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PM Modi Receives Grand Welcome From Indian Diaspora During Historic New Zealand Visit



Auckland [New Zealand], July 10: As Prime Minister Narendra Modi commenced his historic visit to New Zealand, the first by an Indian Prime Minister in four decades, members of the Indian diaspora welcomed him with resplendent cultural performances, reflecting the close connection with India despite the physical distance between the two partner nations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi witnessed a vibrant celebration of India's rich cultural heritage during the community welcome in Auckland on Friday evening. Delighted to witness a vibrant celebration of India's rich cultural heritage during the community welcome in Auckland this evening. The performances showcased the cultures of Punjab, Tamil Nadu, a fusion of Carnatic and Hindustani classical music and a stirring rendition of Vande.

In a post on X, the PM underlined how the performances showcased the cultures of Punjab, Tamil Nadu, a fusion of Carnatic and Hindustani classical music, and a stirring rendition of Vande Mataram. He praised the community and said, "I compliment our diaspora for keeping India's cultural heritage vibrant across generations and continents and for strengthening the enduring people-to-people bonds between India and New Zealand." Delighted to witness the wonderful performance by the Naad Vocal Ensemble. Music has a unique ability to bring people together and today's performance beautifully reflected the warmth and depth of India-New Zealand friendship.

'If Death Comes, I Want It On My Own Soil'

- Sheikh Hasina Says She Will Return To Bangladesh From India, Surrender In Court



New Delhi: Ousted Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has announced that she plans to return to Bangladesh from exile in India around December, despite facing a death sentence and the possibility of arrest or even death upon her arrival. In an interview with Reuters, Hasina said she and several senior leaders of the Awami League intend to voluntarily return to Bangladesh and surrender before the courts, describing it as both a political and personal decision. "They may arrest me on my return, they may even kill me. Still, I have to go," Hasina told Reuters. "If death comes, I want it to come on my own soil, where my parents are buried and where their blood was shed."

Plans To Return With Party Leaders

The 78-year-old leader said she would return alongside senior Awami League leaders, many of whom are also facing criminal cases after the party was removed from power in

2024. Among them is former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, who has also reportedly been sentenced to death in absentia. Hasina said the decision was taken in response to what she described as the continued persecution of her party workers. Speaking to Reuters, she claimed that Awami League leaders and supporters have faced widespread arrests, legal action and intimidation since her government was toppled. Hasina fled Bangladesh in 2024 after a student-led uprising brought an end to her

two-decade rule. Later, Bangladesh's war crimes tribunal sentenced her to death in absentia over allegations that she ordered a violent crackdown on protesters during the unrest. She has consistently denied all allegations. Bangladesh has repeatedly sought her extradition from India, where she has remained in exile. However, Hasina told Reuters she has not discussed her return with either the Indian or Bangladeshi governments. "They want to take me back... I will go myself," she said.

SC to Hear Pleas Seeking CBI Probe Into Alleged Ram Temple Donation Embezzlement

New Delhi / Ayodhya: The Supreme Court would hear a batch of pleas seeking a fair and time-bound probe into the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya on July 13. On July 7, an Ayodhya court granted one-day police remand for three of the eight accused arrested in connection with the alleged theft of donations at the Ram temple. The court authorised the remand for Anukalp Mishra, Lavkush Mishra and Karunesh Pandey. On June 29, a local court had sent all the eight accused to 14-day judicial custody. According to the Supreme Court website, a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana will hear as many as three petitions filed on the issue

when the apex court reopens on Monday. Narendra Kumar Goswami, one of the three petitioners, has moved the top court seeking a CBI probe into the incident. He also sought a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) audit of the finances of the Sri Ram Janmabhoomi Theerth Kshetra Trust, which manages the affairs of the Ram temple. The second petition

has been filed by Ajay Kumar Rai and Dinesh Kumar Yadav seeking similar measures. Besides seeking an apex court-monitored CBI probe, the third petition, filed by RJD MP Sudhakar Singh, has sought a forensic audit of the entire finances of the temple trust. Earlier, a partial working day bench headed by Justice B V Nagarathna had asked one

of the petitioners to mention the case for urgent hearing on a later date. The petition, filed by practising advocates Ajay Kumar Rai and Dinesh Kumar Yadav, said a CBI-led multi-disciplinary special investigation team (SIT) should investigate the alleged financial irregularities and other purported illegalities concerning the affairs.

Morphing Campaign Against Minister Narayana; Roop Kumar Launches Strong Criticism of YSRCP

From Our Staff Reporter Nellore, July 10: TDP leader and Deputy Mayor Roop Kumar Yadav strongly criticized former minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy and MLC Chandrasekhar Reddy. Speaking to the media on Friday, Roop Kumar alleged that the former minister and the MLC were making baseless statements against the ruling party. He claimed that Kakani Govardhan Reddy was merely repeating whatever Chandrasekhar Reddy said. According to him, Chandrasekhar Reddy's remarks once again demonstrated his lack of political experience.



Roop Kumar questioned whether the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) could substantiate its allegations regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process. He stated that Minister P. Narayana had instructed officials to ensure that not a single eligible voter was left out of the electoral rolls. He expressed anger over what he described as criticism of the minister based on morphed voice recordings. Roop Kumar alleged that MLC Chandrasekhar Reddy, who according to him had never contested an election, was speaking without adequate understanding of the issue. He also criticized claims that only 40 percent digitization had been completed in Nellore city, asserting that 72 percent digitization had already been achieved.

Jagan Symbolizes Loot, Chandrababu Symbolizes Investments and Industries: Pattabhi

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, July 10 : Swachh Andhra Corporation Chairman Kommareddy Pattabhiram launched a sharp attack on YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) chief and former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. Speaking to the media on Friday, Pattabhiram alleged that Jagan had amassed crores of rupees through quid pro quo arrangements involving industrial land allocations by leveraging the political influence of his father. He claimed that under the banner of Brahmani Steels, promises of employment opportunities for the youth of Rayalaseema were made, but the project ultimately became a vehicle for large-scale exploitation. He alleged that around 14,000 acres of public and government land were allotted to Brahmani Steels at throw-away prices. According to him, the allotted land was later mortgaged for approximately Rs.350 crore, leading to major financial irregularities. Pattabhiram questioned whether it was not a fact that 744 crore from Red Gold Enterprises and RR Global Enterprises had been routed to Jagati Publications and Rs.30 crore to Indira Television. He alleged that despite receiving large sums of money, not even a single brick was laid for the Brahmani Steels project.

He recalled that Jagan himself led the foundation-stone-laying ceremony for Brahmani Steels on June 10, 2007. Pattabhiram further claimed that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had identified major irregularities in the Obulapuram mining case. Despite this, he alleged that in August 2022, the Jagan government filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court stating that it had no objections regarding the Obulapuram mines. Pattabhiram stated that the coalition government had reclaimed the 14,000 acres of government land that he alleged had been lost through the Brahmani Steels episode. He said that while Jagan had allegedly used industries as a means



of exploitation, the present coalition government was bringing industries to the state and creating an employment revolution for young people. According to him, the industrial growth that began with Kia has now expanded with investments from global companies such

as Google, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Cognizant, and ArcelorMittal. Pattabhiram concluded by saying that while Jagan symbolizes "loot," Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu symbolizes investments, industries, and employment opportunities.

'Perhaps He Thinks Mavigan Means a Mango' — Chinta Mohan's Jibe at Jagan

From Our Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, July 10: Former Union Minister Chinta Mohan made notable remarks about YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) chief and former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and the issue of "Mavigan." Speaking to the media on Friday, Chinta Mohan sarcastically remarked that Jagan perhaps thinks "Mavigan" means a mango. He said that if Jagan intends to campaign in the next elections on the same issue, it is unlikely to succeed. He noted that Jagan had once sought "one chance" from the people and was given that opportunity, but



sumptions. The former Union Minister also pointed out that there are 11 disproportionate assets cases against Jagan. He said that before the elections, it would first become clear whether Jagan would face imprisonment or not. Questioning what he described as unequal treatment, Chinta Mohan asked, "Is there one standard of justice for Jayalalitha and another for Jagan?" He further commented, "If Jagan talks about Mavigan, I will talk about Tirupati and demand that the state capital be established in Rayalaseema," expressing his own political viewpoint on the issue.

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, July 10: Andhra Pradesh Minister for Information and Public Relations K. Parthasarathi said the Cabinet has expressed concern that while social media offers benefits to society, it is also turning into a "disease" that can cause serious harm. He stated that discussions in the Cabinet highlighted the negative impact of social media on public thinking and governance. A Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was held at the Secretariat in Velagapudi on Friday. Briefing the media after the meeting, Minister Parthasarathi said that Director General of Police (DGP) Harish Kumar Gupta gave a presentation on how several countries around the world have implemented stringent laws

to regulate social media. He observed that social media lacks the accountability and ethical standards generally associated with traditional media. The minister expressed concern over the increasing incidents of character assassination, misinformation, and false propaganda against the government on social media. He alleged that some individuals are misusing social media to attack political opponents and spread false information. He also criticized certain political parties for allegedly providing financial support for such activities. Parthasarathi said that the DGP and police officials submitted a comprehensive report to the Cabinet on the misuse of social media. Detailed discussions were held on social media laws in force abroad and the shortcomings of India's Information Technology (IT) laws.



He said Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu made it clear that the government would not tolerate posts that insult women and girls, character assassination, or false propaganda against the government. The Chief Minister directed officials to strengthen existing laws and take stringent action against social media misuse. The Cabinet also decided to establish a State-Level Social Media Response Cell. The Chief Minister instructed officials to set up a state-level task force to address social media misuse and resolve related complaints. Minister Parthasarathi said the Cabinet decided to provide modern forensic tools to identify social media handles involved in

hate campaigns and character assassination. The Chief Minister also suggested specialized training for all Station House Officers (SHOs) on handling social media misuse cases. He further stated that the Chief Minister directed officials to appoint, if necessary, public prosecutors with expertise in cyber investigations. Chandrababu Naidu also instructed a Group of Ministers (GoM) to study the best practices being followed in India and abroad for controlling social media misuse. The minister added that the Cabinet extensively discussed measures to strengthen the state's economy and achieve sustainable development. He emphasized that a strong economy is essential for the continued implementation of welfare programs.

EDITORIAL

Golmaal of funds as a witness to the gods

With the revelation of the Golmaal scam in the Ayodhya Ram temple funds, doubts are being raised among devotees about the management of funds and other administrative matters of the country's famous temples. Sanatan traditionalists are unable to digest such atrocities being committed under the witness of the gods. The Ayodhya Ram temple fund scam has now become a prominent topic of discussion even before the scams in the Tirupati and Sabarimala temples were forgotten. The Ayodhya Ram temple opened in January 2024. Ayodhya has become the most visited place after the Taj Mahal. The number of hotels that accommodate pilgrims is increasing year by year and now there are more than 500. Similar development is taking place in the Ujjain and Mathura temples. The government estimates that religious tourism in the country, including domestic tourists, generated an income of \$ 1.4 billion in 2022. This is likely to double by 2030.

The central government is also implementing schemes like Swadesh Darshan and the Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (Prashad) with the aim of further developing the sites as tourist centers. It is spending several thousand crores of rupees on the development of infrastructure facilities suitable for pilgrims in the temple cities. Despite spending such huge funds, and also receiving several crores of rupees as gifts and donations from pilgrims and devotees to the respective temples, it is a matter of deep concern that they are being misused or are being used by some enlightened people among the administrators of the temples. It is the responsibility of the respective governments to manage the funds of the temples efficiently. How much money is being received as donations from devotees every day. How is it being deposited?

How much of it is spent on what? It is the responsibility of the governments to monitor it from time to time. But in most of the prominent temples, each temple has become a corporate empire. In addition, the fact that many hereditary individuals, from the priests who perform the pujas to the endowment trustees, are managing it has become a big problem. Only a few individuals or families have special rights in the administration of the temple. Due to the rule that a priest's son should become a priest in the same temple, others with good Vedic knowledge are not able to get that position. This is violating the constitutional principle of equal opportunities for everyone in the society. Moreover, as the saying goes that even God cannot catch house thieves, the embezzlement of temple funds is not done by outside individuals. The hand of those working in the temple is mostly visible. In Telangana, the hereditary rights of priests and trustee rights have been abolished by law.

