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CM Chandrababu promises development of Kuppam, says will make Golden temple

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu stated that circumstances necessitating a move away from Kuppam should not arise. He mentioned that initiatives to transform Kuppam's history have been launched and that these development programs would pave the way for a "Golden Kuppam." The CM, who toured the Kuppam constituency today (Saturday), addressed a public meeting there. He noted that major projects are coming to Rayalaseema and that people from other regions would soon be coming here for employment. He stated that 80,000 people in the Kuppam constituency would gain employment opportunities. He announced support for hundreds of poultry farmers and mentioned that the Adidas industry would provide jobs for 20,000 people. He highlighted the arrival of dairy, food processing, and poultry industries and described micro-irrigation as a vital lifeline for Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh Culture The CM announced plans to establish a horticulture hub in Rayalaseema with an outlay of Rs 1 lakh crore, comprising Rs 60,000 crore from the private sector and Rs 40,000 crore from the government. He expressed



his desire for the Kuppam constituency to become a horticulture hub and suggested focusing entirely on commercial crops there. He noted that commercial and vegetable crops yield good income and reiterated the goal of developing Kuppam into a model constituency. He also announced that electric vehicles would be the norm in the future, with only AC electric buses being introduced henceforth. The CM emphasized the importance of respecting all religions. He stated that attacks on people of other faiths are unacceptable.

Andhra CM Chandrababu Naidu fulfils poll promise for Hajj pilgrims



Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh government provided financial assistance of Rs 1 lakh each to 333 Hajj pilgrims who departed from the Vijayawada embarkation point. Urban & Regional Planning State Hajj Committee Chairman Haji Shaik Hasan Basha on Friday expressed happiness that all Hajj pilgrims from Andhra Pradesh had returned home safely. He told a press conference that approximately 2,000 pilgrims from Andhra Pradesh travelled to the holy city of Mecca via embarkation points in Vijayawada,

Bengaluru, and Hyderabad. They completed their religious rituals and returned home safely. Basha stated that Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu fulfilled his election promise by providing financial assistance of Rs 1 lakh to every eligible pilgrim who travelled via the Vijayawada embarkation point. Following the Chief Minister's directives and under the supervision of Minority Welfare Minister N.M.D. Farooq, Rs 1 lakh each has been deposited via the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) method into the personal bank accounts of 333 eligible Hajj pilgrims who departed from Vijayawada. The pilgrims personally confirmed receipt of this financial assistance via phone and expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Minister and the state government. They also mentioned offering special prayers in the holy land of Mecca for the welfare of the state's people and the government's development initiatives, he said. The TDP-led coalition government last year announced that every pilgrim departing from the Vijayawada embarkation point would be assisted with Rs 1 lakh. The assistance is meant to cover the extra costs incurred while travelling from Vijayawada. Each pilgrim incurs an additional cost of Rs 68,000. Last year, 72 pilgrims who had opted for Vijayawada were also assisted. The Hajj Committee chairman mentioned that the pilgrims who visited Mecca and Medina contacted the Hajj Committee to report that the journey was peaceful and free of any difficulties. He stated that State Hajj Inspectors and 'Khadim-ul-Hujjaj' (Hajj volunteers) provided continuous service and support to the pilgrims throughout the journey. Basha, on behalf of the Muslim community, the Hajj pilgrims, and the State Haj Committee members, thanked Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan.

AP CM Chandrababu Naidu breaks ground on Rs 16,350-crore JSW green steel plant in Kadapa

Kadapa (Andhra Pradesh): Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Friday launched the construction work of JSW Rayalaseema Integrated Steel Plant at Sunnapurallapalli and Peddadanluru villages in this district. The integrated steel plant will be developed by JSW Andhra Pradesh Steel Limited in two phases in 1,100 acres with a total investment of Rs 16,350 crore, said an official press release. Phase-I will involve an investment of Rs 4,500 crore, while Phase-II will bring an additional investment of Rs 11,850 crore, taking the plant's capacity to two million tonnes per annum (MTPA). Commercial production is targeted to commence by March 2028. Designed as a modern Green Steel facility, the plant will adopt scrap-based Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) technology powered by renewable energy, significantly reducing carbon emissions. "The project was originally approved in 2019 and witnessed foundation ceremonies in 2019 and again in 2023," said the press release. Following the formation of the TDP-led coalition government in 2024, the project was "revived" through sustained engagement with



JSW, it said. The Government has advanced critical external infrastructure required for the project, said the press release. A dedicated water supply infrastructure was being taken up for the project; connectivity to National Highway (NH-67) is under execution while a 12-kilometre railway link connecting the plant to Muddanuru Railway Station is

being pursued through RITES under the PM Gati Shakti initiative, the release added. The project is expected to generate thousands of direct and indirect employment opportunities, promote ancillary industries across Rayalaseema and strengthen Andhra Pradesh's emergence as one of India's leading steel-producing states, the release said.

Four of marriage party killed as lorry rams into auto

Giddalur: Four persons died, and eight others were injured when a lorry hit an auto rickshaw carrying a wedding party on the Amaravathi-Anantapur national highway at Cumbum on Thursday night. The wedding party belonged to Nallabanda Bazar in Giddalur. The bride, Veeramma, was to marry Pamuleti of Cumbum at around 9:00 am on Friday. The party had left Giddalur at 11 pm on Thursday and reached Cumbum Y Junction at around 12.30 am. They stopped at the Vinayaka temple to break a coconut before proceeding to the wedding. As the people came out of the temple after the ritual and were boarding the auto rickshaw



parked by the roadside, a lorry coming from behind at high speed rammed the vehicle. Alakananda (19), Ankalu (21) and Nagesh (18), who had boarded the auto rickshaw, had died on the spot by then. An infant, Nageswari, aged one-and-a-half years, died later while undergoing treatment. The eight injured people were shifted to Cumbum Government Hospital in ambulances. Four of them with serious wounds were later shifted to Markapur for better treatment, and their condition is stated to be stable. Government DSP U Nagaraju, CI K Mallikarjuna and SI Siva Krishnareddy reached the spot, registered the case and are investigating.



Can AI replace human intelligence is an unending debate

As I write this article, I am writing it in a Google Docs where I have my Grammarly on. It is a spelling and grammar check tool that I have started using for the last couple of months to help me write without 'errors.' But does it help me to submit my work as soon as I finish writing? Fairly 'no' because I need to run a manual check anyway. For me, Grammarly is a tool to spot my mistakes that the naked eye can miss. It is just a punctuation, grammar and spelling check corrector so that my piece of writing is precise and makes for an error-free 'read' when it reaches the reader. On my screen, I do get suggestion prompts for changing structure and style which I dismiss, simply because I want my copy to stem from my mind and not the so-called input-directed technology product. I don't have a subscription to any sort of AI — Grammarly, CHATGPT and its various versions, Gemini. But when you look at the number of users, there are millions who use these tools daily for work and miscellaneous things. Also Read - Sri Srinivasa Degree College hosts AI and soft skills workshop Advertisement According to the 2026 AI user's statistics, there are over 1.1 billion active users of AI tools throughout the world. Mind the reader that there is an excessive reliance on it, which is causing the lines to blur between the people and artificial intelligence. Now, we have reached the point where one can ask if AI can replace humans and interchangeably can the humans replace AI. The answer to both is 'no'. Then what is the right question and answer. Today, AI and people have become complementary with each having an individual task. AI can help people but ultimately the people are the owners who direct AI for certain things and need to verify the AI results. So, here comes the crux of the issue— we need AI but how much of it do we need? In professional degrees like mine: journalism, law, medicine, psychology, and CA, among others, we are taught ethical standards that no one else can reflect on. Then, how come a human-made technology is expected to observe those rules. History AI is just a non-living thing that cannot do anything unless managed by the people. No doubt, its advent has become a handy tool for humans but only relying on it is out of the question. Even AI is beset with its own errors. If you don't check the AI generated output, it might get you in trouble for copyright material, incorrect facts and blatant blunders. In the academic domain too, many AI policies have stated that AI generated text is prohibited but these do not define which all tools cross the line. Here, the only difference people should understand is that AI can be used as a help guide which can only help you enhance your work, but it should not do the whole work for you. It has become a big support for people who are illiterate and whose work is in non-professional fields. Still for them, cross checking is necessary. When it comes to professionals, AI is not their thing. They cannot use AI-fed data for work in their field and that is why AI detectors have come in. Also Read - Awareness session on AI tech in governance held For instance, in this article, I am looking for various figures such as the statistics of AI users, list of domains of AI, the features of AI and so on.

