

# KING

## DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume:01 Issue No.23 Wednesday 01-07-2026 Published From : Vijayawada, Hyderabad Pages : 8 | Rs.3/-

Trusted Healthcare Expertise for a Healthier Medchal  
**Excellence in care, every step of the way.**

**Our Specialities**

- Emergency & Critical Care
- Accident Care
- Obstetrics & Gynaecology
- Orthopedics
- Joint Replacements
- General Medicine
- General Surgery
- Maxillo Facial Surgery
- Paediatrics & Neonatology
- Neurology & Neurosurgery
- Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
- Pulmonology - Urology
- Dermatology - Psychiatry
- Physiotherapy

Trusted Healthcare | Ethical Practices | Patient First | Expert Clinical Care

All Insurances Cashless Available 24/7 Emergency Services Ambulance Services

+91 85230 89599 +91 86889 09384

www.jaitraahospitals.com • Beside ITI, NH 44, Chandra Nagar, Medchal, Telangana 501401.



### Tribal youth should embrace change, says President Murmu

Visakhapatnam: Tribal youth in the country should mentally prepare themselves for change and work towards improving their socio-economic and educational conditions with the help of government initiatives, President Droupadi Murmu said on Tuesday. Addressing the first convocation of the Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh here, Murmu said the graduating students must contribute to the country's progress, where development is inclusive and no one is left behind. "Today, the government is trying to bring the Tribal and Adivasi people forward. But what is my responsibility? What will be the result of the government giving me so much support? That is why, from today, we have to be mentally prepared – not for ourselves, but for society, to change society, education, culture, tradition, economy, and to bring society forward," she said. "We have to make the government's efforts a reality," Murmu added. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Andhra Pradesh HRD Minister Nara Lokesh also spoke at the event.

## Andhra CM Naidu orders statewide mineral mapping to identify valuable deposits

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday directed officials to undertake a comprehensive survey of the state's mineral resources to identify valuable deposits. Reviewing the performance of the Mines Department at his camp office, the CM emphasised promoting value addition through mineral processing. "Naidu directed officials to undertake comprehensive mineral mapping across the state to identify valuable mineral deposits," a press release quoted the CM as saying. According to Naidu, the state's vast mineral wealth offers significant opportunities for value creation and commercialisation.

He suggested that the state-owned Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation explore avenues to monetise valuable mineral assets and directed officials to undertake a detailed study with the assistance of experts, the release said. Naidu said substantial revenue could be generated by adding value to minerals such as beach sand, rare earth minerals, iron ore, manganese and alumina. He noted that several Indian states have achieved revenue surpluses primarily through mineral-based income and called for a comprehensive policy focused on mineral value addition. The CM stressed that mineral processing and value addition should take place within Andhra Pradesh to maximise economic benefits and generate employment. The



TDP supremo also proposed establishing a rare earth minerals cluster covering Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Kerala. He directed officials to assess reserves of high-value minerals such as titanium, ilmenite and monazite. These minerals, particularly monazite, are important sources of rare earth elements used in manufacturing electronics, high-performance magnets and other advanced products. They have strategic applications in sectors such as nuclear energy and national security, Naidu said. Emphasising the state's potential for gold mining, the CM pointed to the gold reserves at Jonnagiri and Chigurugunta and directed officials to study the remaining mineral blocks for future exploration. Officials informed the CM that 126 locations containing criti-

cal, bulk and other valuable minerals had already been identified across the state. They reported an 18 per cent increase in mining revenue through improved mining operations, the press release said. Naidu instructed officials to ensure strict regulation of mining activities and maximise revenue from the state's mineral resources. He ordered comprehensive monitoring of sand mining and supply through advanced technology, including the installation of CCTV cameras at sand reaches, the use of satellite imagery for regular analysis, and GPS tracking of vehicles transporting sand. The CM observed that the government has foregone nearly Rs 1,000 crore in annual revenue by providing sand free of cost for the benefit of the public. Naidu instructed officials to ensure that the free sand policy is implemented transparently so that people receive its intended benefits without misuse.



### Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan visits PM SHRI Model school in Vizianagaram, lauds AP govt

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan and Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education and IT Nara Lokesh visited the PM SHRI AP Model School in Bhogapuram, Vizianagaram district, today (Tuesday). Afterward, they departed from Bhogapuram for Visakhapatnam. During the visit, State Minister Nara Lokesh briefed Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on the reforms being implemented in the state's education sector, the development of government schools, and the facilities provided to students. Lokesh outlined the measures being taken to elevate state government educational institutions to a level comparable to private institutions. Union Minis-

## Pawan Kalyan and M'rashtia CM Fadnavis, discuss tigresses Transfer

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan met Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in Mumbai today (Tuesday). During the meeting, the two leaders discussed tiger conservation efforts in the Eastern Ghats. Pawan expressed his gratitude to Fadnavis for providing two tigresses to Andhra Pradesh. They also discussed various issues of mutual interest between the two states. The discussions regarding tiger conservation in the Eastern Ghats and the transfer of two tigresses from Maharashtra to AP were successful. They decided to collaborate further on matters of shared interest in the future. Speaking on the occasion, Pawan Kalyan noted that a significant decline in the number of tigresses in the Eastern Ghats region of AP had led to genetic issues. He stated that they are seeking cooperation from the Maharashtra government to revive the tiger population and confirmed that Maharashtra has agreed to provide two tigresses to Andhra Pradesh. Pawan Kalyan expressed his heartfelt gratitude to CM Devendra Fadnavis for his support. Pawan Kalyan described this initiative as a significant milestone in the history of tiger conservation in the Eastern Ghats. He explained that the introduction of tigresses would help overcome inbreeding issues, enhance genetic diversity, and contribute to the long-term stability of the tiger population. They explained that this would create a healthy and self-sustaining tiger habitat



within the Eastern Ghats. They noted that this joint conservation initiative reflects the commitment of both states to

biodiversity conservation based on scientific approaches and sustainable wildlife management.

## CASAR Organises 'Millet Magic' Workshop

Gorantla: The College of Agricultural Science and Applied Research (CASAR) at BEST Innovation University hosted a "Millet Magic" workshop on Monday to champion sustainable agriculture. Chief Guest Kishore Kumar, Country Head of Raddis Regenerative Hub, emphasized that millets are vital for food security due to their low-input, drought-resistant traits. Crops & Seed He called on students to explore agribusiness setups. CASAR Dean Dr Ramgopal Mopuri urged a return to traditional grain systems. The event, overseen by Dr Sasi Chandra, featured a "Shark Tank" agribusiness pitch panel and various student academic competitions.





## The epitome of value-based politics!

Examine the leadership style of Union Minister G Kishan Reddy and his approach to cooperative federalism in Telangana. Discover how his focus on public welfare and development is re-defining democratic values in modern Indian politics. History "Positions are not ornaments; they are weapons obtained to serve the people. Politics is not a war of criticism; it is a continuous sacrifice for the welfare of society." These words might rarely be heard in today's politics, but if one wants to see them put into practice, only one name comes to mind: Union Cabinet Minister and senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader, G Kishan Reddy. In current times, politics has devolved into mutual slander, mudslinging, and manoeuvre to bring down opponents at any cost. In an era where values are fading and personal attacks are considered qualifications, the path followed by Kishan Reddy—a leader with the stature of a Chief Minister—serves as a new compass for Indian democracy. His is not a politics of grandstanding, but one of dedicated, practical action. Whatever the position or responsibility, his core philosophy remains prioritizing public interest. There is a Telugu proverb that translates to, "Win your home before you conquer the world." Despite holding key responsibilities as a Union Cabinet Minister in the national capital, Kishan Reddy has never compromised on the interests of his home state, Telangana. Compared to other leaders, his style and decorum are entirely different. While responding to criticisms levelled against him, he continues to work for Telangana's interests. He firmly believes in and practices the principle of "Cooperative Federalism," where politics is limited only to elections, while everyone remains united in development. Recently, even though Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy openly criticized Kishan Reddy regarding the Hyderabad Metro Phase-1 take-over debt issues and stalling of Phase-2 funds, Kishan Reddy did not take it as a matter of personal ego. As a leader who has been in local politics for decades, he understands how crucial metro expansion is for the future of Greater Hyderabad and its growth as a global city. Therefore, putting aside Revanth Reddy's criticism, he played the role of a responsible "elder brother." He personally took the initiative to take Revanth Reddy to the Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and the Union Minister for Urban Development Manohar Lal Khattar in Delhi. Kishan Reddy sat in the high-level reviews and personally explained the importance of Telangana's metro expansion to the Union Ministers. As a result, the path was cleared for the release of 13,600 crore in IRFC loans and the approval of Metro Phase-2 by resolving technical bottlenecks. Kishan Reddy has always been ready to provide such cooperation. During the BRS regime, he wrote over 40 letters to the BRS government and then-Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, offering suggestions to secure necessary projects for Telangana from the Centre and signalling his willingness to cooperate. However, the former Chief Minister viewed everything through a political lens, failed to respond, and declared a war on the Centre, causing loss to Telangana. Detrimental to the nation: Today, politics is often defined by ensuring the opponent fails, obstructing every good initiative, and then acting out a performance before the public, saying, "See, they couldn't do it."

