

Andhra cabinet clears Rs 11,569 crore investments, 31,000 jobs

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Cabinet on Friday approved 13 investment proposals expected to generate over 31,000 jobs across the state, besides holding a detailed discussion on the alleged misuse of social media. Briefing reporters after the Cabinet meeting, Information and Public Relations Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy said the Cabinet had approved all 13 proposals cleared at the 19th State Investment Promotion Board meeting. He added that land allocation and incentives for the projects would be provided in accordance with the government's approved industrial policies. "The Cabinet approved all 13 proposals cleared under the 19th SIPB meeting, involving investments worth Rs 11,569.91 crore that are expected to generate 31,431 jobs. It held a detailed discussion on the misuse of social media," Parthasarathy said. Among the major proposals is a Rs 1,801 crore investment by Mondelez India Foods Private Limited at its existing facility at Sri City in Tirupati district. The project will be eligible for technology upgradation, fixed capital investment and power subsidies, along with



electricity-related incentives and other benefits under the government's policies. Parthasarathy also said the expansion would enable Andhra Pradesh to emerge as the leading state in the country in chocolate manufacturing using cocoa. "The Cabinet held a detailed discussion on the misuse of social media," he said, describing it as a "disease" for society — useful in many ways, but increasingly harmful, shaping how governments function and how people think. He said the problem was not confined to Andhra Pradesh or India, but had become a global phenomenon, prompting several countries to enact laws to regulate social media platforms. The minister said that earlier, the media largely meant newspapers and

television channels, which operated under recognised managements and were legally accountable for their content. "If people believed something was wrong, they could seek legal remedy, and the organisations concerned could be held accountable," he said. In contrast, he alleged, social media today functions "without accountability or ethical standards" and is increasingly being used to target individuals, malign their character and "spread false propaganda against the government." Parthasarathy said Director General of Police Harish Kumar Gupta and other officials discussed the issue in detail during the Cabinet meeting. Naidu directed officials to set up a state-level

Social Media Response Cell to tackle its misuse, and called for a Task Force to address such allegations, the minister said. Parthasarathy said Naidu directed officials to use modern forensic techniques to trace social media handles allegedly spreading hatred, misinformation and character assassination, alleging that some political parties, leaders and their supporters were doing so to "provoke hatred". He said those responsible had not yet been identified, but Naidu had directed the departments concerned to trace them, establish a procedure and initiate action. An inquiry would be conducted and the facts placed before the public, the minister added.

Viswam students shine in JNV lateral entry result

Tirupati: Viswam Educational Institutions achieved another academic milestone with 71 students securing admissions to Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas across Class VI, IX, and XI entrance examinations. P Nitheesh Reddy and S Lekitha Sri were selected in the recently announced Class IX Lateral Entry second selection list for 2026–27 academic year. Chairman Dr N Viswanatha Reddy congratulated the students, parents and faculty for the achievement. He said Viswam has been providing specialised coaching for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Sainik School and Military School entrance examinations for the past 36 years, consistently producing excellent results and top ranks.



Nara Lokesh meets Cuckoo Electronics representatives, seeks investments in AP



Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh is on a six-day South Korean tour to attract global manufacturing investments. In recent meetings, he invited Cuckoo Electronics to establish a factory in Sri City

AP Weather alert: IMD predicts moderate across the state

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), Amaravati, has announced that light to moderate rains are likely in sev-



eral parts of Andhra Pradesh over the next three days, driven by south-westerly and westerly winds in the lower troposphere. It also indicated the possibility of thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds reaching speeds of 40–50 kmph in some areas. On Friday, light to moderate rain or thundershowers are expected at a few places in the North Coastal districts and Yanam. Thunderstorms and lightning may occur in one or two locations, accompanied by strong winds blowing at 40–50 kmph. Similarly, on Saturday, light to moderate rain or showers are likely at one or two places, along with gusty winds reaching speeds of 40–50 kmph. On Sunday, light to moderate rains are expected in one or two areas.

or Tirupati, highlighting the state's dominant role in India's air conditioner and television production. Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh who is continuing his tour of South Korea for six days with an intention of drawing investments to his state. In his meetings during the tour, he interacted with representatives from Cuckoo Electronics which makes products such as household appliances and air/water purification devices. He talked about the presence of firms like Amber, Epack Durable, Daikin, and LG Electronics in the cluster for household appliances in Sri City. He said that 40% of the country's air conditioners and 35% of televisions are made in Andhra Pradesh and there is plenty of availability of skilled labour in the area. He pointed out that the location of the state helps in exports to South East Asia and the Middle East. The consumption of air conditioners is very high in South India.

YSRCP alleges irregularities in SIR

YSRCP leader Kakani Govardhan Reddy and MLC Parvathareddy Chandrasekhar Reddy addressing a press conference in Nellore on Thursday Nellore: Finding fault with the ruling government of resorting to irregularities in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR), YSRCP district president Kakani Govardhan Reddy and party city in-charge and MLC Parvathareddy Chandrasekhar Reddy warned the administration that it has to face legal action. Government The duo has jointly addressed a press conference here on Thursday. Kakani Govardhan Reddy criticised that the administration was least bothered about the issue, despite his party submitted complaints to the district Collector. He questioned as to why either the Collector or Election Commission of India (ECI) didn't initiate any action against Municipal Administration Minister P Narayana for his involvement

'Mee Bhoomi–Mee Hakku' mega meet outlines massive infrastructure blueprint

Minister Janardhan Reddy announces that a new RTO office has been sanctioned. Additionally, the Banaganapalle bypass road is 70% complete, and a 41-km underground drainage network is targeted for completion by December Rural development projects valued between Rs 80 lakh and Rs 1 crore are being actively executed across every village utilizing MGNREGS and DMFT funds Banaganapalle: Road and Buildings Minister BC Janardhan Reddy on Thursday stated that the Andhra Pradesh Government is committed to the comprehensive development of the Banaganapalle constituency under the leadership of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. Addressing the "Mee Bhoomi–Mee Hakku"



programme alongside Nandyal MP Byreddy Shabari and District Collector G Raja Kumari, the Minister outlined an extensive infrastructure and industrial blueprint. He announced the sanctioning of a local RTO office and noted that the Banaganapalle bypass road is now 70% complete. Furthermore, a 41-km underground drainage network is underway with a completion target set for December.

KIMS Cuddles team saves mother and infant



Nellore: A pregnant woman from Vinjamuru, who was 33 weeks and 3 days into her pregnancy, was admitted to KIMS Cuddles Hospital in Nellore after suffering from severe seizures. An obstetrician team performed an emergency operation and delivered a female infant weighing 1,620 grams. The medical team at KIMS Cuddles comprising Neonatologists Dr Venkata Kumar and Dr Bhargav, Pediatric Intensivist Dr R Murarji, senior Gynecologist Dr Mohana Sai Rupa, Neurologist Dr Abhinaya Reddy, and HOD & Chief Anesthesiologist Dr Sivayya—managed the case.

KING
DAILY NEWSPAPER

Hindu rate of growth controversy: Is it time for a new name?

Supporters of the concept of the “Hindu Rate of Growth” argue that it highlights the shortcomings of India’s economic policies before 1991. They contend that factors such as excessive government control, industrial licensing requirements, and trade restrictions reduced productivity and investment. They believe that the term helps explain why economic growth accelerated after the economic liberalisation reforms.