Centre raises onion procurement price to Rs 2,125 per quintal

New Delhi: The government on Saturday said it has increased the procurement price of onions by 13 per cent to Rs 2,125 per quintal from Rs 1,875 per quintal, effective from Saturday, to ensure better returns for onion farmers and strengthen buffer procurement. The Consumer Affairs Ministry said that procurement of onions through NAFED and NCCF for the government's Price Stabilisation Buffer is in progress. The revised procurement price will ensure better returns for onion farmers while supporting buffer procurement efforts, the ministry said. Onion production is estimated at 307.37 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) for 2025-26, according to the second advance estimates of the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare. This is comparable to the production of 307.67 LMT in 2024-25. Going by the production estimates, the overall availability of onions is not a concern at this stage, though prices may be expected to inch up in line with normal seasonal trends, the ministry said. "Current stock levels in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat are adequate. At present, there are no indications of any shortage of stored onions," it added.

Moreover, daily mandi arrivals at the all-India level remain robust at over 50,000 metric tonnes (MT), while arrivals in



Maharashtra are over 30,000 MT, with average modal prices of about Rs 18 per kg. Better-quality stocks continue to remain in storage and are expected to be released during the lean period. The all-India average retail price is Rs 31 per kg. Onion exports are also normal, with about 1.50 LMT exported during June. However, traders expect the pace of onion exports to slow down for a short period, primarily because fresh crops from Pakistan and China are available at competitive rates in key export destinations

such as the Gulf countries, Sri Lanka and the Far East. While the Nashik region of Maharashtra has reported about a 15-day delay in Kharif sowing, the sowing progress in the Chitradurga and Challakere belt of Karnataka is estimated to be around 60 per cent of normal, according to the government. The delay in the monsoon's arrival and lower-than-normal rainfall in some regions has led to speculative buying by a section of traders, though there is no significant demand at the prevailing price levels in major consuming centres.

MHA designates 23 Pakistan-based individuals as terrorists under UAPA

New Delhi: The Union home ministry on Saturday designated 23 individuals based in Pakistan, linked to Jaish-e-Mohammad, Lashkar-e-Taiba and other organisations, as "terrorists" under the UAPA, a government order said. The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967), empowers the central government to add the name of an individual as a designated terrorist if it believes that the individual is involved in terrorism. Including the names of terrorists in the list will allow the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to block their finances, impose an embargo on arms sales and seize their assets. In 2019, the anti-terror law was amended to include individual terrorists in the list. Before the amendment, only groups could be listed as terrorist organisations. On Saturday, 23 Pakistan-based terrorists, including those involved in attacks on security forces in Jammu and Kashmir, were added to the list, taking the total number to 80. The Centre has added Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorists Masood Ilyas Kashmiri, Mohammad Mussadiq alias Doctor, Mufti



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Muhammad Asghar Khan alias Abu Saad, Hafiz Abdul Shakoor alias Qari Zarrar, Abdullah Jehadi, Ghulam Fareed, Maulana Imdad Ullah Makki and Waseem Noor Jat. Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists Firdous Ahmad Bhat, Haroon Rashid Ganai, Bilal Ahmad Mir, Abid Quyum Lone, Nazir Ahmed Gujjar, Abdul Rauf alias Hafiz Abdul Rauf, Ashfaq Ahmad, Hafiz Khalid Waleed, Maulana Saifullah Khalid, Mohammad Yaqoob. Molana Yousaf Taibi, Owais Farooz, Qari Yaqub Sheikh, Rana Iftikhar and Mohammed Shaheed Faisal (also linked to Al Qaeda and ISIS) have also been added to the list.

Govt to set up modern toy testing facilities, boost MSMEs and global competitiveness

New Delhi: The government would establish modern testing facilities across toy manufacturing clusters in the country through the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), National Test House and other government and semi-government laboratories, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Saturday, urging industry stakeholders to identify and communicate the testing equipment required to ensure that Indian toys meet the highest quality standards for both domestic and international consumers. The Minister encouraged MSMEs to continuously scale up their operations, stating that every micro enterprise should aspire to become small, every small enterprise should aspire to become medium, and every medium enterprise should aspire to become large. He pointed out that export turnover is not included while determining MSME status, allowing enterprises to expand substantially while continuing to benefit from the MSME framework. Addressing the 17th 'Toy Biz International B2B Exhibition 2026', organised by the Toy Association of India (TAI) here, Goyal highlighted the remarkable progress made by the Indian toy industry in recent years through sustained policy support and industry-led innovation.

The Minister called upon industry leaders to establish skill development centres and partner with Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) to train workers in advanced manufacturing practices and good manufacturing practices. He proposed a public-private partnership model under which industry and government could jointly establish Centres of Excellence equipped with facilities for testing, product development, innovation and design. Notably, Goyal suggested that such Centres of Excellence could include dedicated design centres, facilities for testing new products and spaces for showcasing newly launched high-quality products. He also encouraged manufacturers to undertake brand-building initiatives and assured support through the Export Promotion Mission. Maintaining high standards would



enable India to significantly expand its presence in the global toy market, which is estimated at around \$120 billion, he noted. Goyal urged manufacturers to adopt Computer-Aided Design and Computer-Aided Manufacturing (CAD-CAM) technologies and CNC machining to improve product quality, precision and efficiency. The minister further stated that integrating CAD-CAM with CNC-based manufacturing would enable the industry to develop high-quality products with greater precision and efficiency. He also emphasised the importance of using modern machinery and continuously improving manufacturing processes, stating that technological upgradation would help Indian toy manufacturers strengthen their competitiveness and establish a distinct position in global markets. The Minister said that over the 11 years of the 'Make in India' initiative, substantial support has been extended to the toy industry. More than 50 toy clusters have been established across the country and that approximately 21,000 MSME units are associated with toy manufacturing, with many also undertaking contract manufacturing for Indian and international brands.

India's defence production hits record Rs1.78 Lakh Crore, exports cross Rs 38,000 Crore: Rajnath Singh

New Delhi: Annual defence production touched an all-time high of Rs 1.78 lakh crore in financial year (FY) 2025-26, which is three times higher than the figure in FY 2014-15, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Saturday. On the other hand, defence exports reached a record over Rs 38,000 crore, up from Rs 686 crore in FY 2013-14, representing an increase of nearly 57 times and underlining the global confidence in the 'Make in India' platforms. "India's journey over the last 12 years has been a progression from shortages to self-reliance, from self-reliance to self-confidence, and from self-confidence towards building a Viksit Bharat," said Rajnath Singh while addressing a media event here. In its third term, the government is laying a strong foundation for Viksit Bharat through the policy of "Reform, Perform, Transform," exuding confidence that the world will witness the rise of a developed India in the fourth term. The minister said that when 'Make-in-India' was launched in 2014, certain quarters labelled it as a failure, but the scheme set new benchmarks of success and is continuing to do so even today. "There has been a transformational change in India's global stature. While the world earlier paid little heed to our voice, today it listens attentively to India's perspective on global issues," he said. Rajnath Singh further stated that despite early scepticism on India Semicon-



ductor Mission launched in 2021, the nation produced its own semiconductor chips last year due to the establishment of semiconductor parks based on the 'plug-and-play' infrastructure model.

He highlighted India's significant growth in manufacturing and technology, citing the expansion of mobile manufacturing, automobile exports, indigenous locomotive production, and digital infrastructure under Make-in-India.

The minister made special mention of India's digital revolution, stating that 22.35 billion UPI transactions were made in April with a total value of Rs 29 lakh crore, and the facility's international footprint is expanding. He also spoke of the rapid nationwide rollout of indigenously developed Make-in-India 5G technology, underlining that efforts are being made towards the development of 6G. Rajnath Singh also highlighted the successful implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), stating that despite initial concerns, it has evolved into a model of cooperative federalism by strengthening coordination between the Centre and States/UTs.

