

Muharram procession concludes on solemn note in Banganapalle



(king Reporter)Banganapalle: Banganapalle town observed the conclusion of Muharram on Friday in a traditional and deeply solemn manner, with thousands of devotees participating in the final mourning procession. The procession began from the historic Dorakota Peer shrine, led by Mir Fazul Ali Khan and descendants of the Banganapalle Nawab family, along with Shia community members. Dressed in black, devotees offered Fateha prayers remembering Imam Hussain and the martyrs of Karbala. Many performed

traditional mourning rituals, including self-flagellation while reciting elegies. The procession passed through the town's main roads before culminating at Jurreru stream, where ceremonial Peers were cleansed. Around 40 Peer shrines joined the main event. Elaborate security arrangements ensured peace, while philanthropists provided free drinking water. Banganapalle's Muharram is considered one of the largest in Andhra Pradesh after Hyderabad, owing to its rich Nawabi heritage.

Tension grips in Undavalli of Amaravati during YSRCP leaders visit



A visit by the YSR Congress Party's CRDA protection team to the Amaravati capital region led to a tense situation. A visit by the YSR Congress Party's CRDA protection team to the Amaravati capital region led to a tense situation. As YCP leaders—including Perni Nani and Lella Appireddy—were heading to inspect the capital lands near the Undavalli Center in

Tadepalli Mandal, the local farmers intercepted them and staged a protest. During the incident, eggs were hurled at the YCP leaders. Although the police intervened to bring the situation under control, the tension persisted. A large police force was deployed to restore order. This incident has once again brought political tensions in the capital region to the forefront.

MLA launches drinking water project in Kalyandurg

(king Reporter) Kalyandurg: MLA Amilineni Surendra Babu performed groundbreaking ceremony for a permanent drinking water supply scheme for Kalyandurg Municipality, estimated at Rs 178.74 crore and funded by Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). Addressing the gathering, the MLA described Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu as a modern-day Bhagiratha' for his focused efforts on irrigation and drinking water projects across the State. He criticised the previous YSRCP government, alleging that Ministers Botsa Satyanarayana and Usha Sree Charan had demanded commissions from contractors, leading to the project's abandonment and prolonged suffering for locals. Surendra



Babu highlighted the TDP government's achievements, including timely pension and salary payments, and welcomed implementation of Old Pension Scheme, which he said would benefit families by Rs 3.2 crore. He assured that free tap connections would be provided to nearly 12,000 families by December 2027 and confirmed that actual work had begun.

CM Naidu disburses Rs 300 cr to Veligonda project evacuees; launches Sanjeevani health programme

(king Reporter)Yerragondapalem (Andhra Pradesh): Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday disbursed Rs 300 crore to families displaced by the Veligonda project in Prakasam district. "Today, we are crediting Rs 300 crore to 2,351 evacuees. Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) funds are being provided to evacuees from Kalanutala, Sunkesula, Chintalamudipi, Katamraju Tanda and Sairam Nagar," Naidu said while addressing the beneficiaries. Acknowledging the sacrifice made by the evacuees, the CM said nearly 4.5 lakh acres would be brought under irrigation, and 23 lakh people would receive drinking water. He said water from the first phase of the Veligonda project would be supplied by July 31, adding that it would irrigate 1.19 lakh acres and meet the drinking water needs of four lakh people. Under the second phase, Naidu said 3.2 lakh acres would be irrigated, and 11.2 lakh people would receive drinking water. Describing the Veligonda project as "historic", the CM said the farmers who sacrificed their land would have "better lives". According



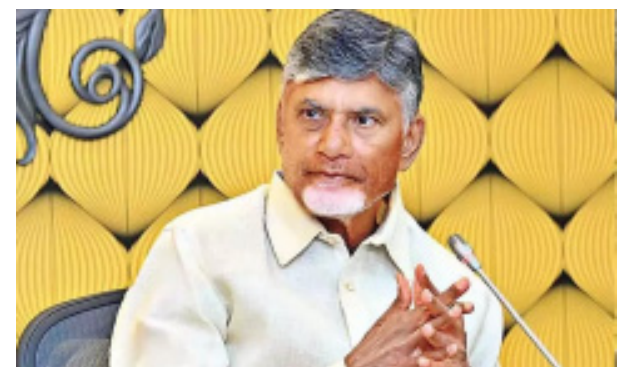
to current estimates, the Veligonda project would require Rs 10,580 crore, of which Rs 6,736 crore has already been spent, Naidu said. The CM said another Rs 3,844 crore needs to be spent on the project. Naidu said that since coming to power in 2024, the TDP-led NDA government had spent Rs 759 crore and sanctioned Rs 905 crore for the evacuees.

Of this amount, Rs 300 crore was released on Saturday, he said.

The Veligonda project is of immense importance to the districts of Prakasam, Nellore and Kadapa. Once completed, it will provide irrigation and drinking water to lakhs of people across 30 mandals in the four districts and offer a "permanent solution to the decades-old fluoride problem in the region."

CM Chandrababu inspects Veligonda project's feeder canal works

Chief Minister inspected the works on the Veligonda project's feeder canal and subsequently interacted with local farmers and displaced persons. Telangana Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu remarked that no one had ever imagined Krishna waters would reach the drought-prone region of Markapuram. During his visit to the area on Saturday, the Chief Minister inspected the works on the Veligonda project's feeder canal and subsequently interacted with local farmers and displaced persons. He recalled that NTR had always envisioned bringing water to the Markapuram region. The Chief Minister



states that the foundation stone for the Veligonda project was laid in 1996 and that Rs 300 crore is now being provided to local farmers as part of the rehabilitation package.

Minister distributes CMRF cheques



(king Reporter) Kurnool: Emphasising that the State government is committed to extending financial assistance to all eligible citizens without political discrimination, Industries Minister TG Bharath Gupta on Friday distributed Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) sanction

cheques to 23 beneficiaries from Kurnool Assembly constituency. Politics Minister Bharath Gupta said the CMRF has become a reliable support mechanism for families facing financial distress, particularly due to medical emergencies, asserting that the coalition government is com-



Mission ShakthiSAT: 12,000 Girls Just Launched Their, Lunar Dream!

Gautam Buddha University, Space Kidz India, and IN-SPACE. Empowering 12,000 girls globally in STEM. Gautam Buddha University, GNIDA, Space Kidz India & IN-SPACE Join Hands to Power India's All-Girls Lunar Mission ShakthiSAT. In a landmark step toward advancing space innovation, STEM education, and women-led scientific leadership, Gautam Buddha University (GBU) has joined hands with Space Kidz India and IN-SPACE (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre) to support Mission ShakthiSAT, the world's first all-girls international satellite mission to the Moon. Mission ShakthiSAT is a global initiative bringing together 12,000 young girls from 108 countries, providing hands-on exposure to satellite development, space technology, research, innovation, and international scientific collaboration. Conceptualised and led by Space Kidz India, the mission aims to inspire and empower the next generation of women scientists, engineers, innovators, and leaders. As a key academic and institutional partner, Gautam Buddha University will support mission activities through research, innovation, interdisciplinary learning, and scientific engagement. Space Kidz India expresses its sincere gratitude to Prof. Rana Pratap Singh, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Gautam Buddha University, for his visionary leadership and support in strengthening academic participation in this historic international mission. Special appreciation is also extended to Prof. Rajeev Varshney, Dean, Planning and Research, and Prof. Dhanalakshmi for their encouragement, guidance, and commitment toward fostering scientific excellence, innovation, and global collaboration, further strengthening this landmark partnership between academia and the future of space innovation. The mission continues to receive valuable support from IN-SPACE, and Space Kidz India extends its heartfelt gratitude to Dr Pawan Goenka, Chairman, IN-SPACE, for his visionary leadership and commitment toward strengthening India's rapidly expanding space ecosystem while enabling transformative initiatives that inspire the next generation of innovators. Special appreciation is also conveyed to Dr Vinod Kumar, Director, IN-SPACE, for his encouragement, guidance, and unwavering support in promoting scientific innovation, private participation, and youth-driven space initiatives that continue to shape the future of India's space sector. Space Kidz India also expresses its deepest gratitude to the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) for its invaluable institutional support. Special appreciation is conveyed to Shri Ravi Kumar N.G. (IAS), Chief Executive Officer, and Smt. Prerna Singh (IAS), Additional Chief Executive Officer, whose encouragement and support have significantly strengthened this global mission and reinforced Greater Noida's growing role as a hub for innovation, technology, and research. Mission ShakthiSAT today stands among the world's largest youth-driven aerospace initiatives, uniting 12,000 Young Girls 108 Countries 108 International Women Ambassadors Scientists, Engineers, Researchers, and Educators from Around the World. Having successfully completed Phase One of global STEM education and foundational technical training, the mission now advances toward satellite development, payload integration, international collaboration.

