was attended by Sri Ganganagar District Magistrate Amit Yadav, Superintendent of Police Harishankar, Additional Superintendent

of Police and SIT head Deepak Kumar, Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Chairperson Jogendra Kaushik, and other members of the CWC. The Commission directed the District Magistrate to identify all unregistered and unauthorised hotels and commercial establishments operating in the district and take strict enforcement action against them within 15 days.

'Abuse Me, But Don't Defame Maharashtra' - CM Devendra Fadnavis On Opposition's 'Missing Link' Landslide Charge

Mumbai: Replying to a debate under Rule 293 on the development of Mumbai and its satellite cities, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday launched a blistering attack on the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly. Adopting a defiant stance against ongoing social media trolling and allegations of corruption following a recent landslide on the Mumbai-Pune 'Missing Link' expressway, CM Fadnavis declared himself "abuse-proof" while defending the project as a global engineering marvel.

The political storm erupted after torrential rains triggered a landslide on the recently inaugurated Rs 7,000-crore project, halting traffic for roughly 18 hours. The Opposition immediately targeted the Mahayuti government, alleging rampant corruption and structural failure. Responding to the heavy criticism, CM Fadnavis did not mince words, accusing opposition leaders of blatant fabrication. "The Pune-Mumbai Connecting Link issue was brought up because of the heavy rains. Such absolute liars have been born; they must have been born after a crore of liars died," he stated.

He revealed that the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance government had practically killed the project. "The Chief Minister of the previous government had written a two-page note listing 14 reasons why the Missing Link could not be built and closed the file. But the Mahayuti government had the courage, which is why we built it," he added.

Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis- "Bhade Ke Tattes are writing on social media against Missing Link by taking money.

Ones who are irrelevant are abusing CM and Ministers on social media."

Message delivered to everyone. CM Fadnavis rejected claims that the structural integrity of the project had been compromised or that public money had "gone down the drain". He clarified the mechanics of the incident to the House. "The heavy downpour caused



mountain debris to fall onto an outer arch, which broke under the impact. The main structure has absolutely no cracks. The tunnel's integrated safety systems functioned flawlessly. Once the emergency button was pressed, heavy cranes arrived within three minutes," he noted.

Defying opposition narratives, emergency crews cleared the debris and reopened the critical transit route to traffic within 18 hours, he said.

The Chief Minister reminded the Assembly that the route features the tallest cable-stayed bridge in India and the widest twin tunnels in the world, completely bypassing the treacherous, accident-prone older ghat section.

Addressing targeted online campaigns, CM Fadnavis took a swipe at what he termed "paid trolls" on social media while asserting the long-term legacy of his administration alongside Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

"Abuse Devendra Fadnavis, that is fine. I am used to it; I am abuse-proof.



I have learned one thing in life -- 10 years from now, those who are abusing today won't be seen, but the Connecting Link will stand, and it will bear the names of Devendra Fadnavis and Eknath Shinde. Defame me all you want, but if you defame Maharashtra, I will not spare anyone," he declared.

To put infrastructure risks into perspective, CM Fadnavis invoked the legacy of the historic Konkan Railway and socialist leader Madhu Dandavate. "When the Konkan Railway was being planned, people said it was impossible due to frequent landslides. But Madhu Dandavate had the courage to build it," CM Fadnavis recalled. "For 15 years after it opened, landslides occurred every single year. But we learned, we engineered solutions, and we fixed it. What would have happened if we had never built the Konkan Railway out of fear?" Shifting focus to the broader monsoon crisis gripping the state, the Chief Minister briefed the House on emergency relief measures. "Vasai-Virar re-

corded a staggering 772 mm of rain within 72 hours, knocking out power grids and mobile networks. Disaster management teams are actively working with telecom and electricity providers to restore services. Immediate emergency funds have been deployed to the worst-hit districts of the Konkan region, including provisions for free food distribution," he added.

CM Fadnavis also announced a major fiscal victory for the state, noting that shifting the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation to the central GeM (Government e-Marketplace) portal had successfully cancelled inflated tenders worth Rs 1,032 crore, saving the public exchequer massive sums. The Chief Minister concluded his high-octane speech by reciting a famous Urdu couplet on taking risks and facing adversity: "Girte hain shahsawar hi maidan-e-jung mein... (Only the warriors who ride horses fall on the battlefield)"...., reiterating that true leadership lies in executing massive projects despite political headwinds.

ED freezes TMC-linked Bank Deposits Worth Rs.440 Crore In Kolkata Amid Money Laundering Probe

New Delhi / Kolkata: The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) said it had frozen bank balances worth Rs 440.42 crore in three HDFC Bank accounts of the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) after conducting search operations at five premises linked to the Carewell group of companies operating in the aviation sector in and around Kolkata. According to the agency, the searches were carried out under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, as part

of an investigation stemming from an FIR registered by the Cyber Police in Bidhannagar, West Bengal. The case pertains to alleged dishonest financial dealings, unlawful collection of funds and the routing of suspected money through certain AITC bank accounts. The ED claimed that its investigation has so far revealed that approximately Rs 160 crore was transferred from AITC bank accounts to Carewell Aviation India Pvt. Ltd. and its related entities between April 2023

and June 2026. The agency further alleged that Carewell Aviation routed Rs 82.96 crore to another newly incorporated related company for the purchase of an Embraer Legacy 600 aircraft and an Augusta 109 Grand New helicopter. According to the ED, around Rs 112 crore was utilised for acquiring the two aircraft, while an unsecured loan of USD 1.7 million was arranged in 2023 from a Cayman Islands-based entity to facilitate the helicopter purchase.

Vasai Station Chaos: Angry Passengers Surround Loco Pilot Over Suspension Of Services Between Vasai Road & Virar

Mumbai: After heavy rainfall over the past few days, several parts of Mumbai and nearby areas witnessed severe waterlogging, with roads and railway tracks submerged. The worst-affected locations included Vasai Road, Nallasopara and Virar, leading to major disruptions in Western Railway's suburban train services. Due to waterlogging on the tracks, train services between Vasai Road and Virar were either suspended or operated on a limited basis. Several commuters at Vasai railway station, frustrated by long delays, allegedly pro-

tested on the tracks against the railway staff and surrounded the loco pilot of the train. On Tuesday, Western Railway suspended local train services between Vasai Road and Virar after water accumulated on the tracks near Nallasopara. The disruption left thousands of commuters stranded during the evening rush hour. Although a few local trains operated in the morning, most fast services were running 40-50 minutes behind schedule. Around 4.30 pm, train services between Vasai Road and Virar were suspended again as rising water levels made it un-



safe to operate trains. The disruption significantly affected Western Railway's suburban network. By 8 pm on Tuesday, 125 suburban train services had been cancelled, up from 100 cancellations on Monday, showing that the situation had worsened for

the second consecutive day. According to railway officials, the flooding is not caused by rainfall alone but also by the geographical features of the region. Palghar is located at a higher elevation, while Virar, Nallasopara and Vasai are low-lying areas.

'Very Scary': Tourists Watch Helplessly As Parked Car Rolls Into Gorge In Jammu And Kashmir's Gurez Valley

Gurez Valley: What began as a brief stop to admire the breathtaking landscape of Jammu and Kashmir's Gurez Valley quickly turned into a frightening experience when a parked car unexpectedly rolled down a steep mountain road and plunged into a gorge. The dramatic incident, captured on video, has since gone viral on social media, drawing attention to the importance of safe parking practices in hilly regions.

