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Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu advocates for a revival of the traditional joint family system and shared parenting responsibilities while launching the state's three-day Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme at his official residence here. He interacted with children and their parents and enquired about their health, vaccination status and upbringing. He urged parents to ensure that children receive all government-recommended vaccinations on time to safeguard their health. Officials of the Health and Family Welfare Department informed the Chief Minister that the State aims to administer polio drops to approximately

children with values and emotional support. The Chief Minister was speaking after administering polio drops to children as part of the Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme at his official residence here. He interacted with children and their parents and enquired about their health, vaccination status and upbringing. He urged parents to ensure that children receive all government-recommended vaccinations on time to safeguard their health. Officials of the Health and Family Welfare Department informed the Chief Minister that the State aims to administer polio drops to approximately

Chandrababu Naidu calls for revival of Indian joint family system

4.92 million children below the age of five during the three-day Pulse Polio campaign beginning Sunday. the Chief Minister asked parents about the challenges of raising children, especially in households where both parents are working. Geographic Reference He stressed that childcare should not be considered the mother's responsibility solely and called upon fathers to actively participate in raising children. "Fathers and other family members must share the responsibility of bringing up children. Parenting should never be left entirely to mothers," he said. The Chief Minister observed that societal attitudes towards having children are changing and stressed that children should be viewed as a source of joy and strength rather than a burden. Reiterating the State government's commitment to encourage larger families, Chandrababu Naidu said the government is creating awareness among people on the impor-

tance of having two or more children and promoting a family-friendly social environment. Executive Branch Meanwhile, Minister of Backward Classes Welfare, S. Savitha, stated that the government is implementing the Pulse Polio programme with great commitment, aiming to create a polio-free society in the state. She launched the Pulse Polio programme in Vijayawada Central constituency by administering polio drops to children along with MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Savitha urged every parent to take responsibility for ensuring that their children under the age of five receive the polio drops. She noted that, in alignment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision and for the sake of a healthy future for the next generation, the government under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is conducting the Pulse Polio programme extensively across the state.



AP Home Minister Anitha lays stone for fish landing centres at Boyapadu and Dondavaka coasts

Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha lays the foundation for new fish landing centers in Payakaraopeta. Discover how the government is driving development for Andhra's fisherfolk Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha and R&B Minister BC Janardhan Reddy toured the Nakkapalli Mandal of the Payakaraopeta constituency. During the visit, the ministers laid the foundation stones for two proposed fish landing centers at the Boyapadu and Dondavaka coasts. Geographic Reference Local fishermen expressed their gratitude to the alliance government and Home Minister Anitha for performing the groundbreaking ceremony for these centers. Following the foundation-laying ceremony, Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha addressed a meeting in Boyapadu. She noted that the fishing community had been waiting for a jetty for several years. Anitha stated that out of the three fish landing centers sanctioned for Andhra Pradesh, two were secured for the Payakaraopeta constituency. She expressed her deep affection for the fishermen of the constituency and recalled her past experience working as a teacher in a fishing village. She emphasized that the alliance government prioritizes both development and welfare, revealing that the constituency has seen development works worth approximately ₹600 crore over a two-year period. She recounted an incident where the people of Rajayyapeta village obstructed her.

Kurnool maps over 3.52 lakh children for 3-day pulse polio drive; 1,630 booths activated

(king Reporter) Kurnool: The district administration has appealed to parents to ensure that every child below the age of five receives Pulse Polio drops during the three-day immunization campaign scheduled from June 28 to 30. Joint Collector Noorul Qamar said the success of the programme depends on public participation and stressed that universal immunization is vital to achieving a polio-free society. He flagged off a Pulse Polio awareness rally at the Collectorate on Saturday. The Joint Collector said the campaign would be conducted in three phases across the district. On June 28, polio drops will be administered at 1,630 Pulse Polio booths, while medical teams will visit households on June 29 and 30 to vaccinate children who miss the first day. He noted that the government is implementing the programme with the goal of com-



pletely eradicating polio and ensuring that no eligible child is left uncovered. According to officials, Kurnool district has 3,52,164 children below five years of age, all of whom are targeted under the campaign. The programme is being carried out through the coordinated efforts of the Health Department and other government agencies. Noorul Qamar directed officials to closely monitor the drive and ensure 100 per cent coverage throughout the district. A large awareness rally was organised from the Collectorate to the Government Medical College.

MP distributes Rs 8.77 lakh CMRF cheques to 11 beneficiaries



(king Reporter) Anantapur: Anantapur MP Ambica Lakshminarayana on Saturday distributed Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) cheques worth a total of Rs 8,77,051 to 11 beneficiaries at the MP Camp Office. Executive Branch The MP stated that the financial assistance would provide immediate security to poor and middle-

class families struggling with expensive medical treatments. Expressing thanks to Chief Minister Nara Chandra babu Naidu for championing public healthcare welfare, the MP emphasized it is an official responsibility to ensure government benefits directly reach every eligible beneficiary across the constituency without delays.

Chandrababu Naidu, Bharti Mittal discuss Andhra's digital push



(king Reporter) Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday discussed with Bharti Enterprises founder and chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal the strengthening of the state's digital infrastructure and enhancing connectivity. The Chief Minister posted on 'X' that he was delighted to meet Sunil Bharti Mittal. "We had a productive discussion on strengthening Andhra Pradesh's digital infrastructure and enhancing connectivity for our people. Our conversation focused on expanding last-mile internet and mobile tower connectivity, promoting investments in data centres and an undersea internet cable landing station, and further improving the ease of doing business for mobile service operators in our state," said the Chief Minister. The details of the talks between the Chief Minister and Sunil Bharti Mittal are not known. An official release from the state government is expected later. Airtel Nxtra, the data centre subsidiary of Bharti Airtel, is one of the partners in the Google AI Data Centre coming up in Visakhapatnam. The project, backed by an investment of around \$15 billion, will include gigawatt-scale data centre operations powered by clean energy and supported by a strong subsea network. The data centre, the foundation stone for which was laid in April, will be developed across nearly 600 acres with a total capacity of 1 Gigawatt. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, along with Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw, had laid the foundation stone for the Google Cloud India AI Hub on April 28.



Two Years Later, Is Your Credit Finally Easy?

Quid, India's leading AI-powered credit intelligence platform, marks two years of transforming financial access. With 10M+ users & ₹500 Cr+ disbursements, Quid simplifies credit discovery, debt optimization, and empowers smarter financial decisions for millions. Quid, one of India's leading AI-powered credit intelligence platforms, has completed two years of operations, marking an important milestone in its journey to make credit more accessible, transparent, and easier to navigate for consumers across the country. From simplifying credit discovery to building an AI-led credit intelligence ecosystem, Quid is evolving into a trusted financial companion for millions of Indians. In a relatively short span, Quid has grown into one of India's fastest-scaling AI-powered credit platforms, with over 10 million registered users and partnerships with 50+ financial institutions and NBFCs. Over the past year alone, the platform has facilitated more than ₹500 crore in loan disbursements, an indicator of both growing consumer trust and increasing demand for simpler, more efficient credit solutions. Quid has witnessed strong adoption across India, with growing traction among salaried professionals, first-time borrowers, and emerging credit segments. The platform is also expanding access to credit intelligence in Tier 2 and Tier 3 markets, reinforcing its belief that informed financial decisions should not be limited by geography. Commenting on the milestone, Jitesh Shah, Founder of Quid, said, "We started Quid with a simple belief that accessing credit shouldn't feel complicated or overwhelming. Over the last two years, we've used technology, AI, and bureau-led insights to simplify how people discover and manage credit. Crossing 10 million users is a strong validation of the trust people have placed in us. From here, our focus is clear: helping users find better credit options, manage their debt more effectively, improve their credit health, and ultimately make more confident financial decisions. "Technology remains at the core of Quid's platform from intelligent lender matching and eligibility prediction to automated risk assessment and personalised credit recommendations, all powered by deep bureau integrations. Quid Prime and Future Outlook Building on its core marketplace, Quid recently introduced Quid Prime, a solution focused on balance transfers and debt optimisation, aimed at helping users reduce borrowing costs. Designed around the philosophy of "Save Your EMI", Quid Prime enables consumers to reduce their EMI burden by securing better rates while offering seamless balance transfers and top-ups for greater financial flexibility. Quid is also working on new offerings designed to help consumers strengthen their credit profiles and improve financial readiness, marking a clear shift from being just a discovery platform to becoming a broader credit intelligence ecosystem. Also Read - SIR in Telangana: Safeguarding democracy with trust and transparency Advertisement Looking ahead, Quid plans to deepen its presence across the entire credit lifecycle from discovery to optimisation to credit improvement. The long-term vision is to become a trusted intelligence layer that enables smarter credit decisions for millions of Indians.