BLO Lavanya handing over the voter enumeration form to District Collector Adarsh Surabhi as part of the Special Intensive Revision.

Wanaparthy District Collector Adarsh Surabhi directs BLOs to ensure 100% household coverage for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) 2026. Get details on the voter enumeration process and important deadlines for Telangana's electoral roll update. Wanaparthy District: Measures must be taken to ensure every voter



receives the Special Intensive Revision enumeration form BLOs must visit households and explain the process of filling out enumeration forms to voters: District Collector Adarsh Surabhi directed Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to visit households, create awareness among voters about the Special Intensive Revision process, and explain how to fill out the forms. As part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) program, the concerned Booth Level Officer (BLO) handed over the enumeration form to Wanaparthy District Collector Adarsh Surabhi in his chamber on Saturday. The Collector personally received and examined the enu-

meration form. He advised that voters should be guided to fill out the forms completely and clearly. He emphasized the need to ensure that every voter records the required details accurately, attaches the necessary documents, and submits the form within the stipulated deadline. He instructed BLOs to visit households to raise awareness about the Special Intensive Revision process and explain the form-filling procedure. The Collector directed officials to take measures to ensure every voter receives the form without any errors and to complete the process transparently and in a timely manner. RDO Subrahmanyam, C-Section Superintendent Venkateswarlu, other officials, and others participated.

Telangana plans Rs 21,000-crore market borrowings in Q2

Hyderabad: The Telangana government has proposed to raise Rs 21,000 crore through open market borrowings during the second quarter (July-September) of 2026-27 financial year. The State raised Rs 18,900 crore during the first quarter (April-June) this year through auction of State securities as per schedule within the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management limits. According to the indicative calendar released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday, Telangana will borrow Rs 11,500 crore in July, Rs 4,500 crore in August and Rs 5,000 crore in September. The State is set to raise the largest tranche of Rs 7,000 crore on July 1 through an RBI auction, followed by Rs 3,500 crore on July 14 and another Rs 1,000 crore on July 28. With borrowings



averaging over Rs 6,000 crore a month in the first quarter, the latest borrowing calendar indicated that the State will continue relying heavily on market loans to finance its expenditure. The proposed second-quarter borrowing exceeds the amount raised in the April-June period.

National Immunization Day: Andhra to vaccinate 50 lakh children on June 28

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh government has identified nearly 50 lakh children below the age of five years for polio vaccination on June 28 as part of National Immunization Day. The drive aims to administer two drops of bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV) to all eligible children in the zero to five age group, said an official press release on Friday. "Government of Andhra Pradesh has put in place a comprehensive, state-wide action plan for the successful conduct of the National Immunization Day — Pulse Polio Programme — on 28 June 2026, covering every eligible child in the age group of 0-5 years with two drops of bOPV," it said. State Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav emphasised that sustaining Andhra Pradesh's polio-free status is a shared responsibility of the Government, parents, civil society and community institutions. Addressing a state taskforce on immunization, S Suresh Kumar, principal secretary, Health, Medical & Family Welfare Department said India's polio-free status is one of the country's most important public health achievements and must be protected with sustained vigilance. Though India has remained polio-free for more than 15 years and Andhra Pradesh for more than 17 years, Kumar said the risk of importation continues as wild poliovirus transmission is still being reported from endemic countries such as Afghani-



stan and Pakistan. The detection of wild poliovirus in environmental surveillance outside endemic regions has once again reminded the global community that no country is fully safe until polio is eradicated everywhere, he said. "The objective is clear and non-negotiable. Not even one eligible child should be missed. Every booth, every household, every transit point and every high-risk habitation must be reached. District Collectors shall lead the campaign at the district level and ensure active coordination of all line departments," said Kumar. A total of 29,873 polio booths, 59,746 house-to-house teams, 1,757 mobile teams for high-risk and migratory areas, and 1,144 transit booths have been arranged across Andhra Pradesh for the vaccination drive. More than 1.31 lakh field personnel are being deployed for the campaign while the state has received over 68.6 lakh doses of bOPV vaccine, which have been distributed to the districts based on beneficiary load, the press release added.



Be Vigilant About the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls, Says Nuthi Srikanth Goud

Chairman, Telangana BC State Finance Corporation SIR Parliament Control Room Coordinator, Mahabubabad Hyderabad, June 27: Chairman of the Telangana BC State Finance Corporation and SIR Parliament Control Room Coordinator for Mahabubabad, Nuthi Srikanth Goud, cautioned that any negligence regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls could result in significant losses. City & Local Guides Addressing a press conference on Saturday, he urged party leaders, workers, and the public to remain alert throughout the ongoing Special Intensive Revision process of the electoral rolls. He warned that even minor negligence could have serious consequences. On the occasion, he expressed his gratitude to Anumula Revanth Reddy, Chief Minister of Telangana, and Mahesh Kumar Goud, President of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC), for reposing confidence in him by appointing him as the SIR Parliament Control Room Coordinator for Mahabubabad. He emphasized that party leaders and workers should thoroughly understand the SIR process and actively create awareness among the public. He expressed concern that a significant number of voters across the State could be excluded from the electoral rolls on various grounds under the SIR exercise.

He cautioned that if genuine voters are removed from the rolls under the pretext of being "suspected" or "ineligible," it could create a politically serious and dangerous situation. Mr. Goud advised party functionaries to establish close coordination with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) in every polling booth and every village across all 119 Assembly constituencies in Telangana. He particularly stressed the need to pay special attention to migrant voters. Since many voters may be away from their homes when election officials conduct door-to-door verification, there is a risk that their names could be deleted from the electoral rolls. He urged party workers to ensure that such genuine voters are protected and that no eligible voter loses the right to vote. He called upon party workers to begin intensive field-level monitoring immediately.

24-year-old man dies by suicide at KPHB Colony; police suspect personal issues

Hyderabad: A 24 year old man died by suicide at KPHB Colony in the city due to personal issues. According to the police, the man Satish Kumar, stayed at a hostel and was taking training in an institute for job placement. During his stay in the city, Satish befriended a girl and they moved together. However, recently Satish noticed that the girl was avoiding him and moving along with another man. It is suspected that he slipped into depression over the developments and died by suicide by hanging in the hostel room. On information, the police reached the spot and shifted the body for postmortem. A case is registered.

Unabated soil excavation in Andole halted after BRS intervention

Sangareddy: As the digging of soil in government land continued unabated in survey number 1,141 on the outskirts of Andole, the BRS leaders obstructed the digging and called the revenue and police officials on Friday. The digging and transportation of the soil from the land was being carried without any proper permission. Those who mine even soil must pay a royalty to the government after obtaining permission from mining and revenue departments. However, the mining of soil continued unabated for days. The illegal miners have employed multiple earth movers and tens of trucks to transport the soil, which is being sold in the market. After coming to know, BRS leaders led by Ratna Goud visited the place and obstructed the mining. The police and revenue officials seized the



vehicles. Responding to the illegal mining, the former Andole MLA Chanti Kranthi Kiran accused the officials of supporting the illegal mining. He said that the officials did not take any action against them until the BRS leaders obstructed it and complained about it. Kranthi Kiran demanded the government to file cases against the illegal miners and initiate action against the officers who ignored the issue.

Khammam, Warangal police hold anti-drug rallies on International Day



Khammam/Warangal: Anti-drug rallies have been organised by police in Khammam and Warangal police commissionerates to mark International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on Friday. In Khammam, district Collector Divakara TS, Commissioner of Police Sunil Dutt and Municipal Commissioner Abhishek Agastya took part in an awareness rally. Addressing the gathering the Collector urged the youth to avoid falling prey to harmful addictions and to remain vigilant. The official emphasised the crucial role of youth in nation-building and noted that both the Central and State governments were taking special measures and allocating substantial funds to create employment opportunities for them. The CP said the police department was striving toward the goal of eradicating drug abuse and creating a ganja-free society. He urged

the public to immediately report any instances of the sale of ganja, drugs, or other intoxicants, as well as any illegal activities to the police. In Warangal, Commissioner of Police Sunpreeth Singh along with MLAs Naini Rajender Reddy and KR Nagaraju; Warangal and Hanamkonda district Collectors Dr. Satya Sharada and Chahat Bajpai and the KUDA chairman Enagala Venkatrami Reddy took part in the 2K run. Speaking on the occasion, the CP stated that drug abuse has become a major problem in society. He urged youth and students to stay away from drugs, warning that a single instance of use could plunge their lives into darkness. He specifically advised them to avoid getting into trouble by engaging in the sale or consumption of narcotics, asserting that students should focus solely on their studies and strive to achieve their high aspirations.