EC asks Kalvakuntla Kavitha to change her party name amid objections

The Election Commission of India has dealt a blow to the 'Telangana Rakshana Sena' (TRS) party founded by Kalvakuntla Kavitha. The Commission issued directives requiring Kavitha to change the name of her new party, citing an influx of public objections regarding the name 'Telangana Rakshana Sena.' She was ordered to submit three alternative names within 15 days, with a warning that failure to do so would result in the closure of her application. The EC wrote to Kavitha stating that the name 'TRS' could not be retained. South Asians & Diaspora The name dispute has created significant hurdles for the registration of Kavitha's new party,



prompting the EC to suggest amending the application with new names. Kavitha responded to the EC's letter, stating that she had already replied to the two official objections raised by the Commission. However, she made it clear that she would not propose new names and was prepared to wage a legal battle.

Yashoda Hospitals introduces advanced Pulse Field Ablation technology

Hyderabad: Yashoda Hospitals-Secunderabad marked another significant milestone in the field of cardiac electrophysiology by successfully introducing the state-of-the-art Pulse Field Ablation



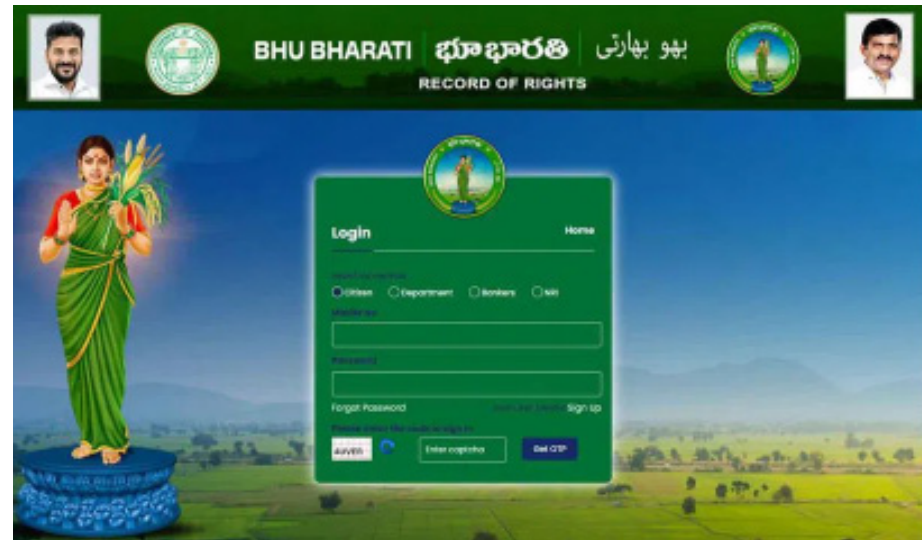
(PFA) technology for the treatment of complex heart rhythm disorders. Using the globally advanced Medtronic PulseSelect Pulse Field Ablation System, the Electrophysiology team successfully performed the procedure on two patients aged 31 and 84 suffering from complex cardiac arrhythmias. Pulse Field Ablation (PFA) is an innovative, non-thermal ablation technology primarily used to treat Atrial Fibrillation (AF) and other complex cardiac rhythm disorders. Unlike conventional thermal ablation techniques that use heat or extreme cold, PFA employs precisely controlled pulsed electric fields to selectively target abnormal

cardiac tissue responsible for generating irregular electrical signals while preserving surrounding healthy structures.

This highly selective approach significantly minimises the risk of injury to adjacent organs such as the esophagus and the phrenic nerve, thereby enhancing procedural safety, reducing complications, and enabling faster patient recovery. Dr M S Chandramouli, Senior Cardiac Electrophysiologist & Heart Failure Specialist, Yashoda Hospitals, Secunderabad, said: "This technology has offered excellent clinical outcomes with minimal collateral tissue damage and faster recovery."

Bhu Bharati portal faces scrutiny as Telangana orders security overhaul, probes alleged irregularities

Hyderabad: The Congress government's claims that the Bhu Bharati portal would usher in transparency and resolve land-related grievances have come under scrutiny as several alleged irregularities have surfaced within months of its rollout. So much so, the National Informatics Centre (NIC) has been asked to develop entirely new system with enhanced security features to safeguard land records and prevent future breaches. Complaints have emerged of valuable land parcels being transferred overnight to different individuals, genuine lands being classified under the prohibited category, and registration charges paid by farmers and other applicants remaining blocked despite



services not being completed. Amid mounting complaints, the State government has constituted a Special Committee to investigate alleged irregularities in both the Dharani and Bhu Bharati portals. The move comes despite the government's earlier assurances that the Bhu Bharati portal would eliminate the shortcomings associated with Dharani and ensure greater transparency and security of land records. The

government has already ordered a forensic audit into the alleged irregularities in the Dharani portal, which was operational during the previous BRS regime. During a recent review meeting, senior officials informed Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy that the Bhu Bharati portal, developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), was also found to be vulnerable as it uses technology similar to that of the Dharani portal. The government

suspects that some individuals who had earlier developed modules for the Dharani portal may also be linked to the reported irregularities. Following the Minister's directions, the NIC has been asked to develop entirely new system with enhanced security features to safeguard land records and prevent future breaches. The Special Committee comprises district collectors and senior officials from various departments.

BRS cadres express concern over poor quality food at minority residential school in Chennur



Mancherial: The BRS cadres expressed concern over poor quality food being served to students at a minority residential school in Chennur. Led by former ZP vice chairperson Mula Raji Reddy, the cadres inspected the school on Saturday after learning that the students were served with rice and chilly powder in place of curries. He flayed labor minister Dr G Vivek for neglecting the students.

He said that the government weakened the residential educational system, affecting the lives of thousands of students. Raji Reddy said the students were facing a slew of challenges at residential

schools. He said that local MLAs and public representatives from the Congress were not showing interest to address problems of the students. He recalled that Vive had not consoled parents of a student who died allegedly by suicide at a social residential school in Chennur three months ago. On March 27, Shri Hindu (12), a Class VII student hailing Gangaram village in Chennur mandal and studying at the school attempted to end her life by consuming pesticide in her hostel. Two days later, she died while undergoing treatment after being shifted to a hospital in Chennur. Parents demanded justice for losing their daughter.

Six arrested in illegal steroid racket in Hyderabad's Musheerabad

Hyderabad: The Task Force (Secunderabad), along with Musheerabad police, has busted an illegal steroid and muscle-enhancing drug racket in Musheerabad and arrested six persons, seizing banned injections and body-building supplements, altogether worth around Rs 6.5 lakh. The arrested persons are identified as B Shiva, Mohd

Furquanuddin Faisal, Mohd Saif alias Mohd Ehsaan Ulhaq, Farzan Khan, Mohd Yousuf and Sombattini Abhilash. Police said Shiva and Faisal were the main suppliers, while the others acted as sub-sellers. According to the police, the suspects allegedly procured the steroids through online sources without medical prescriptions and sold them to gym-goers and fitness enthusiasts for instant muscle growth.

South Bengal braces for heavy rain as Bay low-pressure system intensifies

Kolkata: The Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) at Alipore has forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall across south Bengal districts, including Kolkata, till Monday, as a low-pressure area over the northwest Bay of Bengal is expected to intensify into a depression. "A low pressure is present in the northwest Bay of Bengal. It will increase in strength and turn into a depression. Then this new system will move west and northwest. This will cause heavy to very heavy rain in south Bengal districts till Monday. Due to this, the sea in the north Bay of Bengal will remain rough. Accordingly, fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea till Monday," said the official. However, there is no sign of heavy rain in North Bengal for now. The Met office said scattered heavy rainfall is likely in parts of south Bengal on Saturday, particularly in South 24 Parganas and East Midnapore districts. Light to moderate rain accompanied by thunderstorms and gusty winds of 40-50 kmph is expected across all south Bengal districts. An orange alert for very heavy rain is in effect in South 24 Parganas and East Midnapore. A yellow alert for heavy rain is in effect in Jhargram,



West Midnapore and Howrah districts for Sunday. A yellow alert for heavy rain will be in force in Kolkata, Howrah, Hooghly, North 24 Parganas, and East Burdwan and West Burdwan. A scattered heavy rain warning is in place in the rest of the districts. Yellow alerts for heavy rainfall will continue on Monday in East Midnapore, West Midnapore, Jhargram, Bankura, Purulia, South 24 Parganas, West Burdwan and Birbhum districts. Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning are also likely in parts of South 24 Parganas and East Midnapore on Tuesday and Wednesday. In contrast, North Bengal is not expected to witness any major rainfall activity till Monday. However, all districts in the region remain under a yellow alert for light to moderate rain and lightning.

