

EYE SECRETS

Spy in every blink

English Daily

Rangareddy Vol No. 1 Issue 58

Date: Wednesday, 8-7-2026

Price: 2/-

Pages: 8

BrahMos, Astra, EVMs: India, Indonesia sign 14 pacts to boost ties in defence, cooperation



India and Indonesia on Tuesday significantly deepened their comprehensive strategic partnership, signing 14 agreements spanning defence, maritime security, critical minerals, technology, healthcare and democratic cooperation while charting an ambitious roadmap to expand strategic collaboration across the Indo-Pacific.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto held wide-ranging talks in Jakarta, during which the two sides agreed to institutionalise regular summit meetings, strengthen ministerial dialogue mechanisms and deepen parliamentary exchanges, signalling a more structured and long-term strategic partnership.

Following delegation-level talks, the two leaders witnessed the exchange of agreements covering defence, telecommunications, space cooperation, agriculture, disaster management, healthcare, critical minerals, elections and steel supply chains. They also announced a series of initiatives, including the establishment of an overseas campus of the IIM-Bangalore in Indonesia, the launch of Indonesia Open Network based on India's Open Network for Digital Commerce, and India's support for the conservation and restoration of the historic Prambanan Temple.

Addressing a joint presser, Modi said the comprehensive strategic partnership, launched in 2018, had acquired "renewed energy, greater confidence and deeper strategic depth", and expressed confidence that the visit marked the beginning of "a golden new chapter" in bilateral ties.

Defence emerged as a key pillar of the summit, with both countries agreeing regular military exchanges, joint exercises and research, defence industrial collaboration, co-production of defence technologies, technology transfer, shipbuilding, maintenance and repair facilities. The two leaders agreed to enhancing cooperation on the BrahMos missile system and an air-to-air missile cooperation agreement. The two sides also welcomed the deployment of an Indonesian liaison officer at the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region in Gurugram.

Indonesia welcomed India's interest in partnering in the integrated development of Sabang Port overlooking the Strait of Malacca. The project is expected to strengthen connectivity between Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Indonesia's Sumatra while promoting maritime industries, cruise tourism, shipbuilding and offshore energy support services.

A major focus of the summit was securing resilient supply chains for strategic industries. India and Indonesia signed agreements on cooperation in critical minerals and steel supply chains, while companies from both countries entered partnerships in stainless steel manufacturing and rare-earth magnets.

The leaders also agreed to step up collaboration in artificial intelligence, telecommunications, digital public infrastructure and space technology, alongside greater engagement between the startup ecosystems of the two countries.

Healthcare cooperation received a major push through agreements on medical product regulation and health workforce collaboration. India will also support Indonesia's food security through the supply of 100 tonnes of high-quality wheat seeds and expanded cooperation in agriculture and agri-technology.

To strengthen democratic cooperation, the Election Commission of India signed an MoU with Indonesia's General Elections Commission to collaborate on election management and the use of technology in electoral processes. People-to-people ties also figured prominently. The two leaders welcomed progress towards linking India's unified payments interface (UPI) with Indonesia's QR payment ecosystem to facilitate seamless transactions for businesses, tourists and students.

People Were His Family, Public Welfare His Lifelong Mission: CM Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad, July 7: Paying rich tributes to former Chief Minister Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy on the eve of his birth anniversary, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy hailed him as an extraordinary people's leader who dedicated his entire life to the welfare of the masses. "In a message issued on the occasion, the Chief Minister said Dr. YSR regarded the people as his own family and worked tirelessly for their well-being. He noted that the former Chief Minister's welfare initiatives for the poor, farmers, women, students and weaker sections became a model for the nation." "Revanth Reddy said YSR's commitment to ensuring justice for every section of society was reflected in the saturation-based implementation of several welfare schemes, which transformed the lives of lakhs of families across the State." "Recalling YSR's historic padayatra, the Chief Minister described it as a lasting symbol of his deep affection for the people and unwavering commitment to public service. He said the late leader's landmark decisions in the areas of farmers' welfare, free power for agriculture, expansion of healthcare services, promotion of education and social justice continue to leave an enduring impact." "The Chief Minister also



praised YSR's visionary leadership in strengthening infrastructure, stating that his decisions on key projects such as the Hyderabad Metro Rail, the International Airport and the PVNR Flyover, along with his long-term vision for transforming Hyderabad into a global investment destination, stand as testimony to his foresight." "Revanth Reddy said the ideals, humanitarian outlook and unwavering dedication to public service demonstrated by Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy continue to inspire millions of people even today.

Congress to Revive Tummidihatti Project, Says Uttam Kumar Reddy

Kaleshwaram redesign imposed huge financial burden; rehabilitation of barrages must come first

Hyderabad, July 7: Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday announced that the Congress government would revive the long-pending Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Pranahita-Chevella Sujala Sravanthi (Tummidihatti) Project, fulfilling a promise made in the party's election manifesto. "Making a presentation before Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, ministers, MPs and MLAs at Praja Bhavan, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the government had already begun work on the rehabilitation design for the Medigadda barrage and that operations at the Kaleshwaram Lift..." [11:55 PM, 7/7/2026] New English Paper Hemanth Reddy: People Were His Family, Public Welfare His Lifelong Mission: CM Revanth Reddy "Hyderabad, July 7: Paying rich tributes to former Chief Minister Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy on the eve of his birth anniversary, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy hailed him as an extraordinary people's leader who dedicated his entire life to the welfare of the masses." "In a message issued on the occasion, the Chief Minister said Dr. YSR regarded the people as his own family and worked tirelessly for their well-being. He noted that the former Chief Minister's welfare initiatives for the poor, farmers, women, students and weaker sections became a model for the nation." "Revanth Reddy said YSR's commitment to ensuring justice for every section of society was reflected in the saturation-based implementation of several welfare schemes, which transformed the lives of lakhs of families across the State." "Recalling YSR's historic padayatra, the Chief Minister described it as a lasting symbol of his deep affection for the people and unwavering commitment to public service. He said the late leader's landmark deci-

sions in the areas of farmers' welfare, free power for agriculture, expansion of healthcare services, promotion of education and social justice continue to leave an enduring impact." "The Chief Minister also praised YSR's visionary leadership in strengthening infrastructure, stating that his decisions on key projects such as the Hyderabad Metro Rail, the International Airport and the PVNR Flyover, along with his long-term vision for transforming Hyderabad into a global investment destination, stand as testimony to his foresight." "Revanth Reddy said the ideals, humanitarian outlook and unwavering dedication to public service demonstrated by Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy continue to inspire millions of people even today.

Rs 7,750 cr Rythu Bharosa funds deposited in farmers' accounts

Hyderabad, July 7

The state government disbursed Rs 7,750.45 crore into the bank accounts of 68.96 lakh farmers as part of the Rythu Bharosa crop input assistance for Kharif 2026-27.

The state government completed the disbursement in eight days, covering 129.17 lakh acre agricultural land.

Telangana DGP C.V. Anand Inaugurates Road Safety Awareness Centre in Khammam, Launches 253 Community CCTV Cameras

Khammam | July 7 "In a significant step toward enhancing road safety and strengthening community policing, Telangana Director General of Police C.V. Anand inaugurated a Road Safety Awareness Centre at the Khammam Police Commissioner's Office on Monday." "Addressing the gathering, the DGP said the centre will provide hands-on training for students on traffic rules, road safety practices, and the identification of traffic signs, helping cultivate responsible road behavior from an early age." "Emphasizing the importance of strict adherence to traffic regulations, he urged motorists to follow road safety norms at all times. He particularly stressed that wearing a helmet is essential for every two-wheeler rider, describing it as a vital lifesaving measure. On the occasion, helmets were distributed to motorists and traffic police personnel." "As part



of the Vanamahotsavam initiative, the DGP also planted saplings and encouraged greater participation in environmental conservation, highlighting the police department's commitment to promoting a greener future." "Further reinforcing community policing efforts, C.V. Anand vir-

tually inaugurated 253 CCTV cameras installed across Nelakondapalli Mandal with the active support of local residents. He noted that the expanded surveillance network would play a crucial role in crime prevention, public safety, and faster investigation of incidents. The DGP appreciated the villagers for their

proactive contribution to strengthening security in their communities." "The event was attended by IGP Chandrasekhara Reddy, Khammam Police Commissioner Sunil Dutt, Additional Deputy Commissioners of Police, Assistant Commissioners of Police, and other senior police officials.

Ram Temple donation theft: Will respond to all charges after SIT submits report, says Champat Rai

New Delhi, July 7

International vice-president of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad Champat Rai, who is at the centre of the Ram Temple donation storm, today said he would respond to all allegations after the special investigation team probing the case submitted its report.

In a parallel development today, the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust clarified that former general secretary Rai and trustee Anil Mishra were no longer members of the Trust. The two had resigned earlier on moral grounds and the Trust had accepted their resignations at a meeting in Ayodhya yesterday.

"Rai and Mishra ceased to be part of the Trust after their resignations were accepted at the meeting on Monday," the treasurer of the Trust, Govind Dev Giri, said today.

The Trust will meet again on July 22 to decide if the interim general secretary named yesterday — Krishna Mohan, a former Indian Forest Service officer — should be made a permanent replacement for Rai.

Meanwhile, Rai, in a handwritten note to devotees of Lord Rama, said baseless allegations had been hurled at him through the entire Ram Temple



theft row saga.

"I observed maun (silence) over these allegations. The SIT's preliminary report has been presented before the Ram Temple Trust's general meeting. The report was initially marked top secret but has now been made public. After the SIT submits its final report, I will respond point by point to the issues being raised and the entire truth will be revealed to the people," said Rai in self-defence.

30 injured in naphtha pipeline fire at Haldia Petrochemicals plant in Bengal



At least 30 people were injured after a massive fire broke out at a Haldia Petrochemicals plant in West Bengal's East Midnapore district on Tuesday after an alleged rupture in a naphtha pipeline triggered a blaze that spread across the area. Among the 30 injured, 14 reportedly suffered severe burns. Hospital sources said the injured were first rushed to Haldia Sub-Divisional Hospital, before the critically injured were transferred to Tamluk District Hospital. Six of them have been referred to Kolkata for advanced treatment. Twelve fire tenders have been rushed to the spot, where firefighters continue efforts to bring the situation under control. Senior police and district administration officials are overseeing rescue and firefighting operations.

Locals said the incident occurred around 4.30 am, shortly after a lightning strike. The pipeline reportedly ignited within moments, triggering a massive blaze. Sev-

eral residents who had stepped outside at the time were caught in the fire and sustained injuries. Local MLA Pradipt Bijali visited the site and praised the administration's prompt response. He assured that all necessary arrangements were being made for the treatment of the injured. Exact cause not known: Haldia Petrochemicals The exact cause of the pipeline rupture is yet to be established. The police and Haldia Petrochemicals have launched an investigation into the incident. "We are aware of an incident that occurred at our Haldia facility, in which a few people have reportedly sustained injuries. Our thoughts are with those affected, and we are extending all necessary support to the concerned authorities," a statement by Haldia Petrochemicals said. "Preliminary information suggests that the incident may have occurred in the vicinity of an unauthorised naphtha theft point located in the plant's vicinity. Naphtha is a highly combustible and extremely flammable hydrocarbon, and the company has consistently cautioned local communities against any unauthorised access to or handling of petroleum products due to the serious safety risks involved," it added. The company said that the exact cause of the incident is currently under investigation. "At this stage, it would be premature to comment further or attribute responsibility until the investigation is complete," it added. Train services between Haldia and Durgachak were suspended following the incident. While 38052 Haldia-Howrah Local will be cancelled, 38051 Howrah-Haldia Local will be short-terminated at Durgachak, and 38054 Haldia-Panskura Local will be short-originated from Durgachak, the authorities said.

Kolkata Police seeks ex-editor's passport application file; Kerala CM seeks Suwendu's intervention

The Special Branch of Kolkata Police has sought details of the passport application of former editor of The Telegraph, R Rajagopal, after he alleged that his passport had not been renewed following the deletion of his name from the electoral rolls in West Bengal during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voters' list. Assuring to resolve the issue "as quickly as possible", Additional Commissioner of Police (Special Branch), Dhruvajyoti De told The Indian Express on Monday, "There was some issue of deletion of names of voters on the same address (Rajagopal's address). I have sought the details of the file. Voter ID card may be asked for verification, and the absence of the voter ID card may raise a question, but it is not the definitive document for local enquiry for passports. I hope to get it resolved today itself. If it is found okay, another report will be sent to RPO (Regional Passport Office)."