DTF demands immediate implementation of PRC in Telangana

Hyderabad: The Democratic Teachers Federation (DTF) on Friday demanded that the Telangana Congress government immediately obtain the Pay Revision Commission (PRC) report and initiate steps to implement it. During a meeting held here, DTF president M Somayya and general secretary T Linga Reddy pointed out that nearly three years had passed since the expiry of the current PRC period. They wanted the government not to delay any further and to obtain the PRC report immediately and revise the pay scales with effect from July 1, 2023. Further, the teachers criticised the government's decision to deduct contributions from employees' salaries towards the health scheme even before its operational guidelines were finalised and with-

out actually implementing the scheme. The DTF demanded that the government clear all pending financial bills of employees and pensioners, release five pending DA instalments, resolve issues relating to service rules and fill vacant supervisory posts.

Describing GO No. 25 on the teacher-student ratio as "unscientific", the teachers urged the government to amend the order. They urged the government to ensure that every primary school has one teacher for each classroom and one classroom for each class. Instead of establishing Telangana Public Schools, the DTF proposed converting all government high schools into semi-residential schools to strengthen and improve the government school system.

Adilabad police hold 5K run to mark anti-drug day

Adilabad: Police organized a 5 km Run to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking here on Friday. Local MLA Payal Shankar was the chief guest, while SP Akhil Mahajan graced the occasion. Around 2,000 youngsters from different parts of not only Adilabad, but neighbouring Nizamabad and Karimnagar took part in the event. Akhil Mahajan inspired the participants by successfully running the distance. He thanked the youngsters for making the event a grand success. He handed certificates of appreciation to the participants. Akhil urged everyone to become partners in eradicating the drugs in the district. He asked the youngsters to stay away from drug consumption and to share information about peddlers with the police. He stated that persons who were addicted to drugs were being identified and treatment would be given to them. Additional SPs P Mounika, B Surrender Rao, Ruthwik Kotte Sai, municipal chairperson Bandari Anusha and others were present.



Pregnant woman dies by suicide after harassment over fidelity in Medak

Medak: A pregnant woman, who was accused of having an extramarital affair by her husband, died by suicide in Gadi Peddapur village on Thursday evening, police said. The woman, Sushmita (23), was married to G Abhilash about 18 months ago and, ever since, he had allegedly suspected her fidelity. After she became pregnant, he allegedly insisted on a DNA test for the yet-to-be-born child and, unable to bear the harassment, she reportedly hanged herself at her house. Sushmita's mother, Janabai, alleged that Abhilash's mother, Sashirekha,

also used to ill-treat her. When Sushmita became pregnant five months ago, her parents said that Abhilash started physically and verbally abusing her, suspecting her fidelity. Even though they visited the house a few times and tried to sort out the differences, they said that Abhilash continued the harassment. He further insisted on a DNA test. Her parents, who rushed to the place from Vikarabad, lodged a complaint at the Alladurg police station against Abhilash and his mother. The probe is on.

Srinivas Goud demands restoration of RS Praveen Kumar's security cover

Hyderabad: Former Minister V Srinivas Goud criticised the Congress government for withdrawing the security cover of BRS general secretary and former IPS officer RS Praveen Kumar, alleging that the move was politically motivated. Holding the ruling Congress responsible for the safety of Praveen Kumar, he demanded that the government immediately restore and enhance his security cover and provide him with a new security vehicle. Speaking to mediapersons on Friday, Srinivas Goud said Praveen Kumar, a recipient of the President's Police Medal and several other honours, had served with distinction and continued to face security threats, as evident from intelligence inputs. He cautioned that revoking his security violated constitutional guarantees under Articles 14 and 21. Pointing out that Sirpur-Kagaznagar,



which Praveen Kumar represents politically, has a history of Maoist activity, the former Minister questioned the rationale behind withdrawing security for a person facing potential threats. He accused the Congress government of acting with political intolerance and selectively targeting opposition leaders while extending security to others without justification. He also questioned the silence of the IPS Officers' Association over the issue.

Jeevan Reddy demands withdrawal of GO 9 over fee reimbursement row

Hyderabad: BRS general secretary and former Minister T Jeevan Reddy demanded that the State government withdraw GO Ms No. 9, alleging that it was undermining the fee reimbursement scheme and pushing students into financial distress. He accused the Congress government of introducing GO 9 without clearing pending payments of Rs 10,000 crore to colleges. Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan on Friday, Jeevan Reddy said students were struggling to secure admissions as private colleges were insisting on fee payments in the absence of reimbursements from the government. He said the State government had failed to protect students despite promising to strengthen the education sector. He stated that the previous BRS government continued the fee reimbursement scheme introduced during the YS Rajasekhara Reddy regime in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh. He said that al-



though Rs 6,000 crore had been earmarked in the State budget for fee reimbursement, the funds had not been released. The former Minister also criticised Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who also holds the Education portfolio, for weakening the public education sector. He said Revanth Reddy had established no new residential schools in the past 30 months and had instead repainted and rebranded the existing government welfare residential schools as the Young India Integrated Residential Schools.

India unveils world's first nuclear-powered hydrogen plant

Kolkata: The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) on Friday inaugurated the world's first hydrogen production facility based on the Copper-Chlorine (Cu-Cl) Thermochemical Cycle utilising nuclear process using heat generated from the Fast Test Reactor (FBTR) at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) in Tamil Nadu's Kalpakkam. This is being considered a landmark achievement for India's clean energy and advanced nuclear technology programme. The facility was inaugurated by Ajit Kumar Mohanty, DAE Secretary and Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) Chairman, in the presence of Sreekumar G Pillai, IGCAR Director. "The facility has been established as a technology demonstrator to validate the production of hydrogen using nuclear energy through the Cu-Cl thermochemical process developed indigenously by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in Mumbai. The successful integration of nuclear process heat with hydrogen generation marks a pioneering technological breakthrough and opens a promising pathway for large-scale, carbon-free hydrogen production using advanced nuclear reactors," the DAE said in a statement. Regarded as a key energy carrier for the future, Hydrogen is expected to play a pivotal role in the global transition towards clean and sustainable energy systems. Among the various hydrogen production technologies under development worldwide, the Cu-Cl thermochemical cycle is considered one of the most promising due to its relatively lower operating temperatures and higher thermodynamic efficiency. By

harnessing nuclear heat from fast reactors, the process significantly reduces dependence on fossil fuels and eliminates greenhouse gas emissions associated with conventional hydrogen production methods.

"The commissioning of the facility represents the culmination of extensive research, process development, engineering design, equipment fabrication, installation, testing and commissioning efforts undertaken jointly by BARC and IGCAR. The plant will provide valuable operational experience, facilitate further optimisation of the Cu-Cl process and support future research aimed at scaling up nuclear-assisted hydrogen production technologies for commercial deployment," it has been said in the statement. "The integration of nuclear energy with emerging clean energy technologies such as hydrogen production represents a strategic pathway towards a sustainable energy future. Nuclear power, with its unique ability to provide reliable carbon-free electricity as well as high-temperature process heat, is ideally suited to support large-scale hydrogen production while contributing to India's energy security, decarbonisation goals and long-term sustainable development objectives. I congratulate the scientists, engineers and technical teams of BARC and IGCAR whose sustained dedication, innovation and technical excellence have transformed an advanced scientific concept into an operational reality. This achievement is a testament to India's growing capabilities in advanced nuclear technologies and clean energy systems," Mohanty said in his address.



IGCAR, one of India's premier nuclear research institutions under the Department of Atomic Energy, has been at the forefront of the country's Fast Breeder Reactor programme since its establishment in 1971. The Centre successfully designed, constructed and operated the Fast Breeder Test Reactor, which has served as an invaluable platform for the development and validation of fuels, materials and sodium technologies for more than four decades. The knowledge and expertise generated through FBTR have laid the technological foundation for India's fast reactor programme and played a pivotal role in the development of the 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR), the flagship of the second stage of India's three-stage nuclear power programme. "This achievement builds upon more than four decades of operational experience and technological excellence gained through the Fast Breeder Test Reactor programme at IGCAR. The successful demonstration of hydrogen production using nuclear process heat showcases the versatility of advanced

nuclear systems and underscores IGCAR's commitment to developing innovative technologies that contribute to India's clean energy transition and long-term energy security," Pillai said. IGCAR has established internationally recognised capabilities in reactor physics, thermal hydraulics, advanced materials, sodium technology, fuel cycle research, instrumentation and control systems, remote handling, non-destructive evaluation and high-temperature engineering over the years.

Its contributions continue to strengthen India's technological self-reliance and reinforce the nation's position among the global leaders in advanced nuclear technologies. "The inauguration of the facility marks a major step towards realising the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat through the convergence of nuclear energy and clean hydrogen technologies. It demonstrates DAE's continued commitment to indigenous innovation and reinforces India's resolve to build a sustainable, secure and low-carbon energy future for Viksit Bharat," the statement added.

