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Godavari overflows at Dowleswaram Barrage, water level reaches 10.9 ft



The Godavari River at Rajamahendravaram has swelled with water due to rains in the upstream areas. The water level at the Dowleswaram Barrage has reached 10.9 feet. While 60,933 cusecs of floodwater is flowing in from upstream, 57,387 cusecs is being discharged downstream. Additionally, 13,600 cusecs is being released into the canals, and 43,387 cusecs is being let out into the sea through the barrage gates.

Nara Lokesh Urges Boo Young Group to Set Up Footwear Manufacturing in AP

Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh is currently on the fourth day of his visit to South Korea has met with Mr. Ryan Kang (CEO and President Director) and Millie Richardson (Business Strategy and Planning Manager) of Boo Young Group, a company renowned for manufacturing footwear, shoelaces, metal hardware, and related accessories. Lokesh urged Boo Young Group to establish a footwear and components manufacturing unit in the State and assured them that if the group establishes operations in the state, necessary infrastructure and logistics connectivity in key industrial zones would be readily available, alongside approvals granted through the single-window system. Government He highlighted the state's invest-



tor-friendly policies and the emphasis on the "speed of doing business." Expressing interest in setting up the unit in AP, CEO Ryan Kang mentioned that they are

looking for ready-built sheds. He noted that their global network would link the Indian manufacturing sector with the global distribution system.

AP govt. extends ex-gratia to missing fishermen, minister Kollu Ravindra handover cheques

The Andhra Pradesh government has provided ₹10 lakh in immediate ex gratia to families of fishermen missing off the Visakhapatnam coast. Minister Kollu Ravindra oversaw the distribution of aid, combining central insurance and state relief funds, while reaffirming the government's commitment to supporting the affected families during this tragedy. The Andhra Pradesh government has provided compensation to the families of the fishermen who went missing in the sea off Visakhapatnam. As immediate relief, compensation of Rs 10 lakh was awarded to each family. Minister Kollu Ravindra handed over the cheques to the families of the deceased today (Wednesday).



Government The amount comprised ₹5 lakh from the Central Government's insurance scheme and another ₹5 lakh from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. The Minister stated that the government would stand by the families of the missing fishermen in every possible way. The Minister noted that this is the first time in the country that the government has provided ₹10 lakh in immediate relief to fishermen's families. He assured the affected families that the government would extend all necessary support and assistance. Minister Kollu Ravindra further stated that search operations for the missing fishermen are continuing with the involvement of relevant state government departments.



YS Jagan pays tribute to his father YS Rajasekhara Reddy on birth anniversary

YSR Congress Chief and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy visited Idupulapaya in Kadapa district and paid tribute to his father YS Rajasekhara Reddy on the birth anniversary. He visited the YSR Ghat along with the family members and offered special prayers. Then he paid homage to YSR by offering floral garlands at the grave of his father Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy. Y.S. Vijayamma and Y.S. Bharathi paid homage at that time. In addition, many important leaders of YSRCP, public representatives and party workers attended the program to pay tributes to YSR. Geographic Reference In honor of YSR's birth anniversary, the party leaders of different districts organised various types of service programs like blood donation camp.

Millets are medicine through food, says Dr.Khader Vali at Gortal



Gortal: The College of Agricultural Science and Applied Research at BEST Innovation University hosted an interactive session with Padma Shri Dr. Khader Vali, the "Millet Man of India." South Asians & Diaspora Delivering the keynote address, Dr Khader Vali termed millets "medicine through food" capable of managing lifestyle diseases like diabetes and hypertension. He highlighted them as climate-resilient, water-efficient crops and urged agricultural graduates to bridge traditional farming practices with modern scientific research.

AP minister Nimmala Ramanaidu releases water to Krishna delta from Pattiseema



Andhra Pradesh State Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu stated that Chief Minister Chandrababu initiated the interlinking of rivers by connecting them with Krishna waters. Geographic Reference Andhra Pradesh State Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu stated that Chief Minister Chandrababu initiated the interlinking of rivers by connecting them with Krishna waters. After performing rituals at the Pattiseema Lift Irrigation Scheme on Wednesday, he

switched on the motors and released water into the Polavaram Right Canal. Speaking on the occasion, Nimmala noted that the Pattiseema project, built at a cost of ₹1,300 crore during the 2014-19 period, has since generated benefits worth ₹50,000 crore. He remarked that Pattiseema stands as a prime example of how the public benefits when led by a visionary leader with constructive ideas. He mentioned that while projects from Almatti in Karnataka down to Nagarjuna Sagar are currently at dead storage levels, they are capturing the water flowing downstream from the upper reaches of the Godavari—preventing it from draining into the sea—and diverting it to the Krishna Delta. MLAs Siri Balaraju (Polavaram), Muppidi Venkateswara Rao (Kovvur), and Maddipati Dharmaraju (Gopalapuram), along with Collector Vetriselvi and others, participated in the event.

Congress leaders pay tribute to YS Rajasekhara Reddy on birth anniversary

New Delhi: Congress top brass paid tributes to the veteran Congressman and former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy on his birth anniversary, stating that his service to people will always be remembered. Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi took to social media handle on X and said, "Remembering senior Congress leader and former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy ji, on his birth anniversary. A true statesman, he uplifted countless lives through his unwavering commitment to the welfare of the people of Andhra Pradesh. His service to the people will always be remembered." Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge also paid tributes and said, "On his birth anniversary, we fondly remember and pay our tributes to Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy. A visionary and compassionate leader, he dedicated his life to the welfare and progress of the people of Andhra Pradesh. His unbridled commitment to farmers, the poor, and the marginalised, along with his immense dedication to the Congress party, remains



an enduring legacy." Yeduguri Sandinti Rajasekhara Reddy, popularly known as YSR, was born on July 8, 1949, in Pulivendula in the backward Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh.

Rajasekhara Reddy evinced interest in politics right from his student days. While studying in M R Medical College, Gulbarga, Karnataka, he served as president of the Students union. He was elected leader of the House Surgeon's Association in S V Medical College, Tirupati. After completing his MBBS, Reddy served as Medical Officer at the Jammalamadugu Mission Hospital for a brief period. In 1973, he established a 70-bed charitable hospital at Pulivendula, named after his father.



With executive calling the shots, the judiciary is getting sidelined

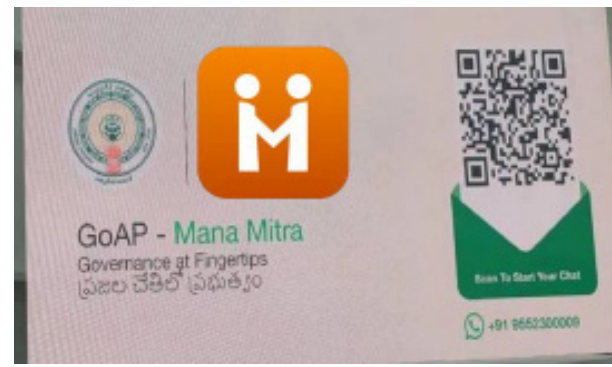
Ambedkar favoured a fundamental and constitutional 'right to vote' Courts & Judiciary To bring an end to democratic rights and conventions, we say in Telugu: "Ika Janagana Mangalamena" (Is this the end of the people's song?). There is a beautiful, timeless Sanskrit verse that proclaims, "Janani Janmabhoomi Swargadapi Gariyasi"—meaning "Mother and motherland are superior even to heaven." Why, then, should a person born on Indian soil be forced to repeatedly defend their right to exist as a stakeholder in their own nation? The real test of a democracy begins long before the polling day; it starts the moment the electoral roll is compiled. This list is the first clock of democracy, and keeping it accurate is the true "Bharat Gita"—the constitutional song of India's soul, akin to Jana Gana Mana or Vande Mataram. Since Independence Day on August 15, 1947, average patriots have considered the right to vote as the primary means to participate in the democratic process. They view it as a "Votilla Panduga" (a Telugu celebration where one wears new clothes, a Gandhi topi, khaddar dhoti, and lalchi or kurta to reach the polling booth). Also Read - Hanumakonda collector inspects EVM godown, directs security to remain vigilance Advertisement To these citizens, being unable to cast their vote is viewed by their peers as equivalent to death—a form of civil death. Most agree that failing to vote, despite polling day being a public holiday, is a step away from civilization itself. Hence, the right to vote must be recognized as a fundamental right. There must be a strong demand and an explicit declaration that every living adult Indian has an inherent right to cast their ballot. This should be based on the natural assumption that a person living in India, whose family has voted for generations, is a citizen of India until proven beyond a reasonable doubt that they are unqualified. Constitutional Law & Civil Rights Ambedkar backed the right to vote: While Article 326 provides the constitutional foundation for voting, the Representation of the People Acts of 1950 and 1951 created the statutory mechanisms for conducting elections. However, the true philosophical basis rests on Article 19(1)(a) - the freedom of expression, which inherently includes the expression of political choice through the ballot. Later, the right of voters to know a candidate's background was added by the Supreme Court in the landmark Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) judgment. Dr B R Ambedkar and Babu Jagjivan Ram strongly advocated for making the right to vote a fundamental right during the Constituent Assembly discussions on April 21–22, 1947. However, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, C Rajagopalachari, and others opposed it, arguing that such a rigid move might deter princely states from joining the Union and that incorporating a universal adult franchise within the constitutional text would suffice. As Jairam Ramesh noted on June 21, "Sardar Patel himself took the position that the universal adult franchise was, in itself, an implicit fundamental right. This is the historical background to Article 326." This debate found renewed life in Justice Ajay Rastogi's dissenting opinion in the Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India judgment (March 2023), which explicitly held that the right to vote is a fundamental right.