Meanwhile, Kerala Chief Minister V D Sathesaran wrote to his West Bengal counterpart Suwendu Adhikari seeking his intervention. "I understand that the adverse report is based on the deletion of his (Rajagopal's) name from the electoral roll under the SIR. While the electoral issue is being dealt with through an appropriate appeal process, I am informed that the police report has had the effect of delaying the renewal process of his passport. I would like to request your good self to kindly look into the matter with urgency," the Congress CM wrote. In a note on social media, Rajagopal had said that he missed his daughter's wedding in the United States because he did not possess an active passport. "I think, in the first week of April, a police official called me from the Ballygunge police station and summoned me for police verification. He told me to carry my documents. When I asked which



document, he told me, 'Voter ID card.' Then I told him, 'But my name has been deleted from the electoral roll on March 27,'" Rajagopal had said. Efforts to renew his passport since then have been unsuccessful, and he has received an appointment to appear before the Regional Passport Office (RPO) on July 17. In a statement on Sunday, the Editors Guild of India said it "condemns the manner in which Rajagopal is being treated by the bureaucracy that gets to decide who is an Indian citizen and who is not". Meanwhile, "Wake Up Kerala", a citizen-led cultural and political movement in Kerala, said, "If a prominent public figure with established credentials can be disenfranchised and face civic uncertainty, the predicament of ordinary citizens, particularly the marginalised and the less privileged, can only be imagined as far more severe and distressing." "Rajagopal's plight serves as a stark wake-up call. When a veteran editor encounters such difficulties, it lays bare the extreme vulnerability of the common citizen. Urgent judicial and administrative interventions are essential to safeguard the foundational rights to vote and travel, and to prevent the SIR from eroding the social fabric of Indian democracy," the group said.

How many years for roads to be completely motorable: Bombay High Court questions BMC



While the BMC claimed that complaints by citizens were being resolved, the judges asked the civic body to produce relevant pictures of the situation before and after the complaint. The BMC, in its affidavit filed through Chief Engineer (Sewerage Operation) Anilkumar Bhoite, stated that of 73,437 manholes in the city, 71,426 have protective grills and such grills could not be installed on 2,011 manholes as they were buried or were non-accessible. The Bombay High Court on Monday questioned the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) as to how many years it would require to make a statement that all the roads in the city under its purview are completely motorable and are without any potholes or open manholes.

This came after the civic body denied the grievance in a suo motu PIL that it has failed to install protective grills on the manholes and stated that work for the installation of such grills is carried out by the respective Ward Officers. The BMC, in its affidavit filed through Chief Engineer (Sewerage Operation) Anilkumar Bhoite, stated that of 73,437 manholes in the city, 71,426 have protective grills and such grills could not be installed on 2,011 manholes as they were buried or were non-accessible. A bench of Justices Ajey S Gadkari and Kamal R Khata was hearing an interim application by lawyer Ruju Thakker in the suo motu PIL raising concerns over potholes, non-installation of protective grills on manholes in Mumbai and its surrounding areas, along with the issue of compensation for pothole-related deaths. The judges orally questioned the civic body, asking that while one can drive at a speed of 100 kmph for a longer distance without any single pothole, how many years the BMC would take to claim that all its roads are completely motorable and comply with orders issued by the HC for over two decades. While the BMC claimed that complaints by citizens were being resolved, the judges asked the civic body to produce relevant pictures of the situation before and after the complaint. After Thakker, who appeared in person, referred to the BMC affidavit, which

claimed that 957 protective grills were being stolen in the 'A' Ward of the city alone, the HC asked the civic body to inform it about how many FIRs it had lodged in connection with such incidents. As per the affidavit, H-West Ward of the BMC had the highest number of 1,144 cases of protective grills being missing, stolen or tilted. The Justice Gadkari-led bench on Monday also asked the Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) Commissioner to personally look into the matter related to the delayed compensation for over six months to the victim or the kin of victims for injuries or deaths due to potholes, since the relevant committee's meeting for the kin of the toddler who fell into a stormwater drain and died last year, as claimed by Thakker. The HC pulled up the authorities for bad roads in Thane city and questioned why the civic body did not find the issue of compensation to be serious, while it was bound to provide compensation within six weeks as per the court directions. Seeking the BMC's response and the TMC's compliance affidavit, the HC posted the further hearing for July 6.

Telangana government transfers 23 SP-rank officers



Hyderabad: The State government on Monday transferred 23 Superintendent of Police (non-cadre) rank officers and gave them new postings. A few officers with their new postings are S Ravi Kumar (DCP, Traffic-II Quthbullapur Zone & Kukatapally Zone, and DCP, Medchal Traffic, Cyberabad); T Sai Manohar - Joint Director, ACB; D Srinivas - SP, Vigilance & Enforcement; M Srinivas Rao - SP, OCTOPUS; S Srinivas - SP, CID; K Prasad - SP, TGPS, Hyderabad; K Manohar - Joint Director, ACB; S Ramesh - SP, Intelligence; D Anand Kumar - Additional Commissioner, HYDRABAD; D Kishan Singh - DCP, Crimes, Warangal, and G Baswa Reddy - Additional SP, V&E.

23 parties, Independent MP write to CJI on Election Commission's SIR exercise



New Delhi: The Congress on Tuesday said that a joint letter, now signed by 23 political parties and one Independent MP, has been sent to the Chief Justice of India, Justice Surya Kant, regarding the Election Commission of India's (ECI) Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process and other election-related issues. Congress MP Jairam Ramesh took to social media 'X' and said, "21 political parties plus one Independent attended the INDIA janbandhan meeting on June 8, 2026 where a decision was taken to address a joint letter to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India on the SIR process of the Election Commission of India and other election-related issues." "Accordingly a joint letter now signed by 23 political parties plus one Independent has been sent to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India today. The Opposition parties are firmly anchored in SURE - Solidarity, Unity and Resistance," he said.

On June 8, a meeting of the INDIA bloc was attended by leaders from several Opposition parties. Those present included Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Trinamool Congress President Mamata Banerjee, senior National Conference leader Omar Abdullah, and NCP(SP) leader Supriya Sule. However, some Opposition parties, including the Aam Aadmi Party

(AAP) and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), stayed away from the meeting.

Addressing the media after the meeting, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge had said that representatives from several political parties had participated in the discussions. He stated that a wide range of issues were deliberated upon and that all leaders shared their views during the meeting. Kharge had also announced that the INDIA bloc had agreed to hold meetings every two months, with the next meeting scheduled to take place in August in Hyderabad, Telangana. Meanwhile, it has been one year since the Election Commission began the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process for the comprehensive verification of electoral rolls. According to the Election Commission, the exercise is aimed at ensuring the accuracy of voter lists and strengthening the integrity of the electoral process. A pilot phase of the campaign was launched in Bihar on June 24, 2025, ahead of the Bihar Assembly elections. As part of the exercise, around six crore names have reportedly been removed from electoral rolls across the country so far. The revision process is still underway in 19 states and union territories. In Bihar alone, around 65 lakh names were removed from the electoral rolls following the initial implementation of the campaign. Opposition leaders, including the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, protested against the SIR exercise and held several press conferences on the issue. Congress and other Opposition parties have alleged on multiple occasions that the SIR process is an attempt by the Election Commission to undermine democracy. On the other hand, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has repeatedly stated that the government's objective is to identify and remove the names of illegal infiltrators from the electoral rolls and, where applicable, deport them from the country. He has maintained that the revision exercise is intended to ensure that no genuine Indian citizen is excluded from the voter list while illegal infiltrators are identified and removed through a systematic process.

'Why special privilege?' Telangana HC pulls up Narsingi police over delay in arrests

Hyderabad: Justice T Madhavi Devi of the Telangana High Court on Monday questioned the Narsingi police over their failure to arrest the accused in an attempt to murder case despite filing a chargesheet concluding that an offence under Section 109 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) was made out, and asked, "How are these accused special? Why are they being given special privilege?" The observations came during the hearing of a writ petition alleging an unfair investigation in a case registered by Narsingi Police Station, Cyberabad, against two private individuals for offences punishable under Section 109 read with Section 3(5) of the BNS.

Counsel for the petitioner submitted that though Section 109 of the BNS is a cognizable offence and the police themselves had concluded in the chargesheet that the offence was made out, no steps had been taken to arrest the accused or remand them to judicial custody. Taking exception to the police action, Justice Madhavi Devi orally observed that in simple cases, individuals are frequently summoned to police stations, but in the present case, despite a serious offence of attempt to murder being alleged and a chargesheet having been



filed, no action had been taken against the accused. Questioning the apparent inaction, the Court asked the State as to what special category the accused belonged to and why they had been extended such treatment. Directing the Government Pleader for Home to file a detailed counter explaining the circumstances under which the accused had not been arrested despite the chargesheet, the Court adjourned the matter by two weeks.

Delhi medical procurement fraud: Role of supplier who 'manipulated' tenders under scanner

As probe deepens into the Rs 700-crore fraud case linked to the Central Procurement Agency (CPA) and the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) in Delhi, the role of a "contractor" — accused of manipulating tenders and siphoning off public funds — is under scanner, The Indian Express has learnt.

Described by investigators as a broker, he reportedly created multiple shell firms in an alleged attempt to benefit a few manufacturers and played a central role in rigging tenders for medicines, surgical items, consumables and equipment. He is accused of tying up with manufacturers, fixing supply rates and arranging cash kickbacks, said sources. Said a senior officer, "The FIR mentions the name. His role is being probed and he is on the radar. If required he will be called for questioning and may be arrested also." A complaint regarding the alleged scam and irregularities in procurement for health facilities in the Capital was filed by the Department of Vigilance with the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) of the Delhi Police, which was later converted into an FIR on June 2. The alleged irregularities first came to light in May this year when the Department of Vigilance conducted raids at the CPA offices following complaints regarding procurement discrepancies. The complaint from the Vigilance Department names several firms allegedly used as fronts and alleged the "liaisoner" was the real operator behind those entities, sources said. "Tender specifications and terms were prepared to favour the pre-decided firms... with the liaisoner/supplier drafting restrictive specifications in collusion with manufacturer contacts. Those documents were then reportedly routed to Dr Vinod Kumar Ranga, Head of Office (HOO) of CPA, who presented them to the tender committee," the complaint stated. Tender committees were allegedly coerced into approving these tailor-made specifications, according to the complaint and former DGHS D Vatsala Aggarwal, who was arrested over the weekend in the case, allegedly gave final sanction to the skewed tender terms. The "broker" then allegedly ensured that the front firms submitted bids, criteria such as turnover, experience and performance were set at exorbitant levels to discourage genuine competitors, yet the shell firms were allowed to qualify.



venting scrutiny by other suppliers and the public. Payments to existing, legitimate suppliers allegedly stalled for up to two years, while orders tied to the "liaisoner" saw payment released within one/two days. The complaint contends that tenders worth several hundred crores may have been awarded under this arrangement. The ACB has confirmed registration of an FIR and said preliminary inquiries are underway. Investigators will examine tender files, procurement portals, payment records and the corporate structures of the named firms to establish links alleged in the complaint. Officials contacted for comment have not yet responded to questions about the timeline for arrests or asset tracing. The allegations add to scrutiny of procurement practices in the Delhi health department after recent action against senior officials. The probe aims to determine the extent of the financial damage and to recover any proceeds of the alleged malpractice, said sources.

Ex-Andhra Chief Secretary's X account hacked

Hyderabad: Former Andhra Pradesh Special Chief Secretary P.V. Ramesh has fallen victim to a cyber attack, with his X (formerly Twitter) account was allegedly hacked. Ramesh, a resident of Jubilee Hills, alleged that his 'X' account, @rameshpv2010, was compromised and that unauthorised posts were being made from it.

He further said he received security alert emails regarding suspicious activity and immediately changed his account password. However, concerns over unauthorised access persisted. Based on his complaint, the Hyderabad Cybercrime Police have registered a case and launched an investigation. Efforts are on to identify those behind the account breach.

Sanjay Raut: 'Leaders like Sharad Pawar, Mamata, KCR who left the Congress should unite, make the party stronger'

A day after Congress leader Nana Patole claimed that Sharad Pawar had proposed the merger of his party with his, and leaders from the Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) denied the claim, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut on Friday said leaders who left Congress in the past should make efforts to "come together". Raut told reporters in Mumbai that Congress needs to become stronger and leaders who had formed separate parties after leaving it should rethink their position in the present political situation.

"The Congress has to become stronger. Leaders who came out of the Congress and built their own parties, whether Sharad Pawar, KCR, or Mamata Banerjee, should understand the situation in the country. If we want to fight those in power at the Centre, everyone will have to come together," Raut said. Raut urged Sharad Pawar to take the lead in making such an effort. "If Sharad Pawar takes the initiative and helps build a stronger Congress, parties like ours will also become stronger," said the Sena

(UBT) leader. Raut's remarks came a day after Patole, the former Maharashtra Congress president, said Pawar had sent a merger proposal to his party leadership, but the process did not move forward. However, NCP (SP) state president Shashikant Shinde denied any such proposal was discussed in the party. Asked about Raut's statement, NCP (SP) MP Supriya Sule, Pawar's daughter, said, "Sanjay Raut speaks openly on issues related to the country. In a democracy, everyone has the right to express an opinion. He is like an elder brother to me. We will take note of the suggestions he has given." Responding to the comments, senior BJP leader Chandrakant Patil said the Congress was a "sinking ship" and claimed leaders would continue moving towards the BJP instead. BJP minister Girish Mahajan said if such a merger happens, it may help create a stronger Opposition in Maharashtra. "If Rahul Gandhi and Sharad Pawar come together, they may work well. There should be a strong opposition. Right now there is hardly any opposition left in the state," he said.