US-Iran MoU Collapse: Why The Strait Of Hormuz Is Back On The Brink

The 14-Point MoU between Iran and the US, signed digitally on June 16, was too good to last. The 23-day truce was broken when the US struck 80 targets in Iran in the early hours of July 8 and Iran retaliated almost immediately, targeting 85 American targets in the Gulf region. Interestingly, and mostly as a coincidence, the MoU was signed when President Trump was at the G7 Summit in France, and was called off at the NATO summit in Turkey.

Why did the ceasefire fail? Could it have been prevented? Did the roadmap agreed upon on 22 June fail to build enough safeguards to prevent such a disaster? And, most importantly, what is likely to happen going forward? The answer to many of these questions lies in the framing of the 14-Point MoU and the uneven playfield that it created. Also, there is a need to examine how and what Iran considers as its critical national security red lines, violations of which it cannot afford to ignore.

The MoU and the Uneven Deal

The 14-Point MoU, facilitated through Pakistan, was the foundation on which the ceasefire was to be converted into a peace deal. It gave 60 days to the US and Iran to reach a final deal while simultaneously implementing measures that not only eased the global energy crisis but gave some assurances to Iran that, this time, the US was serious about a lasting peace deal.

As a result, the naval blockade was removed almost immediately and the Strait of Hormuz was opened for commercial traffic. The US Treasury Depart-

ment revoked sanctions over the sale of petroleum products by Iran, too, thereby giving a huge boost to revenues to Iran from the sale of crude oil and gas. As per some rough estimates, Iran was able to sell almost 50 million barrels of oil during this brief period, giving it a direct revenue of around USD 4 billion (on an average price of crude oil at USD 80 per barrel). There were also inputs that a number of steps were undertaken to defreeze Iranian assets and money, and that an initial tranche of USD 3 billion was delivered to Iran. Also, a ceasefire in Lebanon, a thorny issue and something that Iran insisted on as a precondition, was agreed upon through a trilateral agreement signed between Israel, the US, and Lebanon on June 26.

The 'roadmap' that followed the MoU was agreed upon on June 22 in Switzerland, which called for establishing a communication line (almost like a hot-line) between Iran and the US in order to ensure safe passage for commercial vessels through the Strait of Hormuz. It also included key provisions for setting up a high-level committee for political oversight, technical working groups on nuclear issues, dispute resolution mechanisms, and even a de-escalation and monitoring unit to ensure compliance with the ceasefire in Lebanon. From the contents of the MoU, it is clear that Iran got almost everything that it was looking for, while the US had to make major concessions. The most surprising facet of the MoU was not what was included, but what was left out. Despite the US insisting on its earlier demands, major issues, such as

Iran's ballistic missile programme and its support to proxies in the region, found no mention in the MoU. Even clauses 8 and 9, which refer to Iran's nuclear programme, had no provision for total dismantling of the program or complete stoppage of uranium enrichment, or even clear terms on handing over of the 450 kg of enriched uranium. Except for Iran reaffirming that it will not procure or develop nuclear weapons, that it will maintain the status quo (no further enrichment) till a final deal is reached, and that the disposal of its stockpile of enriched Uranium will be resolved through a mutually agreed mechanism, there was nothing the US would have liked as 'iron-clad' guarantees on the future trajectory of Iran's nuclear programme. The deal was, therefore, uneven and heavily loaded in favour of Iran. The US was projected as weak and compromising at home and, more importantly, in Israel, which made its discontent very clear. Plus, the images coming out of Iran were shocking to say the least as far as the US was concerned. Millions of people came out to offer their last homage to the assassinated Supreme Leader, and dignitaries of more than a hundred countries were present at the funeral, including regional countries like Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Egypt, Turkey, and other major powers like Russia, China, India, etc. Adding to it was the fact that funeral ceremonies were held even in Iraq, which gave a clear message that Iran was not a defeated or isolated nation, but, in fact, a nation that brought together others in defiance, solidarity, and pride. It



also signalled that the regime the US tried so hard to topple remained in total control.

Iran's Red Lines

One of the major reasons for the MoU to collapse is Iran's red lines, especially over control in the Strait of Hormuz. If there is one thing that Iran understood from this war, it was the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz and how it could turn a regional conflict into a major global crisis when it was closed. Accordingly, Iran insisted on a very carefully drafted Clause 5 in the MoU, which gave it, along with Oman, the sole rights to administer, monitor, and facilitate traffic across the Strait of Hormuz. To pacify the US, it included a provision that commercial ships would not be charged any fees for 60 days. However, on administering it, the clause read, "Iran will conduct dialogue with the Sultanate of Oman to de-

fine the future administration and maritime services in the Strait of Hormuz, in discussion with other Persian Gulf littoral states in line with the applicable international law and the sovereign rights of coastal states of the Strait of Hormuz", thereby making it clear that it was Iran that would control the Strait. Accordingly, when some ships attempted to take the Southern route in the Strait of Hormuz, bypassing Iran's mandated route and its checkpoints, it issued warnings and even deployed fast boats to divert them to the notified route. There was an incident of firing on a commercial ship by Iran on June 28, which led to a brief exchange of military strikes between Iran and the US, but the 'Doha talks' ensured that there were no more skirmishes till July 8. Two issues are worth mentioning on the Strait of Hormuz.

Amaira, And The Daily Goodbye Every Parent Takes For Granted

Every morning, millions of parents do something extraordinary without ever thinking about it. They let go. They watch a little hand disappear through a school gate, wave goodbye, and trust that, a few hours later, that same child will come running back into their arms. It is perhaps the greatest act of faith a parent makes every single day. Faith that the adults we leave our children with will protect them as fiercely as we would. Faith that if our child is scared, someone will notice. If our child is hurting, someone will step in. If our child reaches out for help, someone will respond. It is a trust so fundamental that we rarely stop to question it.

Until a story like Amaira's forces us to. Nine-year-old Amaira left for school, like she had on countless other mornings. According to her parents, she was excited, cheerful and looking forward to her day. The CCTV footage, they say, shows her greeting a friend with open arms, enjoying her dance class, laughing, and enjoying the snack she had carried from home. There was nothing to suggest that this ordinary school day would become every parent's worst nightmare. During my interview with Amaira's parents, Vijay and Shivani, they spoke not only about their unimaginable loss but about the newly accessed CCTV footage that they believe raises deeply disturbing questions. According to them, the footage shows Amaira approaching her class teacher five times. Five times. Not once. Not twice. Five separate moments when, they believe, their daughter was trying to communicate that something was wrong. They allege she was being bullied



in the classroom. They say she displayed visible signs of distress. They allege no one intervened, no one followed her when she walked out alone, and that precious minutes were lost before anyone acknowledged that a child from the class was missing.

The parents also claimed that when they rushed to the hospital after receiving a call from the school, doctors told them Amaira had been brought in, left on a stretcher, and that the school staff who accompanied her had left the hospital before they arrived. If true, it raises deeply troubling questions about the school's response in the immediate aftermath of the tragedy. These are serious allegations. The investigation and the courts will determine legal accountability. But some questions go beyond the courtroom.

How many signs of distress should a child have to display before an adult notices?

How many cries for help can go unheard inside a classroom?

How does a child walk out alone, unseen, unheard and unprotected?

As a journalist, I have spent years asking difficult questions. It is my job to hold institutions to account and to ensure that uncomfortable conversations are not avoided simply because they are painful. But there are stories that refuse to remain just stories. As Shivani described watching her daughter in those final moments on CCTV, I stopped seeing just another news report.

I saw a little girl. A child who trusted the adults around her. A child who believed that if she went to her teacher, she would be heard. That, more

than anything else, has stayed with me. Amaira's parents told me this fight is no longer only about their daughter. They want parents to ask difficult questions at every parent-teacher meeting. They want schools to take bullying seriously. They want accountability. Above all, they want another family to be spared the grief they now live with every single day. I hope their voices are heard. Because this story is not just about one family. It is about every family that entrusts a school with the most precious part of their lives. It is about whether our schools are equipped not only to educate children, but to protect them. When the interview ended, I moved on to the next segment, as television demands we do. But this conversation did not end when the cameras stopped rolling. It followed

me home. Because I wasn't listening only as a journalist, but as a mother, too. And I kept thinking about that moment every parent knows so well. The one where you watch your child disappear through the school gate, believing they will come home. For Vijay and Shivani, that ordinary goodbye became their last. Tomorrow morning, millions of parents will once again watch their children disappear through a school gate, believing they will come home safely. If you're reading this as a parent, hold your child a little tighter tonight. Tell them they can come to you with every fear, every complaint, every anxiety and every question, no matter how small it may seem. Sometimes, what feels insignificant to us can feel overwhelming to a child. Listen a little longer. Ask one more question. Reassure them that they will always be heard.

Remote Tribal Villages to Get Basic Infrastructure: Polavaram Collector



Rampachodavaram, July 10: Polavaram District Collector K. Dinesh Kumar has assured that the administration will take all necessary steps to provide basic infrastructure in remote tribal villages under Kanivada Panchayat in Gurtedu Mandal. The Collector visited Kanivada and Konda Vajuvada villages on Friday as part of the district administration's "One Month – One Assembly Constituency – Four Village Visits" programme. He interacted directly with villagers, reviewed local issues, and held meetings with officials from various departments to ensure speedy grievance redressal. Addressing the gathering, the Collector said the initiative aims to identify public issues at the grassroots level and resolve them promptly. He instructed officials to prioritise the development of remote habitations by improving drinking water supply, electricity, roads, housing, public distribution, pensions, and other essential government services. With the monsoon season underway, the Collector directed health officials to take preventive measures against seasonal diseases. He instructed ANMs and ASHA workers to conduct regular visits to tribal villages to monitor health conditions, while Anganwadi centres were asked to ensure nutritious food for pregnant women and lactating mothers to prevent anaemia. He also directed officials to examine all petitions submitted during the village meetings and resolve eligible grievances as per government norms. The Collector emphasised the effective implementation of the employment guarantee scheme, ensuring up to 125 days of wage employment for eligible families.

During his visit to Konda Vajuvada, villagers requested construction of permanent buildings for the school and



Anganwadi centre. The Collector assured them that the proposals would be examined and appropriate action taken. At Gandrala village, he inspected turmeric cultivation, interacted with farmers on acreage and income, and instructed officials to prepare proposals for the construction of a culvert across a nearby canal. In Kanivada, villagers sought completion of the pending Secretariat building, Health and Wellness Centre, and RSK building works. They also requested mini pulse-processing units for tribal farmers. The Collector assured that the issues would be addressed in consultation with the concerned departments. Responding to requests from rubber growers, he announced that training on rubber tapping would be organised at the Gurtedu Mandal headquarters. The Collector also inspected the government school at Peddalova, reviewed teaching standards, student strength, distribution of educational kits and uniforms, and directed teachers to ensure effective classroom learning. He stressed proper implementation of the Dokka Seethamma Mid-Day Meal Scheme. He instructed tourism officials to develop the scenic viewpoint near Kanivada Ghat to attract visitors. The Collector further appealed to residents to cooperate with the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, with door-to-door verification continuing until July 14, and urged farmers to participate in the "Mee Bhoomi – Mee Hakku" land resurvey by remaining present during field surveys. Senior officials from Tribal Welfare, Horticulture, Health, Panchayat Raj, ICDS, Rural Development, Employment Guarantee Scheme, engineering departments, and local public representatives participated in the programme.

PGRS Second Phase Launched at Madugula; Collector Receives Public Grievances

Anakapalli, Pen power July 10 : The second phase of the "One Month – One Constituency – Four Visits" programme under the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) commenced at the Panchayat Raj Guest House in Madugula on Friday morning. The programme was inaugurated in the presence of Madugula MLA Bandaru Satyanarayana Murthy, Anakapalli District Collector Vijaya Krishnan, and Joint Collector Souryaman Patel. The initiative is aimed at strengthening public grievance redressal by bringing district administration closer to the people and ensuring prompt resolution of civic issues. A large number of residents from different parts of the constituency attended the grievance redressal session and submitted petitions seeking solutions to various public and personal issues. District Collector Vijaya Krishnan, Joint Collector Souryaman Patel, In-charge DRO Y. Srinivasa Rao, and RDO V.V. Ramana personally received representations from the public and assured that the grievances would be examined and resolved in accordance with government rules. Senior district-level officials from various



government departments also participated in the programme to address grievances related to their respective departments and facilitate timely action.

