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Andhra logs record paddy procurement under NDA reforms: Nadendla Manohar



(king Reporter)Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar on Thursday said the state government’s innovative reforms in paddy procurement over the past two years have helped the state achieve its ‘highest-ever’ procurement while ensuring faster payments and greater transparency. Addressing a meeting in Vijayawada, the minister said the procurement process is being

carried out through the Civil Supplies Corporation in coordination with farmers and rice millers.“Over the past two years, the NDA coalition government has introduced several innovative reforms in paddy procurement, enabling Andhra Pradesh to record its highest-ever procurement while ensuring faster payments to farmers and greater transparency in the process,” said Manohar.The Minister noted that the NDA coalition government procured 7.4 million tonnes of paddy in its second year, compared to 4.2 million tonnes during the previous YSRCP government between 2019 and 2024.According to Manohar, paddy worth Rs 31,000 crore was procured and 95 per cent of the payments were credited to the bank accounts of over 1.1 million farmers within 24 hours.

Cyber lab recovers 3,081 mobiles worth Rs. 6.20 crore across five phases



Kurnool: In a major consumer-centric policing drive, the Kurnool District Police returned 679 recovered mobile phones worth approximately Rs 1.36 crore to their rightful owners during the fifth edition of the “Mobile Recovery Mela” held at the Vyas Auditorium on Wednesday. the media, Superintendent of Police Vikrant Patil stated that the district police, in coordination with the specialized Cyber Lab, have successfully recovered and restored 3,081 mobile phones worth over Rs 6.20 crore across five distinct phases. He noted that the newly restored smartphones were meticulously tracked and recovered from multiple states, including Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Karnataka.

Online betting addiction and debt pressure end in youth’s murder

Banaganapalle: A tragic domestic dispute fueled by online betting debts and relentless loan app harassment ended in the murder of a 28-year-old youth at Kampamalla village in Banaganapalle mandal on Wednesday. The deceased, identified as Vamsi Krishna, a recent BCA graduate from Bengaluru, was allegedly beaten to death by his father, Vasantha Rao. According to preliminary reports, Vamsi Krishna had become heavily addicted to online gaming and betting, which severely impacted his behavioral health. To cover his losses, he borrowed heavily from online loan applications.



MITS students win ISTE-2025 State awards

Madanapalle: Students of MITS Deemed to be University, near Madanapalle, earned laurels by winning prestigious ISTE-2025 State Awards presented by Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE), Andhra Pradesh Section, at State-level awards ceremony held at AITAM, Tekkali. Indian Current Events H Sudarshana Rao presented best CSE student award to M Harshitha Reddy; best ECE student award to A Sathya Priya; best Mechanical Engineering student award to K Mohammad Azmathulla; and best student innovator award to Gorla Teja. Congratulating the



awardees, Dr N Vijaya Bhaskar Choudary, Founder & Chancellor of MITS, said the recognition reflects University’s commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and student development. Vice-Chancellor Dr C Yuvaraj and other university officials felicitated the students on their outstanding achievement.

Five AP Govt Medical Colleges To Aim For Top-100 Rank



(king Reporter)VIJAYAWADA: The Andhra Pradesh government would prepare a roadmap to ensure that at least five government medical colleges in the state secure a place among the country's top 100 institutions. Stating this on Thursday, health minister Satya Kumar Yadav asked officials to prepare the roadmap. He asserted that improving the quality of medical education is essential to producing competent doctors and strengthening public healthcare. Also Read - Amid Hydrel Generation Slump, AP Girding Up To Ensure Uninterrupted Power Supply Advertisement Chairing a three-hour review meeting at the state secretariat, the minister asked officials to adopt stringent measures to raise academic standards in both government and private medical colleges in accordance with the norms of the national medical commission. Expressing concern over the

acute shortage of faculty, Satya Kumar noted that nearly 200 of the 800 professor posts in the state's 17 government medical colleges remained vacant. The situation is particularly critical in 16 super-speciality departments. where 106 of the 159 professor posts are vacant. Also Read - DCA Conducts Raids On 32 Medical Shops In Vizag As the NMC permits three postgraduate seats for every professor, the shortage could affect both the quality of education and the availability of PG seats, he noted. Pointing out that private medical colleges retain professors up to the age of 70 and consequently have greater faculty strength, the minister advised the director of medical education, Dr Vishnuvardhan, to prepare a set of proposals on enhancing the retirement age of professors. The minister asked Dr NTR University of Health Sciences to strictly enforce NMC norms by conducting surprise inspections of medical colleges, identifying deficiencies in teaching infrastructure and ensuring corrective action. University officials informed him that the present government had added 230 MBBS seats and 250 postgraduate seats over the past two years.

Andhra Pradesh government intensifies land reforms with ‘Mee Bhoomi–Mee Hakku’ initiative

Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu launches the 'Mee Bhoomi–Mee Hakku' programme in Banaganapalle, distributing secure Pattadar Passbooks to farmers. Learn how the government is resolving long-pending land disputes, repealing the controversial Land Titling Act, and leveraging technology to ensure transparent land ownership. Government Banaganapalle, July 9: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday launched the 'Mee Bhoomi–Mee Hakku' programme at Banaganapalle in Nandyal district by distributing Pattadar Passbooks to farmers and reaffirming the government's commitment to protecting land ownership rights. Addressing a public meeting, he said the coalition government has been focusing on welfare, development and transparent governance while giving top priority to resolving long-pending land-related issues affecting



farmers and property owners across the State. The Chief Minister said the previous administration had created widespread complications by bringing several lands under Section 22A and introducing the Land Titling Act, which, he alleged, caused uncertainty over property ownership. Stating that the government fulfilled its election promise by repealing the Act soon after assuming office, he said new Pattadar Passbooks carrying the State Emblem are now being issued with enhanced security features to ensure transparency, authenticity and error-free land records.

Huge excitement in New Zealand for 'Kia Ora Modi' event as Auckland prepares to welcome PM Modi



Auckland: The Indian community in New Zealand is eagerly waiting for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's arrival in Auckland on Friday in what would be the first official visit of an Indian PM to the country in four decades. History In an interview with IANS, former Consul of India in Auckland Bhav Dhillon highlighted the growing bilateral ties between two nations, citing the recently signed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and the air connectivity agreement. He also described the eagerness of Indian community to welcome PM Modi in New Zealand. "After 40 years, we are having a visit from the Honourable Prime Minister. Very recently, we signed the FTA, we've signed the Air Connectivity Agreement, and a lot of other positive things have happened in the India-New Zealand ecosystem in the last two years. Prime Minister Modi's visit assumes massive importance because now the Indian diaspora also has increased. We have about 400,000 Indians living in New Zealand and they are all eagerly waiting for him. So, it's very, very important for the whole Indo-Pacific narrative as well," he mentioned. Also Read - AustralianSuper's fresh NIIF investment reflects global confidence in India's growth story: Former ONGC official Advertisement PM Modi is set to travel to Auckland on Friday for an official visit at the invitation of New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon. He is scheduled to hold discussions with Luxon on Saturday and review the entire gamut of the bilateral relationship.

KING
DAILY NEWSPAPER

A constitution in continuum anchored in constitutional morality

Explore the evolving concept of constitutional morality in India. From landmark Supreme Court judgments to the challenges of societal norms, discover how this transformative principle continues to shape the nation's democratic journey.Indian Current Events It has been a little over 76 years since “We the people of India have solemnly resolved to constitute India into a Sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic and to secure to all its citizens Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity”. At the midnight hour of August 15, 1947, in the words of Jawaharlal Nehru, when the world was asleep India awoke to freedom. The joy of freedom was confronted with stark contrasts stained with the bloodshed of partition, a destitute population and a nation that perhaps did not even understand what it was to rule itself independently. It was under this backdrop that the constituent Assembly, predominantly the drafting committee, headed by Dr B R Ambedkar took up the task of drafting what would be the world’s most comprehensive constitution- a document that has time and again proved to be just, relevant and more importantly dynamic.