Maharashtra cyber fraudster who operated from Dubai held in Bangkok, brought to India

The Pimpri Chinchwad police on Thursday arrested a man linked to an international cybercrime syndicate, after he was apprehended in Bangkok through a Red Corner Notice and Lookout Circular (LOC) and brought to India. The accused Saurabh alias Ganesh Balasaheb Kale, 31, a native of Sangli district of Maharashtra, was part of a cybercrime racket operating from Dubai and Bangkok (Thailand) that swindled crores of rupees from several people across India. "Kale allegedly maintained direct contact with cyber racketeers based in China and other countries. He assisted the cyber criminals involved in task frauds, share market investment frauds, and digital arrest scams, thereby earning substantial illegal profits," stated a press release issued by Deputy Commissioner of Police (crime) Rohidas Pawar on Friday. Kale had started an office in Dubai for handling the cyber fraud transactions, Pawar said. Kale's name cropped up during the investigation of an online task fraud case lodged at the Dehu Road police station in Pimpri Chinchwad in June 2024. The complainant was an engineer who was coerced into investing money in an "online part-time job", assuring huge profits by completing some online tasks, and lost Rs 33,000. The police arrested 13 people in the case. One of the arrested, Deepak Gade, during interrogation, had said that he had sold details of various "mule accounts" in India to suspect Kale in Dubai. A technical investigation by assistant police inspector Pravin Swami revealed that Kale also procured bank accounts from various individuals in India and used them to receive proceeds of cyber fraud. The police said Kale was initially

doing some marketing work in India. He shifted to Dubai in 2023 for forex trading, when he was suspected of having joined the international cyber crime racketeers from China, the police said.

Kale's name also came up in the investigation of a case filed at the Hinjewadi police station on June 20, 2024, in which a 67-year-old man was duped of Rs 18 lakhs in an online trading scam. Kale was found involved in another major case lodged at the Cyber police station on March 24, 2025, in which a senior citizen residing in Sangvi was duped of Rs 2.52 crore, after being lured to invest in an online share trading business. Based on evidence collected, a proposal for provisional arrest and extradition was forwarded through the Maharashtra Government and the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. Legal proceedings were initiated through Indian authorities in the UAE in 2024. But, in September 2025, it was known that Kale had left Dubai and fled to Thailand. The Pimpri Chinchwad police then communicated with the Maharashtra Government and the Ministry of Home Affairs, which resulted in the issuance of a Red Corner Notice and LOC against Kale. Then, while he was attempting to flee from Thailand to another country, Kale was detained by the authorities at Bangkok Airport. He was subsequently brought to India. On Thursday, the Cyber Police team took his formal custody at Mumbai Airport and arrested him in the Dehu Road Police Station case. A court remanded him to police custody till June 16 for further investigation.

'Congress is a sinking ship': Devendra Fadnavis mocks Opposition merger talk

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday dismissed speculation that regional parties were exploring the possibility of a merger with the Congress, saying the party was a "sinking ship". "All those in the Opposition who are weaving such a narrative can be described as 'Begani shadi mein Abdullah deewana' (being excited about somebody else's business). The Congress is a sinking ship. Nobody likes to step into a sinking ship," Fadnavis said. After Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee met Congress leader Sonia Gandhi in Delhi following her party's stunning defeat in the West Bengal Assembly elections, talk of mergers has gained traction amid calls for a united INDIA bloc. In Maharashtra, Congress leader Nana Patole claimed on Thursday that Sharad Pawar had earlier proposed merging his party with the Congress. While the NCP (SP) on Friday denied the claim, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut said leaders who formed separate parties after leaving Congress should rethink their position in the current political scenario.

"Congress has to become stronger. Leaders who came out of Congress and built their own parties—whether Sharad Pawar, KCR or Mamata Banerjee—should un-

derstand the situation in the country. If we want to fight those in power at the Centre, everyone will have to come together," Raut said, adding that Sharad Pawar should take the lead in such an effort. The BJP is not worried about such an eventuality, Fadnavis said. "As far as the BJP is concerned, either way, it will be a win-win situation. Even if we hypothetically assume that regional parties will merge with Congress, it is good for us. The consolidation of the Opposition creates more political space for the BJP. It is good for us," Fadnavis emphasised. "When there are multiple parties, they take up space. When they come together as one party, we get more political space. We have adopted a wait-and-watch policy," he added. Fadnavis addressed the media on Friday in Mumbai to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 12-year tenure. Commenting on NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar's statement that there cannot be any comparison between Jawaharlal Nehru and Modi, Fadnavis said, "Modi has broken the record of Nehru as the longest-serving PM. This is a fact. Where is the question of comparison?" "Modi is not just the longest-serving PM, but also the best, given the socio-economic development the country has witnessed in the last 12 years," he added.

Rats, cockroaches, rotting food: FDA suspends six Mumbai eateries in hygiene crackdown

Rats in kitchens, cockroach infestations, foul odour, leaking refrigerators and expired food products were among the serious hygiene violations that prompted the Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to suspend the licences of six food establishments in Mumbai including a posh eatery in South Mumbai during an enforcement drive. The action followed inspections conducted between June 26 and 28 under a special campaign ordered by Food Safety Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe to crack down on food safety violations and the illegal trade in banned food products. The six Mumbai establishments were found to be in serious violation of the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011, and provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act. Among those facing action was Flint & Waarsa, operated by Aditya Birla New Age Restaurants and Cafe Pvt Ltd at the NCPA in Nariman Point. During an inspection on June 27, officials detected misbranded food products, collected five samples for laboratory analysis, seized products worth ₹11,350 for incorrect labelling and destroyed expired food items valued at ₹16,201. At M.K. Bakery in Borivali East, inspectors found food production continuing despite renovation work being underway. The premises were also found to be unhygienic. Two food samples were collected, while products worth ₹8,100 were seized for labelling violations. Hotel Shree Krishna (Sujit Bar and Restaurant) in Bhandup West was cited for multiple deficiencies, including refrigerators without temperature display systems, a rusted and leaking kitchen refrigerator and poor overall

hygiene standards. Inspectors visiting Hotel Gopal Krishna in Santacruz East found a rat inside the premises, a foul smell emanating from the kitchen and garbage accumulation in drainage lines, along with several other food safety violations. At Karak Enterprises Pvt Ltd in Andheri East, officials reported a heavy cockroach infestation, absence of insect-proof mesh, failure to conduct mandatory medical examinations of employees, peeling walls and ceilings, inadequate customer grievance mechanisms and refrigeration equipment that was unable to maintain safe food temperatures. The sixth establishment, Ace Clubs and Resorts Pvt Ltd (Madras Dairies) in Bandra West, was found to have failed to maintain prescribed hygiene standards and lacked mandatory food testing records and statutory documentation. Across Maharashtra, the FDA carried out 31 raids, seized prohibited items such as pan masala and gutkha worth ₹34.87 lakh, arrested 19 people involved in the sale, distribution and transportation of banned products, sealed one establishment and confiscated three vehicles. The enforcement drive also targeted the illegal trade in banned food products. In addition to seizures worth ₹34.87 lakh, the FDA initiated criminal proceedings that led to 19 arrests, the sealing of one establishment and the seizure of three vehicles allegedly used in the illicit trade. Appealing to consumers to remain vigilant, the FDA urged citizens to report suspected food adulteration or hygiene violations through the FoSCoS portal, the Food Safety Connect mobile application or its toll-free helpline. Mundhe said

From exclusion to empowerment: How Antyodaya is reaching the last mile

New Delhi: The government's Antyodaya mantra has succeeded in bringing India's most backward and deprived communities into the ambit of inclusive development with the objective of ensuring that those who were left behind are placed at the forefront of opportunity and progress, according to an official factsheet issued on Friday. It highlights that these efforts were spearheaded with the Rs 24,104 crore Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN) programme targeted towards the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). They are among India's most isolated communities. Many lived without pucca housing, clean drinking water, electricity, or road access.

The government launched PM JANMAN in November 2023 to fill these gaps through coordinated effort of all concerned ministries. The programme targets 75 PVTG communities across 18 states and 1 UT, working through 11 interventions implemented by 9 ministries. The 11 interventions cover housing, road connectivity, piped water supply, mobile medical units, Anganwadi Centres, hostels, electrification, mobile towers, multipurpose centres, Van Dhan Vikas Kendras, and vocational training. As many as 7.8 lakh pucca houses have been completed in tribal villages, and over 28,303 villages have been given access to clean drinking water while 589,812 tribal households have been provided with electricity connections to uplift their living standards, the factsheet shows.

Tribal habitations saw greater infrastructure expansion. Students from deprived communities gained wider educational access. Sanitation workers received stronger institutional recognition and safety support. Backward and nomadic communities entered the focus of targeted welfare planning. In the past 12 years, the expansion of

Eklavya Model Residential Schools has transformed tribal education infrastructure across remote districts. The network grew rapidly after 2018, bringing modern residential schooling and quality education closer to Scheduled Tribe communities that remained underserved for generations. As of 2026, over 1.56 lakh students are enrolled in 499 schools and another 323 schools are under construction. The change has also been visible geographically. Tribal regions, aspirational districts, and remote habitations became central to development planning and monitoring. Convergence across ministries strengthened last-mile delivery in areas once considered difficult to reach. Similarly, the PM-AJAY, launched in 2021, focuses on integrated development of Scheduled Caste-majority villages. The scheme supports infrastructure creation, skill development, and livelihood opportunities in underserved SC communities.

Under PM-AJAY, the Adarsh Gram component takes an area-based approach to develop SC-majority villages through convergence of schemes, village development plans, and gap-filling support for critical local needs. It covers 47,334 villages across 597 districts in 26 states. The programme reaches more than 4 crore Scheduled Caste citizens and over 83 lakh households. The programme has also strengthened village-level planning and infrastructure monitoring. More than 25,000 villages have completed infrastructure assessment exercises. This has helped in identifying gaps in roads, water supply, education, sanitation, and connectivity more systematically. A stronger emphasis has also been placed on youth participation and livelihood generation.

Centre, Assam and Nagaland sign pact to boost oil and gas exploration

New Delhi: The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on Friday signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding with the state governments of Nagaland and Assam to increase domestic exploration and production of oil and gas. Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said that since Assam alone accounts for nearly 22 per cent of India's crude oil reserves and around 15 per cent of the country's natural gas reserves, while Nagaland possesses significant hydrocarbon potential in the Naga-Schuppen Belt of the Assam-Arakan Basin, resources where hydrocarbons flow naturally and those which have huge untapped resources, the outlook for E&P (exploration and production) activities in the North East is extremely promising.

By creating a framework for cooperation between the concerned Governments, the MoU signed in the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah, provides certainty to investors, facilitates operational continuity, enables regulatory coordination and creates conditions necessary for long-term investment decisions, the minister said. "The

North East gave birth to India's petroleum industry; today, it stands ready to power the next chapter of India's energy journey as Nagaland will produce oil and gas again after 31 years," Puri remarked. "With the signing of a historic tripartite Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Nagaland and Assam, India's quest towards increasing domestic exploration and production of hydrocarbons under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi takes a giant leap as a new basin opens up for fresh wildcat exploration," the minister further stated. He also thanked Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa for "rising above differences" to chart the way forward for the region and the country.

The resumption of mineral oil operations will generate direct and indirect employment, stimulate local entrepreneurship, strengthen physical infrastructure, create opportunities for contractors, service providers and small businesses, and contribute significantly to the economic development of surrounding communities and the entire North East Region, the minister added.

Dawood syndicate rebuilding sharpshooter network, intelligence agencies warn

New Delhi: The Dawood Ibrahim syndicate is reportedly assembling a fresh network of sharpshooters across northern India and neighboring states to execute targeted killings of high-profile individuals, intelligence agencies have revealed. An Intelligence Bureau official said that, unlike similar networks in the past, this one is not being pieced together to target high-profile politicians or prominent public figures. Instead, its objective is to carry out targeted killings of individuals who are well-known within their localities. "While the attacks may not attract national attention individually, the network is expected to execute a series of such killings," the official claimed.

An official said the pattern bears similarities to incidents witnessed in Jammu and Kashmir a few years ago, when shopkeepers and other influential local figures accused by terror groups of assisting Indian security agencies were selectively targeted. The Dawood gang's objective is to create fear and spread panic among the public. The plan is to foster a sense of anxiety and uncertainty through a sustained campaign of violence. "The targets are likely to be ordinary individuals chosen at random. While the operations would be carefully planned, the final selection of targets would be left to the network," another official said. The key instruction, the official added, is to ensure the killings occur at regular intervals and follow a discernible pattern.

