

# KING

## DAILY NEWSPAPER

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**TTD arranges special VIP darshan for 116-year-old devotee who trekked to Tirumala:8**

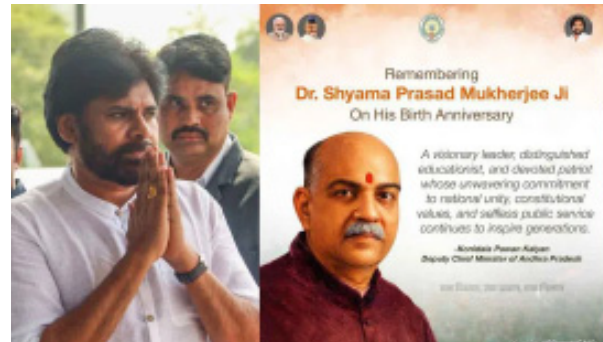
**Sandhya Theatre stampede case: Will Allu Arjun appear in person? Nampally court to hear matter on Monday**



Hyderabad: The hearing in the sensational Sandhya Theatre stampede case is scheduled to take place before the Nampally Court on Monday. The case pertains to the stampede that occurred during a special screening of Pushpa 2, in which a woman lost her life and others were injured. Police have filed a case against 23 suspects, including actor Allu Arjun. During the previous hearing, some of the suspects failed to appear before the court. The court subsequently made it clear that further proceedings would continue only after the appearance of all the suspects. All eyes are now on whether Allu Arjun, who attended the last hearing virtually, will once again appear before the court through video conferencing or adopt a different mode of appearance. The court is expected to take up the matter later in the day.

## Pawan Kalyan pays tribute to Syama Prasad Mookerjee; Chandrababu Naidu remembers Jagjivan Ram

(king Reporter)Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Monday paid tributes to Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his birth anniversary. The Jana Sena leader called Mookerjee “one of India’s foremost nation builders, an eminent educationist, visionary statesman, and a fearless patriot whose life was dedicated to safeguarding the unity, integrity, and sovereignty of our nation. The actor-politician posted on social media that as the founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, Mookerjee laid the foundation for a political movement rooted in nationalism, democratic values, and public service. “His unwavering conviction that ‘One Nation, One Constitution, One Flag’ became a defining symbol of na-



tional unity and constitutional integrity. A distinguished scholar and one of the youngest Vice-Chancellors of the University of Calcutta, he believed that education was the cornerstone of nation-building. “His remarkable contributions to public life, governance, and national discourse continue to inspire generations to uphold the ideals of courage, selfless service, and unwavering See 2nd page

## Pruthvi Toyota service centre opened

Bhimavaram: Pruthvi Toyota, an authorised dealer partner of Toyota Kirloskar Motor, inaugurated its new dealership and service facility in Bhimavaram, marking a major expansion of Toyota’s presence in the West Godavari region. Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly K Raghu Rama Krishna Raju inaugurated the facility in the presence of Bhimavaram MLA P Ramanjaneyulu. The programme began with the traditional lighting of the lamp and a welcome address by the Managing Director of Pruthvi Toyota, who said the company is committed to bringing Toyota’s standards of quality, safety, reliability and customer satisfaction to customers in Bhimavaram and



neighbouring districts. Addressing the gathering, Raghu Rama Krishna Raju appreciated Toyota’s continued investment in AP and lauded Pruthvi Toyota for creating employment opportunities and strengthening the local economy. Andhra Pradesh Tourism The Chairman of Pruthvi Toyota thanked Toyota Kirloskar Motor, customers, business associates, media representatives and employees for their support in establishing the facility.



## Call to preserve tribal culture

(king Reporter)Vijayawada: A massive gathering of tribal communities attended the Tribal Adivasi Cultural Convention held at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram in Vijayawada. Addressing the gathering as the chief guest, Vadithya Shankar Naik, former ST Commission member and founder and national president of Girijana Praja Samakhya (GPS), emphasised that preserving tribal culture, traditions, and customs is the collective responsibility of every individual. He demanded the restoration of GO No 3 in the Agency areas and called for the strict implementation of the 1/70 Land Transfer Regulation to prevent the transfer of tribal lands to non-tribals and ensure that such lands remain with tribal people. The cultural segment of the convention featured vibrant traditional dances performed by Adivasi artists, highlighting the rich heritage of the Banjara community and receiving enthusiastic appreciation from the audience. Among those who participated were GPS State President Raju Naik,

State Secretary Ravi Naik, Hanumanthu Naik, Mallu Swamy, Prakasam District President Saida Naik, Krishna District President Sameer Naik, National Vice President Vishnu Naik, Guntur District leader Anja Naik, Peram Satyam, Dharma Kumar, Durga Naik, Parvathi Bai, Lakshman Naik, Krishna Naik, Chandra Naik, Pandu Naik, Madhu Kumar from Kakinada, Varahalu, renowned tribal artist Bhikshu Naik and his cultural troupe, along with thousands of tribal community members from different regions.

## Heavy rush witnessed at Durga temple

(king Reporter)Vijayawada: A large number of devotees thronged the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam on Sunday to offer prayers to Goddess Sri Kanaka Durga Ammavaru, resulting in heavy rush from the morning hours. With Sunday being a holiday, the number of devotees increased sharply from around 9 am. In view of the heavy footfall, temple authorities made elaborate arrangements to ensure smooth crowd management and hassle-free darshan. To facilitate quicker darshan for general devotees, Antaralaya Darshan was temporarily suspended from 10.30 am, while all categories of VIP darshan were cancelled between 10.30 am and 2.15 pm. The arrangements were supervised by Deputy Executive Officer Kishore Kumar, while Assistant Executive Officers Chandrasekhar and Ramesh Babu monitored the queue lines and coordinated with temple staff. Temple Executive Officer VK Seena Naik continuously monitored the arrangements through wireless communication, while



Assistant Commissioner Ranga Rao supervised crowd management. Devotees expressed satisfaction over the well-organised arrangements, stating that despite the heavy rush, they had a smooth and peaceful darshan.

## ‘Tribal boys’ school inaugurated

(king Reporter)Narasaraopet: Minister for Tribal Welfare, Women and Child Welfare Gummadi Sandhya Rani assured that she will release Rs 6 crore funds for the construction of Tribal Welfare Boys School compound wall and dormitory. She, along with MLA GV Anjaneyulu, inaugurated the Tribal Welfare Boys School constructed at a cost of Rs 3 crore at Checkkavagu of Vinukonda Assembly constituency in Palnadu district on Sunday. Speaking on this occasion, she said that all the necessary facilities have been provided in the new building complex for the convenience of the students and explained welfare schemes being introduced by the coalition government for students. She further said that the government is



giving top priority to education, women’s welfare, women’s empowerment, youth welfare and urged the eligible to avail the benefits of welfare schemes. MLA Anjaneyulu thanked the minister for her assurance to sanction another Rs 6 crore for the development of the Tribal Boys Welfare School.

## Walkathon to promote cleanliness organised

Kakinada, organised a walkathon on Saturday as part of Swachhata Pakhwada 2026 to raise awareness about cleanliness and encourage greater public participation in the Swachh Bharat Mission. The walkathon was flagged off by Executive Director and Asset Man-

ager Prabal Sengupta, who joined ONGC employees and students of Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Kakinada in the awareness drive. Principal of JNTU College of Engineering, K Padma Raju, also participated along with students.





