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India will be unstoppable if Ganga, Cauvery interlinked: says Andhra CM Chandrababu Naidu



Hosepet (Karnataka): Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday said here in Karnataka that India will be unstoppable if the Ganga and Cauvery rivers are interlinked. Addressing a public meeting here following the launching of 33 new crest gates for the Tungabhadra Project, Naidu observed that "rivers in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh were connected" through the Ken-Betwa project. "If Ganga and Cauvery rivers are interlinked in the country, then India is unstoppable," said Naidu, observing that interlinking Godavari and Cauvery rivers will meet the needs of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. Telangana travel guide Noting that sufficient inflows are not arriving in Tungabhadra and

Almatti due to El Nino effect, he said water must be used frugally this year and underscored the need to interlink rivers. According to the CM, rivers must be interlinked within the states first, followed by linking rivers in other states. Under the leadership of Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil, Naidu said the Chief Ministers of three states — Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka — deliberated on the welfare of this region's farmers. After the 19th gate of the Tungabhadra Dam was washed away in 2024, a stop lock gate was fixed, he said, adding that now 33 new gates have been installed. He said the three states worked in coordination to fix the new gates and revived the Tungabhadra Dam to protect the farmers.

Andhra CM Chandrababu Naidu calls for interlinking Godavari, Cauvery rivers

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday called for interlinking Godavari and Cauvery rivers. Government He said the interlinking of the two rivers will benefit Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and



Telangana. He added that the Centre should take up interlinking of Godavari and Cauvery rivers as a national project. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu was addressing a public meeting following the inauguration of 33 new crest gates at the Tungabhadra dam at Hospete in Karnataka along with his Karnataka counterpart D.K. Shivakumar and Telangana counterpart A. Revanth Reddy. He claimed that India is achieving rapid development under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "India has achieved success through initiatives like 'One Nation, One Grid', as well as robust telecom and road networks. If the

Ganga and Cauvery rivers are interlinked, India will become unstoppable." He said that rivers in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have already been interlinked through the Ken-Betwa project. He praised the Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Paatil for playing a key role in bringing together the Chief Ministers of three states -- Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. Executive Branch He said that the meeting of the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana under the leadership of Union Minister C.R. Paatil is a historic event. "While we may be separate states, we are united as one nation."

TDP MP Kesineni Chinni launches Balamrutham in Vijayawada

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) launched 'Balamrutham+' in Vijayawada with the aim of improving the nutritional intake of children at Anganwadi centers. He stated that he also reviewed the progress of schemes being implemented by both the central and state governments. He remarked that, much like the 'VB Jeeramji' instance, it appears that old schemes are being implemented under new names by both the central and state governments. MP Chinni mentioned that various issues concerning NTR district were discussed extensively during the review meeting. MP Chinni stated that a spe-

cial meeting would soon be held to explore solutions for issues related to NTR district. He noted that the district is at the forefront in Andhra Pradesh regarding the resolution of problems. However, he pointed out that a lack of coordination among various departments is causing difficulties in the implementation of certain development programs.



Container overturns on Vizag NAD flyover, no casualties

A major accident was averted on the Visakhapatnam NAD flyover. A massive container truck traveling from Gajuwaka towards the city suddenly overturned. The accident occurred late at night while the vehicle was taking a turn on the rotary section of the new NAD flyover. Fortunately, there were no casualties, as the usually busy flyover was devoid of traffic at the time. Kancharapalem traffic po-



lice arrived at the scene to regulate traffic and removed the overturned container with the help of cranes.

Minister attends Kumbhabhishekam at Dharmavaram temple

Dharmavaram: Health Minister and Dharmavaram MLA Satya Kumar Yadav participated in the Mahashanthi Pratishtha and Kumbhabhishekam celebrations at Sri Lakshmi Chennakesava Swamy Temple in Dharmavaram on Wednesday. The grand religious event, held once every 12 years, was performed with traditional Vedic rituals, including Suprabhata Seva, Swathi Punyahavachanam, various



homams and Maha Purnahuti. The Minister offered prayers at the temple and received blessings from Tridandi Ashtakshari Sampath Kumar Ramanuja Jeeyar Swamy.

IMD predicts rains in AP and Telangana for two days

The Meteorological Department has issued a major rainfall alert for the people of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, warning of heavy rains over the next three days. Telangana news The Meteorological Department has issued a major rainfall alert for the people of Andhra Pradesh



and Telangana, warning of heavy rains over the next three days. Regarding Andhra Pradesh, the department stated that rains are expected in the North Coastal, South Coastal, and Rayalaseema regions. It specified that rainfall is likely on June 25 in the districts of Vizianagaram, Parvathipuram Manyam, Alluri Sitarama Raju, Polavaram, Visakhapatnam, Anakapalli, Kakinada, Eluru, Krishna, and NTR. Furthermore, scattered rains are forecast for various districts across the Coastal and Rayalaseema regions on the 26th and 27th of this month.

Seed pellet technology key to farming in low rainfall areas

Anantapur: T Vijay Kumar, honorary Vice-Chairman of Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS) and retired IAS officer, stated that farmers can successfully grow crops even under low rainfall conditions by adopting seed pellet technology. Accompanied by Chief Technical and Innovation Officer Lakshma Nayak, Vijay Kumar visited natural farming fields in Miduturu village of Pedda Vaduguru mandal on Wednesday. The team inspected a cotton field of farmer Harikrishna, who achieved a second crop yield of 10 quintals per acre after pruning, sold at Rs 8,000 per quintal. They also reviewed multi-variety fodder crops grown by farmer Kambayya, compared BT and non-BT cotton varieties at Swathi Kumari's farm, and examined a two-acre Pre-Monsoon Dry Sowing (PMDS) field



using seed pellets. Vijay Kumar urged farmers to widely adopt PMDS with seed pellets and follow the compact block approach by forming groups to enhance natural farming practices and improve productivity under uncertain weather conditions. District-level official Suraj Kumar, Joint Director of Agriculture Sal Reddy, Assistant Director of Agriculture Venkat, farmers, and RySS functionaries were present.



Twelve years on: Tracing Jana Sena's robust journey from conviction to governance

As Jana Sena marks 12 years of public service, the party enters a new phase of expansion into Telangana, focusing on grassroots governance and values. The completion of twelve years marks a defining moment in Jana Sena Party's political journey. What began in 2014 as an idea rooted in sacrifice, public service and principled politics has today evolved into a responsible political force with a growing role in governance and an expanding footprint beyond Andhra Pradesh. More importantly, it represents the growing trust reposed by people in a political movement that has consistently chosen values over expediency. The recent national executive meetings held in New Delhi and the inauguration of the party's new office in Hyderabad are not isolated organisational events. They symbolise the beginning of a new chapter in Jana Sena's political evolution. As the party enters its Pushkara phase, these developments underscore its resolve to strengthen its presence, deepen its commitment to public service and broaden its engagement with people across regions. Over the last twelve years, Jana Sena has traversed a path marked by challenges, setbacks and moments of intense political scrutiny. Yet, under the leadership of Pawan Kalyan, the party has remained steadfast in its founding objective — ensuring "work for every hand and water for every acre." Guided by the principles of social justice and inclusive development, the party has consistently sought to transcend the limitations imposed by caste, religion and regional divisions, emphasizing that politics must ultimately serve the cause of public welfare. The story of Jana Sena is also inseparable from the sacrifices and perseverance of its founder. At a time when political success is often measured by immediate electoral gains, Pawan Kalyan chose the more difficult path of institution-building. He repeatedly emphasized the importance of long-term political culture over short-term victories and demonstrated an unwavering commitment to public causes, even during periods when the party faced adversity. His ability to inspire cadres and retain public trust has been central to Jana Sena's growth. Jana Sena played a pivotal role in the formation of the NDA-led coalition government in Andhra Pradesh, contributing to the emergence of a stable and development-oriented administration. The remarkable achievement of winning all 21 Assembly seats contested by the party reflected not only organisational discipline but also the confidence that people have placed in its leadership and ideals. Today, it enjoys representation in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, the Lok Sabha, the Legislative Council and the Rajya Sabha. This institutional presence signifies the transformation of the party from a movement of conviction into a force rooted in governance. As a responsible constituent of the coalition government, Jana Sena remains committed to implementing the promises made to the people while upholding the spirit of coalition dharma. Further highlighted the party's expanding horizons. Leaders representing Jana Sena from various southern states came together to deliberate upon the party's future course and adopt resolutions aimed at strengthening grassroots structures and enhancing organisational capacity.

