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Nara Lokesh lays stone for construction of ROB in Nidamarru of Mangalagiri



(king Reporter)Nara Lokesh on Wednesday alongside Union Minister Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, laid the foundation stone for the construction of a Railway Over Bridge (ROB) at the Nidamarru Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education and IT Nara Lokesh on Wednesday alongside Union Minister Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, laid the foundation stone for the construction of a Railway Over Bridge (ROB) at the Nidamarru railway level crossing and unveiled the commemorative plaque. Earlier, party leaders, activists, and the public accorded a grand welcome to Minister Lokesh and MP Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar upon their arrival at the Mangalagiri-Nidamarru road. An ROB will be constructed at the Nidamarru railway level crossing at a cost of Rs 142 crore, serving as a vital link connecting Mangalagiri to the capital city of Amaravati and the Tadikonda constituency. For decades, the railway level

crossing on this route had caused significant inconvenience to commuters. Minister Lokesh took the initiative to secure approval for the railway over bridge as a permanent solution to this problem. Once completed, the ROB will facilitate smoother travel between the Nidamarru, Mangalagiri, Tadikonda, and Amaravati areas. Travel time will be significantly reduced for residents of Bethapudi, Nidamarru, Kuragallu, and Neerukonda villages—all within the Mangalagiri constituency—when traveling from Mangalagiri town. The ROB at the Nidamarru railway level crossing will be constructed at a height of 10 meters above the railway tracks, with a total length of 767.50 meters. A four-lane road will be constructed on the bridge. Including the service roads, the total width of the Road Over Bridge (ROB) will be 28 meters. Numerous officials, alliance leaders, party workers, and members of the public participated in the event in large numbers.

Hundreds join MLA Sunitha for mass yoga session



(king Reporter)Ramagiri: Emphasizing that daily physical wellness is the only effective antidote to the pressures of modern life, Rappthadu MLA Paritala Sunitha on Tuesday called upon citizens across all age groups to make yoga an permanent, integral part of their morning routines. She made the remarks while participating as the chief guest at the special “Yoga-2026” programme, organized ahead of the 12th International Day of Yoga at the scenic premises of the Sri Tirumala Devara Venkateswara Swamy Temple near Nasanakota in Ramagiri mandal. The wellness campaign witnessed strong voluntary attendance, with local Telugu Desam Party (TDP) cadre, mandal revenue officials, and hundreds of rural residents joining the mass session. Setting a personal example, the MLA rolled out a mat and

performed a series of synchronized asanas alongside the participants. Addressing the congregation, Sunitha noted that modern lifestyles have become increasingly mechanical, leaving individuals vulnerable to severe physical exhaustion and emotional stress. She stated that regular, uninterrupted yoga practice serves a dual purpose—optimizing physical stamina while restoring mental peace and emotional equilibrium. The legislator lamented that neglecting physical health under the pretext of busy work hours is directly causing chronic lifestyle disorders among the youth. Observing that the Union and State governments are heavily backing the wellness movement, she appealed to families to transform yoga into a daily household habit to build a healthier, more vibrant society.

TC Varun inducted in powerful 14-member state joining committee

Anantapur: The political stature of Janasena Anantapur District President and AHUDA Chairman TC Varun continues to rise, with his appointment to the party’s newly constituted State Joining Committee. Formed under the absolute direction of Janasena chief and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, the 14-member panel is tasked with inviting prominent opposition leaders, academicians, and social activists into the party. Political Analysis Reports Varun’s inclusion in this elite state-level body is seen as a reward for his organi-



zational efficiency. Party cadre across the combined district celebrated the decision, predicting a wave of fresh inductions.

AP Home Minister Anitha meets family of missing girl Gnaneshwar in Tuni

(king Reporter) Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Anitha visited the family of Gnaneshwari, a two-year-old girl who had gone missing. She traveled to CH Agraharam in Tuni Mandal, Kakinada district, to speak with the family members and offer them reassurance. She consulted District SP Bindu Madhav regarding the progress of the investigation into the child’s disappearance. The SP briefed the Minister on the search operations conducted over the past 11 days. Subsequently, Anitha visited and inspected the site where the girl had gone missing. She inquired about the possibility of wild animals frequenting the area. Police informed the Minister that Forest Department officials were conducting surveillance using cameras and drones. They also apprised her that, alongside the search operation, the case was being investigated from the angle of a possible abduction. Speaking



on the occasion, Minister Anitha stated that the investigation is proceeding from all angles, leaving no possibility unexplored. She affirmed that efforts are underway to safely reunite the child with her parents. She noted that while the search continues with the coordination of the Forest and other departments, teams are simultaneously investigating other leads, including the analysis of CCTV footage and phone calls. MP Sana Satish, officials, and several TDP leaders accompanied the Minister.

AP Intermediate supplementary exams results to be announced tomorrow

Arrangements are underway to release the 'Advanced Supplementary' exam results for the first and second years of the Intermediate course in Andhra Pradesh. These results are scheduled to be released on Thursday, June 18, at 12:00 PM. Officials have completed the evaluation process for approximately 12.5 lakh (1.25 million) answer scripts related to these exams, which were conducted from May 21 to June 4. Once the arrangements are finalized, students will be able to view their results online. The results can be accessed



via the website <https://bie.ap.gov.in/>. Students are advised to keep their hall ticket numbers ready to check their results promptly.

NDA partners convene for mega ‘two years of progress’ assembly

(king Reporter) Puttaparthi: MLA Palle Sindhura Reddy and former minister Dr Palle Raghunatha Reddy anchored a massive victory celebration at the district headquarters on Tuesday, marking two years of alliance rule. The mega rally featured top NDA leaders, including Ministers Satya Kumar Yadav and Savitha, MP Parthasarathi, District BJP President Sekhar, and Janasena leader Umesh. Speakers criticized the previous regime’s



destructive policies and highlighted the state’s transition toward sustainable growth. District Collector Shyam Prasad and several regional MLAs attended the event, which showcased strong tri-party coordination.



Man made tragedies-Lifetime trauma for victims' kin; protection for perpetrators

A hard-hitting critique of India's fire safety negligence, analyzing the systemic corruption and "chalta hai" attitude that lead to preventable tragedies like Uphaar and Rajkot, while proposing strict legal reforms. Indian Current Events Major man-made fire disasters—ranging from industrial accidents and city-wide bombings to catastrophic infrastructure failures have claimed several precious lives. The Uphaar cinema tragedy was one of the worst fire disasters in recent Indian history. The fire started in the parking lot during the matinee screening of the movie 'Border' on June 13, 1977. Approximately, 59 people died of asphyxiation and 103 were seriously injured in the subsequent stampede. There is no record of how many succumbed eventually. The result was that one of the Ansal brothers (The hall's promoters) was sentenced to two years in jail. Justice delivered for so many deaths? This is the result of a 24-year legal battle fought by two grieving parents. Seven newborns died and 12 were rescued following a fire at the baby care wing in New Born Hospital in East Delhi's Vivek Vihar. A massive fire broke out at the TRP Game Zone in Rajkot, claiming 33 lives, including nine under-16 children. Foreign nationals were among the 21 people who died in a blaze that ripped through a hotel in South Delhi's Malviya Nagar on June 3. At least 47 people were pulled out of the inferno and taken to nearby hospitals but how many of them will walk out of the hospitals remains uncertain. Most fire tragedies in the country happen either when greed takes over safety or the builders save money by going in for cheap wiring, blocked exits and illegal extra floors. A fire NOC costs less than a life, but compliance eats into profit. All tragedies are pinned down to unethical behaviour and collusion of interested parties. It is rarely just the owner. Someone signs the fake fire safety certificate. Someone in the municipal fire department looks the other way in lieu of a bribe. Someone approves of an illegal commercial space in a residential area. The paper trail is clean; the building is not. Zero concern for lives is the greatest tragedy of our lives. Emergency exits locked to 'prevent theft'. Overcrowding beyond permitted capacity. Flammable material stored because 'What are the odds'? The calculation is always: "Will I get caught?" and not "Will someone die?"

Also Read - Failure of triple engine government: Cong criticises BJP over Malviya Nagar fire tragedy A person who has done something illegal is a criminal. One who is morally and ethically wrong is also a criminal. Thieves outwit systems. What is the punishment 'if' caught? A fine that is one per cent of a day's profit and the case drags for any number of years. The risk reward is broken again. Unethical behaviour pays. Safety doesn't. Officers personally should be made liable if structures cleared by them burn. Make owners criminally liable for deaths, not just fines. Charge them with culpable homicide not amounting to murder and straight away jail them for 10 years, if not more. Property should be seized. These are hardened criminals; public shaming does not embarrass them at all.