Car rolls back moments after tourists step out According to the viral clip, a group of tourists had parked their white car on an inclined

stretch of road to take photographs against the picturesque backdrop of Gurez Valley. Within moments of everyone stepping out, the vehicle started moving backwards on its own. As the car gathered speed, the tourists noticed the danger and rushed after it in a desperate attempt to stop it. Despite their efforts, the vehicle continued rolling downhill before eventually crashing through the roadside and disappearing into the gorge below. Fortunately, no one was inside the car when it fell, preventing what could have been a far more tragic outcome.

The footage was shared on X by user Nikhil Saini,

who used the incident to remind motorists about the importance of taking basic precautions while parking in mountainous areas. His caption read, "A small stone behind your tyres can literally save your car. And please, use some common sense. If a spot looks risky, don't park there just for a photo." He further noted that the incident took place in Gurez, Jammu and Kashmir, where the tourists had briefly stopped to click pictures before the car rolled away. The incident triggered widespread discussion online, with many users speculating that the vehicle may not have been properly secured before the

occupants exited. One commenter suggested that the handbrake may not have been engaged, while others highlighted the importance of leaving a manual vehicle in gear when parked on a slope. Several users also recommended placing wheel chocks or even large stones behind the tyres as an added safety measure on steep inclines. Many viewers described the video as unsettling. Another criticised the lack of awareness among some travellers, saying that people driving in mountainous regions should first understand basic hill-driving and parking techniques before setting out.

NLDSL, Punjab Sign MoU to Boost Digital Logistics Ecosystem



New Delhi: NICDC Logistics Data Services Limited (NLDSL) and the Directorate of Industries & Commerce, Government of Punjab, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on July 7, 2026, to support the digital transformation of Punjab's logistics ecosystem through the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP). The collaboration aims to enhance logistics visibility, improve operational efficiency, strengthen inter-departmental coordination and enable data-driven decision-making through the seamless exchange of real-time logistics data. The initiative is expected to benefit industries, MSMEs, exporters and other logistics

stakeholders across the State. Through this partnership, NLDSL will support the Government of Punjab in developing a digitally connected logistics ecosystem by enabling seamless data exchange across departments through ULIP. The initiative is expected to improve transparency, facilitate faster policy and operational decision-making, enhance logistics efficiency and strengthen Punjab's competitiveness as a manufacturing, agricultural and export hub. ULIP serves as a unified digital gateway for logistics-related data from multiple government systems through API-based integration. The platform currently integrates 46 systems across 12

Central Ministries and Departments through 142 APIs, covering more than 2,000 data fields. It has enabled the development of over 260 applications and facilitated more than 450 crore API transactions, demonstrating its scale, reliability and robustness. Following the signing of the MoU, an interactive ULIP workshop was organised for senior officials from key State departments, including Transport, Warehousing, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Public Works Department, Civil Aviation and other stakeholders. The workshop focused on identifying State-specific use cases for ULIP to address logistics challenges, improve supply chain visibility and support ease of doing business in Punjab. During the workshop, NLDSL showcased its key digital platforms, including the Logistics Data Bank (LDB), Koyla Shakti-Smart Coal Analytics Dashboard, Track Your Transport (TYT), Transport Management System (TMS) and Logistics e-Marketplace (LeMP). The platforms

demonstrated how integrated logistics data can support asset tracking, operational planning, inter-agency coordination and evidence-based decision-making. The MoU was signed in the presence of Minister of Industries & Commerce, Government of Punjab, Shri Aman Arora. The agreement was signed by Chief Executive Officer, NLDSL, Shri Takayuki Kano, and Director, Industries & Commerce, Government of Punjab, Shri Gurkirat Kirpal Singh, IAS. The initiative is being implemented under the guidance of Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC), and Chairman, NLDSL, Shri Rajat Kumar Saini, IAS, with the objective of strengthening logistics efficiency through digital integration and collaborative governance. NICDC is spearheading India's industrial transformation through

the development of Greenfield Industrial Smart Cities and integrated plug-and-play infrastructure with essential utilities at the plot level. Building on the success of 20 industrial smart cities, NICDC has been entrusted with implementing the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA), which envisages the development of 100 investment-ready, plug-and-play industrial parks across the country with an outlay of ₹33,660 crore. NICDC is also implementing key national initiatives, including PM MITRA Mega Textile Parks and the India Industrial Land Bank (IILB). NICDC Logistics Data Services Limited (NLDSL), the logistics arm of NICDC, is driving digital transformation in the logistics sector through platforms such as the Logistics Data Bank (LDB) and the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP). Established on December 30, 2015, NLDSL is a joint venture between NICDC Industrial Development Trust (NICDIT) and NEC Corporation of Japan.

Health Ministry Trains Primary Healthcare Master Trainers



New Delhi: Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) successfully conducted the National Training of Trainers (NTotT) for all five cadres delivering primary healthcare services at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs) over a two-day programme at the National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC), New Delhi. The inaugural session was presided over by Smt. Aradhana Patnaik, Additional Secretary and Mission Director (National Health Mission), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Addressing the participants, Smt. Aradhana Patnaik emphasised the critical importance of ensuring the availability of a skilled and quality health workforce across public health facilities. Highlighting the need for quality certification to strengthen community trust in public healthcare services, she stressed the importance of cadre-based training through a decentralised implementation model. She informed that the training programme will now be rolled out in a cascade mode through more than 100 Regional Training Institutes identified across the country from August 2026 onwards. She further underscored the importance of greater integration across health programmes and stronger inter-agency convergence to improve ser-

vice delivery. Stressing that technical knowledge alone is not sufficient, she highlighted the growing need to incorporate behavioural competencies, empathy and effective communication into health workforce training to ensure people-centred and compassionate care. During the Inaugural session, the Union Health Ministry had launched the Integrated Training Strategy (ITS) along with cadre-specific training modules during the National Summit on Best Practices held in Chandigarh on 30th April 2026, where the initiative was unveiled by the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda. The Integrated Training Strategy marks a paradigm shift from programme-specific, knowledge-focused capacity building to a patient-centric, competency-based training approach. It aims to strengthen both technical competencies and essential behavioural skills among Medical Officers, Staff Nurses, Community Health Officers (CHOs), Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) and Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) delivering comprehensive primary healthcare services through Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. The National ToT brought together more than 110 National Trainers and Master Trainers from across the country, reflecting a shared national com-

mitment to strengthening the quality of primary healthcare services through standardised and competency-based capacity building. The National ToT has been designed as an immersive learning experience, combining classroom sessions, case-based discussions and hands-on practical training at the NIHFWS Skill Lab. The programme focuses on strengthening both technical competencies and soft skills across critical clinical areas, enabling frontline healthcare providers to deliver high-quality, patient-centred services. The Integrated Training Strategy is expected to significantly enhance the quality of primary healthcare services, standardise capacity-building efforts across the country and further strengthen public trust in the healthcare system by equipping frontline health workers with the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to meet the evolving healthcare needs of the population. Shri Sabin C, Joint Secretary, Policy, Union Health Ministry, Prof. (Dr.) Pragya Sharma, Executive Director, NHSRC, and senior officials from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), National Medical Commission (NMC), and Mission Karmayogi Bharat (MKB), were also present at the event.

