

Centuryply strengthens ties with AP

Amaravati: Centuryply(India) Ltd has further strengthened its association with Andhra Pradesh through its integrated manufacturing facility at Badvel in Kadapa district, established with an initial investment of Rs 1,000 crore. Spread across 100 acres, Badvel plant marks the company's first major investment in the State. Speaking at an event hosted by Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in Kolkata, Minister for Information Technology, Electronics, Communications and Human Resource Development Nara Lokesh highlighted Andhra Pradesh as a preferred investment destination. He described the State's strengths as "Speed, Stability and Service." Welcoming investors from West Bengal, Lokesh said Andhra Pradesh is emerging as a key growth engine for India and is committed to supporting businesses through efficient governance and investor-friendly policies. ICC Vice-president and Century Plyboards Executive Director Keshav Bhajanka stated that the company looks forward to expanding its presence in



Andhra Pradesh. The Badvel plant began commercial dispatches of Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF) in 2024, enabling Centuryply to more than double its MDF production capacity from 900 cubic metres to 1,900 cubic metres. The facility has generated employment for around 2,200 people and has created significant opportunities for local farmers through direct procurement of raw materials. To support future production needs, the company is encouraging plantation activities across 80,000 acres over the next eight years. Already, 1,000 farmers have been engaged to cultivate trees on 5,000 acres under a subsidised plantation programme.

SC stays Allahabad HC order imposing Rs 10 lakh costs on UP govt in illegal arrest case

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the operation of an Allahabad High Court order insofar as it imposed costs of Rs 10 lakh on the Uttar Pradesh government and its officials in a habeas corpus matter involving the alleged illegal arrest and continued incarceration of a man in Unnao district. A Bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Sanjeev Sachdeva passed the interim order while hearing a special leave petition (SLP) filed by the Uttar Pradesh government and other authorities challenging the April 29 judgment of the Allahabad High Court's Lucknow Bench in a habeas corpus petition filed by Manoj Kumar. Issuing notice on the SLP, the apex court directed that the matter be listed after eight weeks.



"Issue notice, returnable in eight weeks," the Justice Mishra-led Bench ordered. Also Read - SC declines urgent hearing on PIL seeking probe into Bihar's Bhojpur encounter Advertisement It further directed that, "In the meanwhile, the impugned order insofar as it relates to the imposition of cost of Rs. 10 lakhs on the petitioners as mentioned in paragraph nos.

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan posters released



(king Reporter) Anantapur: Posters promoting the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan were released during the Yogandhra-2026 programme held at the Police Parade Ground in Anantapur as part of the 12th International Day of Yoga celebrations on Sunday. District Collector O Anand, Superintendent of Police P Jagadish, Anantapur Urban MLA Daggupati Venkateswara Prasad, Joint Collector C Vishnucharan, AP Veera Shaiva Lingayat Welfare Development Chairman Swapna, Nai Brahmin Corporation Director Kondanna, Dudekula Federation Director Imam Hussain, Market Yard Chairperson Balla Pallavi, Assistant Director of the Department for the Welfare of Persons with Disabilities G Archana, District Medical and Health Officer Dr EB Devi, and other

officials participated in the programme. Andhra Pradesh news As part of the event, participants administered the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan pledge, reaffirming their commitment to creating awareness against substance abuse and promoting a drug-free society. Following the pledge, the dignitaries formally released posters related to the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan campaign. The programme was conducted alongside the district-level International Day of Yoga celebrations, which witnessed the participation of officials, public representatives and members of the public. The Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan is a Government of India initiative aimed at creating awareness about the harmful effects of substance abuse and encouraging community participation in prevention efforts.

NEET-UG re-examination held peacefully across AP



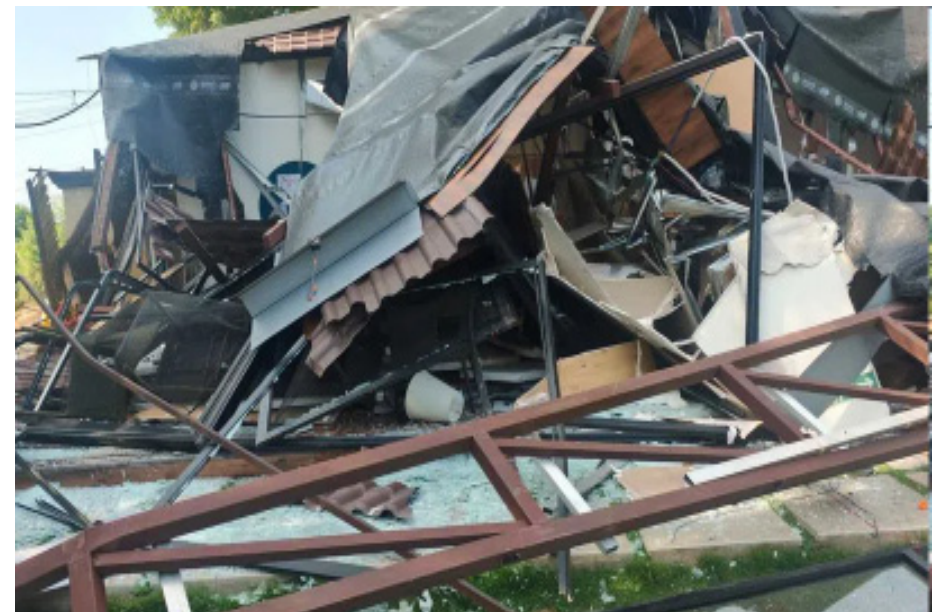
(king Reporter) Vijayawada: National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)-UG re-examination, conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA), took place smoothly across Andhra Pradesh on Sunday, with no reported incidents at any examination center in the State. A total of 65,790 candidates registered for the examination, which was held in a pen-and-paper Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) format at 185 centers across 27 cities in the State. The test was completed in an orderly fashion, thanks to the coordinated efforts of the government, district administrations, police department, and other relevant agencies. Preliminary reports from the districts indicate that over 90% of registered candidates appeared for the exam. In NTR district, the examination was conducted at 31 centers where 10,279 out of 10,920 registered candidates participated, resulting in an attendance rate of 94.13%. In Krishna district, 652 out of 713 registered candidates took the exam, while 61 were absent. Narayana Bharath Gupta, the Commissioner of Higher Education, who served as the State Nodal Officer, closely monitored the examination process and coordinated with district officials and various departments to ensure effective

supervision and seamless management of the test. The government provided necessary instructions to district collectors, police authorities, transport officials, and education department personnel to facilitate the exam for candidates. Adequate security measures were established at all examination centers, ensuring strict adherence to the guidelines issued by the NTA. Special provisions, including transportation facilities, drinking water, medical assistance, and help desks, were made available at several centers.

Authorities also managed traffic near examination venues to ensure that candidates reached their centers on time. Officials monitored the examination throughout the day and maintained close communication with district-level authorities to quickly address any issues. The state government is also overseeing the secure transportation of OMR answer sheets to the NTA for further evaluation. The State Nodal Officer expressed satisfaction with the coordinated efforts of all involved departments and noted that the successful conduct of the examination demonstrated effective planning and inter-departmental cooperation.

Revenue officials demolish illegal pre-school in Musi catchment area

Hyderabad: Amid heavy police presence, Gandipet mandal revenue authorities on Monday razed a pre-school that was allegedly constructed illegally in the Musi River catchment area in Narsingi. N Srinivasa Reddy, MRO, Gandipet, said, "The management of the private school built a pre-school in the catchment area of the Musi River, which is a violation. We had served notices to the management, but they ignored them." He said the government was keen on the Musi Riverfront Development Project and that specific orders had been received from higher authorities to remove illegal structures built in the buffer zone of the Musi River. "The pre-school was built in violation of the buffer zone norm," he said. Reddy said the authorities had



given ample time to vacate the school premises, but the management ignored their requests and continued its activities.

"The pre-school was built in the catchment area and there is a serious threat of flooding, thereby endangering the lives of children. Sensing danger to their lives, we demolished the structure by deploying four JCBs. It took almost four hours to demolish the illegal structure," he added.