Doctors in Telangana lose nearly Rs 30 Cr to cyber frauds, TGCSB sounds alarm

Hyderabad: Cyber fraudsters are increasingly targeting members of the medical community, with doctors across Telangana losing nearly Rs 30 crore to various online scams over the past two years, according to the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB). TGCSB officials revealed that 735 doctors have fallen victim to cyber frauds since September 2024, resulting in losses amounting to Rs 29.88 crore. Officials said investment and business-related scams caused the highest financial damage, accounting for over Rs 22 crore in losses. Doctors were also targeted through digital arrest scams, identity theft, impersonation frauds and misleading online advertisements. Cases involving job scams, cryptocurrency frauds, UPI frauds, loan frauds and sextortion were also reported. TGCSB Director Shikha Goel cautioned that professional qualifications or social standing do not



shield individuals from cybercrime. She urged healthcare professionals to remain vigilant while dealing with unsolicited calls, messages and online investment offers. Officials noted that prompt reporting during the critical first few hours after a fraud can significantly improve the chances of freezing transactions and recovering stolen funds. The bureau emphasised the importance of reporting cyber financial frauds immediately through the national helpline 1930 and the cybercrime reporting portal.

Ragging case reported at OMC hostel, 12 students booked

Hyderabad: A ragging incident was reported at the hostel premises of Osmania Medical College with allegations that first year BDS students of Government Dental College and Hospital were harassed by senior students. According to the police, a case has been registered against 12 final year BDS students under the Telangana Prohibition of Ragging Act following a complaint lodged by college principal Sanjeev Singh Yadav. The students of Government Dental College are currently accommodated in the Osmania Medical College hostel, where the alleged incident took place. The college management has suspended six final year BDS students for six months pending further inquiry. Meanwhile, the Sultan Bazar Police have registered the case, counselled those involved and are investigating. Police said they are examining whether any other students were involved in the ragging incident and are conducting a detailed probe into the matter.



Former Amazon employee follows his passion, becomes one of Uber's highest-rated drivers

Hyderabad: A Hyderabad-based Uber driver, Kumar, is winning hearts with his inspiring journey from a corporate career to pursuing his true passion. During a recent cab ride, a customer shared Kumar's story, highlighting how he left his job at Amazon to follow his love for driving. Kumar is currently among the highest-rated drivers on the Uber platform.

Speaking about his decision, Kumar said driving has always been his passion. He explained that one of the most rewarding aspects of the profession is the opportunity to interact with people from different states and countries. "Driving is my passion. I enjoy communicating with people, and that is very important to me. People from different states and countries travel in my cab. I also wanted to explore Hyderabad better because I am from this city," he said. The customer noted that it is uncommon to see people in India pursuing their passions despite various personal and professional commitments. Curious about Kumar's journey, the cus-



tommer asked when he began following his passion for driving. Kumar replied that he started driving when Uber launched its services in Hyderabad in 2014. "It has been almost 10 to 11 years now," he said. Impressed by his enthusiasm and positive outlook, the customer suggested that Kumar should consider creating content on social media platforms such as Instagram and YouTube. "I have completed almost 23,600 trips and I am still active on the platform. From morning till evening, I enjoy every trip. I get to communicate with so many people, and that is one of the most important things in my life," he said.

Adilabad farmer dies by suicide after rain-damaged jowar produce rejected at market yard

Adilabad: A 48-year-old farmer died allegedly by suicide by consuming pesticide as he was depressed after his damaged jowar produce was not loaded in a vehicle at a market yard in Ponna village in Sirikonda mandal on Tuesday night. Police said that Nugure Pandurang from the village resorted to the drastic step when he was disheartened after his 35 quintals jowar produce, damaged by rains, was not loaded in a vehicle. He attempted to die by consuming the pesticide which he was carrying with him in the afternoon. He was immediately shifted to RIMS-

Adilabad. He died while undergoing treatment at night. Pandurang cultivated jowar crop in his eight acres of land. He brought his produce to the market yard a week back. His produce was weighed and was allotted a number to load the grains in a vehicle. However, the grains got soaked and sprouted due to recent rains. He was depressed after the officials denied to load the grains in a vehicle. The farmer is survived by a wife, two sons and a daughter. His Sunitha lodged a complaint with the police. A case was registered. Investigations are underway.

Tipper runs amok in Warasiguda, narrow escape for pedestrians

Hyderabad: Panic prevailed in Warasiguda after a speeding tipper truck allegedly went out of control and ran towards pedestrians on a busy stretch of road on Wednesday. Alert passersby managed to jump to safety, narrowly escaping any possible injuries. As per information available, the vehicle then crashed into a roadside huge tree, bringing it down and causing a temporary disruption in the area. Following the accident, local residents detained the driver and handed him over to the police. The Warasiguda police are investigating the circumstances that led to the mishap.



India, Thailand hold 10th Defence Dialogue in Bangkok, review bilateral cooperation

Bangkok: India and Thailand held the 10th Defence Dialogue in Bangkok, reviewing the full spectrum of bilateral defence cooperation and exchanging views on regional and global security issues of mutual interest. The dialogue on Tuesday was co-chaired by Satyajit Mohanty, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Government of India, and Nuttapol Diewvanich, Thailand's Deputy Permanent Secretary for Defence. According to the Ministry of Defence, the two sides discussed the evolving security environment in the Indo-Pacific region and exchanged perspectives on regional developments. They reaffirmed the importance of strengthening cooperation to promote peace, stability and prosperity in the region. The delegations reviewed the progress made in bilateral defence cooperation since the previous dialogue. The discussions covered the ongoing military-to-military engagements, capacity-building initiatives, training exchanges, maritime cooperation and other areas of mutual interest.

"The dialogue also reviewed the ongoing defence industry cooperation between the two countries. The two sides discussed opportunities to deepen collaboration in defence manufacturing, research, innovation and capability development, with a view to promoting mutually beneficial partnerships between their respective defence ecosystems," the Defence Ministry stated.

"The delegations exchanged views on cooperation under regional and multilateral defence frameworks, including Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-led mechanisms. They reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening practical cooperation and addressing shared security challenges through dialogue and collaboration," it added. The meeting concluded with discussions on future engagements and the way ahead for bilateral defence cooperation. India and Thailand elevated their bilateral ties to a formal strategic partnership in 2025. Following the Defence Dialogue, in a statement shared on X, the Embassy of India in Bangkok posted: "Both sides reviewed all aspects of the ongoing activities in different domains and discussed ways to further intensify engagements, especially in new and emerging areas, under the bilateral strategic partnership and various regional frameworks. India and Thailand are maritime neighbours, and Thailand is an important partner for India in its Act East Policy and in the Indo-Pacific region."

19 people fell sick after consuming Panipuri, KTR responds on the incident

Rajanna Sircilla: Nineteen students fell ill after eating Panipuri sold on a pushcart in Mandepalli village on Tuesday night. BRS working president KT Rama Rao enquired about the incident. While children were admitted in Sircilla government hospital in the night itself, the remaining seven elders were admitted to the hospital on Wednesday morning. The condition of all the patients is stable. Knowing about the incident, Rama Rao spoke to officials as well as local leaders and enquired about the incident. Doctors explained to Rama Rao that the health condition of the patients is stable and they are doing well. He felt happy after knowing that all the patients were



safe. Rama Rao instructed BRS district president Thota Agaiah to monitor the health condition of the sick persons and extend all kinds of support. Based on the working president's instructions, Agaiah, Konduru Ravinder Rao, Chiti Ranga Rao, Jindam Chakrapani and others visited the hospital and comforted the patients.

Sanjay Raut claims monetary transactions used to 'lure' party MPs

Mumbai: Amid buzz over 'Operation Tiger' to lure Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs by the Shinde faction, party spokesperson and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut has alleged that monetary transactions were involved in engineering the defection. In a series of his posts on X, Raut sarcastically said, "Apna Sapna Money Money! It's shocking and revolting that Maharashtra MPs are reportedly being offered Rs 15 crore each tonight to switch sides." Replying to Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, he stated, "No no - Mahua ji, the Minimum Support Price is fixed at Rs 50 crore per MP... Rs 15 crore is just the advance. Frankly, these people aren't even worth Rs 50,000. Their price has only gone up because of the Shiv Sena and TMC brand label." He further said, "A chartered plane lands at Nanded Airport. Under the guise of Operation Tiger, it picks up two MPs and takes off. They didn't have the means to even travel by rickshaw. Thanks to Thackeray's name, their worth has risen to the level of flying in private jets. An account of every single thing will be taken. The escape of cowardly foxes has been thwarted."



tion or other political forces. Sawant has explicitly flagged these backroom manoeuvres. "There are reports appearing in the media that certain Members of Parliament elected on the symbol of the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) have either approached, or are contemplating approaching, your office seeking recognition as a separate group or a merger with another political party within the Lok Sabha," Sawant said. Sawant emphasised that the parliamentary wing owes its existence entirely to the parent organisational party and that the constitutional framework does not permit "multiple competing formations" to represent the same political party inside the House. A core segment of Sawant's petition relied heavily on constitutional law and judicial precedent to dismantle the strategy often used by defecting factions.