Patna court defers hearing on Khan Sir's bail plea; two associates of Roshan Anand granted bail

Patna: A hearing in the ongoing legal dispute involving educator Faisal Khan, popularly known as Khan Sir, and Roshan Anand was held on Thursday at the Patna Civil Court. While two associates linked to the Roshan Anand side secured bail, the court deferred consideration of Khan Sir's anticipatory bail plea due to an incomplete police case diary. The District and Sessions Judge granted unconditional bail to Gaurav Kumar and Abhishek Kumar, who are associated with the Roshan Anand faction. Following the order, the process of furnishing bail bonds and completing legal formalities for their release from Beur Jail began. According to advocate Raghav Kumar, representing Roshan Anand's side, the court granted bail without imposing any conditions. The court could not take a final decision on the anticipatory bail plea filed by Faisal Khan or the regular bail applications of his two personal security guards. During the proceedings, the judge observed that the updated case diary submitted by the police was incomplete. The court directed the investigating agency to submit a complete and comprehensive case diary before the next hearing. The matter has now been listed for hearing on June 27. Although the anticipatory bail plea remains pending, Khan Sir continues to enjoy interim protection from arrest until the next hearing date. The earlier stay on his arrest remains in force until June 27. According to submissions made by the police, the firing incident under investigation was allegedly not an act of self-defence. The



police stated in the case diary that the two security personnel accompanying Khan Sir opened fire at his direction with the intention of creating panic and fear in the area. However, these allegations remain part of the ongoing investigation and have yet to be adjudicated by the court. Khan Sir's counsel, advocate Arvind Kumar Maurya, argued before the court that his client had no role in the firing incident. The defence contended that Faisal Khan had been falsely implicated and alleged that the case stems from political and business rivalries. The dispute between Khan Sir and Roshan Anand has witnessed a series of allegations and counter-allegations.

Roshan Anand has accused Khan Sir of conspiring against him and has also linked him to the murder of his brother, Prince Yadav. These allegations are currently under investigation, and no court findings have yet established criminal liability in the matter. With the police directed to submit a complete case diary before the next hearing, the proceedings scheduled for June 27 are expected to play a significant role in determining the future course of the case.

Heavy rain likely across TN from June 28 as southwest monsoon intensifies



Chennai: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast widespread rainfall across Tamil Nadu over the next few days, with heavy showers expected in more than a dozen districts from June 28 as the Southwest Monsoon remains active over the region. According to the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) in Chennai, changes in the strength of the westerly winds are expected to trigger moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms and gusty winds in several parts of the state on Thursday. The weather department said the Western Ghats districts and coastal Tamil Nadu are likely to receive moderate rain at isolated places, while strong winds may also accompany the showers. The forecast indicates that southern Tamil Nadu, the Western Ghats region and parts of the northern interior districts are likely to continue receiving moderate rain with gusty winds over the next two days.

Meteorologists said the prevailing monsoon conditions are favourable for sustained rainfall activity across large parts of the state. From Sunday, June 28, heavy rainfall is expected in several districts, including Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Theni, Dindigul, Tenkasi, Virudhu nagar, Tirunelveli, Kanniyakumari, Tiruvallur, Ranipet, Vellore, Kancheepuram and

Tiruvannamalai. Authorities have advised residents in vulnerable areas to remain alert as heavy rain could lead to waterlogging in low-lying areas and localised disruptions. For Chennai, the IMD has forecast partly cloudy skies on Thursday, with light to moderate rain accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning likely during the evening and night in some parts of the city and its suburbs. Similar weather conditions are expected to persist over the coming days. The weather department also said that maximum temperatures across Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal are expected to remain close to normal until Sunday, providing relief from the recent spell of humid conditions. Meanwhile, fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea as squally weather with wind speeds of 40 to 50 kmph is expected to prevail over the South west Bay of Bengal during the period. Ocean current alerts have also been issued for the Karaikal and Nagapattinam coastal areas, and authorities have urged fishing communities to strictly follow the advisories. In the 24 hours ending at 8.30 A.M. on Thursday, Thammampatty in Salem district recorded the highest rainfall in the state with 4 cm, followed by Veppanthattai in Perambalur district, which received 3 cm of rain.

BRS calls for national drive to weed out duplicate voters

Says Special Intensive Revision must be strengthened to ensure accuracy BRS leaders on Wednesday demanded that the Election Commission have a policy of one country one citizen and one vote by bringing up a system to weed out the fake voters. A delegation of BRS leaders led by MLC Dasoju Sravan met Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) C Sudershan Reddy on Wednesday. Later, speaking to reporters Sravan said that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls cannot achieve its true objective unless the electoral process, which forms the foundation of democracy, was completely freed from the menace of bogus and duplicate votes. Sravan stressed on the need to implement KCR's vision of 'One Nation – One Citizen – One Vote'. He warned that failure to comprehensively address the problem of bogus and duplicate votes would put the very democratic framework at risk. He noted that duplicate and bogus voters not only influence election outcomes but also distort the genuine mandate of the people. Although the Election Commission has undertaken the Special Intensive Revision exercise to address this issue, he expressed concern that there was still no clear mechanism to identify and remove individuals, who remain registered as voters in more than one state. Sravan pointed out that Hyderabad has evolved into an international city where people from across the country now reside. Citizens from various states, stretching from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, have settled in Telangana, particularly in Hyderabad. Many of them may continue to retain their voting rights in their native states while also registering as voters in Telangana. Geographic Reference He asserted that allowing a single individual to possess voting rights in two states was contrary to the spirit of democracy and urged the ECI to take special measures to identify and remove such registrations.

HMDA Medipally auction fetches Rs 80,000 per sq yard



The Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority successfully conducted Phase-III e-auction of 68 residential plots in its Medipally Layout, witnessing an overwhelming response from homebuyers and investors. Geographic Reference The public auction attracted significant participation from competitive bidders across Hyderabad and surrounding regions, reflecting strong market confidence in authority-developed layouts and growing regional demand for well-planned residential developments. According to officials, out of the 68 plots, 63 plots were successfully auctioned on the day. The highest bid received during the competitive auction reached Rs 80,000 per square yard, while the average bid rate stood firmly at Rs 56,260 per square yard. The exercise generated a total revenue of approximately Rs 120 crore, highlighting the overall attractiveness of the strategic Medipally location. The auction generated intense competition among eager bidders, with several individual plots receiving multiple bids. This highly successful auction is now expected to further accelerate infrastructural development and financial investment in the eastern growth corridor of Hyderabad, state officials concluded.

Large number of farmers in Khammam yet to receive money for maize sold in rabi season

Khammam: Even as the kharif season has started, maize farmers in Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao's native district of Khammam are still awaiting payments for the maize procured by the government. A large number of farmers, who underwent numerous hardships while selling their maize during the procurement undertaken by Telangana Co-operative Marketing Federation Limited (MARKFED) in the district, are yet to be paid for the produce sold in the first week of April.



Civil society questions Telangana's Metro takeover plan, seeks focus on buses and MMTS

Hyderabad: Civil society organisations have questioned the Telangana government's priorities in strengthening public transport in Hyderabad, citing concerns over expenditure and passenger benefits. The questions come in the wake of the State government's move to takeover the Hyderabad Metro Rail from L&T. While the government has cited multiple reasons for the proposed takeover, civil society groups have raised concerns about its financial viability and the burden it could place on Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (HMRL). They argue that the government should instead focus on strengthening alternative public transport systems such as city buses and the Multi-Modal Transport System (MMTS). "If the State government is prepared to takeover the Metro by spending about Rs. 15,000 crore, why can't it absorb losses incurred in operating city buses?" asked D Narasimha Reddy of Citizens for Better Public Transport. He noted that when the Metro project was announced in 2006, officials projected a daily ridership of nearly 16 lakh passengers. However, in 2026 Hyderabad Metro currently handles around 4.5 lakh passengers a day despite substantial investments and the allocation of prime land parcels. He also pointed out that Metro fares are significantly higher than those of city buses and MMTS services. Echoing similar concerns, M Srinivas of Urban Development Forum said cities such as Bengaluru and Chennai operate nearly 7,000 city buses each, while Hyderabad has only about 2,500 buses in service. Though the government re-



cently announced the addition of 50 electric buses to the fleet, he said the increase remains inadequate to meet the city's growing transport needs. He further alleged that the government had failed to provide sufficient feeder bus services to MMTS stations, affecting last-mile connectivity and limiting passenger patronage.