One year after Sigachi blast, victims await compensation and justice in Telangana

Sangareddy: The victims of the biggest industrial blast in Telangana, reported at Sigachi Industries Limited in Pashmylaram, which claimed the lives of 54 persons and left many workers injured, were denied justice even one year of the blast. The kin of the deceased have not received the Rs one crore compensation promised by the Congress government and the management of industry yet. Though the expert committee constituted by the government found the management responsible for the blast citing several violations, the government failed to take any stern action against them. The expert committee also found the officials, who made mandatory inspections to the industry between 2019 and 2025, responsible as they turned ignorant to the violations and issued the no objection certificates. Even one year after the blast occurred on June 30, 2025, the kin of the deceased were roaming pillar to post seeking the release of the compensation to the promises. Chief Minister A Reanth Reddy, who visited the blast site hours after the blast, had announced Rs one crore compensation to each of the deceased's kin apart from declaring compensation to the injured and free treatment to them until they fully recovered. The management had also assured to pay the salaries to the injured until they recovered and got back into work. Furthermore, the management,



which wrote to the national stock exchange immediately after the blast, assured to pay Rs one crore compensation to the deceased apart from taking all the welfare measures to the injured. However, the management had completely failed in keeping the promises it had made. Responding to a question raised in the state assembly by an MLA, the State government said that the Sigachi management had paid Rs 45.40 lakhs compensation on average to 54 deceased employees. However, the payment included the provident fund benefits, which the workers were eligible to take post retirement, and insurance benefits which the workers were eligible for even other accidental deaths. But, the kin of the deceased workers said that their family members died only due to the negligence of the management for which the Sigachi had to pay Rs one crore. The management has also failed to

extend support to the injured who were undergoing treatment still now. Post blast more than 170 workers were rendered unemployed as Sigachi put no efforts to resume its operation in the last 12 months. Out of nearly 300 employees working, including the contract workers and administrative staff, 54 employees died in the blast while 28 people were injured. While few of them were inducted into Sigachi Gujarat unit and Sulthanpur unit in Sangareddy, the rest 170 were rendered unemployed. They were denied employment without paying mandatory severance benefits in violation of the labour act. BRS Party, Telangana People's Joint Action Committee (TPJA C), and Trade unions have been constantly fighting on the issue. They were preparing to organise protests and debates on June 30, to force the Sigachi management and Congress government to do justice.

Kerala to get one of India's first university townships

Rajeev Chandrasekhar

Thiruvananthapuram: BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Sunday said Thiruvananthapuram would be home to one of India's first university townships and thanked PM Narendra Modi and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for backing the initiative. In a social media post, the Nemo MLA said, "Our Thiruvananthapuram gets one of India's first university townships." He said he had been working since 2024 to transform Thiruvananthapuram into a world-class hub for technology, innovation and research. "Today, that vision has taken a major step towards reality," Chandrasekhar said. He said the proposed university township, along with the Thiruvananthapuram Research and



Innovation Cluster, would create an innovation ecosystem capable of transforming the lives of young Malayalis. "TRIC creates innovation. The University Township creates the ecosystem to scale it. Together, they will connect our universities, research institutions, startups, industries and the Vizhinjam Port into one integrated innovation ecosystem," he said. He said the initiative would generate more high-paying jobs in technology, biotechnology, artificial intelligence, deep technology and research. It would also help startups in Thiruvananthapuram grow into global companies and create greater opportunities for young Malayalis to build their future in Kerala instead of leaving the state, he added.

Two killed, six critically injured after tyre burst sends car airborne on Hyderabad-Vijayawada highway



Nalgonda: Two persons died and at least six others were injured critically, when a car flew into air after a tyre burst and fell on two other cars coming in the opposite direction near Gundrampally village on Hyderabad - Vijayawada National Highway on Sunday afternoon. The freak accident led to a massive traffic jam on the National Highway and police had to struggle for over an hour to extricate the injured persons from the wrecked mangle of metal. The two deceased persons were identified as Kasireddy Devendar Reddy and Saritha. Both were reported to be residents of Akkanapally village in Narketpally mandal. Reports said the first car suffered a tyre burst and hit the road divider. It then flew into air and fell on two other cars coming in the opposite direction. The other injured persons were rushed to a government hospital in Choutuppal.

Himayat Sagar floodgates lifted, alerted low-lying areas of Musi River

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) on Sunday evening lifted the Himayat Sagar floodgates and released 1,000 cusecs of surplus water after inflows rose from upstream areas due to heavy rainfall. It was the first time this monsoon that the floodgates of Himayat Sagar were lifted. The water board is supplying water from the reservoirs Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar to meet the city's demand. "Due to rainfall in the catchment area, inflows into the Himayat Sagar Reservoir have been rising, prompting the opening of floodgates. Releasing the surplus water is mainly to regulate the reservoir's water level," the HMWSSB said. The inflows into the reservoir are being monitored continuously, and the volume of water released would be adjusted as needed, according to a press release.





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Tiger sighted on Telangana-Andhra border; forest staff alert villagers



Kothagudem/Warangal: Movements of a tiger have been reported along the Telangana-Andhra Pradesh borders in Aswaraopet mandal of Bhadradri Kothagudem district. The forest department staff spotted the tiger movements in the forest area at Sri Gubbala Mangamma Thalli Temple, Gogulapudi and Kavadigundla on Saturday night. The forest staff visited the villages on Sunday and alerted the locals not to venture into forests and not to let their cattle graze there. It might be noted that the tiger was spotted in the area in February this year and attacked cattle. The forest staff fixed a radio-collar on the tiger and diverted it to Papikondalu reserve forest area. It later entered Buttaigudem in AP and attacked cattle. Meanwhile, in Warangal the movements of a leopard were captured by CCTV cameras at a eucalyptus plantation at Kothur and other villages in Khanapur mandal. Kothaguda forest officer Vamshikrishna advised the locals to remain alert and asked them to immediately inform the forest department if they spot the leopard or find any traces of it.

ROHIT SHARMA CONFERRED PADMA SHRI; HAILED AS 'INSTITUTION' OF INDIAN CRICKET

Rohit Sharma, the 'Hitman' of Indian cricket, received the Padma Shri at Rashtrapati Bhavan as the entire hall gave him a standing ovation. The award recognizes his years of service to Indian cricket and his impact on millions of young players. Sandwiched No More "For years, Sharma's talent was overshadowed by M.S. Dhoni's calm leadership and Virat Kohli's aggressive batting. While fans celebrated the 'Captain Cool' and the 'Chase Master', Rohit quietly built his legacy, timing the ball like poetry. His sixes into the stands were not luck but the result of hard work, patience and belief. Retirement from Two Formats "Sharma announced his retirement from Test cricket on social media on May 7, 2025. He had earlier stepped away from T20I cricket after the 2024 T20 World Cup. He will continue to represent India in the ODI format. The 2023 Heartbreak and 2025 Redemption "The memory of the 2023 ODI World Cup final loss to Australia in Ahmedabad haunted the team. The nation went silent at 9 pm that night. Sharma carried that pain but made an incredible comeback. On March 3, 2025, he played a masterly innings against Australia, silencing critics and proving his worth in big moments. Records and Leadership "Sharma remains the only cricketer to score three double centuries in ODIs. He is India's



most successful captain by win percentage. Experts describe his batting in two phases: before and after a century. His scoring rate at the death sets him apart. Fast reflexes, shot selection and self-control define his game. Beyond the Numbers "The Padma Shri is not just for his runs, Dr. Moorthy writes, but for making millions of kids pick up a bat and believe that elegance can win. There were great cricketers before him and there will be many after, but there will be no other 'Hitman' in jersey number 45.