Andhra's Mana Mitra whatsapp governance platform expands to offer 1,126 govt services

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh's Mana Mitra whatsapp governance platform has expanded to offer 1,126 government services across 35 departments, serving 58.2 lakh people and recording more than 3.42 crore service sessions. By bringing government services onto a familiar digital platform, Mana Mitra reduces the need for people to visit government offices or navigate multiple departmental websites, creating a single digital interface between citizens and the state, an official release late on Tuesday said. "The platform has expanded to offer 1,126 government services across 35 departments, serving 58.2 lakh citizens and recording more than 3.42 crore service sessions," it said. The next layer of this transformation lies in grievance redressal. Andhra Pradesh has embedded artificial intelligence across its Public Grievance Redressal System (AI4PGRS), where citizens can register grievances through text, images or voice in a conversational interface. History

Since June 2024, the platform has received over 17.6 lakh grievances, while AI now assists in grievance routing, analytics, response quality assessment and the development of standard operating procedures aimed at improving both the speed and quality of grievance resolution, the release said. The AWARE (Advanced Warning and Advisory for Resilient Ecosystem) platform represents one of the state's most significant governance innovations.

Operating 61 live statewide use cases, AWARE integrates weather, hydrology, agriculture, public health, air quality and disaster intelligence into a single platform, allowing departments to move from reactive administration to proactive governance. Some services operate con-



tinuously throughout the year, while others activate during agricultural cycles, monsoon periods or emergency situations, providing officers with real-time alerts and predictive intelligence. Complementing these citizen-facing platforms is the State Data Lake, which consolidates data from across government into a unified digital platform, enabling real-time analytics, evidence-based policymaking and more responsive public service delivery.

The platform has already integrated 55 databases across 41 departments and autonomous organisations, with AI applications being built on top of this common data infrastructure. The results are beginning to demonstrate the value of data-driven governance. The system has identified 17,547 pension anomalies with an estimated annual savings potential of Rs 84.22 crore, removed 1.61 lakh deceased beneficiaries from Rice Cards, identified nearly 96,000 ineligible beneficiaries under the Jagjeevan Jyothi scheme, and flagged 1.28 lakh duplicate housing sanctions for review. Artificial intelligence is also increasingly supporting frontline administration. Through the state's AI Acceleration Project, 98 AI use cases have been identified across government, of which 29 have already entered statewide production.

These applications span public health, agriculture, taxation, policing and

citizen grievance management, including tuberculosis risk prediction, crop disease detection, GST fraud detection and AI-enabled CCTV analytics, the release said. For government officials, platforms such as RTGS Lens, Revenue One and the Single Search Bar are changing the way administrative decisions are made.

RTGS Lens has integrated 506 departmental workflows across 28 departments, allowing officers to access real-time dashboards and analytics. Revenue One is digitising land and revenue records, with over 19,000 revenue officials actively using the platform, while the AI-powered single search bar has already assisted users with more than 1.8 lakh government information queries. The state's longer-term vision extends beyond digital service delivery towards what it describes as precision governance. The proposed Family Benefit Management System (FBMS) aims to make the family, rather than the individual, the basic unit of welfare delivery by integrating datasets across departments, creating a unified family database and developing AI-based vulnerability scores to improve targeting of government schemes, the release said. The roadmap over the next three years includes expanding AI across departments, operationalising AI Living Labs, scaling the State Data Lake, launching AP One as a unified citizen platform and institutionalising AI-enabled governance across public administration. If successfully implemented at scale, the state's experiment could offer one of India's most comprehensive models for AI-enabled governance, demonstrating not only how technology can digitise government but also how it can fundamentally reshape the way governments function, the release added.

Congress infighting in Nalgonda turns violent, police resort to lathi charge

Nalgonda: After differences between the leaders in Warangal Congress came to the fore on Tuesday, infighting among Nalgonda Congress leaders was exposed on Wednesday. History Tension prevailed at Arvapally mandal headquarters in Suryapet after followers of MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy and Tungaturthy MLA Mandula Samuel followers entered into heated arguments over appointments

of party mandal president posts. Accusing that the MLA was taking unilateral decisions in appointment of mandal president posts, the followers of MP raised objections. The MP's followers conducted a rally to reach Gandhi Bhavan to complain against the MLA.

However, the legislator's followers obstructed the MP's group. Both the groups carried stones and sticks to at-

tack each other. Despite the police trying to persuade them, the situation went out of control, forcing them to resort to lathi charge at Bajireddygudem. It is learnt that the MP's followers and a few police personnel suffered injuries in the incident. On Monday, a protest was also conducted at Tungaturthy by the Congress workers against the MLA against his unilateral decisions.

Pawan Kalyan mourns death of young fan Niranjana, recalls emotional meeting

Hyderabad: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and actor Pawan Kalyan on Wednesday expressed shock over the death of his young fan Niranjana, who succumbed to a rare disease. Pawan Kalyan, who had fulfilled the wish of the 17-year-old Niranjana by visiting his house in Hanumakonda town of Telangana on June 17, stated that the news that Niranjana was no more had deeply shaken his heart. Niranjana, confined to his bed due to a rare genetic disease with no signs of growth, had wished to meet Pawan Kalyan as his last desire. "The moments from just a few days ago when I visited Niranjana's home in Hanumakonda and met him are still vividly alive in my mind. That little one, who waited for me despite battling severe illness... the tiny smile that bloomed on his face the moment he saw me... all of these will remain forever as unforgettable memories," the Jana Sena leader posted on 'X'. Pawan Kalyan stated that even as Niranjana's body fought the disease, his mind stood firm with immense courage. "The hope and self-confidence he showed toward life, even while enduring such pain, are invaluable. It is heartbreaking that a child with such courage has left us so soon. I extend my deepest condolences to Niranjana's family members. I pray that God grants them the strength to bear this irreparable sorrow," he said. "Dear Niranjana... the smile you showed, the courage, the love you shared will remain in my heart forever. I pray to God that your soul attains peace," added the actor-politician. Meanwhile, actor and philanthropist Sonu Sood paid respects to Niranjana through a video call with his parents. He consoled the family members and assured them of all the support.

According to Niranjana's family members, he was also an ar-

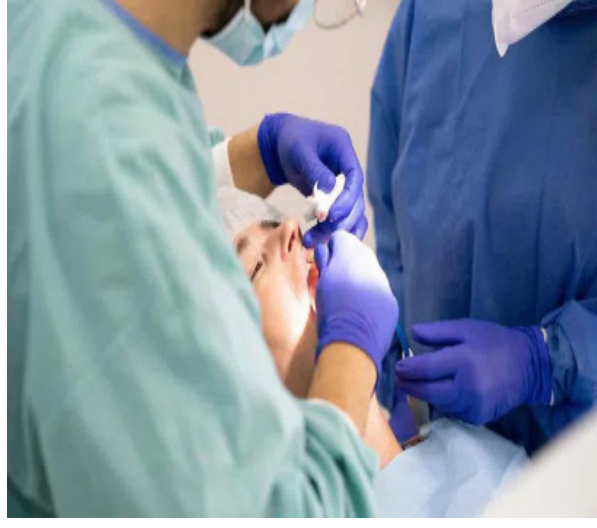


dent fan of Sonu Sood and wished to meet him. During his visit to Niranjana's house, Pawan Kalyan had given financial support and divine temple prasadam to Niranjana. Pawan Kalyan sat beside the 17-year-old Niranjana on his bed, held his hand and took selfies to cheer him up. The actor-politician spoke with the parents, Ponugoti Rangopal and Manasa, and inquired about Niranjana's health condition. An emotional Pawan Kalyan spent a lot of time with him. Upon entering the house, seeing his fan in a condition where he couldn't even stand, he was deeply moved. He sat on his bed and embraced him affectionately. He kissed his forehead and gently stroked him. He was touched by Niranjana's words that he had been his fan since childhood. Pawan Kalyan fondly looked at videos and photos of dances of Niranjana when he used to imitate the actor when he was healthy.