Countering media reports that six party MPs have already landed in New Delhi, Raut remarked, "The magic of the media is this. Nashik's MP Rajabhau Waje has left for Delhi for the industry committee meeting, and here the news is showing something entirely different. Nagesh Ashtekar, Hingoli MP, said, "I'm in Hingoli, but these people can forge my fake signature!" Now, these people, who are doing this. This time, the public and the Shiv Sainiks won't let them off the hook. That's for sure!" Earlier, in a pre-emptive move against a brewing political rebellion, the Shiv Sena (UBT) Leader in the Lok Sabha, in a petition before the Speaker Om Birla, has sought his intervention to block any attempts by disgruntled lawmakers to orchestrate a fresh split or merger in the Lower House of Parliament. The extensive four-page letter, dated June 16, was written amid swirling media reports about Operation Tiger. The media reports suggest that up to seven of the party's nine Lok Sabha MPs are contemplating breaking away to align with the rival Eknath Shinde-led fac-

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao inaugurated the new facility of technology solutions company Ozrit in Gachibowli here on Wednesday. He formally opened the facility, unveiled the company's logo and interacted with the Ozrit team. He also held discussions with the company's leadership, including founder and CEO Bharath Gupta and co-founder and COO Vivekanand Reddy. The company founders thanked Rama Rao for his role in positioning Telangana as a leading technology and innovation hub. They said Telangana's technology-driven growth and focus on innovation, entrepreneurship and employment generation had inspired companies like Ozrit to establish and expand operations in the State. The founders said the company was committed to contributing to

Revant Reddy attacks BRS during Telangana Public School inauguration



Hyderabad: Not one to leave any opportunity to attack the opposition, Chief Minister A Revant Reddy turned the inauguration of the Telangana Public School at Arutla into a platform to attack the opposition. While the event was organised to showcase the government's education initiatives, he spent quality time criticising the opposition BRS for levelling allegations. Addressing a public meeting after inaugurating the school on Wednesday, Revant Reddy outlined the government's plans to strengthen public education through Telangana Public Schools, Young India Integrated Residential Schools, sports promotion and skill development programmes. He said the government was working to improve the education system, provide quality school kits and uniforms, and establish a Telangana Public School in every Assembly constituency. However, a significant portion of his speech was devoted to countering opposition criticism and attacking political rivals. Referring to his

exhibition match with Lionel Messi in Hyderabad, the Chief Minister accused the opposition of opposing initiatives meant to inspire youth. He said those indulging in politics driven by jealousy and spite, would not even retain the status of the opposition in future. He also dismissed the allegations of irregularities in school kit tenders as baseless and accused the BRS of making charges without verifying facts. He rubbished the allegation of Rs 2,000 crore scam in school kits tenders, stating that the tenders were worth Rs 650 crore. The Chief Minister said 1,814 students had already enrolled in the Arutla Telangana Public School and announced plans to expand the model across the state. He also spoke about upcoming initiatives in skill development, sports training and anti-drug awareness campaigns aimed at Telangana's youth. He announced that a massive awareness campaign against use of drugs and narcotic substances will be launched on June 19 at LB Stadium in Hyderabad.

Passenger booked for allegedly assaulting Lufthansa crew member on Hyderabad-bound flight

Hyderabad: A passenger allegedly assaulted a Lufthansa cabin crew member during an international flight from Frankfurt to Hyderabad, leading to a police case at RGIA police station on Tuesday. According to police, the incident occurred aboard Lufthansa flight LH-752 while cabin crew member Peter Bauser, a German national who has been working with the airline for the past six years, was performing routine duties. During the flight, a service trolley reportedly brushed against the leg of passenger B Satish Kumar by accident. Despite



the crew member immediately apologising for the incident, the passenger allegedly became agitated and physically attacked the cabin crew member. The crew member suffered injuries in the incident. Following the aircraft's arrival in Hyderabad, the injured crew member lodged a complaint with the RGIA police. Based on the complaint, a case has been registered and being investigated.

KTR inaugurates Ozrit's new technology facility in Gachibowli



Telangana's innovation ecosystem by creating employment opportunities, expanding into Tier-2 cities and growing its workforce to more than 1,000 professionals in the coming years. Ozrit is a technology solutions and digital transformation company offering services in web and mobile application development, artificial intelligence, enterprise software, cloud solutions, UI/UX design, automation and digital innovation, in India and abroad.

Daily wage labourer dies of electric shock while trimming branches in Alwal

Hyderabad: In a tragic incident, a 45-year-old daily wage labourer died allegedly after suffering an electric shock while trimming tree branches in MES Colony in Alwal on Wednesday. The victim, identified as Suryanarayana, was called for cutting branches in front of an apartment when the branches reportedly came into contact with nearby power lines, resulting in a fatal electric shock. On being alerted by residents, the Alwal police reached the spot and took up investigation. Suryanarayana, who worked as a daily wage labourer to support his family, is survived by wife and three sons.

Bengaluru-based young techie dies by suicide in Warangal

Warangal: A young software engineer allegedly died by suicide at the Kashibugga area of Warangal city. The deceased Ganji Keerthana (25), a resident of Tilak Road in Kashibugga hanged herself from a ceiling fan with a chunni in the first-floor bedroom of her home on Monday. Her family members stated that the deceased was employed at a foreign company in Bengaluru and had been undergoing treatment for anxiety caused by an inability to cope with

work-related stress over the past few months. Her parents Ganji Umashankar and Krishnaveni had gone out when Keerthana took the extreme step. When her mother returned home and looked through the window, she saw Keerthana hanging from the ceiling. Upon receiving the information, the police arrived at the scene, registered a case and initiated an investigation. The family members stated that they had no suspicions regarding the cause of her death.

Two killed, three injured as speeding car hits auto on Rajiv Rahadari in Siddipet

Siddipet: A speeding car rammed into a stationary auto rickshaw, which in turn dashed against a pedestrian leading to two deaths and injuries to three persons on Rajiv Rahadari near Gouraram village on Tuesday. Police said the car driver Katkri Ashok, who was proceeding towards Siddipet side, lost control of the vehicle and rammed into the auto rickshaw, which in turn hit a pedestrian. The pedestrian Kaithi Sathaiha (42) and a passenger sitting in the auto Korimi Lakshmi (45) died on the spot. The auto driver, his daughter and three passengers travelling in the car sustained injuries. The police have registered a case.

UoH alumni-led ATGC biotech showcases innovation at Bharat Innovates 2026 in France

Hyderabad: The global impact of the University of Hyderabad (UoH) alumni network was showcased on the international stage at Bharat Innovates 2026. The national initiative, designed to present India's deep-tech breakthroughs to the world, hosted its international showcase in Nice, France, from June 14 to 16. Among the select group of 120 high-potential deep-tech startups representing India's rising leadership in innovation and

entrepreneurship was ATGC Biotech Pvt Ltd, a company co-founded by two distinguished UoH alumni, Dr Markandeya Gorantla and Dr VB Reddy. At the event, ATGC exchanged a licensing agreement with Albaugh Europe, covering six proprietary crop protection products powered by ATGC's patented CREMIT pheromone technology platform. The company solidified its international footprint through Semiophore Ltd, a joint



venture with Luxembourg Industries Ltd., which will advance a portfolio of 18 products specifically tailored for global agricultural markets. Dr Markandeya Gorantla completed his PhD in Plant Sciences (2000-2004) and served as a senior research fellow (2000-2002) in the department. He currently serves as the chairman and managing director of ATGC Biotech. Dr VB Reddy earned his MSc in Plant Sciences (2000-2002), followed

by an Advanced Post-Graduate Diploma in Bioinformatics (2002-2003), and completed his PhD in Plant Sciences (2003-2007) at the University. He now serves as the company's Executive Director. Originally founded in Genome Valley, Hyderabad, ATGC Biotech has grown into one of India's leading agricultural biotechnology enterprises, specializing in pheromone-based crop protection and sustainable agriculture.

Congress opens Telangana's doors for global lenders

Hyderabad: The ongoing war of words between Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Union Minister G Kishan Reddy over the Hyderabad Metro Rail has inadvertently exposed a significant shift in Telangana's fiscal strategy. The Congress government has thrown open the doors to international lending agencies that the previous BRS government had largely kept at arm's length due to concerns over policy-linked conditions and external oversight. While accusing the Centre of blocking a proposed Rs 13,600-crore loan, Revanth Reddy revealed that the funding was being sourced from a Japanese organisation, with the Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) acting merely as a facilitator. Officials have since confirmed that the organisation is the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Kishan Reddy responded by highlighting that the Centre had already facilitated a Rs 4,100-crore loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the Musi rejuvenation project and had also provided Telangana with another Rs 11,000 crore in interest-free loans.

tional agencies to finance its ambitious projects. Apart from the proposed Rs 13,600-crore JICA loan for the Metro Rail takeover, the State has sought another Rs 11,700 crore from JICA for Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase-2A. In June last year, the State Cabinet approved a proposal to raise Rs 9,398 crore in the form of loans from agencies such as JICA, ADB and the New Development Bank (NDB) for Metro Phase-2B. The Centre also approved external multilateral funding of Rs 4,049 crore from the ADB for Young India Integrated Residential Schools and another Rs 4,903 crore from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) for the Telangana Education Infrastructure Upgradation Mission. In addition, the World Bank has agreed in principle to extend around Rs 4,000 crore for strengthening Telangana's healthcare infrastructure. Surprisingly, the Forest department too has proposed a Rs 1,270-crore JICA-funded programme for forestry modernisation and eco-tourism initiatives. Earlier, JICA had also signed a loan agreement to support Telangana's startup and innovation ecosystem.