Ethanol fuel policy needs a balanced blend

For an economy exposed to volatile global oil markets, exploring alternative fuel sources not only makes immense economic sense but also helps the cause of energy security. The war in West Asia has once again underscored this harsh reality, which is particularly relevant for India as it meets nearly 85% of its crude oil requirements through imports. One way to effectively insulate ourselves from external shocks is to significantly step up ethanol blending as part of a policy to diversify fuel sources. At present, India is implementing the E20 fuel policy — blending 20% ethanol with petrol. With E20 fuel being sold across the country from April 1 this year, India is ahead of its original 2030 target in reaching the significant milestone in energy transition. While there is a strong case for increasing the proportion of ethanol blending to enhance energy security and reduce the oil import bill, concerns of vehicle users and a section of environmentalists should also be addressed fully. There are concerns among vehicle users over reduced mileage, engine corrosion, long-term wear and tear, and warranty issues. The owners of older vehicles should have been offered schemes to help them transition to E20-compatible engines. Ethanol production from sugarcane and rice is highly water-intensive. As ethanol demand has grown, increased sugar production and diversion toward fuel have exacerbated groundwater depletion in already water-stressed regions. The impact on food security is another area of concern. Though current foodgrain stocks are above the buffer norm, a high probability of an El Niño episode this year could adversely affect monsoon patterns and paddy production. In such a scenario, expanding ethanol production from food-based feedstock could intensify pressure on food availability, making it imperative for policymakers to tread



cautiously. Moving from E20 to higher blending ratios would require not only new investments in distilleries, both molasses-based and grain-based, but also expansion of existing facilities. Storage and transportation infrastructure for ethanol would need to be scaled up significantly to accommodate increased supply. These are capital-intensive adjustments that require investment, careful planning, and policy coordination. Also, the automotive ecosystem may not be fully prepared for higher blending levels. Since 2023, new vehicles being sold in India have been made E20-compliant. While the majority of vehicles running in India are not even E20-compliant, moving to higher blends would require further engine modifications. Without such adjustments, consumers could face reduced fuel efficiency and higher maintenance costs, undermining public acceptance of the policy. No doubt, there are multiple uses of ethanol-blended petrol. An increased use of ethanol will ease India's dependence on crude oil imports and save more than \$4 billion annually. This shift not only improves energy security but also provides a buffer against volatile global oil prices, enhancing India's economic stability. However, significant challenges remain in implementation.

Stray dogs kill 10 sheep and injure 50 in Siddipet village

Siddipet: A pack of stray dogs attacked a flock of sheep and killed ten of them at Chowdarpally village. The farmer had kept the sheep in a shed on the outskirts of the village. However, a pack of stray dogs sneaked into the shed on Friday night and attacked the animals. While ten of them died on the spot, at least 50 sheep sustained injuries, causing huge losses to the farmer. The villagers urged the government to extend support to the farmer.



National War Memorial immortalises six Operation Sindoor heroes



New Delhi: The names of six military personnel — five from the Indian Army and one from IAF — who died in the line of duty during Operation Sindoor last year, have been inscribed on a wall at the National War Memorial, as a tribute to the fallen heroes. This is the first time since the military operation conducted by the Indian Armed Forces in May 2025 that the government has released the names of these six personnel. Operation Sindoor was conducted to avenge the deadly Pahalgam terror attack on April 22 last year. The names of the six personnel, inscribed on wall no. '3D' of Tyag Chakra at the National War Memorial are — Subedar Major Pawan Kumar, Rifleman Sunil Kumar, Lance Naik Dinesh Kumar, Agniveer Mood Muralinaik, Havildar Sunil Kumar Singh from the Army, and Indian Air Force's Sergeant Surendra Kumar. The unit names of these bravehearts have also been inscribed. Sources said these six names were inscribed recently on the wall. These names have also been published on the website of the National War Memorial. The iconic Memorial stands as a solemn tribute to Indian soldiers who have fallen in the line of duty, defending the nation during wars since Independence. The centrepiece of the memorial, located at the India Gate complex, is an obelisk along with the eternal flame — the Amar Jawan Jyoti — surrounded by concentric circles carrying curved walls, named serially, on which names of the fallen heroes have been inscribed. On the corner of wall no. '3D', a brick on the top row bears the inscription 'OP SINDOOR', the one below it '2025', followed by names of the six personnel in a column, on different rows of bricks.

I Wish 'Hyy Chikittha' Becomes a Grand Success: Popular Producer C Kalyan at the Teaser Launch Event

'Hyy Chikittha' Beautifully Connects the 'Raithe Raju' Concept with Pawanism: Actor Prabhakar

Hey Chikittha, produced by N Ashok RNS and Garudavega Anji under the banners Amaravathi Movie Makers and Sundarakanda Motion Pictures LLP, is directed by Dhanraj Lekkala. The film stars Abhinav Manikanta, Divija, Tanmayi Khushi in the lead roles and is scheduled for a theatrical release on July 24. "The film's teaser was unveiled on Saturday by renowned cinematographer KK Senthil Kumar and Director G.Nageswara Reddy garu. The teaser launch event was graced by popular producers C Kalyan, KL Damodar Prasad and Rama Satyanarayana, directors Nageshwar Reddy and Dasarath, along with several other prominent personalities from the film industry. Speaking at the event, **C Kalyan said**, "Anji is my disciple and a highly talented technician. I wish Divija, daughter of Prabhakar, earns great success with this film. I'm happy to see Ashok making his debut as a Telugu producer. I thoroughly enjoyed the teaser, and the film features some heart-touching songs. With Anji backing the project, I'm sure director Dhanraj has made a wonderful film. Watching Divija feels like seeing a heroine from our own family. I wholeheartedly wish Hey Chikittha becomes a grand success."

Actor Prabhakar said, "Thank you to everyone who attended the teaser launch. Seeing so many distinguished guests here already feels like a victory for our film. When Dhanraj narrated the story, we couldn't stop laughing during the first-half narration. He possesses the qualities of directors like Trivikram, Puri Jagannadh, and Dasarath. The story itself is the true hero of this film. The concept of 'Raithe Raju' (Farmer is King) is beautifully connected with Pawanism. Dhanraj has crafted a story that will entertain audiences across all sections. Realistic stories rooted in our society have become rare, and such films deserve support. He drew inspiration from real incidents in his village. Charan Arjun has delivered excellent music, and every artist in the film has performed brilliantly. I was amazed by Anji's work as a producer and cinematographer. He completed the film in a single schedule without wasting a single rupee. I'm happy to have played an important role, and Divija has transformed herself beautifully for the character. I wish the film great success."

Director Dhanraj Lekkala said, "I got this opportunity because of Anji garu, and I thank Ashok garu for believing in

me. I'm a die-hard fan of Pawan Kalyan. The story revolves around five Pawan Kalyan fans from a village, which is why the title Hey Chikittha was chosen. Every Pawan Kalyan film carries a meaningful message in its introduction song. Inspired by that, I made a three-hour commercial entertainer that speaks about farmers. Along with strong emotions, I have included all the commercial ingredients. Divija and Abhinav have performed exceptionally well. I thank every artist who supported me on this journey. My brother Charan Arjun has always stood by me, and audiences will appreciate his music after watching the film. Anyone who cares about farmers and rural life will definitely connect with this movie."

Hero Abhinav Manikanta said, "This film happened because of Anji garu, and I got this opportunity thanks to Charan Arjun garu. We witnessed Anji garu's dedication as both producer and cinematographer, while Ashok garu constantly encouraged us. Dhanraj is an immensely talented filmmaker who wanted to bring his village's story to the big screen and shot the film in his native place itself. This is a great phase for Divija, and the story completely justifies the title. We worked day and night to complete the film in a single schedule. We hope audiences will support our film."

Actress Divija Prabhakar said, "Thank you to everyone who came to support Hey Chikittha. Anji garu and Ashok garu stood by us throughout the journey. We completed the entire shoot in just 21 days in a single schedule. Dhanraj Lekkala is an exceptionally talented director. I thank him and the producers for trusting me with the role of Chitti. I'm delighted to be part of a film with Charan Arjun's music. We all worked extremely hard, and I hope audiences bless our film when it releases on July 24."

Producer Garudavega Anji said, "We started these production houses with the intention of introducing fresh and meaningful stories. Many more quality films will follow under our banners. Hey Chikittha has shaped up wonderfully, and we also aspire to introduce many talented directors and artists. Ashok garu is a man of few words, but his commitment speaks volumes. We are releasing the film grandly on July 24. Good content always finds support from distributors, OTT platforms, and audiences alike. I thank all our guests for encouraging us and request the media to continue supporting our film."