NIT Andhra Pradesh Director Appointed to AICTE National Academic Board



Tadepalligudem, Pen Power July 10 : In a significant recognition of his academic excellence and leadership, Prof. Dr. N. V. Ramana Rao, In-Charge Director of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Andhra Pradesh, has been appointed as a Member of the All India Board of Undergraduate Studies (AIBUG) in Engineering and Technology, a statutory academic body under the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Government of India. The Board is responsible for framing poli-

cies related to undergraduate engineering education, strengthening academic curricula, promoting quality assurance, and ensuring that engineering programmes remain aligned with national priorities and evolving industry requirements. Expressing his gratitude, Prof. Ramana Rao thanked the AICTE leadership for entrusting him with the prestigious national responsibility. He said the Board plays a crucial role in shaping the future of engineering education by encouraging student-centric learning, outcome-based education, multidisciplinary approaches, innovation, research, entrepreneurship, skill development, and stronger industry-academia collaboration. He reaffirmed his commitment to serving the Board with dedication and contributing to the continuous advancement of engineering education across the country.

The appointment has been warmly welcomed by the NIT Andhra Pradesh community. Registrar Dr. P. Dinesh Shankar Reddy, Deans Dr. G. Ravikiran Sastry, Dr. V. Sandeep, Dr. N. Jayaram, Dr. Himabindu, and Dr. G. B. Veeresh Kumar, along with Associate Deans, Heads of Departments, faculty members, officers, and staff, congratulated Prof. Ramana Rao on his achievement. They expressed confidence that his rich academic experience, visionary leadership, and administrative expertise would make a significant contribution to the Board's mission of enhancing undergraduate engineering education in India while bringing further recognition to NIT Andhra Pradesh.



UTF Felicitates Newly Promoted Headmistress

Gangavaram, July 10: The Gangavaram Mandal unit of the United Teachers Federation (UTF) felicitated Chennai Chinna Satyavathi on her promotion and appointment as Gazetted Headmistress of the Tribal Welfare Ashram Girls High School, Gangavaram. Satyavathi had earlier served as a Hindi School Assistant in the same school from 2014 to 2016. UTF leaders praised her dedication to education and wished her success in strengthening academic standards and student development. Teachers and UTF members participated in the felicitation programme.

CPI Demands Cancellation of Agreements Allotted to Google Data Centre Project



Visakhapatnam, pen power July 10 :

The Communist Party of India (CPI) has demanded that the Andhra Pradesh government immediately cancel the agreements under which land has been allotted for the proposed Google Data Centre project, alleging that the project would pose serious environmental and drinking water challenges in Visakhapatnam. As part of its awareness campaign, CPI leaders distributed pamphlets to morning walkers at Arilova Skill Development Centre between 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, CPI Visakhapatnam District Secretary Sheikh Rahiman alleged that after coming to power, the coalition government has been allocating valuable public land to large corporate groups at concessional rates, causing environmental degradation. He claimed that around 160 acres of land from the Central Jail area to Mudasarlova have been allotted for the Adani-Google Data Centre project. Rahiman expressed concern that the proposed project could obstruct the natural flow of rainwater from the surrounding hills into the Mudasarlova Reservoir, potentially affecting the reservoir's water storage and leading to drinking water shortages for residents of the 13th Ward and nearby localities. He further stated that Visakhapatnam is already facing increasing levels of air, noise and vehicular pollution due to industrial growth, and alleged that the proposed data centre could further impact the environment and the livelihood of people living in the Arilova region. Referring to public opposition to

data centres in some countries, Rahiman claimed that governments elsewhere are witnessing protests over the depletion of natural resources linked to such projects. He alleged that the State Government had moved ahead with the proposed Google Data Centre projects at Tarluvada–Mudasarlova and Rambilli in Anakapalli district without adequate public consultation. The CPI leader also alleged that the government was extending substantial incentives, including infrastructure support such as water and electricity, to the project. He expressed concern that the development could adversely affect the ecologically sensitive areas surrounding the Simhachalam Hills, the Mudasarlova Reservoir and the Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary. Rahiman said that Mudasarlova Reservoir, constructed nearly two centuries ago, continues to be an important source of drinking water for residents of Arilova and surrounding areas. He urged the public to oppose any project that, according to the party, could threaten this vital water source. He also pointed out that the Arilova area is already experiencing drinking water shortages and warned that the establishment of a large data centre could further increase pressure on local water resources. He appealed to the government to prioritise public welfare over corporate interests. District Committee members C.H. Kasu Babu, B. Pushpalatha, K. Lakshmana Rao, Venkateswara Rao, Shankar Rao and Sheikh Madina, among others, participated in the programme.

767 kg of Ganja Destroyed in Major Anti-Drug Operation

NCB, EAGLE Wing Jointly Dispose of Seized Narcotics at Parawada Scientific Destruction of Cannabis and Hashish Oil Sends Strong Warning to Drug Syndicates



Anakapalli, Pen Power July 10 : In a major crackdown against drug trafficking, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and the Andhra Pradesh Government's Elite Anti-Narcotics Group for Law Enforcement (EAGLE) Wing jointly destroyed a huge quantity of seized narcotic substances in Anakapalli district on Friday, reinforcing the state's commitment to a drug-free Andhra Pradesh. A total of 767.5 kilograms of ganja (cannabis) and 4.036 litres of hashish oil, seized in six different criminal cases across the state, were scientifically destroyed at the state-of-the-art incineration facility of Ramky Pharma City at Thanam village in Parawada Mandal.

Officials said the narcotics were disposed of through a modern high-temperature incineration system that complies with pollution control norms, ensuring complete destruction without causing environmental damage. The disposal was carried out only after obtaining the necessary legal permissions from the competent court. The destruc-



tion process was supervised by EAGLE Superintendent of Police G. Swaroopa Rani and NCB Zonal Director Pankaj Kumar Dwivedi. NCB Superintendent Rajan Kumar, Intelligence Officer K. Kiran Babu, EAGLE Inspectors G. Demullu and Dr. Kalyani, along with members of the Anakapalli EAGLE Cell, were also present during the operation. Officials reiterated that the state government remains committed to protecting the youth from the menace of narcotics and taking stringent action against drug trafficking networks. They warned that anti-drug enforcement operations would continue with greater intensity and that all seized narcotic substances would be destroyed scientifically after due legal procedures. The successful disposal of such a massive quantity of narcotics is seen as another significant step in Andhra Pradesh's ongoing campaign against drug abuse and organized drug trafficking, while sending a strong message to criminal syndicates involved in the illegal trade.

Collector P. Rajababu Conducts Field Inspection on Issues Raised During 'Palle Nidra' Programme



Ongole, Pen Power July 10: Prakasam District Collector P. Rajababu on Friday conducted field inspections of several civic issues brought to his notice by villagers during the Palle Nidra programme held on Thursday. The Collector visited the village Secretariat and interacted with staff to review the implementation of the SUR programme. He also sought detailed information on the progress of the digitisation process and directed officials to ensure its effective execution. During the inspection, the Collector examined the condition of the irrigation canal, the need for repairs to the Anganwadi building, and the lack of drainage facilities in the local SC Colony, where residents are facing problems due to stagnant wastewater. He also inspected the Government School premises, where the absence of a compound wall was highlighted, and reviewed



the unused overhead water tank in the Christian Colony along with concerned officials. The Collector further reviewed the village drinking water supply and instructed officials to take prompt measures to address public grievances and improve basic infrastructure. District officials from the concerned departments accompanied the Collector during the field visit.

SBI Inaugurates EV Charging Station at Visakhapatnam Administrative Office

Visakhapatnam, Pen Power July 10: Reinforcing its commitment to environmental sustainability and green energy initiatives, the State Bank of India (SBI) has inaugurated an Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station at its Administrative Office in Visakhapatnam. The charging station was jointly inaugurated by Shri Prafulla Kumar Jena, General Manager (Network-I), SBI, and Shri Rahul Sankritya, Deputy General Manager, SBI, Visakhapatnam, during a ceremony held on Thursday. Addressing the gathering, the dignitaries highlighted SBI's ongoing efforts to promote clean energy and sustainable development. They said the installation of the EV charging facility reflects the Bank's dedication to reducing carbon emissions, encouraging eco-friendly transportation, and supporting India's transition towards a greener future. The newly commissioned charging station is expected to provide convenient charging facilities for SBI employees, customers, and visitors using electric vehicles. It also marks another step in



the Bank's commitment to building sustainable infrastructure and adopting responsible banking practices. Senior officials and staff members of the SBI Administrative Office attended the inaugural ceremony.

'Private Inquiry Cannot Replace Police Complaint': SC Restores POCSO Case Against Assam School Headmistress



New Delhi: In a significant ruling reinforcing the mandatory reporting provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the Supreme Court has restored criminal proceedings against the headmistress of a school in Assam's Guwahati for allegedly failing to report a child's complaint of sexual assault to the police. A bench comprising Justices Manoj Misra and K.V. Viswanathan set aside the orders of the trial court and the Gauhati High Court, which had earlier discharged the headmistress from prosecution.

The case pertains to an alleged incident involving an eight-year-old student, who accused a senior student of sexually assaulting her. According to the prosecution, the child first informed her elder sister, following which the matter reached the school's Head Girl and eventually the headmistress. Instead of reporting the allegation to the police, as mandated under Section 19 of the POCSO Act, the headmistress allegedly conducted her own inquiry. She is accused of examining the child's private parts, noticing redness and swelling, questioning the accused

student and concluding that "nothing had happened." The prosecution further alleged that she instructed students not to disclose the incident to anyone.

Rejecting the defence, the Supreme Court held that the POCSO Act does not permit school authorities or any individual to conduct a private verification before reporting an allegation of sexual assault. "The phrase 'has knowledge that such an offence has been committed' is not limited to direct knowledge of the commission of the offence, but would include awareness of its commission based on direct information received from the victim," the bench observed. The court clarified that once a child directly reports an alleged sexual offence, that information is sufficient to trigger the statutory obligation to immediately inform the police. The apex court emphasised that allowing individuals to determine the truth of allegations before

reporting them would defeat the very purpose of the POCSO Act. It noted that prompt reporting is essential to preserve evidence, facilitate a fair investigation and protect children from further harm. The judges observed that any inquiry into whether an offence actually occurred must be carried out only by the investigating authorities after the matter is reported.

While restoring proceedings against the headmistress, the Supreme Court upheld the discharge of the school's principal, teachers and hostel warden, noting that there was no evidence to show they had directly received the complaint from the victim. The court also clarified that the victim's sister, friend and the school's Head Girl, who were all minors at the time, cannot be prosecuted for failing to report the offence, as children are exempt from criminal liability under Section 21(3) of the POCSO Act. The appeal filed by the victim's mother was partly allowed.

Shobha Karandlaje Seeks Stay On Karnataka Residence Certificate Rollout Ahead Of SIR



Bengaluru: The Karnataka government's decision to introduce 'Permanent Residence Certificate' (PRC) ahead of SIR has kicked up a row, with Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje writing a letter to the Union Home Minister Amit Shah to stay the PRC, which was a threat to national security. While the government took a decision in this regard during a cabinet meeting a fortnight ago, the official order was issued on Wednesday.

PRC is the State government's initiative to issue an official document that establishes the person's permanent residence in the State, which can be obtained online through the Karnataka Seva Sindhu portal or offline by visiting any of the Nadakacheri, Atal Jana Snehi Kendra, Bengaluru One, or Common Service Centre. The issuance of PRC is governed under the Karnataka Sakala Services Act 2011. The person applying for PRC should either be born in Karnataka, studied for at least 10 years in

the State, parents, legal guardian, spouse should be permanent residents of Karnataka, own, possess or have lawful occupation of residential property in Karnataka, have entries in government records such as electoral rolls, Aadhaar, ration cards or revenue documents, parents should have served in government or public service in Karnataka for at least seven years, marriage to a Karnataka resident eligible for a PRC or any other reliable documentary, electronic or oral evidence establishing Karnataka as the principal and permanent place of residence.

Speaking to reporters here on Friday, Shobha Karandlaje said that the Karnataka government's move violates Article 14 of the Constitution, which emphasises 'One Nation, One Citizenship'. Only the Union government has the power to issue citizenship to any individual, and how a State government can issue a parallel certificate. Stating that she had written a letter to Union Home Min-

ister Amit Shah to stay the issuance of such certificates at least till the SIR process is completed, Shobha alleged that the State government was trying to legalise the stay of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in Karnataka to create a vote bank.

"This is an anti-Constitutional move and illegal. This is one of the biggest threats to internal security. By legalising illegal immigrants, the government is issuing PRC. After derailing the SIR process, the government is planning to issue residence certificates to the outsiders. Once illegal

immigrants get this certificate, they will be eligible for all the government benefits. Such illegal immigrants will become citizens of the country," Shobha lamented. "I have requested the Union Home Minister to verify the veracity of the PRC, before allowing it to continue. Even the previous Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had not dared to bring in such a new law. Just to create minority vote bank, the government is mortgaging the interest of Karnataka people and posing a threat to the Nation," Shobha charged.