Why Hyderabad dentists are shifting to cosmetic dentistry and facial aesthetics?

Hyderabad: The landscape of dental healthcare in Hyderabad has undergone a major transformation over the last few years, with almost every young, talented dentist switching to cosmetic dentistry and advanced facial aesthetics as routine dentistry has become financially unviable. The shift to cosmetic treatments, however, has come at a price. Patients in Hyderabad seeking such aesthetic enhancements are often completely unaware of the actual success rate or risks of such procedures. The trend has also led to a fierce turf war among medical specialists, triggering inspections by Telangana Medical Council (TGMC). "There is over-saturation of BDS/MDS dental graduates, not only in Hyderabad but in all tier-I and tier-II cities, leading to less employment and severe competition. Traditional dentistry is afflicted by high overheads from real estate, expensive dental chairs, staff salaries, low margins, highly competitive basic procedures, and price-sensitive patients. The focus, therefore, has shifted to premium services," a senior member of Indian Dental Association (IDA), Hyderabad, explained.

To survive, young dental practitioners are transitioning from routine dentistry to high-value aesthetic packages that allow clinics to switch to cash-based, out-of-pocket elective treatments. Such services also elevate the dental clinic into a luxury status and create highly predictable recurring revenue opportunities like Botox and fillers that require maintenance every 4 to 6 months. The shift to cosmetic treatments has led to regulatory clashes between dermatologists, cosmetic surgeons and Telangana Medical Council. While cosmetic dentistry, such as veneers, aligners, and composite bonding, remains entirely within a dentist's legal purview, the extension into facial cosmetics like Botox, dermal fillers, and hair transplants attracts



regulation. "Aesthetic procedures, advanced dermatological treatments, and hair transplant surgeries must strictly be performed only by allopathy doctors, specifically MD/DNB Dermatologists or MCh/DNB Plastic Surgeons. We conduct these inspections only for public good to make them aware of the ground realities," says Dr G Srinivas, senior Telangana Medical Council (TGMC). In the last few years, the National Medical Commission (NMC) and various state bodies, including the TGMC, have flagged severe safety concerns, citing instances of permanent scarring and severe infection resulting from complex facial procedures performed by unqualified practitioners.

On their part, a few dental associations have argued that their intensive training in head, neck, and maxillofacial anatomy qualifies them to take up aesthetic surgeries related to skin and hair. Quite often, to bridge the legal gap, many enroll in private, short-term fellowships/weekend certification courses. However, short-term aesthetic certificate courses do not substitute for a formal residency in dermatology/plastic surgery, regulatory bodies clarify. The Medical Council has urged patients to verify a practitioner's core registration and qualification before undergoing any advanced facial aesthetic procedure.

TGCSB arrests two in Rs 4.70 crore WhatsApp impersonation fraud

HYDERABAD: The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) has arrested two persons for allegedly facilitating a cyber fraud in which a company was duped of Rs 4.70 crore after fraudsters impersonated its Managing Director through a fake WhatsApp profile. According to the TGCSB, an employee of the company received WhatsApp messages from a profile displaying the name and photograph of the company's Managing Director. Believing the messages to be genuine, the complainant transferred Rs 4.70 crore to bank accounts specified by the fraudsters. Technical analysis and verification of bank transactions led investigators to the arrest of the two suspects — Dosapati Krishna Sai of Sathupally in Khammam district and Mandavally Shiva Nagaraju, a resident of Kothapet in Hyderabad, a native of Sathupally. The police said the suspects had allegedly procured and supplied cur-

rent bank accounts to cyber fraudsters in return for commission. They are suspected of having facilitated the operation of mule accounts and shared commissions amounting to around Rs 4 lakh. The investigation revealed that Rs 1.80 crore of the defrauded amount was credited to a bank account operated by Shiva Nagaraju. Police alleged that the account had been arranged and provided to the cyber fraudsters by Krishna Sai. Further scrutiny of the account showed suspicious credit transactions exceeding Rs 2.49 crore. The account was also found to be linked to multiple cybercrime complaints registered in Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu, officials said. The suspects were produced before a court and remanded to judicial custody. Efforts are under way to trace the remaining absconding suspects and recover the remaining proceeds of the crime.

Mirchowk police arrest man for selling fake educational certificates

Hyderabad: The Mirchowk police arrested a 38-year-old man for allegedly possessing and selling fake educational certificates to job aspirants seeking employment abroad. The suspect, Abdul Rashed Khan, a resident of Chandrayangutta, was apprehended at Etebar Chowk. During the search, police seized 15 fake educational certificates, a mobile phone, and a scooter from his possession. According to police, the suspect was allegedly involved in supplying forged educational certificates to customers intending to secure overseas employment. Two other suspects are absconding, and efforts are under way to trace and apprehend them.

Hyderabad makes Breathalyser tests mandatory for school bus drivers

Hyderabad: In a significant move to enhance the safety of schoolchildren, the Hyderabad Traffic Police have made pre-duty breathalyser tests compulsory for drivers operating school transport vehicles. The decision was taken following a series of recent incidents in which school bus drivers were booked for driving under the influence of alcohol, raising concerns over the safety of students during their daily commute. Officials have directed management to ensure that every driver undergoes a breathalyser test before taking charge of a school vehicle each day. "Schools were told to maintain proper records of these checks and ensure that no driver found under the influence of alcohol is allowed to operate a vehicle carrying students," said Kajal Singh, DCP (Traffic-II).

As part of the initiative, traffic authorities had also recently held a meeting with the managements of several educational institutions, with a focus on strengthening safety standards and ensuring strict compliance with traffic regulations governing school transport. On the other hand, officials also instructed schools to strictly enforce other transport safety measures, including preventing overcrowding in school buses, curbing speeding and rash driving. "We asked them to ensure vehicles are roadworthy and to guarantee that students are picked up and dropped off only at authorised and safe locations," the DCP said. Officials emphasised that the safety of children cannot be compromised under any circumstances and warned that violations of transport safety norms would invite stringent action, including criminal cases and vehicle seizure. The Traffic Police also requested school managements to sensitise parents and private transport operators about responsible commuting practices and the importance of adhering to road safety rules. Officials said the representatives of the participating schools welcomed the initiative and assured that the prescribed safety measures would be implemented.



Jalpally Lake faces fresh encroachment threat as debris dumping continues



Hyderabad: The centuries-old Jalpally Lake in Maheshwaram Assembly constituency is coming under increasing threat from encroachment, with residents alleging truckloads of boulders and construction debris are being dumped into the water body every night to reclaim land for real estate activity. According to local residents, heavy vehicles enter the lake from Jalpally Cargo Road and Wadi-e-Mustafa side to unload boulders into the lake bed. "Every night, trucks carrying boulders dump debris into the lake. The objective is to reclaim the lake and convert it into plots for sale," said Mohd. Yousuf, a community leader from Wadi-e-Mustafa in Jalpally. Once spread over more than 250 acres, the lake has now shrunk to nearly half its original size because of years of encroachment. Until a few years ago, Jalpally Lake was one of Hyderabad's few relatively untouched freshwater lakes, popular among visitors and fishing enthusiasts. "The lake's proximity to Rajiv Gandhi International Airport has increased the value of the surrounding land, making it a target for encroachers," said social worker Anil Goud. The erstwhile Jalpally Municipality had pro-

posed developing the lake into a Mini Tank Bund with walking tracks, landscaped surroundings, and recreational facilities. However, the project made little progress. The area has since been merged into the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. Heritage experts say the lake is several centuries old and forms part of an interconnected chain of water bodies linked to Umda Sagar and Palle Cheruvu. Several smaller tanks in the basin have disappeared over the years because of urban expansion and encroachment. According to heritage activists, Jalpally Lake served as a source of drinking water during the Qutb Shahi and Asaf Jahi periods. Water from the lake was supplied to parts of the city through a network of dedicated channels. "The lake remains one of Hyderabad's few surviving freshwater lakes. Protecting it is important not only because of its historical significance but also for groundwater recharge and flood mitigation," a heritage activist said. People have urged the administration and irrigation authorities to conduct a comprehensive survey of the lake boundaries, remove encroachments, and prevent further dumping of debris to protect the water body.