Benefits of govt schemes must reach all eligible: MP



Khanapur: Adilabad MP Godam Nagesh and Nirmal District Collector Bhavesh Mishra urged officials to work transparently and ensure the effective implementation of Central and State government welfare and development schemes, guaranteeing that the benefits reach every eligible beneficiary in Nirmal district. A meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) was held at the Nirmal District Collectorate, presided over by MP Godam Nagesh. The meeting was attended by Nirmal MLA Aleti Maheshwar Reddy, Khanapur MLA Vedma Bojju Patel, Mudhol MLA Pawar Ramarao Patel, the Municipal Chairperson, public representatives, District Collector Bhavesh Mishra and district officials from various departments. The meeting conducted a comprehensive department-wise review on development programmes undertaken over the past year, the implementation of Central and State government schemes, pending works, and physical and financial progress. Speaking on the occasion, the MP advised officials to focus specifically on the implementation of Central and State government schemes. He directed them to review the performance of each department individually, provide immediate solutions to issues, and ensure the completion of development works without delay. He instructed that employment be provided to every eligible job card holder under the employment guarantee scheme, measures be taken to ensure quality mid-day meals in govern-

ment schools, and the construction of Anganwadi buildings be expedited. He also called for the installation of BSNL cell towers in necessary areas and solar power facilities in forest regions, as well as the transparent distribution of ration rice. Nirmal MLA Aleti Maheshwar Reddy urged officials to ensure equal workdays and equal wages in employment guarantee scheme works and to promptly complete approved development projects. He also emphasized the need to ensure a smooth supply of urea and to provide field-level assistance to farmers regarding the use of the urea app. Khanapur MLA Vedma Bojju Patel suggested resolving issues related to forest clearances for the construction of 'Indiramma' houses and stressed the importance of prioritizing quality in construction. Mudhole MLA Pawar Ramarao Patel called for the identification of accident-prone 'black spots' on the national highway near Bhainsa and the implementation of preventive measures, as well as making the Basara bridge safer. The District Collector stated that measures would be taken to ensure government schemes reach every eligible beneficiary transparently. He directed officials to complete development works within the stipulated deadlines and to respond promptly to public grievances with solutions. He also announced that surveys are being conducted in 14 villages that lack revenue maps, and re-surveys are underway in 70 villages.

PM Modi inaugurates Pachpadra Refinery, lays foundation for Jaipur Metro Phase 2

Jaipur: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated the country's first greenfield integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex at Pachpadra in Balotra and virtually laid the foundation stone for the Jaipur Metro Phase 2 project. Executive Branch The Prime Minister reached Pachpadra around 12 noon, where he inspected the refinery's state-of-the-art control room and interacted with engineers and technical experts to understand the crude oil refining process. Before dedicating the refinery to the nation, he also watched a documentary showcasing the project's development and planted a sapling on the refinery campus. Accompanied by Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, and senior officials, the Prime Minister spent nearly two hours at the refinery complex. A public meeting was held inside a specially-constructed dome within the refinery premises, with seating arrangements for nearly 5,000 people. A large number of BJP workers, local residents, youth, and women gathered to attend the event.

During the programme, Prime Minister Modi also virtually laid the foundation stone for Jaipur Metro Phase 2, with the ceremony being simultaneously broadcast at Jaipur's SMS Indoor Stadium. Former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje, Urban Development Minister Jhabbar Singh Kharrar, Jaipur MP Manju Sharma, legislators and hundreds of citizens attended the live event in Jaipur. Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Modi arrived at Jodhpur Airport at around 10:40 A.M., where he inaugurated the airport's



new terminal building. He toured the modern passenger terminal, viewed its architectural model, and launched the revised UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme, aimed at expanding regional air connectivity across the country. Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Chief Minister Sharma, and Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu were present during the inauguration. At the Pachpadra event, Chief Minister Sharma welcomed the Prime Minister by draping him with a traditional shawl and presenting him with a decorative 'jharokha' as a mark of respect. Prime Minister Modi greeted the gathering with folded hands before taking the stage. The refinery's inauguration was originally scheduled for April 21, but the programme was postponed after a fire broke out on April 20 in the refinery's Crude Distillation Unit (CDU) and Vacuum Distillation Unit (VDU). Ahead of the Prime Minister's visit, BJP workers organised a bicycle rally in the refinery area to welcome him. Executive Branch On Friday evening, rain and strong winds swept through Pachpadra, damaging several roadside hoardings and banners. Officials and workers restored the arrangements overnight, ensuring the programme proceeded as scheduled.

Not possible to turn state into 'Khushal Punjab' without 'double-engine' govt: State BJP chief Dhillon

Chandigarh: Firmly believing that without the support of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) "double-engine" governments it is not possible to turn it into a 'Khushal Punjab' (prosperous Punjab). The party also aims not to go for a pre-poll alliance in the state Assembly polls slated early 2027 with its oldest ally Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) working in a mission mode named 'Punjab Mission' after a landslide win in West Bengal polls. These were the candid views of State BJP President Kewal Singh Dhillon, a Jat Sikh from the Malwa belt, whose agenda is mainly focused on welfare of farmers, revival of industry and combating the drug menace. Drugs & Medications The 76-year-old industrialist-turned-politician told IANS in an interview that party activists "na sonde, na saun dinde" (neither they sleep, nor let others sleep). Also Read - Amid infighting in Punjab, Congress MP Randhawa meets Amit Shah Advertisement "We all working for 'Punjab Mission', which aims to revive our industry that is suffering a lot, strengthening farming and to dismantle drug trafficking and narcotics syndicates," Dhillon remarked while laying out the BJP's roadmap if it forms its maiden government in Punjab. Without mincing words, the State BJP President Dhillon said the party would not forge any alliance, pre-poll or post-poll, with its oldest ally, the Akalis, who joined hands with the Jan Sangh (the BJP's predecessor) in 1967. Government From the 1997 Assembly elections till the 2019 Parliamentary polls, the Akali Dal had a pre-poll alliance with the BJP. From 1967 to 1980, the BJP had been part of post-poll alliances with governments led by Akalis



four times. Kewal Singh Dhillon, the former Congressman, who defected to the BJP in June 2022 after the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) landslide win in the state, is firm believer of 'Sarkar-e-Khalsa' -- the sovereign Sikh empire. "We (BJP) will go solo on all 117 Assembly seats," Dhillon remarked, who is toying the inclusive governance and communal harmony model of Sikh ruler Maharaja Ranjit Singh, hailed as 'Sher-e-Punjab', who ruled from 1799 to 1839. "Maharaja Ranjit Singh's administration was marked by efficiency, inclusivity and justice. He was a visionary administrator whose policies will ensure Punjab's prosperity and set a significant example of effective leadership," the two-time MLA from Barnala (2007-2017) told IANS. Remembering Siddhartha Shankar Ray, who was Governor of Punjab from 1986-89, the State BJP President said he contributed immensely to the state in a variety of ways. "When Siddhartha Shankar Ray was appointed Punjab's Governor by the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, at that time I returned to India from the US and started my bottling business of soft drinks," Dhillon said. Executive Branch Panch Teerth Yatra State BJP Chief Dhillon has often been credited for bringing Pepsi into Punjab when nobody was willing to invest in Punjab during terrorism.