TAVR Mumbai: Patients Are Rushing For This Heart Breakthrough

Discover how TAVR Mumbai is transforming cardiac care. Learn about the surge in Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement procedures, offering minimally invasive solutions for aortic stenosis with faster recovery and improved outcomes. Mumbai leads in advanced heart treatments. Mumbai is witnessing a significant surge in advanced cardiac procedures, with Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) emerging as the preferred treatment option for patients with severe aortic stenosis. The city has recorded a 25% year-on-year increase in TAVR procedures, reflecting a broader shift towards minimally invasive therapies that offer shorter hospital stays, faster recovery, improved quality of life and outcomes increasingly comparable to conventional surgery. Aortic stenosis, one of the most common heart valve disorders among individuals aged 60 years and above, occurs when the aortic valve narrows, restricting blood flow from the heart. Symptoms such as breathlessness, fatigue, chest discomfort and dizziness are often mistaken for normal ageing, frequently delaying diagnosis and treatment. Left untreated, severe aortic stenosis can lead to heart failure, significantly reduced quality of life and increased mortality risk, making early detection and timely intervention critical. Mumbai Strengthening Leadership in Advanced Cardiac Care As awareness of structural heart disease increases and diagnosis occurs earlier, demand for TAVR is expanding beyond traditionally high-risk patients to include intermediate- and lower-risk groups and, in appropriately selected cases, younger patients. Advanced imaging, hybrid cath labs and multidisciplinary Heart Teams are enabling more personalised treatment planning and the management of increasingly complex structural heart cases with greater precision, helping position Mumbai's integrated, technology-driven cardiac ecosystem as a destination for patients from across India and international markets. "Over the past few years, Mumbai has witnessed a steady increase in the adoption of minimally invasive cardiac therapies, particularly TAVR. Advances in technology, imaging and procedural planning have significantly improved outcomes while enabling patients to recover faster and return to their daily lives sooner," said Dr. Haresh Mehta, Director of Interventional & Structural Cardiology, S. L. Raheja Hospital. The Voice of India's Youth Minimally Invasive Treatment Transforming Patient Outcomes A landmark seven-year study published in The New England Journal of Medicine involving nearly 1,000 patients found no significant differences between TAVR and surgery in rates of death (19.5% vs. 16.8%), stroke (8.5% vs. 8.1%) and rehospitalisation (20.6% vs. 23.5%). Patients undergoing TAVR can typically recover within two to three days and return to daily activities sooner. As life expectancy following valve interventions increases, clinicians are increasingly focused on lifetime management and future treatment pathways. "Today's focus extends beyond the procedure itself. We are increasingly looking at lifetime management, valve durability and future treatment pathways when needed. TAVR has transformed the treatment landscape for aortic stenosis by offering patients a less invasive option without compromising outcomes.

RGUKT-Basar prohibits mobile phones in classrooms, libraries, messes



Nirmal: In an usual move, Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge and Technologies (RGUKT)-Basar officials banned mobile phones in classrooms, libraries and messes in an attempt to prevent distraction of students from studies. As per the circular issued on Monday, students are prohibited from using mobile phones in classrooms, libraries and messes. Though the rationale behind the move was not disclosed, the officials were anxious by the distraction, caused by growing usage of mobile phones, among the students from studies. The officials were forced to impose the rule to avoid abuse of the mobile phones and to ensure students focus on academics. The recent instances of

suicides by the students and protests might have apparently compelled the officials to restrict the students from using mobile phones and digital gadgets. However, students expressed serious concern over the unprecedented restriction. They opined that the rule was meaningless and reflected the insecurity of officials. "Imposing such absurd restrictions indicate not only insecurity, but inefficiency of the officials in administering the university. Instead, the authorities can focus on streamline administration," a student remarked. Student bodies are likely to launch widespread protests against the move of the university, demanding it to revoke the circular.

NEET UG 2026 re-exam held peacefully in Telugu states

Hyderabad: NEET UG 2026 re-examination was conducted in a peaceful and smooth manner in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh on Sunday. More than 1.37 lakh students appeared in the exam in the Telugu states. There were mixed reactions from students after the exam. While some students said the test was relatively easy compared to the exam held on May 3, others said it was tougher. Most of the students found the physics section of the test tough. They rated Chemistry as moderate while Biology was manageable. Over 72,000 students appeared in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET-UG) re-exam at 208 examination centres spread across 24 cities in Telangana. In neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, more than 65,000 students appeared in the examination at 185 centres located in 27 cities. Elaborate arrangements were made for the exam held from 2 p.m. to 5.15 p.m. Candidates with disabilities were allowed to write the exam until 6.20 p.m. Candidates started reporting at the centres from 11 a.m. until 1.30 p.m. No candidate was allowed to enter the premises after 1.30 p.m. Authorities allowed the students into the exam centres after thorough checking and Biometric verification. The exam was conducted in pen-and-paper Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) mode. Authorities made extensive arrangements to conduct the exam in smooth, transparent and fair manner in view of the cancellation of NEET held on May 3 due to question paper leak. State-owned Road Transport Corporations in both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh had announced free travel for candidates taking the test upon producing their hall tickets. Police had made tight security arrangements around the exam centres. Additional personnel were deployed to regulate the vehicular traffic.

At a couple of places, police officers came to the rescue of the candidates who had reached the wrong centres. Osmania University Police Station Inspector Mahesh Kumar Goud helped a candidate reach her examination centre on time after she mistakenly arrived at the wrong venue within the Osmania University limits. The inspector gave her a lift in his

official vehicle and ensured she reached the correct examination centre before the test began. A police constable of Trimulgherry Police Station escorted a candidate and his father to the exam centre after they arrived at the wrong venue. Heartbreaking scene was witnessed at an exam centre in Hyderabad as a candidate broke down after she was not allowed for arriving after 1.30 p.m. The candidate's father touched the feet of security personnel, pleading them to allow her to take the test. He said that he could not locate the exam centre in time due to technical glitch. Telangana Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said that Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) provided free transport facility for students appearing in the NEET re-exam. He alleged that the Central government failed miserably in conducting the exam properly last month, resulting in question paper leakage. He said cancellation of the exam caused severe hardship to students across the country. He said the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan should have resigned, owning moral responsibility.

Passenger steals cab after tricking driver in Medipally

Hyderabad: A cab driver was allegedly duped by a man posing as a passenger, who made away with the vehicle after luring the driver out on the pretext of buying a cigarette in Medipally on the suburb. According to information available, Ch Bhanu Prabhu (26) from Nalgonda district earns his livelihood by operating a rented cab. On June 20, while waiting for passengers near Uppal Ring Road with his Swift Tour CNG vehicle, he was approached by an unidentified man who offered Rs 450 for a trip to Chengicherla. As the vehicle reached the Medipally village area, the passenger complained of leg pain and requested the driver to buy him a cigarette from a nearby shop. "Trusting the passenger, Bhanu Prabhu parked the car and stepped away. Using the opportunity, the occupant quickly

Three of a family die as car rams tree in Kothagudem

Kothagudem: A couple and their son died while an elderly woman suffered injuries in a road accident in the forest area between Pusugudem and Madaram in Mulakalapalli mandal in the district on Sunday. According to the local Sub-Inspector (SI), Madhu Prasad, the couple belonging to Bhadrachalam's Venkateswara Colony had visited their relatives' house to attend a family function at Mulakalapalli. While returning home, the car in which they were travelling went out of control and crashed into a roadside tree. Dudala Sai Prakash, his wife Sandhya and their son Mokshith died on the spot while Sai Kumar's mother Jyothi suffered serious injuries. Jyothi's condition was said to be critical and she was shifted to Government Hospital at Paloncha. Police registered a case and launched an investigation into the incident.

Coal tipper mows down Bhupalpally DTO Venkanna in front of his office

Bhupalpally: The district transport officer (DTO) Venkanna (47) was killed in a road accident while he along with staff was engaged in vehicle inspections in front of the road transport office on Monday morning. According to police, the incident took place while a harvester, seized during a vehicle check, was being moved to a secure location at the office on the outskirts of Chelpur in Ghanapuram mandal. A speeding coal tipper that went out of control first collided with the harvester; then plowed into Venkanna, who was standing there leaning against his car parked by the side of the road. He died on the spot after being hit by the truck while his car was partially damaged.

Venkanna hails from Hanamkonda and belongs to the 2012 batch. Upon receiving information, Bhupalpally police rushed to the spot; took the tipper driver responsible for the accident into custody; registered a case and initiated questioning. Officials stated that Venkanna had been transferred to Bhupalpally district just 15 days ago from Jagtial. His death while on duty has left district officials and transport department staff in deep shock.



took control of the vehicle and sped away," police said. The driver attempted to chase the car but was unsuccessful. He later lodged a complaint with Medipally police, who registered a case and are investigating. Police are examining CCTV footage from the area to identify and trace the suspect.