According to him, the State government should work closely with the South Central Railway (SCR) to improve MMTS operations, ensure punctuality and strengthen connectivity to railway stations. "As the State government is prepared to spend thousands of crores on the Metro, it should also be willing to invest a few hundred crores in city bus and MMTS services," Srinivas said. However, officials defended the government's plans to expand Metro services in the city. They argued that Metro rail cannot be directly compared with buses and other modes of public transport. Increasing the number of city buses, they said, could add to traffic congestion and place greater pressure on existing road infrastructure. They also noted that strengthening MMTS services requires extensive coordination with the SCR due to multiple decision bodies.

Hyderabad to receive evening rains as IMD issues yellow alert for Telangana



Hyderabad: Hyderabad skies will remain cloudy during the day, with moderate rains expected to lash the city in the evening and night on Thursday. Thunderstorms accompanied with gusty winds have also been forecast. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Hyderabad, the city's maximum temperature will be around 34 degree Celsius and 35 degree Celsius. Across the State, the IMD has issued a yellow alert for June 25 and 26, with a warning of heavy rainfall at isolated places in Kothagudem, Khammam, Nalgonda and Suryapet districts. Thunderstorm ac-

companied with lightning and gusty winds (30-40 kmph) very likely to occur at isolated places in Adilabad, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherla, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Jagtial, Rajanna Sircilla, Karimnagar, Peddapalli, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Mulugu, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Khammam, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Mahabubabad, Warangal, Hanamakonda, Jangaon, Siddipet, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, Rangareddy, Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Vikarabad, Sangareddy, Medak and Kamareddy districts.

Revanth Reddy seeks Centre's intervention on Tungabhadra water



Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Wednesday urged the Union government to resolve the utilization of the state's rightful share of water from the Tungabhadra project and to facilitate coordination among the stakeholder states. Revanth Reddy, who held a review of the Tungabhadra project, RDS, and inter-state river water disputes here, said Telangana is entitled 15.9 TMC share of water from Tungabhadra river. However, he expressed concern that the current inflow was not exceeding five to six TMC of water, a release from the CMO said. The RDS (RajoliBanda Diversion Scheme), required water for irrigation of 83,987 acres of ayacut in approximately 75 villages in Jogulamba Gadwal district, he said. In view of the involvement of three states, the CM requested that the Tungabhadra Board be strengthened under the aegis of the Central Water Commission (CWC) to ensure the efficient utilization of water shares among Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka. Reddy noted that the RDS ayacut has become unsafe and stressed necessary safety-related works be identified expeditiously. Reviewing the modernization of the RajoliBanda Diversion Canal, he said that the Telangana government has already deposited Rs 59 crore and yet the works remain incomplete. Officials briefed the Chief Minister that while works under Packages-Three and Four have been finished, those under Packages One and Two have not yet commenced. Reddy decided to raise

the issue of the stalled works for the first two packages during the meeting with three Chief Ministers, chaired by the Union Minister for Jal Shakti on Thursday, the release said. The irrigation officials also brought to the Chief Minister's attention that water diversion at RDS is not proceeding at expected levels due to heavy siltation on the Telangana side. The expert committee had recommended the desilting in 2004, but those recommendations have not yet been implemented. The meeting decided to request the Centre to take immediate action on desilting and also seek the Karnataka government's cooperation since the silted area lies in the neighbouring state, the release added. A representation will also be submitted to the Centre requesting the implementation of the 2004 expert committee's suggestions alongside the desilting work. CM Revanth Reddy advised the officials to compare the findings of the earlier report with the current ground reality and ordered them to prepare a comprehensive report immediately.

The officials were also instructed to explore alternatives for maximizing water utilization under the Tungabhadra Lift Irrigation Scheme. The CM ordered an increase in the capacity of the Mallamakunta Balancing Reservoir—a crucial component for utilizing water from Thummilli and the work should be executed quickly. The meeting was attended by Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy and other senior officials from the Irrigation Department.

Rajanarsimha mandates equitable medical access for remotest tribal areas

'Forests, hilly terrain, remote habitations and transportation challenges should never become obstacles to providing timely medical care' Hyderabad: Reiterating the State government's commitment to ensuring equitable healthcare for every citizen, Minister for Health, Medical & Family Welfare Damodar Rajanarsimha has directed officials to ensure that people living in the remotest tribal areas receive quality healthcare services without any barriers. City & Local Guides He asserted that forests, hilly terrain, remote habitations and transportation challenges should never become obstacles to providing timely medical care. The Minister conducted a comprehensive review meeting with Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) Project Officers, senior officials of the Health and Tribal Welfare departments at the Rajiv Aarogyasri Health Care Trust office in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad on Wednesday. He also reviewed the implementation of decisions taken during the previous review meeting with ITDA officials. With the onset of the monsoon season, the Minister reviewed the preparedness of the Health department in tribal areas, including the availability of healthcare services, hospital infrastructure, manpower, emergency medical response, and the challenges faced in delivering healthcare in remote locations. Officials also briefed the Minister on the progress made in strengthening health facilities across Agency areas. Directing officials to remain on high alert during the monsoon, Damodar Rajanarsi mha in-

structed them to take preventive measures against seasonal diseases such as malaria, dengue, viral fevers and diarrhoeal illnesses. He stressed that all



government hospitals should maintain adequate stocks of medicines, diagnostic kits, IV fluids and other essential medical supplies.

The Minister also directed officials to organise special medical camps in vulnerable tribal habitations wherever necessary and ensure uninterrupted functioning of 108 and 102 ambulance services. Referring to the recent maternal death reported at Gundala PHC, the Minister said every official should treat the incident as a lesson and ensure that such incidents do not recur. He directed officials to identify all high-risk pregnancies well in advance, closely monitor expectant mothers, and shift them to Birth Waiting Homes before the expected date of delivery wherever required. "There will be no compromise on maternal and child healthcare," he asserted. Reviewing dialysis services in Agency districts, Damodar Rajanarsimha was informed that 25 dialysis centres were currently providing treatment to 1,373 active patients.

He reviewed the government's plan to further strengthen dialysis services through the establishment of 34 additional dialysis centres with 170 additional dialysis beds in Agency areas.

Chandrababu to join Tungabhadra gates inauguration

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy will attend the inauguration of 33 newly installed spillway gates at Tungabhadra dam



at Hospet in Karnataka's Vijayanagar district on Thursday. Karnataka Chief Minister DK Sivakumar and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu would also attend the programme. During the meeting, Revanth Reddy is likely to bring to the attention of DK Sivakumar about the issues pending with

Karnataka in the release of water and construction of the dams, mainly RajoliBanda Diversion Scheme (RDS). The Chief minister held a review on the Tungabhadra, RDS and other irrigation issues on Wednesday and sought a report on the issues to apprise them of the Karnataka Chief Minister during his visit.

Election Commission will be under check if Rahul Gandhi becomes PM: Jagga Reddy



Sangareddy: TPCC working president T Jagga Reddy on Wednesday called upon the Booth Level Agents (BLAs) to thwart the BJP's conspiracies to delete votes of Congress supporters. Jagga Reddy alleged that the Election Commission acts according to the directions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said the Commission would function independently only if Rahul Gandhi becomes the Prime Minister. He claimed that in some states, the BJP secured favourable results due to the deletion of votes supporting opposition parties. He said Rahul Gandhi had alerted the party over the issue and directed leaders to conduct awareness meetings. Jagga Reddy said Rahul Gandhi could become Prime Minister only if the Congress party wins 300 of the 543 Lok Sabha seats. He added that Rahul Gandhi is currently fighting for people's issues in Parliament. Also Read - Harish Rao urges CM to protect Telangana's share in Tungabhadra waters Advertisement He further stated that concerns related to voter lists could be resolved only if Rahul Gandhi becomes Prime Minister. He said that a Congress victory under Rahul Gandhi's leadership would bring an end to the "oppressive rule" and usher in good governance. While addressing the emergency meet-

ing with the BLAs on SIR on Wednesday at Sangareddy, Jagga Reddy issued guidelines to 282 BLAs, in-charges, and key leaders of the Sangareddy constituency. He said that everyone must remain vigilant regarding the voter list revision starting on the 25th of this month ensuring the security of voters is essential and the responsibility lies with BLAs. He organised the emergency meeting of BLAs acting on the suggestions of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, AICC In-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, and TPCC chief Mahesh Kumar Goud Jagga Reddy said that they will discuss this matter in depth again on July 6. He further said, "we will schedule four meetings to be held until the "SIR" process concludes. BLAs, in-charges, sarpanches (both victorious and defeated), councilors, and key leaders must participate in every meeting. The 282 BLAs and in-charges must dedicate their full time to this. Safeguard the cards issued to you; they signify your recognition. Do not forget that this recognition depends entirely on your performance". Sangareddy DCC President and TGIC Chairperson Nirmala Jagga Reddy, Parliament In-charge Preetham, and Dayakar (Sangareddy), BLAs and Congress party leaders from the Sangareddy constituency attended the meeting.