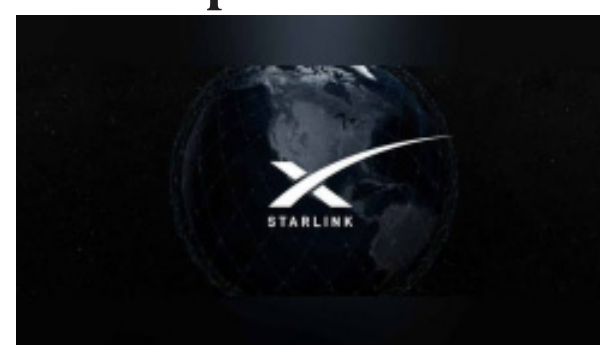
The effort to build this network comes at a time when security agencies recently dismantled a Dawood-linked module allegedly operated by his aide Munna Jhingada from Pakistan. Investigators said the group was planning a series of blasts at key locations and had recruited several individuals, including a Nepali national. The module was busted through coordinated operations carried out by the Special Cell of the Delhi Police, the Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) and the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Officials said the dismantling of the

module dealt a major setback to the Dawood syndicate. The operation had reportedly been backed by Pakistan's intelligence agency, the Inter Services Intelligence, which had high expectations from the network and was banking on the syndicate's extensive links in India to ensure its success. Following the exposure of the module, which investigators said was intended to mirror the structure of the network behind the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts, the ISI is believed to have instructed the syndicate to quickly devise a fresh strategy.

An official said the new sharpshooter network is also being overseen by Jhingada, alias Sayyad Muzzakkir Muddasar Hussain. According to investigators, he has long managed the Dawood gang's network of contract shooters and reported directly to Dawood's close aide, Chhota Shakeel. Jhingada later emerged as one of Shakeel's trusted shooters and is believed to have been involved in numerous killings. Impressed by his abilities, Shakeel allegedly assigned him the task of eliminating rival gang leader Chhota Rajan in Thailand. Following the failed attempt, Jhingada was arrested and spent 17 years in a Thai prison. After his sentence, he was extradited to Pakistan. "Given his background and his alleged involvement in several successful shootings in the past, he has now been tasked with leading the newly formed network of sharpshooters," the officials said. The official said the network would deliberately carry out low-profile killings across the country at regular intervals to establish a pattern. The objective, he said, is to create fear among the public, with people becoming hesitant to venture out due to concerns over random shootings. The choice of victims would be aimed at fostering a sense of anxiety, making people believe that anyone could be next. "The network is expected to recruit shooters from Punjab, Mumbai, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh," the official claimed. To avoid detection, operatives would generally not be deployed in their home states, where police may already have records on them.

Starlink denies report of India freezing approvals, says talks remain productive

Starlink has dismissed a report that India has frozen approvals for its satellite internet services, saying it remains engaged in "active and productive discussions" with the government and continues to receive encouraging feedback on its plans for the country. Responding to the report, Lauren Dreyer, Vice President of Starlink Business Operations, said the company remains committed to launching services in India and has complied with all regulatory and security requirements. The clarification came after a Bloomberg report claimed that India had effectively put on hold approvals for Starlink's commercial operations over concerns related to the use of its satellite terminals in the Iran conflict. "Starlink remains in active and productive discussions with the Government of India contrary to misleading stories based upon unsubstantiated claims from anonymous sources," Dreyer said in a post on social media platform X. She added that the company has worked with the government through all required regulatory and compliance processes in a



transparent and responsible manner. According to Dreyer, Starlink has also developed a bespoke deployment model for India to align with the country's sovereign technology, regulatory and security requirements.

EYE SECRETS

Editorial

Global reserve currency how America extracts wealth printing dollars

Lakshmi wakes up at 5:30 every morning in Karimnagar. She makes coffee for her husband. Packs lunch for two children. Starts cooking by 6. Her kitchen runs on a rhythm she has maintained for fifteen years — same oil, same dal, same routine. She is not poor. Her husband drives a goods vehicle. They own their home. One child is in college. The other is in Class 10. By any measure, they are doing fine. But something has been quietly bothering her for five years.

Almost double. In five years. Without anyone asking her permission. She hasn't changed her brand. The brand hasn't changed its oil. The sunflower hasn't changed. She blamed the shopkeeper. The shopkeeper blamed the wholesaler. The wholesaler blamed 'rates.' Nobody could explain it fully. Nobody connected it to anything beyond their own shop, their own city, their own season. But there is an explanation. A complete one. And it begins not in Karimnagar — but in Washington D.C. In a room Lakshmi will never enter. With people who will never visit her kitchen. Imagine you and your neighbour share a large water tank on the roof. The tank has one tap. Your neighbour controls it. Every month, your neighbour quietly adds more water to the tank — water that belongs to everyone — but also quietly takes a larger share for himself before opening the common tap. Your tap produces less. Your bucket fills slower. You blame the weather. You blame the pipes. You buy a smaller bucket to make it feel fuller. Your neighbour calls it 'water management policy.' This is the global monetary system.

The water is the world's money supply. The neighbour is the United States of America. The tap is the US Federal Reserve — their central bank. And the water they quietly take for themselves is called the US Dollar — the currency the entire world uses to buy and sell almost everything. Oil. Gas. Wheat. Sunflower seeds. All priced in dollars.

When America prints more dollars — and they have printed trillions in the last five years — each dollar becomes worth a little less. And the Indian rupee, measured against that dollar, weakens automatically. India imports nearly all its sunflower oil. From Ukraine. From Russia. From Argentina. That oil is priced in dollars. When the rupee weakens, India pays more rupees for the same dollar-priced oil. When a war in Ukraine — a country most people in Karimnagar cannot locate on a map — disrupts sunflower supply, global prices spike. When ships reroute around conflicts in the Middle East, freight costs rise. Every one of these events flows through the dollar system, through the rupee exchange rate, and lands — silently, without announcement — in Lakshmi's kitchen.

This system has not always existed. Until 1971, there was a rule. Every US dollar in circulation was backed by a fixed quantity of gold — \$35 per ounce. Any country holding dollars could walk up to the US Treasury and exchange them for gold. The dollar was not just paper. It was a promise. A redeemable one. On August 15, 1971, President Richard Nixon went on television and cancelled that promise. Unilaterally. Without a vote. Without consulting the 190 countries that held dollars as their reserve currency. He said it was temporary. It was not temporary. From that day, the dollar became pure paper — backed by nothing except America's word, America's military, and America's ability to ensure that the world's most important commodity — oil — was priced only in dollars.

Woman teams up with sister, murders partner to 'protect' daughter: police



A woman arrested for teaming up with her sister to allegedly murder her live-in partner in Ghaziabad has told the police that she plotted the crime to protect her 13-year-old daughter. Kiran (32) and her sister Kashish (21) have been arrested after they allegedly murdered Zakir and tried to pass off his death as suicide, police said. According to the police, the murder case was cracked within 12 hours of Zakir's brother, Sameer Khan, filing a complaint yesterday. A police statement said multiple teams scanned CCTV footage and gathered manual inputs to find a breakthrough.

According to the police statement, Kiran and Kashish have confessed to the crime and narrated the sequence of events during questioning. Kiran said she had known Zakir for about four years and moved in with him at his Ghaziabad home about eight months back. Kiran brought along her 13-year-old daughter and two sons from a previous marriage. "About 2 months back, I suspected that Zakir had wrong intentions regarding my daughter. I decided to eliminate him because I sensed he might abuse my daughter. About 20 days ago, I called my sister, Kashish, to my place and told her everything. We then planned to kill Zakir and escape," Kiran has told police, according to the statement. Kiran said that on June 23, she called a cab using Zakir's phone and asked the three children to get into the car.

GOVT SYSTEM COLLAPSED : SUBHASH

Hyderabad, July 7 : The people of Telangana have now realised that they were deceived by the state Congress government led by CM Revanth Reddy which utterly failed to implement any one of its promises, said BJP state party Official spokesperson and Media- in-charge N V Subhash here today. Addressing a press conference at state party office here, he said the people had desire and aspiration of good days who believed in Congress party's six guarantees and 420 promises which were not

fulfilled ever after 30 months of Revanth Reddy's government. Listing out inefficiency of state Congress government, he alleged the people particularly farmers who faced problems due to Dharani portal introduced by previous BRS government are now facing more trouble with "Bhu Bharati" portal of Congress government. Instead of resolving land problems of farmers, Revanth Reddy government is creating more problems, he accused. Subhash alleged that CM Revanth Reddy who

worked as a real estate agent and a small builder now become a full time builder and working against the interest of the people. Expressing apprehension on the functioning style of Revanth Reddy, he said " what will happened to Telangana state if he continue to be CM till 2034." Subhash appealed people to support BJP in upcoming GHMC corporation elections for all round development and a transparent governance.

BJP STATE CHIEF ASKED PARTY CADRE TO WORK HARD FOR THE VICTORY

Hyderabad, July 7 : BJP Telangana State President N Ramchander Rao today called upon party workers to work unitedly with the sole objective of victory in coming elections. Capturing the Mayor's seat in the upcoming GHMC elections is the ultimate goal of the party, Rao asserted while addressing Ranga Reddy Urban District Executive meeting held in One Convention at Bairamalguda. He also gave direction to the cadre in view of upcoming elections. He said the people of Telangana who have fed up by the governance of Congress and BRS, are now looking toward the BJP with hope. " BJP state chief stated that the district executive meetings serve as a platform not only to discuss organizational structure and future programs but also to deliberate extensively on political resolutions and ground-level strategies. Expressing optimism, he mentioned that the

party has a strong cadre base and public support in Rangareddy district, creating highly favorable conditions for victory. Rao urged everyone to draw inspiration from past successes and work toward achieving 100 per cent results across Hyderabad to capture the mayoral seat in the upcoming GHMC elections. He clarified that while internal differences are natural within a party, everyone must treat the party as a mother figure and move forward with discipline and unity. Believing in the principle of "Unity is Strength," the broader interests of the party must take precedence over personal political aspirations, he said. Rao called upon everyone to remain committed to ensuring the victory of the party flag and the candidate, regardless of who receives the ticket. He assured that ZPTC and MPTC elections would follow the municipal polls, promising opportunities for every-

one in the future. He directed the cadre to build strong movements from the booth and mandal levels against the anti-people policies and corruption of the Congress government. He also advised them to identify local issues across the district and carry out continuous struggles in coordination with the state leadership. He said that the people of Telangana have a bitter experience of the governance of both the Congress and BRS parties and are now looking at the BJP as the only alternative. " BJP chief also instructed that through the ongoing SIR program, every leader and worker must collaborate with Booth Level Agents (BLAs) to visit every household. He emphasized paying special attention to verifying voter lists, registering new voters, and fostering strong relationships with local voters.

Nitin Gadkari pushes hydrogen, ethanol to cut fossil fuel imports -

Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday said India must accelerate its transition to alternative fuels, particularly hydrogen and ethanol, to reduce its dependence on costly fossil fuel imports, strengthen energy security, create jobs and cut pollution. He also challenged critics of the E20 (20 per cent ethanol-blended) petrol mandate to point out even one vehicle that had experienced issues due to the fuel blend, amid concerns over reduced fuel efficiency and criticism of the policy.



Addressing the importance of energy self-reliance, Gadkari said India spends nearly Rs 23 lakh crore annually on importing fossil fuels, with around 87 per cent of its crude oil and energy requirements being met through imports. He said the recent conflict in West Asia had once again exposed the risks associated with excessive dependence on foreign energy supplies, affecting global oil and gas markets.

The minister was speaking at the Vikshit Bharat Conclave & Maharashtra Ke Gaurav Coffee Table launch here.

Questioning whether India should continue spending such a massive amount on fuel imports, Gadkari said the money could instead be invested within the country to generate employment opportunities for young people, increase farmers' incomes, strengthen the domestic economy, and create a cleaner environment.

Emphasising the government's focus on alternative fuels, the minister said hydrogen would play a crucial role in India's future energy landscape. He said the government had launched two hydrogen-powered trucks — one based on hydrogen fuel cell technology and another powered by a hydrogen internal combustion engine, replacing conventional diesel or petrol.

He further said hydrogen-powered buses were also being introduced, with a pilot project underway in Nagpur where green hydrogen would be produced locally, supplied to buses, and used for public transport operations.



Providing water to rural areas govt's top priority: Seethakka

Hyderabad, July 7

Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Dansari Anasuya, also known as Seethakka, on Monday, July 6, said providing drinking water to rural areas was the government's top priority, amid predictions of decreased rainfall due to the El Niño impact this year.

Conducting a review of the drinking water situation, the minister asked officials to closely monitor water levels in all reservoirs and ensure adequate storage for drinking water needs.