Bhubaneswar Declaration Adopted at Tribal Research Meet

New Delhi: The two-day National Workshop on Strengthening Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs), organised by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in collaboration with the Government of Odisha, concluded today in Bhubaneswar with the adoption of the Bhubaneswar Declaration, marking an important milestone in advancing the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for Viksit Bharat@2047 through stronger institutions that promote tribal knowledge, research, innovation and evidence-based policymaking. The workshop brought together nearly 200 participants from Tribal Research Institutes, State Tribal Welfare Departments, academia, research institutions, technology organisations, industry, development partners and civil society to deliberate on the future of India's tribal research ecosystem. On Day 1, participants took part in four thematic breakout sessions and expert panel discussions on strengthening the TRI ecosystem. The first session focused on transforming TRIs into vibrant Knowledge and Cultural Resource Centres, discussing the preservation of tribal languages, indigenous knowledge systems and cultural heritage through systematic documentation, digital repositories, community participation and stronger institutional partnerships. The second session examined strengthening research for tribal development, including the need for evidence-based policymaking through robust tribal data systems, baseline surveys, research quality standards and stronger collaboration among research institutions. The third session explored the role of technology integration – Artificial Intelligence, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and innovation ecosystems – in enhancing tribal research, planning, service delivery, monitoring and citizen engagement, envisioning future-ready, technology-enabled TRIs. The fourth session addressed institutional strengthening, governance, human resources and strategic part-



nerships, emphasising the reforms needed to transform TRIs into professionally managed, sustainable institutions capable of driving research, knowledge management, innovation and policy support. On Day 2, representatives from each working group presented the key outcomes of their Day 1 deliberations, followed by expert observations and extensive discussions with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to consolidate these recommendations into a shared national roadmap for strengthening TRIs. These recommendations formed the foundation for a comprehensive national roadmap to strengthen Tribal Research Institutes as centres of excellence in research, knowledge generation, cultural preservation, innovation and evidence-based policymaking, aligned with the evolving needs of tribal communities and the vision of inclusive tribal development. Summing up the deliberations, Smt. Ranjana Chopra, Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, said, "Tribal Research Institutes are the voices of tribal communities. They must evolve into globally recognised centres of excellence built on high-quality research and rooted in community realities. TRIs need greater institutional and financial autonomy. They must work closely with State Departments, universities, multi-lateral organisations and other knowledge institutions. Most importantly, they must bridge the gap between research, policy and the people they serve. The Bhubaneswar Declaration emerging from this national workshop is a wel-

come and strong commitment that will carry forward the momentum of tribal development in the days ahead. This is the way forward to strengthen tribal development and realise the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047." Throughout the deliberations, participants emphasised the need to strengthen institutional capacities of Tribal Research Institutes through improved governance structures, skilled human resources, enhanced collaboration with academic and technology institutions, standardised research methodologies and stronger knowledge-sharing mechanisms across States. Discussions also underscored the importance of creating a national ecosystem that enables TRIs to serve as repositories of tribal knowledge while providing timely evidence and policy inputs for tribal development programmes. In recognition of exemplary institutional performance, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs also presented Certificates of Appreciation to seven best performing Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) for their outstanding contributions to tribal research, documentation, knowledge generation and preservation of tribal cultural heritage. The recognition acknowledged the commitment of these institutions towards advancing evidence-based tribal development and promoting excellence across the national TRI ecosystem. The awardees included: **Tribal Research and Training Institute, Chhattisgarh** Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research

and Training Institute, Odisha Tribal Research and Cultural Institute, Tripura Tribal Research & Training Institute, Maharashtra Kerala Institute for Research, Training & Development Studies of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (KIRTADS), Kerala Tribal Cultural Research and Training Institute, Telangana Dr Ramdayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Jharkhand The workshop concluded with the presentation of the consolidated recommendations and the adoption of the Bhubaneswar Declaration, a landmark national framework for strengthening Tribal Research Institutes as centres of excellence in research, knowledge generation and evidence-based policymaking. In his concluding remarks, Shri Anant Prakash Pandey, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, said, "Over the past two days, we have witnessed rich deliberations, meaningful exchange of ideas and a shared commitment to strengthening Tribal Research Institutes. The recommendations emerging from the workshop and the Bhubaneswar Declaration provide a clear roadmap for enhancing institutional capacities, promoting research excellence, embracing technology and fostering greater collaboration. The Ministry remains committed to working with State Governments, Tribal Research Institutes and all stakeholders to translate these recommendations into meaningful outcomes for tribal development."

Reflecting the collective deliberations of the plenary sessions, thematic breakout groups and expert panel discussions, the Declaration sets out a comprehensive agenda for transforming TRIs into vibrant knowledge institutions through institutional reforms, adoption of the Model TRI Framework 2030 (a set of standards for governance, staffing and research quality that States can adopt to modernise their TRIs), formulation of a National TRI Research Agenda for 2027-2032 (a five-year plan setting shared research priorities across States), technology integration, preservation of tribal languages and indigenous knowledge systems, enhanced research standards, performance-based institutional strengthening, strategic partnerships and greater community participation.

Navi Mumbai Airport Notified for Drug Imports

New Delhi: In a significant step towards strengthening the pharmaceutical supply chain and facilitating ease of trade, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has enabled the import of drugs through the recently inaugurated Navi Mumbai Airport in Maharashtra. The amendment to Rule 43A of the Drugs Rules, 1945 now includes Navi Mumbai in the list of airports through which drugs may be imported into the country. The no-

tification has been issued after consultation with the Drugs Technical Advisory Board under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. With this amendment, Navi Mumbai Airport joins the list of designated airports permitted for the import of drugs under the Drugs Rules, 1945. Total number of ports of entry (road/rail/ship/air) becomes 42 with the latest addition. The amendment is expected to facilitate smoother movement

of pharmaceutical consignments, strengthen logistics infrastructure, and provide greater flexibility to importers by adding a new alternative for import of medicines into India. The initiative is in line with the Government's continued efforts to strengthen the regulatory framework, improve trade facilitation, and promote Ease of Doing Business while ensuring effective regulatory oversight of imported drugs.

Unravelling the secrets of near-earth space critical for satellite operations

New Delhi: In a significant effort to accurately model the near-earth space researchers have developed a novel approach to reconstruct the topside ionosphere over the Indian region for the first time by integrating ground and space-based observations. This approach would be critical for satellite operations, communication systems, and navigation services. The ionosphere is a complex, ionized part of Earth's upper atmosphere that plays a vital role in atmospheric and ionospheric electrodynamical pro-

cesses. The day-to-day variation in the electron density significantly influences the radio wave propagation in various frequency bands, particularly in the high-frequency (HF) band, where multi-hop reflected signals can enable long-distance radio communication through skywave propagation. It also affects satellite-based navigation systems such as GPS or Indian NAVIC system by altering signal transmission. Understanding how the electron density varies with height in the ionosphere is therefore essential for reli-

able communication and navigation, especially in the equatorial regions where ionospheric dynamics are highly complex. Accurate electron density information up to ~1000 km is essential for continuous monitoring of the ionosphere, as most low Earth orbit (LEO) satellites operate within this altitude range. In most earlier studies and conventional models, a constant topside scale height is assumed for simplicity due to the lack of reliable information on its variation, particularly over the Indian region. This limitation often leads to inaccur-

racies in representing the true topside ionosphere. Addressing this limitation, a new method developed by the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the altitudinal variation of scale height, a crucial parameter for topside ionospheric modelling, derived from COSMIC radio occultation measurements have been combined with bottomside ionosonde observations to obtain a more realistic representation of the topside electron density profile (EDP).