27 gram panchayat buildings sanctioned in Shadnagar constituency

Shadnagar: MLA Veerlapalli Shankar announced that administrative approval has been granted for the construction of 27 new Gram Panchayat buildings across Shadnagar constituency at an estimated cost of Rs 5.40 crore under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). Addressing a media conference here on Wednesday, the MLA said each building would be constructed at a cost of Rs. 20 lakh, with works scheduled to begin during the 2026-27 financial year. The approval was granted by Ranga Reddy District Collector C. Narayana Reddy based on feasibility reports and estimates submitted by the Panchayat Raj Engineering Department. Veerlapalli Shankar said the new buildings would strengthen rural administration and improve access to government services in villages. He alleged that the previous government had neglected in-



frastructure needs of newly formed Gram Panchayats, while the present Congress government was focusing on strengthening local bodies. The MLA also announced that Rs. 2 crore has been sanctioned for CC road works in the constituency. He advised sarpanches to ensure proper utilization of funds and closely monitor construction activities until completion. The sanctioned Gram Panchayats are located in Farooqnagar, Chowdarguda, Keshampet, Kondurg, Kothur and Nandigama mandals.

Leaders tasked with mobilising crowds for CM's public meeting

The proposed Rythu Ashirvada Sabha to be held in Chintakani mandal of Madhira Assembly constituency on June 30 The District Congress Committee (DCC) on Wednesday announced the appointment of constituency-wise in-charges to ensure the success of the proposed Rythu Ashirvada Sabha to be addressed by Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy in Chintakani mandal of Madhira Assembly constituency on June 30. Telangana news In a statement, District Congress Committee president Nuthi Satyanarayana Goud said senior party leaders have been assigned responsibilities across various constituencies to mobilise farmers, party workers and supporters for the public meeting. According to the appointments, former MLC Balasani Lakshminarayana has been named in-charge for Khammam Assembly constituency, while TPCC General Secretary Maddineni Baby Swarnakumari will oversee mobilisation efforts in Palair constituency. Wyrā MLA Maloth Ramdas Naik has been entrusted with responsibility for Wyrā constituency,

and senior Congress leader Dr Matta Dayanand has been appointed in-charge for Sathupalli constituency. Satyanarayana Goud appealed to party leaders and workers to work in coordination to make the farmers' meeting a grand success. He urged the designated constituency in-charges to ensure the participation of a large number of farmers, Congress activists and supporters from their respective constituencies. The DCC president said the proposed gathering assumes significance as Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is expected to address issues concerning farmers and highlight the welfare measures being implemented by the state government for the agricultural community. He expressed confidence that Congress cadres across the district would actively participate in mobilisation efforts and contribute to the success of the event.



Hyderabad's Velvet Space creates invite-only experiences to foster meaningful connections

Hyderabad: As large social gatherings and networking events become increasingly common, a Hyderabad-based invite-only club is taking a different approach by focusing on smaller, curated experiences designed to encourage conversations and new connections. Velvet Space, founded by 29-year-old Sri Varsha Kasam, organises intimate experiences ranging from drives and workshops to shared meals and activities. The idea stemmed from a desire to create meaningful interactions in a city where social spaces are plentiful but genuine connections can often feel elusive. "I started Velvet Space because I saw a gap where real connections are missing with the right people.

There are many clubs in the city for anyone to join, but this is an invite-only club that brings the right people together," Varsha said. Entry is not open to everyone, with participants selected through an application process and limited seats available for every event. The invite-only format is intended to preserve a sense of mystery and excitement while ensuring each gathering feels distinct from a regular social event. The club's first event, scheduled for Sunday, is designed exclusively for women. The concept was inspired by the perception that road trips and long drives are often associated with men, despite more women now actively embracing driving and travel experiences.

MLAs coax farmers to part with lands for reservoir project

Shadnagar: Declaring that they would not rest until irrigation water flows through their constituencies, Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar and Pargi MLA Rammohan Reddy said the long-awaited Lakshmidivipalli Reservoir project has finally entered the implementation stage. The leaders addressed a large public meeting held at the proposed reservoir site in Jilled Chowdarigudem mandal of Shadnagar constituency on Wednesday. The Telangana government has sanctioned Rs 587 for land acquisition as part of the reservoir project. Officials informed farmers that around 1,510 acres would be acquired for the reservoir, with additional land required for canals and related infrastructure. Of the total, 278.35 acres fall within Shadnagar constituency, while more than 1,200 acres are located in Pargi constituency. A major portion of the land requirement is in Saidupalli village, while 83.31 acres are needed near Allapur in Kulkacherla mandal. T Veerlapalli Shankar and Rammohan Reddy described the day as a historic moment for the region. They said they had relentlessly pursued the project with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy and senior government officials. The MLAs stressed that the project would provide long-term irrigation benefits to thousands of farmers and significantly contribute to the development of Shadnagar and Pargi constituencies. The MLAs appealed to farmers to cooperate with the land acquisition process, assur-



ing that all affected landowners would receive full compensation from the government. They emphasised that the sacrifice of a few farmers would benefit thousands across the region and promised government support to all displaced families. R&R chief Veerlapalli Shankar also launched a sharp attack on former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, alleging that the project had been neglected during the previous government despite repeated promises. He claimed that the region suffered due to the diversion of focus and resources toward other irrigation projects and asserted that the Congress government was now taking concrete steps to complete the long-pending reservoir. The MLAs cautioned farmers against being influenced by those allegedly attempting to create opposition to the project and urged them to support the government's efforts. They reiterated that the project would transform the region's irrigation landscape and pledged to continue monitoring the project until water reaches the fields. Among those present were Congress leaders officials and farmers and local residents.

Samantha announces pregnancy, plans maternity break

Chennai: Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu has confirmed that she is expecting her first child with husband Raj Nidimoru, saying she will soon take a break from acting. Samantha on Wednesday celebrated the success of her new movie "Maa Inti Bangaaram", an action drama from filmmaker Nandini Reddy. The movie, which released last week, has received unanimous praise from the critics and earned over Rs 50 crores at the global box office. "After 'Maa Inti Bangaaram', I will have to take a small break, given my condition. I'll have to take maternity leave. After that, I'll be back with another film for my fans," Samantha told reporters. Her announcement put an end to days of speculation about her pregnancy after some social media users claimed she appeared to have a baby bump during the film's promotional events. The actor married filmmaker Raj Nidimoru in December 2025 in an intimate ceremony at Sadhguru's Isha Foundation in Coimbatore. Samantha was earlier married to actor Naga Chaitanya from 2017 to 2021, while Raj was previously married to Shhyamali De. At the event, Samantha also reflected on relationships, saying they require equal effort from both partners. "Sometimes relationships are



complicated and it is not always in your control. It takes two people to make a relationship work. The first most important thing for a woman to do is to have confidence in herself, to be complete as a person. Then you will find the right person. "If you look for someone else to complete you and feel incomplete while waiting for that person, mistakes will happen because there will be more expectations from the other person. That is not right. Be complete first and then get into a relationship. That usually works out," she said. "Maa Inti Bangaaram" marks Samantha's reunion with the filmmaker after their 2019 hit "Oh! Baby". The screenplay is written by Raj Nidimoru and Vasanth Maringanti. The film also stars Gulshan Devaiah, Diganth Manchale, Gautami Tadimalla, Sreemukhi, Manjusha and Srinivas Gavireddy in pivotal roles.

Rajinikanth's 'Dharman' makers release first-look making video

Chennai: The makers of Superstar Rajinikanth's upcoming film, 'Dharman', being directed by Aswath Marimuthu, on Thursday released a making video that showed how the team had arrived at the Superstar's First Look in the film. Taking to its X timeline, Raaj Kamal Films International, the production house of actor Kamal Haasan which is producing this film, shared the glimpse video and wrote, "THE OG SWAG. #Dharman. The Making of the First Look." The video featured a shot of the accessories that were kept for Rajini to choose from. It also showed director Aswath showing the exact pose in which he wanted the Superstar to stand. The video also showed Kamal Haasan accompanying Rajinikanth and the two legends of Tamil cinema exchanging pleasantries. For the unaware, the makers of the film had on Wednesday announced the title of the film as 'Dharman'. Actor, producer and parliamentarian Kamal Haasan had taken to his X timeline to announce the title of the film.