Officials were asked to release water from Akkampally Balancing Reservoir to Udayasamudram and from Tupakulagudem Barrage to Dummugudem

if there are no adequate inflows by the end of July.

Officials also stated that if adequate water flow does not enter the Singur Project in the next 45 days, there is a possibility of drinking water problems arising in Sangareddy, Medak, and parts of Kamareddy and Nizamabad.

In view of this, the minister directed officials to immediately prepare a comprehensive action plan to utilise groundwater-based drinking water schemes in the affected areas.

She also suggested arranging for an alternative supply by drilling deeper borewells, flushing them to remove silt and digging new borewells in areas where groundwater is available.

Woman plotted to extort Rs 50 lakh from businessman husband, with help from US gangster

A 19-year marriage unravelled into an alleged extortion conspiracy after a Delhi businessman accused of being targeted by the Jitender Gogi gang was found to have been allegedly set up by his own wife, Delhi Police said on Monday. The Special Cell on Monday said it arrested the businessman's wife, Sapna Jain, accusing her of plotting to extort Rs 50 lakh from her husband with the help of a US-based gangster allegedly linked to the notorious Gogi gang. Her alleged accomplice, Rajat, 29, a resident of Sonipat, Haryana, and a friend of her elder

sister, was also arrested in connection with the case. Police said the case came to light after the businessman, who runs a wholesale business in East Delhi's Laxmi Nagar, began receiving threatening calls and messages from an international number on June 14. The caller identified himself as a member of the Gogi gang and demanded Rs 50 lakh, warning that the businessman and his family would be killed if the money was not paid. Arrested Delhi Police alleged that a businessman's wife conspired

Here's a concise and easy-to-read version: Rs 338 Crore Road Projects Launched to Upgrade 149 km of Roads in Telangana

Thorrur, Ranga Reddy District | July 7 Telangana Roads & Buildings Minister Komati Reddy Venkat Reddy laid the foundation stone for 14 four-lane road projects under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) worth ₹338 crore. The projects will cover 149 kilometres across the Ibrahimpatnam, Maheshwaram, Medchal, and LB Nagar constituencies. The Minister said the State Government aims to make Telangana one of the best states in India for road infrastructure. Across the state, road works covering 6,092 km are being taken up at a total cost of ₹13,006 crore. The new four-lane roads, with modern central lighting, will improve connectivity in Turakayamjal, Thorrur, Pedda Amberpet, Kuntloor, Hayathnagar, and nearby areas. The projects are expected to reduce traffic congestion, improve road safety, boost industrial growth, attract investments, and create employment opportunities. MLA Mal Reddy Rangareddy said the government is fulfilling its election promises and that these road projects will play a key role in transforming Ibrahimpatnam into a well-developed constituency. Several MPs, MLCs, public representatives, and officials attended the foundation-laying ceremony. Officials said the projects will significantly improve transportation and support the region's economic and industrial development once completed.



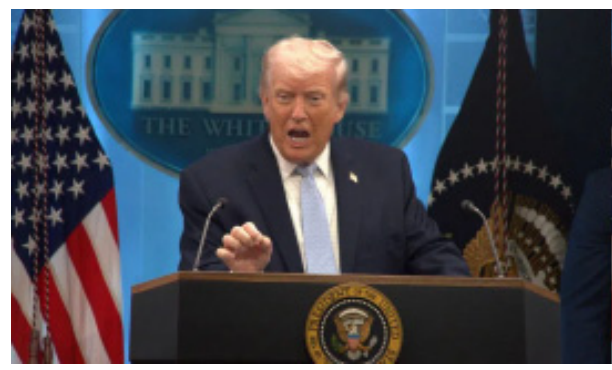
As Delhi gears for new EV policy, transition still unsteady in Gurgaon



Even as the Delhi government on Monday approved a new Electric Vehicle Policy — under which only electric two-wheelers will be eligible for registration in the Capital from April 1, 2028 — electric mobility transition in Gurgaon has not yet seen rapid adoption. Under the newly approved framework, Delhi has eliminated proposed tax exemptions for strong hybrid vehicles to focus entirely on EVs, setting an aggressive timeline to effectively phase out petrol-run bikes. However, vehicle registration data from Gurgaon paints a contrasting picture of adoption across the border.

According to think tank Envirocatalysts, out of the 1,00,675 two-wheelers registered in Gurgaon during financial year (FY) 2025-26, only 2,249 were electric — representing a mere 2.23% share. This figure marks a drop in market share from 2024-25, which saw registration of 87,544 two-wheelers, of which 3,321 were electric — translating to a 3.79 per cent share. The figure for petrol and petrol-ethanol two-wheelers stood at 98,025 in FY 2025-26. Despite the Haryana government also introducing an EV policy in 2022 that offers financial subsidies and tax exemptions to buyers, as earlier reported by The Indian Express, Gurgaon has struggled to match the pace of EV adoption seen in the national capital. In an attempt to address gaps in the charging infrastructure, the Haryana Department of Town and Country Planning on June 5 approved an amendment to the Haryana Building Code, mandating the integration of EV charging infrastructure in all new residential and commercial buildings.

Trump says Iran agrees to forgo nuclear arms



Washington: US President Donald Trump said Iran has agreed not to acquire a nuclear weapon ahead of fresh negotiations in Doha, expressing confidence that the US was making progress both diplomatically and militarily while insisting Tehran would not be allowed to develop nuclear arms.

action against Iran's nuclear programme. "We're winning militarily. It's almost won militarily, I would say," Trump said. He described Washington's objective as straightforward. "It's really very simple; it's the denuclearization of Iran. We don't want them to have a nuclear weapon, and they're not going to have a nuclear weapon, and they've agreed to that, in all fairness," Trump said.

Israeli strikes kill at least 8 in Gaza, including 2 children



Deir-al-Balah (Gaza Strip): Israeli strikes in southern and central Gaza on Monday killed at least eight people, including two children, and wounded at least 20 others, according to health officials and emergency services.

in the strike, hospital officials said. Israel's military said the strike was targeting a militant, but did not immediately name him or say if he was killed.

While the heaviest fighting has subsided since a ceasefire took hold in October, Israeli forces have carried out near-daily strikes, killing 1,045 Palestinians, including more than 360 women and children, according to health officials in Gaza.

Israel-Lebanon deal may entrench stalemate rather than end war, analysts say

BEIRUT, A security deal between Israel and Lebanon risks entrenching a stalemate rather than resolving Israel's underlying conflict with Hezbollah by tying Israel's pullout from southern Lebanon to the Iran-aligned group's disarmament, a condition regional analysts and politicians say is unattainable.

diplomatic legitimacy, he said, describing it as a political "gift" to Israel. The conflict in Lebanon has been a central part of diplomacy towards ending the wider U.S.-Iran war.

With Hezbollah unlikely to disarm, analysts say Israel has political cover to keep an open-ended military presence in southern Lebanon, which it invaded after Hezbollah fired at Israel on March 2 in solidarity with Tehran over the war in Iran.

'BURDEN' PLACED ON LEBANON Political analysts say the imbalance is built into the agreement's design, with sweeping obligations placed on Lebanon but no reciprocal guarantee of Israeli withdrawal.

Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri said it amounted to an 'agreement of dictates, not one that preserves Lebanon's rights' and said it would not be implemented.

Jannik Sinner survives scare to beat Miomir Kecmanovic in Wimbledon opener



London: World No.1 and 2025 winner Jannik Sinner overcame a scary fall and a resilient opponent to launch his Wimbledon title defence with a hard-fought victory, getting past his opponent in five sets in the opening round of men's singles at the All-England Club in London on Monday.

third set was a very tough one to swallow."

Kecmanovic produced an inspired display in the third set that featured an early contender for point of the tournament. Trailing 5/6 in the tie-break, the Serbian stretched Sinner from corner to corner before charging the net, forcing the Italian to dive to the turf and bringing the Centre Court crowd to its feet.

What's driving the deadly heatwave in Europe



Melbourne: Sweltering temperatures are shattering records across Europe, as the continent battles a deadly heatwave. On Tuesday and Wednesday, France endured its hottest days in history, with western regions reaching highs of between 39°C and 43°C.

temperature records, and by such staggering amounts. Tuesday and Wednesday were France's hottest days since records began in 1947, with an average temperature of 29.9°C across the country.

These systems act as "lids" that trap heat and push it closer to the surface. They also disperse clouds to allow more sunlight to stream in. On a broader scale, climate change from the burning of oil, coal and gas is reshaping how and when heatwaves form.

A heatwave occurs when the average temperature is unusually hot for three or more days in a row. That's compared to past weather data taken from the same location. But scientists are losing sleep over the current European heatwave, for two main reasons.

JetBlue pilot reports drone strike near New York's JFK airport



Drones are generally allowed to fly below 400 feet, but the FAA does restrict airspace around airports and public events like the World Cup because of safety concerns.

hit us right above the cockpit." The airline said all the passengers deplaned normally, and then the plane was removed from service so it could be inspected.

Drones are generally allowed to fly below 400 feet, but the FAA does restrict airspace around airports and public events like the World Cup because of safety concerns. Law enforcement officials say that even when a drone pilot is just trying to shoot an overhead video, their presence distracts officers from dealing with other potential threats.

In MLAs' admission of not reading Bill, SAD, BJP find ammo against AAP

'Under house arrest, won't leave without Ram Mandir darshan': UP Congress chief Ajay Rai



The Opposition parties in Punjab on Monday accused the AAP government of mishandling the issue of the Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Act, 2026...

Dhillon also questioned why AAP legislators allegedly sought permission from party convener Arvind Kejriwal before appearing before the Akal Takht Sahib...

sult the Akal Takht before enacting any law related to Sikh religious affairs. In a statement, Warring said an agreement signed in 1959 between then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Akali leader Master Tara Singh had recognised the need to consult the Akal Takht on such matters...



Speaking to The Indian Express, Uttar Pradesh Congress president Ajay Rai alleged that he had been picked up from his hotel and shifted to the Acharya Narendra Dev University guest house...

"I will go on a hunger strike if required, but I won't leave Ayodhya without offering prayers. We wanted to pray before Ram and Lord Hanuman for the way Ayodhya has been defamed because of the greed of some people from the RSS and BJP...

everyone. Now, they are eager to visit Ayodhya. But Lord Ram is Jagat Niyanta, the ruler of the universe; the master of this cosmos. He knows who is right and who is wrong," he said in Rampur...

'If we don't act on the proof against Israel, we can't redeem ourselves': Justice Muralidhar

Last week the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Occupied Palestinian Territory, headed by former Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar, released a report accusing Israel of deliberately targeting children during its military operations in Palestine...



Calling these actions "part of a strategy to destroy the biological continuity and future existence of the Palestinian group in Gaza", the report called for an immediate end to attacks on civilians, unrestricted humanitarian access and reparations for victims...

land. It is the destruction of 97% of all schools and 22 out of 38 universities. It is the bombing of paediatric and neonatal facilities... You also have to look at the rhetoric from the top... Two days after the attack of October 7, 2023, Nissim Vaturi, Deputy Speaker of the Knesset, posted on social media: "Erase Gaza... Do not leave a child there. Expel all the remaining ones... so that they will not have a resurrection..."

What specific evidence led you to conclude that the killing of children in many cases was intentional?

There are two methods Israel deploys. One is intensive airstrikes in densely populated localities using high-yield bombs... You are bound to have severe casualties, (especially of) children... If you are a rights-respecting State, once you see the high child casualties, you would stop... The second method is using a combination of quadcopters, drones and snipers to target children...

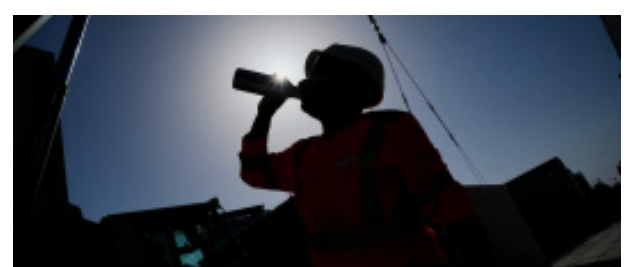
1.5 per cent of basic pay or basic pension to be deducted for EHS for govt employees and pensioners

Hyderabad: The State government on Monday issued orders that 1.5 per cent of basic pay or basic pension would be deducted towards contribution for new Employee Health Care Trust (EHCT) for implementation of the Employees Health Scheme...



Europe's worst heatwave would have been impossible without climate change

This is the third time in five years that Europe finds itself in the grip of an intense heatwave. Similar scenes were witnessed in 2022 and 2023 as well. More than 1,00,000 people are estimated to have died owing to extreme heat in those two years...



Many of the temperature records now being broken in Europe were set in 1976, when the region had experienced an unusually hot summer. Europe experienced its first heatwave of this century in 2003. The study said the 2003 heatwave was nothing in comparison to what the region is witnessing now...

tribution science is a relatively new discipline, developed just over the last two decades. It tries to examine the likelihood of a particular extreme weather event happening if climate change was not taking place. Earlier, it used to take scientists a couple of months, even years, to make this assessment...