However, the larger story lies beyond the political sparring. Since assuming office, the Congress government, which has been borrowing extensively through the auction of State securities as well as from the Centre, public sector banks and private banks, has now turned to interna-

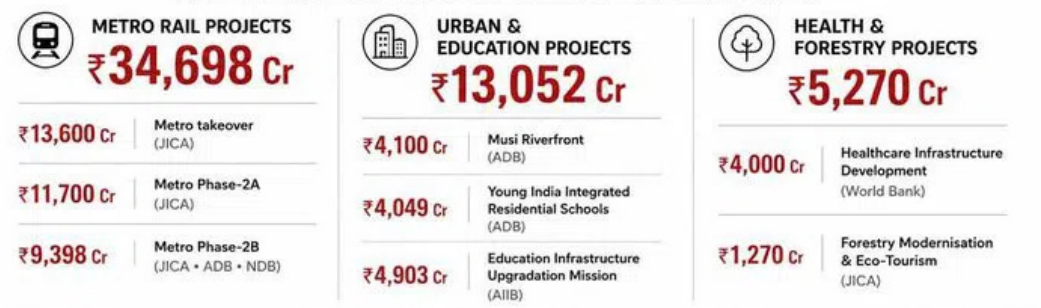
The cumulative picture suggests that international lenders are becoming increasingly central to Telangana's development financing model, a trend that was largely witnessed in undivided Andhra Pradesh during the TDP regime. For the

Telangana's global borrowing shift

INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES ARE BECOMING KEY FINANCIERS OF STATE PROJECTS

₹49,000+ Cr

INTERNATIONAL FUNDING APPROVED, PROPOSED OR UNDER CONSIDERATION



71%

OF IDENTIFIED INTERNATIONAL FUNDING IS LINKED TO HYDERABAD METRO PROJECTS

₹34,698 Cr of ₹49,000+ Cr

MAJOR LENDERS

JICA ADB AIIB WORLD BANK NDB

WHY IT MATTERS

Telangana's largest development projects are increasingly dependent on international financing and sovereign-backed external credit.

uninitiated, loans obtained by the then TDP government from international agencies led to the implementation of electricity reforms, which eventually culminated in the Basheerbagh firing incident in 2000, in which three persons were killed during protests. The episode is widely believed to have contributed to the eventual decline of the TDP government. In the aftermath, successive Congress governments in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh and later the K Chandrashekhara Rao government after Telangana's formation largely avoided international lending agencies. The previous BRS government relied on domestic institutions such as the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) and other central financing agencies despite comparatively higher interest rates. Financial experts point out that multilateral funding from international agencies often comes with extensive

compliance requirements, monitoring mechanisms and policy conditions that could constrain government decision-making. They cautioned that while Revanth Reddy has highlighted the availability of loans at around four per cent interest, such arrangements could potentially increase the influence of external agencies on policy decisions. Ironically, while the Congress government frequently accuses the Centre of withholding support, many of its flagship projects now depend on foreign credit lines that require New Delhi's approval and sovereign backing. In fact, the Centre approved such loans worth nearly Rs 15,000 crore over the last year. The Revanth Reddy-Kishan Reddy confrontation may have begun as a political blame game, but it has laid bare Telangana's growing reliance on international financial institutions to fund its development agenda.

Andhra Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan meets bedridden fan battling rare ailment

Hanamkonda: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan visited the home of a young fan Ponugoti Niranjana, who is confined to his bed due to a rare genetic condition that has stunted his physical growth. The last wish of 17-year-old Niranjana of Hanuman Nagar was to meet Pawan Kalyan. Upon learning of this through Telangana Jana Sena leaders, he visited Niranjana's home on Wednesday. He embraced Niranjana and offered words of comfort. He spoke with Niranjana's parents, Ponugoti Ramgopal and Manasa enquiring about the boy's health condition and provided financial assistance of Rs 1 lakh to help cover medical expenses. He watched photos and videos of Niranjana performing dance moves imitating Pawan Kalyan when he was in better health. He promised Niranjana that he would be the special guest if the movie OG2 was made; Niranjana mentioned that everyone calls him 'Chota Gabbar Singh.' During the visit, when Niranjana showed a picture of a puppy and expressed a desire to raise one, Pawan Kalyan promised to buy and send a puppy to him. When Niranjana's father mentioned the need for the landlord's permission to keep a dog, the landlord was invited to



discuss the matter. Pawan Kalyan directed the Janasena Telangana State leaders to set up a canteen for Niranjana's parents to improve their livelihood. Producer Bandla Ganesh, an admirer of Pawan Kalyan, announced financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh to support Niranjana's family. Meanwhile, security lapses were seen during Pawan Kalyan's visit to Bhadrakali Temple. A large number of fans turned out to catch a glimpse of Pawan Kalyan; but police and temple authorities failed to control the crowd of fans. Hanamkonda ACP Narsing Rao pushed away journalists who had come to cover Pawan's visit. Over a dozen priests were inside the sanctum sanctorum, while a large number of party activists crowded the area in front of it. Journalists struggled to cover the event.

Maharana Pratap's 486th birth anniversary celebrated with grandeur in Hyderabad



Hyderabad: The 486th birth anniversary of Veer Shiromani Maharana Pratap was celebrated with great fervor and enthusiasm in Hyderabad under the leadership of the Akhil Bharatiya Kshatriya Mahasabha. Floral tributes were paid to the portrait of the legendary Rajput warrior, followed by a commemorative gathering highlighting his remarkable legacy of patriotism, valor, and selfless sacrifice. Uday Singh Bayas, president, Akhil Bharatiya Kshatriya Mahasabha, said Maharana Pratap's extraordinary courage

and leadership during the historic Battle of Haldighati continue to inspire generations. He appealed to the government to install a statue of Maharana Pratap at Tank Bund in Hyderabad as a tribute to the iconic warrior king and his enduring contribution to Indian history. Prominent members of Rajput community, including Narsingh Thakur, Ajay Singh, Shakti Singh, Chandra Kishan Singh, Govind Raj Singh, Prabhu Singh, Rana Nagesh Singh, Manisha, Jyoti, Nandita, Madhavi, Rohini, Maya, and others, were present.

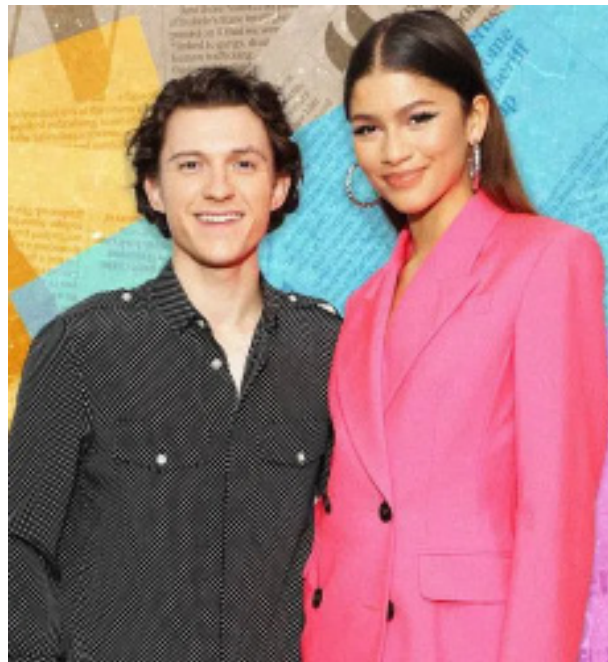
Priyanka Chopra calls mom Madhu Chopra her 'Queen', says she's 'always leading the way'

Mumbai: Global icon Priyanka Chopra Jonas took to her social media account on the morning of Wednesday, to wish her mother Dr. Madhu Chopra on her 73rd birthday on June 17. Priyanka shared a beautiful picture featuring herself along with her mother and wrote, "To the Queen... happy birthday @drmadhuakhourichopra always leading the way." Priyanka's younger brother Siddharth Chopra also shared a heartfelt birthday post for his mother.



Tom Holland confirms marriage to Zendaya, says family 'were all there' at wedding

Los Angeles: Hollywood actor Tom Holland has confirmed his marriage to "Spider-Man" co-star Zendaya. Speculation over whether the "Spider-Man" co-stars had officially tied the knot has been swirling since January, when Zendaya's stylist Law Roach said on the Golden Globes red carpet that their wedding "already happened" and was "very true." Roach's comments sent social media into a frenzy and sparked a wave of AI-generated images purporting to show Zendaya in a wedding dress at the alleged ceremony. Holland confirmed their marriage during an interview with Esquire for a new cover story. The 30-year-old actor told the outlet that his grandmother saw the photos and thought she hadn't been invited to the wedding. When asked whether he had to reassure family members about the AI photos, Holland replied: "No, because they were all there." Asked for a further comment, Holland simply replied, "That's all you'll get on that." Zendaya, 29, has not yet opened up about the marriage but during her press tour earlier this year for "The Drama", the actor addressed the fake photos on "Jimmy Kimmel Live." The actor revealed that she has been approached by people complimenting her on wedding pictures she had never taken. "They're AI. They're not real," she said, adding that several people in her personal life were also fooled and upset they had not received an invitation. During the in-



terview with Esquire, Holland praised Zendaya as a partner.