NEET re-exam: Student held for cheating with hidden phone in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: A NEET candidate was caught for allegedly using a mobile phone to cheat during the NEET-UG re-examination at a government school centre in Ragannaguda, Adibatla on Sunday. According to the police, the student, a resident of Achampet, concealed a mobile phone inside the washroom of the examination centre before the exam began. Police said the candidate arrived at the Zilla Parishad High School around 7 am and placed a mobile phone near the washroom ventilator, which was accessible from the adjoining compound wall. Around 11 am, he allegedly entered the washroom and put the device in a zip-lock cover before hiding it in a flush tank. Despite two rounds of inspections conducted by the security personnel and strict frisking of candidates at the entrance gate, the concealed phone went undetected. "During the examination, the student complained of stomach pain and sought permission to use the washroom. After noticing that he had spent an unusually long time inside, the invigilator deputed staff members to check on him. The candidate was reportedly found using the hidden mobile phone to search for an-



swers on Google Chrome," said the Adibatla police. The police were alerted immediately and the personnel seized the device. Preliminary examination of the phone revealed that the candidate had been searching online for answers during the examination. Investigators found no suspicious applications on the device apart from routine social media apps. During questioning, the student allegedly confessed to malpractice. Based on a complaint lodged by the school administration, the Adibatla police have registered a case under Section 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 10 read with Section 3 of the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024. The student has been taken into custody and further investigation is underway.

Khammam mother feeds rat poison to sons, attempts suicide following marital dispute

Khammam: Following suspected family disputes, a married woman allegedly killed her two sons and attempted suicide at Gandhi Nagar in Khammam's three-town area. According to locals and the police, Bobbala Lingaraju and his wife Swathi of Gurralapadu village in Yedulapuram Municipality had been living at Gandhi Nagar for the past few months to support their family needs. Lingaraju was working at a local mobile phone shop. A few days ago, the shop owner told him that the business was facing financial difficulties and that he intended to close it down, advising Lingaraju to look for another job. Unconcerned about what to do or how to support his family, Lingaraju suggested to his wife that they return to their native village, Gurralapadu, to find work and make a living. However, his wife Swathi refused, insisting that they stay in Khammam. The

couple had been engaged in arguments over the matter for the past two days. Eventually, frustrated that her husband was not listening to her, Swathi fed their children, Vedic Kumar (7) and Tanishq (5), biscuit packets laced with rat poison on Saturday evening. Subsequently, she also consumed the same poison. Afterward, feigning ignorance, she called her husband and told him the children were suffering from food poisoning, asking him to come home immediately. Lingaraju rushed home with syrup from a local medical shop and administered it to the children; they were then put to bed. Vedic Kumar died in his sleep. Tanishq, who suffered from vomiting, died while being treated at a private hospital on Sunday. The condition of Swathi, undergoing treatment, was said to be critical. The police booked a case and launched an investigation into the incident.

Rare Buddha Parinirvana sculpture unearthed in Adilabad village

Hyderabad: A rare historical sculpture depicting Buddha Parinirvana, the reclining Buddha passing into final nirvana, has been discovered at Bhimsari village, Adilabad, members of Kotha Telangana Charitra Brundam on Monday said. A history lecturer Roddavaru Prithviraj, who is a member of Kotha Telangana Charitra Brundam, noticed a Buddha Parinirvana sculpture carved on one side of a stone pillar with half-reliefs on all four sides in Bhimsari village, Adilabad. After examining the sculpture pillar, the convenor of the history team, Sriramoju Haragopal, said "The reclining Buddha is lying turned to his right side, with his right hand placed under his head. This is exactly the Buddha Parinirvana sculpture as described in the 'Parinibbana Sutta'." Dr. Shivana gireddy, a sculptor and historian who also examined the sculpture, maintained that it is indeed a Buddha Parinirvana sculpture. He explained that Buddha Parinirvana sculptures have previously been found in Telangana, one on the adhisth ana (base) of the Bhimeshwara Temple in Vemulawada and another on a pale stone slab found in Mudigonda, a press release from the Charitra Brundam said. On the remaining three sides of the pillar are half-



reliefs of: Vishnu Sayana Murti (reclining Vishnu), a heroic warrior figure in royal attire holding a sword, and Uma Lingana Murti (Shiva embracing Uma/Parvati). It is rare to find such diverse religious sculptures carved on a single stone pillar.

Sand trucks obstructs passage of ambulance, a youth lost his life in Manuguru

Kothagudem: Blocking of road by sand trucks denying passage to an ambulance has allegedly led to death of a youth in Manuguru mandal in the district on Monday. According to sources, the youth Vamshi (35) of Dammakkapet village in the mandal consumed pesticide in a suicide attempt. While his family shifted him to hospital they were forced to carry him on their shoulders as sand trucks parked

Explosion at Qatar gas terminal: Over 50 injured, search on for missing



Dubai: An explosion tore through Qatar's key natural gas export terminal Sunday night as workers tried to resume operations there after Iran bombed it during the war, causing a fire that hurt at least 54 people, with another 18 still missing hours later. The blast at the Ras Laffan industrial area could cause further chaos in global energy markets, particularly as Qatar remains one of the world's top natural gas producers. Qatar shut down its production after Iran's chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz meant it couldn't get

shipments out to its clients. With Iran loosening its grip on the strait as negotiations continue over a permanent end to the war, Qatar began work to try to restart its export terminal. On Sunday night, that work sparked an explosion and fire at the Barzan gas supply facility, the state-run firm QatarEnergy said. The scale of the damage remains unknown after the blast, with officials initially saying only a few people had been hurt. But hours later, Qatar's interior ministry offered the far-greater casualty figures.

I am not game for RS seat from TG, says Meenakshi

Hyderabad: AICC In-charge General Secretary Meenakshi Natarajan made it clear that there is no need for any Rajya Sabha member from Telangana to resign for her sake. Stating that she belongs to Madhya Pradesh, she said she would not accept a Rajya Sabha seat from Telangana even if one were vacated for her. She remarked that Rajya Sabha seats from other states may be allocated to senior and prominent national leaders when required, but she would not agree to accept a Rajya Sabha seat from Telangana herself. Addressing the media at Gandhi Bhavan on Sunday, along with TPCC Chief B Mahesh Kumar Goud and others, Meenakshi Natarajan asserted that there was no conspiracy within the Congress party behind the rejection of her Rajya Sabha nomination. "No one in the Congress party has any reason to hatch a conspiracy. Who would leak such information, and why? The Congress party holds only one seat. I did not even speak to the Returning Officer (RO). The RO acted in collusion with the BJP," she alleged. She dismissed as a blatant lie the BJP's claim that Congress leaders had informed the Election Commission about cases against her and accused the BJP of deliberately fabricating falsehoods. Meenakshi said she has always stood by victims and had supported Srilatha, who filed a private petition in court. Meenakshi Natarajan affirmed that she has always stood by victims and mentioned that she had supported Srilatha (who filed a private petition in the court) as well. She explained that there were various reasons why Srilatha was not given an MLA ticket, but



noted that, despite the numerous allegations against her, they had listened to her side of the story as a woman. She added that, acknowledging Srilatha's distress, they had removed the DCC President. She clarified that her nomination was not rejected simply because of a pending case. She said the Narayanpet ticket was denied due to the seriousness of allegations against him, although no charges had been proven and no charge sheet had been filed. She maintained that there is no rule preventing a family member from receiving a ticket simply because allegations exist against someone. Telangana news Meenakshi alleged that the BJP and the Election Commission worked together to get her nomination rejected. She said there are no criminal cases against her and that the matter mentioned by the BJP is still at an initial stage in court. She questioned why she was not given a chance to correct her nomination papers when a similar opportunity was reportedly given to Parimal Nathwani. Expressing confidence in the judiciary, she said the episode had exposed the BJP's real intentions. She also alleged that the BJP's decision to file a third Rajya Sabha nomination despite not having enough numbers pointed to a larger conspiracy.



manded the officials to take action against the sand mafia that was posing a threat to the lives of the villagers.