BRS to hold protest on June 30 over Sigachi blast victims' compensation

Sangareddy: Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) stood by the victims of Sigachi blast by constantly raising the Sigachi management failure in releasing the compensation and demanding action against the official and management responsible for the blast. Former Minister T Harish Rao had visited the blast just hours after the blast and stood by the victims. He had demanded the government and management to declare compensation, and extend all support to the injured. The BRS Party leaders led by V Adharsh Reddy, and G Srikanth Goud took out a candle light rally one month after the blast on July 30, seeking justice for the victims. Adharsh, Srikanth and other BRS leaders stayed in constant touch with victims' kin. They guided them in every office they walked in during the last one year. Harish Rao visited Sangareddy collectorate along with kin of the victims in July, 2025, seeking the immediate release of the promised compensation and demanding action against the industry. Rao also made multiple statements on the issue throughout the year asking the government to fasttrack the re-



lease of compensation. The BRS legislators also raised the issue in the State assembly multiple times exposing Sigachi and government failure. Harish Rao and other BRS leaders will hold a massive protest on June 30 in Pashamylaram industrial area, to expose the government failure in providing compensation and justice to the victims.

Modi Govt Cabinet Reshuffle Buzz Gains Momentum

New Delhi: A reshuffle in the council of ministers of the Modi government seems imminent, with indications from the top echelons of the ruling dispensation that the exercise may be carried out anytime from now -- possibly before the Monsoon session of Parliament begins. Sources aware of the deliberations said the reshuffle in the Union Council of Ministers will be carried out in tandem with the announcement of a new BJP team under its president Nitin Nabin. "Team Nitin Nabin" is likely to be announced soon, as the BJP top brass is believed to have finalised the list, with younger faces expected to be deployed in prominent organisational roles. The sources indicate that the BJP president also held consultations with a few Union ministers of state last week. There are strong possibilities of some Union ministers being sent to take organisational roles in the BJP and party office-bearers being inducted into the Modi ministry. Speculation is also rife about portfolio changes for some ministers, while the future of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan is under a cloud, given a spate of controversies relating to matters under his ministry, especially the NEET paper leak and irregularities in the CBSE digital marking system. The sources suggested that the reshuffle, if it happens, may take place sometime in July, ahead of the Monsoon Session of Parliament which normally begins in the third week of the month. The date for the ministerial shake-up is expected to be fixed taking into account the prime minister's packed schedule. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on a three-day tour to Seychelles from June 27 to 29, and he is also likely to travel to Indonesia, Australia, and New Zealand between July 6 and 11. Japanese



Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi is also scheduled to visit New Delhi from July 1 to 3. The sources indicate a growing view among the government's top brass that key ministries need fresh blood. Additionally, there are political compulsions to balance the cabinet based on regional, state, caste and loyalty factors. Two Union ministers -- Pankaj Chaudhary and Harsh Malhotra -- have already been given the responsibility to head the party units of Uttar Pradesh and Delhi, respectively. It is highly likely that the BJP will follow its 'one man, one post' rule, which would lead to their exit from the government. Two other Union ministers -- George Kurian and Ravneet Singh Bittu -- were not renominated by the BJP for the recently concluded Rajya Sabha elections.

Their tenures in the Upper House concluded on June 21. While Kurian has already resigned from his post, Bittu continues to be a minister. It is learnt that he has been asked by the top brass to focus on the upcoming Punjab elections. Bittu, a former Congress leader and grandson of former Punjab chief minister Beant Singh, is a prominent face of the influential Jat Sikh community. More representatives from Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Punjab are likely to find a place in the Modi ministry, as Assem-

bly elections are due in these three states next year. Following the BJP's landslide victory in West Bengal, some of its MPs from the state could be inducted into the Union Ministry. There is a possibility that a few representatives of the rebel Trinamool Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT) groups will secure ministerial berths. While the 20 rebel TMC MPs announced their merger with the West Bengal-based Nationalist Citizens Party of India and declared their allegiance to the ruling NDA, the six dissident Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs have joined the Shiv Sena led by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. It is also suggested that a senior functionary of the Shinde-led Shiv Sena may be inducted as a Cabinet minister. One or two faces among the seven Rajya Sabha MPs who deserted the Aam Aadmi Party to join the BJP could find a place in the council of ministers, the sources said. However, any decision to induct members from the breakaway TMC and Shiv Sena (UBT) factions will depend on the Lok Sabha Speaker's ruling, given that their respective parent parties have sought their disqualification under the Anti-Defection Law. The reshuffle buzz intensified after Prime Minister Modi met President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on June 23, on the sidelines of a Padma Awards function.



10.91 kg hydroponic marijuana worth Rs 11 cr seized at Ahmedabad airport, flyer held

Customs officers at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport (SVPIA) here have seized 10.91 kg of hydroponic marijuana valued at around Rs 11 crore from a passenger arriving from Bangkok, officials said on Sunday. The seizure was made by officers of the Air Intelligence Unit (AIU) of Ahmedabad Customs on Sunday after the passenger, who hails from Mangrol town of Junagadh district, arrived on Thai Airways flight TG-343 from Bangkok. During examination of the checked-in baggage, a customs sniffer dog gave a positive indication of the presence of narcotic drugs. Based on the baggage tag, officers identified and intercepted the male passenger. A detailed search of the passenger's checked-in trolley bag led to the recovery of five silver-coloured polythene packets containing green-coloured plant material concealed inside the baggage. Also Read - The substance tested positive for hydroponic marijuana (ganja) using a field testing kit. "The total net weight of the seized contraband was 10,911 grams. The seized hydroponic marijuana is estimated to be worth approximately Rs 11 crore in the international market," a customs official told IANS. The contraband has been seized under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, and the passenger has been arrested. Further investigation is underway to establish the source, intended recipients, and any links to wider trafficking networks. The latest interception adds to a string of hydroponic marijuana seizures involving passengers arriving from Bangkok at Ahmedabad airport. Last month, Customs arrested a passenger after seizing more than 20 kg of marijuana concealed in checked baggage on another Bangkok flight. In another case, Ahmedabad Customs also recovered around 6.5 kg of hydroponic marijuana from a Bangkok passenger travelling on the same Thai Airways route, while another operation led to the seizure of about four kg of the drug from baggage linked to a separate traveller. South Asians & Diaspora The trend is not confined to Ahmedabad. Last week, Mumbai Customs arrested two passengers arriving from Bangkok after recovering more than 19 kg of hydroponic weed from their baggage, highlighting continued attempts to smuggle high-potency cannabis into India through international airports.

Anant Ambani tonsures head in Tirumala, has darshan of Lord Venkateswara



Hyderabad: In a display of his devotion to Lord Venkateswara Swamy, Executive Director of Reliance Industries, Anant Ambani, offered his hair at Tirumala temple on Sunday. According to information reaching here, Anant Ambani offered his hair in Tirumala and had a darshan of the presiding deity in Tirumala.

