

# KING

## DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## CM Chandrababu assures comprehensive investigation in Sai Krishna missing case

(king Reporter)Gade Vijayalakshmi, met the Chief Minister at his camp office and appealed for a comprehensive investigation and justice regarding her son's disappearance. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu responded to the disappearance of Gade Sai Krishna from Krishnalanka, Vijayawada. Sai Krishna's mother, Gade Vijayalakshmi, met the Chief Minister at his camp office and appealed for a comprehensive investigation and justice regarding her son's disappearance. The Chief Minister reassured Vijayalakshmi and promised an impartial investigation to uncover the facts. After gathering full details about the case from her, he assured the family that appropriate measures would be taken to ensure justice. Speaking to the media after meeting Chief Minister Chandrababu, Gade Vijayalakshmi expressed confidence that justice would be served, noting the government's support for their family and the assurance given by the Chief Minister. She mentioned that the CM promised all necessary assistance regarding Sai Krishna's case. Sai Krishna's maternal uncle, Navarang, stated that they had brought the family's distress to the Chief Minister's attention and expressed the hope that such incidents would not hap-



pen to anyone else. He added that the Chief Minister made it clear that the police investigation is ongoing and that legal action is inevitable if anyone is found to be at fault. Navarang clarified that their family has no affiliations with any political parties or caste groups, emphasizing the need to fight for justice whenever an injustice occurs. They expressed confidence that justice would be served under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. Political Opinion Articles Noting that the government has already responded and provided reassurance, the family members appealed that they be allowed to live in peace without their family being dragged into controversies.

## AP SSC supplementary exams results released

(king Reporter) The results of the 10th-grade advanced supplementary examinations in Andhra Pradesh have been released. Andhra Pradesh Education Minister Nara Lokesh released the results online. Approximately 90,000 students appeared for these exams, which were held between May 25 and June 4.



## Murder case filed against Vijayawada police inspector in man 'missing' case

(king Reporter)Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh Police on Friday booked a murder case, among other charges, against one of its officials, inspector Nagaraju, for his alleged role in a man "missing" case in Vijayawada after the victim's mother claimed that the inspector had tortured and killed her son while in custody. Recently, the Andhra Pradesh government "suspended" Nagaraju, attached to Vijayawada's Krishna Lanka station, for his alleged role in the disappearance of Gade Sai Krishna (23). Krishna's mother Gade Vijaya Lakshmi (53) lodged a complaint against Nagaraju on Thursday evening and the police registered the FIR today. "Yes terday evening (Thursday) my sister (Vijaya Lakshmi) lodged a complaint. Police registered an FIR," Krishna's uncle Mullapudi Navrang told PTL. Police booked Nagaraju under BNS Sections 103 (1), 127 (4) and 127 (6) and also BNSS 238. BNS Section 103 deals with murder while 127 pertains to wrongful confinement. BNSS 238 deals with the "Effect of errors" in criminal charges. Lakshmi accused Nagaraju of confining her son in the police station, torturing him to death and later burning him to ashes without a trace. She alleged that Nagaraju

had cremated Krishna's body clandestinely without the knowledge of his family members. Earlier, she demanded Krishna to be produced before her "if he is alive" or at least give his "mortal remains." The "missing" case made the state government take it up seriously, prompting Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to appoint a senior IPS officer to probe the case. On Thursday evening, YSRCP supremo YS Jagan Mohan Reddy called on Krishna's family members and demanded a CBI probe into the alleged custodial death. Alleging custodial torture, Jagan claimed that the victim was subjected to severe abuse in custody and cited reports that his fingernails had been pulled out. The former CM said Krishna's mother had been visiting the police station almost every day from May 9 to June 2, pleading with police personnel to allow her to see her son. Despite allegedly hearing her son's cries while he was being beaten, she was repeatedly denied access, he claimed. Jagan alleged that complaints submitted by the family to senior police officials, including the Police Commissioner, SV Rajasekhar Babu, and the DGP, Harish Kumar Gupta, failed to elicit any response.

## Pawan Kalyan lays foundation stone for Common Facility Centre for forest research, conservation

(king Reporter)Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Forest and Environment, Pawan Kalyan on Friday laid the foundation stone for 'Aranyaramam', a first-of-its-kind Common Facility Centre near Mangalagiri. To be built at a cost of Rs 24 crore, Aranyaramam will serve as the hub for Andhra Pradesh's forest research, training, conservation, and environmental governance initiatives. 'Aranyaramam' will serve as the administrative and supervisory office for the Forest and Environment Department. It will function as the Command Centre for the units of HANUMAN - Animal Conflict Mitigation Centre, the monitoring hub for the Andhra Pradesh Great Green Wall, wildlife conservation, forest fire management, ecosystem restoration, climate resilience, eco-tourism, and digital environmental governance. Following the groundbreaking ceremony, Pawan Kalyan reviewed the HANUMAN gallery showcasing wildlife rescue operations. Officials highlighted that the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department successfully carried out 185 wildlife rescues and 36 human-wildlife conflict mitigation operations in 2024 alone. The Deputy Chief Minister also launched a programme named 'Nandanavanam' to revitalise nature in an area that had suffered environmental destruction due to mining. He planted a native banyan sapling. Mining operations conducted in the area since 2013



have severely degraded the natural hill terrain and forest cover, resulting in rampant environmental destruction. According to a statement from the office of the Deputy Chief Minister, he has launched an initiative to restore nature to this region. 'Nandanavanam' stands as the first initiative aimed at restoring greenery to the forest areas depleted by mining. He planted the banyan sapling with the resolve to transform this entire area into a lush 'Nandanavanam' (a celestial garden/paradise) filled with trees. On this occasion, Pawan Kalyan clarified that the 'Nandanavanam' concept is being advanced with the aim of providing future generations with an environment rich in clean air and natural resources by enhancing greenery across the state and restoring natural resources. The event was attended by State Forest and Environment Department Principal Secretary Kantilal Dande; Forest Department Advisor Mallikarjuna Rao; PCCF (Forest Department) P.V. Chalapathi Rao; State Medical Infrastructure Development Corporation Chairman Chillapalli Srinivasa Rao, and others.

## YSRCP chief Jagan seeks CBI inquiry into Vijayawada custodial death

(king Reporter)Vijayawada: Former Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday demanded a CBI inquiry into the alleged custodial death of Gade Sai Krishna at Krishna Lanka Police Station and sought strict action against all those responsible. He alleged that the case involved not only the suspended Circle Inspector but also senior police officials, including the Vijayawada Police Commissioner and the State DGP. YS Jagan visited Sai Krishna's residence in Krishna Lanka and consoled his mother, Gade Vijayalakshmi, and other family members. Speaking to the media later, the YSRCP chief said the incident had exposed the alarming state of law and order in Andhra Pradesh. Sai Krishna was taken into police custody on May 9, following which his mother repeatedly visited the police station seeking information about her son. YS Jagan said that instead of helping her, police officials allegedly mocked her and asked her to garland her son's photograph. Despite written complaints being submitted to senior police officials, no action was taken. The former Chief Minister also criticised attempts to portray Sai Krishna as a mafia don or rowdy after his death. Referring to concerns raised by his relatives, he said Sai Krishna was working as a gig worker to earn a livelihood and questioned why a person allegedly involved in serious criminal activities would need to do such work. YS



Jagan said the family approached the High Court by filing a Habeas Corpus petition after suspecting foul play. Only after legal intervention and public pressure did the authorities acknowledge the custodial death and suspend the Krishna Lanka CI, he said. He added that suspension alone was not enough and demanded murder charges against all those involved. He claimed that officials at various levels had failed to act despite complaints and warning signs. Demanding a CBI probe, YS Jagan said only an independent investigation could reveal the full truth, identify everyone involved, and establish accountability. He assured Sai Krishna's family and other affected families that YSRCP would extend full support in their legal fight for justice. Referring to another incident in the same area, YS Jagan said Kranthi Kumar had died by suicide in May after allegedly facing repeated harassment from the same police officer. He questioned how two young men could lose their lives within a month under the jurisdiction of the same police station and officer.