IMD issues heavy rain alert for Telangana from June 23 to 28



Hyderabad: In a clear sign of changing weather conditions and revival of the southwest monsoon in Telangana, the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Hyderabad issued a heavy rainfall warning from June 23 to 28. For June 23 and 24, the heavy rainfall warning (64.5 mm to 115.6 mm), has been issued for Adilabad, Komurambhoom Asifabad, Mancherla, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Mulugu, Medak and Kamareddy districts. For June 25, heavy rainfall warning has been extended to Jagtial, Khammam, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Mahabubabad, Warangal, Rangareddy, Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Vikarabad and Sangareddy districts. From June 26 to 28, a general heavy rainfall warning is given for Telangana. "Heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at isolated places over Telangana. Thunderstorms accompanied with lightning and gusty winds (40-50

kmph) are very likely to occur at isolated places over Telangana," IMD, Hyderabad said. The weather forecast has also indicated gradual decrease in maximum temperatures by 2 degrees Celsius to 5 degrees Celsius in the next five-days. The day time temperatures across all the districts are expected to range between 36 degrees Celsius and 40 degrees Celsius. The IMD, Hyderabad has also issued a severe thunderstorm warning with lightning and gusty winds has also been issued for Adilabad, Komurambhoom Asifabad, Mancherla, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Karimnagar, Peddapalli, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Mulugu, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Khammam, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Mahabubabad, Warangal, Hanumakonda, Rangareddy, Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Vikarabad, Sangareddy, Mahabubnagar, Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthy, Narayanpet, Jogulamba Gadwal districts for Monday.

37 passengers escape unhurt as TGSRTC electric bus catches fire near Karimnagar

Karimnagar: Passengers aboard an electric vehicle of the TGSRTC had a providential escape after fire broke out in the vehicle near LMD colony here on Sunday morning. The driver who got alerted as the fire broke out stopped the vehicle



and ensured that all the passengers deboarded the vehicle. None was hurt in the fire mishap. The vehicle was on its way to Hyderabad from Karimnagar. Some technical glitch is believed to have caused the fire accident which gutted the bus completely. There were altogether 37 passengers in the bus. Investigation is in progress.

KCR pays tribute to Prof Jayashankar, vows to uphold Telangana ideals

Hyderabad: BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao paid rich tributes to Telangana ideologue Prof Kothapalli Jayashankar on his death anniversary on Sunday, recalling his pivotal role in shaping the Telangana statehood movement. He termed the scholar-activist a selfless intellectual and visionary who dedicated his life to advancing Telangana's identity and aspirations. In a statement, Chandrashekhara Rao stated that the professor served as an ideological mentor and guiding force at critical junctures during the final phase of the Telangana movement. He recalled that Prof Jayashankar extended unconditional support to the constitutional and democratic path adopted for achieving statehood. The former Chief Minister said the decade-long BRS government worked to fulfil the aspirations and ideals championed by Prof Jayashankar through welfare and development initiatives across all communities. Reaffirm-



ing the party's commitment to protecting Telangana's interests, he said the BRS would continue to uphold the Telangana ideologue's vision of safeguarding the State's distinct political and social identity. Telangana travel guide Chandrashekhara Rao opined that Prof Jayashankar's ideals have been sidelined during the two-and-a-half years of the Congress government. He stressed the need to preserve Telangana's identity and interests which were now under threat. He reiterated that the BRS was committed to protecting Telangana's interests regardless of the sacrifices required.

KTR felicitates Telangana JEE topper Vivan Maheshwari



Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao felicitated Telangana JEE topper Vivan S Maheshwari for his outstanding performance in the national engineering entrance examinations. Vivan secured a perfect 100 percentile in JEE Main and achieved All India Rank (AIR) 61 in JEE Advanced, emerging as the Telangana State topper. Rama Rao congratulated

him and felicitated him for his academic achievement. Speaking on the occasion, Vivan said the former Minister's words reinforced the importance of discipline, consistency and thinking beyond limitations, adding that success is not measured solely by results. BRS MP Divakonda Damodar Rao and Vivan's family members were present.

Pedestrian killed after being hit by two-wheeler in Siddipet

Siddipet: Reckless driving by a two-wheeler rider resulted in the death of a pedestrian crossing the Rajiv Rahadhari under Gouraram police station limits on Sunday morning. The deceased Pudarai Manjula (38) was crossing the road when a two-wheeler hit her. Manjula, who sustained serious head injuries, died on the spot after bleeding profusely. The body was taken to the government hospital in Gajwel for postmortem. A case registered.



Farmers protest in Kamareddy, demand scrapping of app-based urea booking system

Nizamabad: Demanding the State government to scrap the app based urea booking system, farmers staged a protest at Uppalvai in Kamareddy on Sunday. The farmers charged that supply of urea bags was affected after the government introduced the app based booking system. They also complained that information being shared on the app was also confusing and that there was mismatch in the availability of quantity being claimed by the officials. At few times, officials were not sharing the information over availability of urea. This was compelling the farmers to stage protests, they said as per reports. To do away with all these hardships, the government should scrap the



app based booking urea system. The conventional manual distribution system should be reintroduced, the farmers demanded. They also charged that due to the delay in supply of urea, they were made to do rounds of the distribution centres. Apart from technical issues in the system, many were not acquainted with using smartphones, the farmers said.

Mumbai-based couple killed in moped-tractor collision in Siddipet

Siddipet: A couple died as they hit their moped to a tractor going in the same direction on Rajiv Rahadhari at Lakudaram village under Kukulurpally police station in the early hours of Sunday. The couple Ch Mahendra (28) and his wife Deeksha (25), natives of



Mancherla district, were residing in Mumbai. The couple were on their way to Mancherla when they hit the two-wheeler to the tractor. While Mahendra died on the spot, Deeksha breathed her last on her way to hospital.

Tom Holland says his tattoo pushed VFX team into spiral on 'Spider-Man: Brand New Day'

Los Angeles: Hollywood star Tom Holland had a run-in with trouble because of his Spider-Man emblem tattoo. It created an unexpected continuity issue on 'Spider-Man: Brand New Day'. The inking, on the bottom of the 30-year-old actor's foot, appeared in the final shot of a scene where he is hanging upside down naked off the side of a building as the Marvel comics superhero, and the VFX team was forced to digitally remove the tattoo, reports 'Female First UK'. Tom told influencer Taya Miller at the film's global fan event at the STRAAT Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, "I have a tattoo, and a fun little story is that it's on the bottom of my foot, it's the Spider-Man emblem from the first movie". He further mentioned, "I have it all across the bottom of my foot. And there's a scene in the movie where I have no clothes on, and I'm hanging off the side of a building. It was very awkward to film. And in the VFX meetings, everyone was like, 'Yeah, the wires are gone, looks great'. But you could still see the tattoo on the bottom of my foot. They've gotten rid of it now, but there was a time when they were looking at the finished movie, and it was like, 'No, no, no, we need to paint



that out". As per 'Female First UK', 'Spider-Man: Brand New Day' sees the world unaware of Spider-Man's existence following the events of 2021's 'Spider-Man: No Way Home'. Tom stars in the movie alongside his 29-year-old wife, Zendaya (MJ), and their real-life relationship made filming parts easier. Earlier this month, he told 'Empire' magazine, "There's a very important scene in the film where we were shooting it and I kind of looked across to Zendaya and was like, 'Do you think this scene is working?' She kind of looked back at me and was like, 'I don't'. If I didn't have the relationship with Zendaya that I have, I would never dream of saying to an actress after her close-up, 'Do you think this is working?'". Zendaya suggested that this example showed how much the pair have grown since they first played the parts in 2017's 'Spider-Man: Homecoming'.