"I found my person. She's my best friend, and I'm the happiest I ever have been when I'm with her, but I also have never felt so supported and safe, ever. Period," the actor said. "Our business can present very stressful situations and it's really nice to have a bedrock of a relationship that will stand the test of time," he added. Holland and Zendaya have appeared together in three "Spider-Man" films, with a fourth, "Brand New Day", set for release this July. They are also both part of the cast of Christopher Nolan's upcoming epic film "The Odyssey", which will also come out in theatres in July.

Vishnu Vishal: 'Gatta Kusthi 2' will speak about a different kind of politics about man and woman

Chennai: Actor Vishnu Vishal, who is now gearing up for the release of the second instalment from the superhit franchise 'Gatta Kusthi' on July 3, says that this instalment of the franchise will speak about a different kind of politics about man and woman. For the unaware, the first part of director Chella Ayyavu's 'Gutta Kusthi', which featured Vishnu Vishal and Aishwarya Lekshmi in the lead, had gone on to emerge a huge superhit. The film revolved around the relationship between a man, who marries under the impression that his wife is a docile, soft-spoken woman, and his wife, who he later finds is a wrestler. The film had several jokes at the expense of men. When asked if the joke was again on the men in the sequel as well, Vishnu Vishal replied in the negative. "The first part was about the woman. This time, it's about the man. I believe in equality. One film, I'm showing about the woman. This time, I want to show about the man. And in this, I want to show about the man-woman relationship," he said. He then went on to explain, "With money comes power. Whoever earns will be powerful. Whether it's a man or a woman. That angle is given to this story. But that is not a misused power. That comes out of responsibility. 'I'm doing this for the family. So,



make sure you're right.' That power comes from (taking on) responsibilities. So, this film will speak a different kind of politics about man and woman. But definitely, the joke is not on the man." Sources close to the actor say that Vishnu Vishal plays a house husband in the sequel, which will also be a sports drama that will present everyday household issues in a comical way. The lead pair Vishnu Vishal and Aishwarya Lekshmi will reprise their roles, as will Karunas, Kali Venkat, Munishkanth, and Gajaraj, all of whom played pivotal parts in the first part of the franchise. Directed by Chella Ayyavu, the sequel has cinematography by KM Bhaskaran and music by Sean Roldan. Editing for the film is by Barath Vikraman and art direction is by S. Jayachandran. Stunts in the film have been choreographed by Murugan while dances have been choreographed by Baba Bhaskar.

Rahul Sankrityan pens heartfelt birthday note for Arnold Vosloo ahead of Ranabaali



Hyderabad: Rahul Sankrityan, who is directing the eagerly awaited period film, 'Ranabaali', featuring actors Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna in the lead, has now penned an adorable birthday greeting for Hollywood actor Arnold Vosloo, who plays the antagonist in 'Ranabaali'. On Tuesday, even as the film's makers welcomed Arnold Vosloo, who is best known for having played character Imhotep in the blockbuster film 'The Mummy', to Indian cinema, director Rahul Sankrityan took to his social media timelines to post a birthday greeting for the actor.

He said, "Mummy was one of my all-time favorite films growing up. I loved every character in it, but above all, it was the villain who made me truly believe that monsters could exist." Rahul further added, "Many years later, when I sat down to write one of my favorite villain characters ever- The Monster in Uniform, The Demon of the Drought, The antagonist of #Ranabaali, Sir Theodore Hector. I never imagined destiny would bring me face to face with my childhood favorite villain. Arnold Vosloo. Working with you has been an absolute privilege. Beyond the incredible actor the world knows, you are the sweetest, kindest, and most patient artist I have ever had the pleasure of working with." Director Rahul Sankrityan concluded the post saying, "Wishing you a very Happy Birthday, sir. May you be blessed with happiness, health, and many more memorable movies. Welcome to the madness called Indian Cinema. I cannot wait for our audiences to witness what

you have created as HECTOR. #Ranabaali #ArnoldVosloo @MythriOfficial."

The unit of the film, which has triggered huge interest among fans and film buffs, had wrapped up a crucial schedule of the film at Rayalaseema in April this year. For the unaware, Vijay Deverakonda essays the role of Ranabaali, while Rashmika Mandanna plays his wife Jayamma in the film. Arnold Vosloo, best known for his work in 'The Mummy', plays the antagonist Sir Theodore Hector. 'Ranabaali' is being produced on a grand scale by Naveen Yerneni and Y. Ravi Shankar, with T-Series presenting the film. The movie is set against a British-era backdrop and is being made as a period action drama. Set in the 19th century, the film is based on real historical events that took place between 1854 and 1878, and is being mounted as a massive pan-India project. Sources claim 'Ranabaali' is inspired by real incidents from the 1850s that never found space in mainstream history books. They say it will be based on real incidents in the time period of 1850-1900 and that the film will look to showcase incidents that the British misrepresented in history. Sources claim that Ranabaali will not be a biopic, and not a textbook retelling but will be a cinematic reconstruction of an era built from multiple real accounts, oral histories, and suppressed records. After 'Geetha Govindam' and 'Dear Comrade', 'Ranabaali' will be the third film in which Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda will be seen appearing together as a pair.

Latin, Asian Pop, R&B get Grammy recognition

Los Angeles: The Grammy Awards have added 5 new categories after deliberation with its members. The organising committee updates rules and adds to their categories in response to proposals from the members every year. The next show, taking place on February 7, 2027, will see 5 new categories, including in the Latin, Asian Pop and R&B genres, and several key updates, including the Best New Artist and Best album categories, reports 'Variety'. The latter two moves are the most far-reaching, as they see the maximum number of times an artist may be submitted increased from three to four; and the "threshold of new recordings required on an eligible album is lowered from 75% to 66% to reduce the exclusion of entries that are widely recognized throughout the music industry as new albums". As per 'Variety', Best new artist is traditionally the most controversial award, inevitably, as the concept of who considers the artist to be new is always a judgement call, and this year will see multiple artists getting an unexpected fourth shot at being nominated, including Ella Langley, who was reportedly submitted in three past years, but whose Hot 100 No. 1 single "Choosin' Texas" and the album "Dandelion" have led her star to



rise dramatically. Likewise, as the concept of what constitutes a new album has changed, some that featured, say, four new songs but included remixes or live versions of previously released songs inspired the 75% threshold, but apparently that was determined to be excessively high. In a related move that extends recognition for songwriters, contributors to winning albums in most genre album categories will now receive Grammy statuettes and Achievement Certificates, which producers and engineers already receive. Songwriters and Composers of new material on the winning albums in most genre album Categories will now receive Grammy statuettes and Achievement Certificates in parity with the recognition currently afforded to Producers and Engineers in those categories.

Richa Ghosh credits senior players for helping her regain form ahead of T20 World Cup

Hyderabad: Richa Ghosh has credited the advice of her experienced teammates for regaining her form in time for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026. The 22-year-old wicketkeeper batter blasted a crucial 17-ball 34 during India's 64-run win over Pakistan on Sunday having hit an equally explosive 68 during her side's warm-up match against England in Cardiff. Prior to those two knocks, Ghosh was suffering from a lean spell in which she only scored 18 runs across four innings. But now back fully firing for India's latest attempt at claiming a maiden T20 global crown, Ghosh, who is part of the side who will take on the Netherlands at Headingley on Wednesday, was always confident that she could turn things around. "At that time, I just stayed focussed on my game because, although I was not getting the runs at the time, I knew what I could do," Ghosh informed ICC Media. "I was thinking that I could work more on my drills and just remaining focussed. And that it was okay if I'm not getting it, as I was in good touch at that time, but not getting runs. This happens. "I spoke to Hari [Harmanpreet Kaur] and all the seniors, Smriti [Mandhana] too, about what to do. And they said, 'don't worry, just play your game and just focus'. That's it. And that helped me also." Despite the Netherlands making their ICC Women's T20 World Cup debut, the Dutch outfit fitted in on the big stage during their first match of the tournament against Bangladesh, as they only narrowly missed out on a maiden World Cup win. Ghosh insists she and her teammates will not be taking the Netherlands for granted when the two meet at 14:30 local time in Leeds and praised them for the strides they have made in international cricket. She added: "I saw them before the World Cup. They have good bowlers and for them it's the first time. They're doing really well and every team is like, 'they can do well'. I think they've done really well. That's why they're here and we are not taking any team easily and we're just looking forward." Netherlands head coach Neil



MacRae was full of admiration for Wednesday's opponents and the work they had done in promoting the women's game, adding that the positive effects of India's franchise tournament, the Women's Premier League, can be felt around the world.