Hyderabad doctor loses Rs 86 lakh in investment scam using Nirmala Sitharaman's name

Hyderabad: A 76-year-old doctor from Meerpet was cheated to the tune of Rs 86.44 lakh in an online investment fraud after fraudsters allegedly used the name of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to lure investors. According to information available, the victim clicked on a social media investment advertisement and was later contacted by two individuals claiming to represent a venture capital firm. They convinced him to open a demat account and transfer money in multiple instalments under the guise of registration, trading, commission, bank, The fraudsters allegedly sent fake profit updates and later demanded more money to release the returns. Suspecting fraud, the doctor lodged a complaint with the Hyderabad Cybercrime Police, who booked a case and are investigating.

TGSRTC restores 118 more JBM electric buses after safety clearance

Hyderabad: After nearly a week-long suspension over battery safety concerns, TGSRTC has begun restoring JBM electric bus services in phases, with 118 more buses receiving fitness clearance on Wednesday. According to officials, the technical team certified all 118 buses as 100 per cent fit for operation after detailed inspections. The corporation operates a fleet of 500 JBM electric buses across the State.

Earlier, 150 buses had already been cleared and returned to service. With the latest approvals, a total of 268 buses are now back on the roads, while the remaining fleet is expected to resume operations over the next few days after completing safety checks. TGSRTC Managing Director Y Nagi Reddy has directed Regional Managers across all regions to operate additional bus services on routes where JBM electric buses are still unavailable, ensuring that passengers do not face inconvenience. The fitness certifica-



tion is being issued only after inspections by TGSRTC's technical team, JBM engineers, and battery experts from China at the Command and Control Centre set up at Bus Bhavan in Hyderabad. TGSRTC had suspended the operation of all JBM electric buses across Telangana on July 2 as a precautionary measure following a series of battery-related fire incidents, including one near Alugunur in Karimnagar district on June 21. The corporation had made it clear that buses would be allowed back into service only after each vehicle was individually certified as 'Fit for Operation' and all prescribed safety conditions were met.

Lashkar commander killed in Shopian anti-terror operation

Srinagar: A self-styled commander of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) was killed on Wednesday in an anti-terror operation by security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district, police said. Security forces had



launched the search operation in a dense orchard in the Meemandar area, comprising seven villages, in the south Kashmir district on July 3. "You Can Run But You Can't Hide! One Lashkar terrorist neutralised by SOG Shopian in a joint operation along with RR and CRPF," the J-K Police said in a post on X. A senior police official identified the slain terrorist as Zakir Ahmad Ganie, a self-styled commander of the proscribed LeT. Ganie (26), a resident of the Motalhama area in the neighbouring Kulgam district, left his residence on September 27, 2023, for Dialgam to undertake shuttering work but failed to return home, the officials said. They said after an unsuccessful search by family members, a missing person's report was lodged at Kulgam police station on October 3, 2023. Ganie subsequently joined The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of the LeT, the officials said. They said he was named in an FIR registered at Kulgam police station under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). Security forces first spotted two terrorists through surveillance cameras on July 3 in the dense orchard in the Meemandar area, officials said. A joint team of police, the Army's 55 RR and 44 RR, and the CRPF maintained a tight cordon around the area over the past five days, with intermittent exchanges of fire taking place between the two sides, they said. The Army's specialised counter-in-

surgency unit, Victor Force, deployed additional personnel to seal all possible escape routes through the thick orchard foliage while also lighting up the area. During the summer months, the heavy foliage offers natural cover, making surveillance difficult and allowing trapped terrorists to exploit blind spots to break the cordon, they said. Shopian has historically served as a key transit corridor connecting south Kashmir with central Kashmir and the Pir Panjal range. Apart from Ganie, the other trapped terrorist was believed to be Latif, who joined the outfit last year.

Woman allegedly gang-raped in Secunderabad after being lured with promise of TV show participation

Hyderabad: A 43-year-old woman from Rajanna Sircilla district was allegedly gang-raped in Secunderabad after two men reportedly lured her with the promise of helping her participate in a television programme on family disputes. According to Mahankali police, the woman, who has been living separately from her husband due to alleged dowry harassment, travelled to the city on Tuesday to

attend the programme. One of the suspects, who are yet to be identified allegedly convinced her that he knew the organisers and took her to a building in Ranigunj, where he sexually assaulted her. Another man later arrived and allegedly raped her. The suspects fled after the woman raised an alarm. Based on her complaint, the Mahankali police booked a case and are investigating.

World Bank report vindicates BRS governance in Telangana, says KTR

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao termed the latest World Bank assessment placing Telangana among India's top five upper-middle-income States in India as a vindication of the State's economic trajectory under the previous BRS government. He attributed the achievement to the efforts of its people and the leadership of former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao. Reacting to reports on the World Bank's per capita income classification, Rama Rao said Telangana's emergence as an upper-middle-income State was a matter of pride for its people and a fitting response to allegations that the State was financially bankrupt. He said Telangana transformed from a region once marked by poverty into one of the country's wealthiest States. The BRS working president said the report reflected the gains achieved since the State formation, with



both the State's wealth and the income levels of its citizens registering significant growth. He asserted that international institutions had acknowledged the State's economic progress. According to the World Bank's income benchmark, Telangana ranked third among Indian States with a per capita income of \$5,407, behind Delhi (\$6,217) and Karnataka (\$5,579). Tamil Nadu (\$5,329) and Gujarat (\$4,734) completed the top five, with all five States crossing the World Bank's threshold for the upper-middle-income category.

Ministers paid floral tributes to the portrait of Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy in Wanaparthy district

Wanaparthy dist.: On Wednesday, State Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy toured Wanaparthy district. Accompanied by fellow ministers



Jupally Krishna Rao and Vakiti Srihari, local MLA Tudi Megha Reddy, and State Sports Authority Chairman K. Shivasena Reddy, he laid foundation stones for several development projects. The State Minister laid the foundation stone for development works costing ₹2 crore within the premises of the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in the town. He stated that these works are being undertaken to provide better facilities for devotees through the temple's development. Earlier, temple priests welcomed the visiting ministers with a traditional Poorna Kumbham reception. After special prayers were performed, the priests offered benedictions and distributed Teertha Prasadam (consecrated offerings) to them. Subsequently, he laid the foundation stone for the restoration of the 'Raja Gari Bunga-

low' (Royal Bungalow) at the Government Polytechnic College, a project costing ₹10 crore. He mentioned that this restoration aims to restore the ancient royal build-

ing to its former glory and develop it in a way that benefits the public. Similarly, Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy also laid the foundation stone for the construction of the Revalli Mandal complex, a project costing 2.25 crore. Additional Collector (Local Bodies) N. Kheemya Naik, District SP D. Sunitha Reddy, Additional Collector (Revenue) Vinod Kumar, and RDO Subramanyam welcomed the visiting ministers with flowering plants and bouquets. Wanaparthy Municipal Chairman Madhavi, Library Organization Chairman Govardhan Sagar, Market Committee Chairman Srinivas Goud, along with other public representatives, district officials, department heads, temple committee members, and a large number of citizens, participated in these events.

Students stage protest at MG University at midnight over lack of drinking water and daily use

Nalgonda: Students staying in the Mahatma Gandhi University women's hostel staged a protest around midnight on Tuesday, complaining a severe shortage of drinking water and water for daily use. The students claimed that the crisis arose after the water supply meant for the hostels was diverted to construction sites of new university buildings. As a result, they said they were struggling to meet their basic daily needs. As the situation worsened, the students gathered in front of the Vice-Chancellor's Guest House at around 1 am and raised slogans, demanding an immediate supply of



drinking water and water for daily use. The protesters alleged that despite bringing the issue to the notice of the Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar late at night, the concerned caretakers and wardens failed to respond promptly. They accused the university administration of neglecting their grievances and said the lack of ba-

sic amenities reflected poor management and administrative negligence. The students said the shortage of drinking water and other essential facilities in the women's hostel was affecting their health, hygiene and academic activities. They demanded the immediate constitution of a high-level committee to inspect the hostel conditions, recommend a permanent solution and initiate action against the caretakers and wardens responsible for the alleged negligence. The students warned that they would intensify their agitation if the university administration failed to resolve the issue without delay.

'Toxic' makers drop music video of 'Tabaahi'; sizzling romantic number makes temperatures soar!