Sharing the title poster of the film, he wrote, "Dharmame vellum! (Dharma will only win) #Dharman #Thalaivar173 #SuperstarRajinikanth @rajinikanth #Mahendran @Dir_Ashwath @anirudhofficial @anbariv @RKFI @turmericmediaTM @magizhman dram." The title poster of the film that was released on the occasion showed Rajinikanth in an operation theatre in a hospital holding a scalpel, even as he seemed to have one leg placed over the body of a slain rowdy sheeter. The poster lends credence to rumours that Rajinikanth will be seen playing a doctor in the film. The title announcement comes on a day the film is being launched with a grand pooja ceremony. Earlier this month, a video clip put out by actor Kamal Haasan's production house Raaj Kamal Films International (RKFI) wishing director Ashwath Marimuthu on his birthday had strengthened rumours doing the rounds in the industry that Ashwath Marimuthu was indeed the person chosen to direct the firm's next film, featuring Superstar Rajinikanth in the lead.

RKFI in its greeting to Ashwath Marimuthu on his birthday had said, "From Imagination to Inspiration Birthday wishes to Director @Dir_Ashwath #HBDAswathMarimuthu

#AshwathMarimuthu." The birthday video, which had a song with phrases like "Hit 'em up", "give them a fun ride, Serving that thump right", had led to a number of fans believing that the director was indeed the one who had been picked to direct #Thalaivar173, a film that has already seen two directors step in and step out of it. 'Dharman' has triggered excitement ever since actor, producer and politician Kamal Haasan first announced that his production house, Raaj Kamal Films International (RKFI), would be producing it. One of Tamil cinema's most successful directors, Sundar C, was to originally direct this film, which Kamal Haasan had said would be a magnum opus. However, to everybody's surprise, director Sundar C opted out of the project. Soon after Sundar C's exit, the makers in the new year announced that director Cibi Chakravarthy would be directing the film. However, sources in the industry suggested that Cibi Chakravarthy had moved out and that the makers were looking for a new director.

Rumours then began doing the rounds that Ashwath Marimuthu was being considered to direct this film. On Wednesday, RKFI officially announced that Ashwath Marimuthu would indeed be directing this film. The film is to have music by Anirudh. Cinematography for the film is by Niketh Bommi and editing will be by Pradeep E Raghav. Stunts in the film are to be choreographed by National Award winning duo Anbariv. The film is being produced by Kamal Haasan and R Mahendran and co-produced by S Disney.

OG 2 officially announced: Pawan Kalyan and director Sujeeth reunite to expand the Gambheera universe



Hyderabad: The makers of director Sujeeth's 'They call him OG', featuring actor Power star and Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan in the lead, on Thursday officially announced a second instalment of the popular franchise. Pawan Kalyan Creative Works on Thursday took to its X timeline to share a video clip showing director Sujeeth's discussion with Pawan Kalyan about the second instalment of the film. Sharing the video clip, the production house said, "Before the storm arrives... there's a moment of silence. The untold story of Gambheera is ready to unfold. Director @SujeethSign and @PawanKalyan Garu reunite under Pawan Kalyan Creative Works to expand the #OGUniverse saga. #OG2" In the video, a visibly impressed Pawan Kalyan, who raises questions and shares his thoughts about certain ideas put forth by Sujeeth for the next parts of the franchise, is seen saying at the end, "Whatever (you require) from my side will be ready." The video showed an energetic exchange of ideas, revealing that OG was not going to be just a standalone film but a much larger cinematic experience filled with layered characters, interconnected stories, and striking visual storytelling. Pawan Kalyan's remark in the video that a particular sequence was "go-

ing to be an iconic visual" has now become one of the most talked-about moments among fans. Director Sujeeth, in the video, is seen explaining the scope of the OG Universe by discussing its unique characters, hidden layers, and symbolic imagery. The video shows him explaining a sequence in which snow gradually turns into blood in the film. He also explains about certain interesting elements such as a mysterious "outsider" and the significance of the OG pet. It is evident that several character arcs have been designed to evolve as the universe expands. For the unaware, 'They Call Him OG', which went on to emerge a blockbuster, also re-established Pawan Kalyan in a larger-than-life avatar that resonated with audiences across generations. The stylish gangster drama, directed by Sujeeth, showcased Pawan Kalyan in a role that perfectly blended intensity, charisma, and emotion. The impact of OG extended beyond box-office numbers. The film reignited a renewed passion for cinema in Pawan Kalyan, who openly expressed admiration for the world and characters created by Sujeeth. Pawan Kalyan had recently started discussing the story with Sujeeth. The recent OG Universe discussions have taken fan excitement to a completely new level, offering a fascinating glimpse into the vision behind the world created by director Sujeeth.

Pankaj Tripathi, Ali Fazal, Divyenndu's 'Mirzapur-The Movie' teaser promises 'epic bhaukaal'

Mumbai: The makers of the movie adaptation of "Mirzapur" on Thursday unveiled the teaser of the upcoming film, which gave a glimpse into the "epic bhaukaal" it is going to set on September 4. The two-minute-long teaser showcases that the film is rooted in the timeline that began with Season 1 in 2018. The teaser also stirs nostalgia with iconic dialogues placed perfectly in the movie adaptation. The teaser begins with Pankaj's iconic character Kaleen Bhaiya saying that it is sometimes difficult to find a capable son and sometimes it is impossible. The teaser, which is soaked in guns, gangsters and guts, showcases glimpses of Divyenndu's Munna Bhaiya, Ali Fazal's Guddu Bhaiyya, Rasika Dugal, Shweta Tripathi and Shriya Piglaonkar. It also showcases the impactful new entrants, Ravi Kishan and Jeetendra, who want to form their new empire. Further expanding the ensemble, the film features Abhishek Banerjee, Rasika Dugal, Mohitt Maalik, Sheeba Chadha, Rajesh Tailang, Pramod Pathak, Shriya Pilgaonkar, Harshita Shekhar Gaur, Shweta Tripathi, and Sonal S Chauhan. "Mirzapur" follows Akhan danand "Kaleen" Tripathi, a crime boss and businessman who is the proverbial ruler of Mirzapur district in the Purvanchal region of Uttar Pradesh,



India. In the first season, the main cast features Pankaj Tripathi, Ali Fazal, Divyenndu Sharma, Vikrant Massey, Shweta Tripathi, Shriya Pilgaonkar, Rasika Dugal, Harshita Gaur and Kulbhushan Kharbanda. The upcoming movie adaptation features new cast additions alongside returning stars, including Jitendra Kumar, Sonal Chouhan, and Ravi Kishan. The second season retains the main cast from the first season, excluding Vikrant and Shriya, and features a new cast of Vijay Varma, Isha Talwar, Lilliput, Anjum Sharma, Priyanshu Painyuli, Anangsha Biswas, and Neha Sargam. Mirzapur: The Movie is presented by Amazon MGM Studios and Excel Entertainment. Directed by Gurmeet Singh, written by Puneet Krishna, and produced by Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar under Excel Entertainment and co-produced by Kassim Jaggamia and Vishal Ramchandani.

Continuing a sporting trend, the International Tennis Federation is now World Tennis

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) has officially rebranded as World Tennis. The historic name change, ratified by member nations, rolls out just days before the start of Wimbledon and Serena Williams' highly anticipated return to the court. Continuing a sporting trend, the International Tennis Federation is now World Tennis.

London: The International Tennis Federation is changing its name to World Tennis. The organization oversees the Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup team competitions, as well as tennis at the Olympics and Paralympics. "Today is an opportunity to redefine our role at the heart of world tennis and pledge our commitment to ensuring a strong, sustainable future for this brilliant sport," World Tennis president David Haggerty said Thursday. "World Tennis reflects who we are, our global footprint and unique mandate." Other international sport federations have made similar name changes in recent years, such as World Athletics, World Aquatics, World Gymnastics and World Rugby. The name switch was ratified last October by mem-



ber national tennis associations voting at the governing body's annual general meeting. London-based World Tennis works together with the ATP and WTA Tours and the four Grand Slam tournaments — the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open — to organize the professional side of the sport. "A lot of people think of the T7 as seven governing bodies when in fact they're not seven governing bodies. They actually have different purposes, which all add together to equal a big pie of a sport," World Tennis chief executive Ross Hutchins said, adding that the renaming reflects the organization's "global nature." Wimbledon, where Serena Williams will play singles after nearly four years away, starts on Monday.