## Ahead of Feb 2027 polls, Sikhs for Justice plots disinformation push in Punjab

New Delhi: Elections in Punjab are slated to be held in February next year, but the poll fever in the state is already high. As political parties gear up to face the elections, a major disinformation campaign in the state is being planned by the Sikhs for Justice (SFJ). The SFJ which is a proscribed entity, is the mouthpiece and propaganda wing of the Khalistan movement. An Intelligence Bureau official said that these outfits have become desperate. The official said while these elements would continue with their low-intensity blast strategy, an outfit such as the SFJ would look to spread false narratives and then incite tensions in the state. With countries like Canada and the United Kingdom cracking down heavily on Khalistani extremism, the SFJ has become desperate. The SFJ has not been able to hold referendums like it used to do with ease in the past. Further, Canada has passed an anti-hate Bill which makes it hard for groups such as SFJ to pass off hate messages against India as free speech. Another official said that the SFJ has been relatively quiet for some weeks now. However, there is information that the terror outfit is planning a major disinformation campaign in Punjab. It would look to spread falsehoods and also look to incite communal tensions by putting out anti-Sikh content. The official added that the outfit would also post religious content with its own interpretation so that it would be taken out of context. This is bound to create tensions in the state. Considering that the elections are being held in Punjab, which is a border state, security would be tighter than normal. The security agencies are already under a lot of stress as there are multiple threats that they have to deal with. The state police is busy with shutting down pro-Khalistan elements while



also dealing with the drug menace. On the border, the forces are countering the numerous drones that come in with drugs and arms and ammunition. Further, infiltration too is attempted from Pakistan repeatedly and this is another area that the border forces have to focus on. Officials say that both the border forces and state police are already stressed. In the run up to the elections more forces will be deployed to ensure that the polls pass off peacefully. The SFJ would look to take advantage of the situation and stress out the security mechanism by trying to incite communal tensions. Officials say that in addition to the disinformation campaign, the SFJ is also trying to rope in some youth in Punjab to put up posters that are inflammatory. During the protests and referendums that the SFJ organised abroad in the past, the speeches were anti-Modi and targeted Operation Blue Star while commemorating those who assassinated late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. An official said that one could expect such content to start floating around in Punjab soon. These would not be one off attempts, but a series of them would be made. Officials say that the Punjab Project is an ambitious one for the ISI. The Pakistani spy agency has been pressurising the Khalistani groups including the SFJ to scale up operations. The SFJ in particular has been under immense pressure and its leader has been pulled up by the ISI for failing to scale up the propaganda.

## Telangana HC asks ECI to consider Urdu forms in select constituencies



Hyderabad: Justice B Vijaysen Reddy of the Telangana High Court on Monday directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) to consider providing Enumeration Forms in Urdu, at the option of electors, in constituencies where the population of Urdu-speaking voters exceeds 20 per cent. The direction came in a writ petition challenging the decision to print and distribute Enumeration Forms for the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls exclusively in Telugu outside the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation limits. Senior Counsel V Raghunath, appearing for the petitioner, contended that restricting the forms to Telugu discriminates against linguistic minorities, migrant populations and a sizeable section of Urdu-speaking voters in the State. He argued that voters should not have to depend on Booth Level Officers for translated forms and that access to forms in a language understood by voters is a constitutional right. Counsel for the ECI submitted that Telugu is

the first official language of the State and that English forms are being used in Hyderabad district following consultations with political parties.

It was further submitted that Booth Level Officers carry dummy forms in Urdu to assist voters. While declining to interfere with the present arrangement, Justice Vijaysen Reddy observed that the issue is a sensitive one and remarked that the Election Commission, being an institution conducting elections in the world's largest democracy, "should have answers and solutions and should not say it is not possible". The Judge also orally observed that democracy represents the will of the people and questioned why bilingual or multilingual forms could not be considered when several other public documents are made available in multiple languages. The matter was adjourned after directing the Election Commission to communicate its decision on providing Urdu forms by the next date of hearing.

## Two injured as private bus crashes into cement mixer in Nalgonda; 40 passengers escape unhurt



Nalgonda: Two persons sustained injuries while nearly 40 passengers had a narrow escape after a private travels bus collided with a cement mixer tanker near Muthyalammagudem in Kattangur mandal here on Tuesday morning. The private travels bus was travelling from Vijayawada to Hyderabad when one of its tyres reportedly burst, causing the driver to lose control of the vehicle. Despite his attempts to regain control, the bus crossed the road median and rammed into a cement mixer tanker coming from the opposite direction, according to reports. The bus driver and the tanker driver sustained injuries in the accident and were trapped inside their respective cabins. Local residents rushed to the spot and rescued them before they were shifted to hospital for treatment. The remaining passengers escaped unhurt, reports said. Further details are awaited.



## Family chased by bikers on Hyderabad-Warangal highway, dashcam footage sparks outrage

Hyderabad: A family recently travelling in a car on the Hyderabad-Warangal National Highway allegedly faced a terrifying ordeal after a group of six youths on three motorcycles chased and repeatedly attempted to stop their vehicle. The incident occurred on the night of June 21, when the family members were travelling from Ghatkesar towards Uppal. The youths allegedly followed the car from the Bibinagar area to the Ghatkesar Outer Ring Road stretch, repeatedly attacking the vehicle and trying to force it to stop, leaving the women and children inside frightened. The car driver dialled the police emergency helpline while trying to escape. By the time the police could respond, the family had reached the Outer Ring Road. The incident came to light after the victim's sister, Bhargavi, shared dashcam footage of the chase on Instagram, demanding strict action against the accused. The videos went viral on social media, prompting the police to initiate an investigation. Bhargavi said people should not ignore such incidents and urged victims of road harassment to immediately approach the police and report the matter on social media. She added that while her family was concerned about her posting the videos, she believed such offenders would continue to act with impunity unless they were exposed and punished. Malkajgiri police have launched a search for the six youths involved and are examining the viral dashcam footage as part of the investigation.

## ‘Why special privilege Telangana HC pulls up Narsingi police over delay in arrests

Hyderabad: Justice T Madhavi Devi of the Telangana High Court on Monday questioned the Narsingi police over their failure to arrest the accused in an attempt to murder case despite filing a chargesheet concluding that an offence under Section 109 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) was made out, and asked, “How are these accused special? Why are they being given special privilege?” The observations came during the hearing of a writ petition alleging an unfair investigation in a case registered by Narsingi Police Station, Cyberabad, against two private individuals for offences punishable under Section 109 read with Section 3(5) of the BNS. Counsel for the petitioner submitted that though Section 109 of the BNS is a cognizable offence and the police themselves had concluded in the chargesheet that the offence was made out, no steps had been taken to arrest the accused or remand them to judicial custody. Taking exception to the police action, Justice Madhavi Devi orally observed that in



simple cases, individuals are frequently summoned to police stations, but in the present case, despite a serious offence of attempt to murder being alleged and a chargesheet having been filed, no action had been taken against the accused. Questioning the apparent inaction, the Court asked the State as to what special category the accused belonged to and why they had been extended such treatment. Directing the Government Pleader for Home to file a detailed counter explaining the circumstances under which the accused had not been arrested despite the chargesheet, the Court adjourned the matter by two weeks.