Vodafone Idea shares rally nearly 3%: Here's what Nomura says about the company's biggest challenge



New Delhi:Vodafone Idea Share Price: Vodafone Idea shares traded nearly 3 per cent higher on Wednesday after brokerage Nomura said the telecom operator could report a slower pace of subscriber losses in the June quarter. The stock was trading at Rs 14.25, up 2.89 per cent, in afternoon trade. The brokerage has retained its 'Neutral' rating on Vodafone Idea with a target price of Rs 12.60, saying the company's operational performance is showing signs of stabilising, although a

sustained turnaround will depend on how quickly it can improve network quality and retain customers.

Subscriber trend may improve

After losing over 5 million subscribers in the March quarter, Vodafone Idea is expected to report a smaller decline in the three months ended June. Nomura estimates the company could lose around 3 million subscribers during the quarter. While that would still mean a net decline in its customer base, the brokerage be-

lieves the pace of churn is easing as the company continues to invest in strengthening its network. The improvement, if reflected in the results, would mark one of the first signs that Vodafone Idea's capital expenditure is beginning to have an impact on customer retention. Over the past few months, the telecom operator has stepped up investments after raising funds, with a significant portion earmarked for expanding 4G coverage and rolling out 5G services in select circles.

Tariffs unchanged, ARPU seen steady

Nomura does not expect any meaningful change in average revenue per user (ARPU) during the June quarter. Since telecom companies did not implement tariff hikes during the period, revenue per user is likely to remain largely un-

changed on a sequential basis. According to the brokerage, any meaningful improvement in ARPU will depend on future pricing actions by the industry rather than company-specific factors. For Vodafone Idea, improving subscriber quality and retaining higher-paying users remain as important as expanding the customer base.

Execution remains the biggest challenge

Although Nomura expects operational trends to improve gradually, it believes the company still has significant work ahead. The brokerage said investors should closely watch the pace of network rollout, as Vodafone Idea's ability to compete with larger rivals will depend on how quickly it can improve coverage and service quality. Delays in expanding the

network or slower execution could weigh on customer additions and revenue growth. The report also flags weaker subscriber additions and slower ARPU growth as risks that could affect the company's recovery over the coming quarters.

What the Street will watch

The June-quarter earnings will be closely tracked for more than just the headline numbers. Investors are expected to focus on whether subscriber losses continue to narrow, management's commentary on the ongoing 4G and 5G rollout, and any indication of further improvement in network quality. Updates on capital expenditure and customer retention will also be important, particularly after the company accelerated investments following its recent fund raise.

Kusumgar IPO opens for subscription today: Check price band, lot size and other key details



New Delhi:The initial public offering (IPO) of engineered fabrics manufacturer Kusumgar opens for subscription on Wednesday, July 8. The public issue will remain open for bidding until Friday, July 10. The company has fixed the price band at Rs 398-419 per share. Investors can bid for a minimum of 35 equity shares and in multiples thereafter.

Kusumgar IPO details
Kusumgar aims to raise Rs 650 crore through the IPO, which is entirely an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 1,55,13,126 equity shares by existing shareholders. Since the issue is a complete OFS, the company will not receive any proceeds from the public offering. The Mumbai-based company, incorporated in 1990, manufactures woven, coated and laminated synthetic fabrics, also known as engineered

fabrics.

The IPO allocation has been reserved as follows:

Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs): 50 per cent
Non-Institutional Investors (NIIs): 15 per cent
Retail Investors: 35 per cent

Anchor investors

Before the IPO opened, Kusumgar raised Rs 193.95 crore from anchor investors by allotting 46,28,877 equity shares at Rs 419 per share. The anchor book attracted several marquee investors, including BlackRock, Goldman Sachs, ISIF Equity Fund, India Acorn Fund, SBI Mutual Fund, Bandhan Mutual Fund, Axis Mutual Fund, ICICI Mutual Fund, WhiteOak Capital and Mirae Asset Mutual Fund, among others.

Financial performance

For the financial year ended March 31, 2026, Kusumgar reported a net

profit of Rs 98.20 crore on a revenue of Rs 711.78 crore. In the previous financial year, the company had posted a net profit of Rs 111.99 crore with revenue of Rs 790.21 crore. At the upper end of the price band, the company is valued at around Rs 4,400 crore.

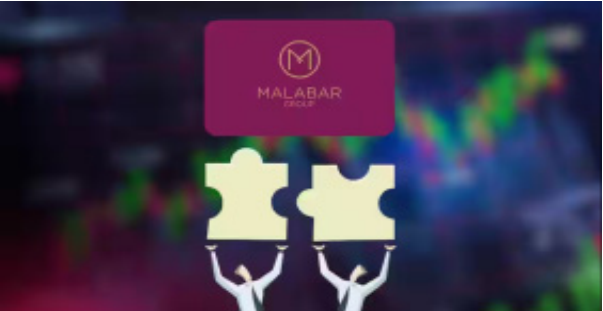
Business profile

As of March 31, 2026, Kusumgar had developed more than 1,000 unique fabric types (SKUs), catering to industries such as aerospace and defence, industrial and automotive, and outdoor and lifestyle.

Key dates

Axis Capital, Motilal Oswal Investment Advisors and IIFL Capital Services are the book-running lead managers to the issue, while Bigshare Services is the registrar. The shares are proposed to be listed on both the BSE and NSE, with the tentative listing date fixed for July 16.

CCI clears merger of 51 Malabar Group firms into Malabar Gold and Diamonds



The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposed merger of 51 companies of the Malabar Group with and into Malabar Gold and Diamonds Ltd, paving the way for a consolidation of the jewellery retailer's corporate structure. According to the regulator, the proposed combination involves the amalgamation of 51 Malabar Group entities, referred to as the transferor companies, into Malabar Gold and Diamonds Ltd, the transferee company. Most of the transferor companies are engaged in the jewellery business. Malabar Gold and Diamonds Ltd is the flagship company of the Malabar Group. It is engaged in the manufacturing, trading, retailing, wholesaling, supply, distribution, import and export of gold, gold ornaments, diamonds, bullion, silver, platinum,

precious stones and other jewellery products. The company also undertakes franchising and dealership activities and acts as a dealer, agent, consignor and consignee for jewellery, lifestyle products and allied items through its network of franchisees, executive dealers and other distribution channels. The approval by the fair trade regulator is expected to streamline the group's corporate structure by bringing multiple jewellery-focused entities under a single company. Such mergers are generally aimed at simplifying operations, improving administrative efficiency and strengthening governance. The CCI announced its approval through a brief order, while noting that a detailed order explaining the rationale behind the decision will be issued separately.

TCS Q1 FY27 Preview: Revenue seen at Rs 72,012 crore, profit may dip 2.4%; dividend announcement likely



New Delhi:India's largest IT services company, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), is expected to report a mixed set of earnings for the first quarter of FY27, with revenue likely to grow while profit and margins may decline. According to Zee Business research, revenue for the June quarter is estimated at Rs 72,012 crore, up 1.9 per cent from Rs 70,698 crore reported in the March quarter. In dollar terms, revenue is expected at USD 7.60 billion, marginally lower than USD 7.62 billion, reflecting a 0.3 per cent quarter-on-quarter decline. EBIT is estimated at Rs 17,137 crore, down 4.1 per cent from Rs 17,870 crore in the previous quarter. EBIT margin is expected to decline to 23.8 per cent from 25.3 per cent. Net profit is projected at Rs 13,392 crore, down 2.4 per cent from Rs 13,718 crore reported in the March quarter. The company is also expected to report a total contract value (TCV) of USD 8-10 billion during the quarter.