'Never look at what your peers are doing': Bopanna recalls 'role model' Stefan Edberg's advice

New Delhi: Ahead of the 2026 Wimbledon Championships, Indian tennis veteran Rohan Bopanna reflected on the guidance that shaped his long career and the perseverance that eventually led to his maiden men's doubles Grand Slam title at the 2024 Australian Open. Speaking about his journey, Bopanna credited a piece of advice from his childhood idol, Stefan Edberg, and his ability to stay committed through more than a decade of waiting for a major breakthrough. Looking back further, Bopanna revealed that one of the most influential moments of his career came through a conversation with two-time Wimbledon champion Stefan Edberg, a player he admired while growing up. "We are fortunate enough to have this kind of community where we can reach out to athletes and legends of the sport. I remember once, back in the day, meeting my role model, Stefan Edberg, who remains my role model even today," Bopanna told JioStar. The Indian star explained that Edberg's words stayed with him throughout the highs and lows of professional tennis, offering a blueprint for longevity and self-belief. "I happened to be chatting with him and he said, 'When you're playing the sport, never look at what your peers are doing. Do what works best for you. Don't do something just because someone else is doing it. Look at your strengths, work on them, and build on them.' Coming from someone I watched growing up, especially at Wimbledon, it was advice that I carried throughout my journey," he added.

For a player whose career has spanned



more than two decades, the road to Grand Slam glory was anything but straightforward. Bopanna admitted that after an early taste of success, he expected bigger achievements to arrive much sooner than they eventually did. "When it all came quickly, I thought, 'Oh, next year everything else will change.' Little did I know that it would take another 13 years for it to happen. But I'm glad I stuck around. I stayed with the grind and did all the right things. I think that's what you need to do to remain relevant in the sport. That's where I felt you and I are very similar, we've stayed relevant and competitive because there are always a lot of people trying to take your spot, chasing what you've achieved. I think that experience helped as well," Bopanna stated. The Australian Open triumph in 2024 made Bopanna the oldest first-time Grand Slam champion in men's doubles history and served as a reward for years of persistence in a sport where careers are often measured by immediate results.

Iyer Era Begins As India Face Depleted Ireland

Belfast: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi will be in the spotlight as India enters the Shreyas Iyer leadership era when they take on an injury-hit Ireland in the first T20I to be played at the Civil Service Cricket Ground in Stormont on Friday. While current T20 World Cup holders India enter the contest as overwhelming favourites to win the series on their return to Ireland after three years, the primary narrative revolves around teenaged batting sensation Sooryavanshi, who has left everyone excited with his audacious strokeplay. Following an explosive IPL



2026 season for Rajasthan Royals and hitting 94 for India A I the 50-over tri-series final in Dambulla, Sri Lanka, Sooryavanshi is on the verge of a historic international debut. But at the same time, it creates a major selection dilemma for the team management.

Ryan Cook steps down as Netherlands head coach

Amsterdam: Ryan Cook has stepped down as head coach of the Netherlands men's cricket team with immediate effect, the Royal Dutch Cricket Association (KNCB) announced on Thursday, bringing an end to a four-year tenure that oversaw some of the most significant achievements in Dutch cricket in recent years. Cook leaves at a time when the Netherlands remain firmly in contention in the Cricket World Cup League 2 competition, sitting third in the standings with 32 points from 28 matches. The decision comes following the birth of Cook's second child, with the former South African cricketer citing the demands of the role and the need for greater personal presence as reasons behind his departure. Batting coach Heino Kuhn will take charge on an interim basis for the Netherlands' upcoming Cricket World Cup League 2 fixtures, according to Cricinfo. In a statement released by the board, Cook reflected on his journey with the national side and the progress made during his tenure. "Coaching the Dutch men's team has without a shadow of a doubt been one of the highlights of my coaching career so far. It's been an absolute pleasure to lead the journey towards professionalism and creating a competitive cricket team with strong values," Cook said. The 41-year-old took charge in May 2022 and guided the Netherlands through a period of notable growth on and off the field. Under his leadership, the team secured qualification for major ICC events and produced several memorable performances against Full Member nations. Explaining his decision to move on, Cook said the position now required a level of commitment he could no longer provide. "I thank all at the KNCB and the Dutch cricket community for all their continued support throughout the years. The KNCB and the team deserve someone who can give the job the full, sustained focus and presence it now requires. I know that the foundations are strong and the future is bright," he added. Among the highlights of Cook's tenure was the Netherlands' qualification for the 2022 ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Australia, where they registered impressive victories over Zimbabwe and South Africa. A year later, the Dutch side earned a place at the 2023 ODI World Cup in India, marking their



first appearance at the tournament since 2011. They further enhanced their reputation by defeating South Africa and Bangladesh during the competition. KNCB chief executive Huib van Walsem credited Cook with helping transform multiple aspects of Dutch cricket beyond the senior national team. "Ryan Cook has had an enormous impact on the entire system of Dutch cricket, building the depth of players, a strong team culture, coaching development and contributions to grassroots cricket. We are grateful for his wonderful efforts that have brought great results," van Walsem said. Netherlands captain Scott Edwards also paid tribute to the departing coach, highlighting the influence he had on the squad's development and identity. "Ryan has been instrumental in the growth of this team and Dutch cricket as a whole over the past four years. His passion, professionalism and commitment to creating a strong culture have helped us achieve some memorable performances and set this team up for future success. On behalf of the players, I want to thank Ryan for everything he has done for us and wish him and his family all the very best for the future," Edwards said. With Kuhn set to oversee the team in the interim, the Netherlands will now begin the search for a permanent successor as they continue their push towards qualification for future global tournaments, aiming to build on the foundations established during Cook's tenure.

FIFA WC 2026: Morocco rally past Haiti 4-2 to seal Round of 32 berth

Atlanta: Morocco came from behind to defeat a dogged Haiti team in their final match of group play at the FIFA World Cup 2026 here at Atlanta Stadium. The Atlas Lions suffered a huge scare with Les Grenadiers twice taking the lead, but they finished with a flourish to secure the victory. With the win, Morocco finished second in Group C and qualified for the Round of 32 as runners-up and will play the winner of Group F: Either the Netherlands, Japan or Sweden, while Haiti head home with plenty of admirers. Their bright finish caps off an exciting first appearance at the World Cup in over 50 years. Haiti jumped out to a 1-0 lead with their first World Cup goal since 1974, only to see Morocco equalise. Isidor then struck a golazo to remember for the Caribbean side, but again, Morocco had an answer. The second half tilted in favour of the Africans and goals from Rahimi and Yassine cemented the points, FIFA reports. Haiti came out playing free of pressure, which created an action-packed first half which thrilled fans with four goals. They opened the scoring just ten minutes into the match when full-back Jean-Kevin Duverne cut the ball back across the penalty area, and Lenny Joseph gave it an



audacious backheel flick. The ball ricocheted in off Morocco keeper Yassine Bono, but that did not take away from celebrations of what was Haiti's first World Cup goal in 52 years. Haiti's goal woke up Morocco, who pushed for an equaliser and after seeing several good chances saved by Johnny Placide, finally found the back of the net through Achraf Hakimi. The marauding full back bundled the ball over the line after Placide had parried away a shot from Bilal El Khannouss. Haiti took the lead once again moments later, this time through a truly world-class strike from Isidor. The Grenadier striker lashed home a screamer from distance that will live long in the history books. But the flurry of goals didn't stop there. In first-half stoppage time, Hakimi cutback for Saibari, who side-footed home to send the sides in level at half-time.