## Traffic restrictions imposed at Hyderabad's Gachibowli amid flyover works

Cyberabad Traffic Police have imposed traffic restrictions to expedite the construction of a multi-level flyover and underpass at the IIIT Junction in Gachibowli, Hyderabad. It was announced that the road stretch from DLF Gate No. 1 to the Gachibowli Traffic Police Station would be closed for three months, starting July 1. Officials stated that these restrictions were implemented to alleviate traffic congestion, given that the construction work is expected to continue for approximately one year. Cyberabad Police Commissioner M. Ramesh urged employees commuting to IT companies in the IIIT, DLF, Gachibowli, and Financial District areas to plan their journeys in advance and use alternative routes whenever possible. According to diversions, vehicles traveling from the Radisson Hotel side towards IIIT Junction will be permitted



only up to DLF Gate No. 1; movement beyond that point will not be allowed. These vehicles must reach IIIT Junction via Gachibowli Junction and Indira Nagar. Employees commuting via the TCS Non-SEZ (CMC) gate have been permitted to continue using the same entry and exit route as usual. Vehicles heading towards the DLF road from the Lingampally side will be diverted at the Gachibowli Traffic Police Station. From there, you need to reach the DLF area via IIIT Junction, Gachibowli Junction, and Radisson Junction.

## Massive explosion occurs at Hyderabad's Saroornagar residence, no casualties

A massive explosion caused a major stir within the limits of the Saroornagar police station in the city. The blast, accompanied by a loud noise, occurred at the residence of a retired employee on Road No. 4. The force of the explosion completely destroyed the house's walls, doors, and windows. However, the cause of the explosion remains a mystery; it was determined that the three gas cylinders, refrigerator, and geyser inside the house did not explode, nor were there any signs of fire. Family members were present in the house at the time of the incident but escaped safely without any injuries. Retired bank employee Deven der has been living there with his wife and son for the past 24 years. A loud noise was suddenly heard coming from the kitchen, and the house sustained severe damage due to the blast. Upon receiving the information, Saroornagar police and HYDRAA personnel arrived at the scene to inspect the premises and are investigating the cause of the mas-



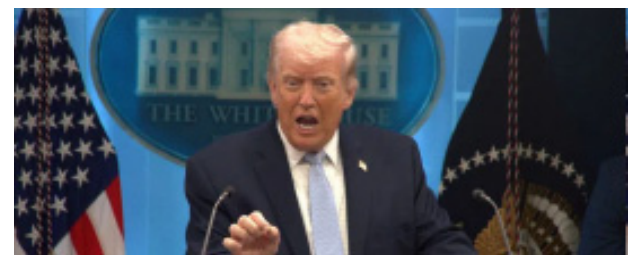
sive explosion. The police have registered a case and initiated an investigation into the incident.

## Trump says Iran agrees to forgo nuclear arms

Washington: US President Donald Trump said Iran has agreed not to acquire a nuclear weapon ahead of fresh negotiations in Doha, expressing confidence that the US was making progress both diplomatically and militarily while insisting Tehran would not be allowed to develop nuclear arms. Speaking in the Oval Office before signing a presidential memorandum on vehicle repairs, Trump said officials were already travelling to Qatar for talks scheduled on Tuesday. “There’ll be a meeting on that tomorrow, in Doha... we’ll see how that goes,” Trump said. “The meeting in Doha is going to be perhaps important, perhaps not. We’re going to find out.” The President struck an optimistic tone about the negotiations, saying the US had gained the upper hand after recent military action against Iran’s nuclear programme. “We’re winning militarily. It’s almost won militarily, I would say,” Trump said. He described Washington’s objective as straightforward. “It’s really very simple; it’s the denuclearization of Iran. We don’t want them to have a nuclear weapon, and they’re not going to have a nuclear weapon, and they’ve agreed to that, in all fairness,” Trump said. Trump did not

elaborate on the nature of Iran’s reported agreement or provide details of any understanding reached between the two sides. Nor did he specify what issues would be discussed during the Doha meeting. Before taking questions from reporters, Trump also referred to lower global oil prices, linking them to developments surrounding Iran.

“Oil prices are way down. We hit \$69 today. It was higher than that prior to the denuclearization of Iran,” he said. His remarks came as he signed a presidential memorandum directing the Environmental Protection Agency to support consumers’ ability to repair their own vehicles and to expand competition in the market for aftermarket automobile



parts. EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin said the memorandum would support “the freedom to fix”, prevent action against Americans repairing their own vehicles and end what he described as California’s monopoly over third-party certification of aftermarket parts. The White House appearance quickly shifted to foreign policy and national security, with reporters asking Trump about Iran before moving on to domestic issues including election laws, Supreme Court rulings and immigration.

## Man kills mother, dies by suicide in Yadadri Bhongir

Hyderabad: In a shocking incident in Peddaravulapalli village of Bhoodan Pochampally mandal in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, a man allegedly murdered his mother before taking his own life on Monday. According to police, Sangam Srinivas allegedly attacked his mother, Sangam Pochamma, with a stone, killing her instantly at their home. Following the assault, he hanged himself to death. While the exact motive remains under investigation, preliminary inquiry and information gathered from villagers suggest that an ongoing land dispute may have triggered the incident. Upon receiving the report, police rushed to the scene, shifted both bodies for post-mortem examination, and registered a case. Further investigation is under way.



### Dr. Vishal Akula selected for prestigious national IMA award

Hyderabad: Professor and Head of the Department of Psychiatry at Government Medical College, Nizamabad, Dr. Vishal Akula, has been selected for the prestigious Dr. Ketan Desai Aao Gaon Chalen Award (Rural Services) by the Indian Medical Association (IMA), the country’s largest professional organization of doctors. The senior neuropsychiatrist and drug de-addiction specialist has been selected for the award for his outstanding contributions to rural healthcare, community mental health services, de-addiction initiatives, public health awareness, and his dedicated service to society over the years. Dr. Vishal will receive the prestigious award during the National Doctors’ Day awards ceremony on July 18 at the Constitution Club of India, New Delhi, in the presence of the IMA national leadership. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Vishal dedicated the honour to his patients, colleagues, students, and all healthcare professionals working tirelessly to improve mental healthcare and rural health services. He reaffirmed his commitment to continue serving society with compassion, scientific excellence, and community-oriented healthcare initiatives.

The senior mental health specialist, who is also president-elect of the IPS (Indian Psychiatric Society) Telangana State Branch, expressed his gratitude to all the state and national-level members of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) for conferring the prestigious national honour.

## Telangana July PDS Distribution Begins

HYDERABAD — Following a record-breaking performance in the previous quarter, the Civil Supplies Department, Government of Telangana, has commenced its July food grain distribution drive. With a ready stock of 2.15 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) positioned across fair price shops statewide, the department is ensuring immediate access for 106 lakh+ families, securing food coverage for a population of 341 lakh+ ben-

eficiaries this month. “Responding to a March directive from the Ministry of Consumer affairs, Food & Public distribution, the state accelerated its April, May & June quarter distribution, successfully delivering 6.08 LMT (95%) of its 6.43 LMT quota—by April 30. “By pre-positioning the 2.15 LMT July buffer stock early, the government guarantees that eligible families face zero waiting times at distribution counters. To maintain this scale and

pace securely, Commissioner Sri M. Stephen Raveendra IPS, has directed that all digital transactions and biometric authentications continue to be closely monitored in real time. Under his ongoing supervision, all Fair Price (FP) shops are strictly utilizing electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) systems, guaranteeing zero supply diversions and absolute transparency for the public.





## June monsoon stable across Greater Hyderabad even as 15 Telangana districts face deficit

Hyderabad: A month into the onset of southwest monsoon, Telangana has registered a normal but slightly deficit rainfall. While Hyderabad has received normal rainfall, there are a total of 15 districts that are in deficit criteria between June 1 and June 29. Overall, according to the rainfall data from Telangana State Development Planning Society (TSDPS), the State actually received 113 mm (11.3 cm) of rainfall against the normal of 124.6 mm (12.46 cm), which comes under the normal category. Hyderabad, in the last one month, received actual rainfall of 103.0 mm (10.3 cm) against the normal rainfall of 104.4 mm while Medchal-Malkajgiri district was not that lucky, as it actually received 63 mm of rainfall against the normal of 104 mm (10.4 cm). However, the standout performer for the Greater Hyderabad region has been Rangareddy district, which has experienced excellent monsoon activity by receiving 141.3 mm (14.13 cm) of rainfall while its normal rainfall is 93.3 mm.