Shabana Azmi, Javed Akhtar sit hand-in-hand as Farhan Akhtar's 'Tum ho toh' plays in background

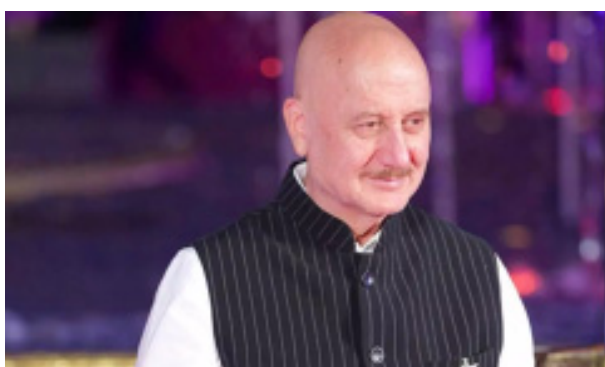
Mumbai: Award-winning couple Shabana Azmi and Javed Akhtar shared a heartwarming hand-in-hand moment during a musical evening, with Farhan Akhtar's soulful track 'Tum Ho Toh' from the 2008 blockbuster 'Rock On!!' playing in the background. The multiple National Award-winning actress shared a picture from a gathering, where the couple was seen seated side by side, sharing a warm moment as they held hands. The actress added the track 'Tum Ho Toh' from the 2008 blockbuster 'Rock On!!' as the background score for the picture. Shabana wrote in the caption: "Shared by @shankar.mahadevan who says this looks like we are listening to a private concert only for our ears @malgudi.uae @shankar.mahadevan and #K Ramakrishnan South Indian restaurant where we gorged on the best South Indian cuisine and were regaled by the whose who of the music industry @sonunigamofficial @salimmerchant #Sidharth mahadevan and #Shivam mahadevan @aakriti.kakkar @boman_irani #anushamani #pratibhas inghbaghel harshdeepkaur (sic)." Environment news coverage Going by Shabana's caption, the gathering also featured renowned musical artists such as Sonu Nigam, Salim Merchant, Sidharth Mahadevan, Aakriti Kakkar, Boman Irani, Anu Malik, and



Harshdeep Kaur. It was in 1984, that acclaimed poet and lyricist Javed Akhtar and veteran actress Shabana Azmi tied the knot. On the work front, the actress is all set to play a villain for the first time in her career with the upcoming film 'Awarapan 2' starring Emraan Hashmi. "Awarapan 2" is directed by Nitin Kakkar, written by Bilal Siddiqui and produced by Vishesh Bhatt. The film is slated to hit theatres on 14 August 2026. She also has Batwara 1947, directed by Rajkumar Santoshi. The movie stars a stellar ensemble cast featuring Shabana, Sunny Deol, Preity Zinta, Karan Deol, Ali Fazal and Abhimanyu Singh. It marks the much-awaited reunion of Rajkumar Santoshi and Sunny Deol after nearly three decades. The music is composed by A. R. Rahman, while the lyrics are penned by Javed Akhtar. The film is produced by Aamir Khan and Aparna Purohit and is slated for a worldwide theatrical release on, Partition Day, August 14, 2026.

Anupam Kher says 'India is changing', calls for more food outlets on Samruddhi Mahamarg

Mumbai: Veteran actor Anupam Kher has praised Maharashtra's Samruddhi Mahamarg after undertaking a road trip from Shirdi to Nagpur. He described the journey as an "amazing experience" that reflects India's rapid infrastructure transformation. Sharing his thoughts on Instagram, Kher said the smooth roads, efficient connectivity, and reduced travel time made him feel that distances in India are shrinking and possibilities are expanding. While applauding the expressway, the actor also pointed out the need for more food outlets along the route to further enhance the travel experience. Sharing the video, the 'Special 26' actor wrote, "Road trip and Driver Dattatreya's words! Yesterday, I travelled by road from Shirdi to Nagpur on the Hriday Samrat



Balasaheb Thackeray Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg. What an amazing experience! Also Read - Naseeruddin Shah recalls school play that sparked his lifelong passion for acting Advertisement The smooth roads, the efficiency, the ease of travel, and the time saved made me feel as if distances in India are shrinking and possibilities are expanding."

Kiran Abbavaram's 'Chennai Love Story' set for worldwide release on July 24

Hyderabad: The makers of director Ravi Namburii's eagerly awaited Telugu romantic entertainer 'Chennai Love Story', featuring actors Kiran Abbavaram, and Sri Gouri Priya in the lead, have now announced that the film will hit screens on July 24 this year. Mass Movie Makers, the production house producing the film, took to its social media timelines to make the announcement. It wrote, "The wait is over. #ChennaiLoveStory - A timeless tale of love is ready to touch hearts across the world. Arriving in cinemas, Worldwide on July 24th. A Magical Love Story from the makers of #ColourPhoto & #Baby, with mesmerizing Music by Mani Sharma." Sri Gouri Priya, for her part, took to Instagram to share the date announcement poster. She wrote, "July 24!!! Chennai Love Story releasing worldwide! Come fall in love!" For the unaware, Sri Gouri Priya shot to fame with her performance in the Tamil romantic drama 'Lover', which went on to emerge not just a superhit film. Lover not only set the cash registers ringing at the box office, it was also hailed by the critics for its content that dealt with toxic relationships.

While Kiran Abbavaram plays a character called Steven Sankar in Chennai Love Story, Sri Gouri Priya plays a character called Nivi in the film. A teaser released by the makers earlier shows Steven Sankar and Nivi having a conversation at a beach. Nivi asks Steven Sankar if he has watched the film 'Baby' and praises the way they have portrayed first love in it. She says that if one's first love fails, life turns into hell. She says an individual's first love is pure and that there is an element of truth in it, seeking to suggest that all other love affairs that happen after it aren't as honest or pure. Steven Sankar responds to her argument saying, "If first love is the only one that is pure and honest, shouldn't all our love stories stop with our moth-



ers. For isn't every individual's first love his/her mother?" Stating that there are several iconic love stories in history, Steven Sankar points out that for the protagonists of such stories, the love story for which they became famous wasn't their first love. He says that if one's first love fails for some reason, one's best love is about to start somewhere else. Apart from directing the film, Ravi Namburii has also penned its screenplay. The film's story is by Sai Rajesh, who is also one of the producers of the film. The film is being produced by SKN under the banners of Mass Movie Makers and Amrutha Productions. The film is being co-produced by Dheeraj Mogilineni. On the technical front, the film has music by Mani Sharma. Cinematography for the film is by the very capable Viswas Daniel while lyrics for the songs in the film are by Anantha Sriram. Bhaskar Mudavat is in charge of art direction while Santhosh Naidu has been assigned the responsibility of editing the film. Costumes are by Devi Parchuri and the film is being co-directed by Lucky Bezawada.

Allu Arjun to appear in court on Monday in Sandhya Theatre stampede case

Hyderabad: Actor Allu Arjun is scheduled to appear before the Nampally Criminal Court today in connection with the Sandhya Theatre stampede case. Allu Arjun, who has been named as Accused No. 11 (A-11) in the case, was earlier issued summons by the court along with other suspects including from the theatre management. The actor had reportedly sought permission to attend the hearing virtually, citing shooting commitments in Mumbai. However, the court rejected the request and directed him to appear in person. The case pertains to the stampede that occurred outside Sandhya Theatre during the premiere screening of Pushpa 2: The Rule, in De-



ember 2024, in which a woman lost her life and several others were injured. Following Allu Arjun's personal appearance before the court, trial proceedings in the case are expected to commence. Meanwhile, the hearing is being closely watched given the high profile nature of the case and the involvement of the top actor and other suspect persons.

Allu Arjun calls father Allu Aravind his 'living God' in Father's Day post

Mumbai: Tollywood heartthrob Allu Arjun said that his father, filmmaker Allu Aravind, is his living God. In an emotional Father's Day post on Sunday, he shared that for him, his dad is the God he can touch, hear, and speak to. Dropping a video compilation of some precious moments with his father, AA wrote on his official Instagram handle, "My father is my God. He is the only God I can see, hear, speak to, touch & the one who has given me almost everything in life. Happy Father's Day to my dad and to every sweet dad in the world (sic)." Allu Arjun himself is a father of two kids - son Allu Ayaan and daughter Allu Arha. Coming to his professional lineup, Allu Arjun will



be seen leading the eagerly-awaited "Raaka". AA has joined forces with renowned filmmaker Atlee for his next. The project further marks Allu Arjun's primary on-screen collaboration with Bollywood beauty Deepika Padukone.