History Recently, while speaking on the occasion of the NDA government completing 12 years in office and recalling his record as India’s longest-serving continuously elected Prime Minister, Narendra Modi criticized the historical term “Hindu Rate of Growth.”He argued that the phrase unfairly linked India’s economic sluggishness to Hindu culture. According to him, the term was used to conceal the failures of past economic policies and that the situation should instead be viewed as the result of the governance and policy decisions of previous governments. Modi suggested that the period of slow economic growth should have been called the “Congress Rate of Growth” rather than the “Hindu Rate of Growth.” Modi stated that the decades of low growth following independence pushed India into poverty, despair, and a sense of inferiority. He also questioned why the country’s current rapid economic growth is not similarly associated with Hindu culture. According to him, this issue reflects the persistence of a colonial mindset in India.He called for greater confidence in India’s civilization and cultural heritage. Modi also compared the pre-1991 period with the country’s current economic performance. He remarked that economic reforms, innovation, infrastructure development, and policy continuity have transformed India into one of the world’s fastest-growing major economies. “Hindu Rate of Growth” was coined by economist Raj Krishna in 1978. It was used to describe India’s relatively slow economic growth from the 1950s through the 1980s. During that period, the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew at an average annual rate of only about 3–4 per cent. Although the name appears to be related to Hinduism, the term has no connection to the Hindu religion. It was simply used to describe the low growth rates that persisted after independence.

Government According to economists, the main reasons for this slow growth included the License Raj system, extensive government control over industries, restrictions on the private sector, high import tariffs, limits on foreign investment, low productivity, and economic policies that reduced competition. At the same time, rapid population growth meant that increases in per capita income remained very modest. Also Read - GCCs have evolved into high-value innovation hubs, will play key role in Viksit Bharat: Labour Ministry official

In 1991, economic liberalisation reforms were introduced under the leadership of then Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao and Finance Minister Manmohan Singh. These reforms reduced industrial licensing requirements, opened certain sectors to foreign investment, and lowered trade barriers. Participation by the private sector was also encouraged. As a result, India achieved much higher rates of economic growth in the following decades.

Adilabad police opens library for government job aspirants in remote tribal village



Adilabad: Police established a library meant for the convenience of aspirants of government jobs at remote Lokari village in Gadiguda mandal. SP Akhil Mahajan, who was the chief guest, formally inaugurated the facility on Thursday. Addressing residents of the village and aspirants, Akhil underlined the importance of education for tribal students. He opined that education was the most powerful weapon to transform the future of tribal children. He advised the students to be friendly with the books available in the library and bring about their lives. The SP asked the aspirants to visit the library and spend a few minutes every day. He urged parents to take the responsibility of sending their children to the facility and to improve their knowledge. He noted that 500 books, placed in the library were useful to not only aspirants of UPSC, but also Groups, SI and constable examinations. The IPS officer wanted tribal youngsters, teachers and parents to cultivate the reading habit. He requested them to crack government jobs by utilizing the opportunity. He stated that similar initiatives would be launched in other parts of the district soon. He added free coaching programmes were going to be provided to the aspirants. Uttoor ASP Ruthwik Sai Kotte, Narnoor Inspector Anjamma, Gadiguda SI Ramya, elders of tribal communities were present.

Pebbair Police Conduct Special Drive Against Vehicles Without Number Plates



Over 70 vehicles topped; awareness raised; SI Venkateswarlu Goud warns of seizure for rule violations. Fines totaling ₹50,000 imposed. Wanaparthi dist: Acting on orders from the wanaparthi District SP, the police conducted a special inspection drive targeting vehicles without number plates in the Pebbair municipal area. Officers inspected vehicles in front of the local police station and at Subhash Crossroads, identifying over 70 vehicles operating without number plates and moving them to the police station. Subsequently, the police educated the vehicle owners about road safety and the regulations of the Motor Vehicles Act. The vehicles were released only after new number plates were installed in compliance with the rules and their importance was explained. Police stated that fines amounting to ₹50,000 were imposed on motorists for various rule violations during this special drive. Speaking on the occasion, SI Venkateswarlu Goud stated that driving vehicles without number plates is illegal. He noted that such vehicles are often susceptible to use in criminal activities and emphasized that number plates play a crucial role in the investigation of thefts and other crimes. He also warned that strict action would be taken against those riding two-wheelers without helmets. He made it clear that vehicles violating regulations would be seized and cases registered under the Motor Vehicles Act. It was stated that it is illegal for individuals unaffiliated with the police department to display "POLICE" stickers or boards on their vehicles, and similarly, for those unaffiliated with the media to display "PRESS" stickers or boards. A warning was issued that any such vehicles identified would be seized, and legal action would be taken against their owners. Furthermore, it was advised that number plates should not feature unauthorized designs, images, symbols, or text that hinders readability. Motorists were instructed to use only clearly visible number plates that comply with government-prescribed standards.



Cyclists slam removal of section of Hyderabad’s solar-roofed cycle track

Hyderabad: A wave of anger has swept through Hyderabad’s cycling community following the recent dismantling of a 34-metre section of the iconic 23 kilometer solar-roofed cycle track, which was developed with a cost of close to Rs 93 crore, near My Home Avatar Junction. According to HMDa, the removal of the 34-meter section of the Cycling Track roof by Hyderabad Growth Corridor Limited (HGCL), was to accommodate a new U-turn and underpass. In the process, however, it has ignited a heated debate over whether the city’s development priorities favor motor vehicles over sustainable mobility. The conflict began when HGCL announced that, as per Traffic Police recommendations, the track’s roof was removed to ease congestion at the busy junction. While authorities assert the track remains ‘fully operational’ via an at-grade crossing, the cycling community views this as a major setback. Taking to X, S Selven, who is well-known as Bicycle Mayor of Hyderabad slammed the decision as a ‘slow and gradual’ erosion of a world-class infrastructure. “Anything is not enough for car infrastructure. There will be more and more needs for car space and you will always have the vulnerable cycle track to disturb. If there was a need for traffic betterment, would we cut a Durgam Cheruvu cable bridge or an age-old palace? How is it easy for you to take away the cycle track?” he said. Amateur long distance cyclists in Hyderabad, who frequently utilise the cycling track as part of their training, point out that the track was designed to promote green, active commuting in the IT corridor. Health enthusiasts argue that lack of prior consultation with stakeholders is unacceptable, and fear this sets a dangerous precedent. “A city is truly developed when people move by walking, cycling, and using public transit,” one advocate noted, urging authorities to stop sacrificing the track for the sake of other motor vehicles. “Lot of cities in our country and also world cities are taking inspiration from the Hyderabad cycling track. The gradual encroachment and damage to the world class infrastructure for the sake of the never ending road hungry motor vehicles needs is not a good idea for our city in the long term. Kind request to please avoid such interventions in future,” Selvan said.