## The Biotech revolution: Dawn of modern biomanufacturing

Discover how biomanufacturing is driving a shift from a consumptive to a regenerative global economy. Explore the role of bio-based chemicals, precision medicine, and climate-resilient agriculture in achieving a sustainable, low-carbon future and India's vision for a green bioeconomy. National News Coverage The climate change crisis is resulting in large scale wildfire, melting of glaciers and decline in biodiversity along with the unsustainable pattern of material consumption and waste generation as global threats that require concerted sustainable interventions. It is in the backdrop of these events where an application of biotechnology is being used to make a difference. Traditional biological production processes such as fermentation have existed since ancient times, while modern biomanufacturing is a relatively recent development. The origin of biomanufacturing dates back to 1940s, wherein US pioneered deep-tank fermentation making the first commercial production of Penicillin possible. Biomanufacturing is the use of engineered microbial plant and animal cells with increasing precision and control to produce commercially important products on scale. Biomanufacturing holds immense potential to offer solutions to these problems by harnessing regenerative and sustainable potential of biological systems. It can fundamentally transform the global economy from today's consumptive manufacturing paradigm to the one based on regenerative principles. Biobased chemicals and enzymes They are organic molecules derived from renewable biomass sources, such as organic waste, forest byproducts and agricultural wastes. They work with enzymes-biological catalysts, promote effective environmentally friendly production techniques in variety of industries. Biobased substitutes like biofuels that are carbon neutral alternatives to fossil fuels, such as ethanol and biodiesel, help to slow down global warming. Additionally, the application of biobased compounds facilitates the creation of circular economy by continuously recycling renewable resources. Functional foods and smart proteins Functional Foods provide additional health benefits beyond basic nutrition — e.g., vitamin-enriched rice, omega-3-fortified milk, using Nutrigenomics (gene-nutrition interaction), biofortification and bioprocessing. Examples in India: Zinc-enriched rice (IIRR, Hyderabad), Iron-rich pearl millet (ICRISAT). Whereas Smart Proteins produced through biotechnology to reduce dependence on livestock. Like - Plant-based proteins: Extracts from legumes, cereals, oilseeds mimicking animal meat/dairy. Cultivated meat: Animal cells grown in bioreactors without slaughter. vis-a-vis traditional one-size-fits for all approach, by using gene therapy, genomics, sequencing, biomarker identification to know the details of the reaction of the body for each and every action of the medication provided. Therefore, accelerating cutting edge innovations for developing biobased products. It helps in decreasing environmental contamination in water and other ecosystems and enhancing economic growth. Climate resilient agriculture (i) Breeding climate resilient crops by employing genomic selection and genome editing (ii) Use of AI in protein prediction platforms and their potential to serve as novel Agri-biologicals.

## Hyderabad police books man for allowing minor son to drive luxury car on ORR



Hyderabad: The Hyderabad police booked a case against a man for allowing his minor son to drive a luxury car on the Outer Ring Road (ORR). The police initiated action after receiving complaints that the minor boy was driving an MG Cyberster on the ORR. Netizens shared a video on social media showing the child driving the car on the Rajendranagar stretch of the ORR. Following the infor-

mation and the viral video, the traffic police formed a team and traced the vehicle and its owner. The police seized the vehicle and booked a case against the man for allowing his minor son to drive the car. The traffic police appealed to the public not to hand over vehicles to minor children, as doing so could endanger their lives and the safety of other motorists.

## IIT Hyderabad climbs to 588th rank in QS World University Rankings 2027

Sangareddy: The Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IIT-H) has registered a significant leap in the QS World University Rankings-2027, securing a global rank of 588, up from 664 in the previous edition. The improvement reflects the institute's growing international recognition for research excellence, innovation-led education and impactful technology development, according to an institute press release here on Thursday. A major contributor to this achievement was the exceptional performance in the citations per faculty indicator, where it achieved a global rank of 123, placing it among the world's leading research-intensive institutions. The institute's score in this indicator rose to 86.8, highlighting the increasing influence, quality, and global visibility of research produced by its faculty and scholars. The rankings also indicated improvement in several other key parameters, including academic reputation, employer reputation, employment outcomes, and sustainability and the institute's overall score increased to 28.7, while its relative global performance improved from 55.9 per cent to 61 per cent, indicating



that IIT-H now outperforms more than 61 per cent of ranked universities worldwide. Over the past few years, IIT-H has consistently strengthened its global position, moving from the 691-700 band in 2024, to 664 in 2026, and now reaching 588 globally in 2027. Speaking on the achievement, Director of IIT-H Prof BS Murty said the QS World University Rankings 2027 is a validation of the institute's aggressive focus on deep-tech innovation, translational research, and robust academic ecosystem. "This success belongs entirely to our relentless faculty, passionate researchers, and dedicated students who continually redefine excellence. As a relatively young institute, our gaze remains fixed on higher milestones as we scale our international collaborations and industry footprints", he said.

## Daily wager found dead in Siddipet lake after fishing trip

Siddipet: A daily wager, who went fishing in a lake, was found dead on Thursday at Alirajpet village. The deceased Dyapa Mallesham (45) left his home on Wednesday morning and as he failed to return home, the family members searched for him everywhere. However, they could

not trace Mallesham until evening. Some locals found his body floating in the water body on Thursday morning. The police registered a case. The body was taken to the government hospital in Gajwel for postmortem.

## Bisleri workers seek Labour Minister Vivek's intervention over job dismissals in Sangareddy

Sangareddy: Employees of Bisleri International Private Limited located at Pashamylaram Industrial Area demanded the intervention of Labour Minister and District incharge Minister G Vivekananda in restoring the employment of the workers who were removed from the service. The employees have been staging protests at the Bisleri plant for the last few days. CITU leader Athimela Manik urged Vivekananda to hold discussions with the management to restore their employment besides making the Bisleri pay proper salaries and other benefits to all the workers. Manik said that Bisleri had dismissed some workers, and transferred some others to far-off places after they established a trade union fol-



lowing the labour act. He accused the management of taking autocratic decisions in violation of the labour act. Unless the Bisleri restores the employment of dismissed workers, Manik said that they would intensify their protests.

## H-FAST raids unlicensed Charminar food godown, seizes adulterated chicken and oil



Hyderabad: A joint team of the Hyderabad Food Adulteration Surveillance Team (H-FAST) and Food Safety officials raided an unlicensed fast food godown in Charminar and seized large quantities of adulterated food material being stored under unhygienic conditions. Authorities seized around 110 kg of prepared fried chicken, 90 litres of loose cooking oil and artificial food colours allegedly used in food preparation. Two persons involved in running the unit were nabbed. The raid was conducted at a food storage and preparation unit in Panch Mohalla, New Laad Bazar, where officials found the establishment operating without an FSSAI licence. Officials found several violations, including the use of prohibited food colours, repeated use of stale cooking oil, lack of water quality certification and poor sanitation standards.

## Hotel businessman dies after alleged suicide attempt linked to online betting losses

Hyderabad: A 53-year-old hotel businessman from Aushapur in Ghatkesar succumbed while undergoing treatment after allegedly attempting suicide amid financial distress linked to online betting losses. The victim identified as V Shekar, ran a hotel business along with his wife Sridevi. Family members reportedly told police that he had recently developed a habit of participating in online betting activities and suffered significant financial losses, leading to mounting stress. According to the police, on June 14, Shekar allegedly returned home after consuming alcohol and got into an argument with his wife. During the altercation, he reportedly attempted to end his life by hanging himself with a saree, but his daughter intervened and stopped him. Police said that later, when no one was around, he locked himself inside a room and allegedly hanged himself from a ceiling fan using a saree. Family members forcibly opened the door and rushed him to Gandhi Hospital for treatment. Despite medical efforts, Shekar died while undergoing treatment on Thursday. Based on a complaint lodged by his wife, Ghatkesar police booked a case and are investigating.

## ACB traps Additional Assistant Engineer for taking Rs 25,000 bribe

Sangareddy: Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) sleuths nabbed Additional Assistant Engineer of Transco B Ramakrishna Reddy while he was accepting Rs 25,000 bribe from a person. The complainant accidentally rammied his car on an electrical pole in the town. The accused officer reportedly demanded the bribe for not taking any action against him. Unable to pay the amount, he approached the ACB officials who laid a trap and caught him while accepting the amount at his office in the town on Thursday. He was produced before Special SPE and ACB court in Hyderabad.

## Massive Vanmahotsav begins in Mahabubabad with 43.51 lakh saplings goal

Warangal: The Van Mahotsav programme was launched on a grand scale at Jamandlapalli in Mahabubabad district on Thursday, with officials setting a target of planting 43.51 lakh saplings across various departments. District Collector Sneha Shabarish, Superintendent of Police Dr Shabarish, District Forest Officer Vishal Battula and DRDO Project Director Madhusudhan Raju inaugurated the programme by planting and watering saplings. Addressing the gathering, the Collector stressed the need for all departments to achieve their assigned plantation targets to improve green cover and environmental sustainability. She said public participation was essential for the success of the initiative. The district administration prepared a comprehensive action plan, with major contributions expected from the DRDA, Forest Department, Municipal Authorities and Agriculture Department. The Collector directed



officials to ensure the survival of saplings through proper protection, tree guards and regular watering. She also emphasised avenue plantations, fruit-bearing trees and "monkey food" plants to reduce wildlife disturbances. Several officials, public representatives and local councilors participated in the programme.

## Auto driver returns bag containing 10 tolas of gold in Warangal

Matwada police felicitate driver for exemplary integrity and public responsibility Warangal: In a remarkable display of honesty and civic responsibility, an auto-rickshaw driver in Warangal returned a bag containing nearly 10 tolas of gold jewellery and other valuables to its rightful owner, earning praise from the public and recognition from the Matwada police.