Amazon to invest USD 48 Billion in India over next five years

New Delhi: US e-commerce giant Amazon on Thursday announced to invest a total of \$48 billion to expand and support its businesses in India from 2026-2030, as its CEO Andy Jassy met Prime Minister Narendra Modi here. Jassy reiterated Amazon's long-term commitment to India and announced plans to invest an additional \$13 billion to expand AI and cloud infrastructure in the country by 2030. This takes Amazon's total planned investment in expanding and supporting AI and cloud infrastructure to over \$21 billion between 2026 and 2030 (part of the \$48 billion total investment), establishing it as one of the largest global AI and cloud infrastructure investors in the country. The investment will expand AWS data centre capacity in Mumbai and Hyderabad, giving startups, enterprises and government organizations access to custom AI chips, managed AI services, secure and reliable cloud technologies and developer tools to innovate faster, scale rapidly, and serve customers globally. Amazon's cumulative investments in India from 2010-2030 stand at over \$88 billion. "We came to India over a decade ago and have since been serving customers, sellers, developers, startups and enterprises through our different businesses. The response has been tremendous, with strong growth especially across our ecommerce, AI, and cloud businesses," said Jassy. "We are investing over \$48 billion in the coming five years to meet the strong demand across our business in India and to help the



country achieve these priorities. We are inspired by Prime Minister Modi's vision of a Viksit and Atmanirbhar Bharat, and we are committed to being a long-term partner in India's growth story," he mentioned. Jassy thanked Prime Minister Modi for his leadership and highlighted the growing importance of India, where Amazon operates several businesses including ecommerce, AI and cloud, and entertainment among others. He noted that the company's India business is on a strong growth trajectory with strong customer demand especially in its ecommerce and AWS business. Since its launch in India, Amazon has digitised 12 million small businesses, enabled over \$20 billion in cumulative ecommerce exports, and supported 2.8 million jobs. Amazon has also trained over 10 million Indians on cloud skills. In line with the government's priorities, the company will continue its strong focus on AI-led digitization, export growth, and job creation. The company has pledged to support 3.8 million jobs, \$80 billion in cumulative exports, enabling AI benefits for 15 million small businesses, and AI education for 4 million government school students.

Suvarnam Jewels opens second showroom in Hyderabad's Banjara Hills



Hyderabad: Premium designer jewellery brand Suvarnam Jewels has inaugurated its second showroom in Hyderabad at Road No. 10, Banjara Hills. To mark the occasion, a special showcase featured models adorned with the brand's exclusive gold jewellery collections, captivating guests and jewellery enthusiasts alike. Committed to blending traditional Indian craftsmanship with contemporary design aesthetics, Suvarnam Jewels continues to offer high-quality jewellery that reflects elegance, heritage and innovation. The new showroom houses an extensive range of gold, diamond, Polki and Kundan jewellery collections. The brand is particularly known for its handcrafted bridal and occasion-wear jewellery, including necklaces, chokers, waist belts, bangles, earrings, rings and other statement pieces that have received an enthusiastic response from customers. Founder Siddhant Nahar completed his postgraduate studies in Wealth Management at Queen Mary University of London. By combining India's rich jewellery-making traditions with modern tastes and preferences, he has successfully established Suvarnam Jewels as a trusted and distinguished jewellery brand. Speaking on the occasion, Siddhant Nahar said, "The launch of our second showroom is more than just a business expansion; it is a reflection of the trust and confidence our customers and partners have placed in us. Their support has helped us reach this milestone. We remain committed to offering jewellery that beautifully combines tradition, elegance and exceptional

quality." The company stated that the new showroom will feature exclusive bridal collections, festive jewellery ranges, heritage-inspired designs and customised jewellery services tailored to individual customer preferences. Suvarnam Jewels also expressed its heartfelt gratitude to its customers, artisans, suppliers, business partners and well-wishers, whose continued support has contributed significantly to the brand's growth and success.

India launches Air Suvidha 2.0 amid Ebola outbreak concerns

New Delhi: An upgraded version of the air passenger health self-declaration portal Air Suvidha has been launched to enhance public health surveillance amid the Ebola outbreak in certain parts of Africa. The civil aviation ministry and the Delhi airport operator DIAL on Thursday launched Air Suvidha 2.0. Developed in collaboration with the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) under the health ministry, the portal enables International arriving passengers to submit a mandatory online health self-declaration. The declaration will cover 21-day travel history, exposure history and related symptoms, if any, prior to immigration clearance, an official release on Thursday. Air Suvidha Self Declaration Form (SDF) can be completed 24 hours in advance by passengers before they arrive in India. All International travellers coming to India have to submit their self-declarations in advance. The civil aviation ministry in the release said the portal enables real-time data sharing with the air-

Rupee rises 31 paise against dollar on falling crude prices

Mumbai: The rupee rose 31 paise to 94.24 against the US dollar in early trade on Thursday as global crude oil prices continued to decline and went below levels seen before the start of the West Asia conflict. A weaker greenback and positive sentiments in the domestic equity market further supported the local unit while heavy FII outflows prevented a sharper rise, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 94.30 against the US dollar and strengthened further to 94.24, up 31 paise from its previous close. The rupee appreciated 21 paise to settle at 94.55 against the US dollar on Wednesday. "The rupee opened stronger at 94.30 against the US dollar, supported by a sharp decline in global crude oil prices, which fell below levels seen before the Iran conflict. Brent crude is down more than 10 per cent this week and above 21 per cent for the month, easing concerns over India's import bill and supporting the domestic currency," Pinky Yadav, Commodity Fundamental Analyst at Choice Broking, said. "However, gains in



the rupee remained capped as the US dollar hovered near a one-year high around 101.5 amid expectations that the Federal Reserve could maintain a tighter monetary stance," Yadav said. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 101.50, lower by 0.10 per cent. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading lower by 1.72 per cent at USD 72.47 per barrel in futures trade. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex climbed 440.23 points to 77,435.76 in early trade, while the Nifty rallied 137.80 points to 24,147.60. Foreign institutional investors offloaded equities worth Rs 1,843.40 crore on a net basis on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

Gold, silver volatile amid Fed rate hike concerns, easing geopolitical tensions

Mumbai: Gold and silver showed volatility on Thursday, swinging between gains and losses amid expectations of further US Federal Reserve rate hikes and easing geopolitical tensions. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures (August) opened at Rs 1,40,672 per 10 grams, down Rs 598 or 0.42 per cent from the previous close of Rs 1,41,270. However, buying interest emerged later in the session, with the yellow metal rising Rs 719 or 0.50 per cent to touch an intraday high of Rs 1,41,989 as of 11:38 am. It slipped to an intraday low of Rs 1,40,543, down Rs 727 or 0.51 per cent from the previous close. On the other hand, silver futures (July) also followed a similar trend. The white metal opened at Rs 2,10,308, down Rs 2,767 or 1.30 per cent from the previous close of Rs 2,13,075. At the time of writing, silver had touched an intraday low of Rs 2,10,043, a decline of Rs 3,032 or 1.42 per cent. However, silver also touched an intraday high of Rs 2,15,950, up Rs 2,875 or 1.34 per cent. In the international market, gold and silver were traded lower. COMEX gold was down 0.42 per cent at \$3,991.80 per ounce, while COMEX silver declined 1.65 per cent to \$57.13 per ounce at the time of writing. According to analysts, gold and silver futures have extended their losses in both domestic and international mar-



kets, with gold hovering near an eight-month low and silver trading around its weakest levels since December. They attributed the pressure on precious metals to a stronger US dollar, which has climbed to a one-year high, and growing expectations that the US Federal Reserve could resume rate hikes as early as September. Additional selling emerged after a sharp decline in US technology stocks prompted some investors to liquidate bullion holdings to cover losses in other asset classes, the analysts said. "While easing geopolitical tensions and lower crude oil prices have reduced inflation concerns, market participants remain focused on upcoming US inflation data for fresh clues on the Federal Reserve's policy trajectory," they added. Meanwhile, crude oil prices remained under pressure, with global benchmark Brent crude falling about 2 per cent to around \$72 per barrel and US WTI crude declining 1.83 per cent to trade below the \$70-per-barrel mark.

port health officer, Bureau of Immigration, IDSP, and state surveillance officers. Also, the portal will enable swift identification and referral of at-risk travellers while keeping the arrival experience seamless and contactless, with no physical forms to fill on landing, it added. Air Suvidha portal was earlier operationalised

Property dispute suspected behind murder of four in Nalgonda

Nalgonda: The mystery surrounding the discovery of four decomposed bodies in a house in Telangana Colony last Friday has been solved, with police suspecting the involvement of a deceased woman's daughter and son-in-law in the crime. The deceased were identified as Mohd Sultan, his wife Haseena, Muzzamil and Afraza. All four were allegedly murdered by unidentified assailants at their residence. Police suspect a property dispute to be the motive behind the killings. According to reports, eight persons, including Haseena's daughter and son-in-law, have been taken into custody in con-

nection with the case. Investigations revealed that Haseena had been married earlier and had a daughter from her first marriage.