Puri declares no-fly zone for drones during Rath Yatra from July 16 to 27

Puri: The Puri district administration has declared a 5-km radius around the holy town a ‘No Flying Zone’ for drones from July 16 to 27 in view of the annual Rath Yatra, according to an official notification issued on Friday. The restriction has been imposed to ensure the safety, security and orderly conduct of the festival amid the prevailing security situation and the possibility of aerial threats arising from the unauthorised operation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), or drones. “Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under the applicable provisions of law and in the interest of public safety, security and maintenance of public order, it is declared that the area within a 5 (five) kilometre radius of Puri town shall be a ‘No Flying Zone’ for the period from July 16, 2026 to July 27, 2026 (both days inclusive),” the notification said.

Justice Sudhir Singh appointed acting Chief Justice of Patna High Court

New Delhi: The Centre on Friday issued a notification appointing Justice Sudhir Singh as the Acting Chief Justice of the Patna High Court following the retirement of incumbent Chief Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai. “In exercise of the power conferred by Article 223 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Sudhir Singh, Judge of the Patna High Court, to perform the duties of office of the Chief Justice of that High Court consequent upon retirement of Smt. Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai on 11.07.2026,” a notification issued by the Union Ministry of Law and Justice said. Article 223 of the Constitution empowers the President to appoint a judge of a High Court to perform the duties of the office of the Chief Justice when the post falls vacant or when the Chief Justice is unable to discharge the functions of the office. Justice Singh was elevated as an Additional Judge of the Patna High Court on April 15, 2015, and was sworn in as a Permanent Judge on April 20, 2016. Enrolled as an advocate in 1991, he practised in criminal and writ matters and held several key positions, including Central Government Counsel for the Union of India, Railway Advocate for the Ministry of Railways, Additional Standing Counsel for the Indian Audit and Accounts Department, and Assistant Solicitor General of India at the Patna High Court. He completed his schooling from Vikas Vidyalaya, Ranchi, followed by graduation in Political Science from Patna



College under Patna University, and an LL.B. from Patna Law College. The notification comes just over a month after Justice Rai assumed office as the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court.

She was sworn in by Governor, Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain (retd) at a ceremony held at the Lok Bhavan in Patna, following her appointment on the recommendation of the Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant. She had taken over as the head of the Patna High Court following the retirement of Chief Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo on June 4.

vHyderabad woman duped of Rs 18 lakh and pledged gold; three arrested

Hyderabad: A woman from the city who pledged gold to raise funds for an investment was allegedly cheated of both the money and her jewelry, leading to the arrest of three persons. According to the police, Srilatha Chandrasekhar, a resident of Yousufguda, was persuaded by a man identified as Balakrishna to invest in a gold trading business with the promise of attractive returns. Trusting him, she pledged about 30 tolas of gold ornaments with a gold finance company and obtained a loan of about Rs18 lakh.

Ponnam Prabhakar calls for cultivation of oil palm, plants saplings in Husnabad

Telangana promotes oil palm cultivation with new incentives and a mega plantation drive. Minister Ponnam Prabhakar encourages farmers to adopt climate-resilient crops to boost income and ensure water security. Telangana News App Telangana Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar announced that a meeting has been organised with farmers owning more than five acres of land to promote oil palm cultivation. On Friday, Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar and Vivek Venkata swamy planted oil palm saplings as part of a mega oil palm plantation drive in Janagaam village, Akkannapet Mandal, Husnabad constituency. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponnam noted that current production falls short of the demand for oil palm and urged farmers to take up this crop. He also mentioned that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had inaugurated an oil palm factory in Narmetta. The Minister stated that the district aims to bring 50,000 acres under oil palm cultivation, with over 14,000 acres currently



being cultivated. He announced development incentives of ₹5 lakh for small villages that cross the 100-acre mark in oil palm cultivation and ₹10 lakh for larger villages that exceed 200 acres. Warning of the impending El Niño phenomenon—which could bring severe drought and rainfall deficits—he advised farmers to opt for crops that require less water (semi-dry crops). He highlighted that oil palm cultivation is free from the menace of monkeys and is resilient to climate change issues. Ponnam Prabhakar urged those who prioritize the farming community—transcending political lines—to create awareness about oil palm cultivation.

Intoxicated man steals RTC bus from Jangaon, held at toll plaza

Jangaon: An incident of an intoxicated man stealing an RTC hire service bus parked at the Jangaon bus stand and causing a scene at a toll plaza came to light in the district. According to officials, Venkanna, a native of Palakurthi, caught the depot staff off guard and drove off with the bus on Thursday night towards Suryapet. After driving the vehicle for approximately 21 kilometres, he reached the Singarajupalli toll plaza during the wee hours. As he could not steer the bus through the toll plaza passage, he lost control of the vehicle and hit a cement block at the toll plaza several times. The toll plaza staff, suspecting something was wrong, stopped the bus and informed the local police. Upon receiving the in-



formation, the police arrived at the scene, took possession of the bus and questioned Venkanna. When asked why he had taken the bus from the depot, the intoxicated man simply replied that he wanted to take it for a test drive. Officials breathed a sigh of relief as there were no casualties in the incident. The police have registered a case against Venkanna and initiated an investigation into the incident.

Karur stampede victims: Tamil Nadu CM Vijay distributes government job orders to families

Karur: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Friday handed over compassionate appointment orders to the members of families who lost



their loved ones in the Karur stampede, describing the tragedy as an “unhealed wound” that continues to weigh heavily on his heart. The stampede occurred on September 27 last year, on the eve of the Tamil Nadu Assembly election, during a TVK election campaign rally in Karur. Forty-one people were killed in the incident. A Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the tragedy is currently underway. Following the incident, the Tamil Nadu government announced an ex gratia payment of Rs 10 lakh to each bereaved family, while the TVK extended an additional compensation of Rs 20 lakh. As part of the government’s rehabilitation measures, the Chief Minister visited Karur to distribute compassionate appointment orders to eligible family members of the victims. During a function held at the Atlas Arena, CM Vijay presented appointment orders to one member from each of the 32 affected families, with jobs offered as per the educational qualifications of the beneficiaries. The event coincided with proceedings before the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, where a petition challenging the government’s decision to provide permanent government jobs to the victims’ families came up for hearing. The court directed that the beneficiaries could, for the present, be offered temporary appointments. Addressing the gathering, an emotional Vijay said the pain caused by the Karur tragedy had never left him. “My heartfelt greetings to all my

brothers and sisters of Karur who live in my heart. No matter how high a person rises in life, the wounds and pain in the heart can never be forgotten. I

stand before you today after overcoming many hardships and emotional scars,” he said.

“The Karur tragedy caused me immense mental anguish. I lost my brothers, my sisters and my innocent children in Karur. The incident remains an unhealed wound in my heart. They pinned the blame on me for the Karur incident, but I entered politics for the sake of the people, and I am determined to bring a permanent end to such tragedies,” the Chief Minister said. Launching a political attack on the Opposition, CM Vijay alleged that opposition members walked out of the Legislative Assembly when the term “party fund” was mentioned. He further claimed that corruption worth crores of rupees existed across government departments in the past, but asserted that people now believed bribery and corruption in government offices had significantly reduced under his administration. The Chief Minister also reiterated his government’s commitment to fulfilling its election promises. He announced that the promised scheme to present a gold ring on behalf of the maternal uncle to newborns on the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister C.N. Annadurai (Arignar Anna) would be implemented as pledged. The programme concluded with the distribution of appointment orders to beneficiaries, with the government stating that the initiative was aimed at providing long-term financial security to families devastated by one of the worst public tragedies in the state’s recent history.