Why FM Radio is struggling in India despite millions of listeners

New Delhi: Ever wondered why FM radio stations in India don't broadcast news? Or why does your smartphone not have an FM tuner app like in other countries? The answer is simple: government restrictions. FM radio industry says these and other regulations are stifling their business, and the whole FM radio culture will wither on the vine if the government does not help soon. The warning signs are already visible. Last month, HT Media announced it would surrender multiple FM radio licences in key markets, leading to five of its stations going off air on June 15. The industry has urged the government to urgently carry out key reforms before more media companies close their FM shops, which are already facing challenges from digital audio platforms such as podcasts and streaming. "The global shift towards on-demand audio is undeniable and well documented," Nisha Narayanan, director and COO of Red FM, told PTI. But the real question, she added, is whether the FM industry is being given a fair regulatory environment to "compete, innovate and monetise effectively" while making the transition. For now, the industry's four key demands are: allow private FM stations to broadcast news and current affairs, a privilege now given only to All India Radio; reduce GST on radio services from 18 per cent to 5 per cent; allow smartphone manufacturers to unlock FM receivers in devices; and implement a model under which radio companies would pay the government a fixed percentage of their actual earnings as licence fee, instead of paying charges linked to old auction prices. For millions of Indians, FM radio has been a daily companion. During office commutes, in homes, in cars and in small towns where it remains one of the easiest ways to access entertainment and information.

Unlike internet-based audio platforms, radio works without a data connection and can reach listeners even during power cuts or network disruptions. The government's view, however, is that FM radio's challenges cannot be looked at only through the lens of regulation. Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw told PTI that the sector is facing a broader technological transformation, similar to shifts seen in other industries. "It's a major technological change which is happening and we are all aware of how whether it is news industry whether it is entertainment the entire shift towards digital has happened consistently over the last few years and this is a very big challenge for the FM industry," he said.

According to Vaishnaw, such technological transitions inevitably reshape industries, drawing parallels with the decline of landlines after the spread of mobile phones and the shift from conventional vehicles to electric vehicles. "Every such technological change brings changes in the industry structure," he said. On the industry's demand to allow private FM stations to broadcast news, the minister said the government was examining the issue. "This is a demand from FM stations, FM service providers which have come to us. We are deliberating on it. It has multiple consequences because we have had a history which needs to be seen today and whatever we decide today has to be seen in the perspective that this industry has developed. Very soon we will be taking some decisions on it," he said. The industry argues that the problem goes beyond the rise of new-age platforms. According to the Association of Radio Operators for India (AROI), radio is now the only segment of India's



media and entertainment industry that is shrinking. While India's overall media and entertainment sector grew 9 per cent to Rs 2.78 lakh crore in 2025, radio revenues declined 7 per cent to around Rs 2,300 crore, AROI estimates. The industry's share of advertising spending has also fallen sharply over the past decade. Industry estimates say radio's share of the advertising market has declined from more than 3.4 per cent in 2015 to about 1.1 per cent in 2025. Private FM industry revenues in 2025 stood at around Rs 1,819 crore, still below 2020 levels despite a significant increase in the number of operational stations. Radio's difficulties cannot be viewed in isolation from the economic disruption caused by the pandemic and the uneven recovery that followed, Narayanan said. "What the industry did not fully anticipate was the compound effect of several severe headwinds converging at once," she added. Industry revenues, she said, fell nearly 50 per cent from pre-Covid levels and have yet to fully recover. At Red FM, government advertising volumes have declined by more than 30 per cent and revenues from that segment have fallen 27 per cent compared with pre-pandemic levels.

Radio City CEO Abe Thomas said both industry decisions and policy shortcomings contributed to the current situation. "The industry expanded aggressively, betting on a local advertising boom that grew slower than expected and the slow post-Covid recovery is when it really began to hurt," he said. "Simultaneously, policy bottlenecks — news restrictions, fragmented implementation, delayed reforms — constrained monetisation far more than comparable markets globally. Neither factor alone explains the current situation. It's the combination that has been damaging," he noted. One of the industry's biggest frustrations remains the prohibition on independent news broadcasts by private FM stations. "The news ban has been one of FM's most costly missed opportunities. News drives habitual listening, deepens community engagement and unlocks new revenue categories," Thomas said. Industry representatives point out that countries such as the United States, United Kingdom, Australia and the Philippines have successfully integrated news, talk programming, sports and local content into radio formats, helping maintain relevance even in the streaming era. What could distinguish FM radio from music streaming services, they argue, is hyperlocal news, civic information, community discussions and city-specific content. However, the draft Telecommunications (Television, Radio and Associated Services) Rules, 2026 — made public for feedback on June 12 — continues the existing restriction on broadcasting news. Broadcasters say that the current licensing structure is also among the biggest challenges facing the sector. "The

FM radio industry has been plagued with skewed regulations," an industry representative said, noting that license extension fees linked to historical auction prices impose a disproportionate burden on operators. Broadcasters are seeking automatic licence extensions for existing operators rather than fresh auctions. "The current batch of FM licences comes up for renewal in 2030 and that is not far away. With no clarity whatsoever on the renewal framework, pricing or TRAI recommendations, it's extremely tough for operators to make long-term investments in people, technology or content without knowing the way forward," Narayanan said.

Another longstanding demand concerns the activation of FM radio receivers on smartphones. Broadcasters say FM chips continue to exist in many devices but are often disabled, forcing listeners to consume radio through internet-based streaming instead of free over-the-air broadcasts. "Activating them requires a software unlock, not a new component. This is not market intervention, it is a simple policy nudge," Narayanan said. Radio, in her view, remains a critical public service medium, particularly in a country where internet access remains uneven. "There are over 40 crore daily listeners across AIR, private FM and community radio in India. Radio provides last-mile access that no streaming platform can match. It works without internet, without subscriptions and on battery-powered devices during power cuts and emergencies," she said. South Asians & Diaspora Thomas agreed that FM radio continues to provide unique public value, particularly during crises. "FM remains the most resilient medium during disasters and network outages — in a country as large and diverse as India, that carries genuine public-interest value," he said. The debate over the future of radio has increasingly centred on competition from streaming services, podcasts and other digital audio platforms such as Spotify. "The shift to on-demand audio is real and irreversible. But FM still offers hyperlocal relevance, immediacy, mass reach and trust, especially during commutes, emergencies and regional moments," Thomas said. Radio operators also complain of a broader cost disadvantage compared with digital platforms. According to industry estimates, nearly 40 per cent of gross revenue is consumed by GST, licence fees, and spectrum-related charges. Broadcasters say the sector paid nearly Rs 999 crore to the government in FY26, while the 18 per cent GST rate places radio at a disadvantage compared with other media segments taxed at 5 per cent. Even so, industry leaders remain divided between concern and optimism about the future. "The term 'radio company' itself is becoming obsolete. Consumers don't distinguish between FM, podcasts, streaming or social audio; they simply consume content," Thomas said.



Shah Rukh Khan Khan recalls hilarious moment when fan mistook him for Akshay Kumar

Mumbai: Shah Rukh Khan is one of the most well-known Indian celebrities across the globe. But did you know that he was also once mistaken for another Bollywood actor. During his appearance on filmmaker Sajid Khan's talk show "Yaaron Ki Baraat", King Khan shared a hilarious and awkward encounter with a fan. SRK shared that during the shoot of his movie "Pardes" he was returning from New York and was in a lot of hurry to reach home as unfortunately his wife, Gauri Khan, had suffered a miscarriage. "I was running in a hurry, and amidst all this, the handle of my bag also broke. I was absolutely confused.

Shah Rukh recalled that a lady was running after him at the terminal. "Please one photograph, one autograph".

While SRK got upset as he was in a hurry, once he had checked in, he finally called the lady.

"I am a big fan of yours", she screamed. "Its okay mam", SRK replied.



Mirzapur The Movie is a national-level experiment for Indian cinema, says Ali Fazal

New Delhi: Ali Fazal still remembers how he felt scared to step into the world of "Mirzapur", the hinterland crime drama series which became a cult of its own and is now all set to explode on the big screen in a movie version. The actor, who reprises his role of Guddu Pandit, the bodybuilder-turned-gangster in "Mirzapur: The Movie", is excited for the buzz surrounding the show's cinematic extension. The movie will explore an untold chapter from the first season and also bring back many key characters. "It's the first time in India that a show is being transformed into a film. It's a national level experiment that we are doing. The story and the characters are all good. We are excited to share every (promotional) asset," Ali told PTI in an interview. Launched in 2018, "Mirzapur" emerged as one of India's most popular streaming shows with its gritty portrayal of crime, politics and power struggles in Uttar Pradesh.