According to TSDPS data, the Rangareddy district holds the highest number of rainy days (14 days) in the entire Greater Hyderabad zone, which means it rained every other day in the district.

Similarly, Vikarabad recorded 105.9 mm (10.59 cm) of rainfall against its normal of 110.1 mm (11.01 cm), while Sangareddy witnessed 124.5 mm (12.45 cm) against its normal average of 115.5 mm (11.55 cm), both within the normal category.

Despite a slow start to the monsoon in some areas, the cumulative statewide volume marks a substantial recovery, when compared to last year. The current June figure of 113 mm (11.3 cm) is a solid 21 percent improvement over the 93.7 mm (9.37 cm) registered during the exact same period in the 2025-26 financial year. Districtwise breakup of rainfall:

### Excess:

Rangareddy, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Nagarkurnool, and Khammam.

### Normal:

Mulugu, Sangareddy, Mahabubnagar, Hyderabad, Vikarabad, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Narayanpet, Peddapalli, Nirmal, Kumuram Bheem, Mahabubabad, and Jayashankar City & Local Guides

### Deficit:

Kamareddy, Wanaparthy, Rajanna Sircilla, Medak, Jangaon, Jagtial, Mancherla, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, Karimnagar, Jogulamba Gadwal, Adilabad, Nizamabad, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Siddipet, Warangal and Hanumakonda (large deficit).

## Ayodhya police seek five years of bank records of accused in Ram mandir donation theft case

New Delhi: The investigation into the embezzlement of Ram Temple donations has entered a critical financial audit phase, with Ayodhya Police seeking five years of banking records from the seven banks where the eight arrested accused and the Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust maintain accounts. Police sources said investigators have sought detailed account statements, transaction histories, KYC documents, deposit records and other banking details to reconstruct the financial trail and identify any suspicious movement of funds linked to the alleged diversion of devotees' offerings. The exercise is aimed at establishing whether there were unusual cash deposits, withdrawals or inter-account transfers during the period when the accused were associated with the temple's donation management system, a source familiar with the investigation said. As part of the probe, a police team visited the State Bank of India's Ayodhya Dham branch, where the Trust's main donation account is maintained, to collect banking records and procedural documents. Sources said teams also visited six other banks to obtain records related to accounts allegedly held by the accused. Investigators are scrutinising deposit slips, account statements and transaction details to verify whether the amounts deposited in the Trust's accounts correspond with donations received and recorded by the temple administration. According to officials, police are also gathering records from banks where the accused are believed to have maintained personal or salary accounts. The objective is to compare transactions across all accounts and determine whether any funds allegedly siphoned from temple donations were routed through the banking system. Investigators are expected to cross-reference banking records with CCTV footage, digital evidence, attendance records, cash deposit registers and other documents seized during the investigation. The Naya Ghat branch



of the SBI in Ayodhya has become a key focus of the probe, with police questioning bank officials for nearly four hours on Monday.

The branch reportedly holds accounts linked to seven of the eight accused as well as the temple trust. SBI sources claimed that irregularities were flagged to the Trust and police around three months ago, but no corrective action was taken. The bank had sought a change in cash counting staff months earlier, but some Trust officials did not approve the move. On Monday, the bank also provided detailed account information of the accused to the police. Police have also issued notices to around six banks, including State Bank of India (SBI), Bank of Baroda, and Canara Bank, seeking details of bank accounts and lockers of the arrested accused, the Trust, and others linked to the case. Officials said around 70 to 80 people are under the scanner, and notices are being issued in phases. Their statements will also be recorded as part of the ongoing investigation into the alleged financial irregularities.

## 23 parties, Independent MP write to CJI on Election Commission's SIR exercise

New Delhi: The Congress on Tuesday said that a joint letter, now signed by 23 political parties and one Independent MP, has been sent to the Chief Justice of India, Justice Surya Kant, regarding the Election Commission of India's (ECI) Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process and other election-related issues. Congress MP Jairam Ramesh took to social media 'X' and said, "21 political parties plus one Independent attended the INDIA janbandhan meeting on June 8, 2025 where a decision was taken to address a joint letter to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India on the SIR process of the Election Commission of India and other election-related issues." "Accordingly a joint letter now signed by 23 political parties plus one Independent has been sent to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India today. The Opposition parties are firmly anchored in SURE - Solidarity, Unity and RESistance," he said. On June 8, a meeting of the INDIA bloc was attended by leaders from several Opposition parties. Those present included Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Trinamool Congress President Mamata Banerjee, senior National Conference leader Omar Abdullah, and NCP(SP) leader Supriya Sule. However, some Opposition parties, including the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), stayed away from the meeting. Addressing the media after the meeting,



Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge had said that representatives from several political parties had participated in the discussions. He stated that a wide range of issues were deliberated upon and that all leaders shared their views during the meeting. Kharge had also announced that the INDIA bloc had agreed to hold meetings every two months, with the next meeting scheduled to take place in August in Hyderabad, Telangana. Meanwhile, it has been one year since the Election Commission began the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process for the comprehensive verification of electoral rolls. According to the Election Commission, the exercise is aimed at ensuring the accuracy of voter lists and strengthening the integrity of the electoral

process. A pilot phase of the campaign was launched in Bihar on June 24, 2025, ahead of the Bihar Assembly elections.

As part of the exercise, around six crore names have reportedly been removed from electoral rolls across the country so far. The revision process is still underway in 19 states and union territories. In Bihar alone, around 65 lakh names were removed from the electoral rolls following the initial implementation of the campaign. Opposition leaders, including the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, protested against the SIR exercise and held several press conferences on the issue. Congress and other Opposition parties have alleged on multiple occasions that the SIR process is an attempt by the Election Commission to undermine democracy. On the other hand, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has repeatedly stated that the government's objective is to identify and remove the names of illegal infiltrators from the electoral rolls and, where applicable, deport them from the country. He has maintained that the revision exercise is intended to ensure that no genuine Indian citizen is excluded from the voter list while illegal infiltrators are identified and removed through a systematic process. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court, in a recent judgment, observed that the Election Commission has the authority to carry out the SIR process. The court also dismissed objections raised against the revision of the electoral rolls.

## KTR flays Revanth Reddy for defaulting on Rythu Bharosa, betraying farmers

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao targeted the Revanth Reddy government for betraying farmers and defaulting nearly Rs 30,000 crore in Rythu Bharosa payments during its 30 months in office. He questioned Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy over holding public meetings to release Rythu Bharosa funds while over 70 lakh farmers continued to await pending assistance. In a strongly worded statement, Rama Rao said the government failed to honour its promise of pro-

viding Rs 15,000 per acre annually and instead, made limited payments covering only one or two acres in several cases. "Farmers are disgusted over your public meetings and publicity stunts. Aren't you ashamed to hold such meetings after defaulting Rs 30,000 crore?" he said, demanding the Chief Minister to apologise. The BRS working president also accused the Congress government of failing to implement its promised Rs 2 lakh farm loan waiver in full, with only a



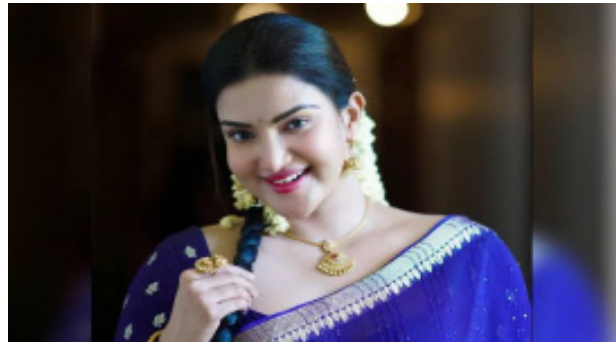
fraction of the announced assistance of Rs 50,000 crore extended to farmers. He stated that repeated delays in releasing Rythu Bharosa assistance had left farmers struggling for cultivation expenses during the agricultural season.