Mumbai–Pune rail services hit till July 17 as landslides cancel 30 trains

Mumbai: Rail connectivity on the Mumbai-Pune corridor will remain crippled till July 17, as the Central Railway has cancelled 30 long-distance and intercity trains, following landslides on the Bhor Ghat section, officials said on Friday. Heavy, torrential downpours on July 6 triggered multiple landslides between Karjat and Lonavala stations, severely damaging all three railway lines. The landslides mainly occurred at the Thakurwadi and Monkey Hill cabins on the ghat section. While restoration work is underway on a war footing, difficult terrain and dangerous working conditions are delaying the full resumption of normal services, officials said. The Central Railway, in a release, said that it has cancelled 30 train services, including 14 daily trains, eight services on specified dates and eight special trains. It announced the temporary cancellation of daily trains, including the Deccan Queen, Deccan Express, Intercity Express services between Mumbai and Pune, the CSMT-Hyderabad Express, Chennai Egmore Superfast Mail and the Hubballi-Dadar Express, from July 10 to July 17.

Apart from this, trains such as the Mahalaxmi Express, Jodhpur-Hadapsar Express, Dadar-Satara Express and Dadar-Sainagar Shirdi Express have been cancelled on specified dates during the period. Several special trains connecting Mumbai and Pune with Gorakhpur, Ghazipur City and Hazrat Nizamuddin have also been cancelled, the release stated. Railway Minister Ashwini



Vaishnav on Thursday reviewed the restoration work and noted that the landslides were “heavy” and had caused “significant” damage to the railway lines and the surrounding area.

The Mumbai-Pune route has three tracks in the difficult Bhor Ghat section or Khandala Ghat – the Up Line (towards Mumbai), the Down Line (towards Pune), and a Middle Line. According to officials, transporting construction material to some locations remains a challenge, and railway teams are coordinating with the district administration and the forest department to restore the lines at the earliest. One of the three railway lines has been restored, and work is underway on the other two, they said. “Senior officers at the site are closely monitoring the restoration work, and all efforts are being made to normalise train services at the earliest,” the release stated. Passengers have been advised to contact the railway helpline or check the NTES app for information. Regular updates are also being shared through the railway’s official social media platforms, it added.

Nadda touts AIIMS Bibinagar as a beacon of healthcare in South India



Hyderabad: Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Jaya Prakash Nadda on Thursday said that the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bibinagar, has made remarkable progress within a short span of four years and is set to emerge as a beacon of healthcare excellence in South India. Geographic Reference Reviewing the progress of AIIMS Bibinagar and the pending works since its inception in June 2022, Nadda said the institute has achieved operational status in a record period, reflecting the Centre’s commitment to providing accessible and quality healthcare facilities across the country. Addressing the media after the review meeting, the Union Minister highlighted the expansion of AIIMS institutions under the BJP-led Central government. He said that while the country had only one AIIMS in Delhi during the 20th century, another AIIMS was added at Rae Bareilly between 2004 and 2014. However, after 2014, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 19 new AIIMS institutions were established, taking the total number to 23, of which 18 have already been completed. The institute currently has 132 faculty members across nine specialities and is witnessing a daily OPD footfall of around 1,800 patients, indicating the growing trust among people in the region. He said AIIMS Bibinagar has already started providing comprehensive healthcare services, including in-patient care, emergency services, CT scans, MRI facilities and other advanced diagnostic services. The institute has also introduced e-consultation and telemedicine services, benefiting around 1.56 lakh patients in a short period. The Union Minister said AIIMS Bibinagar has emerged not only as a healthcare centre but also as a hub for research and community service. The fac-

ulty members have published more than 1,156 research papers, while the institute has conducted 547 medical camps and provided treatment to over 66,000 patients in nearby villages. Executive Branch Also Read - JP Nadda to lay foundation stone of ICMR's high-altitude research centre in Himachal Pradesh He also appreciated AIIMS Bibinagar for establishing the country’s first community radio station at a medical institute, which is helping spread health awareness among people at the grassroots level. Nadda said that 87 per cent of the campus construction work has been completed and the institute is expected to achieve full operational status by December 2026. He pointed out that converting an existing building constructed in 2008 into a modern AIIMS facility was a challenging task. Comparing the growth of AIIMS institutions, Nadda said AIIMS Delhi took nearly 20 years to gain recognition, and institutions of such stature require time to mature. However, he expressed confidence that AIIMS Bibinagar would achieve greater heights within a shorter period due to its strong foundation, medical facilities, research activities and dedicated faculty. He said the Centre has strengthened the healthcare system by linking primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare. Under this approach, 1.85 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs have been connected with people across the country, while the number of medical colleges has increased from 370 to 820. Nadda expressed confidence that AIIMS Bibinagar would soon become a leading institution in medical education, research and patient care, fulfilling the vision of establishing world-class healthcare facilities in the country.

New Jagtial-Hyderabad TSRTC bus service launched



TSRTC has launched new Super Luxury bus services between Jagtial and Kukatpally, Hyderabad, to meet growing passenger demand. Check the new daily schedule for both morning and afternoon/evening trips and enjoy a comfortable journey between the two cities. Geographic Reference Jagtial: Good news for commuters in Jagtial and its surrounding areas. The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) has launched new Super Luxury bus services connecting Jagtial district headquarters to Kukatpally in Hyderabad. According to Transport officials, the decision to introduce these new services was taken keeping in view the growing passenger rush and public de-

mand. To ensure hassle-free travel, these buses will operate two trips daily from both sides. The schedule is as follows: From Jagtial to Kukatpally, the first bus will start at 3 am while the second bus leave Jagtial at 3pm. On the other hand, the first bus will start for Jagtial from Kukatpally at 9 am and the second one at 9:30 pm. The grand inaugural event was attended by Jagtial Depot Manager Ramesh, CI Srinivas, and other depot staff. Speaking on the occasion, the officials urged the public to utilize these newly launched Super Luxury services in large numbers to ensure a safe, secure, and comfortable journey.

Litigant hurls abuses, throws papers at Supreme Court judges; forcibly removed from courtroom during hearing

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday witnessed an unusual disruption after a litigant appearing in person allegedly hurled abuses, threw papers in open court and had to be forcibly removed from the courtroom during the hearing of his plea challenging an order of the Allahabad High Court. The incident took place before a Bench of Justices K. V. Viswanathan and Alok Aradhe and briefly disrupted the apex court proceedings. At the outset of the hearing, the litigant demanded registration of an FIR against an Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) in Lucknow and a private company. Addressing the Justice Viswanathan-led Bench, he said, “Mr judicial servant. I order you to order the registration of an FIR against the ACP... Luc know.” Taken aback by the submission, the apex court asked, “You are ordering us?” The litigant responded, “That is all from my side. Everything is on record.” Soon thereafter, the petitioner allegedly threw the papers relating to his case into the air and started hurling abuses in the courtroom, including making offensive remarks against the Chief Justice of India (CJI). The courtroom briefly descended into chaos be-



fore security personnel intervened and forcibly escorted the litigant out, allowing the proceedings to resume. The matter before the Justice Viswanathan-led Bench was related to a petition challenging an order passed by the Allahabad High Court. The latest incident comes months after the Supreme Court witnessed another courtroom disruption involving advocate Rakesh Kishore, who allegedly attempted to throw an object at a Bench led by then CJI B.R. Gavai. Though then CJI Gavai had initially decided that no action would be taken against the advocate, Attorney General R. Venkataramani later granted consent to initiate criminal contempt proceedings against Kishore, observing that his conduct amounted to criminal contempt under the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, and was “calculated to demean the majesty and authority of the Supreme Court”.