Indian Current Events The incident took place on Thursday when Addagu duru Satyanarayana, a resident of Bhadrachalam, travelled to Warangal to attend a wedding ceremony in Ramanapet. After hiring an auto-rickshaw from the Warangal bus stand, he accidentally left behind his luggage bag in the vehicle bearing registration number TS03UA 3340. The bag reportedly contained around 10 tolas of gold ornaments, clothes and other valuable belongings. Upon realising the loss, Satyanarayana immediately approached the Matwada Police Station and lodged a complaint seeking assistance in tracing the missing bag.

## Haritha orders strict vigil on seed and fertiliser shops to protect farmers



Surprise inspection of fertiliser shop reveals stock record lapses; dealers directed to maintain transparency and comply with regulations Asifabad: District Collector K. Haritha said that the district administration was taking all necessary measures to ensure that farmers received quality seeds and fertilisers without any inconvenience. She made the remarks while conducting a surprise inspection of Kalavathi Traders, a fertiliser and seed shop in Buruguda village of Asifabad Mandal on Thursday. During the inspection, the Collector examined cotton seed packets and verified the stock registers maintained by the shop. She expressed dissatisfaction over the failure of the shop owner to properly record details of the available seed and fertiliser stock. Directing the owner to rectify the lapses immediately,

she instructed that stock registers be updated regularly and that information regarding the availability of seeds and fertilisers be prominently displayed on the shop notice board for the benefit of farmers. Haritha stated that the government would not tolerate the sale of spurious cotton seeds that mislead and cause losses to farmers. She warned that strict legal action would be initiated against those involved in such illegal activities.

The Collector also cautioned dealers against selling government-banned herbicides and other prohibited agricultural chemicals. She said surprise inspections of seed and fertiliser outlets would continue across the district and stressed the need for strict adherence to all regulations in the interest of farmers.

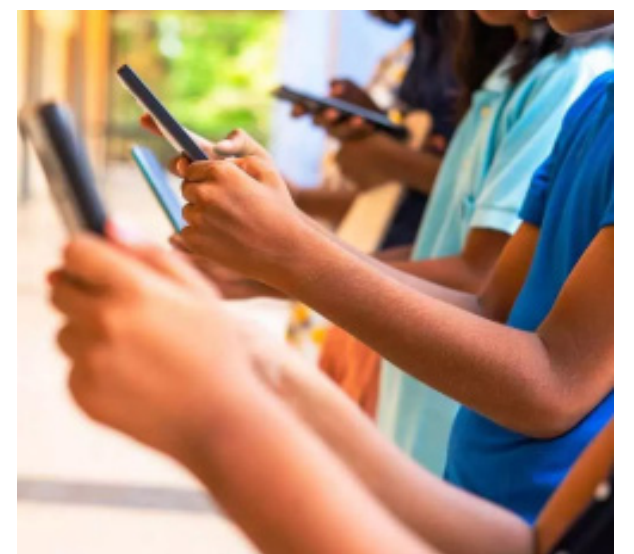
## Mystery continues to shroud RGUKT student's fall

Nirmal: Mystery continues to shroud the fall of a student from a hostel building at Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies (RGUKT)-Basar. On June 17, Asmitha Begum from Sangareddy district, who is studying in the first year of the Pre-University Course, sustained grievous injuries after falling from a building. She was rushed to a hospital in Hyderabad, where her condition is said to be stable. The RGUKT officials drew flak for keeping the incident under wraps as they did not disclose the reason behind it. They also faced criticism for failing to provide clarity on whether it was an accident or an alleged suicide attempt. Even two days after the incident, officials continued to remain silent on the matter. Police, however, said an inquiry

was underway. University sources, however, indicated that the student allegedly attempted suicide, but the reason that led to the incident has not yet been ascertained. Officials reportedly erased bloodstains from the scene, hindering the probe and raising the eyebrows of investigators. Incidentally, the officials had come under sharp criticism for allegedly shifting the body of another student, R Vasantha, to a government hospital in Bhainsa without informing others in February. They did not make any official statement when the incident occurred, drawing widespread criticism from students. Vasantha allegedly died by suicide after reportedly suffering from depression following the death of a friend by suicide.

## Medak youth deceives women using social media, swindles lakhs

A shocking incident has come to light in Medak district where a cunning man deceived two innocent young women using social media on the pretext of love. A shocking incident has come to light in Medak district where a cunning man deceived two innocent young women using social media on the pretext of love. Victims lodged a police complaint against a youth named Durgesh, who had ensnared two women from Tekmal village—using different names and swindled lakhs of rupees from them. According to the police, Durgesh adopted the alias "Rithvik Reddy" on Instagram and sent a friend request to a young woman from Tekmal. After she accepted the request, he struck up a conversation. He convinced her that he was undergoing IPS training in Chhattisgarh and, through smooth talk, drew her into a romantic relationship. Claiming he needed money for urgent expenses and promising marriage, he managed to extract Rs 5 lakh in cash and a pair of gold earrings from her. He then gradually began to distance himself by changing his phone number and attempting to disappear. Meanwhile, Durgesh set his sights on another girl—a 17-year-old minor—from the same village. This time, he created an Instagram



profile under the name "Sathvik Reddy" and sent her a request. He spun a new story, claiming to be an MBBS student. Under the guise of educational expenses, he extracted approximately 7 lakh from her in installments. Eventually, Durgesh switched off both his phone numbers and absconded. The full story came to light when two victims, realizing they had been deceived, lodged a complaint at the Tekmal police station. They were shocked to discover that the person who had swindled them was not two different individuals, but a single man named Durgesh from their own village. The police have registered a case and are searching for the accused.

## Hyderabad CP Sajjanar extends best wishes to students on schools reopening

Hyderabad City Police Commissioner Sajjanar extended his best wishes to students, parents, and teachers as schools reopened following the summer holidays. He participated in and addressed a meeting regarding school children's safety held today (Friday) at Ravindra Bharati in Hyderabad. He noted that there are over 3,500 schools within the city limits, with more than 1.2 million students enrolled. He stated that this program was organized to foster a safe school environment and emphasized that adhering to traffic rules should become a habit for students. The Commissioner expressed concern over the recent trend of children becoming involved in criminal activities, describing it as distressing. He clarified that a safe environment is more important than academic rankings in educational institutions. He made it clear that underage driving would not be tolerated under any circumstances and noted that instances of school bus drivers being caught for drunk driving have been reported. He insisted that school managements must maintain a comprehensive route map detailing how students commute to school, stating that the management bears responsibility for the children's safety once they are on their way to school. Also Read - 12 OU BDS students face action over alleged ragging



Advertisement The Commissioner advised that school bus drivers be closely monitored and suggested that educational institutions appoint traffic volunteers and marshals. He also emphasized the need for regular interaction between teachers and parents.

He noted that children often get involved in crimes—sometimes unwittingly—and emphasized the need for teachers and parents to supervise them. He stated that CCTV cameras must be installed within school premises. He also pointed out that selling tobacco products near schools is a crime and urged that the police be informed about such activities. Highlighting that 45 students die in accidents daily across the country—and noting that accidents are more dangerous than murders—CP Sajjanar stressed the importance of raising awareness about traffic rules among school students.

## Hyatt Place Hyderabad Banjara Hills to host 'Kerala Beyond Malabar' culinary festival

Hyderabad: Hyatt Place Hyderabad Banjara Hills is set to present "Kerala Beyond Malabar", a specially curated culinary festival celebrating the diverse flavours of Kerala, from June 19 to 28 at its Gallery Café. The food festival aims to take guests beyond the familiar tastes of Malabar cuisine and introduce them to authentic delicacies from Central Kerala and the Travancore region. Through a thoughtfully designed buffet, the hotel seeks to bring communities together by showcasing the rich culinary traditions and cultural heritage of the southern state. Adding authenticity to the experience, the menu has been curated in collaboration with a visiting chef from Hyatt Regency Thrissur. Drawing on traditional recipes and regional cooking techniques, the chef has crafted a menu that reflects Kerala's culinary identity through balanced flavours, aromatic spices and time-honoured preparations.

Guests can savour a range of signature dishes featuring coconut-based curries, coastal specialities, traditional rice preparations and classic accompaniments from different regions of Kerala. The festival aims to offer diners not only a gastronomic experience but also an insight into the state's cultural traditions. Hyatt Place Hyderabad Banjara Hills said such culinary initiatives form part of its ongoing commitment to creating immersive and authentic experiences for guests while



promoting India's diverse regional cuisines.

Festival: Kerala Beyond Malabar

Dates: June 19-28, 2026

Venue: Gallery Café, Hyatt Place Hyderabad Banjara Hills

Offering: Dinner buffet and Sunday brunches

Price: Rs 1,999 plus taxes per person

For reservations and enquiries, guests may contact 040-67801234 or +91 6281976646.

## Telangana EAPCET engineering admissions counselling begins

Hyderabad: The Telangana Engineering, Agriculture and Pharmacy Common Entrance Test (TG EAPCET) 2026 first-phase engineering admission process commenced on Friday with registrations. Students who qualified in TG EAPCET 2026 have to register through the website <https://tgeapcet.nic.in/>, pay the processing fee and book a slot for certificate verification at the helpline centres on or before June 28. Certificate verification is scheduled between June 22 and 29, and web options for allotment of seats and colleges will be open from June 25 to July 1. The Technical Education department will release the mock seat allocation on or before July 4, and web option modifications, if any, can be made between July 5 and 7. The first-phase seat allotment is scheduled on or before July 10, with payment of tuition fee and self-reporting through the website from July 10 to 14. Similarly, registration for second-phase admissions is on July 17, certificate verification on July 18, and web options can be exercised on July 18 and 19.