"The rise of Indian women's cricket has been an inspiration for everybody, particularly in the last few years," he said. "With four years of the WPL and winning their first World Cup last year in the 50-over format, you can see that progression has really come through the WPL experience and the team has gone to a different level." MacRae also was proud of the way his players handled themselves at Edgbaston in their World Cup opener and said his charges are viewing the tournament as a chance to expand the country's cricketing horizons. He added: "It's a privilege for us to be at a World Cup taking on a team of the might of India, a country steeped in so much history and passion for cricket. It's an unbelievable opportunity to take on one of the world's best teams. "I thought in the first game against Bangladesh we played some good cricket, but the occasion of our first-ever T20 World Cup match weighed quite heavily on the players. "I wouldn't say it overwhelmed [the players]. I actually think they dealt with the situation brilliantly, but it was still an overwhelming experience because nothing prepares you for your first T20 World Cup game other than going through it. "I thought they coped really well. Having experienced that now, they're much better placed in the second game to come out and play their best cricket."

Telangana swimmers Vritti, Rithvika win silver medals at Senior National aquatics championship

Hyderabad: Vritti Agarwal of Telangana settled for a silver in the women's 1500m freestyle of the 79th Senior National aquatics championship at Ahmedabad. Vritti clocked 17:22.17 to finish second behind Aditi Satish Hegde of Maharashtra (17:20.82) while Sri Charani Tumu of Karnataka (17:49.09) was third. In the women's 50 m breaststroke, Mittapali Rithvika of Telangana bagged a silver with a timing of 33.63 behind A.K. Lineysha of Karnataka (33.51) while S. Lakshya of Karnataka



picked bronze with a timing of 33.84.

Lionel Messi becomes 2nd player to score in 5 World Cups, striking early for Argentina vs Algeria

Kansas City: Lionel Messi became the second player to score in five World Cups, giving defending champion Argentina an early 1-0 lead over Algeria on Tuesday night. Making his record sixth appearance in the tournament, the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner found a crease in the Algerian defence and easily beat goalkeeper Luca Zidane for his 14th World Cup goal, sending a blue-and-white-clad crowd packed inside Arrowhead Stadium into delirium. Moments earlier, Messi had a goal disallowed for offside. Messi joins Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal as the only players with goals in five World Cups. Ronaldo became the first in 2022 and is set to play in his sixth World Cup on Wednesday. Miroslav Klose of Germany holds the record for World Cup goals with 16, one ahead of Brazil great Ronaldo. Messi's latest highlight pulled him into a tie for third on the career list with Kylian Mbappe – who scored two goals in France's 3-1 win over Senegal earlier Tuesday – and Gerd Muller of West Germany. The goal came 20 years to the day that Messi made his World Cup debut for Argentina in a match against Serbia and Montenegro.



Azharuddin questions Gill's absence across formats, Sarfaraz and Nabi's non-selection

New Delhi: Former India captain Mohammed Azharuddin has questioned the omission of Shubman Gill from the T20I setup, alongside the non-selection of Sarfaraz Khan and Aaqib Nabi in the Test squad. Azharuddin said Gill, who has been leading India in Tests and ODIs, has handled the captaincy role "very well" and should not have been dropped from any format. Gill, who previously served as India's vice-captain in T20Is, was dropped from the shortest format ahead of the T20 World Cup earlier this year. "Gill is handling the captaincy job very well. His individual performance has also improved a lot. He is one of the finest players; I don't know why they don't select him for T20s," Azharuddin told PTI in an exclusive interview on Wednesday. "He is an all-format player and should never have been dropped from any format," he added. Azharuddin also highlighted that both Sarfaraz and Nabi have not been rewarded for their stellar performances in domestic cricket. "Aaqib Nabi is a great red-ball bowler and a very good exponent of swing bowling. I feel very sad for him. After taking wickets consistently over the last two years—44 wickets in 2024-25 and 60 in 2025-26 in the Ranji Trophy—he still does not find a place in the Test team. It is very disappointing," Azharuddin said. "These boys have consistently done well in domestic cricket. Everyone says that we have to play domestic cricket. But what is the use of doing so if their performances are not being recognized? Are they going to get a chance only when they are past their prime?" he asked. He further noted, "Nabi may not be a specialist T20 bowler, so the selectors must understand and recognize that his skillset is tailored for Test cricket."

The former captain emphasized that India needs to prioritize the longest

format. "They need to play a lot of matches because there is no cricket without Test cricket. It is a true test of skills given how the conditions and pitches keep changing. I think the board is doing its best, but we have to promote more multi-day games," he said. Azharuddin backed Shreyas Iyer to excel in his role as India's T20I captain. "He has performed well and has deservedly got this opportunity. He has a very good cricketing brain, and I am sure that with time, he will become a very good captain," he said.

However, Azharuddin agreed with the selectors' bold call to remove Suryakumar Yadav from the T20I captaincy and drop him from the squad, despite Yadav recently leading India to a record-extending third T20 World Cup title. "You have to perform consistently because performances count a lot. A lot of young players are coming up nowadays, and you can't rely on past laurels. You have to keep performing every time," he asserted. When asked about the futures of veterans Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, the legendary batsman stated that retirement should remain an individual choice. "It's a very personal decision. Players need to decide when the time is right, based on when they feel they have had enough. Both are incredibly talented and have given so much to the country. A player knows exactly what is happening with their body, mental strength, and how their performance is affected. Both these players have rendered yeoman service to the nation and their choices should be respected," Azharuddin concluded.



Mbappe brace helps France beats Senegal 3-1 in World Cup opener

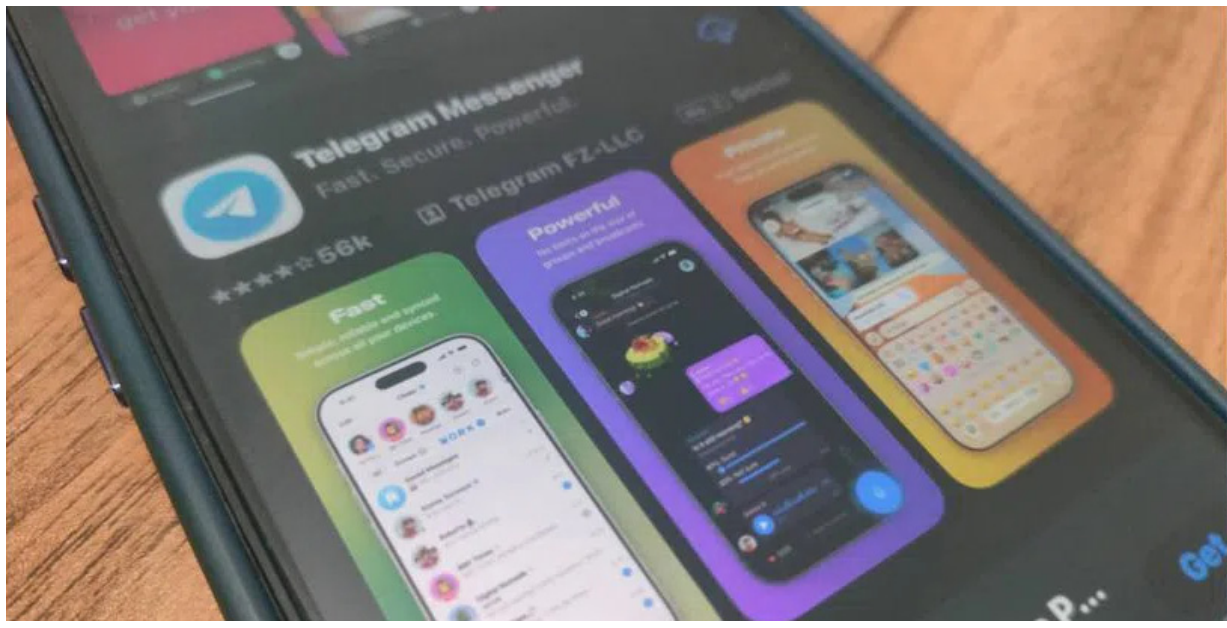


New Jersey: France overcame a determined Senegal side 3-1 in a high-intensity FIFA World Cup 2026 encounter, with Kylian Mbappe delivering another statement performance to guide Les Bleus to victory. In a match defined by relentless pressing, physical battles, and end-to-end action, France's clinical edge in front of goal ultimately proved decisive. Both teams approached the contest with attacking intent from the opening whistle, producing an entertaining first half filled with energy and chances. Senegal consistently tested the French defence and forced multiple saves, while France looked dangerous on the counterattack. Despite the action at both ends, the sides went into the break level at 0-0. The breakthrough finally arrived in the 66th minute when Michael Olise threaded a perfectly weighted through ball into the path of Kylian Mbappe, who calmly finished to give France the lead. France doubled their advantage in the 82nd

minute through substitute Bradley Barcola. The winger used his pace to race onto an incisive pass from Adrien Rabiot before finishing confidently to put Les Bleus in control. The drama continued deep into stoppage time as Senegal pulled a goal back in the 90+5th minute through Ibrahim Mbaye, whose effort took a deflection on its way into the net to set up a nervy finish. However, France responded almost instantly.