## Toxic relationships-both sexes are vulnerable

We have been hearing of unpardonable violence and limitless cruelty against both sexes, particularly partner brutality and sexual savagery. It has become a major psychological, public and clinical health problem and a violation of human rights. The Mehrauli murder accused Aftab cut his girlfriend Shraddha's body into 17 pieces, kept shifting it between the fridge and kitchen cabinets each time a woman he met on a dating app visited his rented house, a live-in relationship they had for nearly four years. The blue drum case refers to a notorious March 2025 murder where a merchant Navy officer Saurabh Rajput, was drugged and killed in Meerut by his wife and her lover. They dismembered his body, packed into a blue plastic drum and sealed it with white cement. Indore businessman Raja Raghuvanshi was murdered when he was on his honeymoon in Meghalaya by his wife Sonam, who orchestrated the entire plan. The recent case was that of Ketan Aggarwal from Pune, who was allegedly pushed to his death from a cliff by his fiancé and her alleged lover. The list of such brutal incidents is endless. Also Read - Mumbai: Husband forces wife into 'rooster' position for hours, stabs her after escape Advertisement Intimate partner violence whether live-in, married or yet to be married as it happened in Ketan Aggarwal's case refers to behavior by an intimate partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological abuse and torture in any form. Violence against men/women has a very long history though incidents and intensity of violence changed over a period. Violence against both genders is seen as an attempt to assume superiority over the other. It is a problem of pandemic proportions. Masculinity versus femininity and vice-versa. Marriage is considered very sacred in India. It is an institution by itself and is totally accepted by every individual unquestionably. It is the spider web of social norms and legal regulations. Absolute faith and trust are very important. You cannot be more sensitive to pleasure without being more sensitive to pain. When you stop expecting people to be perfect, you can like them for who they are and what they are. Some people see a partner as property not a person. When control slips—a break up, a 'no', independence—rage replaces reason. The most important thing is the lack of 'exit' option. As citizens the onus lies on everyone, family members, friends and relatives to be observant and keep your eyes and ears open to observe the happenings around you. Adjustment, agreement, acknowledgement, commitment, and settlement are the most important key words for any relationship.

## POCSO accused escapes from Mahabubnagar District Jail; prison officials launch inquiry

Mahabubnagar: In a sensational development, an accused person in a POCSO case has escaped from the Mahabubnagar District Jail on the early hours of Monday, reports said. Kishore Kumar Reddy of Nandimalla village in Amarchinta Mandal, scaled the prison wall and fled in the early hours. The jail authorities made all attempts to keep the incident under wraps. Kishore Kumar Reddy was as an accused in a POCSO case, according to reports.

## Another student goes missing from KGBV in Mancherial, police launch search



Mancherial: Another student went missing from Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya at Kotapalli mandal centre on Monday. Police said that Sai Shruti, studying Intermediate first year at the institution, left the college without informing anyone since Sunday morning. A case has been registered. Investigations have been taken up. Special teams were formed to trace the student. However, parents expressed concern over instances of missing students at government-run educational institutions at regular intervals. They

urged the officials to locate her and to strengthen security measures at the college. They requested the authorities to take steps to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future. On July 3, a Class IX student, who went missing from a Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Residential School in Chennur, was traced a day later.

A student, studying Intermediate II year at the college, left the institute by jumping over a compound wall of a social welfare residential college in Rebbena mandal centre on June 25. She returned to the college after a week.

## World Zoonoses Day: Hyderabad vets stress rabies vaccination and awareness to prevent animal-borne diseases

Hyderabad: Veterinary experts, public health officials, animal welfare organizations and animal lovers in Hyderabad organised a series of awareness drives, free vaccination camps, and seminars to mark the occasion of World Zoonoses Day on Monday. Observed annually on July 6, the day commemorates Louis Pasteur's historic administration of the first successful rabies vaccine in 1885. Pet owners from core areas of Hyderabad and Secunderabad made a beeline to the Government Veterinary Hospital at Narayangudda to avail the annual rabies vaccine for their dogs. On the occasion of World Zoonosis Day, the Government Veterinary Hospital at Narayangudda provides vaccination to 600 to 700 pet animals at the hospital. Senior doctors at the Narayangudda veterinary hospital interacted with pet owners and explained about zoonotic dis-



eases, which are essentially infections that are transmitted from animals to humans. Veterinarians and public health specialists emphasized that nearly 60 percent of known human infectious diseases originate in animals, making preventive measures critical during the high-humidity months. Some of the most common ailments that get transmitted from animals to humans include leptospirosis, which occurs due to exposure to water contaminated with the urine of rodents and scrub typhus.

## Harish Rao demands withdrawal of GO for Siddapur dump yard, warns of BRS stir

Hyderabad: BRS deputy leader T Harish Rao on Monday demanded the immediate withdrawal of the government order for establishment of a dump yard at Siddapur village in Kothur mandal of Ranga Reddy district. He warned that the BRS would launch a massive people's movement if the decision was not revoked. His remarks came after farmers and residents from Siddapur and surrounding villages met him in Hyderabad, alleging that the proposed dump yard would destroy agriculture, pollute water sources and threaten their livelihoods. They urged the BRS to intervene and fight against the project. Harish Rao criticised the Congress government for issuing GO No. 641 to establish the dump yard over 86 acres, calling the decision as ill-conceived and detrimental to nearly 20 surrounding villages dependent on agriculture. He said farmers cultivating vegetables for the Hyderabad market rely on water from Gutta Cheruvu, located adjacent to the proposed site, and warned that the dump yard would contaminate both irrigation



and drinking water sources. He also raised concern that pollution from the facility would adversely affect devotees visiting the nearby Jahangir Peer Dargah. The BRS deputy leader said during the previous BRS rule, the 334-acre land parcel, including survey numbers 252, 278 and 361, had been earmarked for an IT park to generate employment for local youth and spur regional development. He said replacing such a proposal with a dump yard indicated the government's misplaced priorities. Questioning the Congress government's commitment to people's governance, Harish Rao said employment-generating infrastructure was being sacrificed in favour of a project that would bring pollution and disease to a fertile agricultural belt.

## Pawan Kalyan pays tribute to Syama Prasad Mookerjee; Chandrababu Naidu remembers Jagjivan Ram

Continu, from 1st page

commitment to the nation. On this solemn occasion, let us reaffirm our resolve to build a strong, united, and developed Bharat by drawing inspiration from his extraordinary vision, sacrifice, and enduring legacy," reads his post on 'X'. Meanwhile, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu paid his tributes to former Deputy Prime Minister, late Babu Jagjivan Ram on his death anniversary. The Chief Minister called him a great soul who dedicated his entire life to the pursuit of social justice, the empowerment of the poor and weaker sections, and the building of an equitable society with equal opportunities. The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) national president said that Babu Jagjivan Ram was a visionary leader who laid a strong foundation for the Green Revolution in the country's agricultural sector and played a pivotal role in achieving food security. HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh also paid tributes to Babu Jagjivan Ram. "As a Union Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of the country, he worked tirelessly until his last breath to protect Dalit rights. The life of Jagjivan Ram, who earned a name as one of the architects of modern India, remains an inspiration for today's generation. Let us commit to realizing his aspirations," Lokesh posted on 'X'.

## Man stabbed to death in Balapur; two suspects on the run

Hyderabad: A 29-year-old man was allegedly stabbed to death following a dispute at Mariyam Colony in Balapur on Monday early hours. The victim was identified as Fahad Bin Abdul Rahman Balkhashar, who owned a vehicle washing service centre. He is survived by his wife and a son. According to police, Fahad was acquainted with the suspects identified as Salam Boum and Sayeed Boum, through a local gym. The three had reportedly been involved in an unknown dispute over the past few days. Officials said that one of the suspects had allegedly gone to Fahad's residence with a knife a day before the incident. However, the situation was defused after the victim's brother intervened. Police said that at around 2:30 am on Monday, the suspects who called the victim outside to discuss the matter had allegedly attacked Fahad with a knife, causing grievous injuries. He was immediately rushed to Owaisi Hospital.

## Minor fire breaks out at Criminal Court building in Nampally

Hyderabad: A minor fire broke out on the third floor of the Criminal Court building at Nampally on Sunday early hours, triggering a brief scare. However, no injuries were reported but property was damaged. According to preliminary information, the blaze is suspected to have been caused by a short circuit in the property room. Two fire engines rushed to the spot after receiving the alert, and firefighters brought the flames under control before they could spread further. "No injuries or casualties have been reported in the incident. The extent of damage to court property is yet to be assessed," said an official from Nampally police station. Authorities are expected to conduct a detailed inspection to determine the exact cause of the fire and assess the losses.