Seats will be provisionally allotted on or before July 22, and students have to pay the tuition fee and self-report online between July 22 and 24. Reporting at the allotted college is between July 25 and 28, and the last date to cancel the admission is July 28.

The final-phase admission counselling process will begin with registration on July 31, certificate verification on August 1, and web options will be open on August 1 and 2. Seats will be allotted on or before August 5. Students have to confirm their seat by paying the tuition fee and self-report online between August 5 and 7. Web options for centralised internal sliding (change of branch within a college) will be available on August 12 and 13, and seats will be allotted on August 15. Students who received a new allotment have to self-report through the website and report to the new branch either on August 16 or 17. Guidelines for spot admissions in the university and constituent colleges will be placed on the website on August 16.

## Allu Arjun summoned by court in Sandhya Theatre stampede case

Hyderabad: A local court has issued summons to actor Allu Arjun in connection with the Sandhya Theatre stampede case linked to the premiere screening of 'Pushpa 2: The Rule'. The court directed him to appear in person on June 22 as part of the ongoing proceedings. The summons was issued by the Nampally Criminal Court after examining the chargesheet filed by the police. Along with Allu Arjun, summons were sent to 19 other suspects named in the case. The Chikkadpally Police had earlier named a total of 23 persons in the chargesheet, including theatre management and event organisers. According to the police, Allu Arjun has been listed as Accused No. 11 (A11) in the case. The charges are the result of the stampede that occurred outside the popular Sandhya Theatre during the premiere show of Pushpa 2 on De-



cember 4, 2024. The incident drew massive crowds of fans and moviegoers, leading to chaos near the venue. The stampede resulted in the death of a 39-year-old woman, Revathi, and injuries to several others, including her young son Sritej, triggering a high-profile investigation into alleged lapses in crowd management and security arrangements. Following months of inquiry, the police filed a detailed chargesheet holding multiple individuals responsible for the incident.

## Ram Temple embezzlement probe: Dozens of staff quizzed; SIT intensifies probe

Lucknow: Stepping up its probe into the Ram Temple embezzlement row, the three-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) is set to quiz Ram Shankar Yadav alias Tinnu Yadav again on Friday and expand the ambit of the investigation, including scanning of documents pertaining to gold and silver offerings at the temple and also bringing land records of the accused under the scanner. Ram Shankar Yadav is one of the key suspects in the alleged misappropriation of funds at Ram Temple, over allegations that he diverted temple funds to the tune of Rs 50 crore for building a lavish home. His alleged links with Ram Temple Kshetra Trust General Secretary Champat Rai added fuel to the controversy. The SIT team, continuing its probe for the fifth day on Friday, will question Yadav and also cross-verify his statements with the documents collected from him so far. Till now, the SIT has questioned a dozen key figures and relevant staff members of the temple, pertaining to alleged embezzlement of donations. A detailed examination

of documented records of 'chadawa' (offerings) including jewellery and ornaments is also under process. The SIT team is seeking to establish a link between the actual quantity of jewellery and offerings received at the temple with their corresponding paper records. Based on the gaps between donations in the form of gold, jewellery and their record with the temple authorities, the SIT would conclude on the alleged lapses and irregularities, that will give a peek into the scale of embezzlement. The three-member SIT team was formed by the Yogi Adityanath government to carry out a detailed probe into missing donations at Ayodhya's famed Ram Janmabhoomi temple. The controversy first stemmed from local media reports about irregularities in 'chadawa' collections, but gained national spotlight after Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav claimed theft of crores of unaccounted donations and sought a judicial probe into the matter. The formation of SIT further gave credence to the charges of misappropriation of temple funds.

## Murder case filed against Vijayawada police inspector in man 'missing' case

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh Police on Friday booked a murder case, among other charges, against one of its officials, inspector Nagaraju, for his alleged role in a man "missing" case in Vijayawada after the victim's mother claimed that the inspector had tortured and killed her son while in custody. Recently, the Andhra Pradesh government "suspended" Nagaraju, attached to Vijayawada's Krishna Lanka station, for his alleged role in the disappearance of Gade Sai Krishna (23). Krishna's mother Gade Vijaya Lakshmi (53) lodged a complaint against Nagaraju on Thursday evening and the police registered the FIR today.

"Yesterday evening (Thursday) my sister (Vijaya Lakshmi) lodged a complaint. Police registered an FIR," Krishna's uncle Mullapudi Navrang told PTI. Police booked Nagaraju under BNS Sections 103 (1), 127 (4) and 127 (6) and also BNSS 238.

BNS Section 103 deals with murder while 127 pertains to wrongful confinement. BNSS 238 deals with the "Effect of errors" in criminal charges. Lakshmi accused Nagaraju of confining her son in the police station, torturing him to death and later burning him to ashes without a trace. She alleged that Nagaraju had cremated Krishna's body clandestinely without the knowledge of his family members. Earlier, she demanded Krishna to be produced before her "if he is alive" or at least give his

"mortal remains." The "missing" case made the state government take it up seriously, prompting Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to appoint a senior IPS officer to probe the case. On Thursday evening, YSRCP supremo YS Jagan Mohan Reddy called on Krishna's family members and demanded a CBI probe into the alleged custodial death. Alleging custodial torture, Jagan claimed that the victim was subjected to severe abuse in custody and cited reports that his fingernails had been pulled out. The former CM said Krishna's mother had been visiting the police station almost every day from May 9 to June 2, pleading with police personnel to allow her to see her son.

Despite allegedly hearing her son's cries while he was being beaten, she was repeatedly denied access, he claimed. Jagan alleged that complaints submitted by the family to senior police officials, including the Police Commissioner, SV Rajasekhara Babu, and the DGP, Harish Kumar Gupta, failed to elicit any response. According to the YSRCP supremo, even written representations submitted by relatives, including a lawyer in the family, were ignored. Meanwhile, a video emerged featuring a Dalit man, Perupogu Kranthi Kumar, who had accused inspector Nagaraju of driving him to suicide through his alleged harassment and torture. In the selfie video, Kumar was seen consuming poison and ending his life due to Nagaraju's harassment on May 21.

## Fugitive wanted in Delhi rape case arrested in Uttarakhand

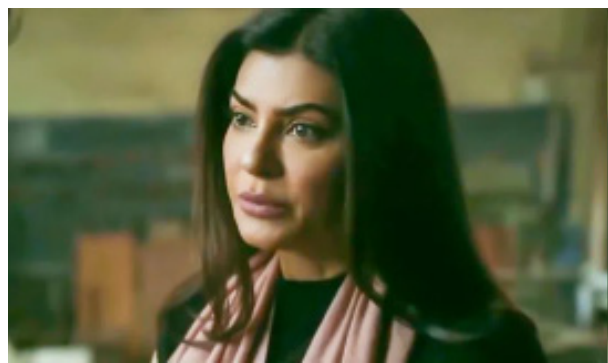
New Delhi: A 26-year-old man, wanted in an alleged rape and POCSO case and on the run for more than two months, was arrested in Uttarakhand, police said on Friday. The accused, a resident of the Welcome area in northeast Delhi, was apprehended during a raid in Bhagwanpur in Uttarakhand, they said. According to police, the case came to light on April 4 when a 21-year-old woman approached the Welcome police station alleging that the accused sexually assaulted her in 2023 after threatening her with a pistol and recorded a video of her and later used it to blackmail and repeatedly sexually exploit her. "He also stalked her during her tuition classes and threatened her and her family members with dire consequences," a senior police officer said. Based on her complaint, a case was registered of rape, stalking, criminal intimidation and related

offences, police said. During the investigation, police verified the victim's age and found that she was a minor at the time of the alleged incident. "Subsequently, Section 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act was added to the case.

The accused had been absconding since the FIR registration. Multiple raids were conducted at his suspected hideouts. Non-bailable warrants had been obtained against the accused and proceedings to declare him a proclaimed offender had also been initiated," the officer said. Acting on a specific tip-off, a team traced and apprehended the accused from Bhagwanpur. During verification, police found that the accused had previous criminal involvement in cases related to culpable homicide not amounting to murder and gambling.