Sunita Ahuja reveals Govinda had many affairs: Pyaar mein toh har cheez bardasht karna chahiye

Mumbai: The wife of Bollywood actor Govinda, Sunita Ahuja is one of the contestants on the reality show 'Lock Upp: Sach Ya Saza'. Making a powerful entrance, Sunita opened up about her marriage with Govinda. She revealed that Govinda had several affairs during their marriage. As part of the premiere episode, host Farah Khan read out a few headlines featuring Sunita. One of them was, "I want a son like Govinda, not a husband". As Farah asked Sunita to elaborate, she was heard saying, "Pyaar mein toh aapko har cheez bardasht karna chahiye. Chi Chi ne life mein itne affairs kiye, chalo hero heroine mein toh hote hi hain. Toh mujhe lagta hai itne saal jo maine Chi Chi ke saath nibhaya hai, I think uske jaisa beta hona chahiye (In love, you should be able to



tolerate everything. Govinda had many affairs in his life; well, heroes and heroines do such things. I think since I stood by him for so many years, I deserve to have a son like him." co-host Riteish Deshmukh read out another headline, saying "Jab tak pati patni saath ho tab tak ankhion se goli maare. Par jab koi third party aa jaye to ghutnon par goli maare."

Taking a hilarious jibe, Sunita said, "Sun rahe ho Chi Chi toh sun lena bhaiya, kyunki ghutno pe goli tabhi lagti hai jab koi life mein aa jaati hai. Voh bhi maine jhooth nahi bola. Main toh Bombay mein thi nahi, kitne logon ne bola ki maine hi maar diya. Main toh Khatu Shyam mein thi. (If you're listening, then listen carefully. A bullet only hits you in the knee when someone comes into your life. I wasn't lying about that either. I wasn't even in Mumbai — so many people said I was the one who shot him. I was at Khatu Shyam." Govinda and Sunita Ahuja got married in 1987 but kept their marriage private for almost two years. They made their marriage public only after the birth of their daughter, Tina Ahuja. The couple also has a son named Yashvardhan Ahuja.

Sanju Rathod recreates 'Gulabi Saree' magic for Dhamaal 4

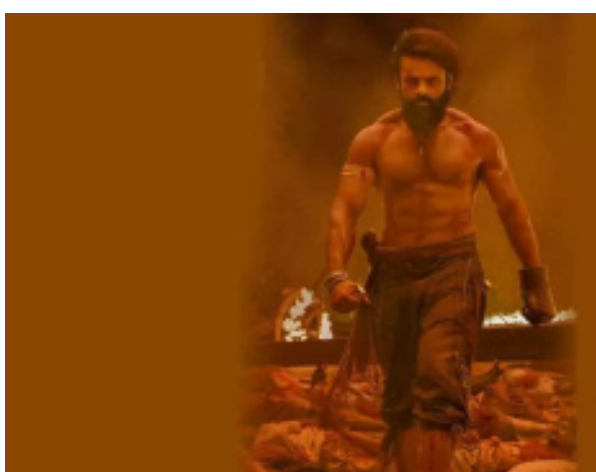
Mumbai: The makers of Dhamaal 4 have unveiled their latest track, Saree, adding another energetic number to the film's music album after the release of Qeher and Chatni. The song offers audiences a glimpse into the charming love story between Riteish Deshmukh and Anjali Anand, blending romance, fun and vibrant visuals. Saree is sung by Sanju Rathod, who rose to fame with the chart-topping hit Gulabi Saree. The track features lively lyrics penned by Kumaar and Sanju Rathod, while the music has been composed by Tanishk Bagchi and Rathod. Expressing his excitement about being part of the project, Sanju Rathod said he was thrilled when the makers approached him to sing for the popular comedy franchise. He described his association with Dhamaal 4 as a special milestone and thanked audiences for the immense support they have shown his music over the years. Rathod also expressed hope that Saree would strike a chord with listeners and enjoy the same level of popularity as his previous hit songs. He added that the overwhelming love from fans continues to motivate him as an artist. The song was launched at a grand promotional event where around 800 women dressed in pink sarees participated in the celebrations. Riteish Deshmukh and Anjali Anand joined the festivities, dancing to the track alongside fans and members of the media, creating a colourful spectacle that reflected the song's vibrant theme. Dhamaal 4 is presented by Gulshan Kumar and T-Series in association with Devgn Films. The film is a T-Series Films, Maruti International and Panorama Studios production. Directed by Indra Kumar, the comedy entertainer has been produced by Ajay Devgn, Bhushan Kumar, Krishan Kumar, Ashok Thakeria,



Indra Kumar, Anand Pandit and Kumar Mangat Pathak. The film is scheduled to hit theatres worldwide on July 10, 2026. The Dhamaal franchise remains one of Bollywood's most successful comedy series. Beginning with Dhamaal in 2007, followed by Double Dhamaal in 2011 and Total Dhamaal in 2019, the franchise has entertained audiences with its trademark slapstick humour and ensemble cast. Over the years, the series has featured stars including Sanjay Dutt, Riteish Deshmukh, Arshad Warsi, Jaaved Jaaferi, Aashish Chaudhary, Ajay Devgn, Anil Kapoor, Madhuri Dixit and Sanjay Mishra.

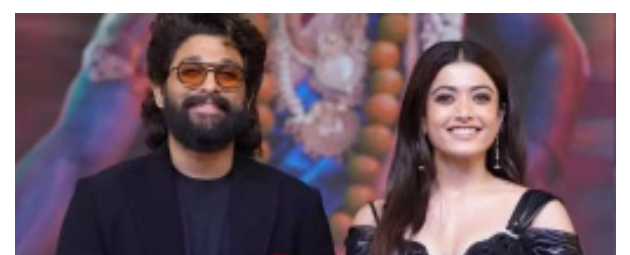
'SYG' in final stage of filming; makers planning December release

Sai Durgha Tej's ambitious pan-India project 'Sambarala Yeti Gattu' enters its final shooting schedule in Hyderabad. Directed by Rohith KP and produced by the makers of 'HanuMan', the film is set for a grand theatrical release in December 2026. Geographic Reference The makers of Sambarala Yeti Gattu, starring Supreme Hero Sai Durgha Tej, have commenced the film's final shooting schedule in Hyderabad, taking the ambitious pan-India project a step closer to its theatrical release in December 2026. Directed by debutant Rohith KP, the film is being produced by K. Niranjan Reddy and Chaitanya Reddy under the Primeshow Entertainment banner. Known for backing the pan-India blockbuster HanuMan, the production house is reportedly mounting the film on a grand scale with no compromises on production values. A massive specially designed set has been erected for the ongoing schedule, where the team will shoot several key sequences featuring



large-scale action, emotional moments and visually striking episodes involving the lead cast. Sai Durgha Tej is said to be portraying one of the most intense and challenging roles of his career. The actor has undergone a notable transformation for the film, which promises to present him in a powerful new avatar. Director Rohith KP is blending action, emotion and grand visuals to create an immersive cinematic experience for audiences across languages. The post-production work is expected to begin immediately after the completion of the current schedule. The film features Aishwarya Lekshmi as the female lead, while Jagapathi Babu, Sai Kumar, Srikanth and Ananya Nagalla play pivotal roles. The makers have also roped in a leading Bollywood actor for a crucial character, although details remain under wraps. Music for the film is being composed by Ajaneesh Loknath.

Villain vibes for Rashmika in 'Raaka?'