She reportedly owned property worth around Rs. 1 crore. Police found that the daughter had learnt of Haseena's plans to share the property with Sultan, Muzzamil and Afraza. Allegedly angered by the proposed division of assets, the daughter and her husband are suspected to have hired six persons from the Old City area of Hyderabad to eliminate the family, according to reports. Further investigation is underway.

YSRCP to hold mass protest in Tadipatri tomorrow



Anantapur/Tadipatri: YSR Congress Party leaders have announced a major protest at Gandhi statue in Tadipatri on Friday (June 26), alleging a sharp deterioration in law and order following the recent attack on party leader Gangulakunta Keshava Reddy. Addressing a press conference at the party office here on Wednesday, district president Ananta Venkatarami Reddy, along with coordinators Kethireddy Peddareddy, Visweswara Reddy, and Talari Rangaiah, strongly condemned the assault on Keshava Reddy by alleged TDP supporters. They also criticised the subsequent attack on the government hospital where he was receiving treatment. The leaders described the incidents as serious threats to democracy and public safety. They accused local police of inaction and demanded strict legal action against the culprits. The party has called upon workers and the public to participate in large numbers in the mass sit-in protest to press for restoration of law and order in Tadipatri.

Implement SC/ST Atrocities Act strictly in Anantapur: MP Ambica



Anantapur: District Collector O Anand and Anantapur MP Ambica Lakshmi Narayana have directed strict implementation of SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in the district. Speaking at District Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meeting held on Wednesday at the Anantapur Collectorate, the Collector instructed officials to resolve pending petitions, submit action reports on SC Commission complaints, and increase seats in Social Welfare and BC Welfare schools. He also directed issuance of ID cards to new DVMC members. MP Lakshmi Narayana announced that study centre in Srinagar Colony would be modernised using MP funds. District SP P Jagadeesh informed that 84 SC/ST atrocity cases were registered this year till June 15, with charge sheets filed in 50 cases. Since 2021, 721 cases have been registered. Committee members raised issues including pending petitions, encroachment of burial grounds, non-payment of sanitation workers' salaries, and demanded timely compensation, special grievance meetings, and better facilities in SC/ST hostels and Ambedkar Bhavans. Social Welfare JD and Committee Member-Secretary Srinivasa Rao, Additional SP Mahabub Basha, DSPs Srinivas and Ravibabu, RDOs Vasantha Babu and RBSK Srinivas, Markfed DM Pendeswari, DCO Aruna Kumari, Intermediate Education RIO Venkataramana Naik, Vigilance & Monitoring Committee members and others were present.

AP CM Chandrababu Highlights Water Projects as Key for Future Prosperity

Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu stated that water projects are modern-day temples and emphasized the need to safeguard them. Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu stated that water projects are modern-day temples and emphasized the need to safeguard them. He remarked that the well-being of these projects ensures a secure future for coming generations. He participated in the inauguration ceremony of the new gates at the Tungabhadra Project in Hosapete, Karnataka, alongside Union Minister C.R. Patil, Telangana CM Revanth Reddy, and Karnataka Deputy CMD K. Shivakumar. Chandrababu addressed the gathering held on this occasion. Telangana news



"The Tungabhadra River provides a livelihood to lakhs of people across three states. I commend everyone involved in installing 33 gates within a span of six months. The meeting of three Chief Ministers under the leadership of Union Water Resources Minister C.R. Patil is a historic event. The Tungabhadra has sup-

plied drinking and irrigation water to the Kadapa, Kurnool, and Anantapur districts; without this river, we would have faced severe challenges. Conserving water resources and ensuring efficient water management is a collective responsibility. India is developing rapidly under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi. There is a need to interlink rivers across the country; if the Ganga and Cauvery rivers are connected, India's progress will become unstoppable. C.R. Patil possesses experience in river interlinking projects. The Centre should take up the Godavari-Cauvery interlinking project as a national initiative," Chandrababu said.

10 injured after an auto collides lorry in Nellore

A speeding auto-rickshaw collided with a lorry traveling ahead of it and overturned in Nellore. A severe road accident occurred on National Highway 16 near the Manubolu mandal headquarters in Nellore district. A speeding auto-rickshaw collided with a lorry traveling ahead of it and overturned. More than ten laborers traveling in the auto-rickshaw sustained serious injuries;

several suffered fractures to their limbs and head injuries. The injured were immediately rushed to the Gudur Area Hospital, with reports indicating that the condition of four of them is critical. The accident happened when the lorry ahead braked suddenly, causing the auto-rickshaw driver to lose control and crash into the vehicle. The injured laborers were from Chennuru in Gudur Ru-

ral mandal and were on their way to work at a shrimp processing unit in Veerampalli, Manubolu mandal. As the accident occurred near a police station located by the highway, police quickly reached the scene and arranged for the injured to be transported to the Gudur Area Hospital via ambulance. A case has been registered, and an investigation is underway.

Jagan slams Naidu govt over decline in SHG bank credit

Amaravati: Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party President, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, on Thursday slammed the coalition government led by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, over the decline in the bank credit growth for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) over the last two years. He stated that the credit to SHGs, which was Rs.49,626 crore in 2023-24 under the YSRCP's rule, has declined to Rs. 41,623 crore in 2024-25 and further to Rs. 41,105 crore in 2025-26 under the TDP's rule. He called it consequences of another broken promise to women by the TDP-led NDA government. He recalled that the coalition, in its election manifesto, had promised that the loan limit up to which SHG loans interest subvention scheme is applicable would be increased from Rs. 3 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh. Jagan Mohan Reddy took to 'X' to launch an attack on the government over decline in credit growth to SHGs. "Credit growth to Self Help Groups is vital and is regarded as the lifeblood of rural economy. Credit growth indicates productive investments strengthening the SHGs' income generating ability and contributing to their sustainability. Declining



credit growth indicates lower investment, thereby lower incomes and resultantly lower consumption, clearly indicating the distress," reads the post.

"The negative year-on-year State Government tax revenues growth of 3.22 per cent during FY 2025-26 also evidences this fall in consumption and economic distress. Interest subvention to SHG loans is vital for promoting SHG credit growth. During the period of the YSRCP Government between 2019-24 the direct support given by the Government to the SHG sector through interest subvention alone is Rs. 4,969 crore. Further YSRCP Government through programmes such as Aasara and Cheyutha provided immense support to SHG women enabling them to stand on their feet," he said. He recalled that the TDP-JSP made

a commitment in their manifesto that the loan limit up to which SHG loans interest subvention scheme is applicable would be increased from Rs. 3 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh. "As usual after assuming power, the TDP alliance hoodwinked the people by ignoring the commitment made. Let alone interest subvention on the increased loan limit, even the existing interest subvention programme has been rendered ineffective with no support whatsoever. "Amount under interest subvention released during 2024-25 is 'zero', budgeted for FY 2025-26 is Rs. 100 crore and released is 'zero', budgeted for FY 2026-27 is again Rs. 100 crore and likely release is zero. Even if we assume Rs. 6,00,000 debt with respect to every SHG group, the interest subvention amount in tune with the commitment of the TDP can be estimated to be around Rs. 3,000 crore. Therefore, during the first two years of the TDP alliance Government, the amount that the beneficiaries were deprived of is Rs. 6,000 crore." Claiming that owing to the steps taken by YSRCP government, the credit growth to SHGs demonstrated a healthy growth during 2019-24, he said the lack of support by the Chandrababu Naidu Government resulted in decline in credit growth from Rs. 49,696 crore in FY 2023-24 to Rs. 41,623 crore in FY 2024-25 and further to Rs. 41,105 crore in FY 2025-26.

Nellore district officials make arrangements for Rottela Panduga

Nellore: The district administration has made elaborate arrangements for the annual five-day Rottela Panduga to be held at the historic Bara Shahid Dargah in Nellore city from 26th to 30th June. The festival, attracts lakhs of devotees from across India and abroad, is expected to witness an estimated turnout of nearly 10 lakh pilgrims this year. Devotees from countries including Pakistan, Sri Lanka, China and the UAE are also expected to participate in the celebrations. In view of preventing untoward incidents during five day event the police administration headed by Superintendent of Police Dr. Ajitha Vejendla deployed total 1600 cops in all capacities. Explaining the significance of the festival, Dargah priest S.K. Amanullah said the celebrations will commence with 'Shahadath', during which special prayers will be offered in memory of the 12 Muslim warriors who are believed to have sacrificed their lives in a holy war in 1751.