While the constitution itself is one of his most decorated accomplishments, he had also conceptualised a notion that would ensure the efficiency of the document- the principle of constitutional morality. And it is this very notion that also, to quote Ambedkar, makes the constitution “not just a legal document but a transformative instrument” Roots and the rationale: Propounded by the British Classist George Grote in the 19th century, constitutional morality is the “paramount respect for the forms of the constitution of the land”. It is the constant force that drives and guides the actions of the government and citizenry to respect and revere above all, the ideals enshrined and underlying the constitution. For what use would have been the lengthiest constitution in the world were it not to be respected over everything else in serving the cause of rights and justice. And so now the question comes up- How do we do it? The principle of Rule of law is the torch bearer in this regard. When the Supreme Court of India in the country’s most significant judgement, Kesavananda Bharathi (1976), postulated the term and principle of “basic structure”, it was rightly stating that it is the law of the land that must precede all else. A similar sentiment is echoed in Maneka Gandhi v/s Union of India (1978) when the court interpreted the words “procedure established by law” emphasising that the said law must uphold the principles of natural justice. The Indian constitution boasts of being the lengthiest and most comprehensive constitution of the world. What started off with 395 articles, 22 parts and 8 schedules is now a document spanning over 470 articles and 12 schedules. It is a live charter, and one can only wonder how all these amendments over time have not yet completely altered the spirit. The answer lies in the proactive role of the judiciary and its constant custodianship of constitutional morality. This can be seen in the Shayara Bano v/s Union of India (2017) or more popularly known as the ‘Triple Talaq’ case where Rule of law was held above personal law, eliminating arbitrariness and ensuring the notion of Audi Alteram partem. For a country with vast geographic, ethnic, religious and regional diversities.

Thane hospital horror: Doctor assaulted by Sena corporator quits, says ‘there is a lot of fear’

Mumbai: One of the doctors allegedly assaulted by Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde faction) leader Ramesh Mhatre at a municipal hospital in Maharashtra’s Thane district has resigned from his post, saying he fears for his safety and has permanently left the city. Speaking to NDTV, the doctor said the incident had left him deeply shaken and that he no longer felt secure enough to continue working at the hospital. “I have resigned because there is a lot of fear. Goons are watching us, and I have already left the city. They are very dangerous people. The other doctors may continue working there, but I cannot. I will not go back there again,” the doctor said. The incident occurred on July 6 at Shastri Nagar Hospital, operated by the Kalyan-Dombivli Municipal Corporation in Dombivli. Hospital authorities said the dispute began after two doctors, a man and a woman, advised the family of a newborn to shift the infant to another medical facility because the hospital’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) was already at full capacity. The doctors reportedly informed the family that the transfer was necessary to ensure proper treatment for the baby. Following the advice, the relatives allegedly contacted local Shiv Sena corporator Ramesh Mhatre, who arrived at the hospital along with several supporters. CCTV footage of the incident, which later surfaced online, showed Mhatre and



his associates first arguing with doctors and hospital staff and then thrashing them mercilessly. During the confrontation, the corporator struck the mobile phone of a woman doctor while she was speaking, causing it to fall. The video also showed him allegedly assaulting another doctor and members of the hospital staff. One of the doctors reportedly sustained injuries in the incident. Despite the outrageous conduct at hospital, Mhatre defended his actions. Speaking to NDTV, he denied assaulting the woman doctor, claiming that he only pushed away her mobile phone because she was not responding to them. He also refused to apologise, asserting that his intervention helped save the lives of a woman and her newborn. Mhatre further stated that he would consider expressing regret only if the doctors apologised for their conduct, adding that Shiv Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray had taught party workers to fight against injustice. Police registered a case against Mhatre and five of his associates. He was later arrested and subsequently admitted to Thane Civil Hospital after he reportedly complained of health problems.

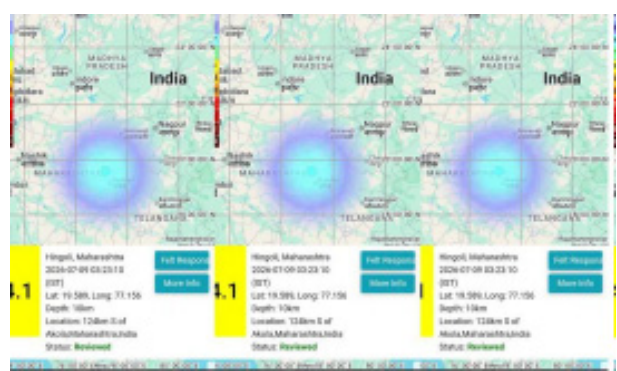
Vaddiraju Ravichandra appointed as BRS Parliamentary Party leader

Hyderabad: BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao appointed Rajya Sabha MP Vaddiraju Ravichandra as the party’s Parliamentary Party leader and floor leader in the Rajya Sabha, replacing KR Suresh Reddy, whose term has ended. Ravichandra, who had been serving as the deputy floor leader, has now been entrusted with leading the BRS in the Upper House. The appointment was announced by the party on Thursday. A second-term Rajya Sabha member, Ravichandra was re-nominated by the BRS leadership in recognition of his contributions to the party and his representation of BC and Bahujan communities.

His current term in the Rajya Sabha will expire in April 2030. He is also serving on the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Coal and Mines. Thanking Chandrashekhara Rao and BRS working president KT Rama Rao for the responsibility entrusted to him, Ravichandra said he would strongly raise Telangana’s issues in Parliament and work to strengthen the party further. He also expressed confidence that the BRS would return to power in the State under Chandrashekhara Rao’s leadership.

Tremors of 4.6 magnitude at Nanded, felt across Telangana districts

Hyderabad: A series of low-intensity earthquakes struck the Hingoli-Nanded region of Maharashtra on Thursday morning, causing tremors that were felt across several districts in Telangana including Nirmal, Nizamabad, Adilabad, Kamareddy and Jagtial. According to the observations from the National Centre for Seismology, the seismic activity began at 1:40 am with a magnitude 4.6 earthquake, which was followed by a sequence of aftershocks, including tremors of magnitude 3.6, 3.9, and 4.1 on the Richter scale. According to the seismic alert, while the epicentre was located in the Hingoli-Nanded area, the tremors were distinctly felt in Nirmal, Nizamabad, Adilabad, Kamareddy, and



Jagtial districts. Reports have indicated that the aftershocks tend to occur following a significant earthquake of 4.6 magnitude. The subsequent tremors tend to decrease in frequency and magnitude over a period of time and are a standard part of the seismic event, reports said. Despite the series of tremors, there have been no reports of casualties or significant structural damage resulting from the seismic events. The general public and even residents in the affected areas can check for similar alerts from the National Centre for Seismology website, which tracks live seismic events taking place in the Indian sub-continent.



30 students fall ill after breakfast at Nagarkurnool tribal school

Nagarkurnool: The food poisoning cases are back in the district with nearly 30 students from the Tribal Welfare Residential School, Mannanur, falling sick after having breakfast on Thursday. Soon after having breakfast, students complained about stomachache and nausea. The school staff immediately shifted them to the Government General Hospital, Achampet in auto-rickshaws. The students complained that even safe drinking water was not being provided in the school, according to reports. More details are awaited.

Congress seeks NTA disbanding after alleged NET irregularities

New Delhi: The Congress on Thursday attacked the Modi government over the alleged irregularities in the UGC-NET exam, demanding that Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan must resign and the NTA disbanded. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh shared on X a media report which stated that several students, who appeared for the Sociology paper in the University Grants Commission-National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET) on June 30, have alleged that the examination was leaked. He said days after the NEET-UG exam was leaked in May 2026, the ‘Mantri Pradhan’ announced that the NEET exam would now be conducted via a computer based test (CBT) from next year onwards. The implicit promise was that a CBT paper cannot be leaked unlike a pen and paper examination, Ramesh said on X.

“Now there are reports that the UGC-NET Sociology examination this year appears to have been leaked despite being a CBT. Earlier we had seen that questions in the UGC-NET English Exam were wholesale lifted from past papers without any changes,” Ramesh said. The bottom line is that whatever be the format of the exam, paper leaks and irregularities are occurring because the Modi government’s Education Ministry is compromised and the National Testing Agency (NTA) is deliberately incompetent and incapacitated, the Congress general secretary in-charge communications alleged. “The Mantri Pradhan must resign and the NTA must be disbanded,” Ramesh said. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had also attacked the Modi government on Wednesday over alleged irregularities in the UGC-NET exam, saying it continues to turn a blind eye and sleep soundly despite repeated “scams” as years of hard work put in by lakhs of students hold no value for it. The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha had said the entire country knows that its futile to expect any accountability or action from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pradhan.