## Sushmita Sen's 'Aarya' turns 6, director says 'Salute to all the strong women'

Mumbai: As Sushmita Sen's action-packed web series "Aarya" clocked 6 years of release on Friday, director Ram Madhvani dropped a gratitude note on social media. In his post, he said that "Aarya" shared the tale of unordinary courage with ordinary people. Taking to his official Instagram handle, Ram Madhvani shared a heartfelt note that read, "Dear Aarya Season 1, Six years ago, you entered our lives and changed us forever. What began as a story became a journey. A journey that taught us about resilience, courage, family, loss, and the extraordinary strength that often lies hidden within ordinary people (sic)." "You reminded me that vulnerability can be powerful, that compassion can coexist with strength, and that the most meaningful stories are the ones that reflect our shared humanity", he went on to add. Ram Madhvani further recalled how "Aarya" was selected as the International Emmy-nominated series for 'Best Drama Series'. He went on to pen, "From touching hearts across the world to becoming an International Emmy-nominated series for Best Drama Series, your journey exceeded anything we could have imagined." The director thanked the mak-



ers, Sushmita, the other cast and crew for making it possible to bring the story to life. "None of this would have been possible without @jiohotstar, @EndemolShineInd, the incredible cast headed by @Sushmitasen47, crew, writers, technicians, producers, and every single person who poured their heart into bringing this world to life. Thank you for your trust, your talent, and your belief in the story. Salute to all the strong women that surround us", he added. At the end, he showed his gratitude to the audience for showering so much love on "Aarya" "And to the audience, thank you for embracing Aarya and making her a part of your lives. Every conversation, every message, every moment of connection made this journey truly special. Looking back today, I feel nothing but gratitude," Ram Madhvani signed off.

## Nora Fatehi says FIFA World Cup performance became special with family by her side

Mumbai: Bollywood dancing diva Nora Fatehi has spoken about being fortunate to witness many monumental moments in her career. Still, nothing compared to the emotional experience of celebrating the major achievement of performing at the FIFA World Cup with her loved ones by her side. Nora shared a string of images featuring her sister, mother, brother, high-school teacher and friends at the second FIFA World Cup opening ceremony in Toronto, where the actress of Moroccan descent had performed. She wrote in the caption section: "I wanted to share this with you guys.. I've been performing for over a decade now.. I've been lucky to have massive moments in my career and I've shared it with some of my favorite people! (sic)." The 34-year-old dancing diva said after performing for over a decade, this was the first time her mother, siblings, childhood friends, close friends, and even her high-school teacher came together to watch her perform live. "But never my entire family and loved ones at the same time... This was the first time ever that I finished a performance



and found all my loved ones TOGETHER WAITING to embrace me! It was truly an emotional moment for me.. I always go to work alone and when I finish a performance i go home.. but this time it was different.. my loved ones gathered to watch me for the first time live and celebrated with me for the first time!(sic)." Nora added: "I worked my ENTIRE life for this moment.. no words can describe this feeling. My sister, my mom and my brother were present for the first time! My high-school teacher, someone so dear to me was present! My childhood friends and my close friends today were also there! There are some people I wish were there too but I'm so happy and grateful.(sic)."

## Hyderabad's stand-up comedy scene is booming, and these are the shows to watch

Hyderabad: From weekend outings to post-work entertainment, stand-up comedy is increasingly becoming a preferred way for many in the city to unwind. Over the past few years, the comedy scene has grown steadily, with established comics and emerging performers drawing audiences to cafes, pubs and dedicated performance venues. Part of the appeal lies in the relatability of the material. From everyday observations and workplace anecdotes to relationships and social media habits, stand-up comedy offers a shared experience that resonates with people across age groups. The rise of comedy clips on social media and streaming platforms has also introduced more audiences to the genre, encouraging them to seek out live performances. Many people also consume comedy beyond live events, tuning into clips while having meals, driving to work or simply relaxing at home over the weekend. "I started go-



ing to stand-up shows with friends last year, and now it's become our go-to weekend plan," says Aditi Sharma, a content writer. "There's something refreshing about laughing with a room full of strangers and disconnecting from work for a couple of hours." Another factor behind the growing popularity is accessibility. Several comedy gigs are hosted at cafes and intimate venues, making them easy to fit into a busy schedule. Audiences can grab a coffee, spend an hour or two watching a set and head back home.

## Anil Ravipudi's film with Venkatesh, Kalyan Ram launched with pooja ceremony

Hyderabad: Ace director Anil Ravipudi's next film, tentatively being referred to as #VenkyAnil5 - #NKRAR2 and featuring actors Venkatesh and Nandamuri Kalyan Ram in the lead, went on floors with a traditional pooja ceremony here on Thursday. The first clap for the film, the shooting of which is to start soon, was given by eminent producer Allu Aravind, who is the father of actor Allu Arjun. Shine Screen Studios, one of the production houses producing the film, took to its social media timelines to share pictures shot at the event. It wrote, "The journey of #VenkyAnil5 - #NKRAR2 begins with a magnificent Pooja Ceremony. The



grand Sankranti entertainer was formally launched today with the presence of the industry dignitaries. Shoot begins soon." On the occasion, the makers of the film made it clear that actresses Keerthy Suresh and Krithi Shetty had come on board the unit of the film. Only a few days ago, director Anil Ravipudi had welcomed National Award winning music director G V Prakash on board the film.

## Bombay High Court allows Preity Zinta to sue online platforms for infringement of content produced with AI Mumbai

Mumbai: Actress Preity Zinta has filed a plea alleging that various online platforms like Meta and Google created, uploaded and disseminated content on her generated from artificial intelligence (AI), thereby violating her personality rights and copyright and causing huge damage to her reputation. The actress also alleged violation of her moral rights under the Copyright Act, 1957. A single-judge bench of Justice Abhay Ahuja allowed her plea seeking patent permission, allowing the actress to file an injunction suit. The Bombay High Court also observed that since the objectionable activities and acts were organised on online platforms and many of the respondent parties had their offices outside Mumbai, some part of the trial was beyond the jurisdiction of the court. Granting the patent permission, the court said it will have the right to hear, examine and dispose of the suit. In recent years, the advent of AI has led to infringement of personality rights. Several actresses' personalities have been created by using AI to spread disinformation. Actors including Amitabh Bachchan, Anil Kapoor, Jackie Shroff, Arjun Kapoor, Varun Dhawan, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Abhishek Bachchan, Salman Khan, R. Madhavan, Hrithik Roshan, and Vivek Oberoi have successfully obtained court protection or injunctions enforcing personality/publicity rights. The earliest and most widely cited landmark victories were by Amitabh Bachchan, Anil Kapoor, and Jackie Shroff, whose cases helped es-



tablish and strengthen judicial recognition of celebrity personality rights in India. Meanwhile, on the professional front, the actress is gearing up for the release of her upcoming film 'Batwara 1947'. The makers of the film recently unveiled the character posters of the core cast of the drama. The character posters show Shabana Azmi, Sunny Deol, Preity Zinta, Karan Deol, Ali Fazal, and Abhimanyu Singh in a fresh avatar. Made under the direction of the National Award-winning filmmaker, Rajkumar Santoshi, 'Batwara 1947' marks the reunion of Santoshi and Sunny after nearly three decades. These two previously collaborated on 'Ghayaal', 'Damini', and 'Ghatak'. Produced by Aamir Khan and Aparna Purohit under the banner of Aamir Khan Productions, the music for the movie has been composed by A. R. Rahman, while the lyrics are penned by Javed Akhtar. 'Batwara 1947' is expected to be out on Partition Day, August 14, 2026.

## Farhan Akhtar reveals what drew him towards acting despite being a director

Mumbai: Actor Farhan Akhtar has opened up about his journey into acting. He revealed how a series of early opportunities eventually shaped his decision to step in front of the camera. Despite already being an established director, he said these experiences encouraged him to explore acting further. Reflecting on his initial experiences, Farhan told IANS that working on projects like "The Fakir of Venice" and "Rock On" played a key role in sparking his interest in acting and encouraged him to explore it further. Farhan shared, "It was a combination of a few things that happened together. One was a friend of mine Anand Surapur, who was directing his film The Fakir of Venice. He was very adamant that I play the lead in his film. That was the first acting experience that I had. I enjoyed that experience." "Then I met Gattu (Abhishek Kapoor) and Rock On!! happened. So out of the exploration of acting through those films is where I felt



there is a lot of possibility to try and do more, which is why I subsequently did Luck By Chance, Bhaag Milkha Bhaag, and Dil Dhadakne Do." For the unversed, Farhan Akhtar began his career as a director with "Dil Chahta Hai," a coming-of-age film that went on to achieve cult status. He later directed "Laks hya," the action thriller "Don," and its sequel "Don 2." He made his acting debut with the musical drama "Rock On" which also earned him a National Film Award for Best Hindi Film as a producer.

## Visakhapatnam's Hemisha Nannamu qualifies for National Women's Team Chess Championship

Hyderabad: Visakhapatnam's Hemisha Nannamu has brought pride to the district by qualifying to play in the National Women Team Chess Championship. Hemisha recently became the Visakhapatnam District Women Chess Champion. Later, she participated in the Andhra Pradesh State Women Team Chess Championship 2026, held at Chirala and won the bronze medal. With this achievement, she has qualified to participate in the national-level chess championship.