Yoga can help break stress-hormone cycle in PMOS, say experts

New Delhi: Yoga and breathing exercises can play a crucial role in managing polyendocrine metabolic ovarian syndrome, previously also known as polycystic ovary syndrome, by helping reduce stress, improve hormonal balance and support metabolic health...

The scientific evidence on climate change is already voluminous and compelling. Still, climate change seems to have dropped a few notches down in the list of global priorities, particularly after Donald Trump took office as US President. The recent G7 meetings, for example, hardly had any climate-related agenda or outcome...

The polyendocrine metabolic ovarian syndrome (PMOS), a condition affecting millions of women worldwide, was renamed in 2026 to reflect its broader impact on multiple endocrine and metabolic systems rather than the ovaries alone...

Experts explained that chronic stress triggers the release of cortisol, a hormone that can worsen insulin resistance, one of the major underlying drivers of PMOS. Increased insulin resistance can lead to higher androgen levels, aggravating symptoms such as acne, irregular periods and weight gain...

A child who survived partition riots to being a High Court judge: 'Even beasts don't behave the way humans did'



"Haivaan bhi aisa bartaaav nahi karte jaisa uss samay insaano ne kia. Kahaan se aayi itni nafrat (Even beasts don't behave the way humans did then. From where did so much hatred come)," says Justice Jagdish Chander Verma (retired), 85. Seventy-eight years since the road to India's independence went through Punjab's heart and Pakistan was born, the pain of a generation that witnessed the Partition riots in 1947 has remained alive, of seeing their Punjab divided and innocents massacred. Sitting at his sector-11 residence in Chandigarh, Verma closes his eyes and a scene that he had witnessed as a child at his birthplace Mianwali (now in West Punjab, Pakistan) still makes him tremble.

A drop of a tear appears in the corner of his eye, as he says: "A child in our neighbourhood in Mianwali was attacked and the rioters hammered an iron nail into his head. I don't know from where so much of hatred came suddenly. I used to wonder as a child then. I still do. Mobs were attacking and had to leave Mianwali even as my mother Dayawanti never wanted to. Till her last breath in 1973, she was hopeful of going back and revisiting our home. I wish I could go back in time and take her." Just two when he lost his father and seven when he migrated from Mianwali to Ferozepur on Indian side during the partition with his mother and siblings, Verma, a child who survived the horrifying partition riots, rose on to become a High Court judge. After migration to India, he and his siblings did odd jobs in their childhood for survival - from cutting and selling wood from jungles to selling groundnuts, and later he also worked as a proof reader at a press and a clerk at Punjab Secretariat, Chandigarh. For majority years of his service as High Court judge since 1996, he was posted in Rajasthan. After retirement, he is still serving in Lok Adalat at Chandigarh.

Verma's father Khillu Ram, a class A officer of the "Railways Claims Tribunal", died in October 1942 during the lathicharge on anti-British "Quit India Movement" protesters in Karachi, and the family then shifted from Sindh's Sukkur (where father was posted) to their hometown Mianwali. "In Mianwali where my grandparents lived, we had a palatial bungalow in Mohalla Gausghala and at least 100 acres of land. There were at least five staffers to help my mother in domestic chores. Abhi bhi naksha saamne aata hai (I still get the map of Mianwali in front of my eyes). Whenever I meet someone from Pakistan, I ask if Mohalla Gausghala still exists and they say it does," says Verma. Even after India gained independence on August 15, 1947 and Pakistan was born as a separate, Muslim-majority country, Verma says his family had no plans to leave Mianwali until September that year as "their colony seemed peaceful." "It was perhaps September 27 or 28 when the worst happened. A mob of at least 10,000 attacked Mianwali and surprisingly there wasn't a single local face. Local Muslims never attacked us, in fact they saved us. It was our family friend Mustafa Khan who stood as shield in our street and did not let rioters enter. He used to consider my mother as his sister. Thousands of Sikhs and Hindus were killed by rioters in Mianwali and it became our majaboori (compulsion) to leave. An Army truck evacuated my family but unfortunately I was left be-

hind. I then jumped into another truck and what I saw still makes me tremble. The truck was full of corpses, one on another. The truck did not stop anywhere before it arrived at a place where a huge pit was dug probably to dispose them," says Verma. After reuniting with his mother and siblings at a refugee camp, Verma says they took a goods train to reach India, but the journey which shouldn't have taken more than 9-10 hours, took more than five days.

"The train did not move for four days from a station Lalamusa (now in Pakistan) as rioters were ready for massacre on the way. Rioters would sit on trees with guns and open fire on moving trains. We were instructed to keep our heads down to dodge bullets. At Lahore station, rioters were standing with swords but train was rushed with great speed and it only stopped after reaching Attari," he remembers. Verma says he cannot forget the moment when he had snatched some chapatis from the hands of a Sikh man at Attari railway station. "So hungry I was that I snatched the chapatis he was holding. He hugged me and said 'it's for you only.' I can never forget that hug. He then gave me more food for my mother and siblings. Even during those horrifying times, Sikhs were doing sewa. I can never repay his debt," says Verma. But the worst was yet to come, as fatherless Verma and his siblings initiated efforts to rebuild their lives in India, brick by brick. The family moved to Ferozepur where his elder sister was married, and it's in Ferozepur "his mother faced the hardest times." "Imagine how you would feel when you see your mother working as a domestic help in others' houses when she herself had five household staff in Mianwali. We lived in Mohalla Ganga Mandir Bansi Gate in Ferozepur and my mother started washing utensils and clothes in other houses to feed us. I always wished to return her the comfort she had when my father was alive. As a child I used to accompany her sometimes to the houses where she worked and they would give me some food out of sympathy," says Verma.

Later in 1955, the family got to know that they had been allotted a chunk of land as government aid in Saidpur (now in Haryana's Yamunanagar district), and they moved from Ferozepur. "I started doing whatever I could to ease my mother's pain. I started cutting wood from jungles and sell in nearby towns. Whatever I could earn, an anna or a rupee from that wood mattered a lot for us," says Verma, who then cleared matric (class 10) from Hindu AS Senior Secondary School, Sadhaura, and also bagged a scholarship. But even then Verma had to leave his studies in midway due to lack of money. "The representatives from DAV College, Ambala, came to our village and told my mother that they would exempt tuition fee and provide free books but we had to pay admission and hostel fee which was not more than Rs 100. But we had no money," he remembers. "I did not pursue science considering the expenses and instead opted for Faculty of Arts (FA) and took advantage of the relaxation given to refugees by Panjab University to attempt BA/FA via distance education. After clearing FA, I saw an advertisement for the post of clerk in Punjab Secretariat, Chandigarh, and applied. I was 17. I got the job and my first salary was Rs 100. My mother just cried. Then I also completed my BA while working as clerk in the office of then Punjab CM Partap Singh Kairon in 1957," he adds. Verma then joined the evening classes in PU's law department in 1962 and started practicing as an advocate in 1964. He fought hundreds of cases for the underprivileged pro bono, before being elevated as a high court judge in 1996 and retiring in 2002. "When someone asks me if I wish to return to Pakistan, I say no I don't want to live there even for a day but yes, I do wish to see my home in Mianwali once. It was my mother's wish. Someone told me Mohalla Gausghala still exists. I still think why were we displaced? Even if partition had to happen, why we killed each other?," he asks.

The State of Madras broke into unbounded joy a day before independence in 1947

Roll back 78 years to August 15, 1947, the day when India gained independence from the British. Madras awoke to the dawn in a sea of flags, music, and unrestrained joy as the capital city, much like the rest of the nation, celebrated the free India with patriotic fervour. From Mount Road (now Anna Salai) to the lanes of Mylapore, the air was filled with the sound of drums, conchs, and patriotic songs. Every street corner bore witness to the moment that generations had dreamt of. Reports published by The Hindu in August 1947 shed light on the gala celebrations in the capital. Preparations had begun well before the ceremonial transfer of power on August 15. Nearly two weeks earlier, the Corporation of Madras started making elaborate arrangements. Mayor T. Sundararao Naidu appealed to citizens to whitewash their houses and decorate them in the best manner possible. Plans were made for processions of children from Corporation schools along the main streets of each division. Lighting arrangements tested in the city's business areas, merchants competed to outshine one another in decorating their premises. The finishing touches were given on the evening of August 14 and the testing of lighting arrangements offered members of the public an early glimpse into how Madras would sparkle that night. The Hindu had deputed a correspondent to tour the city on the evening of August 14 and witness its transformation. "While the National Flag will be hoisted over Government buildings only early in the morning [of August 15, 1947], the commercial houses in the city had the flag hoisted over their buildings by last evening," a report said. Mount Road, Mambalam, Mylapore, and Triplicane glittered with lights and colour. In George Town, the press of sightseers brought the traffic to a crawl, and the police struggled to regulate the flow of pedestrians and vehicles. Such was the enthusiasm that it was hard to find a single person without a National Flag, the report said. As night fell on August 14, the excitement reached its peak. Thousands of residents sat by community radios, listening to the Constituent Assembly proceedings in New Delhi. The streets came alive with torchlight processions. Marchers, carrying the Tricolour, moved to the beat of drums, chanting 'Vande Mataram' and 'Mahatma Gandhi Ki Jai'. At street corners and on residential lanes, people stood in groups exchanging greetings. When the midnight chimes signalled the birth of Free India, the sound was echoed in temple bells and the deep notes of conchs and trumpets. The resonant strains of 'Vande Mataram', sung by Sucheta Kripalani in New Delhi, reached Madras through



the All India Radio broadcast. The morning's first official function was the swearing-in of the Governor and the Ministers at Fort St. George. At 9 a.m., the Prime Minister (as the Chief Minister was then known), O.P. Ramaswami Reddiar, and his colleagues, except for P. Subbaroyan who was in Delhi, assembled in the Cabinet Room. Sir Archibald Nye, the Governor of Madras, arrived with Chief Justice of the Madras High Court Sir Frederick Gentle. The Chief Justice administered the Oath of Allegiance to the Governor, who in turn swore each Minister in. Outside the chamber, members of the public, who had free access to the Secretariat precincts, crowded in to catch a glimpse of the ceremony. Overnight, the Union Jack had been hauled down the flagstaff of the Fort, and at dawn, the Tricolour was hoisted. The flag that was hoisted on this day, measuring 3.5 metres in length and 2.4 metres in width, is preserved at Fort St. George Museum. The celebrations unfolded in a grand manner elsewhere in the city. At Banqueting Hall, Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy presided over a large gathering of women. Freedom fighter Rukmani Lakshminipathi hoisted the National Flag. The hall rang with national songs rendered by D.K. Pattammal, including her much-loved Aaduvome Pallu Paaduvome. Parade at Island Grounds At the Island Grounds that evening, one of the largest crowds ever seen in the city gathered for the Independence Day Parade. From a saluting base near the statue of Sir Thomas Munroe, the Governor of Madras hoisted the Tricolour and took the salute. At the Ripon Buildings, the headquarters of the Corporation of Madras, a decorated procession arrived from Fort St. George, led by caparisoned elephants and camels, followed by Boy Scouts. In the lead came Minister for Local Administration K. Chandramouli and Deputy Mayor T.G. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, carrying a special flag gifted by Chandramouli to the Corporation.

At the crossroads: on TCS layoffs



Kavya (name changed), one month pregnant and mother to a five-year-old, unexpectedly found herself unemployed after an alleged instance of forced resignation by her former employer, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). Presented with only two options — resignation or termination — after being called in for a discussion with the HR, she was compelled to choose resignation, completely against her will, she says. Another former employee, who was undergoing training for a client's project, received communication that the project team had been asked to release him. Later, he was called in for a one-on-one discussion with the HR, who asked him to tender his resignation or face termination. Only recently married, the incident has put him under severe pressure. Yet another allegation comes from a former employee who claims to have received zero support from his superiors despite providing documentation and hospitalisation records for his medical condition. According to him, he was forced to resign in the last week of July, and his last working day was declared as the same day, without any notice period or transition support.