3 killed in separate accidents in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Two women were killed on the spot after a speeding Bolero vehicle rammed into a bus stop at Sathamrai village in Shamshabad on Wednesday night. According to the police, the two women were standing at the bus stop when the Bolero veered off the road and crashed into them. Both sustained fatal injuries and died at the spot. The Shamshabad Police rushed to the accident site, shifted the bodies to the Osmania General Hospital mortuary for post-mortem examination.

Contract healthcare workers stage dharna over wage delays in Hyderabad



Hyderabad: As part of their ongoing week-long protest demonstrations, contract healthcare workers in government hospitals on Thursday participated in a mega dharna at the Directorate of Medical Education (DME), Koti office. For the past year, the sanitation contract staff, patient care workers or bedside assistants and security personnel, have been demanding regular pay and enhancement of their wages to Rs 26,000 per month. “Around 20,000 healthcare workers in various government hospitals do not receive their salaries on the first of every month. Imagine the financial burden that such families have to incur and take pri-

vate hand loans,” said M Narasimha of Telangana Medical Contract Employees and Workers Union (affiliated with AITUC). The contract healthcare workers demanded redressal of their grievances related to wage delays, poor implementation of labour laws, and stagnant pay scales. Enhancement of wages to a monthly Rs 26,000 was a pre-poll promise of the present State government. “We have been demanding enhancement of salaries for a long time. Why can’t the State government implement its poll promise and ensure contract employees receive salaries on the first day of the month?” the protesting workers demanded.

Hyderabad housing market holds steady in H1 2026; GCCs drive record office leasing

Hyderabad: The city’s residential market maintained a stable performance in H1 2026, with housing demand remaining resilient despite elevated sales levels and moderating supply additions. Housing sales stood at 19,249 units, registering a modest 1% YoY (year-on-year) growth, while launches declined marginally by 2% YoY to 20,466 units, said Knight Frank India in its latest report, India Real Estate: Residential and Office (January – June 2026) H1 2026. Market health indicators remained broadly comfortable, with the overall quarters-to-sell (QTS) standing at 5.9 quarters. The Rs. 10-20 mn segment exhibited healthiest absorption among large-volume categories with a QTS of 4.5 quarters, while premium housing in the Rs. 20-50 mn bracket maintained a reasonable QTS of 5.5 quarters despite rising inventory levels. Banjara Hills witnessed the highest residential appreciation of 7% to Rs. 14,400-16,020 per sq ft. The average residential prices increased by 7% YoY to Rs. 8,258 per sq ft. Meanwhile, Knight Frank India report cited that the convergence of structural demand drivers, and several large transactions that were under evaluation over the past few quarters culminated during H1 2026; resulted in the highest first-half leasing volume recorded in Hyderabad’s office market. The city recorded transaction volume of 7.5 mn sq ft during H1 2026, increased by 29% YoY from 5.9 mn sq ft in H1 2025. Average transacted rent increased by 7% to Rs. 80 per sq ft per month. Global Capability Centres (GCCs) remained the largest occupier



group in Hyderabad during H1 2026 with space absorption of 3.4 mn sq ft, accounting for 45% of total office leasing, up from 40% a year ago. Hyderabad is the second-largest GCC oriented leased office market in the country. Office completions recorded a strong supply of 3.0 mn sq ft in H1 2026. Despite the substantial supply infusion, vacancy levels continued to tighten, declining by 296 basis points YoY to 11.5%, reflecting Hyderabad’s healthy demand-supply dynamics.

Ashok Gehlot slams BJP as Rajasthan school enrolment drops by 8.4 lakh

Jaipur: Former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Thursday criticised the BJP-led state government over the condition of government schools, citing UDISE+ data that shows a decline of over 8.4 lakh students in school enrolment across Rajasthan over the past two years. According to the UDISE+ (Unified District Information System for Education Plus) report, Rajasthan has witnessed a steady fall in school enrolment over the last two academic sessions. Gehlot claimed that, for the first time in the state’s history, enrol-

ment in private schools has exceeded that in government schools, calling it a reflection of the declining public trust in the government education system. “It is deeply concerning that Rajasthan has witnessed over 8.4 lakh school dropouts in just two years under the BJP government. For the first time in history, enrollment in private schools has surpassed that of government schools. This is direct evidence of the declining reputation of the state’s government schools,” Gehlot said. “Ironically, while the number of teachers rose from 7.8 lakh to over 7.9 lakh



during this period, government schools lost more than 9.3 lakh students due to mismanagement. Today, it is not just the roofs of schools in Rajasthan that are collapsing; the public’s long-standing faith in the government education system is crumbling as well,” he said. Blaming the state government for the decline, Gehlot said assigning non-academic duties to teachers, deteriorating school

infrastructure, delays in repair and maintenance works, and the politicisation of education had adversely affected learning. “Assigning non-academic duties to teachers, the deterioration of school infrastructure, stalled repairs, and the constant politicization of the curriculum, rather than focusing on educational improvement, are

the causes of this decline. When the Education Minister’s attention is focused on everything except education, such a situation was inevitable,” he said. Defending the education initiatives introduced during the previous Congress government, Gehlot claimed that the BJP administration had weakened reforms that had strengthened public education. “The excellent government education model established by our Congress government, including English-medium schools, has been completely ruined by this

government’s shortsightedness. Chief Minister, who is responsible for the future being snatched away from the children of Rajasthan?” he asked. As per the UDISE+ report, Rajasthan’s total school enrolment declined from 1.67 crore in 2023-24 to 1.63 crore in 2024-25 and further to 1.59 crore in 2025, amounting to a cumulative drop of more than 8.4 lakh students over two years. The Rajasthan government had not issued an official response to Gehlot’s allegations at the time of filing this report.

Strong winds to persist as IMD forecasts reduced rainfall in Telangana



Hyderabad: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has indicated a shift in the state’s monsoon activity, forecasting a period of limited rainfall over the coming week. However, rather than a completely dry spell, districts can expect light to moderate showers at isolated locations till July 15. Despite indications of reduced rainfall activity, the overall weather conditions will remain overcast and very windy. The IMD, Hyderabad has also issued a special alert regarding windy conditions, which are expected to persist throughout the state until July 14. According to the IMD’s bulletin on Thursday, a weather system that caused

rains in the last few days, has moved away and is no longer expected to influence weather in the next few days in Telangana. As a result of this change, IMD is indicating isolated and intermittent rainfall activity or thundershowers at isolated places throughout Telangana till July 14, with a slight rise at a few locations on July 15. Strong surface winds reaching 40–50 kmph, however, will prevail at isolated locations in all districts of Telangana until mid-July. While the immediate outlook is for limited rain, residents in Hyderabad and elsewhere can expect continued overcast skies and windy conditions.

India-Australia partnership offers win-win proposition: PM Modi

Melbourne: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday pitched India as a long-term investment destination for Australian businesses, saying the country’s scale and Australia’s expertise make for a ‘win-win proposition’, while urging faster conclusion of the proposed Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) to deepen bilateral economic ties. Jointly addressing the Australia-India CEOs Forum here with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, PM Modi said India’s strong economic growth, policy reforms, digital transformation and expanding innovation ecosystem creating new opportunities for Australian companies. Highlighting the complementarities between the two economies, he pointed to investment opportunities across manufacturing, clean energy, critical minerals, mining, infrastructure, urban development, aviation, logistics, advanced technologies, artificial intelligence (AI), fintech, food processing and the digital economy. “India’s scale and Australian expertise make for a win-win proposition,” he said. The Prime Minister also invited Austra-



lian investors to take advantage of long-term investment opportunities in India. Moreover, PM Modi welcomed the growing presence of Australian universities in India, saying deeper collaboration in higher education, research, innovation and skill development would prepare talent in both countries for future global opportunities. Later, addressing the Economic Roadmap Business event attended by more than 200 CEOs and business leaders from both countries, PM Modi described India and Australia as ‘natural partners’ whose shared democratic values, common Indo-Pacific vision, strong people-to-people ties and political understanding provide a robust foundation for expanding business cooperation.

Teenager killed in road accident in Khammam

Khammam: A teenager was killed and another injured in a road accident on Khammam-Suryapet national highway near Ponnekal stage in Khammam rural mandal in the district on Thursday. The deceased Shaik Mohsin (17) of Tallampadu village died on the spot when the two-wheeler on which he was travelling towards Khammam lost control and skidded off the road.