When Anil Kapoor revealed he was not supposed to be a part of the 'Ek Do Teen' song

Anil Kapoor is celebrating his 65th birthday today! Mumbai: Veteran actor Anil Kapoor once revealed that he was not initially supposed to be a part of the iconic 'Ek Do Teen' track from his 1988 release "Tezaab". During his appearance on "The Kapil Sharma Show", Anil shared that originally the track was supposed to be only picturized on the leading lady of the drama, Madhuri Dixit. However, after listening to the song, Anil was convinced that it was going to be a major hit, hence he urged the composer Laxmikant, "I will also be a part of this song". When Laxmikant argued that it was a girl's track, Anil replied, "I don't care". Then Anil called renowned lyricist Javed Akhtar and requested him to change the lyrics. "The song was not a part of the script, but I made it happen", concluded the 'Animal' actor. Directed and produced by N. Chandra, "Tezaab" starred Anil and Madhuri as the lead pair, along with Anupam Kher, Chunky Panday, Kiran Kumar, and Suresh Oberoi as the supporting cast, along with others. Also Read - Anil Kapoor recalls how 'Woh Saat Din' was adapted from K. Bhagyaraj's work Advertisement Discover more Sports News Coverage Entertainment News Local News Updates Released on 11 No-



vember 1988, it became the highest-grossing Hindi film of the year, enjoying a golden jubilee run in the cinema halls. "Tezaab" is also remembered by the movie buffs for its chartbuster soundtracks 'Ek Do Teen', 'So Gaya Yeh Jahan', and 'Keh Do Ke Tum' scored by composer duo Laxmikant-Pyarelal. Up next, Anil will be seen playing a significant role in the much-anticipated spy thriller "Alpha", where he will share the screen with Alia Bhatt, Bobby Deol, and Sharvati. Directed by Shiv Rawail, "Alpha" is touted to be the first female-led film in the YRF Spy Universe. Along with "Alpha", Anil's promising lineup further includes Shah Rukh Khan's "King," which will be helmed by Siddharth Anand. The action entertainer also features Suhana Khan, Abhishek Bachchan, Deepika Padukone, Anil Kapoor, Jackie Shroff, and Arshad Warsi in key roles.

Aamir Khan calls Vir Hirani's debut with 'Pritam and Pedro' an emotional day: He is like my son

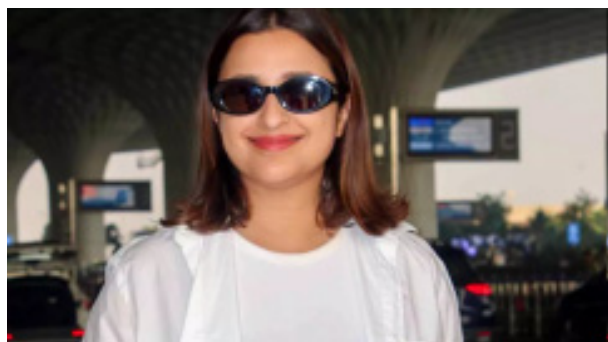
Mumbai: As Rajkumar Hirani's OTT debut 'Pritam and Pedro' finally became available for streaming on JioHotstar, Bollywood star Aamir Khan showered praises on the debutant Vir Hirani and the entire team of the web series. In a nostalgic note, Aamir expressed his pride for Vir, saying that it is an incredible experience for him to see the youngster step into the new phase of his life and turn into a talented and hardworking professional. The 'Sitare Zameen Par' actor said, "Vir is like my son, so today is a very emotional and special day for me. I've seen him grow up over the years, and it's incredibly fulfilling to watch him step into this new phase of his journey with 'Pritam and Pedro'. He's always been a bright, thoughtful, and hardworking young man, and I'm so happy to see him making his debut." Coverage Sending his wishes for Vir and the 'Pritam and Pedro' team, 'Mr Perfectionist' went on to add, "I have no doubt that this is just the beginning of many wonderful things to come. I wish Vir and the entire team of 'Pritam and Pedro' all the love and success. I hope



audiences enjoy the series and shower it with the same warmth with which it has been made." Created, written, and produced by Rajkumar Hirani, 'Pritam and Pedro' marks his primary attempt at a long OTT format. The son of the acclaimed director, Vir Hirani, has also made his acting debut with 'Pritam and Pedro'. He is seen essaying the role of a young hacker, Pritam Parker, on the show. Made under the direction of Avinash Arun, the quirky cybercrime comedy-drama enjoys a talented ensemble cast with Vir Hirani, Arshad Warsi, Vikrant Massey, Boman Irani, Mona Singh, Satyadeep Misra, and Shruti Marathe in the lead. 'Pritam and Pedro' premiered on JioHotstar on 3 July this year.

When Parineeti Chopra admitted that she's scared of Katrina Kaif

Mumbai: As Parineeti Chopra graced the famous 'Koffee With Karan' couch with Aditya Roy Kapoor, she hilariously revealed that she gets extremely nervous around fellow actress Katrina Kaif. In a pure fangirl moment, Parineeti called Katrina her idol, adding that she is a huge admirer of her calm and composed personality. Sharing a particular incident, Parineeti said, "That day, she (Katrina) came to the gym, and I quickly increased the speed of my treadmill." Then Katrina came to her and asked, "What are you doing? How many minutes have you done?" As the 'Chamkila' actress replied, "20 minutes", Katrina replied in a stern voice, "5 more minutes". After hearing this, Parineeti was like, "Okay, okay, whatever you say" "She is like my idol," she further admitted. When host and filmmaker Karan Johar asked Aditya if he was



also scared of Katrina, he shared, "Yes, from time to time". Also Read - When Katrina Kaif revealed the most adorable thing husband Vicky Kaushal has ever done for her Advertisement When Karan asked, "But why? She is lovely", both Parineeti and Aditya stated that Katrina has a straight face that can make anyone around her nervous. While Parineeti is yet to share screen space with Katrina, Aditya was seen romancing her in the 2016 outing, "Fitoor".

Priyanka Chopra Jonas shares glimpse of pre-Fourth of July celebrations in the US

Mumbai: Global icon Priyanka Chopra Jonas gave fans a glimpse of the pre-Fourth of July celebrations in the United States through a post on her social media account. The actress posted a nighttime view from her bed, looking out through large glass windows at fireworks lighting up the sky. Alongside the serene clip, she wrote, "Happy almost 4th from bed," referring to the celebrations leading up to the Fourth of July, also known as the US Independence Day.



Talking about Priyanka and her association with the United States of America, it goes a long way. During her childhood, the actress lived in the US for a few years while staying with relatives and attended schools in Massachusetts, Iowa and New York before returning to India. Years later, after establishing herself as one of Bollywood's biggest stars, she ventured into Hollywood. The actress has often spoken about having no qualms about having to begin her journey from scratch despite her immense success back home. In many of her interviews, the actress has revealed that she had to introduce herself to casting professionals, attend auditions and pitch herself for work, much like any

newcomer. Priyanka also stated that she carried portfolios, and worked her way into the industry without expecting any kind of royal treatment because of her Bollywood fame. For the uninitiated, her Hollywood journey began with her music career before she landed the lead role in the American television series 'Quantico' in 2015. With the show, she went on to become the first South Asian actress to headline an American network drama. PeeCee later went on to feature in projects such as 'Baywatch', 'The Matrix Resurrections', 'Citadel', 'Love Again' and 'Heads of State', among others. On the personal front, Priyanka is married to American singer-actor Nick Jonas, and the couple are parents to daughter Malti Marie. The actress continues to juggle between the United States and India, balancing her Hollywood commitments and Indian projects.

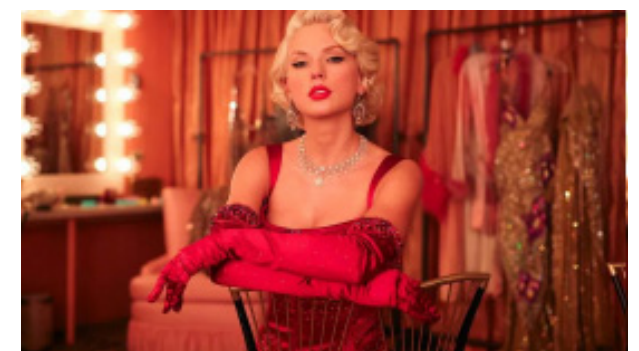
Samantha Ruth Prabhu teams up with Sony LIV after announcing pregnancy

Mumbai: Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu has joined hands with Sony LIV for a new collaboration, shortly after announcing her pregnancy. She has stepped into this exciting new phase both personally and professionally, marking another notable development in her journey. Samantha is in talks with Sony LIV for their new project. It is being said that the "Oo Antava" actress has teamed up with Sony LIV for a long association and that she might also produce it. Sharing her excitement, Samantha said in a statement, "This year has reminded me to embrace change, trust the journey and welcome new beginnings. I'm so happy to be starting this new chapter with Sony LIV Tamil. We've been working on something really exciting, and I'm looking forward to sharing it with all of you very soon." On the personal front, the actress is all set to embrace motherhood, as she and her husband—filmmaker Raj Nidimoru—are expecting their first child together. During a thank-you event for her recent film 'Maa Inti Bangaaram' in Hyderabad, Samantha officially confirmed her pregnancy and shared that she would be stepping away from work for a short period to begin her maternity break. She was quoted as saying, "Sorry guys, one more small gap and then I will be back. I know I have to take maternity leave now. But I am very happy. Recently, Samantha posted a heartfelt picture on social media, flaunting her baby bump. With a hint of humor, she accompanied the post with the caption, "My six-pack. I'll see you when I see you." For the unversed, Samantha and Raj Nidimoru got married in 2025, marking the second marriage for both. Samantha was earlier married to actor Naga Chaitanya from 2017 to 2021, while Raj Nidimoru was previously married to Shyamali De.