## Maharashtra flood crisis: From hospital bed, Eknath Shinde monitors heavy rains and issues rescue orders

Mumbai: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Monday reviewed the state's severe flood situation directly from his hospital bed. Despite being on intravenous (IV) saline support, he conducted a high-level meeting via video conferencing to assess the extensive damage caused by continuous heavy rainfall in Mumbai, Konkan, and Raigad. He strictly directed ministers and administrative officials to expedite rescue operations and ensure immediate relief reaches the affected citizens. For the past four days, relentless torrential rains have caused widespread devastation across the state. Mumbai, Thane, Pune, and the Konkan region have borne the brunt of the downpour, severely disrupting daily life. In Konkan, rivers have begun breaching their danger marks, while Raigad faces a similarly critical situation. Monitoring the crisis closely, Dy CM Shinde continued to oversee management operations despite being hospitalised. He has mobilised Shiv Sena party workers, ministers, MLAs, and MPs to assist citizens on the ground. Earlier this morning, he initiated another video conference to issue fresh directives. He evaluated the district-wise flood status, checking the availability of relief materials and tracking which political leaders were active on the ground. He instructed leaders to visit the affected spots immediately, meet with residents to understand their grievances, and coordinate closely with local administrations to provide urgent aid. Dy CM Shinde issued specific directives to Raigad and Ratnagiri-based Ministers Bharat Gogawale, Yogesh Kadam, and Uday Samant, ordering them to strictly monitor waterlogged areas in



Mahad and across the Raigad district. The ministers have been ordered to personally visit disaster-hit zones and safely relocate stranded citizens to secure shelters. In his capacity as the Guardian Minister of Mumbai, Dy CM Shinde held a virtual meeting with Municipal Commissioner Ashwini Bhide from the hospital. Reviewing Mumbai's monsoon response, he commanded all civic officials to hit the field and address complaints raised by local ward corporators with utmost seriousness. Highlighting the recent rise in tree-falling incidents across Mumbai, Dy CM Shinde ordered the immediate removal of hazardous, precariously leaning trees to avert future mishaps. He further directed the civic body to secure open manholes and thoroughly audit landslide-prone areas across the city. Dy CM Shinde has been hospitalised for the last three days due to exhaustion and a throat infection. Officials have confirmed that his condition is now stable and improving. A photograph from his virtual meeting recently surfaced on TV channels, showing the Deputy Chief Minister conducting state business with saline IV lines attached to both his hands.

Following reports of a landslide in the Nagothane area, Minister Bharat Gogawale, after Dy CM Shinde's directive, immediately left for Raigad.

## Ayodhya saints call for transparency ahead of Ram Temple trust meeting



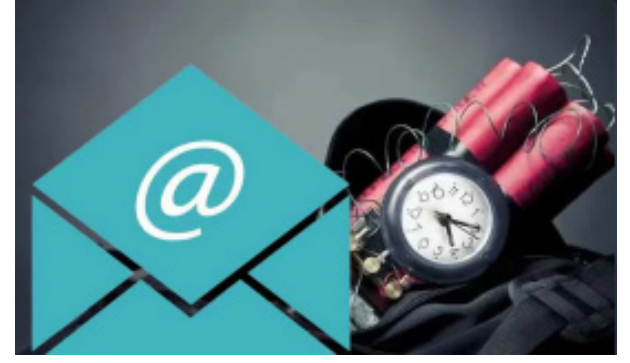
Ayodhya: Saints in Ayodhya on Monday expressed their views ahead of the crucial meeting of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, with some calling for greater engagement with the city's saints, while others voiced confidence that the Trust would take fair and just decisions. The Trust is scheduled to meet at 3 p.m. at Mani Ramdas Chavni (Chhoti Chhavni) in Ayodhya to deliberate on the preliminary report of the Special Investigation Team (SIT), constituted to probe allegations of donation-related irregularities, as well as the resignations of senior Trust functionaries that followed the controversy.

Ahead of the meeting, Ram Temple Trust Treasurer Govind Dev Giri said the media would be briefed after the deliberations and assured that all questions would be answered. "I will speak to you after the meeting. I will be here for the next three days, and I will meet all of you and discuss everything in detail," he said. He also assured journalists that a formal press conference would be held after the meeting. "All your questions will be answered," he added before entering the meeting venue. Reacting to the Trust meet-

ing, Arya Sant Varun Das Maharaj said the deliberations were being closely watched by people across the country and urged the Trust to engage with Ayodhya's saints. "The entire world and the people of the country are watching the Ram Janmabhoomi Trust meeting, which is scheduled to be held at 3 p.m. But it is being heard that many members are not attending the meeting. They should also inform the saints of Ayodhya and sit with them..." he said. Meanwhile, Peethadheeshwar of Tapasvi Chhawani, Jagadguru Paramhans Acharya Ji, expressed confidence in the Trust's functioning. "It is a Trust meeting, and I have complete faith that whatever decision is taken will be appropriate and in accordance with justice," he said. Mahant Sitaram Das of Saket Bhavan says, "This is certainly a matter of faith for the entire country and for devotees worldwide. It is a matter of devotion, trust, and penance, and therefore everyone's attention is focused on it. There should be transparency, and our faith should not be tarnished in any way. If anyone tries to malign it or assert control over it, the Sant Samaj will not tolerate it at all."

## Banjara Hills Police register case over bomb threat letter sent to Namasthe Telangana

Hyderabad: The Banjara Hills police have registered a criminal case after Namasthe Telangana newspaper received an anonymous letter containing bomb threats and death threats targeting media organisations, journalists, YouTubers and their families. According to the First Information Report (FIR), the complaint was lodged by Satukuri Madhusuda, HR Manager of Telangana Publications Pvt. Ltd., which publishes Namasthe Telangana. He informed the police that the organisation received the anonymous letter by post on June 23, 2026, bearing the phrase 'Jai Revanthanna Jai Congress.' The complainant stated that the letter threatened journalists, media owners and management over reports related to alleged land encroachments and criticism of the Telangana government. It further claimed that a group had hired terrorists belonging to Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and planted bombs in the offices of news channels, e-paper organisations and YouTubers, threatening to detonate them



simultaneously. The letter also contained abusive language and extended threats to the family members of media personnel, raising concerns over public safety and national security. Following directions from the III Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Nampally, Banjara Hills Police registered a case of criminal intimidation under Section 351(4) of the BNS and took up investigation. The police are now probing the origin of the anonymous letter and verifying the bomb threat claims. Officials have not confirmed any evidence so far to substantiate the claims made in the letter.

## Man killed, three injured as car crashes into truck on Hyderabad ORR

Hyderabad: A man was killed and three others, including a woman and a young boy, were injured after a car rammied into the rear of a truck on the Outer Ring Road near Exit No. 15 at Pedda Golkonda near Shamshabad on Monday morning. Ac-

ording to information available, the car was travelling from Tukkuguda towards Shamshabad when it crashed into a lorry moving ahead on the ORR. The impact left the front portion of the vehicle completely damaged.

## Hyderabad's Padiga Tejesh shines with silver at National Ice Skating Championship

Hyderabad: Padiga Tejesh, an artistic ice skater from Hyderabad, who has won a Silver medal in the individual Figure skating category at the 21st National Ice Skating Championship in Dehradun recently. Padiga Tejesh, is the only skater from Telangana in figure skating category to be selected to participate in the Asian Ice Skating Championship to be held in Indonesia later this year. Padiga Tejesh is trained by the renowned skating coach Anup Kumar Yama, an Arjun Award winner from Hyderabad. Tejesh has bagged several national and international medals at a very young age. He had won one gold medal and two silver medal at the Asian Championship held in South Korea in 2025 and bagged one gold medal, one silver and one bronze medal at the Oceania Championship held in New Zealand in 2024. He had also picked up silver medal at the 19th Asian



Championship held in China in 2023. In recognition of his remarkable achievements, the Nehrunagar Park Development Committee felicitated Padiga Tejesh on Monday at Nehrunagar park, West Marredpalli in Secunderabad. Hanumantha Rao, president, Nehrunagar Park Development Committee, KSP Reddy, Krishna Mohan Rao, Pramoda Rao, Anup Kumar Yama, coach and several other senior citizens attended the programme.