## Sexual harassment case: Entrepreneur Bobby Chemmanur apologises to Honey Rose

Kochi: Prominent businessman Bobby Chemmanur has publicly apologised to Malayalam actress Honey Rose, saying he never intended to hurt her and expressed hope that she would withdraw the criminal case filed against him. In a Facebook post on Monday, Chemmanur claimed he had always treated people with kindness, respect and consideration, and had never intentionally harmed or mistreated anyone. He said he often shared humour and light-hearted content on social media but had never intended to offend, hurt or cause distress to anyone. "But I have come to realise that my statements about Ms Honey Rose have caused significant distress to her and her family. I deeply apologise for the harm I have caused. I take full responsibility for my words and their impact", he said. Chemmanur said he had never intended to hurt anyone and expressed hope that his "sincere apology" would lead to the case being withdrawn. He added that he wanted the matter to be considered resolved and was committed to moving forward positively.

**Rose has not yet responded to the apology.**

The controversy began after the actress accused Chemmanur of making sexually coloured and derogatory remarks about her during a jewellery showroom inauguration event. Earlier, Rose had said that no one has the right to in-



sult women using the power of money and expressed full faith in India's legal system. Chemmanur, for his part, had maintained that he never intended to insult her. The apology comes months after Chemmanur was arrested in January 2025 by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing a sexual harassment case registered based on a complaint filed by Honey Rose. He was booked under non-bailable provisions, including Section 75(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for allegedly making sexually coloured remarks amounting to sexual harassment and Section 67 of the Information Technology Act for publishing or transmitting obscene material in electronic form. In her complaint, Rose accused the businessman of making repeated sexually coloured remarks against her through various platforms. The controversy first came to light when Rose alleged on Facebook that she had been stalked and subjected to sexually inappropriate remarks through various media platforms, prompting her to approach the police.

## Suriya joins hands with T J Gnanavel for new hombale films project

Chennai: The makers of director T J Gnanavel's upcoming film on Monday welcomed actor Suriya on board, much to the delight of fans and film buffs. Popular

production house Hombale Films, which is producing the film, took to its X timeline to issue a statement welcoming Suriya. It wrote, "He built it. Frame by frame. Film by film. Fight by fight. Roles that bled truth. Characters that carried the weight of real lives. A career that chose courage over comfort, every single time." It went on to say, "Three decades of truth on screen. Countless hearts touched beyond it. Where the most fearless actor of his generation meets his grandest stage yet. Hombale Films proudly welcomes THE ONE-SURIYA. SURIYA X HOMBALE." Earlier in the day, producer Vijay Kiragandur had triggered excitement among fans on Monday morning by hinting at a major announcement coming in the afternoon. In a tweet, the ace producer had said, "Some beginnings don't make noise. They create echoes that last forever. The next roar won't whisper. Get Ready! Unveiling today at 2:19 pm. @HombaleFilms."



production house Hombale Films, which is producing the film, took to its X timeline to issue a statement welcoming Suriya. It wrote, "He built it. Frame by frame. Film by film. Fight by fight. Roles that bled truth. Characters that carried the weight of real lives. A career that chose courage over comfort, every single time." It went on to say, "Three decades of truth on screen. Countless hearts touched beyond it. Where the most fearless actor of his generation meets his grandest stage yet. Hombale Films proudly welcomes THE ONE-SURIYA. SURIYA X HOMBALE." Earlier in the day, producer Vijay Kiragandur had triggered excitement among fans on Monday morning by hinting at a major announcement coming in the afternoon. In a tweet, the ace producer had said, "Some beginnings don't make noise. They create echoes that last forever. The next roar won't whisper. Get Ready! Unveiling today at 2:19 pm. @HombaleFilms."

## Samudra clarifies no link with AP cine workers housing society collections



Director and AP FDC Director Samudra has issued a clarification distancing himself from the ongoing controversy surrounding alleged collections being made in the name of the AP Cine Workers Housing

Society. According to Samudra, several members of the film fraternity contacted him seeking clarification over reports that the Andhra Pradesh government had allotted land to the housing society and that money was being collected from workers and members. Responding to these enquiries, he categorically stated that the state government has not allotted any land to the AP Cine Workers Housing Society. The director also dismissed allegations and rumours suggesting that collections were being carried out under the names of the state government or the housing society.

## Vishal's directorial debut 'Makutam' creates buzz with second single launch

The makers of Makutam intensified promotions by unveiling the second single, Nac hchaake Vachera, which has already started attracting attention among music lovers. Produced under the prestigious Super Good Films banner as its landmark 99th production, the film was backed by the late RB Choudary. Actor-director Vishal described the film

as the fulfilment of his long-cherished dream of becoming a director, a vision he carried since watching Shiva. He revealed that he devoted an entire year exclusively to the project and promised audiences a memorable cinematic experience. Featuring Anjali and Dushara Vijayan in key roles, the film has already generated excitement through its teaser and first single.

## 'The Angry Birds Movie 3' trailer introduces Red as a father

Mumbai: The makers of 'The Angry Birds Movie 3' have released the official trailer on social media. It offered a fresh glimpse into the next chapter of the animated franchise. The trailer teases a new storyline that pushes Red into unfamiliar territory, introducing unexpected challenges and a new family dynamic that adds a fresh twist to the beloved character's journey. Paramount Pictures shared the trailer, poster, and first-look images of the upcoming film on Instagram and wrote, "Parenthood is a game-changer. Watch the new trailer for The #AngryBirdsMovie3 - only in theatres December 23." Having previously taken on the green pigs and protected Bird Island, Red now faces his biggest challenge yet—fatherhood. The Angry Birds Movie 3 brings in a fresh family dynamic that places him in completely unfamiliar territory. As he struggles to adjust to the demands of parenthood, he is also drawn into a global mission, discovering that being a hero at home can be just as demanding as saving the world. Produced by John Cohen, Dan Chuba, Carla Connor, and Namit Malhotra, the film is directed by John Rice from a screenplay by Thurop Van



Orman. The star-studded voice cast features Jason Sudeikis, Josh Gad, Emma Myers, Rachel Bloom, Walker Scobell, Danny McBride, Marcello Hernandez, Tim Robinson, Anna Cathcart, Maitreyi Ramakrishnan, Nikki Glaser, MrBeast, Salish Matter, Psalm West, Sam Richardson, and James Austin Johnson, with Lily James and Keke Palmer. The upcoming installment in the animated franchise is based on the hugely popular Rovio game series. The new film sees Jason Sudeikis return as Red, who is now up against an entirely different challenge—fatherhood. As per the official synopsis, "one angry bird will face his greatest challenge yet, surviving fatherhood... while saving the world!" "The Angry Birds Movie 3" will release in India in English and Hindi on 1 January 2027.

## Kunal Kemmu on the pressure of being Sharmila Tagore's son-in-law: Never let it affect my craft



Mumbai: Actor-filmmaker Kunal Kemmu has opened up about whether being married into one of Indian cinema's most celebrated families, especially being legendary actress Sharmila Tagore's son-in-law ever made him feel pressured. In an exclusive conversation with IANS, Kunal said he has never allowed the thought of being veteran actress Sharmila Tagore's son-in-law to influence his relationship with his craft and art. Kunal shared that his primary focus has always been on evolving as an artist rather than worrying about external expectations. "No, the relationship that I have with my craft or the artist within is the most important to me, and that's paramount. In the structure of that relationship, I have never thought about it, to be very honest with you. So, I would be lying if I say that I try. It doesn't stay in my mind." Kunal exclaimed. The actor emphasized that his creative journey has always been guided

by his passion for acting and filmmaking rather than the stature of the family he married into. For the uninitiated, Kunal is married to actress Soha Ali Khan, the daughter of veteran actress Sharmila Tagore and the late cricket legend Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi. The couple tied the knot on January 25, 2015, after dating for many years. The couple, who first met on the sets of the 2009 film 'Dhoondte Reh Jaaoge', welcomed their daughter, Inaaya Naumi Kemmu, in September 2017. On the professional front, Kunal, having begun his career as a child actor, went on to establish himself with performances in films such as 'Kalyug', 'Traffic Signal', 'Golmaal 3', 'Go Goa Gone', 'Malang' and 'Lootcase'. In 2024, he made his directorial debut with the critically acclaimed comedy-drama 'Madgaon Express', which earned praise for its writing and direction.