Key factors expected to influence performance

A weaker rupee is expected to support revenue growth during the quarter. However, higher investments in artificial intelligence (AI) are likely to offset part of the currency benefit and weigh on margins. Improved efficiency and productivity are expected to support business performance, while the banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) segment is likely to remain a key growth driver. Margins may

also be impacted by the salary hike implemented from April. In addition, weak economic conditions in the Middle East are expected to affect business performance. The acquisitions of Coastal Cloud and ListEngage are expected to support the company's medium-term growth strategy. Investors will closely watch the management's commentary on the demand environment, AI-related deal wins, revenue outlook and large deal pipeline.

Results, dividend decision and conference call

TCS will announce its first-quarter FY27 results after market hours on Thursday, July 9. The company will also host an earnings conference call at 7:00 pm IST, during which the management will discuss the financial performance and respond to analysts' questions. The company's board will also consider the declaration of an interim dividend for equity shareholders.

If approved, the interim dividend will be paid to shareholders whose names appear in the company's register of members or in the records of the depositories as beneficial owners on Wednesday, July 15, 2026, which has been fixed as the record date.

March quarter performance and workforce

TCS had reported a 12.22 per cent year-on-year rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 13,718 crore for the March quarter. Revenue from operations increased 9.64 per cent to Rs 70,698

crore during the quarter. For the full FY26, the company's net profit rose 1.35 per cent to Rs 49,210 crore, while revenue increased 4.58 per cent to Rs 2.67 lakh crore. The operating profit margin improved to 25.3 per cent in the March quarter from 24.2 per cent a year earlier. The company added 2,356 employees during the March quarter, taking its total workforce to 5,84,519 as of March 31, 2026. It was the first quarter of net employee addition after two consecutive quarters of decline. However, the overall employee count fell by 23,460 during FY26. During the year, the company also began an exercise to reduce around 12,000 jobs amid changes in the technology landscape and increasing adoption of AI.

Stock performance ahead of earnings

Shares of TCS were trading at Rs 2,082.30, down Rs 13.80 or 0.66 per cent on Wednesday. The stock has declined by Rs 1,407.60, or about 40.3 per cent, from its 52-week high of Rs 3,489.90 touched on July 2, 2025. It is currently Rs 105.50, or about 5.3 per cent, above its 52-week low of Rs 1,976.80 hit on July 1, 2026. TCS has a market capitalisation of Rs 7.53 lakh crore and is part of the Nifty 50 index. The stock has gained 5 per cent over the past week but has declined 3.24 per cent over the last month. On a year-to-date basis, it has fallen 35.5 per cent, compared with a 7.44 per cent decline in the Nifty 50 index.

EPF transfer vs EPF withdrawal: Which option should you choose after switching jobs?



New Delhi:When you switch jobs, you also need to transfer or withdraw your employee provident fund (EPF). While your Universal Account Number (UAN) remains the same, when you join a new employer, you need to provide EPF details to them for the new member ID. EPF transfer and EPF withdrawal are totally different things. The PF (provident fund) transfer means you can move your accumulated balance to the new account linked to your new employer, while EPF withdrawal means you can take out your PF balance partially or fully as per the EPFO rules. Now confused about when to choose an EPF transfer and when to choose an EPF withdrawal? Here, we explain the difference between the two:

EPF transfer

You should choose the EPF transfer option when your new company is covered under EPFO. This is

beneficial for your retirement savings. You should also choose an EPF transfer when you don't have an immediate need for funds. Keeping money in an EPFO account makes you worry less at the time of retirement, as you get a pension through this. EPF withdrawal EPF withdrawal has its own conditions. You may or may not withdraw your funds partially or fully, depending on the EPFO rules. You can withdraw your money for an eligible reason. You can also take out money when you are retiring permanently. The other reason can be unemployment, or when you are moving abroad permanently. This is all subject to EPFO provisions.

Which option is better?

For most salaried employees, switching the PF option is usually beneficial. You can preserve retirement savings, as your balance continues to receive inter-

est. The employees should choose the withdrawal option when there is an emergency. However, you can withdraw the full balance only as per the EPFO rules. Private sector bank IDFC FIRST Bank has launched the Provident Fund (PF) payment services through its integration with the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), under the Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India, according to an official statement on Tuesday, July 7. Now, PF payments can be directly initiated through the EPFO portal and seamlessly complete transactions via IDFC FIRST Bank's retail and corporate internet banking platforms. The solution offers a secure and fully digital experience, with real-time transaction confirmations, an intuitive user interface, and instant challan downloads for easy record-keeping and reconciliation.

Angel One Dividend: Company to consider first FY27 payout; check record date



New Delhi:Shares of Angel One Ltd traded lower on Wednesday after the company announced that its Board of Directors will meet on July 15 to consider the first interim dividend for the financial year 2026-27 along with its financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2026. The stock was trading at Rs 329.10, down 2 per cent during the session, valuing the company at around Rs 30,968 crore. The company informed the exchanges that its Board is scheduled to meet on July 15, 2026, when it will take up

two key items — approval of the financial results for the quarter ended June 30 and a proposal to declare the first interim dividend for FY27. Alongside the announcement, Angel One fixed Tuesday, July 21, 2026, as the record date to identify shareholders eligible for the proposed dividend, provided the Board clears the payout.

Dividend decision and earnings due on the same day

The July 15 meeting is expected to draw attention from investors as it will bring both the company's June-quarter

earnings and its dividend decision. Angel One also said the trading window for dealing in its shares, which was closed from July 1, will reopen 48 hours after the financial results are made public, in accordance with insider trading regulations.

The combination of quarterly earnings and a dividend announcement is likely to make the meeting an important event for shareholders looking for cues on the company's performance and capital allocation plans.

Business momentum re-

mains in focus

The dividend proposal comes soon after Angel One released its operational update for the June quarter. The company added more clients during the period, taking its overall customer base to 38.59 million. It also processed 406.14 million orders across segments, reflecting continued activity on its platform despite a tougher operating environment for retail brokers. Over the past year, brokerage firms have had to deal with changing regulations in the derivatives segment, which have affected trading volumes across the industry. Market participation has also fluctuated, prompting companies to rely more on businesses beyond traditional broking.

A company known for rewarding shareholders

Angel One has built a track record of returning cash to shareholders through dividends. Its payout ratio generally stayed in the 26-37 per cent range in earlier years. In FY26,

however, the payout rose to nearly 246 per cent of reported earnings, reflecting the company's decision to distribute a larger share of available cash even as profitability came under pressure. Whether the company maintains that approach this year will become clear after the Board meeting.

Quarterly numbers will also be closely watched

Apart from the dividend, investors will be looking at the June-quarter earnings for signs of how the business is navigating a changing market. For FY26, Angel One reported revenue of Rs 5,138 crore, compared with Rs 5,239 crore in the previous year. Net profit stood at Rs 915 crore, down from Rs 1,172 crore, as higher borrowing costs linked to the expansion of its margin funding and NBFC lending businesses weighed on earnings. At the quarterly level, however, profitability had shown signs of recovery. Net profit improved from Rs 114 crore in the June 2025 quarter to Rs 320 crore in the March 2026 quarter.