Director Nageswara Reddy said, "I have already watched Hey Chikittha, and it is an impressive film. Charan Arjun's



songs are outstanding, and Dhanraj has a deep understanding of Telangana's culture, which is reflected beautifully on screen. Initially, I wondered whether audiences would encourage such a fresh and small film, but I'm confident they will. The film revolves around the spirit of Pawanism and is sure to resonate with Pawan Kalyan fans, who will make it a big success." **Director Dasarath said**, "Dhanraj has directed Hyy Chikittha brilliantly. Divija and Abhinav have delivered excellent performances, Charan Arjun's three songs are outstanding, and Anji's visuals are impressive. I wish the film tremendous success."

Writer Gopi Mohan said, "Director Dhanraj is a passionate admirer of Pawan Kalyan. This is a technicians' film. Charan has composed wonderful music that will bring audiences to theatres. Divija and Abhinav have performed very well. I wish the entire team great success."

Producer KL Damodar Prasad said, "The title Hey Chikittha is appealing, the music is impressive, and the teaser is engaging. I especially loved the tagline 'Raithe Raju' (Farmer is King). My best wishes to the entire team. Divija has already earned appreciation for her performance, and I hope she continues to grow as an actress."

Producer Rama Satyanarayana said, "Anji is a highly talented filmmaker. I sincerely hope this film brings Divija and the entire team great success. I liked the title, teaser, and Charan Arjun's music. My best wishes to the director and producers." **Actor Raj Narendra said**, "I have known Dhanraj for many years. I've already watched the film, and it is excellent. It truly lives up to the tagline 'Raithe Raju' and is sure to become a successful film."

Music director Charan Arjun said, "I share a long association with Dhanraj Lekkala and have known Anji garu for years. I agreed to the film even before hearing the story because of my faith in both of them. The entire village supported Dhanraj, which reflects the kind of per-

son he is. I hope audiences extend the same love to our film. I'm happy Abhinav got this opportunity, and Divija has delivered a wonderful performance. I wish the film becomes a grand success."

Siva Mallala said, "This stage is filled with so many distinguished guests because of Anji garu's goodwill. Divija is like a daughter to our family and is immensely talented. She has the potential to surprise everyone in the future. Charan Arjun is a true gem. I wish the film tremendous success." **Actor Devi Prasad said**, "I thank the director and producers for giving me an opportunity in this wonderful film. I play an important role, and the entire shoot was completed swiftly. Charan Arjun is a fantastic music director, while Divija and Abhinav have performed brilliantly. I wish the film great success."

Avinash said, "The film was shot entirely in our village. My younger brother Dhanraj has worked tirelessly and is bringing a beautiful story to audiences. I've already watched the film, and it is highly entertaining. Divija has done a fantastic job, and I'm happy to see my brother Ajay growing on his own. I hope audiences wholeheartedly support this film."

Cast : Abhinav Manikanta, Divija Prabhakar, Tanmayi Kushi, Devi Prasad, ETV Prabhakar, Anji Mama, Balagam Sujatha, Yodha, Ajay Jabardasth, Ashok Vardhan, Sai Kaushik, Kranthi Reddy, Netha and others.

Technical Crew: "Writer & Director: Dhanraj Lekkala"

Producers: N Ashok RNS, Garudavega Anji

Banners: Amaravathi Movie Makers, Sundarakanda Motion Pictures

Music: Charan Arjun "Cinematography: Garudavega Anji"

Editor: Madhu "Co-Director: Kumar Davuluri"

Choreographers: Eswar Penti & Sagar Veluru

PRO: Sai Satish "Marketing: Haashtag Media

After Neram and Premam, Comes Vijayam - Title of Nivin Pauly × Alphonse Puthren Reunion Film Revealed

The much-awaited announcement that Malayalam cinema audiences have been eagerly anticipating is finally here. After 12 years, the blockbuster duo of Nivin Pauly and director Alphonse Puthren have reunited for a new film titled "Vijayam." Following the phenomenal success of Neram and Premam, the duo joins hands once again for this exciting new project. "Marking Nivin Pauly's milestone 50th film, the title announcement video was unveiled at a special event held at Padma Theatre, Ernakulam, in the presence of a massive gathering of fans and media. "Set against the backdrop of the world of racing, the film is written, directed, and edited by Alphonse Puthren. "The film is produced by Pauly Jr. Pictures joined by Tonson Tony and Sunil Ramadi under the banner of Cineholics. The project's design and ex-

ecutive production are handled by Kuttu Sivanandan. "The background score is composed by Kerala-born Steve Kottur, who previously worked on the music production for the blockbuster films Durandhar and Durandhar 2, as well as Ba*ds of Bollywood, the web series directed by Aryan Khan, son of Shah Rukh Khan. "The title announcement video begins with a humorous sequence playfully trolling Alphonse Puthren before unfolding into a journey featuring both Alphonse and Nivin together. The video has already received an overwhelming response across social media. "Considering the cinematic celebrations this iconic duo has created in the past, expectations are naturally high for Nivin Pauly's landmark 50th film. Details regarding the rest of the cast and technical crew will be announced soon.

Sharvari says she 'sent an essay' to A.R. Rahman after receiving his message

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Sharvari, who is receiving a lot of positive response for her work in the recently released film 'Main Vapas Aaunga', has shared that she once received a message from the Grammy and Oscar-winning music composer A. R. Rahman, and she fan girded so hard that she ended sending him an essay on text. The actress spoke with IANS during the promotions of the film along with her co-actor Vedang Raina and auteur Imtiaz Ali. When asked that having a film with collaborators as Imtiaz Ali, A.R. Rahman, Diljit Dosanjh, Irshad Kamil, on her resume so early in her career, how does it empower her as an artiste, she said, "The names that you just took. When someone says it like that. It just suddenly feels like wow. We were a part of a film that has all these legends. And I really hope that whatever hard work



we've put in. We've done justice not just to the audiences". She further mentioned, "But to everybody's vision here, being so new, and learning more from the others at this point, I feel like we really have tried to do our best. Be as honest as we could have. But saying that it's so exciting. That we in fact got so empowered by them in the film. I was telling Imtiaz sir just recently that Rahman sir sent me a message the other day. He said that he really enjoyed scoring the scenes. I was so shocked that I got this message in the first place.

Doubles Success Not Enough, India Needs Singles Champions: Vijay Amritraj

New Delhi: Indian tennis legend Vijay Amritraj has said his biggest aspiration for the country's tennis future is to witness an Indian singles player competing for the Wimbledon title, stressing that success in doubles alone cannot fulfil India's long-standing ambitions in the sport. Amritraj reflected on the direction of Indian tennis while discussing the current crop of players, including Yuki Bhambri and Sriram Balaji. Asked whether Indian tennis today requires stronger role models or better players to carry the sport forward, the former Davis Cup stalwart pointed to the importance of producing elite singles competitors capable of challenging the world's best. "Yuki Bhambri and Sriram Balaji are all very good doubles players, but that doesn't give you a chance to win Wimbledon or do well in Wimbledon or make the top 100 or the top 50 or the top 20 or put India in a Davis Cup final. That's the key here," Amritraj told IANS during JioStar Media Day ahead of Wimbledon 2026.

For Amritraj, who guided the Indian team to the Davis Cup Finals in 1974 and 1987, the benchmark of success lies not merely in competing at Grand Slams but in consistently challenging the world's top-ranked singles players on the sport's biggest stages. "The most important part of this is the fact that you end up making a commitment to the sport and you play it at the highest level and you have to compete with the world's best, with the top 128 players at the championships. That's where you want to perform. That's where you want to win Wimbledon,



playing a singles match with a tricolour flying. That's the goal," the Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan awardee expressed. The former Wimbledon quarter-finalist also revealed that his personal dream has evolved over the years. Having transitioned into one of the most recognisable voices in international tennis broadcasting, Amritraj said he now hopes to witness an Indian singles player competing on Centre Court while he is behind the microphone. "My goal in the last 20 years, 15 years has truly been in television where I want to be able to commentate on an Indian playing on the Centre Court at Wimbledon in singles where he has a chance to win. That's the goal here, and I think that's where the commitment, the excitement and all of it comes together when that person is up leading 4-1 in the fifth," Amritraj stated. The JioStar expert concluded by expressing hope that Indian tennis will eventually produce a player capable of realising that vision, saying, "I look for that and I hope it happens soon."

Magnus Carlsen returns as Global Chess League season 4 player pool and Bengaluru dates announced

Hyderabad: The Global Chess League (GCL), a joint venture between Tech Mahindra and FIDE, will return for its fourth season with the Season 4 Player Draft set to take place in Mumbai on July 29, ahead of the league in Bengaluru from September 3-13. The player draft will feature the return of Magnus Carlsen after a season away, while reigning FIDE Women's World Cup champion Divya Deshmukh is set to make her Global Chess League debut in Season 4. The Season 4 player pool features 36 Grandmasters across generations, including World Champions, World Cup winners, Olympiad medallists and leading names from the global chess circuit. With a mix of retained stars and players entering the draft, franchises will have a wide field to shape balanced six-player squads across categories.