Women's T20 WC: When and where to watch New Zealand vs Scotland clash, know all details



Bristol: Defending champions New Zealand will look to build on their dramatic revival and keep their semifinal hopes alive when they take on Scotland in a crucial Group B encounter of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 at the Bristol County Ground on Tuesday. The White Ferns registered a vital four-run win against Ireland to open their account after two early losses. It opened a path to the knockout stages but New Zealand still has no room for error and need a win here to keep the hopes of reaching the semis alive. Captain Melie Kerr is the key for the White Ferns. The all-rounder has performed well with both bat and bowl and would be the main hope of New Zealand once again. Her late bowling spell which ripped Ireland's innings was instrumental in the team's victory over Ireland after a 110 run stand had threatened to steal the game. There is still doubt over New Zealand's batting. Brooke Halliday and Izzy Sharp made a partnership that guided New Zealand from the brink of collapse but it will again depend on them for another similar rescue mission on a turning Bristol surface. Scotland showed they are the kind of side that could spring an upset through out the course of the tournament. They haven't won a lot of games but they have been close enough against the top sides such as England and West Indies, hav-

ing same point of New Zealand in the standings. Darcey Carter and two of the Bryce sisters Sarah and Kathryn carry the Scottish batting, and if they get set can score plenty. New Zealand's bowlers have struggled to break partnerships and it could be an opportunity for Scotland to play on that and try and built partnerships with the bat. The duo of Kirstie Gordon and Katherine Fraser will turn their arms over for Scotland and if they find the going tough then this could be easy sailing for New Zealand but they did pick six wickets against Ireland in their last match. **When:** Tuesday, June 23 at 3:00 PM IST **Where:** Bristol County Ground, Bristol
 Where to watch: The New Zealand vs Scotland clash will be broadcast on Star Sports Network and live streaming on JioStar.

Squads:

New Zealand: Melie Kerr (c), Suzie Bates, Sophie Devine, Flora Devonshire, Izzy Gaze, Maddy Green, Brooke Halliday, Bree Illing, Polly Inglis, Jess Kerr, Rosemary Mair, Nensi Patel, Georgia Plimmer, Izzy Sharp, and Lea Tahuu
 Scotland: Kathryn Bryce (c), Chloe Abel, Olivia Bell, Sarah Bryce, Darcey Carter, Priyanaz Chatterji, Gabriella Fontenla, Katherine Fraser, Kirstie Gordon, Ailsa Lister, Maisie Maceira, Hannah Rainey, Megan McColl, Rachel Slater, and Pippa Sproul

BWF Worlds tickets priced Rs 499-5,500 as event returns to India after 17 years

New Delhi: Tickets priced between Rs 499 and Rs 5,500 will be available for fans across 6,000 seats when the BWF World Championships returns to India after 17 years here at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium from August 17 to 23. The Badminton Association of India (BAI) on Monday announced BookMyShow as the official ticketing partner for the prestigious event, with ticket sales opening on Monday.

Tickets price start at Rs 499 under an Early Bird offer, with six seating categories available in total. Fans can also avail a 15 per cent discount across the remaining five categories for a limited period, while premium seating has been priced at Rs 5,500 for a complete matchday experience.

Ticket sales will be rolled out in phases, beginning with the opening four days of competition, with category pricing remaining unchanged through to the finals. "Our ambition is not just to host a world-class tournament, but to deliver a fan experience that matches the occasion, accessible, seamless and worthy of an event of this stature," BAI secretary general Sanjay Mishra said in a release. "We're delighted to partner with BookMyShow to bring that vision to life and connect more fans with the sport's biggest stage."



India's top stars, including Lakshya Sen, PV Sindhu, and the men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, are expected to lead the home challenge at the World Championships. The tournament will also feature some of the biggest names in world badminton, including Korea's An Se-young, Chinese contenders Shi Yu Qi and Li Shi Feng, and Indonesian doubles pair Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri. Traditional Southeast Asian powerhouses Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia are also expected to field strong contingents. India last hosted the BWF World Championships in Hyderabad in 2009

India beat Netherlands 3-2 in thrilling FIH Pro League clash in Rotterdam

Rotterdam: The Indian men's hockey team produced another superb performance to notch up a 3-2 win over the Netherlands in their final match of the FIH Pro League Rotterdam leg at Hockey Club Rotterdam on Sunday. Goals from Jugraj Singh (18'), Abhishek (27'), and Rajinder Singh (56') helped India secure their second outright victory of the leg against the Dutch side. Pepijn van der Heijden (19') and Koen Bijen (59') scored for the hosts. Stand-in captain Hardik Singh was named Player of the Match for his exceptional leadership and midfield display. The Netherlands started strongly in the first quarter, showcasing impressive passing and putting the Indian backline under early pressure. India had a slightly shaky start but soon settled as the defence found its rhythm and contained the Dutch attackers. The first quarter ended goalless. India increased the intensity in the second quarter and won their first penalty corner. Jugraj Singh converted it with a powerful drag-flick to give India the lead, but the Netherlands responded quickly through van der Heijden to make it 1-1. India regained the lead



before half-time when Jarmanpreet Singh set up Abhishek, who finished with a sharp backhand strike.

In the third quarter, the Netherlands pressed hard but were unable to break through India's disciplined defence. Amit Rohidas made a key stop from a penalty corner as India maintained their 2-1 advantage. The final quarter saw sustained Dutch pressure, but India remained composed. A counter-attack involving Dilpreet Singh and Mandeep Singh led to a penalty corner, which Rajinder Singh converted to extend India's lead to 3-1. Despite being reduced to 10 men, the Netherlands pulled one back through Koen Bijen from a penalty corner variation to make it 3-2. India held firm in the closing minutes to seal a hard-fought victory.

Kapp's unbeaten 81 powers South Africa to six-wicket win over India in Women's T20 World Cup

Manchester: Marizanne Kapp admitted she struggled really in the first 10-15 balls before finding her timing, as the veteran South Africa all-rounder struck a career-best unbeaten 81 off 45 balls to lead her side to a six-wicket win over India in the 2026 Women's T20 World Cup Group A clash at Old Trafford. "First of all, thank you to Jesus Christ. That wasn't me. It was a tough game. Playing India is always extremely tough and I'm very proud of the team for coming back this game the way we did. I was just praying, to be honest. "No, I seemed to do a little bit better when I'm in earlier. I struggled, really struggled those first 10, 15 balls and eventually got my timing and then I just put my head down and I felt like that partnership with Taz (Brits) set it up beautifully for us," said Marizanne at the conclusion of the game after getting Player of the Match award. South Africa's win has kept them alive in the race to semi-finals, with Marizanne's knock and her 97-run stand with Tazmin becoming decisive in a chase that had looked improbable for the Proteas after a sluggish start. On managing the chase, Marizanne explained, "Look, we said it's a tough place to bat, actually, because you can't let it get away from you too far, but you



can also not lose more wickets. "So we just said, if we don't let it get past 10 runs and over, we will definitely, we've got the big hitters back and that can clear the boundary. And we just put our heads down and as soon as we looked to be a bit more positive, it worked for us." Marizanne, who also picked crucial scalps of Smriti Mandhana and Richa Ghosh, also praised her bowling unit for pulling India back after they had a strong start. "We know they always do, especially this wicket it was a little bit flat with the ball. You're always nervous when you come up against an Indian team.

I mean, they've got some wonderful players, but I feel like the way we brought it back, that probably saved us today." Reflecting on the pressure of a must-win game in front of a largely Indian crowd, Marizanne said, "Again, just by praying. But I seem to like the Indian fans. It feels like they're shouting my name, so I don't mind the crowd too much."

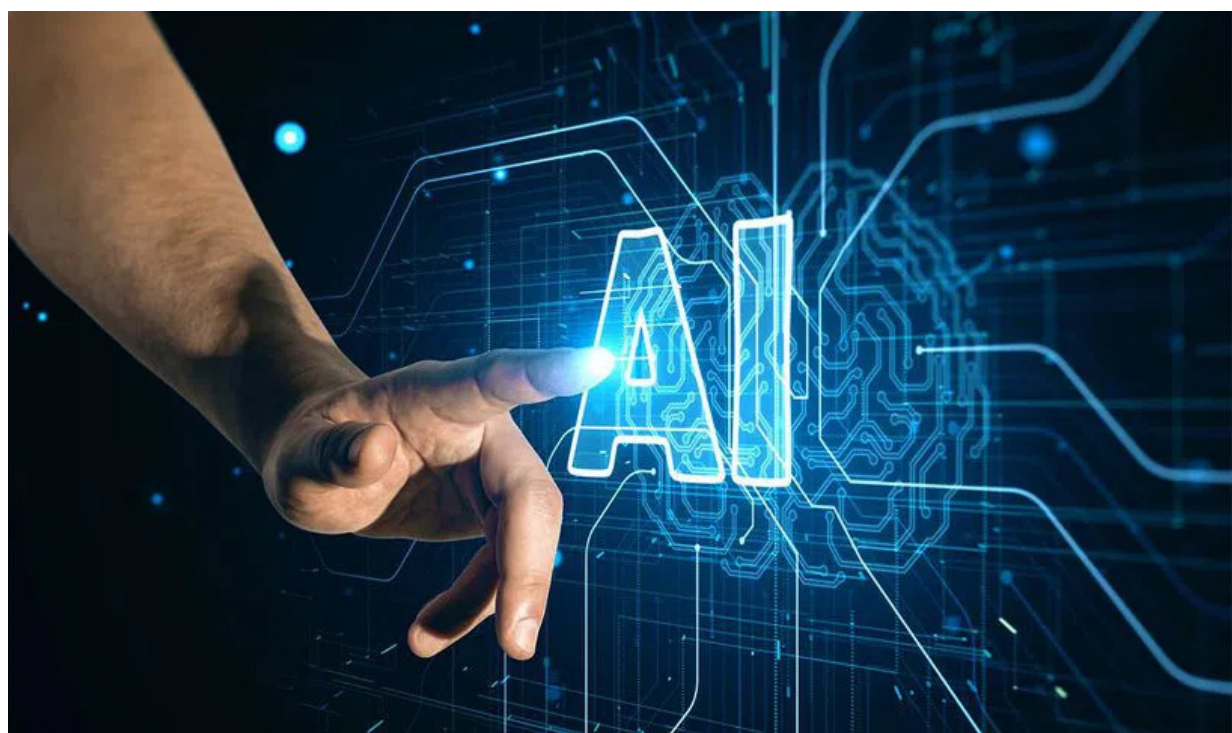
Afghanistan captain Hashmatullah Shahidi reprimanded for ICC Code of Conduct breach in third ODI