Chennai: The makers of director Geethu Mohandas's eagerly awaited action extravaganza, 'Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups', featuring Rocking Star Yash in the lead, on Wednesday unveiled the much-anticipated official music video of 'Tabaahi', the film's first song. Taking to its social media timelines, KVN Productions, the firm producing the film, wrote, "Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing, There is a field. I'll meet you there – Rumi. #Tabaahi Out now in Hindi... #Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups In Cinemas Worldwide from 26-08-2026. #ToxicTheMovie #ToxicOn26th Aug. he song, a visual spectacle, offers audiences a first glimpse into one of the most anticipated films of the year. Featuring Rocking Star Yash alongside Kiara Advani in a captivating new on-screen pairing, 'Tabaahi' brings to life an unforgettable romance. Emotionally resonant performances from both actors and their undeniable chemistry bring a certain charm to the number that is hard to ignore. 'Tabaahi' captures love in its rawest and purest form — intimate, unwavering, and all-consuming. Set against a grand cinematic canvas with breathtaking visuals, evocative storytelling, electrifying guitar arrangements, and a soaring orchestral score, the music video serves as a stirring introduction to the enigmatic and visually distinctive world of 'Toxic'. Building anticipation ahead of the launch, the makers had treated fans to a playful social media exchange on July 7. Using the official handle of the film, the makers had posted, "What do you call a forbidden love that only exists in stolen time?", tagging Kiara Advani. Kiara responded with

a single word — "Tabaahi." Shortly after, Zee Music Company joined the conversation by quoting her reply with a simple, "Stay Tuned...", setting the stage for the official music video premiere and sending fans into a frenzy ahead of the release.

Composed and sung by musician Vishal Mishra and written by Raj Shekhar in Hindi, Tabaahi has been released in Hindi, Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, and Malayalam. Opening up about the song, Vishal Mishra said, "Tabaahi isn't a love song in the conventional sense, it's love as wreckage, as surrender, as fire that doesn't ask permission. Toxic demanded music that could hold that intensity: epic and intimate at once. Yash Bhai brings a rare conviction to the screen that I tried to match note for note. Tabaahi, for me, was about chasing that raw, unfiltered pulse of love, the kind that consumes before it comforts." The song has been adapted across languages by some of the finest lyricists in Indian cinema—Yogaraj Bhat (Kannada), Ramajogayya Sastry (Telugu), Vignesh Shivan (Tamil), and Rafeeq Ahammed (Malayalam)—reflecting the film's truly pan-Indian creative collaboration. For the unaware, Toxic features Yash, Nayanthara, Kiara Advani, Tara Sutaria, Rukmini Vasanth, and Huma Qureshi in a powerhouse ensemble cast. Written by Yash and Geetu Mohandas, and directed by Geetu Mohandas, the film has been shot in Kannada and English and has been dubbed in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and other languages. Produced by KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations, Toxic is scheduled to hit theatres on August 26 this year.

Rajkummar Rao's first look as Sourav Ganguly unveiled, biopic set for May 2027 release

Hyderabad: The 'Sourav Ganguly Story' featuring Rajkummar Rao has been unveiled today, on the occasion of Sourav Ganguly's birthday, making the day even more special for millions of fans across the world. Along with the reveal, the makers also announced the film's theatrical release on 14th May 2027 over an extended holiday weekend. The official first-look poster captures Rajkummar Rao in a cinematic recreation of Sourav Ganguly's iconic jersey-waving moment at Lord's balcony following India's historic NatWest Trophy triumph over England in 2002. Widely regarded as a defining image, the celebration came to symbolize a fearless new era of Indian cricket under Ganguly's leadership and remains an enduring emblem of confidence, defiance and belief. 'Dada – The Sourav Ganguly Story' chronicles the extraordinary journey of the man who didn't just play the game but changed it. Tracing his rise from a talented young cricketer to one of India's most influential captains, the film celebrates the grit, resilience and conviction



that redefined Indian cricket and inspired an entire generation. Talking about the first look unveil, Sourav Ganguly says, "Birthdays are always special and unveiling the first look of my biopic 'Dada – The Sourav Ganguly Story' today makes this one even more memorable. It is indeed the best birthday gift ever. The poster brings back a highly cherished moment from my cricketering journey. Rajkummar has approached the role with great sincerity and commitment. I wish him and the entire team my very best and I hope fans enjoy the movie on the big screen on 14th May 2027."

Mirnaa Menon stuns in glamorous photoshoot

Actress Mirnaa Menon continues to captivate her fans with another glamorous photoshoot, as she simultaneously gears up for an exciting array of films. The actress stunned her fans once again as she stepped out in a beautiful black corset mini dress that accentuated her feminine appeal, adorning the social media with her stunning looks. She looked alluring and confident as she flaunted off her shoulder dress with floral prints in the recent pictures. The actress complemented her beautiful long curly hair with minimal makeup. The recent click has gathered great reactions from netizens praising her elegant look and fascinating style sense. The latest photoshoot has surely gained her more recognition among style enthusiasts and movie buff fans. In the meantime, Mirnaa Menon is also working on some great projects that await exciting promotions in the near future. The actress will be next seen in the thrilling Telugu movie Don Bosco, directed by



Shankar Gowri and produced by Venkat uppurti under Radha Krishna Entertainment. She will star alongside popular actor Rushya Datta in the film, which revolves closely around a class reunion set in 2014. The movie narrates intriguing stories concerning old secrets, mysterious happenings, and much more. South Asians & Diaspora Additionally, Mirnaa Menon has also been roped in for the much-awaited Jailer 2, adding another incredible project to her ever-growing filmography. With great fashion appearances and fascinating film projects, Mirnaa Menon continues to stay relevant in the limelight.

'Romanchakam' glimpse showcases poetic narration



Presented by blockbuster director Sandeep Reddy Vanga, the film stars Sumanth Prabhas and Ananthika Sanilkumar in the lead roles. It is produced by Pranay Reddy Vanga under the Bhadrakali Pictures banner and marks the directorial debut of Venugopal Reddy. The first-look poster released recently received overwhelming response from the audience, the newly released glimpse promises to take the viewers through the beautiful world of the story with visual treat by cinematographer Pawan Pappula and melodious music by Vasuki Vaibhav. The video gives a peek into the lovely romance that blossoms between the leads and the distance that grows between them in no time. The poetic narration and lyrical presentation give

away that Romanchakam is going to be much more than a regular love story, bringing out the emotions of love, laughter, mystery, and more. It also highlights the chemistry between Sumanth Prabhas and Ananthika Sanilkumar, with the latter landing a special praise for the slap session that she shares on screen with her co-star.

With the backing of the production house that has been collaborating with Sandeep Reddy Vanga on his previous big-ticket pan-India releases, Romanchakam promises to be a youthful entertainer with engaging love narrative and emotional quotient. The film has already created quite an impression with the audience and is set to become one of the most talked-about romantic movies of the year.

Shanaya Kapoor to make Tollywood debut with Teja Sajja?

Bollywood's upcoming star Shanaya Kapoor has begun talks for Tollywood's zombie horror film, the report said. The daughter of actor Sanjay Kapoor is in the race to play the female lead opposite the new Teja Sajja. Sources say that, Shanaya Kapoor will be seen essaying the female lead in the film. "She is in talks for the female lead role and could be joining the sets soon," a source said. While the first instalment was directed by Prashanth Varma, latest talk says that the new film's directors will be different. It is said that Prashanth Varma will be penning the script and story while another director will be handling the film. Further the film will be having a bigger treatment than its predecessor, it is said. It will see the franchise taking the story and characters into



an even more spectacular direction, say sources. The film, currently in pre-production is said to be bankrolled by T.G. Vishwa Prasad under the People Media Factory banner. Teja Sajja and People Media Factory's latest venture Mirai, which release recently has seen great success. With this new film they are all set to make Tollywood mark again. If the reports turn out to be true, then it will see Shanaya Kapoor's Tollywood debut.