Agriculture receiving top priority in Cong govt: Bhatti

Khammam: Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka on Thursday said the Congress government is committed to transforming Telangana into a “farmers’ state” by prioritising agriculture and ensuring timely financial assistance to cultivators. Addressing a press conference after inspecting arrangements for the ‘Rythu Ashirvada Sabha’ at Jaganna dhapuram–Mathkepalli Cross Road in Chinthakani mandal, the Deputy Chief Minister said the government’s vision is to make agriculture “a festival” by extending comprehensive support to the farming community. Bhatti Vikramarka announced that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, along with Cabinet colleagues, would participate in the Rythu Ashirvada Sabha on Friday in Khammam district, where the final instalment of the Rythu Bharosa assistance for the current season would be credited directly to farmers’ bank accounts. The Deputy Chief Minister said agriculture and allied sectors have received top priority since the Congress assumed office, describing farmers’ welfare as the government’s foremost objective. Drawing a comparison with the previous BRS administration, Bhatti Vikramarka claimed that while the former government had spent Rs 72,000 crore on Rythu Bandhu over a decade, the Congress government released Rs 35,839 crore under the Rythu Bharosa scheme in just two-and-a-half years. Executive Branch Inaugurating the Mega Rythu Mela at Jagannadhapuram in Chinthakani mandal along with Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, Bhatti said the Indiramma People’s Government has been investing thousands of crores of rupees in irrigation,



agriculture, paddy procurement, MARKFED operations, farm mechanisation and several other initiatives aimed at strengthening the farming sector. Referring to the recently concluded procurement season, he said the administration had also procured maize and sorghum despite various challenges. He said the government was prepared to substantiate its performance with official figures and maintained that it believed in governance through implementation rather than speeches. Highlighting irrigation initiatives, he said water was now flowing through the Nagarjuna Sagar, Sri Ram Sagar and Kadem irrigation projects, reflecting the government’s emphasis on strengthening the agricultural sector. The Deputy Chief Minister accused opposition parties of indulging in misinformation and alleged that the previous BRS government had concentrated its resources on the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, whose present condition, he claimed, was evident to the public. In contrast, he said, irrigation projects constructed during earlier Congress governments continued to provide water to farmers decades after their completion. He said the event had been named ‘Rythu Ashirvada Sabha’ at the request of farmers themselves and appealed to cultivators from across the State to attend the programme in large numbers and make it a grand success.

Wife kills husband in Sultanabad of Peddapalli district

In a shocking incident took place in the Kashipalli village, Sultanabad Mandal of Peddapalli district as a wife unable to tolerate the constant harassment murdered her husband. History As per the reports of the police, Syed Goremia along with his wife, Goribi, had been facing many conflicts in the past one year. For some time, Goremia lived in Jagtial but

came back to his village two days ago. On Thursday night, coming back home after drinking, he raised a fight and upset about this his wife, Goribi, hit him to death. Upon knowing the incident, the police of Sultanabad reached there and arrested both wife, Goribi, and their son, Syed Ali. The dead body was sent to Sultanabad Government Hospital for post-mortem.

Aditya Roy Kapur to star in Milap Milan Zaveri’s next for T-Series

Mumbai: Actor Aditya Roy Kapur is set to reunite with producer Bhushan Kumar for an “intense, violent, and deeply emotional musical love story”, the makers announced on Friday. The untitled project will be directed by Milap Milan Zaveri, known for movies such as “Satyameva Jayate”, “Marjaavaan”, “Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat” and “Mastii 4”.The film, billed as an intense romantic drama with action elements, will mark another collaboration between Kumar, who heads production banner T-Series, and Kapur after “Aashiqui 2”, “Malang”, “Ludo” and the recently released “Metro... In Dino”. According to the makers, the project will blend romance, action and music and is expected to go on floors later this year.Kumar said he was looking forward to collaborating with Kapur once again.“Our association with Aditya goes back many years and has given us films that audiences continue to love. From ‘Aashiqui 2’ to ‘Metro... In Dino’, every collaboration has been special in its



own way. We share a great creative comfort, and I’m happy we’re coming together once again for a story that’s intense, emotional and mounted on a grand scale,” the producer said in a statement.Zaveri said Kapur’s screen persona made him a natural choice for the role.“Aditya has always had a rare ability to portray love with honesty and emotional depth. Ever since ‘Aashiqui 2’, audiences have connected with him in stories driven by passion and heartbreak. This character is layered, intense, and emotionally complex, and I couldn’t think of anyone better to bring that journey to life,” the filmmaker said.

Makeup, Eyelashes and ‘Nylon Pants’? This Viral Bird Has It All Naturally

Hyderabad: A striking bird has taken social media by storm, leaving users amazed by what many initially believed was an edited image. Meet the secretary bird (*Sagittarius serpentarius*), an African bird of prey whose unique appearance has sparked countless online reactions.With what looks like perfectly applied eyeliner, long eyelashes, elegant ‘trousers’ and formal attire, the bird appears almost too stylish to be real. But every one of these features is completely natural. Native to the grasslands and savannas of sub-Saharan Africa, the secretary bird stands out from other birds of prey because it prefers hunting on foot rather than from the sky. Reaching a height of up to 1.3 metres (4.3 feet), it is among the tallest raptors in the world.Its bright orange facial skin creates the illusion of makeup, while its long eyelashes help shield its eyes from dust and harsh sunlight as it walks across open plains. The black feathers covering its long legs resemble stockings, and its soft grey-and-white plumage gives the impression of a neatly tailored outfit.However, the secretary bird is much more than its striking appearance. It is a highly skilled predator that hunts



snakes, lizards, rodents and other small animals. Using its long, powerful legs, it delivers rapid, forceful kicks capable of killing even venomous snakes such as cobras. Its thick, scaly legs also provide protection against snake bites.The bird’s unusual appearance has delighted social media users. “It’s like a beautiful Disney character came alive,” wrote one user, while another joked, “This bird has the best eyelashes I’ve ever seen.” A third simply called it a “natural diva”, proving that nature’s creations can be every bit as glamorous as fiction.