Hyderabad: Afghanistan captain Hashmatullah Shahidi has been handed an official reprimand for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during the third ODI against India in Chennai on Saturday. Hashmatullah was found to have breached Article 2.10 of the ICC Code of Conduct for players and player support personnel, which relates to a "batter causing deliberate or avoidable damage to the pitch." In addition to this, one demerit point has been added to Hashmatullah's disciplinary record, for whom it was the first offence in a 24-month period. After being unofficially warned twice for running on the pitch while batting, Hashmatullah was given an official warning in the 31st over of the Afghanistan innings but still ran down the pitch in the 40th over, which resulted in a five-run penalty for his team. Hashmatullah admitted the offence and accepted the



sanction proposed by Ranjan Madugalle of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees, so there was no need for a formal hearing. On-field umpires Chris Gaffaney and Rohan Pandit, third umpire Richard Illingworth and fourth umpire Virender Sharma levelled the charge. Level 1 breaches carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand and a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player's match fee, along with one or two demerit points.

AI now central to HR operations, say 60 per cent of professionals



Mumbai: Artificial intelligence (AI) is becoming central to human resource management, with 60 per cent of professionals surveyed saying it is now a top focus across HR functions, while another 15 per cent reported its growing importance in areas such as recruitment and onboarding, according to a survey-based report. The 'AI As The New HR Priority — Efficiency, Cost and Workforce Impact' report is based on a survey of 1,811 HR professionals across industries conducted between May 7 and 31. More than 60 per cent of professionals believe AI is now a top priority across HR functions, while another 15 per cent say it is becoming a growing priority in recruitment, onboarding, routine HR operations and workforce staffing, the Genius HRTech DigiPoll Survey, 'AI As The New HR Priority — Efficiency, Cost and Workforce Impact', has revealed. According to the findings of the report, 60 per cent of respondents identified improving efficiency and productivity as the primary reason for AI adoption, followed by 20

per cent who believe organisations are leveraging AI to reduce costs and optimise workforce management. It found that AI is already transforming day-to-day HR operations, with 42 per cent of respondents reporting significant improvements in the speed and efficiency of HR processes and another 29 per cent noting moderate gains, indicating that automation is making recruitment, onboarding and employee services faster and more seamless. Beyond efficiency, AI is also influencing workforce structures, as 42 per cent of professionals believe AI is reducing reliance on manual or repetitive roles, while 37 per cent feel it is enabling smarter workforce planning, signalling a shift towards technology-enabled, skill-first organisations. "Successful AI adoption is not about replacing people, it is about empowering them. Businesses that combine intelligent automation with human expertise, transparency and ethical governance will build stronger, more resilient workplaces," Genius HRTech Chairman RP Yadav said.

Markets end higher as IT and pharma stocks lift Sensex, Nifty



Mumbai: Indian equity benchmarks closed in positive territory on Monday, supported by strong buying in information technology and pharmaceutical stocks, while easing crude oil prices further boosted investor sentiment. The Sensex gained 291.17 points, or 0.38 per cent, to settle at 77,094.07. The Nifty also ended higher, rising 90 points, or 0.37 per cent, to close at 24,102.90. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the 24,200 level continues to act as the immediate resistance zone. "A sustained breakout above this level would reinforce bullish momentum and could pave the way for a further advance towards the 24,400 region, which remains the next significant upside target," an analyst said. "On the downside, the 24,000–23,900 region continues to serve as a crucial support zone," as per the expert. Market participants remained encouraged by the continued decline in global oil prices, which helped improve sentiment across sectors. The gains were largely driven by IT and healthcare-related

stocks, which witnessed sustained buying throughout the trading session. Among the top performers in the Nifty index were Cipla, Infosys, Tech Mahindra and Dr. Reddy's Laboratories. Strong gains in these stocks helped offset weakness in select consumer-oriented sectors. The broader market also ended on a firm note. The Nifty MidCap index advanced 0.34 per cent, while the Nifty SmallCap index climbed 0.6 per cent, indicating continued investor interest beyond front-line stocks. Sectoral indices presented a mixed picture. The Nifty IT, Nifty Pharma and Nifty Healthcare indices emerged as the biggest gainers, benefiting from sector-specific buying and positive sentiment. On the other hand, the Nifty FMCG and Nifty Consumer Durables indices ended lower, making them the worst-performing sectors of the day. Analysts said that softer crude prices and selective buying in defensive and technology stocks supported the market, while investors remained cautious ahead of key domestic and global economic developments.

Rupee falls 15 paise to 94.48 against US dollar amid firm greenback



Mumbai: The rupee depreciated 15 paise to 94.48 against the US dollar in early trade on Monday, weighed down by the strength of the American currency in the overseas market. Forex traders said the rupee witnessed volatility as steady debt and deposit inflows pulled the domestic currency in one way, while a nervous Middle East and a firm dollar pulled it the other way. At the interbank foreign exchange market the rupee opened at 94.42, registering a decline of 9 paise from its previous close. In initial trade it also touched 94.24 against the American currency. On Friday, the rupee pared most of its initial gains and settled higher by 7 paise at 94.33 against the US dollar. "Technically, the 94.0-94.20 zone continues to act as a key support area, while 94.80-95.00 remains the immediate resistance band. With debt inflows showing signs of improvement and oil prices staying relatively contained, the bias remains mildly in favour of rupee appreciation, with USD/INR potentially drifting towards the 94.0-3.80 zone," CR Forex Advisors MD – Amit Pabari said. On the global front, high-level Iran war talks in Switzerland ended on Monday with lower-level talks planned for the rest of the week as Iran and the United States agreed to create a "de-confliction cell" to address the fighting in Lebanon. The talks marked the start of a 60-day diplomatic process that seeks to reach a per-

manent deal to end the Iran war. Meanwhile, Iran insisted it had again shut the Strait of Hormuz over the weekend, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf crucial to energy shipments, while the US said traffic continued. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 100.02 per cent up at 100.87, amid hawkish FED and the fragile US-Iran trade deal. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading lower by 1.28 per cent at USD 79.54 per barrel in futures trade. "Brent oil was very near to USD 79 per barrel as talks between US and Iran were progressing while Iran had closed the Strait of Hormuz," Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP, said. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex climbed 407.12 points to 77,210.02 in early trade, while the Nifty surged 114.75 points to 24,129.95. Foreign institutional investors turned buyers on Friday, purchasing equities worth Rs 4,859.07 crore on a net basis, according to exchange data.