Excitement builds for Atlee's 'Raaka' as Rashmika Mandanna reportedly joins the cast in a surprising negative-shaded role. Discover the latest updates on this ambitious pan-India project starring Allu Arjun and Deepika Padukone. Looks like director Atlee has a few surprises hidden up his sleeve for his ambitious pan-India entertainer Raaka. While fans were already excited about Allu Arjun teaming up with the filmmaker, the latest buzz from the sets has made things even more interesting. The grapevine suggests that Rashmika Mandanna has quietly joined the film's ongoing Mumbai schedule, but that's not the part everyone is talking about. Industry circles are abuzz with speculation that the actress could be stepping into a negative-shaded role, something she has rarely explored in her career so far. After winning hearts with charming, glamorous and emotional performances over the years, seeing Rashmika on the other side of the fence could be quite the shocker.

Steve Clarke steps down as Scotland coach after World Cup exit despite recent contract extension



Charlotte (US): Scotland coach Steve Clarke is stepping down after the team was eliminated from the World Cup even though he signed a new four-year contract only a month before. Clarke announced he was leaving in an emotional letter to Scotland's "Tartan Army" supporters shortly after Croatia's 2-1 win over Ghana on Saturday ensured Scotland could no longer qualify for the round of 32. His seven years in charge saw Scotland reach its first World Cup since 1998 and qualify twice for the European Championship, having not done so since 1996. Scotland's players "deserve all the praise and adulation that they receive and it was truly an honor to be called their Gaffer (boss)," Clarke wrote. "Thanks for having me and good luck to my successor." Scotland played its last game Thurs-

day in a 3-0 loss to Brazil but had to wait for days to see if it would end up as one of the third-place teams with the best records, and get a spot in the knockout stage. Its opening 1-0 win over Haiti was Scotland's first victory at any men's World Cup since 1990, but that narrow margin of victory ended up hurting Clarke's team after its subsequent losses to Morocco and Brazil. Goal difference was the tiebreaker among the third-place teams with three points and Scotland's minus-3 goal differential left it well adrift of Senegal, whose +2 goal differential saw it clinch the final spot among the eight qualified teams. The contract Clarke signed at the end of May had seemed set to take him through to the 2030 World Cup, and his letter didn't explain why he'd seemingly changed his mind.

Women's T20 WC: Nigar Sultana rues Bangladesh's missed chances after SA loss and tournament exit



Bangladesh captain Nigar Sultana admitted her side fell just short in a must-win Women's T20 World Cup fixture against South Africa on Sunday, saying an underwhelming middle phase with the bat ultimately proved decisive in ending their semi-final hopes. Despite a spirited bowling display that stretched the contest to the penultimate over, Bangladesh were unable to defend 117, bowling out of the tournament after a four-wicket defeat. Looking back at her team's batting effort, Sultana pointed to the early setbacks and the inability to accelerate through the middle overs as the defining moments of the innings, even though Bangladesh recovered well towards the finish. "I guess we lost wickets early in the power play, but the bowlers played really well there. They were hanging there and trying to build a partnership. And I think we couldn't get runs in the middle part of the game. We finished it really well in the last few overs of the first innings. But end of the time, I think we are short of 10 to 15 runs, and it actually cost us the campaign as a whole," Nigar said post match. Also

Read - Being world No. 1 is not my priority at the moment: Shree Charani Advertisement Although Bangladesh finished on the losing side, their bowlers refused to let South Africa cruise to victory. Regular breakthroughs, disciplined spells and committed fielding kept the pressure firmly on the Proteas until the final over, something that left the skipper immensely satisfied despite the outcome. "I think I should thank all my bowlers and fielders because how they fought till the last ball, and they were keep fighting for the last run. So it really made me feel very proud about the team," she noted. The defeat brought Bangladesh's World Cup journey to an end, but Sultana chose to focus on the progress her side had made during the campaign. While acknowledging that the team had travelled to the tournament with higher ambitions, she highlighted the significance of securing two victories and praised the collective commitment shown throughout the competition. "And we came here to win games definitely. And we win two games here, but we wanted more.

FIFA WC 2026: Congo DR beats Uzbekistan 3-1 to reach knockout stage for first time



FIFA WC: DR Congo secure historic first-ever World Cup win in 52 years to reach knockouts Atlanta: Congo DR have won their first World Cup match 52 years after their first and only appearance at the global showpiece and reached the knockout stages for the first time ever. Riding on a brace from Yoane Wissa and a goal from Fiston Mayele Congo completed a sensational comeback from a goal down and delivered a 3-1 win over eliminated Uzbekistan, who are heading home after finishing bottom of FIFA World Cup 2026 Group K. Congo, competing at the World Cup for the first time since 1974, when the nation, then known as Zaire, became the first sub-Saharan African country ever to qualify for the tournament, followed Colombia and Portugal, who played out a goalless draw in Miami, into the knockout phase.

After back-to-back defeats, debutants Uzbekistan were clearly intent on claiming a positive result in their third World Cup outing, and they took an incredible lead after just 20 seconds at Atlanta Stadium. That lightning effort from Eldor Shomurodov was ruled out for offside, but the forward did break the

deadlock shortly afterwards, getting the celebrations for his upcoming 31st birthday started a couple of days early as he looped home a delicious finish from a tight angle in the 10th minute, reports Xinhua. Seven minutes later it was Congo DR's turn to have an effort disallowed, with Nathanael Mbuku's precise strike chalked off for a foul in the build-up. Shomurodov almost doubled Uzbekistan's advantage with another delicate attempt in the 51st minute, but this time the ball dropped onto the roof of the net. Congo DR started to apply more pressure as the game wore on, and Wissa drew them level from the penalty spot in the 68th minute. Ten minutes later a pair of substitutes combined to put Congo DR ahead, as Meschack Elia's shot was deflected into the path of Fiston Mayele, who applied just enough of a connection to dink the loose ball over Abduvohid Nematov and into the net. Wissa added his second in injury time with an excellent finish from the edge of the box to ensure Congo DR's progress as one of the best third-place finishers. England will be their Round of 32 opponents in Atlanta on 1 July.

Prince Yadav picks 3-22 on debut as India restrict Ireland to 154/8



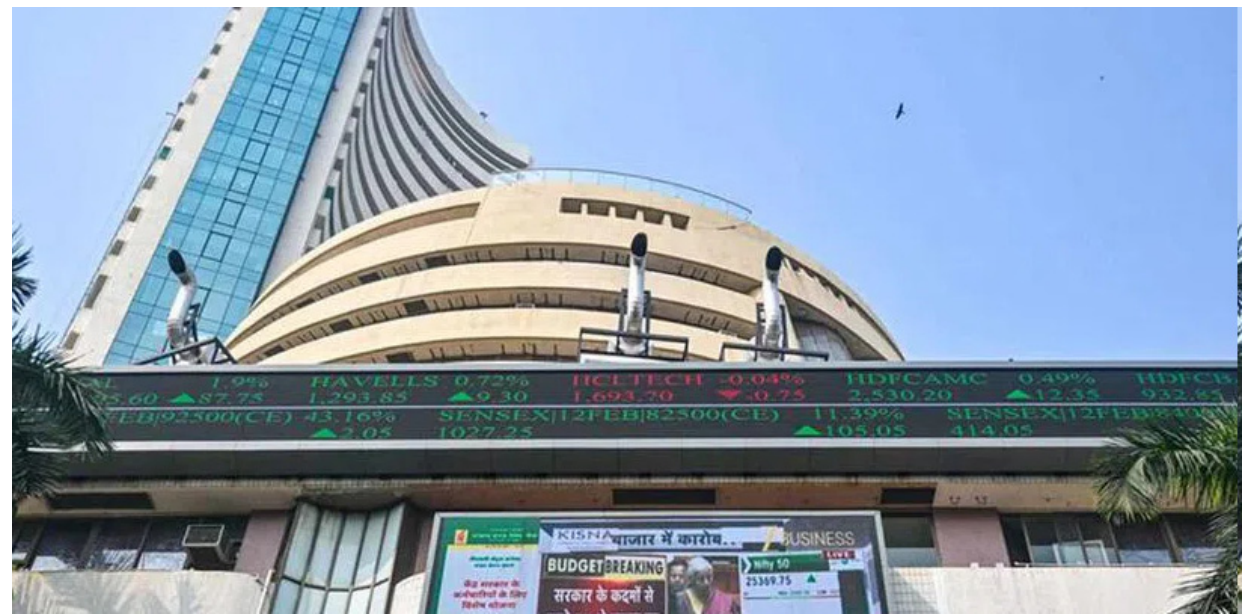
Debutant pacer Prince Yadav returned with figures of 3-22 as India produced a disciplined bowling effort to restrict Ireland to 154/8 in the second T20I at the Civil Service Cricket Club in Stormont on Sunday. At one point, Ireland were primed to get 180, especially with Harry Tector (53) and Ben Calitz (37) sharing a 65-run stand. But losing wickets in a hurry at the end meant Ireland could just pass 150-mark. For India, Prince was impressive on debut - hitting hard-lengths and mixing yorkers and slower balls to outsmart Irish batters in the fag end. Arshdeep Singh, Shivam Dube and Harshit Rana were amongst the wickets too, while Axar Patel and second debutant Suryansh Shedge were wicketless. Put in to batting first, Ireland were off to a flying start with Ross Adair smashing successive sixes off Arshdeep in the opening over. But Rana struck in the second over to remove Tim Tector, before