## Harshit Rana added to India squad for final ODI against Afghanistan

Hyderabad: The Men's Selection Committee has added Harshit Rana to the India squad for the third and final IDFC First Bank ODI against Afghanistan. Rana, who has completed his rehabilitation at the BCCI Centre of Excellence (COE), has linked up with the ODI squad in Chennai. Updated squad for the third ODI against Afghanistan: Shubman Gill (Captain), Rohit Sharma, Shreyas Iyer (vice-captain), KL Rahul (wicket-keeper), Ishan Kishan (wicket-keeper), Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep



Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Prince Yadav, Gurnoor Brar, Harsh Dubey, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Harshit Rana.

## Switzerland thrash 10-man Bosnia and Herzegovina 4-1 as Manzambi nets brace

Los Angeles: Midfielder Johan Manzambi scored twice in the second half to help Switzerland move to the top of Group B after Johan Manzambi bagged a brace in the second half to beat ten-man Bosnia and Herzegovina 4-1 here in their second FIFA World Cup match on Friday (IST) here at Los Angeles Stadium. The Freiburg star struck twice in a goal-laden second half as the Swiss followed up their opening-match draw against Qatar with an impressive and ultimately deserved victory. At 20 years and 247 days, Manzambi became the youngest player to score two or more goals in a FIFA World Cup match for Switzerland. He is also the first player to score multiple World Cup goals for the Swiss having come off the bench. "Yes, it's probably the best moment of my career so far. We knew why we didn't start well and we had to be patient today. But we're a good team and I think we showed that today," said Manzambi. After a forgettable first period, the match burst into life after the interval when Manzambi came off the bench to crash home an unstoppable first-time strike. Fellow substitute Ruben Vargas doubled their advantage



with a smart right-footed finish before setting up Manzambi to settle the outcome and put himself in the adidas Golden Boot picture, FIFA reports. The Bosnians, who had lost Tarik Muharemovic to a red card for a professional foul on Brel Embolo, pulled a goal back in stoppage time with a ferocious Ermin Mahmic strike. There was no hope of a comeback, though, and Switzerland captain Granit Xhaka restored their three-goal cushion as time ticked down with a coolly dispatched penalty. "It was important to have all the energy on the pitch today and to find solutions. We needed to be patient and we chose to wait until the hydration break to make our tactical changes, so the opponent didn't have a chance to react. We brought fast players and after the opponent already ran a lot, we got spaces, and we were able to convincingly decide the match," said Murat Yakin, Switzerland coach.

## Telangana HC orders HCA to release cricket development funds to Mahmood Cricket Club

Hyderabad: Justice Nagesh Bheemapa of the Telangana High Court directed the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) to release cricket development funds to its private affiliated clubs. The judge observed that the Association cannot ignore a binding order passed by its own Ethics Officer and Ombudsman. The Court allowed a writ petition filed by Mahmood Cricket Club and directed HCA to pay development funds of Rs. 3 lakh per annum from 2017-18 onwards, amounting to Rs. 27 lakh for the period up to 2025-26, within eight weeks. Rejecting HCA's contention that payment of development funds was an internal policy matter dependent on availability of funds, Justice Bheemapa held that HCA performs public functions and is amenable to writ jurisdiction. The Court observed that the Ombudsman's order dated May 7, 2025 had attained finality and was binding on the Association. The Judge also rejected



HCA's plea of financial constraints, noting that the Association had disbursed Rs. 68.73 crore to Visaka Industries Limited in February 2026 while failing to implement the Ombudsman's direction in favour of affiliated clubs. Holding that such selective compliance was arbitrary and discriminatory, the Court directed HCA to implement the Ombudsman's order in its true letter and spirit and release the development funds due to all private affiliated clubs.

## Women's T20 WC: Asian rivals Pakistan and Bangladesh aim to revive their campaigns (Preview)



Southampton: Pakistan and Bangladesh will battle to revive their respective 2026 Women's T20 World Cup campaigns when they face off in a vital Group A clash at The Rose Bowl on Saturday. Pakistan currently languish at the fifth spot on the points table following consecutive losses, while Bangladesh are at fourth place with one win from two matches. Pakistan, though, can take heart from some aspects of their performance against South Africa in Birmingham. Captain Fatima Sana orchestrated a brilliant recovery after an early wobble, striking an unbeaten 55 and stitching together a record ninth-wicket partnership of 71 runs alongside Tuba Hassan to post 126. If Pakistan are to get their first win of the World Cup, they will need all of their batters to click well and take charge of run-scoring. Fatima then claimed 3-16, and became the first captain in tournament's history to score a half-century and take three scalps in a single match, though the

Proteas ultimately scraped home by two wickets. Bangladesh, meanwhile, began by securing a comfortable six-wicket win over Netherlands, before suffering a heavy nine-wicket defeat against tournament heavyweights and six-time winners Australia. Young Juairiya Ferdous leads the run-scoring charts for Bangladesh, while Pakistan will again lean heavily on the all-round capabilities of Fatima and the wrist-spin of Tuba on a balanced Southampton pitch. Bangladesh: Nigar Sultana Joty (c), Nahida Akter (vc), Sharmin Akter Supta, Sobhana Mostary, Shorna Akter, Ritu Moni, Rabeya Khan, Fahima Khatun, Fariha Islam Trisna, Marufa Akter, Shanjida Akter Maghla, Sultana Khatun, Dilara Akter, Juairiya Ferdous, and Taj Nehar Pakistan: Fatima Sana (c), Gull Feroza, Ayesha Zafar, Iram Javed, Eyman Fatima, Aliya Riaz, Natalia Parvaiz, Saira Jabeen, Muneeba Ali, Tuba Hassan, Rameen Shamim, Sadia Iqbal, Nashra Sandhu, Diana Baig, and Tasmia Rubab

## Mexico 1-0 South Korea | Romo strike sends hosts into Round of 32

Zapopan: Co-hosts Mexico became the first team to reach the round of 32 of the FIFA World Cup 2026 with a 1-0 win over South Korea here at Guadalajara Stadium on Friday (IST). Luis Romo's goal just after half-time put Mexico through as Group

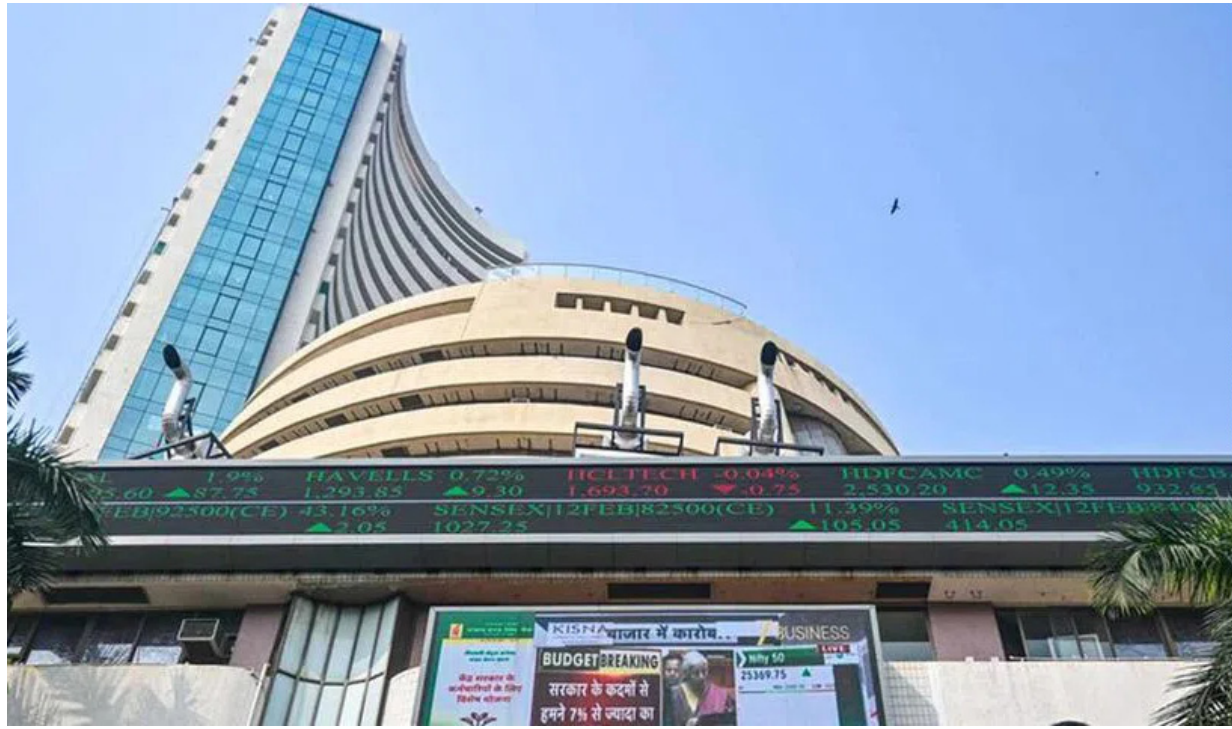


A winners with a match to go following a goalkeeping mistake by Kim Seung-gyu. Mexico stopper Raul Rangel made a superb double save in the dying minutes to preserve their lead. With first place in the bag, Javier Aguirre's side will now meet a third-placed team from one of Group C, E, F, H or I in the round of 32 in Mexico City on June 30. Korea are second on three points, with Czechia and South Africa also still alive in the knockout race with one point each. Mexico will face the Czechia in their dead-rubber final group game while Korea play South Africa on June 25. Both teams went into the clash in front of a passionate home crowd knowing that victory would guarantee progress in double-quick time. Jesus Gallardo signalled Mexico's intent to take charge of proceedings when he sent a low shot into the side-netting from almost the same patch of grass four minutes after the restart, and the co-hosts were celebrating one minute later when Romo was on hand to prod into the unguarded net after a mix-up between Kim Seunggyu and Lee Gihyuk. South Korea captain Son Heung-min had the first real chance after

15 minutes. He lifted the ball over the goalkeeper, but Edson Alvarez cleared it off the line with a bicycle kick. Son was eventually flagged for offside, though replays showed it was very close. Julian Quinones then forced a good save from the South Korean goalkeeper with a header, getting the home crowd loud again. The rest of a quiet first half belonged to South Korea. They passed the ball around comfortably but failed to create any clear chances, though they did manage to quiet down the home fans.