Just a minute later, Mbappe produced a stunning long-range strike to restore the two-goal cushion, seal the victory, and complete his brace. Mbappe's match-winning display once again underlined his status as one of football's biggest stars. His two goals also saw him move ahead of Lionel Messi on the FIFA World Cup all-time scoring charts, adding another milestone to an already remarkable international career as France opened their campaign with a hard-fought victory.

Telegram suspension affects over 150 million users in India: CEO Pavel Durov

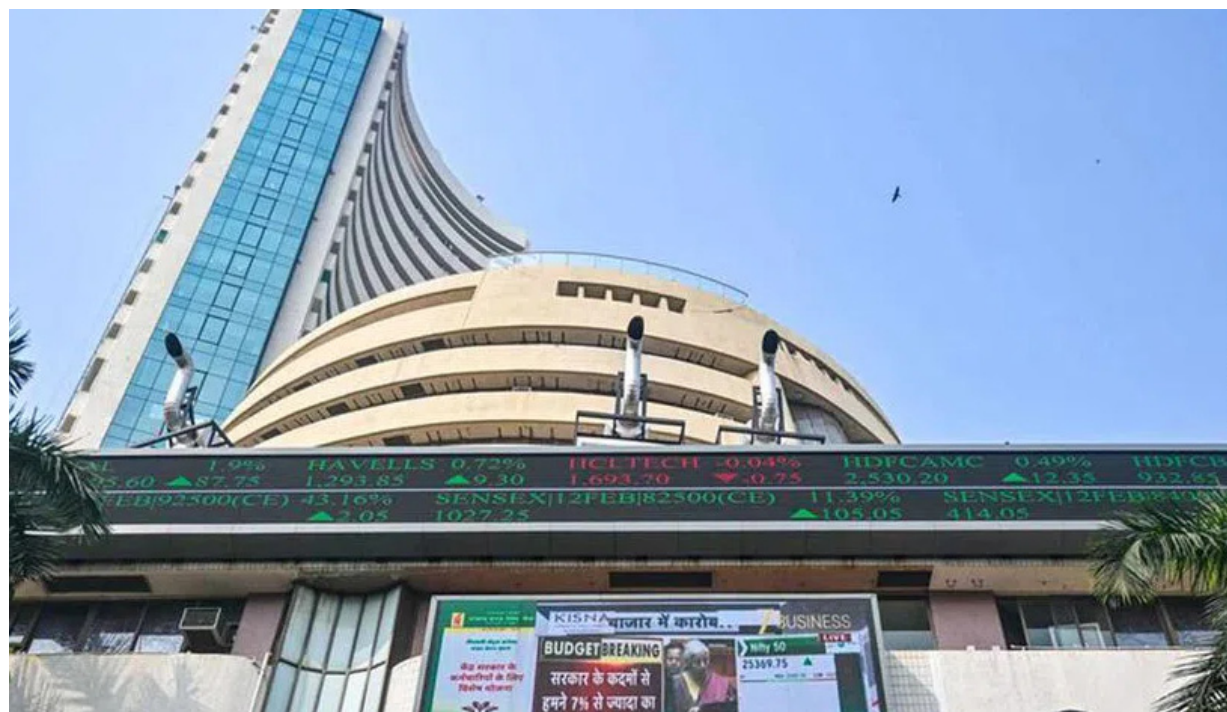


New Delhi: Telegram founder and CEO Pavel Durov has said that the temporary suspension of the messaging platform in India ahead of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test Undergraduate (NEET-UG) 2026 re-examination affected more than 150 million users. In a post on social media platform X, Durov said India's IT ministry banned Telegram for one week because some users shared leaked exam questions. This impacted more than 150 million Telegram users in India. He further said that Telegram had removed hundreds of channels in recent weeks that were allegedly sharing leaked examination materials and running related scams in India. Durov added that the company is working to make the edited label on messages more prominent to help prevent backdating scams and the manipulation of content timestamps. The remarks came after the Indian government ordered a temporary suspension of Telegram services until June 22 as part of

measures aimed at preventing malpractice during the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination scheduled for June 21. The examination is being conducted again following allegations of question paper leaks during the original test held on May 3. The restriction was imposed following recommendations from the National Testing Agency (NTA), which conducts NEET for admissions to undergraduate medical colleges across the country. Alongside the temporary suspension, authorities have directed Telegram to disable its message-editing feature in India until June 30.

According to the NTA, investigators believe the feature was previously misused to create misleading evidence of question paper leaks by editing messages after examination papers had already been circulated. Google and Apple have already removed Telegram from their app stores in compliance with the government's directive.

Sensex, Nifty rise as crude prices ease and IT stocks rally



Mumbai: Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty climbed in early trade on Wednesday following a decline in crude oil prices and a rally in IT firms. Extending its rally to the fourth day running, the 30-share BSE Sensex further climbed 271.61 points to 77,080.09 in opening trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty advanced 55.35 points to 24,044.50. From the 30-Sensex firms, Trent, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Tech and Eternal were among the biggest winners. Axis Bank, Bajaj Finance, NTPC and Adani Ports were among the laggards. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 0.49 per cent lower at USD 78.44 per barrel. "Crude oil prices have fallen sharply to a nearly three-month low. Falling energy prices are expected to act as a tailwind for the Indian economy, helping contain inflation, improve external balances and support earnings growth across several sectors," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth-tech firm, said. In Asian markets, Japan's Nikkei 225 in-

dex quoted higher, while South Korea's Kospi, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index traded lower. US markets ended mostly lower on Tuesday. "Global cues remain mixed. While optimism surrounding the US's Iran peace developments pushed the Dow Jones to fresh record highs, weakness in technology stocks dragged the Nasdaq lower, leaving the S&P 500 marginally in the red," Rajesh Palviya, Head of Research, Axis Direct, said. Asian markets are trading mixed this morning, although the sharp fall in Brent crude to around USD 78.6 per barrel is emerging as a significant positive for India, as lower energy prices improve the inflation outlook, reduce import costs and support corporate profitability, he added. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 749.18 crore on Tuesday after a day's breather, according to exchange data. On Tuesday, the Sensex jumped 544.15 points, or 0.71 per cent, to settle at 76,808.48. The Nifty climbed 135.25 points, or 0.57 per cent, to end at 23,989.15.

WEEW Gala 2026 celebrates Fashion, entrepreneurship and women's empowerment in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: The WEEW Gala 2026 turned out to be a celebration of fashion, entrepreneurship, and empowerment, bringing together distinguished guests, industry leaders, designers, and participants on one prestigious platform. Ch Vijayeswari, Managing Director of Ramoji Film City, attended the event, which featured the WEEW Red Carpet and Dazzle Fashion Showcase. Members of TCEI participated in the Red Carpet walk and fashion showcase, displaying confidence, grace, and individuality while celebrating the spirit of empowerment. Balram Babu, President, TCEI, said the event emerged as one of the finest initiatives in the events industry, bringing together stakeholders from across the ecosystem and showcasing Hyderabad's growing stature as a premier events destination. A major highlight of the event was the participation of six renowned designer labels: My Perfect Fit, Anusha Reddy, Label Rachana Edam, Suvarna Mandir by Raj Sarepalli, Vasundhara Design House and Lagnam.



Rupee gains 31 paise to 94.29 against dollar as crude prices ease

Mumbai: The rupee appreciated 31 paise to 94.29 against the US dollar in early trade on Wednesday as Brent crude oil prices and the US dollar index retreated further from their elevated levels. Forex traders said the rupee opened on a positive note as Brent crude has fallen to near USD 79 per barrel — a three-month low — as markets price in the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz following the US-Iran framework. At the interbank foreign exchange market the rupee opened at 94.46, then touched 94.29, registering a gain of 31 paise from its previous close. On Tuesday, the rupee ended 2 paise lower at 94.60 against the US dollar. In the last three sessions the rupee has recovered 130 paise since the US-Iran deal framework emerged.

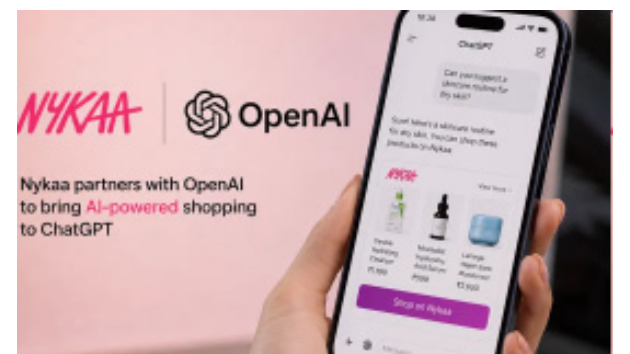
"The rupee's bias has shifted. On the upside, 95.00-95.30 is now a strong resistance zone for USD/INR. With expectations of strong foreign capital inflows and USD/INR having decisively broken below the 94.80 level, the pair could gradually move towards the 94.00-93.80 zone in the coming days," CR Forex Advisors MD Amit Pabari said. Pabari further added that the signing of the US-Iran agreement in Geneva on June 19 remains the event to watch. "Until then, the recovery is real but the



ground is not yet firm," he said. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 0.01 per cent down at 99.52. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading lower by 0.37 per cent at USD 78.67 per barrel in futures trade. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex was up 271.61 points to 77,080.09 in opening trade; Nifty advances 55.35 points to 24,044.50. Foreign institutional investors offloaded equities worth Rs 749.18 crore on a net basis on Tuesday, according to exchange data. In global developments, Vice President JD Vance will lead the US delegation for the in-person signing of the peace deal with Iran in Switzerland on Friday, President Donald Trump said. Both Trump and Vance have electronically signed the framework agreement with Iran's lead negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, according to a senior US official quoted by The New York Times.