Dwayne Johnson pays tribute to Robin Williams with Jumanji prop

Los Angeles: Hollywood star Dwayne Johnson has admitted to taking the late actor Robin Williams’ prop dice from the upcoming film Jumanji: Open World and jokingly confessed that he later denied having it.The 54-year-old actor had previously revealed that the game piece, which his character Dr Xander ‘Smolder’ Bravestone wears around his neck in the upcoming film, pays homage to the late screen legend because it was used in the original 1995 Jumanji film.He told People.com: “The last prop that I took from the set was the dice that I wore in Jumanji. That is one half of a pair of dice that they used in the original, OG Jumanji. There’s a big scene where the dice are slow rolling, and it’s in slow motion and so dramatic. One half of those dice – die? Dice? – my character wears in the film.“And I took that home. Props, they’re always amazing, but you gotta give that back.”Crew members asked Johnson to return the souvenir, and he quickly changed the subject, reports Female First.He said: “They were like, ‘Hey DJ,



do you have the...?’ And I was like, ‘Nah, I gave it – I don’t – ah, I got to go.’” The star also confessed to taking Maui’s magical fishhook from the live-action Moana film, but there were multiple versions of that particular prop, so he avoided getting into trouble.Earlier this year, Johnson paid an emotional tribute to Robin Williams as the cast of the new Jumanji film gathered at CinemaCon to reveal the movie’s full title.Speaking at the Sony Pictures event at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, he said: “This whole franchise would not have started or happened or kicked off in this really beautiful way without one man, and that’s Robin Williams.”

Actress Sharmiela Mandre to marry producer Sudhan Sundaram in Jaipur on July 12

Jaipur: Jaipur is set to witness another star-studded royal wedding as Kannada actress Sharmiela Mandre and film producer Sudhan Sundaram tie the knot at the iconic Samode Palace on July 12. The two-day celebration is expected to bring together several leading personalities from the South Indian film industry against the regal backdrop of Rajasthan. The wedding festivities will begin on July 11 with traditional Haldi, Mehendi, and Sangeet ceremonies, blending the rich cultural traditions of Rajasthan with South Indian customs. The wedding ceremony will take place on the morning of July 12, following South Indian Vedic rituals, and will be followed by a grand reception in the evening.Several prominent names from the South Indian film industry are expected to attend the celebrations. Among the anticipated guests is filmmaker Atlee, known for directing the blockbuster ‘Jawan’. There is also speculation that actor Vijay Sethupathi may attend the wedding, as Sudhan Sundaram produced his critically-acclaimed film ‘Maharaja’.Producer Sudhan Sundaram arrived in Jaipur on Wednesday to oversee the wedding arrangements and was received at the airport by producer Padam Shekhawat. Actress Sharmiela Mandre reached Jaipur on Thursday with her family and headed directly from the airport to Samode Palace, where preparations for the celebrations are in full swing.

Sharmiela Mandre and Sudhan Sundaram got engaged on June 25 this year. The engagement was attended by close family members and friends after receiving the blessings and approval of both families. The couple announced the news with pictures from the ceremony, where they exchanged rings in a traditional celebration. Dressed in elegant ethnic outfits, Sharmiela and Sudhan marked



the occasion in the presence of their loved ones, with congratulatory messages pouring in from fans and members of the film fraternity on social media.Sharmiela shared the news on social media with the caption, “And just like that,” followed by an engagement ring emoji. Actors Ramya (Divya Spandana), Shruthi Hariharan, Radhika Narayan, Sonu Gowda and Amala Paul were among the many celebrities who congratulated her in the comments section.The actress described the marriage proposal she received in March this year as simple and heartfelt rather than cinematic, saying it was Sudhan’s humility and grounded personality that won her over.She added that she had always believed in marrying the person she loved, and that their strong friendship remains the foundation of their relationship. With its blend of royal heritage, traditional rituals, and a guest list featuring some of South India’s biggest film personalities, the wedding is expected to be one of Jaipur’s most glamorous celebrity events of the year.

Aamir Khan to back film on Silkyara tunnel rescue with Kabir Khan as director

Mumbai: Superstar Aamir Khan on Friday announced his new production, “Silkyara 41”, a feature film inspired by the 2023 rescue of 41 workers trapped inside the Silkyara tunnel in Uttarakhand. Acclaimed filmmaker Kabir Khan is attached as the director to the project, which is a co-production between the actor’s Aamir Khan Productions, Australia’s Mind Blowing Films and Kabir Khan Films.Written by Australian screenwriter Andrew Anastasios, best known for “The Water Diviner”, “Silkyara 41” will chronicle the multi-agency rescue operation that brought all 41 workers to safety after they remained trapped inside the under-construction tunnel for more than two weeks.The film will also highlight the role played by Australian tunnelling expert Arnold Dix, who was part of the international team that helped plan and execute the rescue operation.Aamir Khan said the story of the rescue deserved to be told on the big screen.“The story of the Silkyara Tunnel rescue moved me deeply. It is a story of courage, resilience, ingenuity and humanity in the face of impossible odds. We are especially proud to announce it on this historic day, as India and Australia open a new chapter in their bilateral relationship,” the actor-producer said in a statement.Kabir Khan described the rescue as one of the most extraordinary human stories in recent years.“What drew me most to the project was its deeply human dimension — the lives that hung in the balance, the fami-



lies waiting anxiously, and the remarkable individuals who came together to make the rescue possible. I am honoured to bring this inspiring true story to the screen,” the filmmaker said. Dix said the rescue operation demonstrated what people could achieve by working together.“The Silkyara rescue was never about one person. It was about people from different disciplines, cultures and backgrounds coming together with a single purpose — to bring 41 workers home safely,” he said.In November 2023, 41 workers were trapped after a portion of the under-construction Silkyara-Barkot tunnel in Uttarkashi district collapsed. After a 17-day operation involving multiple Indian agencies and international experts, all the workers were rescued safely in what became one of the country’s most complex rescue missions. Aamir Khan Productions is currently awaiting the release of “Batwara 1947”, a Partition drama headlined by Sunny Deol. Directed by Rajkumar Santoshi, the movie also stars Preity Zinta, Shabana Azmi and Ali Fazal. It is set to be released in theatres across the country on August 13.

Jelena Ostapenko and Marcelo Arevalo rally to win Wimbledon mixed doubles title



London: Jelena Ostapenko and Marcelo Arevalo claimed the Wimbledon mixed doubles title after rallying from a set and a break down to defeat Australian duo Storm Hunter and Marc Polmans 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 in final.For Ostapenko, it was her first Wimbledon title. The Latvian, who previously won the 2017 French Open singles title and the 2024 U S Open women’s doubles title, reached two Wimbledon finals before and left holding the runner-up’s salver – in the mixed doubles final in 2019 and the ladies’ doubles final last summer.

“It’s been a great week,” Ostapenk told the media after the win. “Now I am Grand Slam champion in singles, doubles, and mixed doubles. I think it’s great to win all the categories. I think we play really well with Marcelo. I really enjoy it. We have a lot of fun on the court. Of course, winning Wimbledon is special.”

Arevalo, meanwhile, became the first player from El Salvador to win a Wimbledon title. Overall, he also secured his third Grand Slam title after winning the 2022 and 2024 Roland Garros men’s doubles titles. The 35-year-old will have a chance to leave London with more glory on Saturday when he competes in the men’s doubles final alongside Mate

Pavic.“It means a lot, coming from El Salvador, a country that is not known for tennis or being a big sport country,” Arevalo said. “I’m just grateful to be here, to have the opportunity to play on Centre Court. I think it’s a dream. I remember at the beginning of the week, my team had a little tour [around Centre Court] and I didn’t go in. I told them, ‘I want to earn it’ and I did today.“I’m just extremely happy that I play with Jelena and we had that opportunity to play here. I just want to keep inspiring the kids from my country, to make them [realise] when you put in a lot of effort and you believe in your dreams, you can achieve big things in life,” he added.Hunter and Polmans controlled the opening stages of the match, taking the first set 6-4 before breaking early in the second to build a 3-1 lead. Ostapenko and Arevalo responded in emphatic fashion, winning six of the next eight games. They broke serve twice to capture the second set 7-5 and force a decider.With the Centre Court roof closed before the third set, Ostapenko and Arevalo maintained their momentum. They secured breaks in the fourth and eighth games to seal the comeback victory in 1 hour, 56 minutes, WTA reports.