Rajasthan Police Bans Use of 'Dalit' Term in Official Records, Mandates 'Scheduled Caste'

Jaipur: The Rajasthan Police has banned the use of the word "Dalit" in its proceedings and records. The term "Scheduled Caste" will be used instead. According to the order issued by the Office of the Additional Director General of Police (Miscellaneous Cell and SC), Rajasthan, Jaipur, the use of the word "Dalit" has now been completely banned in all official work, documents, FIRs, and correspondence related to the police department. "It will now be ensured that only the constitutional term 'Scheduled Caste' is used in spoken and written form at all police stations, offices of Superintendents of Police, and Commissioners," reads the order.

Police updates official terminology

This change is likely to have a direct human and social impact on millions of citizens of the state who access administrative documents for the redressal of their complaints at police stations. The order has been issued following the Supreme Court's directives and the guidelines issued by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on March 15, 2015. The new directives will not be limited to ordinary correspondence, but documents across the entire administrative structure of the police department will be updated. To indicate references to Scheduled Castes, the use of the term 'Scheduled Caste' in Hindi and 'Scheduled Caste' in English has been made mandatory for all types of departmental records, various forms, and professional certificates.

Karur Stampede: Madras HC Allows TVK Govt To Give Jobs To Victims' Kin, But Keeps Appointments Under Review

Chennai: The Madras High Court allowed the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)-led Tamil Nadu government to issue appointment letters for government jobs to the families of those who died in the Karur stampede, but said the appointments would remain temporary and subject to judicial review. A bench of Justices CV Karthikeyan and R Sakthivel of the Madurai bench allowed the state government to proceed with a function scheduled for 3 pm to hand over appointment letters to the families of the deceased. However, the court made it clear that the beneficiaries cannot receive their first salary until the matter is heard again Live Law and Bar & Bench report.

Court's caution puts government policy under scanner

The court observed that interfering with a policy decision of the government at this stage would be "extremely narrow", but added that the employment offered would be temporary and subject to further orders. "It would be extremely narrow for the court to interfere with a policy decision of the government. The state shall thus proceed with the function on the condition that employment would be on a temporary basis, subject to judicial review, and we intend to hear the matter by the end of this month, before the prospective persons to whom employment is offered would receive their first salary," the bench said. The matter will be heard again on July 21. The High Court also directed the state to submit a report ex-



plaining the guidelines followed for compassionate appointments and whether those conditions were met in the present case. The court passed the order while hearing a plea filed by Theeran Thirumurugan, a lawyer from Madurai, challenging the state government's decision to provide jobs to the families of 41 people who died in the Karur stampede in September 2025.

Equality versus relief: The legal question before the court

The petitioner argued that there was no uniform policy for providing permanent government employment in cases of public tragedies. He submitted that offering jobs in one such incident could raise questions about equality and equal opportunity under Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution. The petitioner said every eligible individual had a constitutional right to compete for public employment and that appointments without clear guidelines would be arbitrary and unreasonable. He also argued that since proceedings re-

lated to the Karur tragedy were pending before the Supreme Court, granting such benefits could lead to legal and administrative complications. During the hearing, the petitioner contended that the appointments violated existing rules governing compassionate appointments, which are meant to be strictly followed. The state counsel informed the court that a similar application had been filed before the Supreme Court but was later withdrawn. The state also cited the example of government jobs being given to families of those killed in the Thoothukudi police firing. The court, however, said a distinction had to be made as the Thoothukudi incident involved alleged police excess by the state, while the Karur incident could not be considered a case of police excess.

The High Court also suo motu impleaded the Member Secretary of the Public Service Commission and sought a report on the guidelines to be followed for compassionate appointments and whether they were followed in this case.

The court also observed that public employment must generally remain open to all eligible candidates and cannot be denied without reasonable justification. The petitions were filed against the Tamil Nadu government's decision to provide jobs to the families of those who died in the September 2025 stampede at a TVK rally in Karur. The state said the decision was a policy measure aimed at supporting families that had lost their earning members. The petitioners argued that compassionate appointments are usually governed by strict rules applicable to dependants of government employees who die while in service. They contended that extending such benefits to victims of a public tragedy without an existing policy or uniform guidelines could violate constitutional guarantees of equality and equal opportunity. The state opposed the petitions and maintained that similar decisions had been taken in previous tragedies. It argued that the appointments were intended as support for affected families.

Baba Siddique Murder Case: Special MCOCA Court Pulls Up Mumbai Police, Directs Steps To Secure Anmol Bishnoi's Presence

Mumbai: The special MCOCA court came down heavily on the Mumbai Police for its inaction in bringing Anmol Bishnoi, brother of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, before the court to prosecute him in NCP leader Baba Siddique's murder case. Siddique, 66, was shot dead by three assailants outside his son Zeeshan's office in Mumbai's Bandra (East) area on the night of October 12, 2024. The special court on Friday heard arguments on the plea filed by Siddique's wife, Shehzeen. Through her lawyers, Pradip Gharat and Trivankumar Karnani, she moved a plea alleging that the Mumbai Police was avoiding bringing Bishnoi before the court and interrogating him due to external pressure. She prayed for directions to the prosecution to secure the custody of Anmol.

Court Pulls Up Mumbai Police

Special MCOCA Judge Satyanarayan Navander, after hearing the arguments, directed the Mumbai Police to scrupulously follow the procedure for securing the presence of the absconding accused, including Anmol Bishnoi, who is wanted in the Baba Siddique murder case. "Securing the custody of an accused, conducting investigation, interrogating the accused and placing him on trial are the exclusive responsibilities of the investigating agency and the law enforcement agencies. The court is not expected to remind the investigating agency of its statutory duties, particularly in a prosecution relating to a serious offence of murder," the court said. Expressing its displeasure over the Mumbai Police's inaction, the court said, "It is indeed an unfortunate situation that this Court is

required to issue directions to ensure compliance with the procedure for securing the presence of an absconding accused."

Video Conferencing Suggested

During the hearing, the prosecution expressed its inability to secure Anmol's custody due to the order passed by the Government of India on December 5, 2025, whereby the removal of Anmol from prison was restrained for a year or until the conclusion of the trial in a case registered by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) against him and others. The court, however, said, "We are living in an era of advanced digital technology. Video conferencing has become an integral part of the judicial process and is being regularly utilised by trial courts as well as correctional institutions throughout the country. It is routinely employed for the production of accused persons, recording of evidence and even for conducting effective cross-examinations." Under these circumstances, the court said, "If the accused continues to remain in judicial custody at Tihar Jail, there is no legal impediment to secure his production before this Court through video conferencing, whenever required." "The accused can be formally arrested in the present case with the permission of the competent Court and, if necessary, interrogated while remaining in judicial custody after obtaining appropriate permission from the court concerned in Delhi. No provision of law or jail rules has been brought to the notice of this Court which prohibits the investigating agency from adopting such a course. Unfortunately, the investigating agency appears to have completely



overlooked these lawful avenues available to it," the court said, reprimanding the Mumbai Police.

Joint Trial Emphasised

The court further noted that not arresting Anmol and prosecuting him along with the other accused may hamper the prosecution's case. "It is always desirable that all persons alleged to have participated in the same offence are tried together, as a joint trial. It not only avoids conflicting findings but also enables the Court to appreciate the en-

tire prosecution case in its proper perspective. If the investigating agency continues to wait indefinitely for physical custody of the absconding accused, the valuable object of a joint trial would stand frustrated," the court said. The court further added that a subsequent separate trial of Anmol Bishnoi could adversely affect the trial as "with the passage of time, evidence becomes weak, memories fade and valuable evidence may even disappear."

BEST Bus Rams Multiple Vehicles In Andheri West After 'Brake Failure', Several Injured

Mumbai: A major road accident took place in Mumbai's Andheri West on Friday after a BEST bus allegedly lost control and crashed into multiple vehicles, leaving at least two to three people injured. According to preliminary information, around 14 vehicles were involved in the chain collision, including 12 to 13 autorickshaws. The impact caused significant damage to several vehicles, while the injured were rushed to Cooper Hospital for medical treatment. Their condition was not immediately known. The bus driver reportedly told authorities that the accident occurred after the vehicle's brakes allegedly failed, causing him to lose control.

The collision briefly disrupted traffic in the busy Andheri West area as damaged vehicles blocked part of the road. Police and civic authorities reached the spot soon after the incident to regulate traffic and clear the affected stretch. Videos from the accident site have surfaced on social media, showing extensively damaged autorickshaws and other vehicles, with a large crowd gathering around the scene. Further details are awaited as officials continue their inquiry into the incident.

How Israel Used 'Kill-Plot' Intel To Convince Trump To Attack Iran Again



Washington: In the weeks leading up to the United States' renewed strike on Iran amid former Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei's week-long funeral procession, Israel shared new intelligence with the Pentagon, indicating that Tehran was again plotting to kill US President Donald Trump, according to US media reports. The information about a supposed 'kill plot' added another layer of tension between Washington and Tehran as a ceasefire deal between the countries comes under strain, marking the escalation. Quoting a

source, CNN reported that the warning about Iran's alleged assassination plan came this week. However, another source told the publication that a steady hum of the plan was picked up by US intelligence in recent weeks, but the warning from Israel was new and concerned a specific plot. However, some American officials are worried the Israeli intelligence could merely be an effort to sway Trump's decision-making as he contemplated whether to intensify American military action against Iran or continue with the ceasefire plan. Any details about the

Israeli warning are not clear so far, but CNN reported that the United States has not vetted it itself, nor was it tracking it before the Israeli warning.

Iran's Threat To Trump
Tehran, for years, has openly threatened to retaliate against Trump for America's alleged role in the assassination of Qassem Soleimani, who was a top general of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps during the president's first term. Even during the funeral procession of Ali Khamenei and his other family members killed in the February 28 US-Israeli strikes, Iranian mourners chanted for Trump's death, with mourners unveiling a banner that read "We Will Kill Trump." The American commander-in-chief himself alluded this week that there was an Iranian threat to his life. "They want to take out the US leader—me," Trump told reporters in Ankara during the NATO summit. "I'm on every list. I saw this morning I'm on every single one of their lists. And so far,

I guess I've been a little bit lucky, but that maybe doesn't last very long," he said.

Thaw In Trump-Netanyahu Ties
There has been a thaw in Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's relations in recent weeks after they turned icy over their diverging interests over continuing the Iran war. The Israeli leader has advocated for continuing the fighting to accomplish more war aims. Trump, on the other hand, has sought a way out of the conflict, citing concerns it could tank the global economy. The US and Iran finally struck a fragile ceasefire last month. But, on Thursday, Trump and Netanyahu spoke again, according to the Israeli prime minister's office. It claimed that Washington and Tel Aviv have agreed to continue "coordination between the countries," and Trump has also updated Netanyahu on recent US activity in the Gulf.

Kerala Student Killed In Uzbekistan, Family Claims Conversion Attempt, Torture

A week after a 22-year-old Indian medical student died in Uzbekistan, Kerala Police have registered a murder case following a complaint by her family, who allege she was brutally assaulted before her death. The FIR was filed at Haripad police station on Wednesday after the victim's parents approached the District Police Chief, officials said. A post-mortem examination was also conducted at Alappuzha Medical College as part of the investigation. Kayamkulam DySP Binukumar T told news agency PTI that the Kerala Police can legally register a case even though the alleged crime took place outside India. "Even though the crime occurred in Uzbekistan, there are provisions to register a case here. If the police there prosecute the accused, we will close the case. If no legal action is taken there, we will pursue the case further," he said.