Sanju Samson credits father and coach Biju George for his success



Hyderabad: Sanju Samson, the Player of the Tournament in India's victorious T20 World Cup campaign this March, recalled how his father's efforts led him to coach Biju George and his early selection trials for Kolkata Knight Riders in a chat on JioStar's show Superstars. "When we left everything behind and moved back to Kerala, we initially couldn't get admission into any school in Trivandrum. We had moved there during the middle of the academic year, so we weren't getting admission anywhere. We tried so many schools, thinking we would go here or there, do this or that, but nobody was ready to admit us," Samson said. "In the end, there was a school called St Joseph's in Trivandrum. One of my father's friends held a senior

position there. He asked my father what the matter was, and my dad explained that we weren't getting school admissions. He simply said, 'No problem, get uniforms for the kids the next day and send them straight to school.' That's how it all began in Trivandrum," he said. On how his father's efforts led him to coach Biju George, the flamboyant opener said: "While we were still in Delhi, my father used to make endless phone calls to friends in Kerala to find out about the cricket scene there. He didn't know Biju sir at first, but he had a close friend named Ali bhai. He would constantly ask them where he should send me and my brother for cricket training after we moved to Kerala. Ali bhai strongly recommended Biju George sir, saying he was

the best coach in Kerala and that he would guide us well. "My father agreed. On that very first day, we had a short trial where we faced about 10 balls each, so he could see our natural ability. Within just 10 minutes of watching us bat, Biju sir made up his mind. He immediately sent my brother to play for the Wayanad district team, saying it would be a great opportunity for him. As for me, since I was younger, he said I had to wait because my Under-13 matches were coming up," he said. On his early selection trials for KKR, Samson said: "After I went on to perform well for Kerala in the Under-13 tournament, Biju sir took me to the Kolkata Knight Riders selection trials when I was just 14 years old. That felt unbelievably surreal

for a 14-year-old. Sourav Ganguly sir was the captain of KKR at the time, and John Buchanan was the head coach. I gave my trials in front of them, and based on that performance, they selected me to be part of the KKR 'B' team." "We even got to travel to Sri Lanka for matches with the 'B' team. Biju sir continuously opened doors and created opportunities for us, so the credit for shaping the early stages of my career will always, unconditionally, go to him," he said. On how his parents' sacrifices motivated him and his brother, Samson said: "We loved our routine: morning practice, going to school, rushing back and training again. At that age, it made us feel like we were doing something meaningful. Our peers at school and the academy respected us for it. They saw how hard we worked, and that respect pushed us even more. Even as a kid, there was always a quiet pressure in the back of my mind. "When you see your father shift his entire world for you, and your mother sacrifice her sleep every day, you realise you can't take a single day off. That is why getting out for 30 or 40 and then going home and telling my dad that I got out for 30 felt a bit heavy. But looking back, that environment brought the best out of me," he said. "While my friends played for fun, I walked onto the field with one goal: to make my parents proud and make their sacrifices count. That is what kept me focused at such a young age," Samson said.

Sreenidhi University TG20 League playoffs: Hyderabad E-Champions face Khammam Aces in Qualifier 1; Ranga Reddy plays Karimnagar in Eliminator



Khammam: The playoffs of the inaugural Sreenidhi University TG20 League begins, with the Eliminator between Ranga Reddy Risers and EIPL & Eleve Karimnagar Diamonds. Later in the evening, unbeaten Hyderabad E-Champions will face Anvita Khammam Aces in Qualifier 1 at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium here. The winner of Qualifier 1 will secure a direct place in Sunday's final, while the loser will get another opportunity in Qualifier 2 on Friday, July 10, against the winner of the Eliminator. The grand finale will be played on Sunday, July 12, when the inaugural champions will be crowned.

Eliminator
Momentum seems to be with Risers, having found themselves on the brink of elimination heading into the final league fixture, Risers produced one of the greatest performances of the tournament, defeating Warangal Warriors by 161 runs to complete a stunning turnaround and book their place in the playoffs. They have relied heavily on the consistency of Aditya Javvaji, who finished the league stage with 286 runs, while experienced spinner Aryan Cariappa has led the bowling attack with 11 wickets, including a match-winning four-wicket haul. EIPL &

Eleve Karimnagar Diamonds, meanwhile, have enjoyed a campaign built on consistency and balance despite losing their first two matches. Tanmay Agarwal has been their standout performer, piling up 328 runs, including two centuries, while Chandan Sahani has added valuable runs in the middle order. Their bowling attack has been equally impressive, with Rathlavath Dinesh claiming nine wickets, while district star Narayana Teja and Shubham Sharma have chipped in with eight wickets each to provide excellent support. Qualifier 1: Hyderabad E-Champions

have been the benchmark side of the tournament as the only unbeaten team through the league stage. Their success has been built on collective performances, with Abhirath Reddy enjoying a phenomenal campaign, scoring 418 runs at a staggering strike rate of 220, including a century. District player Ganesh Gadugu has been the perfect foil, contributing 224 runs while finishing unbeaten on three occasions. With the ball, Ajay Dev Goud has been the tournament's leading wicket-taker with 16 wickets, while Pranav Varma has provided excellent support with nine wickets at an economy of just 6.8 runs per over. Standing in their way are Anvita Khammam Aces, one of the most explosive batting sides in the tournament. Kodimela Himateja has led the run charts with 430 runs, including a century and four fifties, averaging an outstanding 107.5. Wafi Kachchhi and G Sai Krishna Reddy have consistently provided attacking starts throughout the league stage, making the Aces one of the most dangerous batting units in the competition. Their bowling has been equally effective, with 16-year-old Ved Reddy emerging as the tournament's second-highest wicket-taker with 12 scalps, while skipper CV Milind has made an impact with nine wickets in just five matches.

Fifa controversy: Egypt files official FIFA complaint against referees after dramatic Argentina loss

Cairo: The Egyptian Football Federation (EFF) has reportedly approached the governing body FIFA, lodging a formal protest against the decisions of referee Francois Letexier after their team suffered a dramatic 3-2 defeat against the defending champions Argentina in Atlanta on Tuesday. Egypt appeared close to a historic upset after taking a 2-0 lead, but Argentina produced a late comeback, with Lionel Messi playing a decisive role by scoring one goal and setting up another before Enzo Fernandez completed the turnaround in stoppage time. However, the match left the Egyptian camp furious as several key decisions by the

officials went against the team, including a disallowed goal following a VAR review and a penalty appeal that was not reviewed in the buildup to Argentina's winning goal. According to a report in Spanish publication Diario AS, the president of the Egypt Football Association, Hany Abo Rida, has lodged a formal complaint with FIFA against French referee Francois Letexier and his officiating team. The report further states that the complaint calls for an investigation into what Egypt describes as controversial decisions that went against the Pharaohs. The federation has also officially requested that the French officiating team be removed from the

remainder of the tournament because of what it considers crucial errors. Earlier, the Egyptian coach Hassan also showed disappointment with several decisions. He also suggested that the outcome was affected by factors beyond what happened on the pitch, even implying that there was a desire for Messi and Argentina to remain in the tournament. "We looked better than the reigning champion - better in everything -, but the result was influenced by internal factors on the pitch and external factors off it," Hassan said. "Perhaps they wanted to keep the world champion in the competition. Perhaps they wanted Messi to stay in the running," he

said in the post-match press conference. "In football, there are sometimes external factors that go beyond the technical aspects. The world champion received support at every level," he added. Hassan was particularly frustrated by the refereeing of French official Francois Letexier and pointed to two major incidents that he felt changed the course of the game: Egypt's disallowed goal and a late penalty appeal involving Alexis Mac Allister before Fernandez's decisive strike. "We haven't seen respect or fair play," Hassan said. "A penalty was ruled out. It was not even checked by the VAR, and our second goal was remarkably, for whatever reason, disallowed. We have been treated unfairly, and it has been an injustice."