Allegations of forced resignations against TCS, and the company's recent announcement that it would be releasing 2% of its global workforce, have sent shockwaves across the 20 lakh IT/TeS workforce in Karnataka. Many feel that what is happening at the TCS, once known for its employee-friendly policies and stable jobs, is an indication of bigger disruptions to come. They fear that soon more companies will follow suit, leading to a churn within the \$260 billion industry, whose wheels are turned by one of the largest labour forces in the country. The Indian IT/TeS worker is no stranger to layoffs and retrenchments. However, it rarely proved to be the end of careers for anyone. But what is happening now seems to be more structural than a temporary phenomenon, many feel. "The problem currently seems to be in the middle layer. The layer which is now old in terms of technology and was purely doing people management will be the most impacted." Biswajeet Mahapatra, a representative of Forrester. Earlier, layoffs used to happen because overall the markets were not doing well, or there was a dullness in the economic sector. But now the layoffs are happening because there's a paradigm shift in the IT industry itself," says Biswajeet Mahapatra of Forrester. It was on July 27 that TCS issued an internal circular announcing its plans to release around 12,000 employees in its mid to senior levels. Two days later, on July 29, came a statement from the industry body NASSCOM, which observed that the tech industry is at an inflection point. "Over the next several months, we anticipate some transitions as organisations pivot toward product-aligned delivery models, driven by rising client expectations around agility, innovation, and speed. This shift is likely to reshape traditional service delivery frameworks and, in the near term, may lead to some workforce rationalisation as traditional skillsets are re-evaluated," said the statement from the company which highlighted AI and automation as the reason.

Macro headwinds, such as wars and U.S. president Donald Trump's tariffs, have dampened the overall demand and reduced the discretionary spending of large enterprises across the globe, says Kamal Karanth, co-founder of Xpheno, a specialist staffing company. Added to this are the global layoffs by tech giants themselves. "Large product companies like Google, Microsoft, Amazon and Meta and many others put together have also laid off about 1.2 lakh employees in the last two years. Indian IT Services companies have had a large exposure to these brands, which has also reduced their wallet share," Mr. Karanth notes. According to him, the rise of freelancers or gig platforms, which now have reached a revenue of close to \$7 billion and are growing at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 19% is eating away at the technology spend of American and European enterprises.

While the FAANG (Meta - formerly Facebook, Amazon, Apple, Netflix and Google) shed their weight in the U.S., in India they added the net staff at their Global Capability Centres in India. This meant that a lot of work which would have otherwise gone to the Indian companies now started flowing to the in-house GCCs. India hosts around 1,700 GCCs, with Bengaluru accounting for around 29% of them. This roughly translates to more than 450 GCCs that pose stiff competition to the services companies in Bengaluru. The AI effect Historically, most Indian IT and ITeS companies, such as Infosys, TCS, Wipro and others, followed a linear growth model where revenue growth was closely tied to headcount growth. Hiring more employees meant the ability to take up more projects and earn more revenue. The labour-intensive companies benefitted immensely from the cost arbitrage. However, at a recent report launch by EY and NASSCOM, where representatives from companies such as Infosys participated, there seemed to be consensus that the industry is looking at a future where growth would be decoupled from headcount, thanks to AI and automation. Global clients who expect cost efficiency and automation have been mounting pressure on the Indian services companies. "The IT spending is not increasing because there's confusion in the international market due to external reasons. There is also the expectation of AI to do a lot of the jobs for which people were employed earlier. Many companies have almost removed the bench strength," notes Mr. Mahapatra. Notably, TCS recently introduced a bench policy restricting the duration of hours on the bench for an employee to 35 days annually. There have been allegations that the forced resignations are mostly targeted at employees on the bench. "Earlier employees on the bench were considered a strength as it meant the company had people readily available to take on newer projects. But that is changing now," notes a mid-management TCS employee, who didn't want to be named. Karnataka State IT/TeS Employees Union (KITU), which currently has an active membership of 12,000 employees, feels AI is often used as an excuse for layoffs. "As per our understanding, AI in the Indian IT sector still hasn't reached a stage where it would result in the elimination of job roles," Suhas Adiga, KITU general secretary

"As per our understanding, AI in the Indian IT sector

still hasn't reached a stage where it would result in the elimination of job roles. What companies are doing is profit maximisation by laying off people in the mid to senior management who earn relatively higher salaries," says Suhas Adiga, general secretary of KITU. "If AI is coming for multiple job roles, why are the layoffs targeting only mid-management roles? If it was the impact of AI, shouldn't roles at various levels have been affected?" he questions. Mr. Karanth too notes that the disruption due to AI has been minimal. "Take the example of TCS alone. Last year, the attrition was 12.5%. On a base of 6 lakh people, about 75,000 people exited the company. But if you look at their head count now, they are almost back at the same level, which means they have replaced almost everyone who exited. That means there is no impact of AI yet," he notes. A mid layer problem TCS's layoff announcement, unprecedented and uncharacteristically loud, has got the industry talking. Many fear that it will have a snowball effect and more companies will follow suit. "The problem currently seems to be in the middle layer," notes Mahapatra. "The layer which is now old in terms of technology and was purely doing people management will be the most impacted." According to Mr. Karanth, there are about 5 lakh people with more than 15 years of experience in the top six IT services companies in India. These consist of tech experts, domain experts, client experts and team managers. While companies have seen 12% to 17% attrition in the junior level (1 to 4 years of experience), in the mid to senior level, it has been only 4%. At the time of stress, the axe comes for the people managers. "As per our understanding, when about a lakh people get hired yearly, about 15,000 get laid off yearly. These layoffs at junior levels don't impact the industry much, as people will quickly find new jobs. But in the case of TCS, most of the people who are being targeted now have been there for years. It is difficult for them to find new projects for their skillsets," Mr. Adiga says. More layoffs

Amid all the din and beyond the semantics of 'rationalising', 'transitions' and 'inflection points', what seems to be clear is that layoffs would continue. According to layoffs.fyi, 80,945 tech employees have been laid off by 179 tech companies across the globe in 2025. In Bengaluru alone, the number stands at 33,294.

"There's a lot of confusion and my expectation is that the layoffs will continue," says Mr. Mahapatra. "Some may happen openly, some may happen behind the scenes. AI may be used by many organisations as a pretext to do the layoffs and trimming, even if both are not connected." What makes it a double whammy is that the industry is not only expected to see more layoffs, but is also looking at a hiring slowdown. "An anticipation of AI disruption to rule based repeatable tasks like testing and similar skills has put the IT Services companies in a cautionary mode on hiring," notes Mr. Karanth, who also feels that the hiring slowdown also needs to be seen in the context of the sluggish performance of the top ITeS companies in the stock market for almost a year.

What does all this mean for the Indian IT worker?

For those who lost their jobs, it could mean uncertainty and stress. For the freshers and juniors workforce, a chance at new AI roles. For the existing workforce, reskilling and even added work pressure at times. "IT industry runs on a shortage of about 6 lakh employees as per their own estimates. Every project runs on a shortage of 2 to 3 people and that is why people are being forced to work overtime without pay. But the companies are able to get away with it as the government is not holding them accountable," says Mr. Adiga. KITU has filed an Industrial Disputes case against TCS for alleged forced resignations and mass retrenchments. The Labour Department has initiated conciliatory meetings and has reportedly asked the company to maintain status quo by invoking Section 33 of the Industrial Disputes Act. The net count After accounting for both the elimination of redundant roles and the creation of new AI-augmented positions, what is going to be the net impact on employment compared to today? "I think the net count will be negative," says Mr. Mahapatra. According to him, as AI becomes more streamlined, new roles will emerge, but the industry may not create mass job opportunities like it used to. While reskilling is one of the ways to address the problem, creation of AI-related roles in sectors apart from IT & ITeS is another, he notes. "The strength lies in building our own products. We cannot depend only on IT companies. There are areas such as manufacturing, automobiles, aviation, defence, space and aerospace where AI can do wonders and AI-augmented job roles can open up."

The fading allure The role of the IT industry in the rise of the Indian middle class and their upward social mobility in the last two decades is undeniable. But Mahapatra feels the allure of the industry may fade going forward. "Earlier, many people who didn't understand or like programming would still get into IT because there is money in it. But now it is becoming mainstream. In the coming days, people who have an affinity for IT technologies, data, data sciences and AI will get into it. IT is not going to be that flashy green Mercedes car on the road which everybody would want to ride, it will be just another regular car." But an immediate turbulence seems imminent. Given that the industry has been absorbing around 2 lakh people every year on average, even a reduction of 10 to 20% is going to send waves across the job market. Law enforcement paramount To keep the upheaval under check, law enforcement with regard to labour rights in the industry should be stricter, say employees and unions.

An RTI document reveals how the Karnataka government renewed the exemption from Standing Orders for the sector despite a dissent note from the labour department that highlighted multiple violations by the companies. Saurabh Bhattacharjee, co-director, Centre for Labour Studies, NLSIU, notes that even the laws that apply to the sector have not been enforced in the strictest manner. However, he notes that Karnataka is not an exception and most States show a reluctance to implement labour laws strictly when it comes to IT services. "If you are in India, a job in IT is not much of a choice, but more or less the only option for the masses for upward social mobility; Because where else is the job?" asks Mr. Adiga, stressing on the unemployment indices in the country. "The need to regulate this sector is, hence, paramount. It cannot continue to be lawless at the expense of employees for long. Not regulating the sector means leaving one of the largest labour forces in the country in uncertainty."

Ajay Devgn's Chauhaan faces Kshatriya Parishad ire over 'weaponisation of Rajput history'



Days after the makers officially announced director Neeraj Yadav's Ajay Devgn-starrer Chauhaan with an action-packed teaser, the movie has run into a new controversy with the Kshatriya Parishad coming down heavily on the alleged 'weaponisation of Rajput history and appropriation of Rajput identities'. The organisation has described that such attempts are for "electoral or ideological purposes." Strongly condemning the makers' attempts to "appropriate" the Chauhan clan name for "contemporary communal politics," the Kshatriya Parishad pointed out, "Chauhans are a historic Rajput (Kshatriya) lineage whose legacy belongs to history, not to partisan campaigns or manufactured media controversies."

In a statement shared on social media, the organisation called it "deeply unfortunate" that the Rajput identity was yet again "being dragged into a political narrative" which, the Parishad pointed out, "Rajputs neither initiated nor sought." The organisation added, "At a time when Rajput voices remain underrepresented in mainstream media and public discourse, invoking a Rajput clan name merely to provoke outrage, inflame caste and communal sentiments, or generate political spectacle is both irresponsible and disrespectful." Maintaining that such representations highlight an "ignorance of Indian history," the organisation noted that the Indian subcontinent's past "cannot be reduced to simplistic communal binaries." The Kshatriya Parishad further listed examples of occasions when the Afghans and Rajputs fought alongside one another. "Mahmud Lodi fought under the leadership of

Maharana Sanga at the Battle of Khanwa; Hakim Khan Sur commanded a contingent in the army of Maharana Pratap at Haldighati; Farid Khan, who later became Sher Shah Suri, is traditionally associated with military service under Raja Raisal Shekhawat in his early career; and Maharaja Vikramaditya Tomar laid down his life fighting alongside the Lodi forces in the First Battle of Panipat," the organisation noted. "These episodes illustrate that medieval political alliances were shaped by statecraft, loyalty, and military strategy — not by the communal narratives being imposed upon them today," they said, adding, "Kshatriya Parishad rejects every attempt to weaponise Rajput history or appropriate Rajput identities for electoral or ideological purposes. Historical memory must not become a tool for communal mobilisation. We call upon political actors, filmmakers, and media organisations to engage with India's past responsibly, respecting historical complexity rather than exploiting Rajput heritage as bait for divisive political debate." We strongly condemn the attempt by Neeraj Yadav and Ajay Devgn's upcoming film Chauhaan to appropriate the Chauhan clan name for contemporary communal politics. The latest controversy follows the criticisms Chauhaan's teaser received soon after its release, due to certain dialogues and insinuations in that many found problematic.

While the promotional video's depiction of the Kashmir conflict largely received criticism, many came down even more ferociously on it for the dialogue that pellet guns leave only "minimal damage." Many, including actor Swara Bhasker, stepped forward to condemn the teaser for such remarks, which they found insensitive. Ajay's voiceover dialogue, "Tell the Pathans, Chauhaan is coming," also faced massive backlash, with many alleging that the line vilified Muslims in general and was further worsened by the portrayal of Chauhaan, a Rajput, as coming to give "answers." Along with a news report on the adverse effects of being attacked with pellet guns, Swara wrote on social media, "Is this what you want to glorify Bollywood? Pellet guns are not 'limited damage,' they are a gross human rights violation. And mainstream Kashmiris are not Pathans. Kuch toh research kar liya karo yaar. And look up Goebbels while you are at it!" She captioned the post, "The Vivek Agnihotri-fication of Bollywood."

'Rather have 5 joyous years than 15 miserable ones': Zeenat Aman on live-in relationships

Veteran actress Zeenat Aman has consistently advocated for live-in relationships, arguing that couples should spend time living together before making a life-long legal commitment. Her views have sparked criticism from several of her contemporaries, including Mumtaz and Saira Banu. Despite the backlash, Zeenat continues to stand by her belief. In a recent conversation with Shubra Aiyappa, Zeenat explained why she feels live-in relationships are more relevant than ever.