Kylian Mbappe scripts World Cup history with 20 goals in 20 matches

Foxborough: France talisman Kylian Mbappe has carved his name deeper into football history, becoming the youngest player to feature in 20 FIFA World Cup matches and the fastest to reach the milestone of 20 World Cup goals after steering his side to its third FIFA World Cup semifinal.The 27-year-old achieved the historic feat during France’s 2-0 quarter-final victory over Morocco at the Boston Stadium, where he recovered from a first-half penalty miss to score in the 60th minute before setting up teammate Ousmane Dembele for the second.While Argentina’s Lionel Messi is the outright record holder for FIFA World Cup appearances with 30, Mbappe has become France’s first-most capped player in the competition with 20 appearances. He is level with Hugo Lloris and ahead of Antoine Griezmann, Olivier Giroud and Raphael Varane.With his eighth goal of the ongoing 2026 tournament, Mbappe has now taken his overall World Cup tally to 20 goals in just 20 appearances across three editions (2018, 2022, and 2026), just one goal shy of equalling Messi (21) for the most goals scored in the history of the competition.France’s all-time leading goalscorer Kylian Mbappe has cemented his place among the greatest players in FIFA World Cup history across his appearances at three editions of the tour-



nament. He features prominently in numerous all-time rankings and boasts an impressive collection of individual records. After France’s 3-0 victory over Sweden at World Cup 2026, the 27-year-old Frenchman became the French player with the most wins in the tournament’s history (15). His 16th triumph, against Paraguay, saw him draw level with Brazil’s Cafu on the all-time list. Against Morocco in the quarter-final, he levelled with Miroslav Klose with 17 wins. Only Lionel Messi (20 wins) remains ahead of him.With eight knockout-stage goals to his name before the 2026 tournament, Mbappe was level with Brazil’s Leonidas and Ronaldo. His brace against Sweden in France’s 3-0 win in New Jersey took him clear at the top of the all-time ranking, before he extended the record to 11 goals with another against Paraguay and to 12 against Morocco.

Anvita Khammam Aces beat Hyderabad E-Champions by 10 runs

Hyderabad: Hyderabad E-Champions suffered their first defeat in eight games, losing to Anvita Khammam Aces by 10 runs in Qualifier 1 of the Sreenidhi University TG20 League cricket championship at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium here on Thursday night. Chasing 201 for victory, E-Champions lost captain and opener Abhirath Reddy (1), who was clean bowled by Harshit Sai in the second over of the innings. However, the other opener, Vikas Reddy (69 off 27 balls, 7×4, 4×6), appeared unperturbed at the other end, racing to his fifty off just 19 balls with five sixes and three fours to help the team reach 60 for one in five overs.At 100 for three in nine overs, after Anvith Reddy (16 off 16 balls, 1×4) was dismissed, E-Champions appeared to be in trouble. They soon lost the free-scoring Gadugu Ganesh (27 off 16 balls, 2×4, 2×6), slipping to 123 for four in 11.3 overs. The innings suffered another setback when all-rounder Ajay Dev Goud (13 off 10 balls, 1×4, 1×6) was dismissed by Sahendra Mallu.At 140 for five in 13.3 overs, the match was evenly poised. Disciplined bowling by leg-spinner Ved Reddy (2/33) and Sahendra Mallu (3/31) eventually scripted an impressive victory for Anvita Khammam Aces.Earlier, after being put in to bat, Aces posted a challenging 200 for six in 20 overs. Opener



Paras Raj (32 off 18 balls, 2×4, 3×6) provided a brisk start, while GSK Reddy (40 off 30 balls, 2×4, 3×6) made a valuable contribution before being dismissed with the score at 98 for four in the 11th over.However, it was Mickil Jaiswal’s unbeaten 76 off 34 balls (4×4, 7×6) and Chama Milind’s quick 17 off 12 balls (1×4, 1×6) that propelled the innings in the closing overs. Despite a disciplined effort from the E-Champions bowlers, all six of whom were used, Aces finished with a formidable total.Mickil’s controlled aggression during the death overs proved decisive against a side that had remained unbeaten until this match.Scores: Qualifier 1: Anvita Khammam Aces 200/6 in 20 overs (Paras Raj 32, GSK Reddy 40, Mickil Jaiswal 76*; Akhil Rathod 2/33) beat Hyderabad E-Champions 190/8 in 20 overs (Vikas Reddy 69, Gadugu Ganesh 27, Vaishnav Reddy 21*; Ved Reddy 2/33, Sahendra Mallu 3/31).

India vs England 5th T20I preview: Cornered Shreyas Iyer looks to avoid 4-0 white-wash in Southampton

Southampton: An Indian team with its back to the wall, led by a captain who is equally cornered, will look to prevent England from inflicting a seemingly imminent 4-0 ‘whitewash’ when the two contrasting sides clash in the fifth T20 International here on Saturday.Led by Shreyas Iyer, the Indian team’s journey started in the damp and windy conditions of Belfast. It then covered the north of England in Durham to finally arrive in the southern city of Southampton to close the five-match series, in which one game was washed out.In the six UK cities (including Belfast), one thing has remained common—Iyer’s fortunes have remained wretched, as he is still without his first win since becoming captain. This is the longest winless streak for the Indian men’s team since it first played a T20 International in 2006. The Indian team has looked completely out of sorts, save for the second game at Old Trafford, where it was in the game until the start of the 17th over (bowled by Ravi Bishnoi). Nottingham witnessed India’s worst batting performance—a dismal 76 all out—while Bristol was a perfect example of being outplayed in every department of the game.A consolation win will do little to salvage pride, but even then, a die-hard Iyer fan would take a 1-3 defeat any day over the ignominy associated with a 0-4 humiliation in the early days of his captaincy. Not being able to cope with the pace generated by Jofra Archer and Josh Tongue has certainly left the Indian team management worried. Not to forget, they haven’t picked the slower and skiddy variations bowled by left-arm seamer Sam Curran.With Varun Chakravarthy and Harshit Rana ruled out due to hamstring injuries, and Ravi Bishnoi making himself virtually unselectable after a 29-run over, the options in the bowling department are limited.In the batting department, one would like to give Vaibhav Sooryavanshi a long run despite poor returns against short-pitched bowling, something he will



only get better at dealing with in the coming years.World news coverage While Sanju Samson’s omission from the playing eleven and the Zimbabwe tour party has left everyone baffled and angry in equal measure, the only way he can make it to the squad is if the think-tank removes an out-of-sorts Tilak Varma. But then, it would mean both Ishan Kishan and Iyer dropping a place each. Kishan batting anywhere below No. 3 is not of great benefit to the team.For England, it is not just the pace bowling; their spinners Will Jacks, Adil Rashid, and Liam Dawson (until match No. 3) have been brilliant at taking pace off deliveries, which their Indian counterparts have failed to do.In the batting department, everyone from Phil Salt, Jos Buttler, and skipper Harry Brook to young Jacob Bethell has dominated the Indian attack, taking full advantage of familiar conditions. Iyer will want to avert another abject surrender, which currently looks way more likely than ever.