Indian boxer Preeti Pawar targets Commonwealth Games gold with a measured outlook

New Delhi: Nothing in life is certain and plans do not always work out the way one hopes. India's young boxer Preeti Pawar learnt that lesson early in her career, which is why she heads into the Commonwealth Games with confidence from a stellar run of results but without taking anything for granted. The 22-year-old bantamweight (54kg) boxer has emerged as one of India's brightest boxing prospects over the last three years, overcoming setbacks while steadily adding medals to her resume. Making her senior World Championships debut in 2023, Preeti impressed despite bowing out in the pre-quarterfinals. She bounced back later that year by winning a bronze medal at the Hangzhou Asian Games and securing a quota for the Paris Olympics. Her Olympic campaign, however, was disrupted after she contracted Hepatitis A just before the Games. Despite the illness affecting her preparations, she still reached the Round of 16. The experience has made her more measured in her outlook. "At the Commonwealth Games I want to perform my best and get a medal for India...a gold. Let's see what will happen because sometimes we plan something but it doesn't go our way," Preeti told PTI. Following a long break after the Olympics, Preeti returned to international competition in style, winning gold at the 2025 World Boxing Cup Final before claiming silver at the Boxam Elite International tournament in Spain. She then came through a strong



field to clinch the Asian Championships title. The continental gold assumed added significance as many of the same rivals are expected to feature at the Asian Games later this year. "It was a good competition and very good for Asian Games preparation because I would get the same opponents there. It has worked as a confidence booster for me. My performance there was a good sign." Despite her recent success, Preeti believes there is still considerable room for improvement as she builds towards her long-term target — the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. "I wouldn't say I am at my absolute peak. But looking at last season's end and the beginning of this new season, I have been performing well. But there are things that I have to work. My target is the Olympics. I don't want to miss out on anything. "Need to work on my skills. I have to improve my counter game. Mentally also I

have to prepare more. I'm adding stuff on my game. I play an attacking game, so trying to add counter on it because we get different opponents. If both are attacking I need to play on counter." Known for her aggressive style inside the ring, Preeti spends much of her time outside it pursuing hobbies that demand patience and precision. One wouldn't normally associate a boxer's hard-hitting hands with delicate artwork, but quilling and calligraphy are among her favourite pastimes. "I like crafts. Whenever I get time on the weekends or in the off season I do craft. I do quilling. I made a frame last month. But right now I am focussing on boxing." She also carries a Mandala art colouring book with her during tournaments as a way to unwind. "I meditate. I have a sketchbook, I like colouring book, mandala art," she added when asked what she likes to do in her spare time.

AIFF, clubs adopt new commercial model for Indian Super League



Hyderabad: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the Managing Committee of the Indian Super League, represented by FC Goa, NorthEast United FC and Sporting Club Delhi, announced in Delhi on Wednesday that the clubs will hold the commercial rights for the Indian Super League going forward, while the AIFF will retain administrative control and oversight of key operational aspects, in a move towards a globally accepted, club-led commercial model. The press conference was addressed by M Satyanarayan, Deputy Secretary General, AIFF, Akshay Rohatgi, Head of Competitions, AIFF, Ravi Puskur, CEO, FC Goa, Mandar Tamhane, CEO, NorthEast United FC, and Dhruv Sood, CEO, Sporting Club Delhi. "From our side, we are fully committed to making this league one of the best in Asia," said Satyanarayan. "We are also keeping in mind the recent Supreme Court order and the new National Sports Governance Act." Sood concurred, "In SC Delhi's first season, the Ministry came forward and offered its full support to the league, particularly with regard to the availability of stadiums. The AIFF also did its best to reduce the cost of the league." Expanding on the new season, Tamhane said, "It will be a broadcast-driven model. We are moving towards a club-led model because both the clubs and the AIFF believe it is the right approach from the perspective of long-term commercial and financial sustainability." Next, the Clubs/Managing Committee

will issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to secure a broadcast partner and work on sponsorships. The AIFF will send a letter to all 14 clubs asking them to confirm their participation. The 2026-27 season will be held in a home-and-away format. "We will have a full-fledged season where every team will play its respective home and away matches in a full schedule rather than in a truncated format. We look forward to working collectively with the AIFF to ensure that the league is as successful as it can be," said Puskur. The league calendar will be planned around the FIFA Men's International Match Windows (scheduled for September, October, November and March) and the

AFC club competition schedule to ensure the best possible preparation for the national team as well as the participating clubs (FC Goa and East Bengal FC) in continental competitions. Touching upon the release of players by clubs for the national team, Satyanarayan said, "We have already had several rounds of discussions with the clubs and requested them to release players for a longer period in the national interest. The earlier we move forward with the process, the better we can plan the schedule. We are hopeful this will happen with the cooperation of the clubs, particularly as the league is now being run jointly by the clubs and the AIFF."

Former Proteas skipper, Johan Botha named Netherlands cricket consultant

Amsterdam: Former South Africa ODI captain Johan Botha has been appointed as a consultant to the Netherlands men's cricket team for the upcoming ICC Cricket World Cup League 2 (CWCL2) matches against Namibia and Nepal later this month. The matches are scheduled to be played at Kampong in Utrecht, starting on July 21. Botha, 44, represented South Africa in 78 ODIs and 40 T20Is, including captaining them in ten 50-over games. He joins the Dutch setup immediately after resigning from his dual roles as head coach of Australian domestic side Queensland Bulls and Big Bash League (BBL) franchise Brisbane Heat, despite having a year left on his contract. "I really look forward to joining the Netherlands team in this important period in the World Cup League 2 against Namibia and Nepal. Having tracked their progress over the past few years, it will be great to work with the players, coaches, and staff," Botha said in a statement on Wednesday. Welcoming the appointment, KNCB (Dutch Cricket Board) High Performance Board Member Sybrand Engelbrecht praised Botha's extensive global coaching credentials. "We're very pleased to have Johan on board. He is an extremely experienced coach, with stints at the PSL, CPL, MLC, Big Bash and Queensland cricket," he said. Botha had coached the Brisbane Heat and Queensland Bulls for the past two seasons after replacing Wade Seccombe in 2024.

Yash & Kiara Turn Up The Heat In Toxic’s Tabaahi



After creating a nationwide sensation with its visually spectacular promotional campaign, the makers of Rocking Star Yash’s much-awaited action entertainer Toxic have unveiled the film’s first single, Tabaahi. The song offers a captivating glimpse into the unexpected yet intensely passionate love story between Yash and Kiara Advani.