## Pranadhara Children's Hospital & Nyra Fertility Inaugurated in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: A significant milestone in healthcare was marked today with the grand inauguration of Pranadhara Children's Hospital & Nyra Fertility at Chintal, Hyderabad, dedicated to providing specialized pediatric and fertility care to families in Hyderabad and surrounding areas. The facility was formally inaugurated by Dr. Preeti Reddy, who graced the occasion as Chief Guest and appreciated the vision behind establishing a dedicated center focused on children's healthcare and fertility services. Located in the rapidly growing Chintal-Quthbullapur belt, serving an estimated population of nearly 8-12 lakh people, the hospital aims to address the increasing demand for specialized medical care in pediatrics and fertility. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Narendra Ram, Chairman, said: "Healthcare is not just about treatment; it is about giving hope, healing, and creating healthier families. With



Pranadhara Children's Hospital and Nyra Fertility, our mission is to provide compassionate, advanced, and trusted care closer to the community." Also Read - Hyd teen turns passion project into real-world learning experience through supercar showcase Advertisement With changing lifestyles, stress, and rising healthcare needs, the demand for specialized IVF and fertility care has grown significantly. At the same time, quality pediatric healthcare remains essential to ensure timely diagnosis, treatment, and holistic care for children.

## ECI issues notification for Assembly by-elections in MP, Gujarat, Bihar on July 30

Election Commission of India News Updates New Delhi: The Election Commission of India on Monday issued notifications for holding by-elections on July 30 to fill one vacancy each in the legislative Assemblies of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Bihar, an official said. The three seats to be filled through the by-elections include: Datia in Madhya Pradesh, Manjalpur in Gujarat and Bankipur in Bihar, the official said. The results for the by-elections will be declared on August 3, the ECI said. With the issue of these notifications, the process of filing nominations has commenced for the three Assembly constituencies, the ECI said in a statement, adding that scrutiny of nominations will take place on July 14, with July 16 being the last date for withdrawal of candidatures. While issuing the notifications on Monday, the ECI issued instructions to the states concerned to ensure compliance with the statutory provisions of paid holiday and dry days in the poll-bound constituencies, said the statement. The ECI said that as per Section 135B of the Representation of the



People Act, 1951, every person employed in any business, trade, industrial undertaking, or any other establishment and entitled to vote in the by-election shall be granted a paid holiday on the day of poll and no deduction of wages shall be made. All daily-wage and casual workers are also entitled to a paid holiday on the day of the poll. Any employer who contravenes these provisions shall be liable to a fine, it said. The Commission clarified that electors, including casual and daily wage workers, who are working or employed in industrial or commercial establishments located outside their constituency but are registered as electors in a constituency going to poll, shall also be entitled to the benefit of paid holiday on the day of poll to enable them to cast their vote.

## PoK protests deepen as residents , appeal to India amid alleged blockade



New Delhi: The appeal by the people of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) to the Indian government for assistance underscores the depth of the crisis unfolding in the region. Protests have continued across PoK for more than a month, with neither the demonstrators nor the Pakistani establishment showing any signs of backing down. An official said that the nature of the appeal is particularly worrying, as people in PoK are seeking medicines and essential food supplies from India. This, the official added, reflects the gravity of the humanitarian situation in the region. Indian officials monitoring the developments said that, on the instructions of Field Marshal Asim Munir.

the Pakistani establishment has blocked the supply of ration and medicines to the region for the past 20 days.

Officials said the Pakistani establishment is attempting to starve the people of PoK into abandoning their protests. "There is a full-blown economic blockade of the region," an official said.

The people are facing acute shortages of food, while those injured during the protests are being denied essential medical care. Officials said the blockade began with the suspension of ration supplies and was later extended to medicines, further worsening the humanitarian situation. Many residents are now attempting

to flee PoK and cross into India. The crackdown is brutal, and many are unable to take it any longer and want a safe passage into India. Sardar Aman, a leader of the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), has appealed to the Indian government to open the Line of Control (LoC). He said civilians should be allowed to cross into India if conditions in the region continue to deteriorate. Another official said that the request to open the LoC comes in the wake of the Pakistan military's latest decision to open fire at the people if the protests do not subside. During a meeting chaired by Asim Munir last month, a decision was taken to halt the supply of medicines after ration supplies had already been blocked. The official alleged that Asim Munir may even pursue harsh measures such as genocide if the protests continue. He claimed that serious human rights violations have been taking place in PoK for several days. Officials also said that the full extent of the situation remains unclear because internet services have been shut down and media access has been severely restricted. Meanwhile, the JAAC has given the government a 48-hour ultimatum to meet its demands. The group warned that it would launch a decisive phase of its agitation if the Pakistani government failed to comply.

## Telangana: Food Safety Department cracks down on banned raw egg mayonnaise



Hyderabad: As part of implementing the ongoing ban on raw egg-based mayonnaise, the Telangana Food Safety Department conducted statewide raids, detected several violations and destroyed 10 kg of raw egg-based mayonnaise. The action comes in continuation of the State government's official notification issued on October 30, 2025, which enforces a complete prohibition on the production, storage and sale of mayonnaise prepared from raw eggs across Telangana for a period of one year. During the special drive, enforcement officials fanned out across the State to inspect food establishments. A total of 131 food joints across the State were in-

spected, of which five establishments were found to be actively flouting the ban. The Food Safety teams seized and later destroyed 10 kg of raw egg-based and broken-egg mayonnaise on the spot. The department has also initiated adjudication proceedings against the five violating establishments. According to senior food safety authorities, raw egg mayonnaise has been a frequent cause of numerous recent food poisoning cases due to the rapid growth of harmful bacteria such as Salmonella when left unpasteurised or improperly stored. The restriction was imposed primarily in the interest of consumer safety and public health.

## Niranjan Reddy criticises app-based fertiliser supply system

Hyderabad: Former Agriculture Minister S Niranjan Reddy demanded that the Congress government scrap the app-based fertiliser distribution system and restore the earlier supply mechanism to ensure the uninterrupted availability of fertilisers to farmers. In a statement, Niranjan Reddy said farmers were being forced to spend time booking urea through a mobile app instead of working in their fields, causing severe hardship. Terming the app as evidence of the government's failure to manage fertiliser supplies, he rejected the claim that the system curbed irregularities and black marketing. The former Minister said the government was deliberately delaying the sup-



ply of irrigation water, quality electricity and fertilisers as part of its strategy to reduce the cultivated area and, consequently, crop procurement obligations. He accused the government of ignoring farmers' demands to remove the app while portraying the new system as a success.

## BRS challenges Congress to operate Kannepalli pumps or hand project to KCR

Hyderabad: The BRS on Monday intensified its offensive against the Congress government over the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS), demanding the immediate operation of the Kannepalli pump house. Throwing an open challenge to the government, Jagadish Reddy said if the Congress lacked the confidence to operate the pumps, it should hand over the project to former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao for a week. "The BRS would fill the reservoirs within seven days. We accept full responsibility and will even dissolve the party altogether in case of any untoward incident, as feared by Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy," he asserted, accepting the challenge. Speaking to mediapersons at Telangana Bhavan here, former Minister and Suryapet MLA G Jagadish Reddy said operating the Kannepalli pumps would enable the storage of up to 150 TMCft of Godavari River water. He accused the ruling Congress of deliberately refusing to lift irrigation water for the farmers of Telangana despite looming drought conditions. He reminded that despite its allegations, the Congress had



failed to prove irregularities in the construction of the Kaleshwaram project till date. Rejecting the government's reliance on the recommendations of the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA), the senior BRS leader said the issue was being used as a pretext to avoid operating the project. He also accused the government of avoiding water lifting to save on power costs and evade procurement and bonus payments to farmers. Former Minister and Karimnagar MLA Gangula Kamalakar questioned why water was not being lifted from Kannepalli and Yellampalli despite the absence of any NDSA restrictions on storing water in the Annaram and Sundilla barrages.