Taylor Swift arrives at Gigi Hadid's home ahead of reported wedding celebrations

Los Angeles: Pop icon Taylor Swift reached her friend Gigi Hadid's house ahead of her wedding. The singer-songwriter is set to marry Travis Kelce at New York's Madison Square Garden. It seems she has started her preparations for the big day with one of her closest friends, fuelling speculation the model will be one of her bridesmaids, reports 'Female First UK'. Taylor had been seen at Gigi's Manhattan apartment several times this week amid the wedding preparations, and the 31-year-old beauty and her partner Bradley Cooper were among the 100 guests at a rehearsal dinner at MSG. She joined the likes of Selena Gomez and Jack Antonoff in partying until late into the night. Meanwhile, Daily Mail Online reports director Steven Spielberg and rapper Jay-Z, along with his 14-year-old daughter Blue Ivy, were spotted at the West 30th Street Heliport on Friday, prompt-



ing discussion they will be among the 1,000 guests at the wedding. Although Taylor and Travis' wedding celebrations will take place at Madison Square Garden, it is unclear if they will be exchanging vows elsewhere first, with some reports suggesting they may have already tied the knot. As per 'Female First UK', streets have been shut off around the venue and large security cordons have been put in place with the New York Times reporting hundreds of police officers will be posted outside MSG throughout the festivities.

Parthiv Patel hails Shreyas Iyer's 'masterclass' after rain-hit first T20I against England

New Delhi: Former India wicketkeeper-batter Parthiv Patel believes Shreyas Iyer silenced his critics with a composed captain's knock in the rain-abandoned first T20I against England, saying the



innings showcased his maturity and ability to adapt to the match situation. Leading the side in the series opener at Chester-le-Street, Iyer struck 68 off 47 deliveries to anchor India's innings after the visitors were reduced to 6/2 inside the first two overs. His knock, along with Abhishek Sharma's explosive 59 off just 24 balls and Shivam Dube's unbeaten 42 off 21 deliveries, helped India recover to post a competitive 189/7. However, persistent rain after the completion of India's innings prevented England from beginning their chase, forcing the match to be abandoned without a result. Reflecting on Iyer's innings, Parthiv said the India skipper displayed excellent awareness by complementing Abhishek's aggressive approach instead of looking for big hits himself. "Those raising questions over Shreyas Iyer would have felt a lot more relieved after this innings. As a player, Shreyas Iyer doesn't have to worry about anything. He's a proven performer in this format. It was a very important innings because India had lost two early wickets, while at the other end, Abhishek Sharma was batting quite aggressively. So,

Shreyas had to play the second fiddle rather than rely too much on hitting sixes, which is something every Indian player is so used to from playing in the IPL," Parthiv told Jio Hotstar. "You have to rotate the strike, and score boundaries along the ground. I thought it was a masterclass from Shreyas Iyer, understanding the situation and the dimensions of the ground. That's something both the captain and the Indian team would have learned from those two games against Ireland," he added. Patel also felt India's batting display was an important step forward after an inconsistent start to the tour during the two T20Is against Ireland, saying the innings showed the team's ability to adapt to different conditions. "The way India's first two games against Ireland went, it was important for India to produce this kind of batting performance. There were obviously doubts about whether India could adapt to certain conditions and whether they could change their game plan. Looking at those games in Ireland, in my opinion, this innings was necessary for India, where you see a complete batting performance.

Chaminda Vaas urges patience with Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, backs teenager for long India career

Hyderabad: Former Sri Lanka fast bowler Chaminda Vaas, currently serving as the official mentor of the Palamuru Strikers in the Telangana T20 League (TG20), believes teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryava



nshi has all the ingredients to enjoy a successful international career but urged fans and experts not to burden the 15-year-old with unrealistic expectations. Speaking to IANS, Vaas said India has consistently produced world-class young cricketers over the years and expressed confidence that Sooryavanshi will eventually establish himself in the national side if allowed to develop naturally. "Well, India has produced so many young talent over so many years. And this new sensation, Sooryavanshi, is still young, and I am sure he will get the opportunity to play for India and do well, but one thing I will ask of the people is that he is still young and not to pressurise him, and I am sure he will do wonders for Indian cricket." Sooryavanshi, who grabbed headlines by amassing 776 runs at a staggering strike-rate of 237.30 to bag the Player-of-the-Tournament honour in IPL 2026 for Rajasthan Royals, is currently eyeing a much-anticipated international debut for India in the ongoing five-match T201 series against England. Sooryavanshi was unused in Ireland, as India suffered a shock 2-0 series loss. Vaas also lauded the TG20, saying tournaments of this nature are crucial in identifying and nurtur-

ing young talent while providing aspiring cricketers with a pathway to the IPL and eventually the Indian team. "Hyderabad Cricket Association organizing the first Telangana T20 is good for the youngsters, and there's so much potential I can see with all the teams. Especially if you take Palamuru Strikers, there are quite a few youngsters coming through the ladder, and I'm really pleased with their performance, but even though as a team we didn't perform, there are a few individuals striking really well," He said.

Asked to compare the TG20 with other domestic T20 competitions across the country, Vaas said India's cricketing ecosystem has become a benchmark in developing young players by ensuring regular competitive opportunities at the state level. "Indian cricket has done a great job for youngsters, and not only in Hyderabad, I think every state they organize a T20 tournament and give so much exposure, so much opportunity, as well as the experience to get into IPL, and that's how most of the cricketers have come up. And it's really good to see the youngsters are stepping into the next level," he added.

Manish Tewari slams Omar Abdullah statement on India Pakistan dialogue

Chandigarh: Congress MP Manish Tewari on Saturday questioned the purpose of resuming dialogue with Pakistan, asserting that any engagement would be meaningless unless Islamabad first stops sponsoring terrorism against India. His remarks came after Omar Abdullah on Thursday said that no one should object to India-Pakistan dialogue if the objective is to improve relations between the two neighbouring countries. The Chief Minister noted that the conflict between India and Pakistan was not new and had continued for the past three to four decades. "This conflict is 30 to 40 years old, and last year it intensified after the Pahalgam attack. Now, through a letter, the Prime Minister has been requested to improve relations between the two countries. No one should have any objection to that," he said. Speaking to IANS, Manish Tewari said, "Since 1971, when India helped create Bangladesh, Pakistan has been carrying a sense of revenge. At that time, the atrocities committed by the West Pakistani forces on the people of East Pakistan led to their surrender, and nearly 91,000 Pakistani soldiers were taken as prisoners of war by India. Since then, they have been trying to take revenge. Their strategy has been to 'bleed India with a thousand cuts', and they have been promoting terrorism time and again." Referring to the terror attack in Baisaran, Pahalgam, he said, "In the Baisaran attack, 26 people were killed after being asked about their religion. India



should not forget this so soon. What exactly do you want to talk about with Pakistan? India wants only one thing from Pakistan — that it should stop promoting terrorism."

He further asked, "Has anyone in Pakistan guaranteed that its territory will not be used for terrorism against India? General Musharraf had given assurances to Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and later made similar commitments to Manmohan Singh and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Those assurances were never honoured." Meanwhile, Sanjay Saraogi, the Bihar BJP chief, criticised those advocating engagement with Pakistan, saying, "These are people who support Pakistan and back terrorists. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Home Minister have already said that Operation Sindoor has not ended; it has only been suspended. Therefore, those who support Pakistan and terrorists will continue to make such statements."