## India names women's cricket squad for 2026 Asian Games

Hyderabad: The Women's Selection Committee has picked India's squad for the 2026 Asian Games, scheduled to be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, in September 2026. The Indian women's team will head into the competition as the defending champions, having won the gold medal in the women's cricket competition at the previous Asian Games held in Hangzhou, China. India's squad for the 2026 Asian Games: Harmanpreet Kaur (Captain), Smriti Mandhana (Vice-Captain), Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues,



Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh (WK), G. Kamalini (WK), Bharti Fulmali, Sree Charani, Renuka Thakur, Kranti Gaud, Arundhati Reddy, Shreyanka Patil (subject to fitness clearance), Radha Yadav, Nandni Sharma.

## Himakar's blazing century powers Vizag Lions to commanding victory

Hyderabad: N. Himakar's blazing century (115 off 53 balls, 13x4, 6x6) powered Simhadri Vizag Lions to a commanding 57-run victory over Capital Amaravati Royals in the Andhra Premier League T20 at the ACA International Stadium in Mangalagiri on Monday night. Batting first, Simhadri Vizag Lions scored 243/5 in 20 overs, thanks to Himakar's brilliant knock and valuable contributions from Ricky Bhui (45 off 24 balls, 5x4, 2x6) and K.H. Veera Reddy (44 off 29 balls, 5x4, 1x6). For the Royals, B. Ayyappa was the pick of the bowlers with figures of 4/59. In reply, Capital Amaravati Royals were bowled



out for 186 in 19.1 overs despite fighting knocks from K. Karan Shinde (46 off 21 balls, 9x4, 1x6) and S.V. Rahul (48 off 33 balls, 2x4, 2x6). For the winners, V. Srikanth (4/34) and P. Girinath Reddy (4/36) starred with the ball. N. Himakar was adjudged Player of the Match.

## Hyderabad E-Champions extend unbeaten run with 56-run victory over Anvita Khammam Aces

Hyderabad: Hyderabad E-Champions produced a dominant all-round display to record a comfortable 56-run victory over Anvita Khammam Aces in the Sreenidhi University TG20 League championship at Rajiv Gandhi Stadium here on Monday night. A blistering half-century from Abhirath Reddy, valuable contributions from district player Ganesh Gadugu and Anvith Reddy, and disciplined bowling led by Sriniketh and Ajay Dev Goud helped the E-Champions defend 211 and extend their unbeaten run at the top of the table. Meanwhile, Abhirath's impressive 59 off 26 balls took him to the top of the Orange Cap standings with 252 runs to his name. Ajay Dev also moved to the top of the Purple Cap standings with 10 wickets. E-Champions recovered from a watchful start through an explosive opening partnership between Sai Vikas Reddy (22 off 20) and Abhirath. The skipper then took the attack to the bowlers with a flurry of boundaries and sixes, including a 24-run fifth over, as the E-Champions raced to 77/1 at the end of the powerplay before Ved Reddy dismissed him. Sai Vikas continued to anchor the innings alongside Anvith Reddy (32 off 21) as the E-Champions crossed the 100-run mark in the 11th over. Ved then removed Sai Vikas, while Shanmukha Ashwin's quickfire cameo of 19 off 13 balls, featuring two sixes, kept the momentum going before GSK Reddy struck. Anvith and Ganesh Gadugu (44 off 21) then followed up with a brisk 31-run partnership to take the score to 136/3 after 13 overs. Ganesh accelerated brilliantly at the death, striking two sixes off Vidyanda Reddy before Anvith's run-out briefly slowed the innings. Pranav Varma (18 off 13) chipped in with timely boundaries as Hyderabad E-Champions surged past 170 with four overs remaining.

**Despite the late collapse, E-Champions finished with a formidable 211/9.**

With a tough target to chase, Aces endured a shaky start, losing GSK Reddy (7 off 5) in the second over despite a brisk



beginning from Wafi Kachchhi (21 off 15) and Himateja Kodimela. Wafi looked dangerous with a couple of boundaries but was dismissed by Sriniketh in the fifth over, while Mayank Gupta (5 off 8) struggled to accelerate as Aces reached 50/2 at the end of the powerplay. The innings lost further momentum through the middle overs as Ashwin and Anvith kept the scoring in check. Ashwin accounted for Mayank, while Anvith removed Mickil Jaiswal (3 off 8) to leave Aces at 68/4 after 10 overs. Himateja, however, kept the chase alive with an aggressive counterattack, smashing two sixes and a four off Akhil Rathod before finding support from Prateek Reddy (11 off 12). Aces' hopes of a late comeback faded in the death overs despite a few blows from Sahendra Mallu (16 off 9). Ajay Dev struck a crucial blow by dismissing Sahendra in the 18th over before Ganesh Gadugu wrapped up the innings with two wickets in the final over, restricting Aces to 155/9 in 20 overs. The scores: Hyderabad E-Champions 211/9 in 20 overs (Abhirath Reddy 59, Ganesh Gadugu 44, Ved Reddy 2/24, Sahendra Mallu 2/35) bt Anvita Khammam Aces 155/9 in 20 overs (Himateja Kodimela 65, Wafi Kachchhi 21, K. Sriniketh 3/28, Ajay Dev Goud 2/36, Ganesh Gadugu 2/2). Player of the match: K. Sriniketh.

## United States team beats RLPC selection in Luxembourg polo friendly

Hyderabad: A spirited friendly polo match was played at the Roude Léiw Polo Club (RLPC) between a visiting United States team and a home RLPC selection following the cancellation of the main 8th International Luxembourg Polo Cup due to an exceptional heatwave affecting Luxembourg and large parts of Europe. The USA team featured Steven Rudolph (team captain, handicap -1), Jacek Grotnik (0), Augie Grotnik (0) and Drew Carleton (-1), all representing the Myopia Polo Club / Harvard University Polo Club, South Hamilton, Massachusetts, United States of America. The RLPC Home Selection comprised Leopold Ludorf (handicap 1), Cristian Bravo (1), Sasha Laporta (-2) and Alexander Ludorf (0). In a closely contested match, the United States team se-

cured a narrow 6-5 victory over the home side. Despite the cancellation of the official tournament, the Roude Léiw Polo Club ensured the continuity of international sporting engagement by organising this friendly fixture, underscoring the enduring spirit of polo diplomacy and sportsmanship. RLPC President Alexander Ludorf emphasized the importance of maintaining international sporting ties and extended an open invitation to Indian polo clubs and players for future editions of the Luxembourg Polo Cup. He described Luxembourg as "a unique meeting point of sport, business and international friendship in the heart of Europe", adding that the club is ready to welcome India, including guest of honour Mohammad Shamsuddin of Hyderabad, to its polo grounds in upcoming editions.

## Hyderabad's Pranav Madav wins three gold medals in national ice skating

Hyderabad: Hyderabad's ice speed skater S Pranav Madav continued his golden run at the 21st National Ice Skating Championship in Dehradun by winning three gold medals in commanding fashion. On the final day of the 21st National Ice Skating Championship, Pranav Madav fulfilled his hat-trick dream by winning his third gold medal in the 1,000m event with a remarkable timing of 1 minute and 33 seconds. Earlier, Pranav emerged victorious in the 500-metre event with an outstanding timing of 44.70 seconds, displaying explosive speed and flawless technique. He followed it up with another dominant performance in the 1,500-metre race to secure his second gold medal and establish himself as one of the standout performers of the championship. Pranav began his sporting journey under the mentorship of coach Abdul Qudeer, who laid the foundation of his career. Through his guidance, Pranav developed the discipline, work ethic and passion that every successful athlete needs. Those early years built the confidence and determination that continue to drive him today. Pranav advanced to professional-level training under coach Abbas Iqbal Lasaniya. With expert coaching, struc-



tured training programmes and continuous support, coach Abbas helped transform Pranav into a professional athlete with an emphasis on technical excellence, physical conditioning and mental strength. Currently, Pranav is training under renowned Canadian coach Andrew Frederick, who is preparing him for the ultimate goal, the 2030 Winter Olympics. Under Andrew's international-level guidance, Pranav is refining his skills, enhancing his performance and working relentlessly to meet the demanding standards of Olympic competition.