Shiv Sena UBT accuses Fadnavis of running ‘rumour-manufacturing factory’

Mumbai: Launching a scathing attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leadership, the Shiv Sena Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray (UBT) on Thursday accused Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis of running a “rumour-manufacturing factory” to cause political instability and deflect attention from core issues plaguing the state. In a strongly worded editorial in the party’s mouthpiece ‘Saamana’, the Thackeray camp reacted sharply to the Chief Minister’s recent announcement that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) layout in Maharashtra will remain unchanged, with no new parties joining. It claimed that the statement exposed how “helpless and confused” the Chief Minister has become due to commands dictated by central leaders in Delhi. The editorial directly accused the BJP camp of deliberately spreading a narrative that the Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP SP) was considering an entry into the NDA. Labelling the BJP as a “rumour-manufacturing factory” and naming the Chief Minister as its “Chairman”, the editorial took aim at the



ruling party’s IT operations. “At least two thousand salaried individuals work in this factory, commonly known as the IT Cell, costing millions of rupees monthly. It is because the Chief Minister has successfully built these rumour factories that he has ironically earned the title of ‘Inframan’. Whenever there is a need to deflect from Maharashtra’s core issues, this factory pumps out misinformation to trigger chaos in the state,” the editorial stated. The Thackeray faction outlined what it called a calculated sequence of false narratives generated by the “Devendra Factory” concerning the NCP(SP). “First, claiming that NCP(SP) Members of Parliament (MPs) were

breaking away. When that failed, generating rumors of a total party merger with the NDA. Finally, claiming a merger between both factions of the NCP while excluding Sunetra Pawar and Parth Pawar,” it said. The editorial asserted that only Sharad Pawar himself could state the absolute truth, while dismissing the narrative surrounding recent political meetings. Addressing specific reports of political crossovers, the editorial clarified recent interactions involving top Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) leaders. It stated that a recent meeting between Sharad Pawar and Devendra Fadnavis was an official assembly dedicated entirely to the Maharashtra-Karnataka border dispute, attended by a 20-to-25-member delegation, including the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti of Belagavi. The editorial termed the narrative of secret NDA merger talks taking place during such a meeting as “ridiculous”. Similarly, the editorial defended NCP(SP) leader Jayant Patil following rumours regarding his brief interaction with BJP leader Vinod Tawde at a Mumbai hotel. Quoting Patil’s clarification, the editorial explained that Patil had simply gone to meet MP Supriya Sule during a recess of a Parliamentary Committee meeting, where Tawde was also present as a member. The Uddhav Thackeray faction lamented that standard public interactions among elected representatives are being weaponised with fake news to sow seeds of suspicion within the MVA alliance. It noted that Shiv Sena(UBT) MP Arvind Sawant is also on the same committee, meaning leaders routinely sit next to each other as part of standard parliamentary. The editorial underscored what it described as a fundamental, deteriorating shift in Maharashtra’s governance, claim-

ing that decisions are dictated entirely from Delhi while local leaders are merely instructed at the final hour. It alleged that the BJP breaks opposition parties and splits sitting MPs and MLAs not through goodwill, but through “fund bullying”, financial muscle, and the deployment of central investigative agencies. The editorial declared that aligning with the National Democratic Alliance at this stage would be nothing short of “political suicide” for any regional force. It dismissed the possibility of Union Home Minister Amit Shah welcoming the original NCP(SP) while Ajit Pawar’s faction is already part of the Mahayuti alliance, calling the logic “senseless”. Turning its focus to national and local governance, the Thackeray camp highlighted a broader decline for the ruling party, alleging that the BJP is facing nationwide embarrassment over corruption and looting accusations related to the Ram Temple, which it claims has alienated its core voter base. It further took aim at federal leadership, stating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s popularity is “sliding down like the rupee” while Amit Shah faces internal opposition. The Thackeray camp expressed astonishment at the Chief Minister’s functioning style. It strongly criticised Fadnavis for remaining tightlipped on serious issues, specifically pointing to a recent “murderous assault” on a female doctor in the Thane district by individuals allegedly linked to Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. Instead of prioritising critical law-and-order and ethical situations, the editorial concluded, the Chief Minister is speaking “with relish” on trivial political manoeuvres, a behaviour it attributed to intense frustration over being bypassed by high-command decisions made in Delhi.

Snake bites 4 students in school hostel, one dead

Jharkhand: Snake bites 4 students in school hostel, one dead Ranchi, Jul 9 (PTI) A 12-year-old girl died and three others were hospitalised after a venomous snake bit them while they were sleeping in the hostel room of a private school in Jharkhand’s Lohardaga district, police said on Thursday. The incident took place



at Sanvasira Higher Secondary Residential School in Rocho Mahuatoli under Kuru police station limits on Tuesday night. “The snake bit four girl students and one

among them died. Two students are undergoing treatment at Lohardaga Sadar Hospital, while one was referred to Ranchi’s RIMS,” Kuru police station in-charge Ajit Kumar said. A school representative said that after dinner on Tuesday night, the students went to their hostel room on the ground floor. The ‘krait’ snake entered the room where seven girl students were sleeping, and bit one of them. When she screamed, the others were awoken, but by then, it had bitten three others,” he said.

Look out notice issued against Singapore based suspect in Rs 35 crore attempt to bribe TVK MLA case

Chennai: The Tamil Nadu Police have issued a look out circular (LOC) against Singapore-based businessman Lakshmana Perumal in connection with the alleged attempt to bribe a Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) MLA to vote against the state government during a proposed Assembly move, as investigators widen their probe into the high-profile case. According to police, Lakshmana Perumal, who is believed to be staying in Singapore, is suspected to have played a significant role in the alleged conspiracy and is wanted for questioning. The LOC has been issued to ensure that immigration authorities alert the investigating agency if he attempts to enter or leave India. Investigators alleged that Lakshmana Perumal tried to destroy crucial digital evidence linked to the case. Police claimed that while in Singapore, he arranged for CCTV footage from a hotel to be deleted and also erased WhatsApp conversations allegedly connected to the negotiations with the legislator. Officials said forensic experts are examining the available digital evidence, including electronic records and communication details, to establish the sequence of events. Police believe Lakshmana Perumal had links with others allegedly involved in the conspiracy to persuade a TVK MLA to vote against the government. Authorities said steps are underway to secure his presence in India through the appropriate legal process, while the investigation continues. The case originated



from a complaint filed by TVK Uthangarai MLA N. Elaiyaraja with the Chennai Police Commissioner on June 29. In his complaint, the legislator alleged that he had been offered Rs 35 crore to vote against the Speaker during a proposed Assembly resolution and was threatened after rejecting the offer. History Based on the complaint, the Triplicane police registered a case under relevant provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). During the investigation, police alleged that the prime accused, Thirunavukkarasu, had contacted Elaiyaraja at the instance of former Tamil Nadu Minister V Senthil Balaji and his brother RV Ashok Kumar. Meanwhile, the Madras High Court on Wednesday granted anticipatory bail to Senthil Balaji and Ashok Kumar, directing them to cooperate with the investigation and appear before the investigating officer as required. Police, however, have made it clear that the probe is continuing and that efforts are being intensified to trace other accused, including Lakshmana Perumal, whose alleged role remains under investigation.