Nykaa partners with OpenAI to bring AI-powered shopping to ChatGPT

New Delhi: Beauty and lifestyle retailer Nykaa on Tuesday announced a collaboration with OpenAI to introduce artificial intelligence-driven shopping experiences and make its catalogue directly accessible to users through ChatGPT. As part of the multi-year agreement, Nykaa Beauty and Nykaa Fashion have been integrated as connected apps within the ChatGPT platform. This will allow users to seek conversational recommendations for skincare, apparel and fragrances, with Nykaa serving as the destination to fulfil these queries, the company said in a statement. Beyond consumer-facing features, the partnership will see the deployment of OpenAI's technologies, including ChatGPT Enterprise and coding agent Codex, across Nykaa's internal operations. The AI tools will be embedded into various departments, including marketing, supply chain, legal and engineering, to enhance enterprise productivity and accelerate the development of new



features. "AI is changing how people discover products and make decisions, particularly in categories such as beauty and fashion where individual needs, preferences and context matter enormously. Nykaa has built deep expertise in serving Indian consumers and a strong track record of using technology to improve the shopping experience," said Nitin Bwankule, Head of Enterprise Sales – India, OpenAI. "We look forward to working with Nykaa as they deploy OpenAI's technology to create more useful experiences for its customers and teams," he added.

Varied Weather Conditions Across AP, Telangana Amidst Monsoon Advance



Despite the advance of the Southwest Monsoon, weather conditions across the Telugu states remain varied; while some areas are experiencing intense heat, others are witnessing rainfall. The Meteorological Department has released an update on weather conditions in Andhra Pradesh, indicating that both high temperatures and rainfall are likely to be recorded in the coming days. According to the Amaravati Meteorological Centre, as of June 15, 2026, the Northern Limit of the Southwest Monsoon is passing through the following points: 18°N/60°E, 18°N/65°E, 18°N/70°E, Harnai, Solapur, Hyderabad, Bhadrachalam, Koraput, Phulbani, Ranchi, Jamui, Muzaffarpur, and 28.3°N/83°E. Conditions are favorable for the monsoon to advance further into more areas of Telangana, Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, and Chhattisgarh over the next four to five days. Hyderabad Traffic Updates A low-pressure trough has formed, extending from East Uttar Pradesh across East Madhya Pradesh, East Vidarbha, and Telangana up to South Coastal Andhra Pradesh, reaching an altitude of 1.5 km above mean sea level. Additionally, a cyclonic circulation has formed over East Vidarbha and the adjoining South Chhattisgarh region at an altitude of 5.8 km above mean sea level. The low-pressure area that previously

extended from the west-central Bay of Bengal to the Kerala coast now stretches from north Tamil Nadu to Lakshadweep at an altitude of 3.1 km above sea level. Light to moderate rain or thundershowers are likely at a few places in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam on Wednesday and Thursday; thunderstorms and lightning may occur at one or two locations. Strong winds blowing at 40–50 kmph are expected, and hot, humid weather conditions may cause discomfort. Similarly, light to moderate rain or thundershowers, accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning, are likely at one or two places in South Coastal Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday and Thursday. Winds may blow at 40–50 kmph, and the weather is expected to be hot, humid, and uncomfortable. In Rayalaseema, light to moderate rain is likely at a few places on Wednesday and Thursday, with thunderstorms and lightning occurring at one or two locations. With winds expected to blow at 30–40 kmph, hot and humid weather conditions are likely in the region. A similar weather pattern is forecast for Friday, with scattered showers, thunderstorms, and gusty winds expected.

Overall, the Meteorological Department indicates a mix of rain and heat across the Telugu states. The monsoon is gradually strengthening in the region.

YS Jagan urges vigilance during SIR exercise in Andhra

Amaravati: YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday directed constituency coordinators and regional in-charges to remain vigilant during the ongoing SIR of electoral rolls in Andhra Pradesh. The ECI commenced the Special Intensive Revision in Andhra Pradesh on June 15, with the enumeration process scheduled to continue until July 14. “The next four weeks are crucial for safeguarding every genuine vote. All constituency coordinators and regional in-charges must remain vigilant and closely monitor the ongoing SIR of electoral rolls,” Jagan said in a release. The exercise, being undertaken with July 1, 2026 as the qualifying date, aims to update and verify voter details and covers nearly 4.1 crore electors across 28 districts and 175 Assembly constituencies in the state. At a review meeting held at the party’s central office in Tadepalli with senior leaders, the former chief minister instructed party functionaries to monitor the SIR process on a daily basis and immediately report any irregularities to the election authorities. He also asked them to escalate unresolved issues to the party headquarters without delay. Jagan stressed that once a genuine voter’s name is deleted during the SIR process, restoring it becomes ex-



tremely difficult, making constant vigilance at the ground level essential. Alleging that Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu was using the government machinery to remove YSRCP supporters from electoral rolls, the opposition leader claimed that efforts were being made to alter the rolls through administrative means rather than democratic processes. He called upon constituency coordinators, Booth Level Agents (BLAs) and grassroots leaders to ensure that no genuine voter is removed from the rolls. Describing voter protection as a key responsibility of the party organisation, Jagan urged party workers to undertake continuous field-level monitoring, conduct daily reviews and intervene promptly wherever necessary. He further appealed to the party cadre to treat the SIR exercise as a mission to protect the democratic rights of voters and safeguard every YSRCP vote.

Kurnool fast-tracks massive preparations for Int’l Yoga Day



Kurnool: Extensive arrangements are underway in Kurnool district to celebrate International Yoga Day in a grand manner, with a target of mobilising 5.50 lakh participants for the ‘Yoga Andhra’ programme, said SETKUR CEO Venugopal on Tuesday. A special Yoga Andhra programme was organised on Tuesday at the premises of Sri Rupala Sangameswara Swamy temple located near Jagannatha Gattu on the outskirts of Kurnool. Addressing the event, SETKUR CEO Venugopal said that all preparations have been completed to celebrate International Yoga Day on June 21 across the district on a massive scale. He noted that registration for participation has already been completed, targeting 5.50 lakh people across the district. He further stated that 11,500 master trainers have been specially trained and are currently imparting yoga training across various regions of the district. Yoga activities, sessions have been successfully conducted with around 800 participants at prominent tourist locations such as Rock Garden and Kondareddy Buruju in Kurnool city. Yoga programmes are also being organised at major temples

including Yaganti, Mantralayam, Peravali, Kalvabugga, and Jagannatha Gattu under the supervision of the Endowments Department Assistant Commissioner. Highlighting the coordination among departments, he said a special yoga programme with around 1,000 sanitation workers will be conducted on June 18 at the SCP Grounds as per state government instructions. He attributed the successful implementation of Yoga Andhra initiatives in the district to the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the leadership of Nara Chandrababu Naidu, and the directions of the District Collector. Officials from all departments, from village to district level, are working in coordination to ensure the success of the programme. He added that various yoga competitions were conducted at village, panchayat, mandal, and district levels, and district-level winners are being sent to state-level competitions. The event concluded with expressions of gratitude to all officials and staff who contributed to the successful organisation of the programme at the spiritually serene Jagannatha Gattu environment.

Kalyandurg urban forest park set to open soon

Kalyandurg: Collector O Anand and MLA Amilineni Surendra Babu on Tuesday inspected the upcoming Urban Forest Park near Kalyandurg town to review its final readiness. The officials visited the bird aviaries, children’s parks, and the ‘Hill View Point.’



Collector Anand directed forest authorities to submit expenditure sheets for two eco-cottages under the ‘Jee Ram Jee’ scheme in July. MLA Surendra Babu added that the government will

be asked to develop separate tourist resorts on-site and confirmed that Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan will be approached to formally inaugurate the eco-tourism spot.

Anantapur administration unveils massive prosthetic support drive

Anantapur: In a major humanitarian boost for persons with disabilities across the Rayalaseema region, District Collector and Magistrate O Anand launched “Project Cheyutha”—a specialized initiative to distribute advanced, functional LN-4 prosthetic hands to lower-income amputees completely free of cost. Indian Current Events The launch took place at the Police Parade Ground on Tuesday, where the official poster was unveiled during a “Divyang” thematic wellness session. The mega-project is a collaborative venture executed by Rotary District 3150, the global LN-4 Hand Project, and the Andhra Pradesh State Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society. According to the official layout, a series of specialized fitting camps have been scheduled across



the state. The drive will hit Guntur on August 2, Vizianagaram on August 16, and culminate with a mega-camp in Anantapur on August 30, 2026. The programme caters to individuals aged four and older who have lost an upper limb below the shoulder, provided they maintain a residual limb length of at least four inches to anchor the device.