Tabaahi follows a man who never imagined love would enter his life, only to find himself completely consumed by it. As he embarks on a transformative journey with Kiara Advani’s character, he discovers a world filled with passion, longing, and profound emotional connection. Their romance unfolds with striking intensity, beautifully capturing the irresistible pull of love and desire.

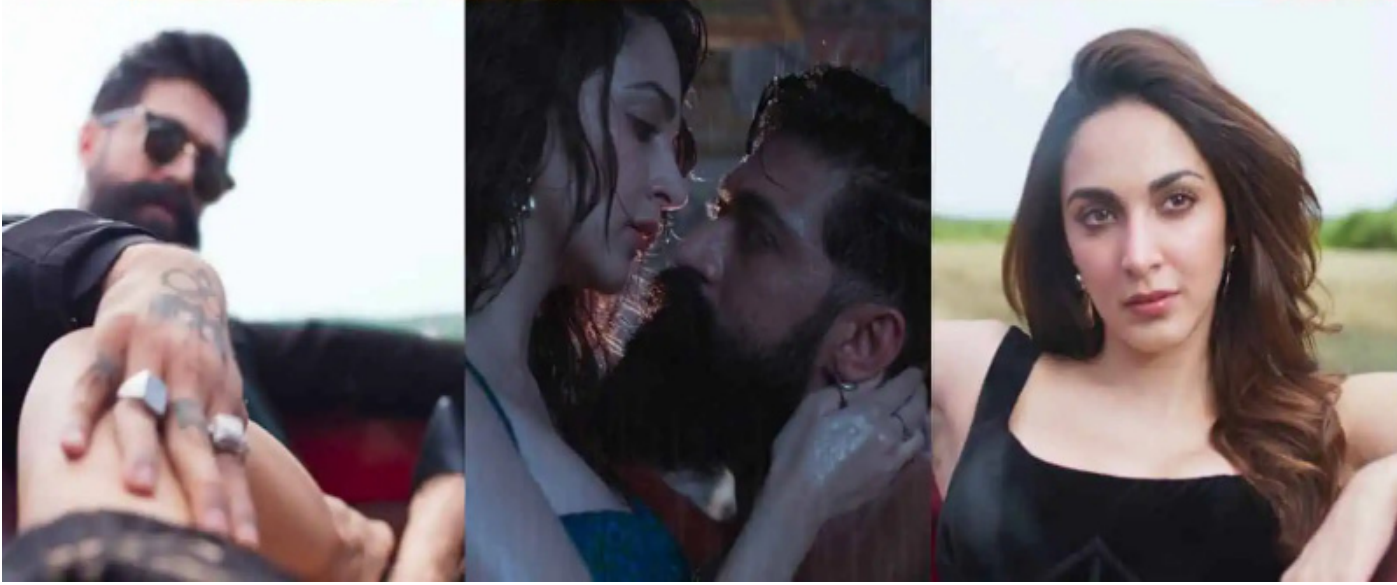
Vishal Mishra shines in a dual role as composer and singer, delivering an electrifying track that seamlessly



blends contemporary beats with soulful melodies. Ramajogayya Sastry’s evocative lyrics add emotional depth and perfectly complement the song’s romantic essence, making it an instantly immersive musical experience.

Yash grabs attention with his suave new look, exuding effortless style and charisma, while Kiara Advani mesmerizes with her sizzling screen presence. Together, the duo turn up the heat, sharing wonderful chemistry that sets the screen ablaze. The song is further elevated by breathtaking visuals, lavish production design, and impeccable production values, with KVN Productions showcasing Hollywood-level technical finesse and cinematic scale in every frame. Tabaahi becomes a instant blockbuster, setting the bar high. Written and directed by Geetu Mohandas, the film is all set for a grand worldwide theatrical release on August 26.

Lust Overshadows Love in Toxic?



Ever since the teaser of Yash’s Toxic came out, everyone has been talking about the bold content in the film. As the release date is drawing near, the makers have released a romantic number titled Tabaahi. Composed and sung by Vishal Mehra, the song is a hard-hitting rock number with solid production values. Kiara Advani sets the screen on fire with her glamour,

and Yash is too hot to handle with his chiseled body. The visuals are breathtaking, and the lead pair share sizzling chemistry. But more than the chemistry, the song is filled with lust, as many scenes have been added just to take the boldness quotient to another level. Not only does the song showcase lust, but it also gives an idea about Yash’s track with Kiara, where he is

portrayed as a bad man falling for her. The makers have spent a lot of money, and that shows on screen through the costumes, sets, and music.

There are no vulgar kisses between the lead pair, but the lust factor has been upped big time to create instant hype. While the masses might love Kiara and Yash in such an avatar, such songs only limit the reach of the film to

a particular set of audiences. Kiara Advani has been saying that she has done some bold scenes, and some of them are visible in the song. If Kiara Advani has gone for such glamorous shots, imagine what Tara Sutaria would have done. Directed by Geetu Mohandas, Toxic also has Nayanthara as the other female lead and is slated for release on August 26, 2026.

Janhvi Kapoor Slays In Lilac-Gold Wedding Saree

Janhvi Kapoor is having a golden run, with her film Peddi alongside Ram Charan crossing the ₹400 crore mark globally. The sports action drama has drawn mixed reviews, with praise for the lead performances, though some scenes drew criticism and were later trimmed by the director. Still, the film has cemented itself as one of Tollywood’s biggest hits of 2026, giving Janhvi’s Telugu career a big boost.

Away from the big screen, Janhvi turned heads at her cousin Anshula Kapoor’s wedding festivities, where she and sister Khushi Kapoor turned bridesmaids for the bride marrying Rohan Thakkar. Her look was pure royal glamour, a lilac-gold saree paired with statement kundan jewellery, stacked bangles, and a jhoomer that framed her face beautifully.

With Peddi’s numbers still climbing and more looks expected from the wedding, Janhvi Kapoor continues to dominate headlines on every front this season.



Will Ramayana Trailer Change the Game?



Ranbir Kapoor plays Lord Sriram in the epic mythological drama titled Ramayana, directed by Nitesh Tiwari. The film unit already launched the teaser with which they created an impact, but at the same time, there is also backlash for certain elements concerning the teaser. Now, the makers are gearing up for the launch of the trailer, and there will be strict scrutiny, and this trailer will either make the film or break the film. Going by the deets, the team decided to bring the trailer to the audience on July 18th. Earlier in April, the team launched the teaser, which opened to a mixed to decent response. While some commented on the visuals, others commented on the visual effects. Altogether, the expectations of the audience have not been met by the teaser, which the makers also realized. Having said that, the team has worked on the feedback and will be delivering a high-quality product, satisfying everyone. But, the question is whether the new trailer has the capacity to pull the film’s buzz up and also accelerate the business surrounding the film. With some negativity surrounding the film’s output, there have been rumors about dull business of the film. The team is confident that they will strike some of the best deals, whatsoever. In such a scenario, the trailer will create a massive impact. Especially when the team is telling a story that we all know, the trailer creates a big impact. Moreover, the failure of Adipurush has sent shock waves among all the others who want to retell the Ramayana for today’s generation. If the trailer hits the bull’s eye, there will be no looking back for the film. Sai Pallavi will be seen as Sita, Yash as Ravana, Sunny Deol as Hanuman and Ravie Dubey as Lakshman. It’s a two-part saga with the first part releasing on Diwali 2026. As for the second part, it’ll arrive on the big screen on Diwali 2027.