SC asks Meghalaya govt to produce arrest documents in Sonam Raghuvanshi bail case

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday deferred the hearing on the Meghalaya government’s plea challenging the grant of bail to Sonam Raghuvanshi, the prime accused in the Raja Raghuvanshi honeymoon murder case, till July 14 and directed the state authorities to place on record the arrest memo and other documents supplied to the accused at the time of her arrest. A Bench of Justices Manoj Misra and Shree Chandrashekhar did not pass any interim order staying the bail granted to Sonam Raghuvanshi, meaning that the relief granted to her will continue for the time being. During the hearing, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Meghalaya government, contended that the High Court had erroneously upheld the grant of bail by treating a typographical error in the arrest documents as a fatal procedural defect. Calling it a “very serious case”, SG Mehta submitted that the written grounds of arrest had in fact been supplied to the accused and that the only discrepancy was that Section 403(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) was mentioned instead of Section 103(1), which relates to the offence of murder. “The written grounds are also supplied. The only thing is there is a typographical error,” the Solicitor General submitted, adding that there had never been any dispute that the grounds of arrest were furnished to the accused. However, the Justice Misra-led Bench observed that the issue was not merely the communication of statutory provisions but whether the accused had been informed about the general background of the case. When SG Mehta sought permission to file a typed compilation of the documents, the apex court directed the Meghalaya government to produce photocopies of the original arrest memo and other documents furnished to Sonam Raghuvanshi at the time of her arrest. “We



have to see if this ground is sustainable or not,” the Justice Misra-led Bench observed while posting the matter for further hearing on July 14. Meanwhile, Sonam Raghuvanshi, in her counter-affidavit filed before the top court, claimed innocence and alleged that she had been falsely implicated in the case. She contended that the prosecution case rests entirely on circumstantial evidence and that she cannot be presumed guilty merely on the basis of allegations. In her affidavit, Sonam further submitted that no recovery remains to be effected from her, the chargesheet has already been filed, and she has been complying with the bail conditions by residing in Shillong as directed by the trial court. She also argued that there is no possibility of her tampering with evidence. Earlier, the Meghalaya government had moved the Supreme Court challenging the June 29 judgment of the Meghalaya High Court, which upheld a Shillong trial court’s order granting bail to Sonam Raghuvanshi. On July 3, the apex court had issued notice on the state government’s plea but declined to stay the operation of the High Court’s order, observing that the accused had already been released on bail. At the same time, it had expressed prima facie reservations about the Meghalaya High Court’s reasoning and sought a response from Sonam Raghuvanshi.

Rashmika performs India’s first female underwater fight sequence

National Crush Rashmika Mandanna is taking risks for the Pan-India Action entertainer Mysaa, as she prepares to deliver her most physically demanding performance to date. The film directed by debutant Rawindra Pulle and produced by Unformula films is reaching the finish line with a quick pace, while the makers get ready to unveil the first look of the movie soon. It may be noted that one of the core attractions of the film is the underwater action sequence, in which the star performer spends almost 20 hours below the water surface for two days, as she does it all on her own without using a body double for the shot. The makers claim that it is India's first female underwater fight face-off, which will keep the viewers glued to the edge of their seats.Executive Branch As for the plot, in Mysaa, Rashmika has donned the role of a Gond tribal lady.



When SRK recalled his 'not too pleasant' first meet with Kajol

Mumbai: Shah Rukh Khan recalled his 'not too pleasant' first meeting with Kajol during their appearance on 'The Kapil Sharma Show'. SRK remembered that they were shooting for 'Baa zigar' on 1st January and he was absolutely hungo ver. On the other hand, Kajol, who is used to sleep ing early, was extremely energetic, something which Shah Rukh found annoy ing. He shared, "When I met Kajol, I met her on the set of Baazigar. It was 31st December and all of us were very tensed. We were shooting on the morning of the 1st." "I have a rule. You must work on the 1st of January, whether you are capable of doing it or not. So I came on the set, but all of us were very tense. But Kajol sleeps very early. She is a very proper and good girl. And she was very energetic in the morn ing. She was very ener getic." Andhra Pradesh



Culture South Asians & Diaspora government Af ter seeing that Shah Rukh is not talking much, Kajol had even asked one of the make-up artists, "Your hero is very quiet. Doesn't he talk?" King Khan further revealed that he was so annoyed with Kajol that he had decided that he would never work with her again. "And at that time. And I am telling you the truth. I swear on my bread and butter. I had decided, 'I will never work with this girl'," SRK shared. Di rected by Abbas–Mustan and produced by Venus Movies, 'Baazigar' is loosely based on the 1991 film 'A Kiss Before Dying', which itself was adapted from Ira Levin's 1953 novel of the same. After 'Baazigar (1993)' Shah Rukh and Kajol have ap peared together in many memorable classics such as, 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (1995)', 'Karan Arjun (1995)', 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai (1998)', 'Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham... (2001)', 'My Name Is Khan (2010)', and 'Dilwale (2015)'.

Actress Sana Saeed begins journey with debut feature film

Mumbai: Actress Sana Saeed revealed that she has received the first draft of the proof of concept for her debut feature film.The project, which she is de veloping under her produc tion banner, Beyond Magic Studios, will also see her in an acting role. Sharing the exciting update on so cial media, Sana said hold ing the script in her hands made her dream of film making finally feel “so real.” The ‘Kuch Kuch Hota Hai’ actress posted a video where she said, “I have in my hand, the very first draft of the proof of concept of a feature film that we’re going to make under my production company, Beyond Magic Studio. This is the first, very first step to making my very first film. And it takes, it’s just the begin ning.” “Making a film is a lot of work. And there’s so much that goes into it that I’m just kind of learning and discovering. But it’s so exciting to have this first draft in my hand. I love



acting, but I’ve also loved filmmaking for as long as I remember. I have always wanted to be a part of this from the inside. And this just holding this in my hand feels so real. It feels so real.” For the caption, Sana wrote, “Something I’ve been working on in silence for a while just be came real today I received the first draft of my proof of concept for a feature film. A script. An actual script. For a film I will act in, that we are building from scratch together at @beyondmagicstudios I don’t have the words for what it feels like to hold something you’ve been dreaming about. So, I just talked into my phone in stead Part 2 tomorrow, the real story of how many times I’ve had to start over to get here.”For the unversed, Sana Saeed is currently based in Los Angeles, California. She be gan her acting career as a child artist in the iconic film “Kuch Kuch Hota Hai” and later appeared in “Stu dent of the Year.” Over the years, she has also partic i pated in popular reality shows including “Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa 6,” “Nach Baliye 7,” and “Fear Fac tor: Khatron Ke Khiladi 7.”

Zendaya recalls being ‘so ner vous’ while filming Christo pher Nolan’s ‘The Odyssey’

Mumbai: Actress Zendaya has spoken about her working in Christopher Nolan’s ‘The Odyssey’ along with how she found her way into Athena by fo cusing on her human qual ities and her connection to Odysseus. “I really con nected with the emotional component of it,” Zendaya said. She added: “Athena becomes a reflec tion of the moral struggle that Odysseus is having within himself.” “You re alize that the manifestation of this goddess is a kind of tough love, guiding him and bringing him through his journey. In a deeper sense, I think he is haunted by the decisions that he has made and the pain that he has caused. Coming to terms with that is part of fighting to get back to his own family. Her first days of work were spent shooting the sack of Troy on the film’s gigantic immersive set in Morocco. “I was so ner vous,” said Zendaya. “Let’s just say it was in tense. And that’s to say nothing of the world Chris created for us. The sets are



so massive and there’s so much detail and thought in every costume, set piece. I didn’t have to do much acting because I felt I had stepped into Troy.” “But it was exhilarating and al most felt like a dream. It was cold and raining, but I think with the adrenaline, I didn’t feel it. Everybody kept asking me, ‘Do you want a jacket?’ I was so fired up I forgot it was cold.”The Odyssey is an epic fantasy action film written and directed by Christopher Nolan. An ad aptation of Homer’s an cient Greek epic the Od yssey, the film stars Matt Damon as Odysseus, the Greek king of Ithaca, and chronicles his long and perilous journey home af ter the Trojan War and his encounters with mythical beings as he attempts to reunite with his wife, Penelope.The Odyssey premieres in theatres worldwide on 17 July.

‘Mysaa’ unit completes filming of exciting underwater sequence featuring Rashmika Mandanna

Chennai: The makers of director Rawindra Pulle’s eagerly awaited action thriller ‘Mysaa’, featuring actress Rashmika Manda nna in the lead, have now disclosed that the unit has completed shooting a crucial underwater sequence featuring Rashmika.Taking to his Instagram stories section, producer Ajay Saipureddy wrote, “It’s a wrap for the exciting underwater sequence with Rashmika Mandanna.” The film was in the news just a few days back when di rector Rawindra Pulle posted a picture of him sporting a shirt bearing Rashmika’s hand imprints on social media, saying, “The blood marks are on their way”.Unformula Films, the production house producing the film, for its part, had said, “Signed in mud. Remembered in blood. #MYSAA shoot in progress with #RashmikaMandanna, bringing raw emo tion, grit and brilliance to the screen like never before.In cinemas this 2026.” Rashmi ka, while responding to this post of her director, jokingly remarked, “We should have also mixed some blood and umber powder in this beautiful art of



TG20 Winners Trophy Tour energises Sreenidhi University campus



Hyderabad: The campus of Sreenidhi University was agog with excitement on Wednesday as it hosted the TG 20 Winners Trophy Tour, serving as a dynamic prelude to the institution’s highly anticipated Founder’s Day 2026 celebrations scheduled for July 10. This exciting lead-up highlights the university’s vibrant campus life, academic rigour and unwavering commitment to student excellence. As the official title sponsor of the TG20 Tournament, Sreenidhi University proudly welcomed the TG 20 Winners Trophy to the grounds today, sparking immense enthusiasm among the student body. The tour drew massive crowds across the campus, celebrating the spirit of high-level competition and camaraderie. The vibrant energy on campus today also celebrates Sreenidhi University’s

unique educational philosophy. Moving beyond traditional classroom theory, the university focuses on an industry-ready pedagogy. Through the School of Engineering and various dynamic faculties, the institution continues to blend rigorous technical training in fields like Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Computing, and Cybersecurity with a strong foundation in the liberal arts. The combination of today’s competitive trophy tour energy and the formal recognition of student achievements planned for July 10th showcases what makes the campus environment so dynamic. Sreenidhi University continues to prove that beyond an academic institution, it is an ideal platform for nurturing the next generation of multi-dimensionally developed global citizens.