# Diljit Dosanjh's Satluj removed from OTT sparks political row

New Delhi: Diljit Dosa njh's Satluj, which chronicles the life of an activist in Punjab during the turbulent 1990s and has been taken off OTT, was at the centre of a furious debate on Monday, with political parties and the SGPC pushing for the film's release and the actor-singer asking people to watch it wherever and however they can. The film, which was stuck with the censors for more than three years, was released uncut on ZEE5 on Friday and removed on Sunday evening. While Dosanjh said this was bound to happen and the film had already been downloaded by many, ZEE5 appealed to people not to support piracy. The matter quickly gained political traction, with the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), Congress and the state's ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) condemning the film's removal from the OTT platform and saying Punjab must confront its past. People should know what happened during those days in Punjab, said Kulwant Singh Manan, chief secretary of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee. "The film should not have been removed from the platform. The government should ensure that people see this film. What is wrong if reality is shown and the public comes to know what happened during

those days in Punjab?" Manan told PTI over the phone. The Honey Trehan-directed film, originally titled Punjab '95, features Dosanjh as human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra, who was abducted in 1995 and was never seen again. The director and actor refused to release it with the 127 cuts suggested by the Central Board of Film Certification. On Friday, the movie quietly arrived on ZEE5 without any cuts but with a different title and zero promotion, which Dosanjh said was because they did not want to spoil whatever little chance the film had.

Criticising the film's removal, SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal said, "This is not mere censorship, it is an assault on our collective memory, truth and freedom of expression... Punjab deserves to confront its past with honesty, not suppression."

**Senior Congress leader Sukhpal Singh Khaira echoed him.**

"I strongly condemn the removal of Satluj, enacted by Diljit Dosanjh, about police brutality in abducting and eliminating Prof Jaswant Singh Khalra, a human rights activist, in 1995." AAP leader and MP Malvinder Singh Kang said censorship becomes its most dangerous weapon when a nation begins to fear its own history.

AAP's Baltej Pannu said, "The younger generation wants to know what happened in Punjab during 1978, 1984, the 1990s and other crucial periods. If they are denied books and documentaries, films become an important way of preserving historical truth."

When asked to comment on the film's removal from OTT, Punjab BJP chief Kewal Singh Dhillon said, "I am finding out the reason. We are taking up the matter." In an expansive session on Instagram Live from the US, where he is on tour, Dosanjh expressed his anguish. "I had a feeling on Friday that something like this would happen. This was already on my mind. It is not something to be shocked about (the ban). I thought it would be banned on Monday when the offices opened... But I did not have any idea that it would happen on Sunday evening itself. We did not even promote the film, we released it just like that. If we had promoted it, it would not have lasted even two days. But I am satisfied that people have seen the film, it has reached them."

Dosanjh said in Punjabi.

A day after ZEE5 issued a statement informing viewers that it was no longer available in India, Dosanjh said he was happy that many people had seen the film or downloaded it. "It was very important that it should reach you and that has happened... I am thankful that what we wanted to say, and the way we wanted to say it, has been conveyed. It is your film and you can watch it the way you want to," he said.

"This was the only way to release the film... without saying anything because this was bound to happen," he said, adding that the more one tries to stop the film, the more popular it will become, as nothing disappears from the internet, not



even a voice note sent on WhatsApp. **ZEE5 had a slightly different take.** "We are doing our bit to bring Satluj back. Please do yours - don't support piracy. We remain committed to exploring every possible avenue to bring Satluj back to you," it said in an Instagram post. On Sunday night, it said, "In light of the current developments, Satluj will be unavailable in India until further notice..." The streamer did not specify what it meant by "current developments", but said the response to the film had been overwhelming and that it fully backed the creative conviction behind the movie. Satluj delves into the life of Khalra, who investigated the cremation of thousands of unidentified bodies in Punjab during a 10-year period from 1984 to 1994. He disappeared in 1995.

In 2005, four Punjab Police personnel were convicted of his abduction and murder and sentenced to seven years in prison. Two years later, the Punjab and Haryana High Court enhanced their sentence to life imprisonment. In 2023, the movie was scheduled to have its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) but was removed from the line-up without any official statement from the organisers. Punjab '95 was slated for worldwide release on February 7, 2025, without any cuts except in India. But that release also did not happen. The film is produced by Trehan, Abhishek Chaubey and Ronnie Screwvala under the banners MacGuffin Pictures and RSVP.

## Ali Fazal, Richa Chadha to feature in untitled comedy film

New Delhi: Actors Ali Fazal and Richa Chadha are set to reunite on screen with an untitled Delhi-set situational comedy. The film is directed by Shashie Vermaa and is set to release in April 2027, according to a press release. It also features Kumud Mishra alongside the actors. The film will bring Fazal and Chadha together. The couple has previously starred alongside each other in the "Fukrey" films. The first film released in 2013, with other installments released in 2017 and 2023. Details about the plot of the project are kept under wraps. Fazal's latest work is the drama series "Raakh", which released in June. He will next feature in "Mirzapur: The Movie".

Chadha's last screen appearance was



in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 2024 series "Heeramandi", where she essayed the role of Lajwanti. It also starred Manisha Koirala, Sharmin Segal and Sanjeeda Sheikh, among others.

## Shilpa Shirodkar recalls losing 'Chaiya Chaiya' with SRK

Mumbai: 90s Bollywood diva Shilpa Shirodkar made a startling revelation about missing out on one of Bollywood's most iconic songs, 'Chaiyya Chaiyya' opposite Shah Rukh Khan. The actress who recently appeared on the dance reality show, 'India's Best Dancer Season 05', recalled the incident starring that Farah Khan, the choreographer of the iconic song, thought she was fat for the song. Host Haarsh Limbachiya asked, "Shilpa ma'am, I got to know one thing. The iconic song, Chaiyya Chaiyya, you were supposed to do it, initially." Recalling the incident, Shilpa said, "Yes, actually Farah had come with the song and she said, 'this is the song, but I will give you 15 days. Reduce your weight.' So I ate boiled vegetables for 15 days. But I might have lost weight, but it wasn't less as per Farah. So she came back and said, 'sorry, but you're still fat. We can't take you for the song,' and then the song happened with Malaika (Arora). I mean, I'm not lying. I was fat, so I didn't get the song and Farah says, 'I was 100 kilos. I wasn't 100 kilos.'"

The revelation left everyone on the set surprised. Adding a lighter touch to the conversation, Shilpa turned to judge



Geeta Kapur and said she had witnessed the incident herself. Geeta, smiling, replied, "I was an assistant." Praising her honesty, Haarsh Limbachiya remarked, "I have to admit one thing. She's so selfless and so honest. No one calls her a heroine on national TV." Talking about Shilpa Shirodkar, the actress has been a part of many successful films and television projects over the years. In the 90s era of Bollywood, Shilpa was considered as one of the hottest actresses and was a part of many hit movies like Him, Kishan Kanhaiya and many more. She also became a popular face among television audiences during her stint on 'Bigg Boss season 18.