"In today's day and age—and even in the past—nothing lasts forever. You need to ensure compatibility before making a legal commitment. This is my view. You need to know whether you're compatible mentally and emotionally. If you're planning to have children, how will you raise them? What are your views on finances? If there is no compatibility, what's the point? Wouldn't you rather have five joyous years instead of fifteen miserable ones? That's what I believe," she said. Elaborating further, the actress added, "People think romance is going to last forever. Nothing lasts forever. Relationships are always a work in progress. There has to be give and take, adjustment and compromise if things are to work. Relationships evolve. If you think the honeymoon phase is going to last forever, it doesn't."

Zeenat Aman has previously revealed that she gives the same advice to her sons, encouraging them to live with their partners before deciding on marriage. Her perspective is also shaped by her own difficult experiences with relationships. She was briefly married to Sanjay Khan, a relationship that ended amid allegations of physical abuse after an infamous incident in a hotel room, during which she sustained serious injuries to one of her eyes. She later married actor Mazhar Khan, but the marriage was also troubled. Zeenat has previously spoken about infidelity during her pregnancy and the unhappy end to their relationship. Earlier, Zeenat Aman had faced intense criticism after sharing her views on live-in relationships in an Instagram post. One of you asked me for relationship advice in the comments section of my last post. Here's a personal opinion I haven't previously shared—if you're in a relationship, I strongly recommend that you LIVE TOGETHER before getting married!" she wrote.



She added, "This is the same advice I've always given my sons, both of whom have had, or are in, a live-in relationship. It just seems logical to me that before two people get their families and the government involved in their equation, they first put their relationship to the ultimate test." Explaining her reasoning, Zeenat continued, "It's easy to be the best version of yourself for a few hours a day. But can you share a bathroom? Weather the storm of a bad mood? Agree on what to eat for dinner every night? Keep the fire alive in the bedroom? Work through the million tiny conflicts that inevitably arise between two people living in close proximity? In short—are you actually compatible?" Acknowledging that her opinion could spark controversy, she concluded, "I'm aware that Indian society is a little uptight about 'living in sin,' but then again, society is uptight about so many things! Log kya kahenge?" Her remarks, however, did not sit well with Saira Banu, who strongly disagreed with the advice. "She has all of a sudden come into this huge social media popularity, and I can understand her excitement about sounding like a cool aunty. But giving advice that is counter to our moral values is not the solution to increasing your following. Aap Zeenat ko hi le lo misaal ke taur par (Take Zeenat for example). She knew Mazhar Khan for years before marrying him."

'The Angry Birds Movie 3' trailer introduces Red as a father

It offered a fresh glimpse into the next chapter of the animated franchise. The trailer teases a new storyline that pushes Red into unfamiliar territory, introducing unexpected challenges and a new family dynamic that adds a fresh twist to the beloved character's journey. Paramount Pictures shared the trailer, poster, and first-look images of the upcoming film on Instagram and wrote, "Parenthood is a game-changer. Watch the new trailer for The #AngryBirdsMovie3 — only in theatres December 23."

Having previously taken on the green pigs and protected Bird Island, Red now faces his biggest challenge yet—fatherhood. The Angry Birds Movie 3 brings in a fresh family dynamic that places him in completely unfamiliar territory. As he struggles to adjust to the demands of parenthood, he is also drawn into a global mission, discovering that being a hero at home can be just as demanding as saving the world.

Produced by John Cohen, Dan Chuba, Carla Connor, and Namit Malhotra, the film is directed by John Rice from a screenplay by Thurup Van Orman. The star-studded voice cast features Jason Sudeikis, Josh Gad, Emma Myers, Rachel Bloom, Walker Scobell, Danny McBride, Marcello Hernández, Tim Robinson, Anna Cathcart, Maitreyi Ramakrishnan, Nikki Glaser, MrBeast, Salish Matter, Psalm West, Sam Richardson, and James



Austin Johnson, with Lily James and Keke Palmer. The upcoming installment in the animated franchise is based on the hugely popular Rovio game series. The new film sees Jason Sudeikis return as Red, who is now up against an entirely different challenge—fatherhood. As per the official synopsis, "one angry bird will face his greatest challenge yet, surviving fatherhood... while saving the world!" The Angry Birds Movie 3 will release in India in English and Hindi on 1 January 2027.

'Infidelity not a deal breaker': Ram Kapoor says wife was okay with his on-screen kiss



TV actor Ram Kapoor has failed to make a good first impression on Lock Upp: Sach Ya Sazaa. Right from day one on the show, he has been in the news for his entitled behaviour and inappropriate comments, with other contestants often calling him out. In the latest episode as well, Ram Kapoor's opinions were met with strong opposition. In the first instance, Madhuri Grover said it was not okay for wives to see their husbands kiss another woman on screen, with an irritated Ram Kapoor strongly disagreeing. He also said cheating in a marriage is not a deal breaker, with Akanksha Chamola protesting to his comments. On the latest episode of Lock Upp: Sach Ya Sazaa, Ram Kapoor stirred a serious discussion with his views on infidelity. When Shreya Kalra asked, "You know your partner cheated on you, so what is the solution? Do you explore other options because you don't feel the same connection?" This discussion stemmed from Harshad Chopda's confession that his girlfriend cheated on him with his best friend. Sharing his views, Ram Kapoor said, "No, you have to find the connection again." He further added, "If you really love your partner, nothing is a deal breaker. Marriage is hard, and it's a journey. You have to work at it every day. Sometimes, after 20-25 years, you have highs and lows, good and bad periods. In the bad phase, if one partner makes a mistake and ends up cheating, and you can't live without them or the children, and want the best for the family, then time heals everything, and nothing is a deal breaker." Akanksha Chamola op-

posed him and said, "This doesn't happen by mistake; being physically intimate is a process. You cannot say it's a mistake." The conversation will be screen in the episode tonight. Ram Kapoor on Gautami supporting his on-screen kiss: Last year, the Bade Acche Lagte Hai actor shared in an interview with Siddharth Kannan that he was uncomfortable kissing on screen in the show. Ram had also accepted he hadn't informed his wife Gautami about the kiss and how she reacted. Earlier this year, in an interview, Gautami Kapoor also recalled that she banged the phone on Ram when he informed her about the kiss. In an interview with Siddharth Kannan, Gautami Kapoor had said, "It was 2:30 am when he called, I was a mother who was breastfeeding at that time. So my first reaction was hanging up on him. I was like 'What?' I hung up. I didn't even want to think further. As the night progressed, I thought more about it and realized that these are just actors who are doing their jobs and that a television set is a chaotic place with no place for romance. I thought, 'Why am I putting him in such a tight spot?' In the morning, when he came back home, I only hugged him." On the latest episode of Lock Upp, when Madhuri Grover discussed that it was not okay for a star wife to see her husband kiss on screen, Ram Kapoor got irritated and said, "I disagree, I will give you my wife's number, and you can talk to her." He further discussed how wives feel or react to such scenes and said, "It's not easy at all, but we make our wives feel so loved and secure; it's our responsibility to make them feel safe. I have kissed three different actresses on screen, all three times Gautami has never had an issue. She has happily said yes every time because I make her feel comfortable and in love, so she doesn't need to bother about it. She knows it's my job, and I call myself a professional. I did Indian television's first lip-to-lip kiss with Sakshi Tanwar. It became a huge controversy. The way Gautami told me, 'make me proud', I knew she was happy that her husband was making history." Lock Upp: Sach Ya Sazaa streams on Netflix India every Saturday to Wednesday at 8 pm. The show has been getting a great response and has also been trending at number one on Netflix India.

'He started bleeding': Kayadu Lohar recalls hitting her harasser with stone as a student

Kayadu Lohar is one of those rare actors who has managed to make a strong impression on audiences across various languages in a short span of time, and that too with just a handful of films. In a career spanning about five years, she has appeared in only eight movies but already ranks as a star in South India and is slated to play key roles in several major under-production projects. During a recent interview, Kayadu took a trip down memory lane and opened up about an instance when she faced street sexual harassment as a student. Although she ignored it on the first two days, the actor shared that she reacted strongly on the third day, even injuring one of the harassers. "When I was in school, I used to go for these Grade 10 classes (tuition) near my house. En route, there were these boys who eve-teased me. On the first day, I was like, 'Okay, fine, forget it.' I reacted the same on the second day, too. But, on the third day, I just couldn't take it," she shared during a conversation with Galatta Tamil. For the unversed, eve-teasing is a colloquial term used in India — which has received significant criticism over the years for being tone-deaf — referring to the act of making unwanted sexual remarks or advances in a public place. The Pallichattambi star added, "I was so agitated and angry. I picked up a stone and threw it at them, breaking the head of one of them. He started bleeding, and I left from there. I don't know what happened next, but... very violent... I don't think you can pick up a stone and break



someone's head. But that's what I felt, and that's what I did. I have always been the kind of girl who might look quiet. But when someone does wrong things, I don't think one should be quiet. You should give it back." Kayadu Lohar is currently gearing up for the release of director Aakash Baskaran's Atharvaa-led Idhayam Murali and Mariyappan Chinna's GV Prakash Kumar-led Immortal. While Idhayam Murali will hit the screens on July 10, Immortal is eyeing July 23 release. She also has Dulquer Salmaan's I'm Game, Prithviraj Sukumaran's Khalifa, and Nani's The Paradise in the pipeline.

Ramayana is IMDb's most-awaited film of 2026, King and Alpha make it to top five

The year is halfway through, and while the first half was largely dominated by tentpole announcements and major releases such as Ranveer Singh's Dhurandhar: The Revenge, Sunny Deol's Border 2, and Akshay Kumar's Bhoot Bangla, all eyes are now on the second half of 2026, which is packed with several big-ticket releases starring some of the biggest names in Indian cinema. Keeping that in mind, IMDb has unveiled its Most Anticipated Indian Movies list for the second half of 2026, and as expected, it is topped by Ranbir Kapoor's highly anticipated Ramayana: Part 1. The list reflects the titles that drew the most page views from IMDb's 250 million-plus monthly visitors worldwide between January 1 and June 28, 2026. Directed by Nitesh Tiwari and backed by Namit Malhotra, the film is the first part of a two-part epic saga. It stars Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama, Yash as Ravana, Sai Pallavi as Sita, and Sunny Deol as Hanuman. The film is eagerly awaited not only because it brings one of India's greatest mythological epics to the big screen, but also because of its landmark musical collaboration between AR Rahman and Hans Zimmer.

At number two is Alia Bhatt's upcoming spy actioner Alpha. Directed by Shiv Rawail, the film also stars Sharvari, Bobby Deol, and Anil Kapoor. It is the latest instalment in YRF's Spy Universe, following films such as Pathaan, Tiger 3, and War 2. Yash's much-awaited Toxic, which has faced multiple delays, ranks third on the list. Directed by Geetu Mohandas, the period gangster actioner boasts an ensemble cast featuring Nayanthara, Kiara Advani, Huma Qureshi, Tara Sutaria, and Rukmini Vasanth. Shah Rukh Khan is also set to make his big-screen comeback after a gap of three years with Siddharth Anand's actioner King, which marks the theatrical debut of his daughter Suhana Khan. The film also stars Deepika Padukone, Jaideep Ahlawat, Arshad Warsi, Saurabh Shukla, Jackie Shroff, Anil Kapoor, Raghav Juyal, Abhay Verma, and Rani Mukerji. Scheduled for a Christmas 2026 release, King occupies the fourth spot on the list. At number five is the comedy-drama Dhamaal 4 which aims to build on the success of the popular franchise. The film features a large ensemble cast led by Ajay Devgn, Riteish Deshmukh, Arshad Warsi, Jaaved Jaaferi, Ravi Kishan, Sanjay Mishra, Upendra Limaye, Anjali Anand, Sanjeeda Shaikh, and Esha Gupta.

Drishyam 3 Ajay Devgn appears again at number six



At number two is Alia Bhatt's upcoming spy actioner Alpha. Directed by Shiv Rawail, the film also stars Sharvari, Bobby Deol, and Anil Kapoor. It is the latest instalment in YRF's Spy Universe, following films such as Pathaan, Tiger 3, and War 2.

with the highly anticipated sequel Drishyam 3, which revisits his iconic character Vijay Salgaonkar as he once again fights to protect his family while confronting the consequences of his past. At number seven is the Tamil film Vishwanath and Sons, starring Suriya. The film follows a man who has devoted decades to excellence as an international shooter. When age, family responsibilities, and an unexpected romance begin to clash with his ambitions, he is forced to confront what truly makes life worth living. At number eight is the surprise entrant Mizrapur: The Movie, which brings the hit streaming franchise to the big screen. The original cast, including Pankaj Tripathi, Divyendu, Ali Fazal, Abhishek Banerjee, and Kulbhushan Kharbanda, reunites for what will be the first cinematic adaptation of an Indian web series following its digital success. At number nine is Priyadarshan's Haiwaan, which reunites Akshay Kumar and Saif Ali Khan. The thriller features Saif in the role of a visually impaired man and has already generated considerable curiosity among audiences. Rounding off the top 10 is Shradha Kapoor's Eetha. The film's teaser, released recently, received significant attention.