Chelsea sign Geovany Quenda from Sporting Lisbon until 2034

Chelsea bolster their squad with the signing of Sporting Lisbon star Geovany Quenda until 2034, while Jesse Derry commits his future to the Blues. Discover the latest updates on Xabi Alonso's new managerial project at Stamford Bridge. Chelsea have confirmed the signing of Geovany

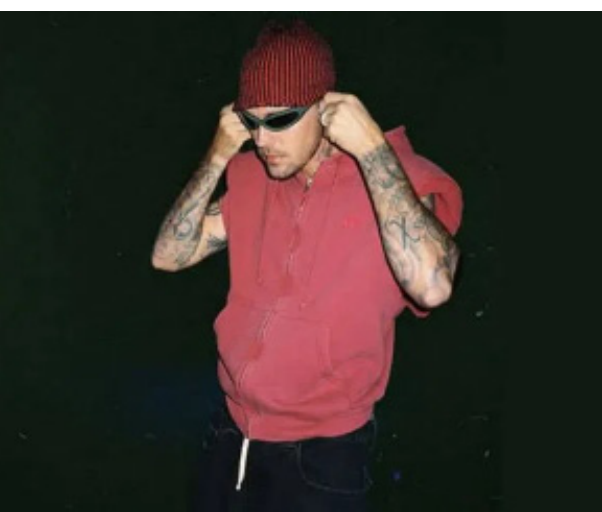


Quenda from Sporting Lisbon on a contract that runs until 2034. The Premier League club also announced that Jesse Derry has signed a new contract until 2032. Quenda is regarded as one of the brightest talents in European football, having played a key role in Sporting winning the Portuguese league and cup double last year. He was also named Primeira Liga Young Player of the Season in 2025 and has featured regularly for Sporting in the past two seasons, used in both attacking wide positions or at wing-back. ‘It feels great to be here,’ the 19-year-old said. “The club has shown faith in players like me and I am proud to be here, proud to be part of this club. I am excited to work with my team-mates and the Manager, Xabi Alonso. I’m a very hard-working young person and I like to help my team. I want to be someone known for having the right mentality to help my team-mates and who does their best for the club to win trophies.” Also Read - Real Madrid sign Cucurella from Chelsea on six-year deal Advertisement Discover more India News Updates Indian Current Events Politics Quenda became the youngest player ever to score for Sporting in his

debut season and finished the campaign having already amassed 54 games in all competitions as they won the Double. He also holds the record as the youngest Portuguese player to find the net in the UEFA Champions League. He has most recently been representing Portugal at Under-21 level and was named in the Team of the Tournament for the 2025 European Championships. After impressing in the Chelsea Academy, Derry made his senior debut in our FA Cup fourth-round tie against Hull City, and followed that up with his first start in the Premier League against Nottingham Forest towards the end of last season. Geographic Reference ‘It’s a dream come true to commit my future to such a big club like Chelsea,’ Derry said after signing his deal. “I’m just so excited for what’s to come. This last 12 months, I feel like a completely different player than when I first joined and that’s credit to all the coaches I’ve worked with. They’ve played such a big part in helping me get better. “Just having that little snippet of playing for the first team last season, I couldn’t have thought of anywhere else I’d want to be for my future. It was a no-brainer.”

Justin Bieber joins BTS, Shakira and Madonna for the FIFA WC 2026 final halftime show

Mumbai: Popstar Justin Bieber has joined as co-headliner of the historic FIFA World Cup 2026 Final Halftime Show along with names such as Shakira, Madonna and the Korean phenomenon BTS. “The FIFA World Cup brings the world together in a way nothing else can. I’m grateful to be part of this Halftime Show, and even more grateful knowing it’s already helping expand access to education for children around the world,” said Bieber. The Final Halftime Show will be taking place on July 19 (July 20 as per IST) at New York New Jersey Stadium, reports fifa.com. Burna Boy, whose global smash hit ‘Dai Dai’ with Shakira continues to dominate the charts worldwide, will also appear during the 11-minute broadcast, alongside Gustavo Dudamel, the internationally acclaimed Venezuelan conductor and Music and Artistic Director of the New York Philharmonic, and the Webby Award-winning PS 22 Chorus featuring Coldplay. “The FIFA World Cup is one of the few moments that truly brings the entire world together. To represent Africa on the first-ever FIFA World Cup Final Halftime Show is a privilege and a responsibility that I don’t take lightly. I’m honoured to be part of a performance that not only celebrates football and culture but also helps create greater opportunities for children through education around the world,” added Burna Boy. “When it comes to what the world needs, there is nothing more important than education. We are proud to have Justin Bieber joining Madonna, Shakira and BTS to co-headline the FIFA



World Cup 2026 Final Halftime Show in support of the FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund and our mission to expand access to quality education and football opportunities for children around the world,” said FIFA President Gianni Infantino. Burna Boy, Gustavo Dudamel and PS 22 Chorus ft. Coldplay will also join and play a key role in conveying a powerful message of unity and hope to billions of people worldwide. As the world unites for the most significant football match in history on Sunday, 19 July 2026 at the New York New Jersey Stadium, this groundbreaking spectacle, curated by Chris Martin of Coldplay, will celebrate football, music and our shared values, ensuring a legacy that transcends the final whistle. “Characters from Sesame Street and The Muppets, who have brought joyful learning to children around the world for generations, will be part of the show. Their inclusion reinforces the purpose of the FIFA World Cup 2026 Final Halftime Show, to help ensure children around the world have access to quality education.

Lord’s Test a chance to redeem ourselves after early exit from T20 WC, says Harmanpreet

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur on Thursday admitted that the team went through a ‘very hard moment’ following their disappointing campaign at the recent T20 World Cup, but stated that the upcoming historic Lord’s Test against England is the perfect catalyst to bring their confidence back as a unit. History India failed to make it to the semi-finals of the 2026 ICC Women’s T20 World Cup – the second straight time they missed out on a spot in the knockouts. They will aim to sign off from the tour on a high when the first-ever Test match at Lord’s begins on Friday, where Harmanpreet & Co will take on Nat Sciver-Brunt-led England. “To be honest, it was a very hard moment for all of us because we really prepared hard for the World Cup. But unfortunately, we didn’t give our best, and I think this Test match was something that kept us very excited. We all came together as a group, and we all wanted to give our best for this upcoming match. Everyone looks in good shape, and hopefully, we’ll enjoy our cricket tomorrow,” Harmanpreet said in the pre-match press conference. The skipper believes a victory at the iconic venue could completely shift the team’s momentum ahead of a busy international calendar. “Look, I think this Test match is a very big moment for us because if we win this Test match, it can be very good for the team because right now, after the T20 World Cup, everybody was very sad that we couldn’t give our best. “In patches, we did well, but unfortunately, as a team, we couldn’t do so well. But through this Test match, we can cover a lot of things. We can bring that confidence back because cricket is such a game – one day, you feel so strong, you feel you’re the best team in the world. But sometimes you feel a little low when things don’t go your way. “So I think this Test match is very important for us, and



hopefully if we play together and support each other, and win as a team at that time, I think this victory can bring us a lot of confidence back, and along with that, it will also help us a lot in the upcoming tournaments,” she elaborated. BCCI’s renewed interest in reviving longer-format domestic cricket for women, while calling for more structured preparation time for senior national players. “We do need red-ball domestic cricket because earlier we used to have it, but now we play a lot of white-ball. So that’s why we shifted more to the white ball than the red ball. But now, as the board is showing so much interest in red-ball, we are definitely getting back our domestic red-ball games. “We have already played so many Test matches domestically, and they are very important, and definitely I would love to have some more time to prepare as a team, because last time when we played domestic games, many of us were not there because we were playing some international cricket. But some of the girls got the opportunity to play domestic cricket. Also Read - Women’s T20 WC: ‘They never let you settle’, says Jemimah ahead of crucial Australia clash Advertisement “But I think as a team, these games are very important. If we get some good quality time to prepare and then go there for executing yourself, that can be more practical. But I think whatever is in our hands, we are just trying to do our best, and hopefully we’ll go with a lot of confidence and give our best.