## Aditya Dhar pens heartfelt birthday note for Ranveer Singh, calls his performance in Dhurandhar a force of nature

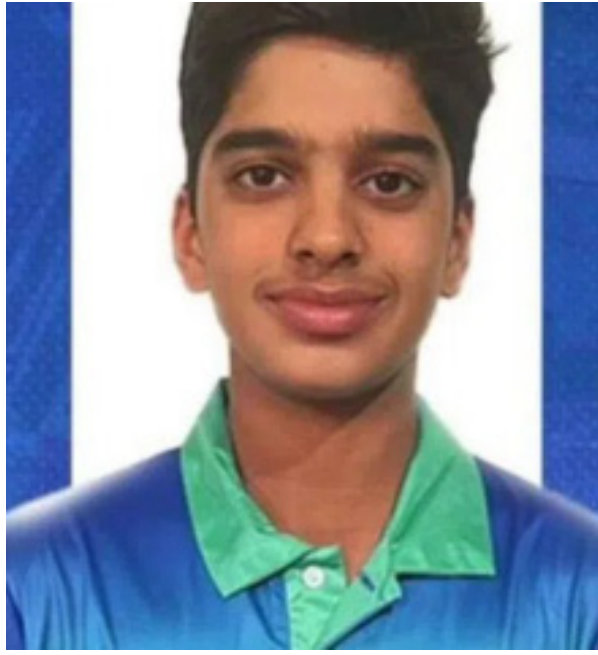
Mumbai: Aditya Dhar penned a heartfelt birthday wish for his 'Dhurandhar' Ranveer Singh as he turned a year older on Monday. He revealed that during their work journey together, he ended up falling in love with Ranveer as an artist. Dhar wrote on Instagram, "Happy Birthday, Ranveer Singh. Some films stay with you forever. Dhurandhar will always be one of those films for me. Not just because of the story we told but because I got to witness something very few directors ever get to witness. I've always known you're an extraordinary actor. But this journey made me fall in love with the artist you are and even more with the human being behind the artist. (sic)." The filmmaker also went on to mention his favourite Ranveer moments from 'Dhurandhar'. "There were days on Dhurandhar that I knew I was witnessing something incredibly rare. The 26/11 sequence. The final tea shop scene. The Pathankot massacre. The pump house scene. The court exterior. Just to name a few. Take after take, scene after scene, you never once looked for the easy choice. Every emotion landed exactly where it needed to. Every silence had meaning. Every glance had intent. Every beat was pitch perfect," he



shared. He added that he truly believes that 'Dhurandhar' is one of Ranveer's finest performances the Indian cinema has ever seen. "It isn't just a performance, it is a force of nature. Fearless, towering and so complete that it disappears into the soul of the character. I have no doubt people will talk about this performance for years, perhaps generations to come," the filmmaker added. Dhar also revealed that what he cherishes the most is his conversations and shared conviction with Ranveer. He penned, "Somewhere along the way, you stopped being just my actor. You became my brother. Thank you for trusting me with your heart, your craft, and your madness. Thank you for giving Dhurandhar every piece of yourself. I couldn't be prouder of what we've created together." Dhar concluded the lovely birthday note with "Love you always".

## Anvay Dravid hits 87 to anchor India U19 against Sri Lanka in second Youth ODI

Hambantota (Sri Lanka): Promising Anvay Dravid, son of legendary Rahul Dravid, made a 67-ball 87, leading India U19 to a competitive 285 against Sri Lanka U19 in the second Youth ODI of the three-match series here on Monday. Electing to bat, India U19 slipped to 81 for four in the 19th over but found saviours in Anvay, who struck nine fours and a six, and Arjun Rajput (76, 81b). Wicketkeeper-batter Anvay and Rajput added 145 runs for the fifth wicket to take India to 221 before the latter was caught short of his crease by Dimantha Mahavithana's throw. Anvay was quite aggressive during his stay, hammering Chamika Heenatigala for a six and four in successive balls and fetching his first-ever Youth ODI fifty in 47 balls. A century was there for his taking, but Anvay fell to left-arm pacer Gimhan Mendis, the star for Sri Lanka with figures of five for 41. His departure reduced India U19 to 263 for seven, and the visitors soon folded, losing the remaining three wickets for 22 runs.



India U19 are leading the three-match series 1-0 after beating the home side by four wickets in the first match.

On that occasion, the Indian colts chased down 321 with four balls to spare, even though Anvay could only make 14.

Brief scores: India U19: 285 all out in 47.2 overs (Anvay Dravid 87, Arjun Rajput 76; Gimhan Mendis 5/41) vs Sri Lanka U19.

## 'Stability brings trophies home': Sachin Tendulkar hails Australia's historic seventh Women's T20 World Cup title



New Delhi: India legend Sachin Tendulkar has showered rich praise on the Australian women's cricket team's unmatched consistency following their seventh ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 title. The victory marked an incredible seventh T20 World Cup title for the side and their 14th ICC World Cup trophy overall across formats. Taking to social media, Tendulkar lauded the team's undefeated streak throughout the tournament, pointing out how they seamlessly navigated match conditions. "Congratulations to Australia on another World Cup title! The unbeaten run really shows how well they managed different match situations and stayed consistent throughout. That kind of stability is usually what brings trophies home," Tendulkar wrote on X.

In front of a 28,000-plus record crowd at the Lord's Cricket Ground, Australia ended England's perfect record at home World Cups with a seven-wicket win in the final. England, who were playing their first T20 World Cup final in eight years, previously won all four of the Women's World Cups (50-over and T20) they had hosted; but Australia had won all six of the finals (50-over and T20) the two nations had contested. Even though hosts England had also won six out of six matches going into the final, they were undone by their arch-rivals' all-round brilliance. Australia wrapped up their invincible run at the tournament in style, overhauling England's total of 150/4 to register the highest successful run chase at a Women's T20 World Cup final. Beth Mooney once again anchored Australia's

chase with 64 off 49 as they finished at 153/3 in 17.1 overs. Sophie Molineux, who took over from Healy as captain in all three formats at the start of this year just months after Australia were bundled out of the most recent ICC Women's Cricket World Cup in the semi-finals by India and with no ICC trophy in their usually bulging cabinet, showed why selectors got the decision right as she helped lead the Aussies to an unprecedented seventh T20 World Cup title at Lord's on Sunday. India economic analysis

## Anvay Dravid hits 87 to anchor India U19 against Sri Lanka in second Youth ODI

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## 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 Sooryavanshi 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 nurturing 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.

## 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.



could only make 14. Brief scores: India U19: 285 all out in 47.2 overs (Anvay Dravid 87, Arjun Rajput 76; Gimhan Mendis 5/41) vs Sri Lanka U19.

## FII's sell 3 billion usd in June as DIIs invest 9 billion usd in Indian equities Report

New Delhi: Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers (\$3 billion) in June while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) were net buyers (\$9 billion) in the Indian equity market, a report showed on Monday. India economic analysis Over the last 12 months, Indian primary markets recorded FII net inflows of \$8.1 billion while secondary markets suffered FII net outflows of \$49.3 billion, said the report by JM Financial Institutional. In June, BFSI, Capital Goods, Pharma, Auto and Oil and Gas were the top 5 sectors in terms of FII shareholding.

These five sectors make up 60 per cent of FII assets in India, wherein FII shareholding increased sequentially in BFSI and Pharma and decreased in Capital Goods, Auto and Oil & Gas. As a percentage of FII AUC (assets under custody) in India, BFSI continues to be the biggest at 30.8 per cent, up from 29.5 per cent in May. Capital Goods is the second highest at 7.5 per cent, down from 7.6 per cent in May. Pharma stood third at 7.4 per cent, rising from 7.1 per cent in May. BFSI registered inflows of \$357 million in June, followed by durables at \$204 million, services at \$130 million and realty at \$85 million, said the report. Looking ahead, institutional flows are likely to remain sensitive to a range of key domestic and global developments. Investors will closely track the progress of the monsoon season, given its implications for



rural demand, agricultural output, and inflation trends, said analysts. Additionally, the upcoming Q1FY27 corporate earnings season will provide crucial insights into the health of corporate India and the sustainability of earnings growth. Global factors such as movements in crude oil prices and developments in the ongoing US-Iran peace talks will also remain important, as they could influence inflation expectations, energy costs, and overall risk sentiment. 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 read on incremental positives, said market watchers.