## India name 22-member junior hockey squad for Belgium tour

Hyderabad: Hockey India announced the 22-member Indian Junior (Under-21) men's team for the upcoming exposure tour of Belgium, scheduled from July 5 to 18. The tour will be the team's first assignment under newly appointed coach Frederic Soyez and will serve as a key preparatory phase ahead of the FIH Hockey Men's Junior Asia Cup later this year. The young Indian side will face some of Europe's strongest hockey nations during the tour, playing two matches each against Austria and Belgium, and one match each against Germany and the Netherlands. The exposure tour is expected to provide valuable international match experience while helping the team test its combinations and playing style ahead of the continental tournament. Defender Anmol Ekka has been entrusted with the captaincy for the upcoming exposure tour. The goalkeeping unit comprises Vivek Lakra and Kunal Tewatia. The defensive line features captain Anmol Ekka, Rohit Kullu, Chirag, Ravinder, Prasant Barla, Sanjit Tirkey and V Manimaran. The midfield will be occupied by Adrohit Ekka, Harpal, Jeetpal, Mukesh Toppo, Mannu Malik and Ritik Lakra. The forward line consists of Ajeet Yadav, Prabhdeep Singh, Arjun Hargude, Aryan Xess, Lovenoor Singh, Mohd



Konain Dad and Gurusewak Singh. Notably, four members of the squad, Anmol Ekka, Adrohit Ekka, Ajeet Yadav and Rohit Kullu, were also part of the Indian team that secured the bronze medal at the FIH Men's Junior World Cup Tamil Nadu 2025. Their international experience is expected to add valuable depth to the squad during the tour. Speaking on the squad announcement, coach Soyez said, "I expect this tour to help us progress on several levels. First, in terms of our game, by improving our connections, our tactical discipline and our efficiency in key moments. Then on the human side, by strengthening unity and confidence within the group. Finally, I hope this tour will give the players a better understanding of the demands of top-level international hockey and of what we need to put in place to perform consistently over time." India will begin their campaign against Austria on July 7 and 8. The team will then take on the hosts, Belgium, on July 10.

## Gold, silver extend losses as Fed rate concerns weigh on sentiment



Gold and silver prices continued to face selling pressure on Tuesday as investors and traders remained cautious over developments in West Asia and the US interest rate outlook. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures (August) declined as much as 1.37 per cent or Rs 1,952, to hit an intraday low of Rs 1,40,450 per 10 grams at around 11:50 am. At the last count, the yellow metal was trading at Rs 1,41,124, down over Rs 1,278, or around 1 per cent. It touched an intraday high of Rs 1,41,501, down Rs 900 or 0.63 per cent. Meanwhile, silver futures (September) also traded lower, falling over 1 per cent or Rs 2,387 to an intraday low of Rs 2,20,247 per kg. The white metal was trading at Rs 2,21,715 per kg, down over Rs 900, or 0.41 per cent, after touching an intraday high of Rs 2,22,293, a decline of Rs 341, or 0.15 per cent. Ac-

ording to market experts, gold prices remained under pressure as investors continued to assess developments in West Asia and the US Federal Reserve's interest rate trajectory. They said markets are pricing in three rate hikes by the US central bank this year, with the first likely in September, while investors are also awaiting the US monthly employment report for fresh policy cues. For silver, analysts said the near-term bias remains cautious after the metal failed to hold above the Rs 2,22,500 level. In the international market, COMEX gold was trading below the \$4,000-an-ounce mark, while COMEX silver gained more than 1 per cent to trade at \$59.11. International benchmark Brent crude fell more than 1 per cent to \$73.08 per barrel. Similarly, US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude declined over 1 per cent to trade below the \$70-a-barrel mark.

## Rupee falls 15 paise to 94.65 against US dollar on strong greenback



Mumbai: The rupee depreciated by 15 paise to close at 94.65 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, as a strengthening greenback overseas and risk-averse investor sentiment weighed on the local unit. Forex traders said the rupee slipped to 94.58 against the US dollar, driven by month-end corporate import demand and lingering risk-off sentiment. However, relatively stable global crude prices and anticipated central bank interventions supported the currency and restricted the slide. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 94.60 against the American currency and finally closed for the day at 94.65 (provisional), registering a decline of 15 paise from its previous close. On Monday, the rupee pared initial gains and settled lower by 6 paise at 94.51 against the dollar. "The Indian rupee depreciated for the third consecutive session, weighed down by persistent safe-haven flows into the greenback and strong corporate dollar demand. Broader risk-off sentiment across global markets continues to keep the domestic currency under pressure," Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, said.

Parmar further added that from a technical standpoint, spot USD/INR

faces immediate resistance at 95.10, while a breakdown below 94.40 will act as key support.

Experts said month-end and quarter-end dollar demand is keeping the dollar well bid. Importers, corporates, and banks typically use this period to square positions and meet payment obligations. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 101.34, up 0.23 per cent. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading lower by 0.37 per cent at USD 72.88 per barrel in futures trade. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex declined 249.70 points to settle at 76,478.67, while the Nifty fell 80.50 points to 23,865.75. Foreign institutional investors sold equities worth Rs 1,350.1 crore on a net basis on Monday, according to exchange data. Meanwhile, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor said on Tuesday that the US-India trade deal is in its "final steps", with only the last one per cent of negotiations left to be concluded. Addressing the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum Leadership Summit, Gor said he was determined to agree, as it would be beneficial to both nations, and it would be sealed after nearly 18 months of talks.

## Government extends GSTAT appeal deadline to July 31

New Delhi: The government has extended the deadline for filing appeals before the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) to July 31 after representations from stakeholders over technical difficulties caused by a surge in filings on the GSTAT portal, the Ministry of Finance said on Tuesday. The extension applies to appeals filed under Section 112(1) read with Section 112(3) of the Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) Act, it added. According to the Finance Ministry, the decision to extend the deadline was taken after various stakeholders flagged technical issues on the GSTAT portal due to the heavy rush of appeal filings in recent days. Earlier — through a notification issued on September 17, 2025 — the government had fixed June 30 as the last date for filing appeals before the GST Appellate Tribunal. The ministry said nearly 30,000 appeals were filed during the last 15 days alone, with daily filing volumes peaking at around 5,500 appeals. Moreover, taxpayers have been advised to plan their appeal filings well in advance and avoid waiting until the last date to prevent last-minute congestion on the portal. The extension decision



comes amid robust growth in the government's tax collections during the current financial year. Meanwhile, gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections rose 3.2 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1.94 lakh crore in May despite geopolitical tensions in West Asia. Net GST collections increased 3.3 per cent to Rs 1.67 lakh crore, while GST refunds during the month rose 2.6 per cent to Rs 27,281 crore. According to the Income Tax Department, net direct tax collections rose 14.64 per cent year-on-year to Rs 5.21 lakh crore during the April 1-June 17 period of FY27, compared with Rs 4.55 lakh crore collected in the corresponding period of the previous financial year. While gross direct tax collections also increased 12.46 per cent to Rs 6.10 lakh crore.

## UPI goes live in Greece, says Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal

New Delhi: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said that with unified payments interface (UPI) now live in Greece, eligible customers can transfer money instantly, securely, and seamlessly, with transaction costs reducing drastically to a fraction of conventional transfer costs. The increasing global acceptance and appreciation of UPI "reflects the trust in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of building technology-led solutions that create value beyond borders and deepen partnerships for shared growth and prosperity," the minister posted on X. During his Greece visit, the minister met Eurobank CEO Fokion Karavias and had a fruitful discussion on expanding the India-Greece economic partnership. "Encouraged Greek businesses to invest in India and explored avenues for collaboration in manufacturing and infrastructure development in Greece, advancing our shared vision for growth and prosperity," said Goyal.