The hosts started the second half with much more energy and took the lead five minutes in. Goalkeeper Kim came out for a high ball but crashed into his own defender, dropping the ball right to Romo. Romo easily tapped it into the empty net in the 50th minute. Kim made up for his mistake in the 75th minute by standing his ground to block a close-range shot from Raol Jimenez with a brilliant save. With three minutes left, Mexico goalkeeper Raul Rangel made an incredible double save from Cho Gue-sung and Yang Hyun-jun to secure the win for Mexico.

## Sensex plunges 787 points, Nifty slips below 24,000 as IT stocks tumble



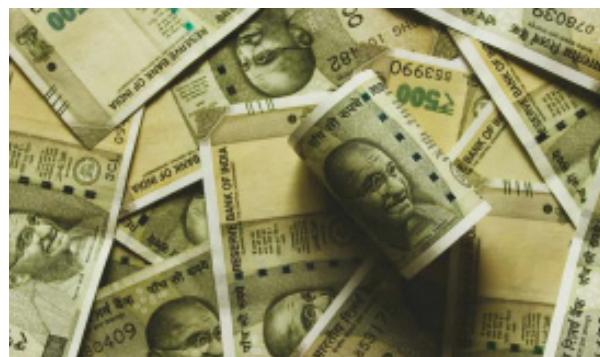
Mumbai: Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled in early trade on Friday after a five-day rally, dragged by heavy selling in IT firms following revenue growth guidance cut by Accenture. The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 786.58 points to 76,624.90 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 210.95 points to 23,959.80. From the 30-Sensex firms, Infosys dived over 8 per cent, Tata Consultancy Services tumbled 6 per cent, Tech Mahindra traded 5 per cent lower and HCL Tech declined 4.9 per cent. HDFC Bank and Tata Steel were also among the laggards. NTPC, Bharti Airtel, Trent and Power Grid were among the winners. The BSE IT index dropped 5.38 per cent. "Guidance cut by Accenture has triggered sell-off in Indian

IT majors' ADRs (American Depositary Receipts)," said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 0.93 per cent lower at USD 79.11 per barrel. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi and Japan's Nikkei 225 index quoted marginally higher. US markets ended higher on Thursday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,025.20 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. Benchmark equity indices ended in positive territory on Thursday, rallying for the fifth straight session. The Sensex climbed 254.36 points, or 0.33 per cent, to settle at 77,409.98. The Nifty edged higher by 82.30 points, or 0.34 per cent, to end at 24,168.

## Rupee rises 20 paise against dollar on hopes of India-US trade deal

Mumbai: The rupee appreciated 20 paise to 94.20 against the US dollar in early trade on Friday on optimism that trade negotiations between India and the United States are set to gain momentum. Forex traders said the rupee opened on a positive note with oil prices remaining supportive and foreign inflows improving. The overall bias remains positive for the rupee, they said. Moreover, Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Thursday said trade was a major subject of discussion between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump, with both leaders directing their negotiators to finalise the proposed trade pact at the earliest. At the interbank foreign exchange market the rupee opened at 94.30, then gained momentum and touched 94.20, registering a gain of 20 paise from its previous all-time closing low. On Tuesday, the rupee settled 10 paise higher at 94.40 against the US dollar. "The RBI is expected to use incoming dollar flows to rebuild forex reserves and gradually reduce its large forward dollar book, estimated at around USD 110 billion. Market participants believe the central bank may have already purchased USD 3-5 billion over the last two sessions," CR Forex Advisors MD - Amit Pabari said.

Pabari further said that this is not a sign of concern. Rather, it reflects the RBI taking advantage of favourable market conditions. "However, such buying can naturally slow the pace of rupee appreciation, making the move stronger but more gradual," he said. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 100.92, up 0.08 per cent. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading lower by 0.85 per cent at USD 79.17 per barrel in futures trade. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex tumbled 786.58 points to 76,624.90 in early trade, while the Nifty declined 210.95 points to 23,959.80. Foreign institutional investors offloaded



equities worth Rs 1,025.20 crore on a net basis on Thursday, according to exchange data. Misri's comments came a day after Modi and Trump held wide-ranging talks for the first time in 16 months on the margins of the G7 Summit in an attempt to rebuild the strained bilateral ties. Misri said significant progress has been made on the conclusion of the interim trade pact and that US Trade Representative, Jamieson Greer, will be visiting India next week to take forward the discussions.

## Indian stock markets end lower as IT shares drag Nifty and Sensex

Mumbai: Both the Indian indices ended lower in Friday's session as IT shares dropped sharply following dismal sales and top-line outlook from their global peer Accenture. At the closing bell, the 50-share index Nifty was at 24,013.10, down by 155 points or 0.64 per cent. The Sensex followed suit and fell 0.78 per cent or 608 points to 76,802.90. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the 24,100-24,200 region continues to act as the immediate resistance zone. "A sustained breakout above this band would strengthen bullish momentum and could pave the way for an advance towards the 24,400 region, which remains the next significant resistance area," an analyst stated. "On the downside, the 23,900 level remains a crucial immediate support. Holding above this zone will be essential to preserve the broader recovery structure and maintain the positive undertone," the analyst

## RBI compounds FEMA violations of Sai Rayalaseema Paper Mills

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued compounding orders under Section 15 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) against Sai Rayalaseema Paper Mills and Cigniti Technologies Limited, which resulted in the termination of proceedings against the two companies for the contraventions under FEMA with one-time payments as fines, according to an ED statement. The orders have been passed by the apex bank after issuance of "No Objection" by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED). In the case of Sai Rayalaseema Paper Mills Ltd, the termination of proceedings against the company for the contraventions under FEMA has been compounded with a one-time payment of Rs 19.18 lakh. Section 15 provides a mechanism for individuals or companies to voluntarily admit to a violation of FEMA regulations, pay a penalty, and regularise the contravention without undergoing lengthy litigation or legal proceedings.

The ED had launched an investigation against Sai Rayalaseema Paper Mills based on credible information and found that the company had breached the provisions of FEMA. A case was registered against the company for the FEMA violations. Sai Rayalaseema Paper Mills then filed an application with the RBI for compounding the contraventions. The



RBI order compounding the contraventions was issued on April 13. In the second case, the RBI has issued a compounding order under Section 15 of the FEMA, in the case of Cigniti Technologies Limited and its Managing Director, C. V. Subramanyam, which has resulted in the termination of proceedings against the company. The compounding has been done with a one-time payment of Rs 13.82 lakh by Cigniti Technologies and Rs 1.38 lakh by Subramanyam. The central bank has also issued a compounding order on June 10 in the case of FEMA violations by ZIFY TECH Solutions Private Limited, which has resulted in termination of proceedings against the company for the delay in filing its inward remittances under FEMA. The compounding has been done with a one-time payment of Rs 26,080. The order has been passed after issuance of "No Objection" by the ED, the statement added.