## FTAs creating new opportunities for youth: Piyush Goyal

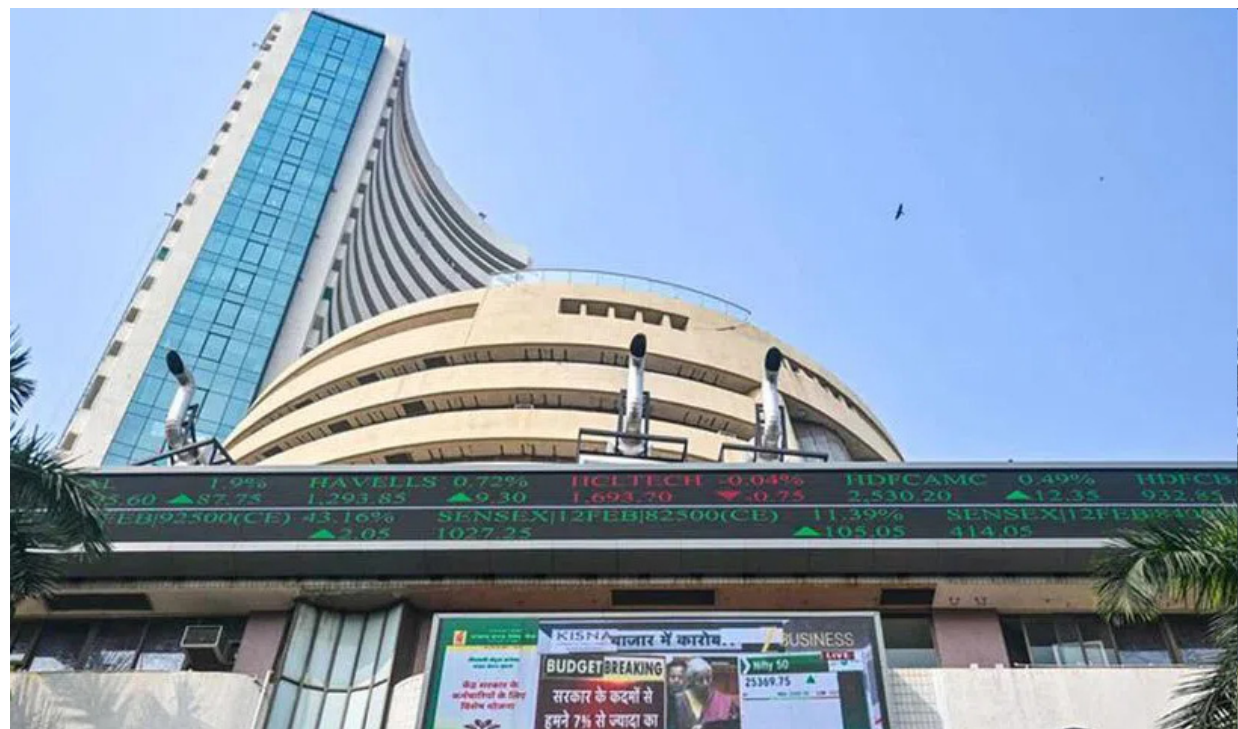


New Delhi: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday said India's new free trade agreements (FTAs) are creating fresh opportunities for manufacturing and innovation, opening doors for the country's youth to compete globally. He urged students to equip themselves with practical skills and embrace technology-driven learning to make the most of the emerging opportunities. Virtually addressing the inauguration of the online bilingual Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) programme at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Udaipur from New Delhi, Goyal said the country's youth should prepare themselves to take advantage of the opportunities emerging from these trade agreements. "For Viksit Bharat, the doors of the world are open to the students," he said, adding that the new FTAs are strengthening manufacturing while placing greater emphasis on innovation. The minister urged students to combine classroom education with practical experience so they are better prepared for the rapidly changing demands of the global economy. Highlighting the role of technology in education, Goyal said India's nearly 100 crore internet users provide an opportunity to deliver quality education at scale through digital platforms in

line with the National Education Policy. World news coverage He described IIM Udaipur's online bilingual BBA programme as a unique initiative that can bridge the rural-urban divide by making high-quality management education accessible to talented students irrespective of their location or financial background.

He said offering the programme in both Hindi and English would expand access to IIM-quality education and enable students from diverse backgrounds to pursue management studies in a language they understand comfortably. "The classrooms of IIM will now be visible on the screen," Goyal said, noting that students from a small shop in Bhilwara to remote areas such as Bastar would be able to access the programme through laptops, smartphones or other digital devices. While classes will be conducted online, examinations will be held offline to maintain accountability, he added. The minister also suggested measures to strengthen the programme's hybrid learning model. He proposed regular in-person interactions between faculty and students, saying management education extends beyond classroom instruction and benefits from peer learning and networking.

## Sensex rises 521 points, Nifty extends winning streak to fourth session



Mumbai: Indian equity benchmarks extended their winning streak to a fourth consecutive session on Monday, supported by strong buying in realty, auto, oil and gas stocks. The Nifty closed 159.50 points, or 0.66 per cent, higher at 24,430.35, while the Sensex advanced 521.16 points, or 0.67 per cent, to settle at 78,285.07. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the 24,500–24,600 zone will remain a crucial region to watch in the upcoming sessions, as a decisive move above this band could confirm the continuation of the ongoing bullish trend. "On the downside, the 24,200 level is expected to act as immediate support in case of any profit booking, followed by the 24,000 psychological zone, which remains the crucial zone," an analyst said.

Among the Nifty constituents, HDFC Bank, Hindalco Industries and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) emerged as the top gainers, helping lift the benchmark indices. The broader market also ended on a positive note. The

Nifty MidCap index gained 0.45 per cent, while the Nifty SmallCap index outperformed with a 0.75 per cent rise. Sectoral indices largely traded in the green, with the Nifty Realty index leading the gains and closing at a six-month high. The Nifty Auto index climbed to its highest level in a month, while the Nifty Oil and Gas and Nifty Consumer Durables indices also posted strong gains. Experts said that the day's rally marked the fourth straight session of gains for the benchmark indices, with sustained buying across rate-sensitive and cyclical sectors underpinning market sentiment. "Market sentiment remains positive, supported by the decline in the India VIX, which reflects improving investor confidence," an analyst stated. India economic analysis "The rally was broad-based, with real estate, oil & gas, automobiles and consumer durables emerging as the top-performing sectors, each advancing around 1 per cent during the session, as buying interest remained widespread across the market," as per the expert.

## Gold trades flat, silver slips in early trade as crude oil prices ease



New Delhi: Gold traded flat while silver slipped in early trade on Monday as softer crude oil prices reduced expectations of further interest rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures (August 5) opened at Rs 1,47,135 per 10 grams, down Rs 243 or 0.16 per cent from the previous close of Rs 1,47,378. At around 11 am, the yellow metal was trading at Rs 1,47,177 per 10 grams, down Rs 200 or 0.14 per cent. It touched an intraday low of Rs 1,47,032, down Rs 346 or 0.23 per cent and a high of Rs 1,47,509, up Rs 131 or 0.08 per cent so far. Meanwhile, silver futures (September 4) opened at Rs 2,36,393 per kg, down Rs 1,017 or 0.42 per cent from the previous close of Rs 2,37,410.

At the last count, the white metal was trading at Rs 2,36,198 per kg, down Rs 1,212 or 0.51 per cent. It touched an intraday low of Rs 2,36,001, down Rs 1,409 or 0.59 per cent, and a high of Rs 2,37,676, up Rs 266 or 0.11 per cent.

However, in the international market, both precious metals traded higher. COMEX gold was up 1 per cent at \$4,173.24 per ounce, while COMEX silver gained 2 per cent to \$62.29 per ounce. According to commodity market experts, gold remained steady near a two-week high and continued to trade above its key short-term moving averages, indicating underlying strength. They said immediate resistance is seen at Rs 1,48,750 per 10 grams, with a breakout above this level likely to accelerate the upward momentum.