India vs England 4th T20I preview: Sanju Samson selection dilemma faces Gambhir as India fight to save series

Bristol: Faced with acute selection dilemmas and a collective failure to adapt to hostile English conditions, a beleaguered Shreyas Iyer-led India face a must-win situation when they take on England in the pivotal fourth T20 International here on Thursday. Trailing 1-2 in the five-match series, India must orchestrate a complete turnaround to force a decider, leaving head coach Gautam Gambhir and the selection committee with massive tactical headaches. The biggest selection conundrum surrounds Sanju Samson, who was dropped for the second and third T20Is in favour of 15-year-old prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. The teenager has fared no worse or better than the rest of a misfiring batting unit. Given the stakes, Gambhir has explicitly refused to rule out Samson's return to the playing XI. In a matter of just four months, Samson's international career has swung from the fringes to dizzying heights, only to seemingly return to square one. While it would be unfair to place the entire blame on skipper Iyer—who is chasing his first victory since being elevated to captaincy during this comeback series—the onus lies heavily on the coaching think-tank led by Gambhir and Ajit Agarkar's selection committee to avert the ignominy of a series loss. The team management's recent tactical gambles have alienated fans. Chants of "We Want Sanju" echoed outside the Trent Bridge stadium as the team boarded the bus following a crushing 125-run defeat in the third T20I on Wednesday. If sidelining T20 World Cup-winning skipper Suryakumar Yadav immediately after a historic triumph drew intense criticism, the decision to ignore Samson—another hero of that campaign—has now fueled a major public backlash. The shocking capitulation at Trent Bridge laid bare India's technical flaws and a distinct lack of long-term vision. The batters failed miserably against a fast and furious pace attack led by Jofra Archer and Josh Tongue, who blew India away by sharing seven wickets, dismantling the entire top five.

Middle-Order Rejig: Tilak in the Firing Line?

To accommodate Samson without unsettling the opening partnership—thereby granting young Sooryavanshi an unhindered run to find his rhythm—the middle order will need a major shake-up. While wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan is likely to retain his place due to his glove work, vice-captain Tilak Varma's spot has come under intense



scrutiny. Known for his finishing capabilities, the Mumbai Indians batter has struggled alongside his teammates on tour. Apart from a gritty but futile 55 against Ireland earlier in the tour, Varma has been found wanting in England, failing to convert starts with scores of 13, 24 not out, and 3. Another baffling tactical blunder on Wednesday saw bowler Harshit Rana promoted ahead of designated finisher Shivam Dube inside the powerplay—a chaotic chase that saw India bundled out for a paltry 76.

If the batting unit needs to step up by several notches, the story is no different for the bowlers, particularly the spinners. Mystery spinner Varun Chakaravathy has been a massive letdown, managing just one wicket while giving away heavy runs across the series. In stark contrast, the Harry Brook-led England squad has no such headaches. They head into Bristol on a high following the return to form of explosive opener Phil Salt, who smashed a 44-ball 70 at Trent Bridge.

England's biggest asset has been the pace duo of Archer and Tongue, who have seamlessly formed a potent new-ball partnership, unleashing raw pace and steep bounce. Having established their chemistry during last month's Test series against New Zealand, Tongue has carried his red-hot red-ball form effortlessly into the shortest format. With the series on the line for the visitors, the English pace battery will look to exploit India's technical frailties on Thursday and seal the series before the final T20I in Southampton on Saturday. History

Squads:

India: Shreyas Iyer (C), Abhishek Sharma, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Ishan Kishan (WK), Tilak Varma, Sanju Samson, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Harshit Rana, Varun Chakaravathy, Arshdeep Singh, Ravi Bishnoi, Prasidh Krishna, Suryansh Shedge, Washington Sundar. England: Harry Brook (C), Phil Salt, Jos Buttler (WK), Tom Banton, Jacob Bethell, Sam Curran, Will Jacks, Jofra Archer, Liam Dawson, Adil Rashid, Josh Tongue, Jordan Cox, Sonny Baker, Luke Wood, Saqib Mahmood, Rehan Ahmed, James Coles.

ICC Chairman Jay Shah pays tribute as Afghanistan cricket pioneer Shapoor Zadran passes away at 38

New Delhi: ICC chairman Jay Shah paid tribute to former Afghanistan fast bowler Shapoor Zadran following his death at the age of 38, remembering him as one of the key figures behind Afghanistan's remarkable rise in international cricket. Zadran passed away in India on Tuesday after a prolonged illness, a day before his 39th birthday. The left-arm pacer, who represented Afghanistan in 44 ODIs and 36 T20Is between 2009 and 2020, had been undergoing treatment in a New Delhi hospital after being diagnosed with stage four Hemophagocytic Lymphohistocytosis (HLH), a rare and life-threatening immune disorder. He had been admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) in May after his condition worsened following recurring infections, dengue and a severe drop in his red blood cell count. His health problems began in October last year, after which he was advised to seek



treatment in India. With the support of Afghanistan star Rashid Khan and Afghanistan Cricket Board chairman Mirwais Ashraf, his visa was fast-tracked, enabling him to be admitted to a New Delhi hospital in January. India travel packages paying his respects in a post on X, Shah hailed Zadran's contribution to Afghanistan cricket and recalled his memorable all-round display in the country's historic first-ever Cricket World Cup victory. "Deeply saddened by the passing of former Afghan cricketer Shapoor Zadran at the age of 38.

Fifa controversy: Egypt files official FIFA complaint against referees after dramatic Argentina loss



Cairo: The Egyptian Football Federation (EFF) has reportedly approached the governing body FIFA, lodging a formal protest against the decisions of referee Francois Letexier after their team suffered a dramatic 3-2 defeat against the defending champions Argentina in Atlanta on Tuesday. Egypt appeared close to a historic upset after taking a 2-0 lead, but Argentina produced a late comeback, with Lionel Messi playing a decisive role by scoring one goal and setting up another before Enzo Fernandez completed the turnaround in stoppage time. However, the match left the Egyptian camp furious as several key decisions by the officials went against the team, including a disallowed goal following a VAR review and a penalty appeal that was not reviewed in the buildup to Argentina's winning goal.

According to a report in Spanish publication Diario AS, the president of the Egypt Football Association, Hany Abo Rida, has lodged a formal complaint with FIFA against French referee Francois Letexier and his officiating team. The report further states that the complaint calls for an investigation into what Egypt describes as controversial decisions that went against the Pharaohs.

India's batting collapse against England was an abject surrender, says Anil Kumble

Hyderabad: "It was an abject surrender by the Indian team. You don't expect a world champion side to cave in like that. England's bowlers were right on the money. Jofra Archer and Josh Tongue stuck to a clear plan," former India captain Anil Kumble said on a JioStar special show. "England bowled short, they bowled quick, and they kept the pressure on. Both were clocking over 145 kmph, making life difficult for the Indian batters, who couldn't free their arms or find any rhythm. The Indian batters needed to show more patience and application, but everyone just tried to attack instead of absorbing the pressure," Kumble said. "Yes, the required rate was over 10, but someone had to take responsibility and bat deep. Instead, they went the aggressive route and paid the price with a batting collapse. It was a disappointing surrender by the Indian batting line up," he said. On how constant changes in the playing XI are hurting India, Kumble said: "The Indian team has made too many changes to their lineup and that needs to stop. The batting has stayed mostly the same. Yes, Sanju has been dropped and Vaibhav has come in, but other than that, it's almost the same. But the bowlers keep changing. Prasidh Krishna was dropped after one bad game against Ireland. "Prince Yadav came in, bowled well, and picked three wickets in the second T20I, but India still lost that game.

The federation has also officially requested that the French officiating team be removed from the remainder of the tournament because of what it considers crucial errors. Earlier, the Egyptian coach Hassan also showed disappointment with several decisions. He also suggested that the outcome was affected by factors beyond what happened on the pitch, even implying that there was a desire for Messi and Argentina to remain in the tournament. "We looked better than the reigning champion – better in everything –, but the result was influenced by internal factors on the pitch and external factors off it," Hassan said. "Perhaps they wanted to keep the world champion in the competition. Perhaps they wanted Messi to stay in the running," he said in the post-match press conference. "In football, there are sometimes external factors that go beyond the technical aspects. The world champion received support at every level," he added. Hassan was particularly frustrated by the refereeing of French official Francois Letexier and pointed to two major incidents that he felt changed the course of the game: Egypt's disallowed goal and a late penalty appeal involving Alexis Mac Allister before Fernandez's decisive strike.



As a new captain, you need to stick with your five bowlers. Batters will score runs, but bowlers win you matches. India was complacent in Ireland, thinking they would just turn up and win," he said. "They didn't adapt to the conditions. They forced themselves, thinking they would play their way come what may. Once you lose those games and then you face a team like England on their home soil, it becomes tough because this English side is good and experienced. You need to adapt and change along the way," Kumble said. "Also, the decision of sending out Harshit Rana to bat ahead of a more complete batter like Shivam Dube was wrong. In T20 cricket, you put your best batters upfront. You can't expect a number eight guy to win you a game by sending him to bat ahead of a proven guy.