Kerala To Seek Investi-

gation Details From Uzbekistan
Police said they will coordinate with authorities in Uzbekistan through the Indian Embassy and the Ministry of External Affairs to understand the status of the investigation there. According to Binukumar, reports indicate that the accused has already been taken into custody. "There are reports that the accused has been arrested there. We will proceed through the Ministry of External Affairs to obtain details of the case and the action being taken by the authorities in Uzbekistan," Binukumar said. The victim's family, however, wants the investigation to go beyond Uzbekistan. They have urged Kerala Police to probe the case independently and are demanding that the accused be brought back to India. "We will have to check for any such provision after taking legal advice and consulting with the External Affairs Ministry,"

he added.
Family Disputes Initial Version Of Events
The accused, a fellow medical student from Malappuram who studied with the victim in Uzbekistan, has been accused of killing her after allegedly striking her on the head during an argument. But the family has strongly challenged that account. Speaking to reporters on Thursday, relatives said the victim's body had multiple injuries, suggesting she had been subjected to prolonged violence. A family member who travelled to Uzbekistan to bring her body home claimed investigators there told him she had been tortured before she died. "She did not die because she was hit on the head with a laptop," he contended. He further alleged that investigators informed him several students had seen the accused pressuring the victim to convert her religion. "He had brutally assaulted her a lot before



killing her. So, we are seeking a postmortem here and have lodged a complaint here to ensure he does not escape if he is let off by the police in Uzbekistan," the family member contended. The relative also claimed that the accused's parents are government employees and his brother is a doctor. According to the family, both the accused and the victim were staying in the same hostel while pursuing their medical studies in Uzbekistan.

Agreed To Continue Talks, But Ceasefire Over': Trump's Mixed Iran Message



"Two days after US President Donald Trump said that the interim memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Iran was "over", he reiterated that the ceasefire stands terminated despite the ongoing talks. "The Islamic Republic of Iran has asked us to continue "talks." We have agreed to do so, but the

United States has stated to them, in no uncertain terms, that the Cease Fire is OVER!" he wrote on Truth Social. His comments came after three Qatari and Saudi commercial tankers came under fire this week, prompting the US to hit Iranian sites and Iran to respond with strikes on US military installations in neighbouring Gulf states on Thursday. No attacks were reported on Friday. According to news agency Reuters, Qatari officials were set to meet Iranian officials on Friday to seek to de-escalate tensions after

the exchange of fire and to discuss navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.
What Trump Said
On the sidelines of the NATO Summit in Ankara, Trump said that the April 8 ceasefire, which ended weeks of all-out war but has been marred by repeated lower-intensity conflict, was done, terming Iranian officials "scum" and "sick people". The US president also said at the time that he would speak to businessman-turned-negotiator Steve Witkoff and his son-in-law Jared Kushner, who have

been dealing with the Iranians, but insisted it was up to Tehran to return to the table. "For me, I think it's over. I don't want to deal with them anymore," Trump responded when asked about the status of the ceasefire. "It's just a waste of time dealing with them." "They're scum. You know what scum is? They're scum. They're sick people. They're led by sick people. And they're vicious, violent people. And if they had a nuclear weapon, they'd use it. As far as I'm concerned, it's over," he added. Trump added that US representatives can continue negotiations, but he cast doubt on the outcome. "They can talk, but I think they're wasting their time," he said. The Strait of Hormuz handled about a fifth of global oil supplies before the war. Tehran has since largely taken control of the waterway, forcing a stalemate in its confrontation with the world's most powerful military.

Gun With A Name, Bullets And A Waiver: Turkey's Unusual Gift To NATO Leaders

Ankara:NATO leaders were in for a surprise when they found that Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had offered them each a revolver as a parting gift after the summit in Ankara. Each leader received a wooden box containing a vintage handgun engraved with their name and live ammunition.

Erdogan wanted to showcase Turkey's defence industry, which has become a key export and foreign policy tool. Images shared by several world leaders showed what appeared to be the Gumusay .357 Magnum, a rare six-shooter produced by Turkish arms maker MKE in the 1990s. It was set in a wooden display box, lined in black, featuring Turkey's flag and the NATO logo as well as a placard inscribed "Gumusay, the first revolver-type handgun produced in our country" in Turkish and English. Alongside the gun were six live rounds and a note exempting the weapons from export controls.

What Do World Leaders Do With A Gun?

What does a world leader do with a gun and six bullets? That was the conundrum NATO leaders faced after receiving the unusual gift. Several revolvers, including those belonging to British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, and Dutch Prime Minister Rob Jetten, have for now remained in the Turkish capital itself, and for good reasons.

Depending on the laws in force, transporting firearms is often far from straightforward, especially when they



are fully functional.

What Leaders Said About The Gun

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer was the first to mention it. On the flight back from Ankara -- where NATO leaders had gathered for two days -- Starmer said he and others received a revolver engraved with their names. It came with a cleaning kit and 500 bullets, a Downing Street source said. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's spokesperson said all the leaders had been given the same model, with their names engraved on the barrel. Slovak President Peter Pellegrini showed reporters the gift presented during his plane ride home.

The Immigration Scenes

The unusual gift gave rise to some "insane" scenes among the various delegations' security teams. The Belgian premier, Bart De Wever, handed his to Brussels' airport police to be secured in a safe. An aide to Polish President Karol Nawrocki told Radio RMF FM that his revolver was awaiting customs clearance at Warsaw Airport and

would be kept in an appropriate place "so that it is firstly safe and secondly respected as a gift". "Certainly no one will be shooting it," he added. The offices of the Dutch and Swedish prime ministers said their revolvers had been taken to their respective embassies in Ankara. The Dutch one was due to be disabled while the Swedish one was awaiting import paperwork. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's revolver was already stored at the seat of government, the Palazzo Chigi, along with other state gifts. EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen was intending to donate hers to a military museum, while the leader of Greece planned to give his to the War Museum in Athens. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney joked that "it struck me that my gift of maple syrup kind of undermatched" to the Turkish present. He said he had not actually seen the pistol. "I would like to reassure Canadians - they keep guns away from me," he told a press conference, saying the revolver had been de-

activated and might end up in the national war museum. Carney took his revolver with him but left the ammunition in Turkey, Canadian officials said. They did not explain why.

A Nod To Turkey's Defence Industry

While it is very common for heads of state to exchange various gifts during meetings or summits, such exchanges rarely require these kinds of precautions. Turkey's modern handgun industry focuses mainly on semi-automatics, making the Gumusay something of a collector's curiosity. Turkish gunmakers have muscled into Europe's civilian firearms market with inexpensive pistols and shotguns, challenging older Italian and Belgian names long associated with higher-priced sporting and service weapons. According to the Geneva-based Small Arms Survey, Turkey was the world's third-largest exporter of small arms between 2019 and 2024, with exports totalling about \$3 billion over the period, behind the United States and Italy.

Attacks On Salman Khan, Siddhu Moosewala: Inside US' Charges Against Lawrence Bishnoi

Washington: Gangster Lawrence Bishnoi has been behind bars in India since 2015. That's hardly a position, it might seem, to get into trouble in the United States for crimes committed between 2022 and 2026. However, the United States Department of Justice has indicted 33-year-old Bishnoi and his six associates for a range of crimes, including killings, acts of extortion, trafficking of controlled substances and human smuggling. One of the most sensational among his crime records is the 2023 killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, who was gunned down in Canada in 2024, an indictment unsealed this week in federal court in the Central District of California showed. But Bishnoi's syndicate, referred to as the Bishnoi Organised Crime Group or the "Bishnoi OCG" in the document, has also been held responsible for other incidents, including shooting at the residence of actor Salman Khan, threats issued to Punjabi actor and singer Gippy Grewal, and "ordering and directing" the murder of Siddhu Moosewala (Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu).

The Global Syndicate

"Acts of violence committed by members and associates of the Bishnoi organised crime group, or OCG, often targeted prominent cultural, political, and business leaders in India and diaspora communities outside of India," the DoJ's indictment said. The US probe found that over the years, Bishnoi's syndicate evolved into a 'transnational criminal syndicate' headquartered



in India and had members across the US, Canada, the UK, Europe, Australia, and elsewhere. The US probe found that Bishnoi continued directing his associates across the globe personally using contraband cellphones and other voice over internet protocol devices smuggled into his jail cell. The indictment names Satinderjeet Singh alias Goldy Brar and Rohit Godara as Binoi's ring-leaders in North America and Europe, respectively, while Sukhraj Singh Kang acted as the syndicate's 'India-based lieutenant'. The documents named three more persons -- Rajan Bhatti, Bhulwan, and Sumit--who were allegedly involved in the activities of the syndicate.

US Charges Against Bishnoi

Hardeep Singh Nijjar's Killing: According to the DoJ's indictment, Bishnoi and Goldy Brar ordered the assassination of 'H.S.N.', who was identified as Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Khalistani leader who was killed while leaving the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurudwara temple in Surrey, British Columbia, on June 18, 2023. The

DoJ claimed four conspirators were involved in the plot to kill Nijjar and two of them pulled the trigger. Killing Of Siddhu Moosewala: The indictment stated that the Bishnoi gang had claimed responsibility through an interview with a media outlet for "ordering and directing the murder of SSS, a prominent Indian singer and rapper who was murdered on May 29, 2022, in Mansa, Punjab. This most likely referred to noted Punjabi singer and Congress leader Siddhu Moosewala, whose real name is Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, or SSS. He was shot and killed by unidentified assailants in Jawaharke village, Mansa district, Punjab, on May 29, 2022 Shooting at Salman Khan House: "Between 2022 and 2026, Bishnoi announced, on multiple occasions, his intention to murder SK, a well-known Indian actor and television personality," the indictment said. This most likely refers to actor Salman Khan, whose residence was under attack in April 2024. The actor has received multiple threats from the gang over the years, primarily

due to the 1998 blackbuck poaching case. Gippy Grewal Case: The document noted that Bishnoi took responsibility for a shooting at the residence of actor-singer R.G. on November 24, 2023. This was most likely a reference to Punjabi singer Gippy Grewal, whose real name is Rupinder Singh Grewal. On 25 November 2023, Bishnoi took responsibility for a shooting at his house, writing in a Facebook post, "no one can save you from us." The gang has repeatedly contacted Grewal and his manager several times between December 2025 and March 2026, demanding payments by threatening to kill him, the indictment showed. Sunil Yadav Murder: Among other cases, the DoJ also highlighted the killing of drug smuggler Sunil Yadav, who was killed in Stockton, California, on 23 December 2024. The indictment showed that Goldy Brar and Rohit Godara claimed the killing "on behalf" of the Bishnoi gang with a warning message on Facebook that said, "[all] our enemies, be prepared, any corner of the world you reach, we will reach there."

Auto dealers' body launches E20 awareness campaign to address concerns around ethanol-blended fuel

Amid growing confusion among vehicle owners over the use of E20 petrol, the auto dealers' body, Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) has announced a nationwide consumer awareness campaign to address miscon-

ceptions surrounding ethanol-blended fuel. The initiative aims to educate customers on the safety, compatibility and benefits of E20 fuel, while ensuring dealership staff are equipped to answer consumer queries with informa-

tion backed by scientific facts. Dealership staff to receive special training As part of the campaign, FADA said dealership personnel across the country will undergo specialised training on E20 fuel. The objective is to help frontline staff pro-

vide accurate and consistent information to customers regarding fuel compatibility, vehicle performance and maintenance. The association said customers will be given answers based on scientific facts and urged them not to rely on rumours

or misinformation regarding E20 fuel. Warranty, insurance claims will not be affected

FADA clarified that the use of E20 petrol in E20-compliant vehicles will not affect the manufacturer's warranty. It also said insur-

ance claims will not be impacted solely because a customer has used E20 fuel in a compatible vehicle. E20 introduced after ARAI and OEM testing

According to FADA, E20 was introduced after testing by the Automotive Re-

search Association of India (ARAI) and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs). The association added that all OEMs have issued standard operating procedures (SOPs) related to E20 fuel to guide customers on its usage and vehicle

compatibility. Older vehicles may see slight mileage drop FADA said owners of older vehicles may experience a 3 per cent to 5 per cent reduction in fuel efficiency when using E20 petrol.

Eternal vs Swiggy Q1FY27 Preview: Which quick commerce firm is likely to lead in June quarter?



New Delhi : The spotlight will be on food delivery and quick commerce companies Eternal and Swiggy as they prepare to announce their June quarter (Q1FY27) results, with estimates indicating that Eternal is likely to deliver stronger earnings than its rival, supported by robust growth in its Blinkit business and improving profitability. According to Zee Business estimates, both companies are expected to post healthy revenue growth during the quarter, driven by continued expansion in food delivery and quick commerce. However, Eternal is likely to report stronger earnings, while Swiggy is expected to remain in the red despite narrowing losses.

Eternal likely to outshine Swiggy in Q1FY27

Eternal's revenue is estimated at Rs 19,287 crore, up 169 per cent year-on-year and 11.5 per cent quarter-on-quarter. EBITDA is expected to rise to Rs 642 crore, marking a 458 per cent increase from a year earlier and a 32.1 per cent sequential rise. EBITDA margin is likely to improve to 3.3 per cent, while net profit is estimated at Rs 303 crore, up 12 times from a year ago and 74 per cent from the previous quarter. The company's quick commerce business, Blinkit, is expected to remain the biggest growth

driver. Food delivery net order value (NOV) is estimated to grow 19.7 per cent, while quick commerce NOV is likely to surge 84.4 per cent year-on-year. Blinkit's contribution margin is expected to improve to around 5.2 per cent, while the company is estimated to add around 250 new dark stores during the quarter.