Arshdeep dismissed Adair for 16 to peg the hosts back Ireland were further dented when Lorcan Tucker was caught behind off Prince, as they reached 58/3 at the halfway stage. But Tector, playing his 100th T20I game, held the innings together and found support from Calitz, as they easily got boundaries off Shedge and Axar. Their partnership threatened to take Ireland close to 180 before Dube turned the tide by removing Calitz and Gareth Delany on successive balls in the 15th over. After a four-minute rain delay, George Dockrell's cameo of 19 and Tector's fighting half-century kept Ireland afloat. But Prince's clever variations saw him dismiss Tector and Liam McCarthy in the final over, thus capping a memorable outing for him in T20I jersey, as India now look to chase down 155 and level the two-match series after suffering a 34-run defeat in the opener - their first-ever loss to Ireland in international cricket.

Indian stock market ends holiday-shortened week higher as Nifty holds above 24,000

Mumbai: The Indian stock market ended the holiday-shortened week on a positive note, with benchmark indices extending gains for a third session out of four and the Nifty holding firmly above the key 24,000 mark. Analysts said the near-term technical outlook remains constructive, although fresh buying will be needed for the next leg of the rally. Market experts said that the Sensex continues to trade with a constructive bias after recovering from recent lows. "The 77,500-77,700 zone remains the immediate hurdle for the index, and a sustained move above this range could strengthen bullish momentum and open the door for a rally towards 78,000-79,000," an analyst said. "On the downside, immediate support in the

77,000-76,900 region. Maintaining levels above this zone will be critical to preserving the ongoing recovery trend," the analyst stated. For the Nifty, market experts said the index started the week on a positive note but witnessed some profit-booking during the initial sessions, slipping to an intra-day low of 23,784.95 before recovering. "Immediate resistance for the Nifty is placed at 24,400 and 24,500. A sustained move above these levels could attract fresh buying interest and strengthen the ongoing recovery. On the downside, he expects support to emerge at 23,900 and 23,800," an analyst mentioned. Meanwhile, the Sensex rose 0.39 per cent during the week to close at 77,100.47, while the Nifty gained 0.18 per



cent to end at 24,056. The retreat in crude oil prices emerged as a key tailwind for domestic equities. With tanker movement through the Strait of Hormuz returning to normal and geopolitical tensions in West Asia easing, Brent crude slipped back to pre-conflict levels. The decline eased wor-

ries over imported inflation, India's current account deficit and pressure on corporate profit margins. Analysts believe the market's technical setup remains favourable, with both benchmark indices positioned for further gains if key resistance levels are crossed.

Govt proposes faster approval timelines for medical device manufacturing licences



New Delhi: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Sunday announced that it has proposed amendments to the Medical Devices Rules, 2017 to simplify and accelerate the licensing process for medical devices, a move aimed at improving ease of doing business and ensuring quicker access to quality medical products in the country. The ministry has published a draft notification in the Official Gazette seeking public comments on the proposed changes, which are intended to streamline regulatory approvals while maintaining existing standards related to quality, safety and performance of medical devices. Under the existing regulatory framework, medical devices are classified into four risk-based categories -- Class A, Class B, Class C and Class D -- with Class D comprising the highest-risk devices. Also Read - Govt simplifies procedure for import of drugs in small-quantities for tests, analysis Advertisement Discover more Local News Updates Web Series Reviews Yoga day The proposed amendments focus on reducing the time taken to grant manufacturing licences across various categories. For Class B devices, which include low- to moderate-risk products such as blood pressure monitors, pulse oximeters and hypodermic needles, the timeline for granting manufacturing licences has been proposed to be reduced from 140 days to 115 days. Similarly, the government has

proposed shortening the approval period for Class C and Class D devices, which include high-risk products such as cardiac stents, hip and knee implants, and other orthopaedic implants. The timeline for granting manufacturing licences for these categories is proposed to be reduced from 105 days to 90 days. The draft amendments also seek to introduce clearly defined timelines for every stage of the licensing process, including scrutiny of applications, audits conducted by notified bodies, verification of compliance requirements and issuance of licences. According to the ministry, these changes are expected to enhance transparency, predictability and efficiency in the regulatory framework. The proposed measures are aimed at strengthening the medical devices ecosystem by facilitating faster regulatory approvals while ensuring that quality, safety and performance standards remain intact. The ministry said the changes would benefit both manufacturers and patients by enabling quicker availability of quality-assured medical devices. The draft notification has been placed in the public domain and is available in the Official Gazette as well as on the website of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation. Stakeholders have been invited to submit their comments and suggestions within the prescribed period before the amendments are finalised.

Samsung, SK hynix to unveil investment plans this week: Presidential office



Samsung Electronics and SK hynix are expected to announce a historic \$650 billion investment plan over the next 10 years to drive regional development in South Korea. The initiative includes a new semiconductor cluster in the Honam region and infrastructure support for AI and data centers. Samsung Electronics and SK hynix are set to announce major investment plans early this week at a meeting presided over by President Lee Jae Myung, the presidential office said on Sunday. The investments will be unveiled during a briefing scheduled for 2 p.m. Monday at Cheong Wa Dae on the government's three mega projects aimed at balanced regional development, presidential spokesperson Kang Yoo-jung said. The initiative is jointly pushed by the trade, science, transport and energy ministries, she added, reports Yonhap news agency. Samsung Electronics Chairman Lee Jae-yong and SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won will attend the event and take part in a discussion session with other participants. Industry watchers expect the two chipmakers to invest more than 1,000 trillion won (US\$650 billion) over the next 10 years, including in the possible development of a chip cluster in

the southwestern Honam region. On Saturday, Lee described the investment as a "historic achievement" and a policy initiative that could potentially change the fate of South Korea. The opposition People Power Party has accused the move of being "politically motivated," noting that it comes at a time when the ruling Democratic Party is experiencing an internal power struggle. In a separate post, Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol said the government will spare no effort to support the businesses' proposed investments in regional areas. South Asians & Diaspora "Our key task is to overcome the excessive concentration in the Seoul metropolitan area and ignite the growth potential of regional areas," Koo said in a social media post. "The government respects the decision to invest in regional areas and will spare no effort to support the initiative." Koo noted the companies would have had to invest overseas had the government not pledged strong support in offering electricity and water supplies. The finance minister added the country needs to make efforts to gain a competitive edge in other cutting-edge industries, such as physical AI and AI data centres.