## Andhra fisherman drowns; search on for six people missing in earlier mishap in rough seas

Tragedy strikes off the Andhra Pradesh coast as search operations intensify for six missing fishermen near Visakhapatnam, following a separate fatal drowning in Anakapalli. Andhra Pradesh Culture A fisherman drowned after a boat carrying four fishers capsized off the Revu Polavaram coast in Andhra Pradesh's Anakapalli district on Monday. According to police, three fishermen safely reached the coast. The accident occurred when the boat overturned and the fishermen fell into the rough sea. The body of the deceased fisherman was washed ashore. He was identified as Chodipalli Simhadri, of Revu Polavaram fishing village. Meanwhile, search continued for the second day for six fishermen off the Visakhapatnam coast. The Indian Navy, Coast Guard and Marine Police continued search for the fishermen who went missing after their boat was suspected to have capsized in rough seas. Agriculture Minister K. Atchannaidu on Monday directed officials to further accelerate search operations. He directed that all measures be taken to ensure the safe return of the missing fishermen. Indian Current Events According to officials, the joint search operation by the Navy and Coast Guard continued for the second day using a special vessel, rescue boat, and a helicopter. The search operations are being conducted on the basis of information given by Kari Chinna, one of the fisher-

men who was rescued by a cargo ship. The rescued fisherman is in the safe custody of Indian Coast Guard. While Chinna is believed to have managed to board the ship, the fate of others remained unknown. An official said search operations resumed at 6 a.m. on Monday. According to him, first 72 hours of the search operation are crucial. Authorities are still hopeful of finding the missing fishermen alive. Anxious families of the missing fishermen staged a protest in front of the office of Mechanised Boat Operators' Association. They alleged that no information was being provided to them. Parents, wives and children of missing fishermen were seen crying and pleading with authorities to provide them information. Inspector General of Police, Gopinath Jatti, was supervising the search and rescue operations. He visited the regional operations centre of the Indian Coast Guard. A group of seven fishermen belonging to Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam districts had left for fishing from the Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour on July 1. As the sea conditions turned rough due to low pressure area in the Bay of Bengal, their families had contacted them over mobile phones to alert them. The fishermen told their families they would return to the coast by the afternoon of July 4. As they did not return and their mobile phones were found switched off, anxious families alerted the Coast Guard and Marine Police.

## BESCOM suspends July meter reading amid Gruha Jyothi verification drive

Bengaluru: The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM) has announced that regular electricity meter readings will not be carried out during July as meter readers have been deployed for the state government's Gruha Jyothi beneficiary verification drive, which officially began on July 1. The house-to-house verification exercise requires significant manpower, prompting BESCOM to assign its meter readers to assist in identifying and verifying beneficiaries under the Gruha Jyothi scheme. As a result, the routine monthly meter reading process has been temporarily suspended for July. In a post on its official X account, BESCOM clarified that domestic consumers will not receive a meter reading visit this month. Instead, electricity bills for July will be generated based on the average power consumption recorded over the previous three months. India News Updates Also Read - Public raises questions on PAN, caste certificate for Gruha Jyothi verification Advertisement However, BESCOM stated that this temporary arrangement will not apply to High Tension (HT) consumers, Low Tension (LT) consumers with connected loads of 40 BHP or above, rooftop solar consumers under the net-metering system, and temporary electricity connection holders. These categories of consumers will continue to receive regular meter readings as per the existing schedule. HT consumers typically include large industrial units, commercial establish-



ments, IT parks, and residential complexes that receive electricity at higher voltage levels such as 11 kV, 22 kV, or 33 kV. Since their billing is based on different tariff structures and consumption patterns, meter readings for these consumers will continue without interruption. Similarly, rooftop solar consumers connected under BESCOM's net-metering system require periodic meter readings to calculate the difference between electricity imported from and exported to the grid, which determines their final electricity bill. As part of the Gruha Jyothi verification exercise, BESCOM personnel have begun visiting households across the state to verify eligible beneficiaries. During verification, consumers are required to produce documents such as their Voter ID, Aadhaar card, and, where applicable, rental agreement. BESCOM has also advised consumers to verify the identity of officials conducting the verification. The utility said all personnel visiting households must carry and display their official identity cards while carrying out the verification process.

## TTD arranges special VIP darshan for 116-year-old devotee who trekked to Tirumala

Tirupati: Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam on Monday arranged a special VIP break 'darshan' for the 116-year-old Navaneethamma, who left many awestruck by trekking up to Tirumala on foot. TTD chairman B.R. Naidu said the temple body arranged VIP break darshan for the elderly devotee from Tamil Nadu and her family members. At Ranganayakula Mandapam, TTD Executive Officer Muddada Ravichandra had Vedic scholars perform Vedic blessings, draped her with a silk cloth, and offered sacred prasadam. He also paid obeisance to Navaneethamma and received her blessings. The centenarian's grandson, Dikpati, thanked TTD and the TTD chairman for fulfilling his grandmother's wish and granting the fortune of darshan of the Lord to all family members. TTD chairman thanked his social media friends who extended their support in recognising Navaneethamma, as well as the TTD Vigilance officers who responded immediately and recognised her. This occasion of fulfilling the lifelong wish of a devotee has brought immense joy and satisfaction to all of us, he said. The elderly devotee reached the hill shrine after scaling the Alipiri footpath on foot. The Alipiri trekking route comprises about 3,550 steps cutting through the Seshachalam hills. The video of the centenarian trekking the Alipiri route went viral on social media on Saturday. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu posted on social media on Sunday that he was awestruck by an 116-year-old woman who trekked up to Tirumala on foot to worship at Sri Venkateswara temple. The Chief Minister said that age is truly just a number when it comes to pure devotion. Later, the TTD chairman announced that he

would arrange a special darshan of the Lord for her and her family members. "The unwavering devotion of the elderly female devotee who reached Tirumala on foot for the darshan of Lord Sri Venkateswara Swamy at the age of 116 is truly inspiring," he said. He had requested that people help identify her. Later, TTD Vigilance officials identified and confirmed the details of the elderly devotee.



## YouTuber Prashna Raavan remanded to 14-day judicial custody in fifth arrest

Vijayawada: A court at Gannavaram in Andhra Pradesh's Krishna district has sent YouTuber and political commentator Bachalakuri Joseph alias Prashna Raavan, to judicial custody for 14 days in the case relating to alleged derogatory remarks against the state's Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. Arrested for the fifth time in less than a week, Raavan was produced before a judge late on Sunday night. After hearing arguments from both the sides, the judge remanded Raavan to judicial remand till July 18.

**He was subsequently shifted to Nellore Central Jail.**

Soon after the YouTuber secured bail for the fourth time on July 4, Gannavaram Police had arrested him on a complaint lodged by a local leader of Pawan Kalyan-led Jana Sena. This time, the police invoked stringent sections not only under the Bharatiya Nyana Sanhita (BNS) but also under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The FIR was registered against the YouTuber under BNS Sections 147, 148, 152, 192, 197(1)(d), and 353(1)(b) and UAPA



Sections 13 and 39. The charges include waging war against the Indian government, attempting to wage war, or abetting the waging of war, criminal conspiracy, threats to public order, acts threatening the sovereignty and integrity of India, support for unlawful activities, and support for a terrorist organisation. The Gannavaram police also invoked Section 148, which deals with conspiracy to commit an offence punishable under Section 147, or conspiracy to overawe the Central or a state government by criminal force or by the show of criminal force. Raavan is also facing charges under Section 152, which criminalises acts that endanger the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India.



## Asha Sree storms into quarterfinals in Badminton Championship

Ongole: Young badminton player Dandu Asha Sree from Ongole has entered the quarterfinals of the Sub Juniors National Ranking Badminton Tournament at Bengaluru on Sunday. The tournament, which also serves as the selection trial for the Asian Badminton Championship, began on June 29 at the Infosys Foundation Centre for Sports, where Asha Sree has been training for the past year. Asha Sree is the daughter of Dandu Srinivasa Rao and Pramada Lakshmi. She showed remarkable consistency in the tournament, winning four qualifying-round matches and three main-draw matches to reach the quarterfinals. In the pre-quarterfinal round, she defeated Shanvi Reddy Nimma of Telangana in straight games, 21-14, 21-18, to advance to the last eight. India News Updates A win in the quarterfinal will secure Asha Sree a place in the Indian team for the Asian Badminton Championship in China. Sports lovers and badminton enthusiasts across the Telugu states wished her success in the quarterfinals.