Ahead of Season 4, Peeyush Dubey, Chairperson, Global Chess League, said, "Over the past three seasons, the Global Chess League has demonstrated how a franchise-based team format can bring together the world's leading players while attracting new audiences to chess. Season 4 continues that journey with an outstanding player pool that reflects the quality and diversity of talent that the league continues to attract. We are excited to bring the league to Bengaluru, a city with a rich sporting tradition and a deep-rooted chess culture, and look forward to seeing the six franchises build squads capable of producing another highly competitive season." The player draft will see teams assemble six-player squads across four categories—one Icon, two Superstar Men, two Superstar Women and one Prodigy—in the league's six-board rapid format, where every board carries equal significance. The marquee draft list includes five-time World Champion Viswanathan Anand,



2025 FIDE World Cup winner Javokhir Sindarov, Women's World Rapid Champion Koneru Humpy, former Women's World Champion Alexandra Kosteniuk, World Championship challenger Ian Nepomniachtchi and former World Cup champion and Olympiad gold medallist Levon Aronian. They are joined by emerging stars, including reigning World Rapid Champion Volodar Murzin and Indian Grandmaster Leon Luke Mendonca, offering franchises a blend of proven champions and emerging talent as they complete their squads for Season 4. Gourav Rakshit, Commissioner, Global Chess League, said "The Season 4 draft is where every franchise begins building its squad for the season ahead. The Global Chess League's unique format places equal emphasis on every category, making team composition as important as individual excellence. With a player pool featuring World Champions, established Grandmasters and emerging talent, the draft will shape the balance and competitiveness of every team heading into Season 4."

With the player pool now confirmed and the retention window complete, attention now turns to the Season 4 Player Draft in Mumbai on July 29, where the league's six franchises—upGrad Mumba Masters, Fyers American Gambits, Ganges Grandmasters, Triveni Continental Kings, PBG Alaskan Knights, and Alpine APL Pipers—will assemble their squads for the Bengaluru edition, culminating in the title decider on September 13.

Anvita Khammam Aces edge Karimnagar Diamonds by eight runs in TG20 thriller

Hyderabad: Anvita Khammam Aces registered a thrilling eight-run victory in a high-scoring contest that went down to the final over against EIPL & eleve Karimnagar Diamonds in a late-night match of the Sreenidhi University TG20 League Championship at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium here on Friday. Half-centuries from Mickil Jaiswal and K. Himateja powered the Aces to 213/6 before skipper CV Milind produced a match-winning spell of 4/21, helping the Aces withstand a record-breaking assault from Satwik Reddy to secure a memorable win. The Diamonds made the perfect start, striking twice in consecutive overs to remove openers Wafi Kachchhi (0 off 2) and Mayank Gupta (2 off 3), leaving the Aces reeling early. With the innings in trouble, K. Himateja (56 off 33) launched a spirited counterattack, taking the attack to the bowlers from the outset. He raced to a well-crafted half-century in just 24 balls, bringing up the milestone with a towering six, and stitched together a game-changing 99-run partnership off just 48 balls with G. Sai Krishna Reddy. Sai Krishna survived a major scare on 43 when Ashish Srivastav held on to a return catch, only for it to be ruled a no-ball. The reprieve proved short-lived, however, as Srivastav trapped him lbw just two deliveries later to break the threatening stand. The breakthrough slowed the Aces' momentum. Himateja struggled to maintain the scoring rate before holing out to Hrishikesh Simha off Harish Thakur, who claimed his second wicket of the innings. Prateek Reddy (19 off 10) departed soon after, further denting the Aces.

With wickets falling around him, Mickil Jaiswal and CV Milind (16 off 13) steadied the innings. Milind played the supporting role before falling to Harish Thakur, but Jaiswal immediately shifted the momentum back with a towering six. Jaiswal then took complete control, bringing up his second consecutive half-century in just 30 balls. His unbeaten 64 off 34 deliveries, featuring one four and six sixes, powered the Aces to a formidable 213/6. In reply, the Diamonds endured a disastrous start, losing skipper Tanmay Agarwal (0 off 1) and Hrishikesh Simha (0 off 3) inside the opening over to CV Milind. Rahul Radesh (4 off 5) briefly counterattacked but was also dis-



missed by Milind in the third over, reducing the Diamonds to 28/3.

With the chase in trouble, Satwik Reddy produced a sensational counter-attack. He took on Vidyananda Reddy and Sahendra Mallu with fearless strokeplay, including a remarkable fifth over that yielded 28 runs with four successive sixes. Satwik brought up his half-century in just 16 balls—the fastest in the history of the Sreenidhi University TG20 League. The Aces, however, hit back with timely wickets. Wafi dismissed Harish Thakur before Ved Reddy removed the dangerous Satwik Reddy, who fell for a scintillating 63 off 27 balls, leaving the Diamonds at 97/5. Chandan Sahani then sparked another revival, smashing five sixes across two overs. Alongside Shubham Sharma, he lifted the Diamonds to 130/5 and briefly swung the momentum back in their favour. The Aces responded immediately as Sahendra Mallu dismissed Chandan (38 off 17), while CV Milind accounted for Narayana Teja (13 off 11) after Ved Reddy completed a stunning catch. Shubham continued to fight alongside Ashish Srivastav, but regular wickets kept the asking rate beyond reach.

Needing 17 runs off the final over, Shubham kept the chase alive with consecutive boundaries off the first two deliveries. However, Mahesh Vipparla held his nerve brilliantly, conceding just four runs from the remaining four balls to seal a thrilling eight-run victory.

Scores:

Anvita Khammam Aces 213/6 in 20 overs (Mickil Jaiswal 64 not out, K. Himateja 56, G. Sai Krishna Reddy 43; Harish Thakur 3/40, Rathlavath Dinesh 1/40).

EIPL & eleve Karimnagar Diamonds 205/9 in 20 overs (Satwik Reddy 63, Shubham Sharma 53 not out, Chandan Sahani 38; CV Milind 4/21, Sahendra Mallu 2/49).

India face Australia in must-win Women's T20 World Cup clash

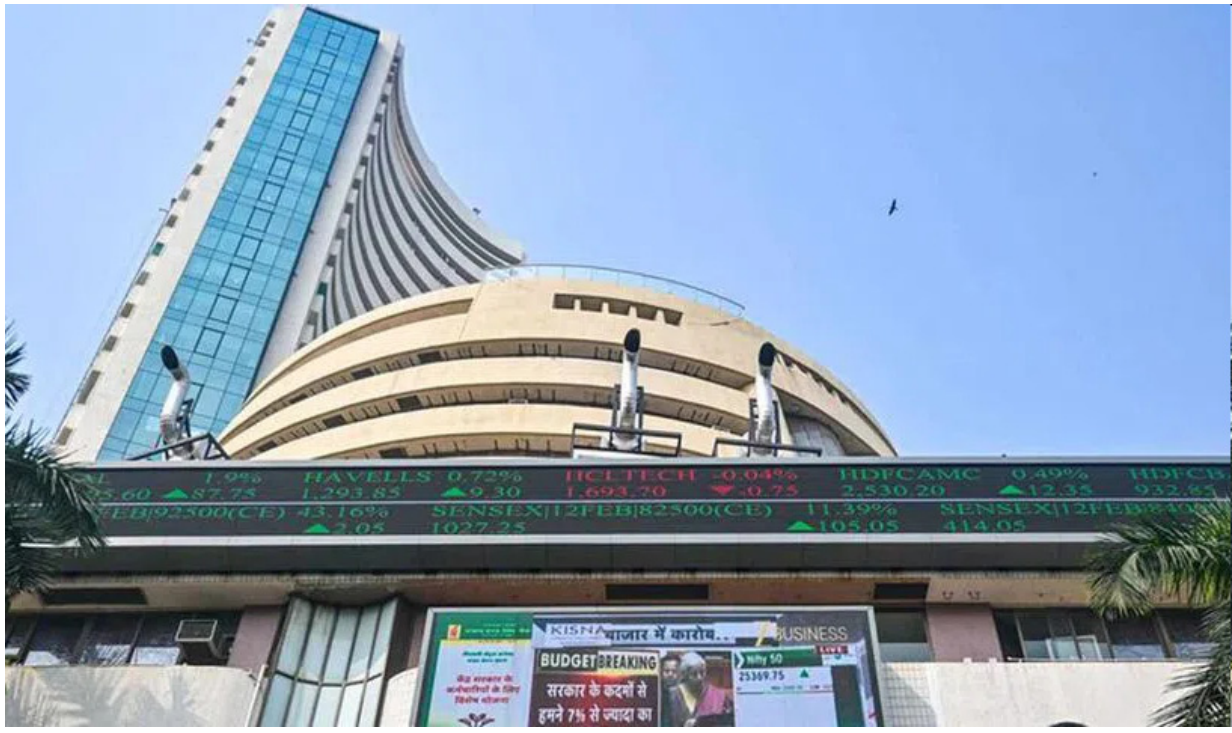
London: With a place in the Women's T20 World Cup semifinals on the line, a fallible India will be desperate to overcome their fielding and batting woes when they take on six-time champions Australia in their final Group A clash here on Sunday. The day's two matches will determine the semifinal lineup from the group, with South Africa (six points) taking on Bangladesh (four) at Lord's before India (six) meet unbeaten Australia (eight). Given South Africa's overwhelming head-to-head (9-2 in 12 matches) record against Bangladesh, India's clash against Australia is expected to become a virtual quarterfinal. If the Proteas, who are the last edition's finalists, win as anticipated, India will have to beat Australia to qualify, while a defeat would end the hopes of the reigning ODI world champions. Australia, on the other hand, can still afford a loss and progress courtesy of their eight points and a far superior net run rate of 4.724. However, an unlikely Bangladesh upset would ease the pressure on India as, even in defeat, Harmanpreet Kaur's side could still sneak into the last four if their net run rate of 2.268 remains superior to South Africa's current 0.734. History But it will be nothing less than a test of character for