## Rupee gains 14 Paise to close at 94.36 against US Dollar

Mumbai: The rupee pared its initial losses and settled for the day 14 paise higher at 94.36 (provisional) against the US dollar, as the US and Iranian Presidents signed the peace agreement, boosting global market sentiments. Forex traders said market sentiments were buoyant after the United States and Iran electronically signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at ending hostilities and creating a framework for negotiations on Iran's nuclear programme. Negotiators are expected to meet in Geneva on Friday. Meanwhile, positive domestic equities supported investor sentiments further. However, the broad strength of the American currency in the overseas market, on the US Federal Reserve's hawkish stance, capped the upside for the USD/INR pair. The US Federal Reserve held interest rates steady as widely anticipated but implied that at least one quarter-point rate hike would come later this year. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 94.66 against the US dollar and



traded in the range of 94.18-94.71. Eventually, it settled at 94.36 (provisional), up 14 paise from its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee appreciated 10 paise to close at 94.50 against the US dollar. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 100.59, higher by 0.51 per cent. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading down 2.33 per cent at USD 77.70 per barrel in futures trade. Forex traders said that with oil prices moving in India's favour and foreign inflows remaining supportive, the near-term outlook for the rupee remains positive. "We expect the rupee to trade with a positive bias on a rise in risk appetite in global markets amid the signing of the deal between the US and Iran. Falling oil prices also supported the rupee. "However, US President Donald Trump warned of fresh attacks if a full deal is not reached. Any recovery in the US dollar and the US treasury yields amid a hawkish Fed may also weigh on the dollar at higher levels," said Anuj Choudhary, research analyst at Mirae Asset ShareKhan. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex advanced 254.36 points to settle at 77,409.98, while the Nifty climbed 82.30 points to 24,168. Foreign institutional investors turned net buyers and purchased equities worth Rs 101.59 crore on a net basis on Wednesday, according to exchange data. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump directed their officials to work towards a balanced, mutually beneficial and commercially meaningful trade agreement at the earliest. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said this on Thursday, a day after the two leaders held wide-ranging talks for the first time in 16 months on the margins of the G7 Summit in an attempt to rebuild the strained bilateral ties.



mentioned. Infosys, TCS, Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech and Mahindra and Mahindra were among the top losers in the Nifty index. Infosys led the losers' pack on Sensex, followed by TCS, HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra, HFC Bank and Mahindra and Mahindra. However, broader markets blocked the trend and ended higher as the Nifty MidCap and the Nifty SmallCap indices settled 0.22 per cent and 0.42 per cent higher, respectively.

## AP CM Chandrababu holds SLBC meeting today, bankers brief on loans

A State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) meeting was held under the chairmanship of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. A State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) meeting was held under the chairmanship of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. The 235th bankers' meeting took place this afternoon (Friday) at Block 5 of the AP Secretariat. During the meeting, CM Chandrababu discussed the annual credit plan for 2026-27 with the bankers. He reviewed the credit extended to the agriculture sector, MSMEs, self-help groups, and tenant farmers. Bankers informed Chief Minister Chandrababu that loans amounting to ₹3,86,249 crore were sanctioned to the agriculture sector for the 2025-26 financial year. They revealed that ₹1,17,357 crore was provided to the MSME sector and ₹5,19,693 crore to the priority sector. They also apprised the CM that credit disbursement in Andhra



Pradesh stood at 137 percent compared to other states in South India. National News Coverage The Chief Minister offered several key suggestions to the bankers during the meeting and urged them to extend their cooperation to further expand economic activities in the state. Chief Secretary Sai Prasad, Union Bank of India MD & CEO Ashish Pandey, Union Finance Ministry Director Neelam Agarwal, RBI Regional Director AO Bashir, NABARD GM KVS Prasad, and others attended the SLBC meeting.

## Weather alert: IMD says southwest monsoon to extend to AP, Telangana, rains predicted

The Meteorological Department has issued key updates regarding the weather forecast for the Telugu states over the next three days. It noted that the northern limit of the Southwest Monsoon currently passes through Harnai, Solapur, Hyderabad, Bhadrachalam, Koraput, Phulbani, Ranchi, Jamui, and Muzaffarpur. Conditions are favorable for the monsoon to advance further into parts of Telangana, Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, and Chhattisgarh over the next 4-5 days. Geographic Reference The department stated that a trough extending from East Vidarbha across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to Tamil Nadu persists at an altitude of 0.9 km above mean sea level. Under its influence, light to moderate rains are likely in some areas of the state over the next three days. Gusty winds (40-50 kmph) accompanied by thunder and lightning are also expected during these rains. Additionally, heatwave conditions are likely to persist in some districts of North Telangana over the

coming three days. Also Read - Higher reservoir levels, food stocks boost India's resilience to El Nino: Report Advertisement The Meteorological Department has also issued rain forecasts for residents of Andhra Pradesh. It reported that the trough extending from East Vidarbha across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to Tamil Nadu continues to exist at an altitude of 0.9 km above mean sea level; under its influence, moderate to heavy rains are likely in some parts of the state. Weather Outlook for North and South Coastal Andhra The Meteorological Department has stated that light to moderate rain, or thundershowers accompanied by lightning, is likely over the next three days in North and South Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, and the Yanam region. It also indicated the possibility of gusty winds blowing at speeds of 50-60 kmph during the rainfall. Furthermore, it clarified that hot and humid weather conditions are likely to prevail in some other parts of the state.

## Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani Inaugurates Dining Hall at SKBM Municipal Corporation School, Guntur

Guntur: ITC Limited, under its Social Investments Programme Mission Sunehra Kal, in partnership with Finish Society, organised the inauguration of a newly constructed dining hall, along with a handwashing station and grey water management system at SKBM Municipal Corporation School, A.T. Agraharam, Guntur. The programme was graced by the Hon'ble Union Minister for Rural Development and Communications and Member of Parliament for Guntur Lok Sabha Constituency, Shri Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, as the Chief Guest. The dining hall, inaugurated by Hon'ble Union Minister for Rural Development and Communications in the presence of Hon'ble MLA Smt. Galla Madhavi (Guntur West Constituency), Shri Venkat Ram Reddy, General Manager (Exports), ITC Limited, Smt. Jyoti Basu, ZP CEO, Shri Salim Basha, District Education Officer, Shri Tummala Nageswara Rao, TDP Ward President, along with representatives from

ITC Limited, school Headmaster, Child Cabinet members, students, and teaching staff. The dining will ensure that students have a clean and protected space, especially during adverse weather conditions such as extreme heat and rainfall. the gathering, the Hon'ble Union Minister emphasized the importance of education and a conducive learning environment in shaping the future of children. He appreciated ITC Mission Sunehra Kal for its commendable contribution toward strengthening educational infrastructure at SKBM School.

He highlighted that access to quality infrastructure is crucial for enhancing student health, attendance, and overall learning outcomes. During the event, the Child Cabinet Ministers of the school interacted with the Hon'ble MP and MLA, explaining in detail their roles and responsibilities. They showcased how ITC Mission Sunehra Kal has initiated effective behaviour change communication through

## Timely financial aid saves 13-year-old's life

Umesh (13), son of a contract Home Guard attached to the Nandyal Fire Station, successfully underwent life-saving pacemaker surgery after battling a severe cardiac ailment. The costly medical procedure was made possible through the joint financial assistance of Saddala Chandrasekhar Reddy (President, Helping Hand Society) and the management of SDR School and SDR Aakanksha Junior College Nandyal: A life-saving pacemaker surgery performed on Umesh (13), the young son of Nagendra, a contract Home Guard serving at the Nandyal Fire Station, was successfully completed, bringing immense relief to his family. Umesh had been suffering from a serious heart-related ailment and recently underwent the critical procedure. The successful surgery has significantly improved his health, offering renewed hope for his recovery and future. A reliable source has stated that financial assistance for the expensive medical treatment was arranged through the initiative of Saddala Chandrasekhar Reddy, President of the Helping Hand Society, with generous support from the managements of SDR School and SDR Aakanksha Junior College. Their timely contribution ensured that the child received the necessary treatment without delay, highlighting the importance of collective community support in times of need. Following the successful surgery, Umesh and his family paid a courtesy visit to Shanivarapu Konda



Reddy, Chairman of SDR School and SDR Aakanksha Junior College. Delighted to see the child recovering well, Konda Reddy expressed happiness over the success of the operation and wished Umesh a healthy, prosperous, and bright future. He encouraged the young boy to focus on his education and grow into a successful individual. On the occasion, Nagendra and his family conveyed their heartfelt gratitude to the management of SDR School, SDR Aakanksha Junior College, and the Helping Hand Society for extending financial support during their difficult time. They said the timely assistance not only helped save the child's life but also restored hope and confidence to the entire family.

## Gemcare Kamineni Hosps launches cancer institute to expand services

Kurnool: Gemcare Kamineni Hospitals has launched the specialized Kamineni Gemcare Cancer Institute in Kurnool to provide high-end oncology services. Director Dr Srinivasa Kumar Ravipati stated the center features advanced 4D TrueBeam precision radiation technology, eliminating the need for local patients to travel to metro cities. Hospital CEO Dr SV Chandrashekar highlighted the facility's multidisciplinary team of specialists, while Group COO Srikanth Namburi announced that structured community



screening and awareness programs would be launched concurrently to drive early cancer detection.



its WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) programmes, focusing on personal hygiene, menstrual hygiene management, and maintaining a clean school environment through proper waste management practices. The students also shared their active participation in organising and celebrating key events such as Environment Day and Plantation Day, during which saplings were planted within the school premises. Through these initiatives, the Child Cabinet Ministers act as guardians of the school, promoting a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable environment. A key highlight of the programme

was the WASH Kiosk titled "Learn with Fun," organised under the theme "My School, My Responsibility." During this activity, Child Cabinet Ministers set up interactive stalls to demonstrate various WASH practices. The Hon'ble MP and MLA visited these stalls, where the students confidently explained concepts such as personal hygiene, menstrual hygiene, proper toilet usage, and waste management practices learned through ITC Mission Sunehra Kal. This initiative effectively showcased student ownership and accountability in maintaining a clean and healthy school environment.