Indian markets trade higher in early deals despite renewed geopolitical tensions

Indian markets trade higher on July 9, 2026, despite a rise in crude oil to \$80/barrel and geopolitical uncertainty following fresh U.S.-Iran tensions. Consumer durables led gains, while IT stocks faced selling pressure. Indian equity benchmarks advanced in early trade on Thursday despite renewed geopolitical tensions and a rebound in crude oil prices to the \$80-a-barrel mark. Sensex surged as much as 0.32 per cent or about 250 points to hit an intraday high of 76,752 in morning trade, while Nifty climbed 0.20 per cent or 46.90 points to 23,928.95. Sectorally, Nifty Consumer Durables led the gains, rising 1.39 per cent, followed by Nifty Mid-Small Financial Services (0.95 per cent), Nifty Cement (0.69 per cent), Nifty Private Bank (0.66 per cent), Nifty PSU Bank (0.64 per cent) and Nifty Auto (0.62 per cent). In contrast, Nifty IT emerged as the top sectoral loser, declining more than 1 per cent. Among Nifty constituents, Infosys, HCLTech, Tech Mahindra, TCS, Dr Reddy's Laboratories and Hindalco Industries fell between 1 and 2 per cent. with US President Donald Trump's remarks on Iran triggering selling pressure in the market. However, they noted that Brent crude at around \$80 a barrel was not yet a major concern for India, adding that continued foreign institutional investor (FII) buying and stable oil prices could help large-cap



stocks, especially financials and automobiles, remain resilient. South Asians & Diaspora Moreover, the American President Trump has said that the US had carried out fresh strikes against Iran overnight in response to what he described as Iranian attacks on commercial vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz. He said, "To me, I think it's over. I don't want to deal with them anymore. They're scum...They are sick people. They're led by sick people. They are vicious, violent people and if they had a nuclear weapon, they would use it. As far as I am concerned, it's over. I'll speak to our negotiators. They want to negotiate. As far as I'm concerned, it's just a waste of time dealing with them. They're liars. We make a deal...Everyone's agreed. No nuclear weapon. We make a deal. They go outside and talk to the press. They say we never even talked about it. There's something wrong with them. They're cuckoo. As far as I'm concerned, it's over."

India resilient despite oil shock: IMF



The IMF has slightly revised India's 2026 growth forecast to 6.4% due to rising energy costs but projects a stronger 6.5% expansion for 2027. Discover how resilient domestic demand and technological investment are helping India navigate global headwinds and the ongoing energy shock. India's economy remains resilient despite the headwinds of higher global oil prices triggered by the Middle East conflict, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said as it marginally lowered the country's 2026 growth forecast to 6.4 per cent while projecting stronger expansion next year as the energy shock eases. The IMF, in its latest World Economic Outlook update released on Wednesday (local time), revised India's growth forecast for 2026 down by 0.1 percentage point from its April projection but raised the 2027 forecast by 0.2 percentage point, saying stronger-than-expected economic activity and resilient domestic demand continue to underpin the country's outlook. Presenting its latest World Economic Outlook (WEO) Update, IMF officials said India had weathered the global uncertainty better than many economies, although higher energy prices linked to the conflict in the Middle East would weigh on growth this year. for 2027, revised upward by 0.2 percentage point," IMF Research Department Division Chief Deniz Igan told reporters during a press

briefing. South Asians & Diaspora She said the revised outlook reflected two opposing forces. "On the upside, we have the better-than-expected outturn in the most recent data. But we also have high-frequency indicators through April showing quite a bit of resilience in overall economic activity," Igan said. However, she said the positive momentum had been more than offset this year by rising energy costs. "But these positive effects are then more than offset for 2026 by the higher energy prices we have in our baseline in the July Update, as well as the greater pass-through of those higher oil prices to prices at the pump in India," she said. The Fund expects those pressures to ease next year. "Moving into 2027, we are expecting (India's growth) strengthening with the energy shock dissipating and medium-term growth being estimated at around 6.5 per cent and output closing. We expect some pickup there," Igan said. The updated India forecast came as the IMF kept its global growth projections broadly unchanged at 3 per cent for 2026 and 3.4 per cent for 2027, saying the world economy had so far weathered the Middle East conflict better than initially feared. "The global outlook is being shaped by two powerful forces pulling in opposite directions: the lingering effects of the energy shock from the war in the Middle East and a

ADB trims India's GDP projection citing higher energy prices

New Delhi: Asian Development Bank on Thursday lowered India's GDP growth projection to 6.6 per cent as against 6.9 per cent estimated earlier for the current fiscal on concerns of higher energy prices fuelled by the Middle East crisis.Despite the growth moderation, India still continues to be the fastest-growing major economy in the world.India's GDP growth forecasts are revised down to 6.6 per cent for FY2026 (ending 31 March 2027) and maintained at 7.3 per cent for FY2027, Asian Development Outlook (ADO) July 2026 said."The FY2026 (2026-27) forecast is lowered from 6.9 per cent projected in April, reflecting elevated energy prices, which squeeze real incomes.Growth will be supported by policy interventions to attract more foreign capital, as well as fuel tax cuts, targeted credit support, strong services exports, and public capital expenditure," it said.The FY2027 growth forecast remains unchanged from April, underpinned by improved global conditions and export competitiveness gained through trade agreements with various partners, it said.However, it said, risks tilt to the downside, driven by heightened geopolitical tensions or weather-induced weakness in agriculture.With regard to inflation, the latest ADO has raised its inflation forecast sharply to 5.2 per cent from 4.5 per cent projected in April."Upward revisions reflect higher global energy prices from the Middle East conflict feeding through to fuel, transport, and food costs across the subregion. India's FY2026 (2026-27) inflation forecast is revised up to 5.2 per cent, driven by higher oil prices and a weaker rupee, with food inflation adding further pressure from heatwaves and fading of favourable base effects," it said.The FY28 forecast is retained at 4 per cent as fuel and food prices normalise, supported by favourable base effects, it said.Last month, RBI too revised down its GDP growth forecast for FY27 to 6.6 per cent from 6.9 per cent, while raising its inflation projection to 5.1 per cent from 4.6 per cent. The ADO has also lowered its growth forecast for developing Asia and the Pacific economies to 4.9 per cent for 2026



compared to 5.5 per cent growth in 2025."This is a reduction of 0.2 percentage points from April projections. Prolonged disruptions to energy markets caused by the Middle East conflict have weighed more heavily on the region's prospects than anticipated," it said.The 2027 growth forecast is maintained at 5.1 per cent, reflecting recovering activity as these pressures ease, it said.ADO expects disruptions to global energy markets to unwind only gradually, despite a framework agreement signed in June. With impacts extending beyond energy to fertilizers, other commodity prices, and supply chains, inflationary pressures are likely to persist.Regional inflation is now forecast at 4.3 per cent this year compared to 3 per cent in 2025 – an upward revision of 0.7 percentage points from April.The inflation forecast for 2027 remains at 3.4 per cent, it said.According to the IMF, the Indian economy is expected to grow at 6.4 per cent in fiscal year 2027, a tad slower than the 6.5 per cent projected in April.The IMF, in its update to the World Economic Outlook (WEO), projected India to grow at 6.7 per cent in fiscal year 2028, an increase of 20 basis points from the 6.5 per cent growth projected in April."India remains among the fastest growing major economies, with growth projected at 6.4 per cent supported by strong momentum in private consumption and services activity," the IMF said on Wednesday. "Factors that are underpinning the forecast revisions are basically twofold. On the upside, we have the better-than-expected outcome in the most recent data, but we also have high-frequency indicators through April showing quite a bit of resilience in overall economic activity," Deniz Igan, Division Chief (World Economic Studies), said.