India's space economy may grow five-fold to USD 45 billion in a decade



New Delhi: India's space economy is projected to grow five-fold from the current \$8 billion to \$40-45 billion over the next decade, driven by policy reforms, rising private sector participation and growing commercialisation of space technologies, an official fact-sheet said on Sunday. The fact-sheet highlighted that India currently accounts for about 2-3 per cent of the global space economy, with the country's share targeted to rise to 8 per cent by 2030. The rapid growth is being supported by a series of structural reforms undertaken in recent years, including the opening up of the space sector to private players, the establishment of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), and the creation of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) to commercialise technologies developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). According to the government, India has witnessed a sharp rise in private participation in the space sector. From having just one registered space startup in 2014, the country now has more than 400 space startups as of February 2026. In addition, investment in Indian space startups has crossed \$500 million, with nearly \$150 million attracted in 2025 alone. The government has introduced several measures to encourage investment

and innovation, including liberalised foreign direct investment norms, a Rs 1,000 crore venture capital fund, a Rs 500 crore technology adoption fund and startup support schemes. Moreover, commercial activity in the sector has gathered momentum. NSIL's revenues rose from Rs 321.77 crore in FY22 to Rs 3,246.09 crore in FY25, reflecting growing demand for Indian space technologies and services.

The government has highlighted India's expanding global footprint in space, noting that the country has launched 399 foreign satellites since 2014 and signed more than 300 space cooperation agreements with 61 countries and five multilateral organisations. India's space ambitions are being backed by a robust pipeline of missions, including the Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme, the Bharatiya Antariksh Station, the Venus Orbiter Mission and future lunar exploration projects. India's space programme is evolving from a scientific endeavour into a major engine of economic growth, innovation and technological self-reliance, while strengthening the country's position among the world's leading spacefaring nations, according to the factsheet.

‘Mega 158’ shoot enters explosive new schedule in Hyderabad

The much-awaited Mega 158, starring Megastar Chiranjeevi and directed by Bobby Kolli, has returned to the spotlight with the makers announcing the commencement of a fresh shooting schedule in Hyderabad. Backed by KVN Productions, the film is being mounted on a massive scale and continues to generate strong excitement among fans. To mark the occasion, the team released a special behind-the-scenes video offering a glimpse into the latest phase of production. The makers described the ongoing schedule as an “unforgettable” and “explosive” chapter in the film’s journey, further raising anticipation around the project. The newly released video showcases Chiranjeevi and the cast filming key sequences at a unique location built around a traditional pickle-making setup. Actors Anaswara Rajan, Nivetha Pethuraj, and several other cast members are also seen participating in the shoot, hinting at lively and engaging scenes being filmed for the movie. The announcement comes after the successful completion of a lengthy schedule in Pollachi, where the team reportedly wrapped up important portions of the film. With production progressing steadily, the makers have expressed confidence in the project, previously calling it a “bloody benchmark” for both Chiranjeevi and director Bobby Kolli.



Adding to the excitement is the presence of music director Thaman, who is composing the soundtrack and background score. Given the successful collaborations of both Chiranjeevi and Thaman in recent years, expectations for the film’s music are already high. While the makers are yet to reveal major plot details, the latest production update has once again put Mega 158 firmly on the radar of movie enthusiasts. With shooting progressing at a brisk pace, fans are eagerly awaiting more updates from what is shaping up to be one of the biggest Telugu releases in the coming years.

Collector cautions youth against mobile and substance abuse



Nandyal: District Collector G. Raja Kumari on Sunday urged young people to distance themselves from all forms of substance abuse and adopt disciplined lifestyles, emphasizing that citizen-led vigilance is crucial to establishing a drug-free society. Addressing a large gathering after an expansive International Day of Yoga program at the Nandyal Indoor Stadium, the Collector pointed out that modern addiction is no longer restricted to tobacco, alcohol, and narcotics like ganja. She warned that excessive smartphone screen time, social media obsession, and toxic online content have emerged as severe contemporary addictions that trigger debilitating psychological and physical health issues among students. “Many young minds fall prey to these self-destructive habits purely due to peer pres-

sure. Students must consciously choose positive friendships, cultivate productive thinking, and channel their core focus into formal education, sports, and regular yoga practices to achieve their long-term life goals,” Raja Kumari advised. She highly appreciated the efforts of the district police’s specialized “Eagle Team,” which has been actively driving the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan campaign by conducting intensive awareness drives across regional schools and colleges, besides counseling vulnerable youth and their parents. As part of the event, the Collector administered a comprehensive anti-drug pledge to the participating youth, who vowed to keep their families and peers free from intoxicants. Joint Collector Suraj Dhanunjay, DRO Ramunayak, and Municipal Commissioner Sheshanna were present.

GATES Engg college hosts week-long yoga training camp

Gooty: A week-long yoga training workshop aimed at fostering a healthy lifestyle wrapped up at GATES Engineering College on Sunday. Yoga trainer Bhargavi provided hands-on training and detailed demonstrations of various asanas to B.Tech and Diploma students, emphasizing correct techniques. College faculty and staff also joined the sessions enthusiastically. Instructor Bhargavi noted that daily yoga boosts physical fitness, mental peace, and concentration. The campus participants welcomed the



initiative, stating it helps maintain overall health. The organizers later thanked the college management and the trainer for the successful camp.

Nearly 4L citizens stretch for fitness across 4,700 centres in Nandyal district

Nandyal: Nandyal Yoga emerged as a powerful symbol of public health and collective community participation across Nandyal district on Sunday, as nearly four lakh citizens actively participated in the “Yogandhra-2026” celebrations held across 4,700 centres to mark the 12th International Day of Yoga. District Collector G. Raja Kumari spearheaded the main district-level event at the Nandyal Indoor Stadium, where senior bureaucrats, public representatives, students, women, and sportspersons performed asanas, pranayama, and meditation techniques under the guidance of expert instructors. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector defined yoga as India’s priceless gift to global wellness and highlighted this year’s theme, “Yoga for Healthy Ageing,” which reinforces tailoring the practice to one’s age and health conditions. She added that iconic spiritual centres like Srisailam and Mahanandi also drew over 2,000 participants each. “The overwhelming turnout is the result of a meticulously planned 14-



day awareness campaign and daily practice sessions executed across the district to mobilize the public,” Raja Kumari noted, thanking the AYUSH therapists and student groups from Panyam mandal for their stellar demonstrations. Joint Collector Suraj Dhanunjay advised students to dedicate at least 20 to 30 minutes daily to yoga to enhance mental concentration and achieve academic milestones. He also urged government employees to integrate yoga into their routines to counter work-related stress. DRO Ramunayak, Municipal Commissioner Sheshanna, and various voluntary organizations were present to support the mega wellness drive.

MLA Prasad lays foundation for Giripradakshina road at Stotradri Hill



Kadiri: In a major boost to pilgrim infrastructure and spiritual tourism, Kadiri MLA Kandikunta Venkata Prasad on Sunday laid the foundation stone for the construction of a dedicated road along the Giripradakshina (hill circumambulation) route at Stotradri Hill, adjacent to the historic Sri Khadri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple. The ceremony was held on an auspicious note, coinciding with the deity’s birth star day (Swati Nakshatra), a time when thousands of devotees traditionally converge on Kadiri for their monthly ritualistic walk around the hill. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Venkata Prasad highlighted that pilgrim footfalls to the temple have been increasing exponentially every year. He asserted that the government is fully committed to developing Kadiri into a prominent spiritual hub. Noting that the demand for a

proper Giripradakshina road had been a long-standing request from devotees, youth groups, and Hindu religious organizations alike, the legislator assured that the project would be executed swiftly with the coordinated support of various government departments. He also appealed to local farmers and residents surrounding the hill to cooperate with officials during the expansion works. Representatives of the Sri Khadri Lakshmi Narasimha Seva Samithi expressed deep gratitude to the MLA for prioritizing the project.

The high-profile event was attended by Kadiri RDO Kalavathi, MRO Reddy Sekhar, Temple Executive Officer Srinivasulu Reddy, Chief Priest Vasantha Narasimha Charyulu, former MLA Mitta Parthasarathi, alliance leaders, and local prominent citizens.

BEST innovation university marks IYD with cultural grandeur

Gorantla: Celebrating the 12th International Day of Yoga under the theme “Yoga for Healthy Ageing,” BEST Innovation University organized a massive campus wellness drive on Sunday. The event featured mass asana practices alongside vibrant student showcases, including a specialized Yoga Dance and a traditional Guccha Dance. Vice-Chancellor Prof K Nagajyothi warned that modern lifestyle stress causes early ageing, recommending regular yoga for emotional balance. Chancellor Dr Rupa Vasudevan and Registrar Dr Immanuel Anupalli motivated the



campus to make yoga a daily habit. The session concluded with prize distribution for top performers and the National Anthem.