Harmanpreet Kaur's side, who have battled one issue after another throughout this campaign. India's tournament began with concerns over the form of their openers. But even as Smriti Mandhana (167 runs) and Shafali Verma (145) responded well, India's middle order comprising skipper Harmanpreet (85) and Jemimah Rodrigues (58) has repeatedly fallen short. While grappling with that problem, India's fielding nosedived, particularly in the last two games where they have collectively dropped six catches.

India lost one of those matches, against South Africa, while they beat Bangladesh by five wickets to remain afloat despite spilling four catches. The Indian think tank, led by Harmanpreet and head coach Amol Muzumdar.

Nifty and Sensex post weekly gains as crude oil prices decline



Mumbai: The Indian equity benchmarks posted a third consecutive week of gains, aided by a sharp correction in crude oil prices to pre-Iran war levels and improved traffic through the Strait of Hormuz. Nifty added 0.18 per cent during the week and edged up 0.14 per cent on the last trading day to reach 24,056. At the close, the Sensex was up 109 points, or 0.14 per cent, at 77,100. It added 0.39 per cent during the week. The domestic markets navigated a week of mixed signals with notable resilience, even as broader indices, especially mid-caps, faced modest selling pressure. Easing geopolitical risks amid progressing US-Iran talks and optimism around an India-US trade deal helped fuel domestic investor sentiment.

However, expectations of rising inflationary pressure and a potential weakening in rural demand began to surface, driven by concerns over uneven monsoon distribution, an analyst said. Sustained softness in crude prices remains a clear macro positive in the near term, with improving inflation, fiscal and current account dynamics collectively providing the RBI with greater policy flexibility. On the sectoral front, pharma and healthcare stocks outperformed, while private banks advanced following the RBI's clarity on the FCNR(B) deposit swap scheme. Metals were the major losers due to fall-

ing commodity prices, while consumer durables lagged amid demand concerns. Broad market indices showed divergence from the benchmark indices, as the Nifty Midcap 100 lost 1.15 per cent, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 edged up just 0.03 per cent during the week.

Immediate resistance levels for the Nifty are placed at 24,400 and 24,500, while support is seen at 23,900 and 23,800. Immediate support for the Bank Nifty is placed in the 57,500-57,400 zone, while resistance is seen at 58,900 and 59,000. As corporate earnings reports are expected in the coming weeks, management commentary on demand visibility, margins and order flows will serve as key indicators for market direction. "A prudent yet optimistic stance is warranted, with a focus on selectively building positions in fundamentally strong companies that have seen recent corrections without any meaningful deterioration in their underlying outlook," a market participant said. Investors remain keenly focused on US PCE data, which will shape global market sentiment, along with non-farm payrolls and unemployment figures, which will influence Fed rate expectations and overall risk appetite. Domestically, industrial production data and June PMI readings will provide early signals ahead of the Q1 earnings season, according to analysts.

ITC CMD Sanjiv Puri's remuneration falls 6.8 per cent to Rs 23.91 crore in FY26

New Delhi: ITC Chairman and Managing Director Sanjiv Puri's total remuneration declined 6.8 per cent in FY26 to Rs 23.91 crore due to a reduction in performance bonus and long-term incentives/commissions, according to its latest annual report. Puri's remuneration included a basic/consolidated salary of Rs 3.85 crore, perquisites of Rs 88 lakh, along with Rs 19.17 crore as performance-linked bonus and long-term incentives/commissions. In FY25, Puri's total remuneration was Rs 25.66 crore. This included a basic/consolidated salary of Rs 3.53 crore and perquisites of Rs 73 lakh. His performance bonus and long-term incentives/commissions were Rs 21.39 crore in FY25. Puri's basic/consolidated salary, as well as perquisites, was increased in 2025-26 compared to the previous fiscal.

As of March 31, 2026, the number of ordinary shares (of Rs 1 each) held by Puri was 3,00,591, and 1,01,000 shares were granted under stock options. In FY25, the number of ITC shares held (singly/jointly) was higher at 4,52,843, while the number of stock options granted was 1,34,500. The ratio of Puri's salary to the median remuneration of all employees was 338:1. The median remuneration for 10,368 male workers was Rs 5,30,593 in FY26 and Rs 2,25,424 for 683 female workers. According to ITC, "The majority of female workers

are employed in new manufacturing units. Since a significant majority of these recruits are new entrants, the median remuneration appears lower." Compared to the financial year 2024-25, the figures for 2025-26 reflect that the "median remuneration of employees increased by 4 per cent" and the "average remuneration of employees decreased by 2 per cent". The remuneration of KMPs (Key Managerial Personnel), which generally includes executive management, decreased by 2 per cent.



Piyush Goyal launches India-UK CETA business manual ahead of July 15 rollout

New Delhi: A practical business utilisation manual for the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) was launched by Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal in London to help businesses in both countries maximise the benefits of the landmark trade pact before it comes into force on July 15, it was announced on Saturday. The 'UK-India CETA Business Utilisation Manual - A Practical Activation Guide for Indian and UK Businesses' was launched during an event organised by FICCI and supported by the UK India Business Council (UKIBC). Developed

US clears limited access to Anthropic's Mythos 5 AI model

New Delhi: US-based AI company Anthropic has won US approval to restore limited access to its powerful Mythos 5 artificial intelligence (AI) model to "certain trusted partners" after resolving the government's national security concerns. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick wrote to Anthropic's chief compute officer that the company's efforts with the US government to address risks associated with the models "have yielded significant progress", multiple reports said. The clearance follows a government order issued two weeks earlier that abruptly barred Anthropic from giving foreign nationals access to Mythos 5 and a related model, Fable 5, over fears that security guardrails could be circumvented. The company responded by disabling global access and undertook intensive talks to reach a resolution. "In just two weeks, we have worked diligently to ensure America remains the global leader in AI while safeguarding our security," Benno Kass, Commerce Department spokesman, was quoted as saying. However, the recent letter does not mention any change to the government's restric-

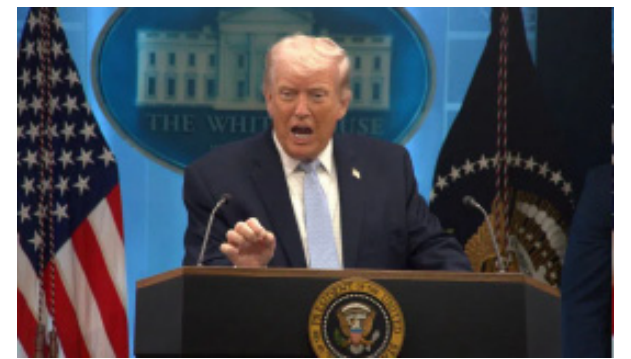
tions on the use of the Fable 5 model. "We received notice from the US government that Mythos 5, our strongest cybersecurity model, can be redeployed to a small group of cyber defenders and infrastructure providers," Anthropic said in a statement. The company said it is working to provide access to the approved set of providers and restore their access to Mythos 5 as quickly as possible.