Tax changes, policy support to sustain domestic equity inflows: JP Morgan

JP Morgan report highlights how tax reforms and domestic SIP inflows are fueling Indian equity markets, even as the IT sector faces AI-driven growth headwinds. A series of tax and policy measures introduced in recent years has enhanced the attractiveness of equity investments in India, creating favourable conditions for sustained domestic inflows into the stock market despite relatively subdued returns over the past two years, according to a report by JP Morgan. The global investment bank said recent changes in the taxation of long-term capital gains, debt mutual funds and insurance products have significantly improved the relative appeal of equities, further encouraging the shift



of household savings toward financial assets. JP Morgan noted that equities are currently subject to a 12.5 per cent long-term capital gains tax, while policy changes such as the removal of indexation benefits, taxation of certain insurance proceeds and slab-rate taxation for debt mutual funds have altered the risk-reward dynamics in favour of equity investments. India rejects Pakis-

tan's allegations over Karachi attack Advertisement The brokerage said these tax and regulatory changes, combined with rising participation through Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs), are expected to continue supporting a steady flow of domestic money into equity markets. According to the report, domestic investors have remained resilient even as foreign portfolio investors reduced their exposure to Indian equities during FY25 and FY26. Despite modest returns from benchmark indices during the period, retail investors continued to invest through SIPs, indicating a structural shift in investment behaviour rather than a response to short-term market movements. JP Morgan said consistent participation by domestic in-

vestors has emerged as an important stabilising force for Indian equities, helping offset volatility arising from foreign fund outflows and periods of global risk aversion. Separately, JPMorgan struck a cautious note on India's information technology sector, saying the industry is likely to face a prolonged period of weak growth as artificial intelligence-led disruption and geopolitical uncertainty continue to weigh on demand. The brokerage said the sector is facing an uncertain demand environment due to an unprecedented combination of technology and business cycle headwinds, adding that a meaningful recovery in growth remains distant as enterprises continue to reassess their spending priorities.

Three cases filed in connection with clashes in Amaravati

Tensions erupt in Amaravati as YSRCP and TDP supporters clash during a protest-site visit. Police register multiple cases amid ongoing land acquisition disputes. Police in Andhra Pradesh's Amaravati capital region have registered three cases with regard to Saturday's clashes during a visit by leaders of the opposition YSR Congress Party. A case under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act was registered against YSRCP leaders on a complaint by Manikyam, a resident of Penumaka. YSRCP leader and former minister Ambati Rambabu has been booked on a complaint by Tadepalli Circle Inspector Virendra Babu for allegedly restraining a police officer from performing his duties. Police have also registered a case against leaders of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) on a complaint by YSRCP leader Narayana Murthy for damaging the window panes of cars. A visit by YSRCP leaders and members of the CRDA Farmers Protection Committee to the capital region on Saturday led to tension and clashes. The delegation visited Undavalli and nearby Penumaka following an "invitation" from farmers who have been protesting for several days against what they describe as forced land acquisition. The leaders alleged that farmers are facing pressure for refusing to surrender their lands and claimed that soil was dug up around their

fields, preventing them from continuing cultivation. The YSRCP alleged that TDP activists attacked its leaders, farmers and vehicles by pelting stones and throwing eggs. Several vehicles were reportedly damaged during the violence. The opposition also claimed that some police personnel deployed at the spot suffered injuries while trying to control the situation. Meanwhile, the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, Botsa Satyanarayana, on Sunday condemned the attack on YSRCP leaders and demanded stern action against those involved in it. He alleged that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is running the government with the police and not with public support. He told the media in Visakhapatnam that the law and order in the state has deteriorated and that there is a jungle raj in the state. He said YSRCP MLCs and former ministers were going to Penumaka on the invitation of locals to observe the manner in which they are being harassed. "While they were on their way, TDP goons stopped the convoy and attacked it. The farmers had told our leaders about the harassment being meted out on them, and our team was visiting them, which is a democratic process. The manner in which they carried out the attack shows that they are guilty of the charges of harassing the farmers who did not part with their land," he said.

Suspicious death of unidentified youth triggers panic in Nandyal outskirts



Nandyal: Severe panic gripped the residents of Kanala village in Nandyal mandal after a youth was found dead under highly suspicious circumstances on the village outskirts on Saturday. According to preliminary tracking by law enforcement, the deceased bore deep, agonizing head wounds. Investigators strongly suspect that unidentified miscreants may have cornered and brutally bludgeoned the young man using a blunt object, likely a beer bottle, before fleeing the spot. However, the exact chronological sequence of events leading up to the gruesome death is yet to be fully established. Upon receiving information from local farmers, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Manda Javali Alfons, accompanied by the Nandyal Taluka police teams, rushed to the crime scene. The entire area was quickly cordoned off to prevent contamination of crucial material evidence. Forensic experts and clues teams thoroughly swept the location, collecting vital fingerprints and soil samples. The body has since been shifted to the local government hospital mortuary for a post-mortem examination to ascertain the exact time and precise medical cause of death. The Taluka police have registered a case under relevant

sections of the law and initiated a full-scale homicide investigation. Senior officials stated that dedicated police wings are currently working to identify the victim and interrogate locals. Investigators are probing all possible angles, including deep-seated personal animosities, financial disputes, or sudden brawls.

Hyderabad couple found dead at home, Mokila police probe suicide angle

Hyderabad: A couple allegedly died by suicide at their house in Janwada village under the Mokila police station area in Rangareddy district on Sunday. They were identified as Balasai (32) and Padma (29), who had been married for around one-and-a-half years. The couple had a baby boy born five months ago. According to police, family members found the couple hanging inside their house on Sunday morning and immediately alerted the police. The Mokila police reached the spot, conducted a preliminary inspection, and shifted the bodies to a hospital for post-mortem examination after completing the necessary legal formalities. The exact reason behind the couple's deaths is yet to be established.

Asst collector Suyash attends GATES college graduation day



Gooty: GATES College hosted its second Graduation Day for MBA and MCA students on Saturday. Anantapur Assistant Collector Suyash Kumar (IAS) and JNTU Professor Dr G Prasanthi attended as chief guests, presenting degrees to the passing-out batches in front of proud families. Assistant Collector Kumar urged the graduates to pursue

higher research and adopt entrepreneurship to transform into job creators. The management congratulated college toppers Shaik Abbas (MBA) and Reshma Tabassum (MCA). Correspondent VK Padmavathamma, Director Sri Vani, MD Raghunatha Reddy, and Principal Dr Namratha supervised the event.

Bala Satyanarayana is new PRO of Sri Krishnadevaraya University



Anantapur: Sri Krishnadevaraya University Vice-Chancellor Prof. NVR Jyoti Kumar has appointed Assistant Professor Dr B Bala Satyanarayana as the varsity's new Public Relations Officer (PRO). Dr Satyanarayana, from the Department of Sericulture, assumed charge on Saturday. Expressing gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor, he stated his focus

would be effectively highlighting SKU's academic, research, and social service achievements to boost the institution's prestige. He also thanked the outgoing PRO, Prof Ramagopal, for his memorable services. Dr Satyanarayana holds extensive experience across university academics, research, and campus administration.

YSRCP activists throng police station over anti-Jagan slurs



Nandyal: A fresh political controversy has erupted in the state after alleged objectionable remarks made by Kakinada Rural MLA Pantham Nanaji against YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) president and former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. The comments drew sharp criticism from YSRCP leaders in Nandyal, who termed them inappropriate and demanded immediate action. MLC Isaac Basha strongly condemned the remarks, warning that personal attacks on the former chief minister would not be tolerated by the party cadre. Speaking to party workers on Saturday, Isaac Basha said political differences should remain within democratic limits and should never descend into personal insults. He alleged that the comments made by the

MLA had hurt the sentiments of millions of YSRCP supporters across the State. Issuing a stern warning, the MLC said the party's rank and file would respond strongly to any attempt to disrespect their leader, while urging political leaders to maintain decorum in public discourse. As part of their protest, YSRCP leaders and activists marched to the Nandyal II Town Police Station and submitted a formal complaint against Pantham Nanaji. The complaint was handed over to Sub-Inspector Krishna Reddy, seeking legal action over the alleged remarks. Party leaders asserted that the law should deal firmly with anyone making defamatory or provocative statements against public representatives and maintained that no individual is above the law.