'I Wasn't Happy When He Retired': says Kapil Dev upon Kohli's retirement from tests



New Delhi: Former India captain Kapil Dev admitted he was 'not happy' with Virat Kohli's decision to retire from Test cricket, saying the batting great still possessed the ability to succeed in the longest format and could have fought his way back into the side if required. Kohli announced his retirement from Test cricket in May 2025, bringing the curtain down on a glittering 14-year red-ball career in which he scored 9,230 runs in 123 Tests, including 30 centuries. India's most successful Test captain with 40 wins in 68 matches, Kohli stepped away from the format ahead of the England tour, saying he had "given everything" to Test cricket. Reflecting on Kohli's decision, Kapil said he would have preferred the former India captain to continue playing. "I wasn't happy when he retired from Test cricket. It's not about 10,000 runs or any milestone. I felt that if he had stayed away from reacting in anger for six months, there was every chance he would have played for India again," Kapil told Sports Tak. The 1983 World Cup-winning captain suggested Kohli should have remained patient even if he faced setbacks. "If the selectors didn't pick him,

it's okay. If the captain didn't pick him, it's okay. Go back, work hard, score runs in domestic cricket or wherever you play. He would have come back because he still has the ability of a Test match player," he added.

Kapil also drew comparisons between Kohli's intensely competitive personality and tennis legend John McEnroe, saying some athletes thrive on emotion and confrontation. "He had that ability, though sometimes he got a little too enthusiastic. Looking at Virat, I remember John McEnroe. Until he fought, he couldn't produce his best performance," he said. "Some players, like Rahul Dravid, Sunil Gavaskar and Sachin, keep their heads down and let their performances do the talking. But some players take up challenges. That's why I mentioned McEnroe. He was always fighting with the referee. I could never do that, but it was fascinating to watch," he added. Kapil acknowledged that while Kohli's aggression occasionally appeared excessive from the outside, it may have been central to the former captain's success. "Sometimes, looking at Viat, you feel he should cool down a little."

Gold posts first weekly gain since May as Fed rate hike expectations ease



Mumbai: Gold recorded its first weekly gain since May as trader expectations for further US Federal Reserve rate hikes moderated, pushing bullion prices around 3.1 per cent for the week. Soft US job numbers and lower energy prices led to investors reducing the expectations of monetary policy tightening. However, on Friday, MCX gold August futures eased 0.01 per cent while MCX silver July futures inched up 0.04 per cent. Currently, gold futures stand at Rs 1,47,365, while silver futures at Rs 2,37,499 per kg. The price of 10 grams of 24-carat gold was at Rs 1,46,344 on Friday, up from Rs 1,41,911 seen on Monday market opening, according to data published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA). "Gold extended its recovery for the fourth consecutive session and touched a 10-day high on Friday. The rebound comes after more than a month of sustained selling following the May 13 import duty hike, with improving sentiment supported by a softer US dollar," an analyst said.

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Gold rises over 3.1 per cent in a week on easing Fed concerns



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casted that the bullion is expected to trade in the Rs 1,45,000-1,49,000 range, with global cues continuing to drive sentiment. Market participants said softer US labour data and easing energy costs reduced the probability of further Fed tightening. US hiring slowed sharply in June and traders trimmed the probability of a quarter-point rate increase at the Fed's next meeting to below 20 per cent, down from roughly one-third earlier in the week.

Lower energy costs and softer job growth have led analysts to forecast a gradual easing of inflationary pressures in coming months. Oil prices have witnessed their sharpest quarterly correction since 2020 as shipments from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates near pre-war levels. US President Donald Trump and allies have renewed efforts to clear the way for more of the president's own picks at the Federal Reserve after the Supreme Court blocked an attempt to remove Governor Lisa Cook. Similar efforts last year, challenging Fed's independence, helped fuel gold's rally as investors sought protection against potential policy shifts.

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Ashwini Vaishnaw to launch Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train tunnel work

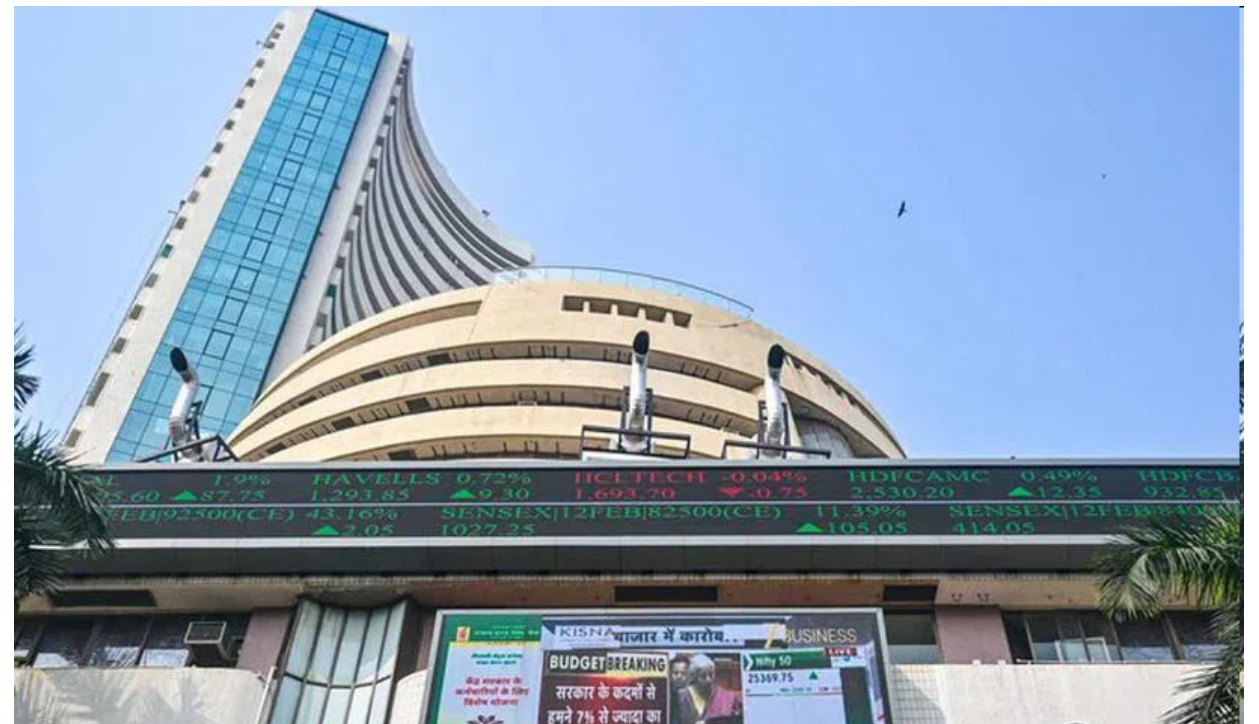
New Delhi: Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw will inaugurate the underground tunnel-boring work from Vikhroli to the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) station in Mumbai on Sunday, marking the first use of a tunnel boring machine (TBM) for the country's first bullet train project between Mumbai and Ahmedabad. Imported by sea from China in March 2026, the two customised German-made tunnel boring machines (TBMs) are owned by Afcons Infrastructure Limited, which is constructing a 20.37-km tunnel, including a 7-km undersea stretch. The tunnel will be built at a depth of about 65 metres below ground level. "The Railway Minister will push a button to commence the operation of the tunnel boring machine stationed 56.6 metres below ground level at Vikhroli," an official of the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) said. Officials said the first TBM will begin tunnelling from Vikhroli towards the BKC station, covering a distance of approximately 5.8 km. The second TBM is currently being assembled at Sawli and is expected to be ready within a week. It will excavate the 9.7-km stretch from Sawli to Vikhroli, including the 7-km undersea section. "Each TBM is expected to excavate about 300 metres of tunnel every month. Once both machines become operational, around 600 metres of tunnelling will be completed every month," a senior railway expert said. Explaining the project, he said the



20.37-km tunnel stretches from the BKC station to Shilphata.