Swiggy likely to post higher revenue, but losses may continue

In comparison, Swiggy is expected to report another quarter of strong revenue growth but continue to post losses as investments in its quick commerce business remain elevated. Revenue is estimated at Rs 6,741 crore, up 36 per cent year-on-year and 5.6 per cent sequentially. EBITDA loss is likely to widen sequentially to Rs 628 crore, while net loss is estimated at Rs 836 crore. Swiggy's Instamart business is expected to reach contribution break-even during the quarter. Food delivery gross order value (GOV) is projected to grow 19 per cent, while quick commerce NOV is expected to increase 43 per cent. However, continued high discounting is likely to weigh on profitability, with adjusted EBITDA loss estimated at around Rs 760 crore.

How did Eternal and Swiggy perform in Q4

FY26?

The expected performance follows a strong March quarter for both companies. Eternal had reported a 346 per cent year-on-year rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 174 crore in Q4FY26. Revenue from operations nearly tripled to Rs 17,292 crore, while adjusted EBITDA rose to Rs 486 crore. EBITDA margin improved to 2.8 per cent from 1.2 per cent a year earlier.

Swiggy, meanwhile, reported 45 per cent year-on-year revenue growth to Rs 6,383 crore in the March quarter. The company narrowed its consolidated net loss to Rs 800 crore from Rs 1,081 crore a year ago. Its food delivery business also recorded its strongest growth in 15 quarters, with a gross order value of Rs 9,005 crore.

Brokerages remain bullish on both stocks

Brokerages continue to remain positive on both stocks despite the different earnings profiles. Motilal Oswal has maintained a 'Buy' rating on Eternal with a target price of Rs 380, implying an upside of about 31.6 per cent from the current market price of Rs 288.75. The brokerage said Eternal's food delivery business remains stable, while Blinkit continues to offer a long-term growth opportunity despite moderation in quick commerce growth. It expects gradual improvement in margins, supported by better store maturity and operating leverage. CLSA has maintained an 'Accumulate' rating on Swiggy with a target price of Rs 357, implying an upside of about 31 per cent from the current market price of Rs 272.59. The brokerage said Swiggy's foreign

shareholding falling below 50 per cent does not automatically change its status to an Indian company, as a previous proposal to alter its status did not receive the required 75 per cent shareholder approval. CLSA said the company could again seek approval now that foreign shareholding has reduced. The brokerage also said Swiggy's quick commerce business could eventually shift from a marketplace model to an inventory-led model. Such a transition, it said, could improve supply chain control and help expand adjusted EBITDA margins over time.

How are Eternal and Swiggy shares performing?

On the stock market, Eternal shares were trading at Rs 288.75, down 1.27 per cent, on the BSE during Friday's session. The stock has gained 2.54 per cent over the past week and 20.43 per cent in the last month, while remaining up 1.76 per cent so far this year.

The company's market capitalisation stood at Rs 2.79 lakh crore. The stock touched a 52-week high of Rs 368.45 on October 16, 2025, and a 52-week low of Rs 212.60 on March 16, 2026. Swiggy shares were trading at Rs 272.59, down 2.98 per cent, on the BSE. The stock has gained 9.79 per cent in the past week and 12.49 per cent over the last month. However, it remains down 30.24 per cent on a year-to-date basis. Swiggy's market capitalisation stood at Rs 75,224 crore. The stock had touched a 52-week high of Rs 474 on September 19, 2025, and a 52-week low of Rs 235.75 on June 30, 2026.

Is Noida International Airport flooded? Viral video sparks claims; airport responds



New Delhi : Noida International Airport has dismissed claims circulating on social media that the passenger terminal was flooded after rainfall, calling the viral video "a false claim".

Noida International Airport denies flooding claims

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), the airport authorities said the video being shared online does not show any waterlogging or flooding inside the terminal. The visuals, according to the airport, only show visual reflections on the shiny floor surface.

"We are aware of a video circulating on social media claiming flooding inside the passenger terminal at Noida International Airport. This is a false claim. The video does not depict any flooding, only visual reflections on the shiny floor surface. The airport is and has been completely operational with all systems functioning as designed," the airport said in its clarification.

Video of alleged flooding at Noida International Airport

The statement came after a video surfaced on social media claiming to show the airport after just 15 minutes of rainfall. The post alleged flooding at the airport.

Airport urges users to verify information

Responding to the claims, Noida International Airport urged news organisations and social media users to verify information before sharing unverified content. "We urge all news outlets and social media users to verify all information before circulating unsubstantiated claims online. Deliberately misleading content or unverified information can create unnecessary confusion among passengers and stakeholders," the airport said in the X post.

Passengers asked to follow official channels

The airport also advised passengers to rely on its official communication

channels for accurate updates. "For accurate information, passengers are encouraged to the airport's official communication channels," the airport said.

About Noida International Airport

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 28, 2026, inaugurated Phase I of the much-awaited Noida International Airport in Jewar, Gautam Buddha Nagar. The first commercial flight operations commenced on June 15, 2026.

The development of the airport marks an important milestone in the development of India's aviation sector, particularly in the country's bid to develop world-class infrastructure to transform the country into an aviation hub. The airport, designed to serve the National Capital Region (NCR), will serve as the region's secondary international airport, in addition to the Indira Gandhi International Airport.

The project is developed at an estimated cost of Rs 11,200 crore under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, and is one of the largest greenfield airport development projects in the country. In its first phase of development, the airport has the capacity to handle 12 million passengers every year, while the potential to increase the passenger handling capacity to 70 million passengers annually is also present. The airport has a 3,900-meter runway, which is capable of supporting wide-body aircraft. In addition to this, the airport also has the Instrument Landing System and Airfield Lighting. Cargo hub with 2.5 lakh MT initial capacity.

The airport is located strategically along the Yamuna Expressway and is being developed as a multi-modal transportation hub, which will ensure connectivity to the region via roads, rails, and metro facilities, thereby enhancing the accessibility of the region considerably.

SBI Funds Management IPO: Own SBI shares? How shareholder quota works and key benefits



New Delhi : SBI Funds Management IPO: The Rs 11,692.90 crore initial public offering (IPO) of SBI Funds Management Ltd, India's largest asset management company (AMC), will open for subscription on July 14. The public issue, priced in the range of Rs 545-574 per share, is entirely an offer for sale (OFS) by promoters State Bank of India (SBI) and Amundi India Holding. One of the key attractions of the issue is the dedicated shareholder reservation for eligible SBI investors, allowing them to apply in a separate category in addition to the retail quota.

SBI Funds Management IPO: How does the shareholder quota work?

SBI Funds Management has reserved 1,30,55,629 equity shares, worth about Rs 749.39 crore, for eligible SBI shareholders. This accounts for 6.41 per cent of the total issue size. Eligible investors can apply under both the SBI shareholder reservation category and the retail individual investor (RII) category, subject to regulatory limits. Applying in both categories can improve the probability of receiving an allotment, although it does not guarantee one.

Who is eligible for the SBI shareholder reservation?

According to the Red Herring Prospectus (RHP), only individuals and Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) who were equity shareholders of SBI as on the RHP filing date are eligible to apply under the shareholder reservation portion.

Investors who held SBI shares on or before July 7 qualify for the reserved quota.

SBI Funds Management IPO details

The IPO will open for

subscription on July 14 and close on July 16, while the anchor investor portion will open on July 13. The issue comprises an OFS of 20.37 crore equity shares, with SBI and Amundi India Holding partially divesting their stakes. Since the IPO is entirely an OFS, the proceeds will go to the selling shareholders and not to SBI Funds Management.

At the upper price band of Rs 574 per share, the issue size is pegged at Rs 11,692.90 crore. A market lot consists of 26 equity shares.

SBI signs pre-IPO stake sale agreements

Ahead of the IPO, SBI informed stock exchanges that it has entered into share purchase agreements to sell a 1.4156 per cent stake in SBI Funds Management through a pre-IPO placement. Under the transaction, SBI will sell 2.88 crore equity shares at Rs 574 apiece to 30 institutional and marquee investors, raising around Rs 1,655 crore. The proposed transaction is expected to be completed by July 10, subject to the fulfilment of conditions under the agreements. The investor list includes 3P India Equity Fund 1, Malabar India Fund, Neo Secondaries Fund, Tata AIG General Insurance, Canara Robeco Arbitrage Fund, ARA Investments, 360 ONE Special Opportunities Funds, Dymon Asia Multi-Strategy Investment (Singapore), Clarus Capital and Capri Global Ventures, among others.

India's largest AMC by assets

SBI Funds Management is India's largest AMC by quarterly average assets under management (QAAUM), managing Rs 12.51 lakh crore with a 15.3 per cent market share as of March 31, 2026.

DMart Q1 FY27 Results Preview: PAT seen rising 10% to Rs 916 crore—Key things to track

New Delhi: Avenue Supermarts (DMart) is set to report its financial results on Saturday, July 11. Analysts expect the company to stage a steady performance in the first quarter of the current financial year, with double-digit percentage growth in net profit, as the hypermarket and supermarket chain operator registered a slowdown in revenue expansion. They estimate DMart will maintain its operational performance on the back of modest mid-single-digit same-store sales growth (SSSG).

DMart Q1 FY27 Earnings Preview: What to expect in headline numbers?

According to Zee Business research, Avenue Supermarts is expected to register a standalone net profit of Rs 916 crore for the quarter ended June 30, which translates to a year-on-year increase of 10.4 per cent. The company had reported a net profit of Rs 830 crore for the corresponding period a year ago.

Its quarterly top line is estimated to be Rs 18,344 crore, marking a 15.1 per cent rise over the year-ago period, according to the research.

Avenue Supermarts operational performance expectations

Analysts expect the



Mumbai-headquartered company to register June-quarter earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) of Rs 1,516 crore, up 15.4 per cent on a year-on-year basis. For the first quarter of FY26, the company had posted Rs 1,313 crore in EBITDA.

Analysts peg DMart's June-quarter margin at 8.3 per cent versus 8.2 per cent a year ago. Margin is a key measure of a business's profitability.

DMart Q1 business update

In a business update earlier this month, Avenue Supermarts indicated 15.1 per cent growth in quarterly revenue to Rs 18,343.5 crore. DMart said the total number of its stores stood at 503 as of June 30, compared with 424 stores a year

ago. Analysts anticipate the impact of heavy pre-buying in February and March, and a slowdown in store openings, to have affected the company's business, with concerns about possible under performance in the near term. Pre-buying is a consumer behaviour wherein purchases are advanced in bulk to avoid anticipated shortages or price hikes. Some also warned that moderation in same-store-sales growth (SSSG) could impact the company's growth, with margins viewed as a key monitorable. SSSG is a key metric that reflects a company's core retail performance. These numbers are tracked closely to gauge real demand in the existing store network.

How DMart fared in Q4 and FY26

For the final quarter of FY26, Avenue Supermarts reported a better-than-expected 17 per cent jump in net profit to Rs 725 crore, with 19 per cent growth in revenue to Rs 17,205 crore. Its margin improved by 40 bps to 7.2 per cent. For the year ended March 31, the company's net profit grew 10.1 per cent to Rs 3,223.9 crore, while its top line expanded to Rs 66,968 crore from Rs 57,789.8 crore the previous year. Read more on previous earnings

DMart shares vs Nifty 50

As of July 10, DMart shares have risen nearly 10 per cent so far this year, outperforming a 7.5 per cent decline in the Nifty 50. In the last one year, the Avenue Supermarts stock has declined 2.2 per cent, while the blue-chip index has fallen 4.6 per cent.

EPF Withdrawal Guide: Know eligibility, rules and conditions to withdraw full or partial PF

New Delhi : EPF is a government-backed retirement savings scheme for salaried individuals. In this, both employees and employers contribute a part of the employee's salary and dearness allowance (DA) to create a retirement corpus.

While it is a retirement planning scheme, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) allows members to withdraw partial or full provident fund (PF) balance under certain circumstances.

What is EPF?

EPF is a mandatory government-backed retirement savings scheme. Both the employees and employers typically contribute 12 per cent of the employee's basic salary plus dearness allowance to the employee's

EPFO account. Every member is assigned a UAN that is portable while switching jobs.

What is UAN?