Google selects 20 AI-first Indian startups for Accelerator India 2026 cohort



New Delhi: Google on Wednesday unveiled the 2026 cohort of its Google for Startups Accelerator: India programme, selecting 20 AI-first startups from nearly 2,500 applications as it marks the 10th anniversary of its accelerator initiatives in the country. The new cohort reflects the rapid evolution of India's startup ecosystem from traditional large language model (LLM)-based applications to agentic and multimodal AI systems, with startups developing solutions across sectors including healthcare, climate technology, finance, legal services, manufacturing, cybersecurity and developer tools. According to Google, the selected startups are building next-generation AI products designed to solve complex real-world problems while bringing artificial intelligence into physical environments and enterprise workflows. As part of the accelerator programme, the startups will receive access to Google's AI technology stack, along with technical guidance, product development support and go-to-market mentorship aimed at helping them scale their businesses globally. Commenting on the announcement, Preeti Lobana, Vice President and Country Manager, Google India, said the country's startup ecosystem is entering a new phase driven by agentic workflows and physical AI systems capable of addressing high-impact challenges. "India's startup ecosystem is moving into a new frontier of agentic workflows and physical AI systems engineered to solve high-stakes, real-world challenges. As we mark a decade of Google Accelerator programs, the 2026 Indian cohort represents the vanguard of this technological shift," Lobana

mentioned. History The 2026 cohort includes startups working across a wide range of sectors. Legal technology startup Adalat AI is developing an end-to-end AI-powered justice platform to automate clerical processes and accelerate court case resolution. Healthcare startups Aikenist and FlexifyMe are using AI to improve radiology workflows and chronic pain recovery, respectively. Climate-focused startups Aurassure and Fitsol are building AI-driven solutions for hyperlocal climate monitoring, carbon tracking and enterprise sustainability. Fashion technology startup Ayna is helping brands create AI-powered product catalogues, while finance-focused companies Binocs, Dodo Payments and OnFinanceAI are leveraging AI to automate due diligence, merchant services, compliance and risk management. Developer-focused startups such as CraftifAI, H2Loop AI, CreateOS by NodeOps, Pipeshift and TartanHQ are building AI infrastructure, coding models, software development platforms and enterprise integration tools. Manufacturing startup Jidoka is developing AI-powered computer vision systems for automated inspection, while wearable technology company Proxgy combines AI, IoT and SaaS to digitise enterprise operations. The cohort also includes Soundverse AI, which is building AI tools for music creation, SuperBryn, which focuses on improving the reliability of voice AI systems, and cybersecurity startup Zeron, which develops AI-powered security agents for identifying and addressing software and cloud vulnerabilities.

Assam exempts small non-polluting units from approvals to boost ease of doing business

Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday announced a major policy initiative to promote entrepreneurship, saying small, non-polluting enterprises in the state will no longer require government approvals to commence operations during their first three years. The Chief Minister said the move is aimed at improving the ease of doing business by reducing regulatory hurdles and allowing entrepreneurs to focus on building their ventures instead of navigating bureaucratic procedures. "We are making it easier to do business in Assam. Small, non-polluting enterprises can now commence operations without government approvals for the first three years. I want my entrepreneurs to focus on creating value, not chasing approvals," CM Sarma said in a statement. The announcement is expected to provide a significant boost to startups, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and first-generation entrepreneurs looking to establish businesses in sectors that have minimal environmental impact. A senior government official said that the initiative is part of the Assam government's broader efforts to create a business-friendly ecosystem, attract investment and generate employment opportunities in the state. Over the past few years, the state gov-



ernment has introduced a series of reforms to simplify business regulations, digitise government services and reduce the compliance burden on industries. It has also been actively promoting Assam as an investment destination through initiatives such as the Advantage Assam summit and sector-specific industrial policies. The latest decision is expected to reduce the time and cost involved in setting up eligible enterprises while encouraging greater private sector participation in manufacturing, services and other low-risk economic activities. The government believes that easing entry barriers for small businesses will help foster innovation, strengthen local entrepreneurship and expand the state's industrial base. Industry stakeholders are expected to welcome the decision, as regulatory approvals have often been cited as a major challenge for new businesses during their initial years of operation.

Tata Group plans USD 100 billion auto business with major investment

Mumbai: Tata Group expects its automotive business, including passenger and commercial vehicles, to grow to USD 100 billion over the next five years, with a capital expenditure target of Rs 40,000 crore for the domestic business and about 20 billion British pounds for Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), Tata Group Chairman N Chandrasekaran said on Wednesday. Responding to shareholders' queries at the 81st Annual General Meeting of Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, held virtually, he said the company's electric vehicle (EV) market share target is to remain at 40-45 per cent. It is around 42 per cent at present. Chandrasekaran said Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd (TMPV) will continue to focus on launching aspirational products for its customers as it aims for a 10-fold growth in volumes between FY20 and FY30 and a market share of 20 per cent. "I want to say that both companies (Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd and Tata Motors Ltd) have very ambitious targets. Over the next five years (till FY31), Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, including Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), will target revenue of USD 60 billion, with JLR contributing about USD 45-50 billion and Tata Motors' domestic business contributing about USD 15 billion," Chandrasekaran, who is also the Chairman of TMPV, said. The combined profit will exceed USD 5 billion, he said, adding that together with the commercial vehicles (CV) business, which has a target of USD 40 billion, the automotive business across the two companies will be worth USD 100 billion. In terms of capital expenditure, Tata Motors' domestic business has set a target of Rs 40,000 crore over the next five years, while JLR has earmarked about 20 billion British pounds, he said. Outlining the passenger vehicle business plans, he said the company has a big ambition over the next five years. "Between FY20 and FY30, the company aims to achieve a 10-fold growth in volumes, with an ambition of more than 1.2 million vehicles, and increase its market share to 20 per cent from the current 14.2 per cent," he said. Stating that the company is on a growth trajectory, Chandrasekaran said TMPV will continue to focus on launching products that are aspirational for today's consumers. The company has entered FY27 with confidence, backed by a strong pipeline of new products and powertrains in both Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles and Jaguar Land Rover,



Chandrasekaran said, adding that JLR has a series of launches planned in the second half of the year.

The company is also investing significantly in digital technologies, especially artificial intelligence (AI), across the value chain. The collaboration between Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles and JLR is also becoming stronger by leveraging their complementary capabilities in manufacturing, technology and talent, he said.

The successful commencement of operations at the TMPV and JLR facility in Tamil Nadu also marks a significant milestone, Chandrasekaran said. TMPV and its subsidiary, Jaguar Land Rover Automotive, commenced operations at their new facility in Panapakkam in Tamil Nadu's Ranipet district in February this year.

The facility represents the first phase of a greenfield plant that will manufacture next-generation vehicles, including electric vehicles, for both TMPV and JLR. Chandrasekaran said the demerger of the passenger vehicle and commercial vehicle businesses into two separate listed entities is "a very decisive step" and not just a structural milestone in the company's journey to build a differentiated, future-ready, world-class personal mobility enterprise with a strong presence in India and a global footprint through Tata Motors and JLR. "Our ambition is to build a trusted, aspirational, globally competitive mobility brand that connects meaningfully with the customers of tomorrow," he said. He said FY26 had begun on a positive note, with expectations of steady global growth, moderating inflation and easing financial conditions. However, supply chain disruptions and geopolitical tensions in West Asia towards the end of the financial year heightened concerns over inflationary pressures and slowing growth, Chandrasekaran said. "Also, we had a cyber incident at JLR that led to a temporary production pause of almost two months." As a result, the company recorded a 21 per cent decline in revenue over the previous year, with revenue of nearly 23 billion British pounds, he said.

Sensex, Nifty tumble over 2 per cent amid global market concerns

Mumbai: Indian benchmark equity indices witnessed a sharp selloff on Wednesday, with the Sensex and Nifty falling more than 2 per cent each, as rising crude oil prices, weak global cues and renewed geopolitical tensions dented investor sentiment. The market decline gathered pace during the second half of the trading session after US President Donald Trump said that an interim agreement with Iran to end the conflict was "over", triggering fresh concerns over escalating tensions in the Middle East and their potential impact on global energy supplies. During noon trade, the Nifty was down nearly 500 points, while the Sensex had declined more than 1,600 points. Broad-based selling was evident across the market, with 45 of the 50 Nifty constituents trading in the red. The sharp correction erased nearly Rs 4 lakh crore in investor wealth, with the combined market capitalisation of all companies listed on the BSE falling below Rs 476 lakh crore. The spike in crude oil prices, coupled with



uncertainty surrounding developments in the Gulf region, added to the risk-off mood in global markets, prompting investors to pare exposure to equities.