The company expressed optimism about the progress and said it will work with the government to expand access to Mythos 5 and make Fable 5 available for general use again. Fable 5 is prevented from responding to some queries, such as cybersecurity- and biology-related questions. In those cases, Anthropic has said its Claude chatbot will route responses through a different model, called Opus 4.8. Anthropic had objected to the government's decision to impose export controls in a blog post, saying such standards, if applied across the industry, "would essentially halt all new model deployments for all frontier model providers."

Trump threatens 100 per cent tax on EU imports over digital services tax

Washington: President Donald Trump on Friday threatened a 100 per cent tax on imports from any country that imposes a tax on digital services from United States companies. In a post on social media, Trump took aim at European countries that he said are discussing "imminent" implementation of taxes on American companies. The US president has repeatedly sought to use tariffs as way to deter such taxes, but many countries are looking for revenues as their economies increasingly operate in digital realms that are dominated by American companies. "Please let this statement serve to represent that any Country that imposes such a Tax will immediately be met with a 100 per cent TARIFF on any and all Goods sent to the United States of America," Trump wrote. He added that the new tax would supersede any previously negotiated trade deals. Trump said the penalty would apply to any country that moves forward with such a tax, but he singled out European nations in his post. Trump has repeatedly pushed against foreign efforts to tax or regulate American tech giants. Last year he threatened new tariffs on any country that moved to do so. A post from last August said that digital taxes and regulation "are all designed to harm, or discriminate against, American Technology."

The threat comes ahead of Trump's July 4 deadline for the European Union and United States to start implementing a tariff deal that caps tariffs on most EU exports at 15 per cent. The European Union in May finalised a trade deal with the United States that caps most tariffs on EU exports at 15 per cent. The



deal followed months of debate within the EU after European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen tentatively struck the deal last year while visiting Trump's golf course in Scotland.

Digital taxes were not part of the agreement and have remained a sticking point between the US and the European bloc. The US government has in the past had tariff investigations on digital services taxes under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974. But it was unclear how Trump would enact his threat and whether he would apply the tariffs broadly or target them initially at certain nations. Britain, which is no longer part of the EU, has since 2020 levied a 2 per cent digital services tax on revenues earned by search engines, social media sites and online marketplaces that "derive value" from UK users. The British government said in a policy document at the time that corporate tax rules for digital businesses had "led to a misalignment between the place where profits are taxed and the place where value is created." The UK tax includes thresholds that mean mainly big international companies will pay it. The tax was designed to "ensure the large multinational businesses in-scope make a fair contribution to supporting vital public services," the document said.



the organisers, the two-day programme in London brought together senior business leaders from India and the UK at a crucial juncture in bilateral economic ties. Dr. Kishore Jayaraman, Group CEO, UK India Business Council said that the UK-India CETA marks a defining moment in one of the world's most consequential economic partnerships.

Lorry driver burnt alive in road accident

Anantapur: A lorry driver, Obul Reddy, was burnt alive in his vehicle after it caught fire in Vidapanakal mandal of Anantapur district on Friday. The accident occurred near Kottalapalli when the granite-laden lorry veered off the road, hit a tree, overturned and caught fire. The driver was trapped inside the cabin and died on the spot.

Immediately after receiving information, police and fire services rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control. Police registered a case and launched an investigation to ascertain the cause of the accident. Driver's body was shifted to a hospital for post-mortem.

Oncology OPD launched at Shri Swaraa Hospital in Anantapur



Anantapur: Shri Swaraa Hospital has launched a dedicated Oncology Out-Patient Department (OPD) in collaboration with Apollo Hospitals, Bengaluru, bringing advanced cancer care closer to patients in Anantapur and neighbouring districts. The OPD will be led by Dr (Prof) Vishwanath S, Senior Consultant and Academic Advisor, Department of Medical Oncology, Apollo Hospitals, who will visit twice a month to provide specialist

consultations, second opinions, treatment planning and follow-up care. The initiative aims to offer timely, evidence-based oncology services locally while ensuring seamless referrals to Apollo Hospitals for advanced treatment. The Apollo team will also include Dr Sireesh Kumar, Associate Consultant, Medical Oncology. The hospital is promoted by Dr V Rakesh, Dr MD Nayak and Dr M Swetha.

FDP concludes at PVKK



Anantapur: The five-day Faculty Development Program (FDP) on 'Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning: Algorithms, Applications, and Hands-on Practice', jointly organised by Department of Computer Science and Engineering at PVKK Institute of Technology and JNTUA Directorate of Faculty Development and Women Empowerment—concluded on Friday. JNTUA Registrar Prof S Krishnaiah, the chief guest, remarked, "The use of artificial intelligence in higher education is growing day by day. Faculty members need to continuously update their knowledge of modern technologies and provide students with quality, research-oriented education. Such faculty development programs are immensely beneficial in this regard." Chairman Dr Palle Krishna Kishore Reddy suggested that faculty members should embrace modern technologies like artificial intelligence to deliver quality education to stu-

dents. State & Local Government PVVK Principal Dr Bandi Ramesh Babu, HODs Dr M Mallikarjuna Rao and Dr C Manjunath, and Programme Coordinator Dr C Veena and others participated. Certificates awarded to the faculty members, who participated in the valedictory programme.

Andhra Pradesh Allows Bars at Airports, Except Tirupati

Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh government has issued guidelines for granting excise licences to set up bars and liquor shops at airports across the state, excluding Tirupati Airport. Revenue (Excise-II) principal secretary Mukesh Kumar Meena issued G.O. Ms. No. 386 on Saturday outlining the new policy. Under the guidelines, airport operators may recommend applicants for bar and liquor shop licences within airport premises. Applicants seeking a bar licence must submit an application in Form-1B along with a

Rottela Panduga Crowd Swells on Day 2

Nellore: Lakhs of devotees from Andhra Pradesh and neighbouring states thronged the historic Bara Shaheed Dargah and Swarnala Cheruvu on the second day of the annual Rottela Panduga on Saturday, as the festival gathered momentum ahead of the Gandha Mahotsavam. The centuries-old festival's signature ritual of exchanging "wish rotis" remained the main attraction at the Swarnala Cheruvu ghats. Devotees whose wishes had been fulfilled offered rotis, while others received them in the hope of similar blessings. Santana Rotis, associated with the blessing of children, were the most sought-after, followed by rotis offered for employment, housing, health and educational success.



Andhra Pradesh: Govt Speeds Up Godavari Clean-Up

KAKINADA: Public health engineer-in-chief M. Prabhakara Rao on Saturday said the government has intensified efforts to make the Godavari River pollution-free before Godavari Pushkaralu-2027. Along with engineers of the Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation, he inspected Katheru, Dowleswaram and other locations where sewage flows into the Godavari and reviewed the technical feasibility of completely preventing the discharge of untreated wastewater into the river. Also Read - Kapu Can Become CM Under JS Rule, Can YSRC Do the Same, Asks Uday Srinivas Officials informed him that construction of the 50 MLD sewage treatment plant at Hukumpeta was in its final stage. Prabhakara Rao directed officials to expedite all pending works to



ensure a clean and hygienic Godavari for devotees during the Pushkaralu. He also asked them to submit a detailed project report proposing permanent infrastructure to prevent river pollution. Superintending engineer Rita, executive engineer Madar Shah Ali, superintending engineer (public health) Ratnakar Reddy, executive engineer Seshagiri Rao and other officials were present.

Kapu Can Become CM Under JS Rule, Can YSRC Do the Same, Asks Uday Srinivas

Kakinada: Kakinada Lok Sabha member T. Uday Srinivas on Saturday said a Kapu leader could become Chief Minister if the Jana Sena (JS) came to power, and challenged the YSRC to clarify whether it would ever appoint a Kapu as Chief Minister. Responding to recent remarks by YSRC leaders on the Kapu Chief Minister issue, Uday Srinivas said the issue was an emotional one and accused the YSRC of attempting to create divisions among communities for political gain. He said the Jana Sena had given due representation to the Kapu community by allotting 48 per cent of its seats to Kapu candidates. He added that the party currently has two MPs and two MLCs from the Kapu community. In contrast, he alleged that the YSRC had allotted only 12 per cent of its seats to Kapus. He challenged Kapu leaders in the YSRC to openly demand a Kapu Chief Minister within their party. Udaya Srinivas alleged that if YSRC president and former chief minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy were asked to make

a Kapu leader Chief Minister, he would reject the demand. He claimed that if Jagan accepted such a proposal, he would change his own name. He also alleged that al-



though Jagan Mohan Reddy claimed to represent Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes and Scheduled Tribes, his government had failed to serve their interests. The MP said the coalition government was committed to the welfare and development of all communities without discrimination and urged political parties not to indulge in caste-based politics. Meanwhile, YSRC MLC Thota Trimurtulu had earlier said he would be happy if a Kapu leader became Chief Minister. He also stated that he would welcome and support Jana Sena president Pawan Kalyan if he became Chief Minister.