A UAN or Universal Account Number is a 12-digit number given to EPFO members. It is a lifetime identity and can be used while you switch jobs and get a new member ID in that particular company. Your ID can be linked to UAN. This helps keep all your PF contributions centralised.

What are the types of EPF withdrawal?

There are two types of EPF withdrawal. These include:

1. Partial withdrawal This is also called EPF advance, in which members can take out a part of their PF balance depending on



the purpose.

2. Full withdrawal

Full withdrawal means you can take out the entire PF balance after retirement, or you may do so in some emergencies as per the EPFO rules.

When can you withdraw your full EPF balance?

Retirement: The EPFO members can fully withdraw their PF balance at retirement, as per the EPF

rules.

Unemployment: An unemployed EPF member can also fully withdraw their PF balance; however, they should remain without a job for continuously 12 months. As per the EPFO rules, a member can withdraw their 75 per cent PF balance upon job loss, and the remaining 25 per cent can be withdrawn if they are jobless for 12 months.

JSW Group renews partnership with IOA as official kit partner for 2026 Commonwealth and Asian Games



Hyderabad: Reinforcing its commitment towards India’s Olympic movement, the JSW Group has strengthened its partnership with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), with JSW Inspire, the Group’s activewear brand, continuing as

the official sports performance and lifestyle partner of the Indian contingent for the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games (July 23-August 2) and the 2026 Asian Games in Japan (September 19-October 4). The partnership will also extend to

the 2026 IOC Youth Olympic Games, Dakar, Senegal on October 31 and the 2026 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia that gets underway from November 28. The continuation of this partnership further underlines JSW Group’s commitment to India’s Olympic mission, one that extends far beyond competition. Through sustained investments in athlete development, world-class infrastructure, high-performance centres, coaching excellence and grassroots sporting ecosystems, the Group has consistently played a transformative role in nurturing generations of Indian champions. Parth Jindal, Founder and Director, JSW Sports, said: “For us at JSW, ‘Rukna Nahin Hai’ is more than a slogan; it’s our belief, our heartbeat. We have always aspired and worked passionately to develop sport in India, and nothing fills us with greater pride than watching our athletes bring victory to the country on the global stage.” PT

Usha, President, Indian Olympic Association, said: “The JSW Group has been a strong pillar in supporting India’s Olympic movement over the years. Their sustained vision has helped countless athletes fulfil their aspirations while bringing glory to the nation. We thank the JSW Group for their support to Indian sport and look forward to continuing this meaningful partnership.” Speaking about the JSW Inspire brand, India’s ace athlete in long-distance track events, Parul Chaudhary said: “As athletes, we spend countless hours training, travelling and competing, so what we wear makes a genuine difference to our performance and recovery. JSW Inspire combines comfort, functionality and style in a way that allows us to stay completely focused on the task at hand. Wearing the Team India kit is always an emotional moment, and knowing it has been thoughtfully designed for the needs of athletes makes that experience even more special.”

Indian rally duo P. Naveen and Musa Sherif set for Rwanda Mountain Gorilla Rally challenge

Hyderabad: Hyderabad’s rally ace P. Naveen is all set to take on the 2026 Rwanda Mountain Gorilla Rally, the third round of the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC), after successfully completing the shakedown and qualifying.Partnering seasoned co-driver Musa Sherif of Kasaragod, Naveen will compete in the ARC3 category, driving a Ford Fiesta prepared and serviced by MRU Motorsports Africa.

The prestigious event, which also counts towards the Rwanda National Rally Championship, will cover a total distance of 307.52 km, including 18 Special Stages with a competitive distance of 252 km across the demanding mountain roads of Rwanda over Saturday and Sunday.

Representing Duran Racing,

the Indian duo enters the event with growing confidence following an impressive international campaign. At the WRC Safari Rally Kenya in March 2026, which also served as the opening round of the FIA African Rally Championship, Naveen and Musa delivered an outstanding performance by finishing third in the WRC3 category and second in the ARC3 class, showcasing their competitiveness against some of Africa’s finest rally teams.

The pair had earlier scripted Indian motorsport history at Rally Saudi Arabia, a round of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), in November 2025. They became the first Indian driver and co-driver combination to secure a podium finish in any WRC category by claiming second place in the WRC3 class. Their historic



achievement earned them the Federation of Motorsports Clubs of India (FMSCI) Special Award for International Achievement at the federation’s 2025 Annual Awards ceremony.

Speaking ahead of the rally, Naveen Puligilla, the 2025 Indian National Rally Champion (3T Class), said, “The recce has given us a good under-

standing of the stages and we had a clean shakedown today. The terrain is quite technical and with changing grip levels of the mountain roads it will certainly test both the car and the crew, so it will be important to stay focused. We are confident with our preparation and are looking forward to delivering a strong performance for India.”

Heavyweight Clash in LA: Unbeaten Spain Faces Goal-fearless Belgium for Semifinal Spot



Los Angeles: Spain and Belgium meet in an all-European World Cup quarterfinal on Saturday, with Belgium facing the daunting task of becoming the first team to score against Spain in the tournament. Both nations emerged from the group stage as table toppers, with La Roja then producing one of the standout performances of the Round of 32 to sweep aside Austria 3-0. Luis de la Fuente’s side won a tight Iberian derby with Portugal in the last 16 thanks to a stoppage-time winner from Mikel Merino, booking Spain a third successive knockout match against European opposition. Belgium, meanwhile, have enjoyed a topsy-turvy so far. Seemingly down and out when losing 2-0 to Senegal in the Round of 32, the Red Devils rallied to snatch a famous 3-2 extra-time victory. Against co-hosts USA in the Round of 16, it was more straightforward as Charles De Ketelaere’s first-half double set Belgium on their way to a comfortable 4-1 win in Seattle. The

clash with Spain is Belgium’s third quarter-final in four World Cups and fourth overall; the Red Devils beat La Roja at this stage in 1986 and Brazil in 2018, sandwiching a loss to Argentina in 2014. For Spain, the quarter-finals have not often been a happy hunting ground. They have only cleared the last eight twice, making it to the final group stage in 1950 and beating Paraguay on their way to lifting the trophy in South Africa 60 years later.

How to watch Spain vs Belgium live in India:

Live streaming and live telecast of the FIFA World Cup 2026 football matches will be available on the Zee5 platform and app in India. A subscription will be needed. Live telecast of the FIFA World Cup 2026 will be available on the Unite8 Sports 1, Unite8 Sports 1 HD, Unite8 Sports 2, and Unite8 Sports 2 HD TV channels in India.

Key details

Date and kick-off time: Saturday, July 11, 12:30 AM IST
Venue: Los Angeles Stadium,

Los Angeles.

Referee: Michael Oliver Spain –

Goalkeepers: Unai Simon, David Raya, Joan Garcia
Defenders: Pedro Porro, Marcos Llorente, Aymeric Laporte, Pau Cubarsi, Marc Pubill, Eric Garcia, Marc Cucurella, Alejandro Grimaldo

Amundi Evian Championship: Aditi Ashok card 1-under 70 in opening round as Aki Iwai leads

Evian-Les-Bains (France): Indian golfer Aditi Ashok opened with an erratic one-under 70 to be tied for the 35th position after the opening round of the Amundi Evian Championship, which is a Major on the women’s circuit.Aditi, a five-time winner on the Ladies European Tour, and a champion at Hero Women’s Indian Open in 2016, is playing the tournament for the ninth time, but has finished in Top-25 only once.

She trails Japan’s Aki Iwai by seven shots. Aditi had two birdies and two bogeys on the front side of the course and then one bogey and back to back birdies on the 14th and the 15th.

Iwai fired a bogey-free opening round of eight-under 63 to hold a two-stroke lead at the end of the first day of action. The 24-year-old teed off in the morning, making her first birdie of the day on the fifth hole followed by birdies on seventh and ninth.

Iwai, who has one LPGA Tour title to her name, made birdies on 11th, 12th, 15th and 16th holes, and she finished with a birdie at the last to sit atop the leaderboard on eight-under-par.

France’s Perrine Delacour sits in solo second place on six-under-par after an opening round of 65 — her lowest in a Major championship.

Midfielders: Rodrigo Hernandez, Martin Zubimendi, Pedri Gonzalez, Fabian Ruiz, Mikel Merino, Pablo Paez ‘Gavi’, Alex Baena

Forwards: Mikel Oyarzabal, Lamine Yamal, Ferran Torres, Borja Iglesias, Dani Olmo, Victor Munoz, Nico Williams, Jeremy Pin

Belgium-

Goalkeepers: Thibaut Courtois, Senne Lammens, Mike Penders

Defenders: Timothy Castagne, Zeno Debast, Maxim De Cuyper, Konni De Winter, Brandon Mechele, Thomas Meunier, Nathan Ngoy, Joaquin Seys, Arthur Theate

Midfielders: Kevin De Bruyne, Amadou Onana, Nicolas Raskin, Youri Tielemans, Hans Vanaken, Axel Witsel

Forwards: Charles De Ketelaere, Jeremy Doku, Matias Fernandez-Pardo, Romelu Lukaku, Dodi Lukebakio, Diego Moreira, Alexis Saelemaekers, Leandro Trossard

Telangana State sub-junior badminton championship: Chandana, Tanmainihal advance to round of 16



Hyderabad: G. Chandanaof Nalgonda defeated K. Sindhu of Nizamabad 15-3, 15-1 in the girls round 32 of the Telangana State sub-junior (under-17) badminton championship at Chetan Anand Badminton Academy.

The results:

Boys:

Round 32:

Tanmainihal Uttam (Kmr) bt S. Srichetan Shourya (Wgl) 11-15, 15-6,15-5; A. Santhosh (Sypt)bt Bheem Charan (Mbnr)15-10,15-11; Vajra Chowdary Aluru Q(SRD)btArit Jain (RR) 15-7, 15-3; B. Charan Vudugula (BAMMD) bt B. Abhinav (Nlg) 15-11, 15-10; Chinmay Wankhede (RR)bt K. Karthikeya Rathod (Nbz)15-4, 15-6; Vinay Abburi (Khm) bt Sri Harsha Marka (SRD) 15-10, 13-15,15-7;

M. Krishna Suhas (Hyd) bt B. Goutham (Mchl) 15-4,15-5;

B. Sai Hrishiketh (Srd) bt B. Rampratheeth (Vkbd) 16-14, 15-9; G.Manyuth Vasthav (Wgl) bt Shreethan Rao (Kmr) 15-7, 15-7; P. Krishav (Hyd) bt G. Vijay Brahmith (BAMMD) 15-10, 15-3; K. Advay Anjaneyavallabh (Vkbd) bt G.Vihaan (RR) 14-16, 15-3, 15-8’ K. Durga Uday Eswar (Srd) bt Ketan (Mbnd) 15-0m 15-7 bt Ketan (Mbnr) 15-10, 15-8; Hrishikesh Viraat Voja Charan (Srd) bt D. Dhanush (Mnchl) 15-5, 15-6; B. Tanish Reddy (RR) bt Nirvaan Zaeri (Vkbd) 15-10, 15-7; P. Rohan (Hyd) bt B. Navateja (Jtl) 15-3, 15-0; Sanjay (Krnrr) w/o V. Shashank (Nlg).

Girls:

Round 32:

A. Bala Manvitha Reddy (Hyd) bt Y. Akshaya (Vkbd) 15-13, 15-8; Adeebha (Krd) w/o Shanvi Nimma (RR); G. Chandana (Nlg) bt K. Sindhu (Nzb) 15-3, 15-1; Smriti Reddy

Hemanth (BAMMD) bt Enjam Advitha (Kmr) 15-12, 15-10;G. Sri Deetya (Srd) bt B.Manaswini (Wgl) 15-7, 15-13; B.Diya Anand (Vkbd) bt T. Rishitha(Mbnr) 15-7, 15-13;Manya Agarwal (Hyd) bt M. Sri Lasya (Sypt) 15-7, 15-9; Harshitha Prudhvi (BAMMD) bt Shamita Singha (RR) 15-13, 15-10; P.Aaradhya Reddy (RR) bt K. Thrinichitha Bhushan (Krnrr) 15-8, 15-6; Y.Shruthi (Srd) bt Y. Hanshitha (Khm) 15-7, 15-9!P. Jasmitha (Vkbd) bt A. Srivaibhavi (Nrml) 15-7, 15-8; C.Amritha Rao (Hyd) bt G. Thanishka (BAMMD) 15-10, 15-6; K. Lyosha (Vibd) bt G. Ananya (Mnchl) 15-5, 17-15;P. Anya (BAMDD) bt K. Mokshasri Gupta (Hyd) 15-9, 15-5;M. Hamsini (Hyd) bt N. Aishwarya Thulasi (Wgl) 15-4, 15-7;Shravani Biradar (RR) bt Lilly Grace (Nlg) 15-10, 15-8.