"Of the total length, 15.4 km between BKC and Sawli will be excavated using TBMs. The remaining 4.8-km stretch from Sawli to Shilphata has already been completed using the drill-and-blast method," he said. The tunnel will be a single-tube passage that will accommodate twin tracks for bi-directional traffic. Two shafts at Vikhroli and Sawli, at approximate depths of 56 metres and 39 metres, respectively, will facilitate the construction. Thirty-nine equipment rooms at 37 locations will also be constructed adjoining the tunnel as part of the package. The TBMs are among the largest and most expensive ever deployed in India. Each has a cutter head diameter of 13.6 metres, making them among the biggest tunnel boring machines used in any railway project in the country. By comparison, TBMs used for urban metro rail systems typically have cutter head diameters of 5 to 6 metres. Afcons, which is constructing the most crucial part of the project.

Nifty and Sensex post fourth straight week of gains



Mumbai: The Indian equity benchmarks posted a fourth consecutive week of gains amid a sustained correction in crude oil prices and expectations of a more favourable global interest rate environment. Nifty added 0.89 per cent during the week and edged up 0.39 per cent on the last trading day to close at 24,270. At the close, the Sensex was up 261 points, or 0.34 per cent, at 77,763. It gained 0.86 per cent during the week. The domestic markets shifted from defensive caution at the start of the week to growing optimism by the close. The early part of the week was marked by profit-booking due to scepticism over the durability of the US-Iran peace arrangement, muted expectations ahead of the upcoming earnings season and a patchy start to the monsoon.

"Easing tensions around the Strait of Hormuz weighed on crude oil prices, while dovish commentary from the Fed Chair, coupled with softer US labour market data, reinforced expectations of a more accommodative global interest rate environment," analysts said. Further, domestic sentiment received an additional boost from optimism surrounding the India-Japan summit, with investors anticipating progress in trade, defence, semi-conductors, AI collaboration and a proposed rupee-yen settlement framework.

On the sectoral front, real estate, pharma and healthcare stocks outperformed, whereas PSU banks and energy stocks lagged. The IT sector staged a notable rebound due to short covering and a strengthening investment narrative around Indian IT firms' role in enterprise AI adoption. Broad market indices performed almost in line with the benchmark indices, as the Nifty Midcap100 added 0.64 per cent, while the Nifty Smallcap100 rallied 2.05 per cent during the week. According to analysts, the immediate resistance for the Nifty is at the 24,400 level, while the 24,200 level is expected to provide immediate support, followed by the 24,000 level. Immediate support for the Bank Nifty is in the 57,600-57,500 zone, while resistance is seen in the 58,200-58,300 zone. Investors remain focused on the US FOMC minutes, the domestic earnings season, monsoon progress, credit growth trends and ongoing trade negotiations with Japan, the UK and the US. "While risks persist amid downward revisions to earnings growth estimates, monsoon-related inflation concerns, and continued FII caution, much of the visible uncertainty appears to be priced in, leaving room for a constructive view on incremental positives," a market participant said.

108 Emergency Services Fully Prepared for the Monsoon Season

108 stands with the people through rapid emergency medical response. Every ambulance equipped with essential medicines and life-saving medical equipment. With the onset of the monsoon season and the increased likelihood of seasonal illnesses, 108 Emergency Ambulance Services have geared up to provide timely emergency medical care across Andhra Pradesh. Seasonal diseases, snake and other venomous insect bites, electrocution, and drowning incidents are expected to rise during this period. Keeping these challenges in view, special preparedness measures have been put in place to ensure prompt emergency response, particularly in rural areas, agricultural fields, tribal regions, and villages located near forest areas. Even under adverse weather conditions such as waterlogged roads and damaged transportation routes, 108 teams remain on high alert to reach patients at the earliest possible time. Golden Hour Response To effectively handle monsoon-related emergencies, every 108 ambulance has been

equipped with essential emergency medicines, oxygen support systems, life-saving medical equipment and other critical medical supplies. Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and ambulance pilots have been issued special operational guidelines to ensure rapid response during emergencies. The teams are fully prepared to provide immediate pre-hospital care during the crucial Golden Hour and safely transport patients to the nearest healthcare facility. Emergency operations across all districts are being continuously monitored to ensure seamless coordination and uninterrupted services. A Life-line During Emergencies During the period from July 2025 to June 2026, 108 Emergency Services played a vital role in responding to thousands of monsoon-related emergencies across the state. The service attended 28,933 fever-related emergencies, 14,353 animal and insect bite cases, 2,194 electrocution cases, 718 drowning incidents, and 96 lightning-related emergencies, providing timely medical assistance and saving countless lives.



These figures reflect the increasing need for prompt emergency medical response during the monsoon season and reinforce the critical role played by 108 Emergency Services in safeguarding public health across Andhra Pradesh. Timely intervention during the Golden Hour continues to be a key factor in improving patient outcomes and saving precious lives. During the rainy season, incidents involving snakes, scorpions and other venomous insects entering

residential areas tend to increase. Likewise, heavy rains often result in drowning incidents, electrocution caused by snapped power lines and a rise in viral fevers and other seasonal illnesses. In such situations, people are advised not to panic or depend on unscientific local remedies. Instead, they should immediately seek professional medical assistance by calling 108, as timely emergency care can make the difference between life and death.

DRDO team inspects site for BDL project



Donakonda: A team of officials from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) visited the proposed Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) project site at Donakonda Mega Industrial Hub in Darsi constituency on Friday, along with the district collector P Rajababu. The district administration explained the site details, available infrastructure and future expansion possibilities to the visiting team. Later, the collector and the DRDO team held a meeting at the Donakonda MPDO office, where the team members presented the project using a PowerPoint presentation. Speaking to the media after the visit, collector Raja Babu said the DRDO team had visited Donakonda to review the prestigious project proposed to be set up by BDL. He said the state government was giving top priority to industrial development. He further said the DRDO team had thoroughly examined the land, transport connectivity, water and power facilities required for the project. The collector said the district administration would extend all necessary cooperation for the project and expedite the required processes through coordination among government departments. He said the project, once implemented, would boost industrial growth in Donakonda and create around 500 permanent jobs directly and 2000 jobs indirectly. Addanki RDO Vijaya Jyothi, APIIC GM Madan Mohan Rao, industries department GM Srinivasa Rao, district land survey officer Gouse

Basha, and officials from APIIC, industries and revenue departments took part in the meeting.

Statues of legendary artiste-couple unveiled

Vijayawada: It was a memorable day for theatre lovers in Andhra Pradesh as statues of legendary artistes P Suribabu and P Rajeswari were unveiled at Thummalla Kalakshetram here on Friday. The statues were unveiled by Vijayawada Central MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao in the presence of noted music director Madhavapreddi Suresh, senior writer-journalist Rentala Jayadeva, eminent artistes, and other dignitaries. Addressing the



gathering, Umamaheswara Rao said the present government is committed to the welfare of artistes and lauded the immense contributions of Suribabu and Rajeswari to Telugu theatre and the performing arts. Organiser and grandson of the legendary couple, P Nagahari Prasad, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the dignitaries, artistes, and theatre lovers who attended the ceremony and made the event a grand success. Born in Bommaluru, P Suribabu was a pioneering singer-actor of Telugu theatre and cinema, celebrated for his powerful voice that earned him the title "Kanchukantham Suribabu." He founded

237 petitions received at spl PGRS



Kandukur: Joint Collector Kalpana Kumari said special grievance programmes are being conducted at the constituency level to solve public prob-

lems quickly at the ground level. She participated in the special Public Grievance Redressal System held in Kandukur on Friday, along with the local MLA Inturi Nageswara Rao and sub-collector D Himavanshi. They received a total of 237 petitions from the public, and the joint collector directed officials concerned to take immediate action on them. Speaking at the programme, Kalpana Kumari said the district administration was holding such grievance programmes four times a month in the same assembly constituency to identify and solve field-level problems. She said the entire district machinery was reaching out to the people as directed by the chief minister, with special focus on revenue issues. She said the state government had issued a fresh circular guiding tahsildars and RDOs on this. The MLA said it was a good development that the district machinery was coming to the people, and asked officials to solve the problems raised, particularly those relating to farm extent and online issues faced by farmers, who form a majority in the constituency.