Meanwhile, during morning trade, Sensex opened 364.27 points or 0.46 per cent lower at 77,816.45, while Nifty slipped 139.15 points or 0.57 per cent to 24,259.55. Among sectoral indices, Nifty Oil & Gas led the losses, declining more than 1 per cent during the opening session. Nifty Media, Nifty PSU Bank, Nifty Realty, Nifty Cement, Nifty Metal, Nifty Auto and Nifty FMCG also declined by up to almost 1 per cent during early trade.

World-class procedure gives new hope to premature baby with rare brain issue

Visakhapatnam: In a remarkable medical achievement, the team at Medcover Woman & Child Hospital, Visakhapatnam, in collaboration with renowned Interventional Neurovascular Specialist Dr. Siva Sankar Dalai, successfully treated an extremely rare and life-threatening Vein of Galen Malformation (VoGM) in a premature baby weighing only 1.7 kg. Geographic Reference Vein of Galen Malformation is one of the rarest congenital vascular abnormalities of the brain. In this condition, abnormal blood vessels form before birth, allowing blood to flow directly from arteries into veins without passing through normal brain tissue. This creates an enormous strain on the baby's heart, often leading to severe high-output cardiac failure, respiratory distress, and multiple organ dysfunction soon after birth. Without timely diagnosis and specialized treatment, the condition carries a very high risk of mortality and long-term neurological disability. Also Read - Medcover Hospital sets up 24-hour free medical camp at bara shaheed dargah Advertisement What makes this case even more special is that the condition was diagnosed during late pregnancy. The baby was conceived following In Vitro Fertilization (IVF), making it a highly precious pregnancy. Once the diagnosis was established, meticulous planning began well before delivery. The pregnancy was closely monitored, and a multidisciplinary team was assembled to ensure that every aspect of the baby's care was coordinated from the moment of birth. The premature baby was delivered safely and admitted immediately to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Medcover Woman & Child Hospital. During the first few days of life, the baby was monitored round the clock with advanced neonatal intensive care. Despite maximal medical support, the baby rapidly developed worsening high-output heart failure, required ventilator support, and was progressively deteriorating. Dr. Sunil Kishore, Chief Neonatologist, created a dedicated multidisciplinary care coordination group involving the NICU team and Dr. Siva Sankar Dalai, an expert in interventional neurovascular procedures. Daily discussions were held to continuously assess the baby's condition and determine the safest timing for definitive intervention. After careful planning, the team decided to proceed with endovascular embolization on the fifth day of life. This minimally invasive pro-

cedure involves navigating extremely fine catheters through tiny blood vessels to reach the abnormal brain circulation and selectively block the abnormal feeding arteries. Performing such a procedure in a 1.7 kg premature newborn is extraordinarily challenging. Every aspect of the intervention required meticulous precision. The allowable amount of contrast dye had to be kept to an absolute minimum to protect the baby's kidneys. Radiation exposure needed to be carefully minimized. Fluid administration had to be tightly controlled because even a few millilitres of excess fluid can significantly affect such a small baby. Similarly, the dose of anticoagulant (heparin) required precise adjustment to avoid bleeding while preventing clot formation during the procedure. The procedure was completed successfully without major complications. Following the intervention, the baby's heart function improved steadily, ventilator support was gradually weaned, feeding was established successfully, and the newborn continued to make encouraging neurological and clinical progress. After careful monitoring in the NICU, the baby recovered well and was discharged home in stable condition. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sunil Kishore, Chief Neonatologist, said: "This case demonstrates what is possible when antenatal diagnosis, advanced neonatal intensive care, and highly specialized neurovascular intervention come together. Such rare conditions demand seamless teamwork, meticulous planning, and precise execution. Every decision—from the



timing of intervention to fluid management, ventilation, contrast usage, and anticoagulation—had to be individualized for this tiny premature baby. We are delighted to see this child recover and go home with the family." "Treating Vein of Galen Malformation in such a small premature infant is technically among the most demanding neurovascular procedures. The blood vessels are extremely delicate, and every step requires exceptional precision. Successful embolization in babies of this size is performed only in a limited number of specialized centres worldwide. We are happy to have achieved an excellent outcome through careful planning and multidisciplinary collaboration." The successful outcome reflects the strength of a coordinated multidisciplinary approach involving neonatologists, neurovascular specialists, anaesthesiologists, neonatal nurses, radiology experts, and intensive care professionals. The core NICU team involved in the baby's care included:

* Dr Sunil Kishore – Chief Neonatologist * Dr. Mounika * Dr. Priyanka * Dr. Vijay The neurovascular intervention was successfully performed by Dr. Siva Sankar Dalai, Interventional Neurovascular Specialist. This achievement reinforces the capability of Medcover Woman & Child Hospital, Visakhapatnam, to manage some of the most complex neonatal disorders using world-class expertise, advanced technology, and coordinated multidisciplinary care—bringing hope to babies and families facing exceptionally rare and challenging conditions.

Monsoon diseases: Prevention is better than cure

Dr. RV Ravi Kanna Babu Consultant Physician & Internal Medicine KIMS ICON Hospital, Visakhapatnam Visakhapatnam: As the monsoon season brings welcome relief from the scorching summer heat, it also increases the risk of several seasonal illnesses. Every year, hospitals witness a significant rise in cases of mosquito-borne, water-borne, and food-borne diseases during the rainy season. Adopting preventive measures and maintaining good hygiene are essential to protect ourselves and our families. Common monsoon-related illnesses include dengue, malaria, chikungunya, typhoid, viral fevers, hepatitis A, leptospirosis, and acute gastroenteritis. The good news is that most of these diseases can be prevented through simple lifestyle practices and timely precautions. News One of the biggest concerns during the monsoon is the spread of mosquito-borne diseases. Stagnant water collected in air coolers, flower pots, buckets, discarded tyres, coconut shells, and other open containers becomes an ideal breeding ground for

mosquitoes. Regular cleaning of our surroundings, preventing water stagnation, using mosquito repellents, sleeping under mosquito nets, and wearing full-sleeved clothing can greatly reduce the risk of mosquito bites. Food and water contamination is another major cause of illness during this season. Drinking only boiled or purified water and consuming freshly prepared, hygienic food can effectively prevent infections such as typhoid, hepatitis A, and acute gastroenteritis. It is advisable to avoid uncovered food and unhygienic street food during the rainy season. Maintaining good personal hygiene is equally important. Washing hands thoroughly with soap before meals and after using the restroom, keeping nails clean, and washing fruits and vegetables properly before consumption significantly reduce the spread of infections. People should avoid



Pawan Kalyan mourns death of young fan Niranjana, recalls emotional meeting

Hyderabad: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and actor Pawan Kalyan on Wednesday expressed shock over the death of his young fan Niranjana, who succumbed to a rare disease. Pawan Kalyan, who had fulfilled the wish of the 17-year-old Niranjana by visiting his house in Hanumakonda town of Telangana on June 17, stated that the news that Niranjana was no more had deeply shaken his heart. Niranjana, confined to his bed due to a rare genetic disease with no signs of growth, had wished to meet Pawan Kalyan as his last desire. "The moments from just a few days ago when I visited Niranjana's home in Hanumakonda and met him are still vividly alive in my mind. That little one, who waited for me despite battling severe illness... the tiny smile that



bloomed on his face the moment he saw me... all of these will remain forever as unforgettable memories," the Jana Sena leader posted on 'X'. Pawan Kalyan stated that even as Niranjana's body fought the disease, his mind stood firm with immense courage. "The hope and self-confidence he showed toward life, even while enduring such pain, are invaluable.

NIA conducts raids in Vijayawada in terror link case



As part of the investigation into a terror-link case, officials from the National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted extensive searches in Vijayawada once again. The operation, which began at dawn and spanned several areas of the city, caused a stir among local residents. NIA officials split into three specialised teams around 5:00 AM to carry out searches in the Vinchipeta, Bhavanipuram, and Mahanthipuram localities. They inspected the homes of the accused as well as other premises linked to them. Authorities had recently arrested Mohammed Danish, Suhail Beg, and Mohammed

Rahamtullah—all from Vijayawada—in connection with this terror-link case. The investigation gained momentum after the case was transferred to the NIA. NIA officials are currently probing whether the three arrested individuals have connections with other parties and the extent of their network. Against this backdrop, they conducted fresh searches at the suspects' residences to gather further evidence. The NIA is examining all aspects of the terror links and analyzing the seized documents and digital devices. Official sources anticipate that more crucial details regarding the case may come to light.