Smriti Mandhana becomes the youngest woman to play 300 international matches



London: India vice-captain Smriti Mandhana expressed immense pride on reaching the landmark of 300 international appearances through the first-ever women’s Test at the historic Lord’s Cricket Ground, saying that she couldn’t have asked for a better venue to mark this occasion.At 29 years and 357 days old, Mandhana has also become the youngest woman in the history of cricket to achieve the feat, and got it faster than South Africa’s Sune Luus (30y 163d) and Australia’s Ellyse Perry (33y 65d). The left-handed opener is also the 12th woman overall to feature in 300 international matches. “I actually got to know about the 300th international match last night. As a player, you don’t really keep track of games across all formats. I remember

playing the 2017 World Cup final here at Lord’s. “I didn’t have a great World Cup then, and I didn’t know if I’d get the chance to play for India again. So to come back and play my 300th international match at Lord’s, I couldn’t ask for a better venue,” said Smriti in a pre-game chat with the broadcasters. She also emphasised on the need to move forward after India had a disappointing T20 World Cup campaign. “We had a chance at Lord’s to qualify against Australia (in the T20 World Cup). We couldn’t take that opportunity, but that’s cricket. You have to keep moving on. “Whether you get a hundred or a zero, every time you go out there, you start your innings from zero. It’s the same with the team. You’re going to have good days and bad days,

but we’ll always take it in stride and try to give our best for the country,” said Smriti. Detailing with the transition to red-ball cricket and her preparation, Smriti added, “Batting for long periods definitely helps, especially since we don’t play a lot of Test cricket. We did play the pink-ball Test in Perth before. Going back to Wormsley was great. I hadn’t been there since 2014, so it brought back old memories. “For me, the preparation is about adjusting after opening in T20 cricket, where you’re expected to score quickly at a high strike rate. In red-ball cricket, you need to watch the ball carefully. Going back to basics is very important. The preparation was all about doing the basic things right and spending long periods at the crease.”

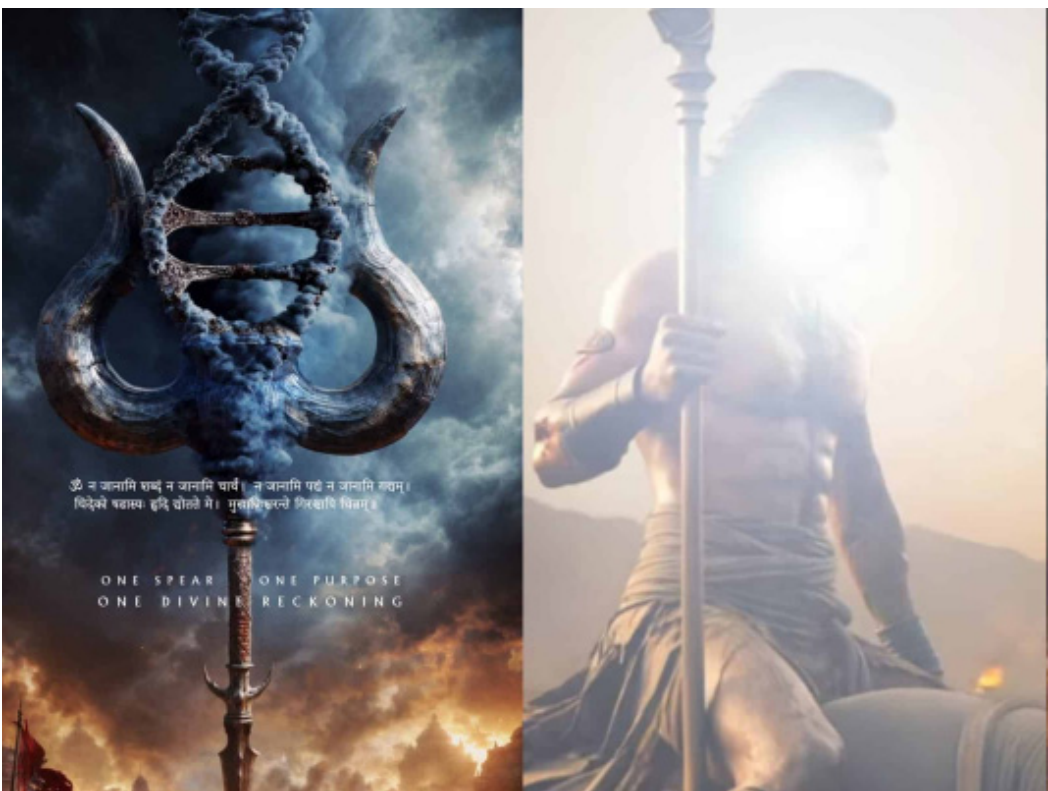
Chupps partners with Pullela Gopichand Badminton Academy as official footwear recovery partner

Hyderabad: Chupps footwear, India’s fast-growing D2C open footwear brand, today announced a year-long partnership with the P. Gopichand Badminton Academy (PGBA), one of India’s leading high-performance badminton institutions, as its official footwear recovery partner. The partnership was made jointly by Yashesh Mukhi, founder, Chupps footwear, and Pullela Gopichand at a press meet in Hyderabad. At the centre of this collaboration is Pullela Gopichand, the legendary coach behind the Olympic success of Saina Nehwal and Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu, All England Open champion, and one of India’s most respected coaches, who

will work closely with Chupps footwear to bring greater scientific rigour to its recovery footwear category. By entering one of India’s most demanding training environments, where athletes train for long hours and recovery is a critical part of their routine, the partnership enables players to use Chupps footwear during off-court time, allowing the brand to gather direct feedback on comfort, cushioning, fit and recovery through everyday use. This ongoing input from athletes and coaches will contribute to how Chupps footwear approaches product design and development, particularly as it builds out its recovery and athleisure category. Gopichand said: “Recovery is

an essential part of every athlete’s journey, yet it often doesn’t receive the attention it deserves. Comfortable, supportive footwear plays a meaningful role in helping athletes recover between training sessions. I’m pleased to partner with Chupps footwear, a brand that is taking a thoughtful approach to understanding athlete needs and using real feedback to improve its products.” Yashesh Mukhi, founder, Chupps Footwear, said, “As more people take up sports and fitness, recovery is becoming an important part of the conversation. For us, this partnership is an opportunity to understand real usage better and continue improving the product in a meaningful way.”

Dhanush & Vetri's Murugan: A Worrying Factor for NTR-Trivikram?



Dhanush is reuniting with director Vetrimaran after a short gap. The duo is yet to figure out the sequel to Vada Chennai, but they seem to be developing a new film titled Thamizh Murugan, set against the life of Lord Murugan. This is the second film in South, centered on Lord Murugan, while the first was a collaboration between NTR and Trivikram Srinivas. The Tamil film's announcement finally came out today. Initially, there was

speculation that Dhanush would team up with director Shankar on his dream project, while a few said it would also be a multistarrer featuring a Bollywood actor. But the final confirmation is here that Dhanush and Vetrimaran are reuniting. The announcement video looked rushed, was full of AI, and was improperly generated, lacking good quality. Interestingly, two films centered on the same theme, with star actors and directors asso-

ciated with each project, create a sense of curiosity. At the same time, some see this as a clash, while a few perceive it as a roadblock to the already announced film in Telugu, since Murugan is considered a big god to Tamilians more than Telugu people, and they can add more authenticity. It is clear that the Telugu film will be based on a novel with Trivikramisation. But there is no clarity on whether the Tamil film falls under the mythology genre or contemporary

drama with fantasy elements. It is also interesting to note that Anirudh is scoring the music for NTR's film, and his former associate Sai Abhyankar is on board for Dhanush's film. Whatever it may be, we will have to see whether both films release around the same time or are completely different. Only time can answer this! Some combinations in the film industry cause extreme excitement when heard. From time to time, our filmmakers make sure to pull out some amazing films with talented actors. Now, the film industry is buzzing about one multistarrer. Director Vetrimaran has planned a huge multi-starrer in Jr. NTR and Dhanush's combination.... The official announcement of NTR x Trivikram has generated massive excitement across Telugu cinema. The mythological film based on the life of Lord Subrahmanya is already among the most anticipated projects in production. However, the announcement has also sparked a debate on social media, especially among a section of Tamil... One of the most prestigious projects in Indian cinema was announced last evening, as it was officially confirmed that Junior NTR would be collaborating with Trivikram for a massive action epic based on Lord Murugan. This project has been one of the most anticipated projects for the last one year,...

Tamannaah Mesmerizes In Chic Beige Look Effortlessly

Tamannaah Bhatia has once again grabbed attention with her latest pictures, showcasing effortless elegance in a soft beige knitted outfit. Seated gracefully on the studio floor, the actress kept her look minimal yet striking, accessorizing with layered pearl necklaces, gold bangles, and statement rings. Her sleek hairstyle and subtle makeup perfectly complemented the earthy aesthetic, making the photoshoot a blend of sophistication and timeless charm. On the work front, Tamannaah has an exciting slate of films across multiple languages. She will be seen in the Telugu and Tamil projects Purushan and Ragini 3, while her Hindi film Vvan, co-starring Sidharth Malhotra, is slated to hit theatres on August 28.



Varun Tej's 'Korean Kanakaraju' finally gets a release date

Varun Tej's horror-comedy "Korean Kanakaraju" (KOKA) will arrive in theatres worldwide on August 7. The film was initially planned for February 2026 release but due to Varun Tej's injury the film got delayed. Box office reports Directed by Merlapaka Gandhi, the film is being produced by UV Creations in association with First Frame Entertainment and is currently in the final stages of post-production. The makers announced the release date by unveiling a stylish new poster. It features Varun Tej in a rugged avatar, seated confidently with a blood-stained sword in one hand and a grenade in the other, while a group of Korean gangsters stand around him inside a dimly lit warehouse. Ritika Nayak stars opposite Varun Tej, while comedian Satya plays a pivotal role. Thaman provides the music. Varun Tej has seen many flops in the recent years and he is pinning hopes on this quirky comedy entertainer "Korean Kanakaraju".



Anasuya Bharadwaj elegant green silk saree latest photo



'Icon Star' Allu Arjun's team dismisses political party rumors

Speculation about Allu Arjun's political entry has been doing the rounds on social media over the past two days. Several fan pages even began celebrating, convinced that the actor would soon launch a political party. The rumors gained momentum after reports claimed that Allu Arjun had met political strategist Prashant Kishor. According to the viral buzz, the two allegedly discussed the formation of a new political party, its strategy, and possible policy framework.

However, people close to the actor have now dismissed the reports. They clarified that Allu Arjun is currently focused entirely on his film career and is not considering politics at this stage. Film interviews There appears to be no concrete basis for the speculation. Industry circles believe the rumors may have been fueled by the recent political success of



Tamil actor Vijay. The actor's party made a remarkable impact in Tamil Nadu politics, encouraging speculation that other popular film stars could follow a similar

path. Allu Arjun is currently acting in director Atlee's "Raaka". The film's shooting is underway. He will also team up with Lokesh Kanagaraj soon.

Chiranjeevi shoots rain action sequence for 12 hours straight



Megastar Chiranjeevi has once again proved that age is no barrier when it comes to his commitment to cinema. The shooting of his upcoming film with director Bobby Kolli, "Mega158 or "Chiru158", is progressing at a brisk pace in Hyderabad. Weather The team is currently filming one of the biggest action episodes in the movie. Produced by Venkat K. Narayana under the KVN Productions banner, the film marks Chiranjeevi's second collaboration with Bobby Kolli after the blockbuster "Waltair Veerayya." The ongoing schedule features a massive rain fight choreographed by stunt masters Ram-Lakshman. A large number of stunt performers are taking part in the sequence, which is expected to be one of the major highlights of the film. What has caught everyone's attention is Chiranjeevi's dedication on the sets. The actor reportedly arrived at the location at 9 AM and spent nearly 12 hours filming continuously in artificial rain, taking only a short break for lunch. Despite the physically demanding conditions, he performed the action scenes with the same energy and enthusiasm throughout the day, earning appreciation from the entire unit. The rain action episode is expected to offer a thrilling theatrical experience. With the shoot progressing as planned, the makers are also gearing up to unveil the film's title teaser soon. Action & Adventure Films