The minister witnessed the live demonstration of the Eurobank-NIPL partnership, enabling UPI services at Eurobank headquarters in Athens, alongside its CEO Karavias, and CEO of Fairfax Digital Services, Sanjay Tugnait, marking another important milestone in the global expansion of India's digital



payment ecosystem.

He earlier addressed the India-Greece Business Forum alongside Harry Theoharis, Deputy Foreign Minister of Greece. "I also had the opportunity to interact with members of the Indian diaspora community attending the event," said Goyal. The minister highlighted India's remarkable growth story, strong macroeconomic fundamentals and consistent economic progress, offering unparalleled opportunities for Greece. "Also, emphasized the immense potential of the India-EU FTA in unlocking new opportunities for trade, investment and economic cooperation," said Goyal. Commerce Minister also underscored the vast potential for collaboration across key sectors and urged businesses and investors to co-create, co-invest and co-manufacture with India, paving the way for greater investment, stronger business ties and shared prosperity between our nations, according to the X post.

## IRCTC launches Ayodhya-Kashi, Divya Dakshin Bharat Gaurav Tourist Trains

Hyderabad: The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has announced the 'Ayodhya - Kashi' and 'Divya Dakshin Bharat' Gaurav Tourist Trains. Accordingly, the Ayodhya - Kashi Gaurav Train will start from Secunderabad Railway Station on July 4, and the Divya Dakshin Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train will start from Secunderabad Railway Station on July 20. Railway officials said there will be boarding and deboarding facilities at various en route stations in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The journey will be spread over eight nights and ten days and includes travel, accommodation, catering, onboard security, public announcement systems in all coaches, travel insurance, and IRCTC tour managers for assistance.



## Andhra CM Chandrababu Naidu directs officials to make government services citizen-friendly



Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Monday directed officials to make government services more accessible and citizen-friendly. Reviewing the performance of various departments at the Real Time Governance Society Centre at the Secretariat, the Chief Minister directed officials to simplify and streamline service delivery mechanisms, according to a press release. "The chief minister directed officials to make government services more accessible and citizen-friendly and to simplify and streamline service delivery mechanisms," it said. Officials informed the Chief Minister that the government had already initiated measures to simplify procedures, beginning with 11 categories of services. Naidu directed officials to further strengthen the Public Grievance Redressal System and make it more accessible to citizens. He also suggested enabling people to lodge complaints online and through the Mana Mitra WhatsApp governance platform, including by allowing them to submit voice messages. When officials informed him that nearly 3,000 locations currently faced mobile connectivity challenges, the Chief Minister directed them to resolve the issues within three months, the release said. In addition, officials gave a presentation on the 'Navachetana' Early Childhood Development Screening Programme being implemented by the Department of Women and Child Welfare. They explained that the

programme assesses children's physical and mental development and that nearly 34,000 children had been screened across the state so far.

According to the government website, 'Navachetana' is an activity-based curriculum designed to promote the holistic development of children from birth to three years of age. It is based on the principles of serve and return, caregivers' three core practices – love, talk and play – and positive guidance. Officials said teams were conducting household visits as part of the programme, besides screening children attending anganwadi centres. They added that a pilot project would be implemented to ensure appropriate follow-up after screening. Officials said a circular had been issued mandating field visits by senior officers. Accordingly, secretaries will spend three days, heads of departments six days and district collectors eight days every month on field visits, the release said. The Chief Minister instructed officials to identify areas facing major issues and provide immediate solutions. Officials said Standard Operating Procedures had been issued to improve the Public Grievance Redressal System. Later in the day, Naidu visited the RTGS Centre with Confederation of Indian Industry Director General Chandrajit Banerjee and other representatives. The Chief Minister urged them to expedite the establishment of the CII Global Leadership Centre in Andhra Pradesh.

## Three killed in a ghastly road accident in Vijayawada

A horrific road accident occurred today (Tuesday) on the western bypass road near Beebigudem in the Vijayawada. A speeding container truck rammed into a car from behind, forcing the car to crash violently into a tanker ahead of it. Caught between the container and the tanker, the car was completely crushed. Two occupants of the car died on the spot; the death of a four-year-old child among the victims was particularly heartbreaking. In the same incident, the tanker also struck a motorcycle traveling in the opposite direction, resulting in the tragic death of the rider. Locals were left in a state of shock witnessing the severity of the accident. The car was reduced to a mangled wreck between the container and the tanker, with the bodies trapped inside. Upon receiving the information, the police arrived at the scene and used an excavator to pull out the car and retrieve the bodies. The Gannavaram police have registered a case and launched an investigation. Preliminary findings suggest that

the accident was caused by the container driver's excessive speed. Police are examining CCTV footage from the area. The bodies have been shifted to a government hospital for post-mortem examination, and the families of the deceased have been informed.

## AP EAPCET 2026 results to be released at 3pm today

The results of the AP EAPCET 2026—eagerly awaited by lakhs of students in Andhra Pradesh—are set to be released today at 3 PM. The results of the AP EAPCET 2026—eagerly awaited by lakhs of students in Andhra Pradesh—are set to be released today at 3 PM. Nara Lokesh, the Minister for Education and IT, will announce the results via the social media platform 'X'. The EAPCET exams were conducted between May 12

## EAGLE transforms AP into nat'l reference model in anti-drug enforcement: Chief Ake Ravi



The Tamil Nadu government has formally approached Andhra Pradesh to study and replicate the strategies of the Elite Anti-Narcotics Group for Law Enforcement (EAGLE) for its own state anti-drug campaigns. EAGLE chief Ake Ravi Krishna reveals that while local commercial cultivation has been virtually wiped out via Operation Chaitanyam, the agency is now focusing heavy resources on choking contraband influx routes from neighboring states. File photos of Eagle Chief Ake Ravi Krishna addressing the occasion and with Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha and DGP Harish Kumar Gupta Kurnool: The state has emerged as the premier national model in combating narcotics trafficking and drug abuse through the comprehensive strategies of the Elite Anti-Narcotics Group for Law Enforcement (EAGLE), according to its Chief, Ake Ravi Krishna. Also Read - Assam Police seize narcotics valued at Rs 1 crore; second major operation in 24 hours Advertisement Speaking exclusively to The Hans India over the phone from Mangalagiri, Ravi Krishna stated that the agency's roadmap aligns with the Prime Minister's vision of a Drug-Free Bharat by 2047. Established in November 2024 under Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, EAGLE has evolved into a national enforcement benchmark. Ravi Krishna explained that while domestic commercial ganja cultivation in Alluri Sitarama Raju district has been virtually eliminated via Operation Chaitanyam—with tribal farmers successfully transitioned to sustainable alternative crops—the agency's current focus is intercepting contraband trafficked from neighboring states. Highlighting performance indices between January 2025 and June 2026, the EAGLE Chief revealed that AP Police registered 2,436 NDPS cases, arrested 6,319 accused, and seized over 60.3 tonnes of ganja along with 1,041 transport vehicles. Striking at organized networks, the force

froze traffickers' assets worth over Rs 10.4 crore. Furthermore, 128 repeat offenders have been jailed under the Preventive Detention clauses of the PIT NDPS Act of 1988, with 150 more proposals in the pipeline. The agency's success has drawn national attention; recently, the Tamil Nadu government approached AP to study the EAGLE framework for domestic replication. Citizens can report drug peddling via the toll-free helpline 1972 or confidential WhatsApp number 8977781972.



## IMD predicts rains in AP and Telangana on Tuesday and Wednesday

Despite the spread of the Southwest Monsoon, weather conditions across the Telugu states remain varied. Despite the spread of the Southwest Monsoon, weather conditions across the Telugu states remain varied. Due to the impact of El Niño, rainfall has been limited; while heat persists, scattered rains are occurring. Against this backdrop, the Meteorological Department has issued a key update regarding rainfall in the Telugu states, noting that the monsoon is likely to bring rain to both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. An alert has been issued forecasting rain accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds. The Hyderabad Meteorological Centre revealed that the movement of the Southwest Monsoon has intensified over Telangana, leading to a forecast of rainfall across the state for the next four days. Consequently, a 'Yellow Alert' has been issued for several districts. Officials stated that light to moderate, and occasionally heavy, rainfall is expected in many parts of the state until July 4.