India eyes global trade expansion after EU pact

Washington: Fresh from concluding its landmark free trade agreement with the European Union, India is pursuing an ambitious strategy to expand its network of trade agreements across North America, Latin America, Africa and the Gulf, with negotiations already underway or planned with several major economies, the country's chief trade negotiator has said. Speaking at an event hosted by the Peterson Institute for International Economics, Darpan Jain, India's Chief Negotiator for the EU-India Free Trade Agreement, said New Delhi's trade strategy now aims to deepen commercial ties across virtually every major region of the world. "Broadly, our intent is to cover the entire world," Jain said. "Hands are full. The table is full. Mind space is full. So we are all working with all efforts to try and diversify our relations, expand our partnerships, and enhance trade." Jain said India has already covered "almost 50 per cent of global trade and 50 per cent of global economy" through the countries with which it has negotiated trade agreements over the past five years. The focus is now shifting to regions where India has relatively limited trade agreements. In North America, India is negotiating a free trade agreement with



Canada, while discussions have also been initiated with Mexico. In Latin America, New Delhi is negotiating with Chile and Peru and has begun discussions with the Mercosur bloc to expand its existing Preferential Trade Agreement."We intend to expand that," Jain said of Mercosur, adding that Latin America remains a key region where India wants to strengthen its trade presence.India is also intensifying its engagement with West Asia. Jain said the country already has trade agreements with the United Arab Emirates and Oman and is now holding discussions with Qatar, the Gulf Cooperation Council and other countries in the region. Africa is another priority. India is negotiating with the Southern African Customs Union and Kenya as it seeks to broaden its economic engagement across the continent.

Govt extends Rs 7.5L CMRF to 6-month-old Kummari Lokesh

Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav handing over a Rs 7.5 lakh Chief Minister’s Relief Fund cheque to the mother of six-month-old Kummari Lokesh for his treatment, at his residence in Anantapur

Anantapur: Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav on Wednesday handed over a Rs 7.5 lakh Chief Minister’s Relief Fund (CMRF) cheque to support the treatment of a six-month-old infant. The beneficiary, Kummari Lokesh, son of Hanumanthu from Uravakonda town, was diagnosed with a rare, life-threatening medical disorder called Primary Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (HLH). After the child’s parents approached the minister for help, Keshav quickly intervened to secure government funds and directly



coordinated with Sindhu Hospital in Hyderabad to ensure immediate medical attention. The Minister presented the sanctioned medical cheque, issued in the name of the infant’s mother, Kummari Latha, at his Anantapur residence. The family expressed deep gratitude to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Keshav for the timely life-saving aid.

Papad packet and ATM trail help police crack blind inter-state murder case



Anantapur: Relying on scientific forensics, a meticulous technical trail, and inter-state coordination, the Anantapur district police have successfully cracked the brutal murder of a Ballari resident whose body was set ablaze to eliminate evidence. Two suspects have been arrested following a swift probe that stretched across Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu. Andhra Pradesh Tourism The mystery unfolded on June 23 when the completely charred body of an unidentified man was discovered in agricultural fields near Pulakurthi village in D Hirehal mandal. Under the direct instructions of Anantapur Superintendent of Police P Jagadeesh, a special investigation team was formed, led by Rayadurgam Rural Inspector Venkataramana. With no eyewitnesses, the breakthrough came when forensic experts recovered a partially burnt packet of papads from the crime scene. Detectives tracked the packaging back to its manufacturer in Chennai,

which subsequently opened a trail to a distribution network in Ballari. This led to the identification of the victim as Gururaj Rao, a deaf and mute papad vendor and temple priest who had been reported missing by his family. Further technical analysis revealed that the victim’s ATM card was actively used to withdraw cash from several kiosks post-mortem. CCTV footage from these kiosks helped police identify the suspects as Basavaraju and Kotresh, both residents of Ballari district who are also deaf and mute. The duo was intercepted and arrested near Obulapuram Cross on Wednesday morning. Utilizing sign-language interpreters during the interrogation, police extracted a full confession. The accused admitted they conspired to rob Rao of his business savings. They intoxicated him, threw chilli powder into his eyes, strangled him with a rope, and later doused his body with petrol to destroy evidence.

Nurse blames local TDP leader for family crisis

Bharathi, a nurse working at the School of Excellence in Sunnipenta village, has alleged continuous harassment and political victimisation by TDP Srisailam in-charge Yugandhar Reddy The victim claimed she was repeatedly targeted, abused, and faced forced transfer orders within nine months of joining service because her family was branded as YSRCP supporters Despite approaching Srisailam MLA Budda Rajasekhara Reddy, who initially responded positively, the local TDP leader allegedly continued to influence officials to push the transfer through Srisailam: A woman working as a nurse at the School of Excellence in Sunnipenta village of Srisailam mandal has alleged continuous harassment and political victimisation by Telugu Desam Party (TDP) Srisailam in-charge Yugandhar Reddy, which led to her mother attempt-



ing suicide following a public insult. the nurse, Bharathi, alleged that she and her family were systematically targeted, subjected to abusive language, and faced forced transfer attempts within just nine months of her joining the service, simply because they were branded as supporters of the opposition YSR Congress Party (YSRCP). Newspapers Bharathi stated that she had approached Srisailam MLA Budda Rajasekhara Reddy seeking political intervention.

Anantha Lakshmi school student selected for state basketball c’ship



Anantapur: Prashanth, a 9th-grade student of Anantha Lakshmi International School, has been selected to represent Anantapur district in the ‘9th AP Youth Inter-District Basketball Championship 2026’. Andhra Pradesh Tourism He qualified after a stellar performance at the district-level selections held at the Ashok Nagar Indoor Sta-

dium. He will compete in the state-level tournament in Vijayawada from July 9 to 12. School Chairman Sri Anantha Ramudu congratulated the student, emphasizing that sports are essential for physical fitness and mental concentration. The school management, coaches, and staff extended their best wishes for his success.

Excise meet stresses on alternative livelihoods for ex-liquor makers

Kurnool: Excise Deputy Commission: er P Sridevi on Wednesday directed officials to make the combined Kurnool and Nandyal districts completely free from illicitly distilled (ID) liquor. Chairing a review meeting, she ordered officials to launch bind-over proceedings against bootleggers and invoke the Preventive Detention (PD) Act against habitual offenders. She also instructed teams to closely monitor jaggery traders supplying raw materials, while providing alternative livelihoods to reformed brew-



ers. Sridevi mandated continuous border raids to stop inter-state liquor smuggling and cannabis transport, alongside fast-tracking pending charge-sheets and strictly collecting delayed retail excise taxes.

Tight vigil ordered at helipad and meeting venues for CM’s tour



Nandyal SP Suneel Sheoran conducting a comprehensive security review meeting with police officers and personnel at GMR Function Hall in Banaganapalle on Wednesday Extensive security arrangements have been finalized for the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister’s official visit to Banaganapalle on Thursday to launch the state-level “Mee Bhoomi – Mee Hakku” land rights initiative Approximately 1,500 police personnel have been mobilised for bandobast, with the town split into eight dedicated security zones overseen by senior command officers SP Suneel Sheoran chairs a comprehensive operational review meeting with the force at the GMR Function Hall Andhra Pradesh History Banaganapalle: The district police have put in place extensive security arrangements for the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu’s official visit to Banaganapalle on Thursday to participate in the “Mee Bhoomi – Mee Hakku” land rights programme. Around 1,500 police personnel have been deployed for the VVIP bandobast and divided into eight distinct security sectors.

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District Superintendent of Police Suneel Sheoran conducted a comprehensive operational review meeting with police personnel at the GMR Function Hall here on Wednesday. Instructing the force to discharge duties with absolute vigilance and discipline, the SP stressed that the Chief Minister’s visit is a high-priority event. He directed teams to ensure efficient traffic regulation, strict security checks, foolproof VIP route sanitisation, and effective crowd management at the main public arena without causing unnecessary inconvenience to local citizens. The SP further commanded personnel stationed at key transit nodes—including the helipad, the public meeting venue, the Tahsildar’s office, and the internal party workers’ convention center—to maintain high alert.