Teams (from):

India: Shreyas Iyer (captain), Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan (wk), Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Washington Sundar, Axar Patel, Prasidh Krishna, Prince Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Sanju Samson, Suryansh Shedge, Ravi Bishnoi.

England: Harry Brook (captain), Phil Salt, Jos Buttler, Jacob Bethell, Tom Banton, Will Jacks, Sam Curran, Josh Tongue, Jofra Archer, Adil Rashid, Rehan Ahmed, Liam Dawson, Luke Wood, Saqib Mahmood, Sonny Baker, Jordan Cox, James Coles.

Ethanol blending began under UPA; E20 transition after years of testing, consultations: Petroleum Ministry



New Delhi: India's ethanol blending programme did not begin under the present government, and the initiative has a long institutional history and milestones, the Petroleum Ministry said on Friday, adding that the transition from E10 to E20 ethanol blending was not based on assumptions, but on years of testing, manufacturer consultations and field experience. "A pilot ethanol blending programme was launched in 2001, formally announced in 2004, and E5 (5 per cent ethanol blending) was rolled out across several states by 2006. The policy framework was subsequently notified in the Gazette of India in January 2013 during the UPA government. These are matters of public record," said the ministry in a detailed statement. India had set a target of achieving 5 per cent ethanol blending across 10 states and union territories. Unfortunately, despite that ambition, blending remained stuck at around 1.5 per cent until 2014, it informed. "Nobody questioned ethanol as a fuel. That had already been settled globally. The real challenge was how India could produce sufficient quantities of ethanol," said the Petroleum Ministry. At that time, India depended almost entirely on sugarcane, a seasonal crop, with an annual ethanol production capacity of roughly 400 crore litres. Such production levels were inadequate even for modest blending targets.

Recognising this constraint, the government fundamentally changed its approach. With the launch of the National Policy on Biofuels in May 2018, the government began creating the ecosystem necessary to produce ethanol at scale. This became a genuine whole-of-government mission.

"The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Department of Food & Public Distribution, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Ministry of Heavy Industries, Indian Railways and several other ministries worked in close coordination to expand feedstocks, build infrastructure, support technology, align logistics, create demand certainty and encourage investment," said the official statement.

It further explained that a landmark step came in August 2021, when India's Oil Marketing Companies — IOCL, BPCL and HPCL — issued expressions of interest for establishing Dedicated Ethanol Plants (DEPs) in ethanol-deficit regions. These projects transformed the investment landscape because they offered assured long-term purchase agreements by Oil Marketing Companies; tripartite financing arrangements with public sector banks through escrow mechanisms, substantially reducing investment risk; mandatory supply of ethanol exclusively

for the Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme, and these plants naturally required nearly two years to come on stream. Another important milestone came in June 2021 when NITI Aayog published its comprehensive roadmap about ethanol blending after extensive consultation with automobile manufacturers, oil companies, agricultural experts and other stakeholders. The report highlighted not only the environmental and energy security benefits of ethanol but also the transformational impact on rural incomes and the agricultural economy. At that stage, India's requirement for 10 per cent blending was 500-600 crore litres of ethanol annually. As fresh investments materialised and production capacity expanded, it became evident that the country would soon be capable of producing nearly 1,200 crore litres. Once the supply side had been secured, it became both logical and responsible to aspire for 20 per cent blending. So, the suggestion that India 'rushed' into ethanol blending is simply not borne out by facts, said the ministry. This has been a journey spanning over two decades from pilot projects in 2001, policy notification in 2013, institutional reforms after 2018, massive investments beginning in 2021, and then a carefully calibrated, phased increase in blending levels. India economic analysis

All stakeholders, including automobile manufacturing companies, testing agencies, OMCs, DFPD, etc., were consulted before rollout, according to the statement. Before E20 was rolled out, the government undertook several rounds of detailed consultations with all stakeholders, such as automobile manufacturers, technical experts, testing agencies and others to ensure readiness across the ecosystem. Maruti Suzuki serviced 2.84 crore vehicles during FY 2025-26, including 1.5 crore older, non-E20-certified vehicles, and reported no E20-linked corrosion, abnormal wear or component-life damage. Hero MotoCorp has reported similar field experience. This real-world evidence is far more reliable than isolated anecdotes.

Advising consumers not to be misled by misinformation, scaremongering or unverified content circulating on social media, the ministry said that ethanol and blended petrol conform to strict BIS specifications and undergo quality checks at every stage from the distillery to the depot to the retail outlet. "Any procedural lapse anywhere in the supply chain should be dealt with firmly. Chief Secretaries of the states have been requested to ensure strict enforcement and take an iron hand against any instance of adulteration. There can be zero tolerance for lapses that compromise fuel quality," the ministry said.

Rupee rises 15 paise against US dollar in early trade

Mumbai: The rupee rose 15 paise to 95.32 against the US dollar in early trade on Friday as the greenback weakened and oil prices eased despite intensifying tensions in West Asia. FII outflows and uncertainty over fresh tensions in West Asia weighed on the local unit, while a strong start to the day's trading in the domestic equity markets provided support, according to forex traders. The US launched new airstrikes against Iran early on Thursday, and Tehran responded by targeting US-allied West Asian countries in an exchange of fire that threatened an interim deal intended to help end the war. Back-and-forth attacks, including those a day earlier, have repeatedly threatened the ceasefire. However, Thursday's exchange appeared to be larger in scale, with sirens sounding at least three times in Bahrain, home to the US Navy's Fifth Fleet headquarters, and missiles targeting Kuwait and Qatar. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.27 against the greenback before easing to 95.32, up 15 paise from its previous close. The rupee had appreciated by 1 paisa to settle at 95.47 against the US dollar on Thursday. "Traders reported dollar selling by state-run banks, widely viewed as acting on behalf of the



Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The intervention helped the rupee break through the 95.50 level and maintain gains through Thursday's session. Exporters may sell dollars on all upticks while importers keep buying the dips on Friday," Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP, said. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 100.64, down 0.25 per cent. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 0.35 per cent lower at USD 77.75 per barrel in futures trade. On the domestic equity market front, the Sensex jumped 694.83 points to 77,423.82 in early trade on Friday, while the Nifty surged 195.95 points to 24,154.85. Foreign institutional investors offloaded equities worth Rs 532.86 crore on a net basis on Thursday, according to exchange data.

Sensex jumps nearly 700 points as IT stocks rally

Mumbai: Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty surged in early trade on Friday, driven by a rally in IT stocks after Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) reported an increase in its June-quarter net profit and guided towards an improvement in demand in the ongoing quarter. A positive trend in global markets also lifted domestic equities during early trading. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 694.83 points to 77,423.82 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty surged 195.95 points to 24,154.85. From the Sensex pack, HCL Tech, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, UltraTech Cement and Asian Paints were among the major gainers. TCS traded nearly 2 per cent higher after the country's largest IT services company on Thursday reported a 4.61 per cent increase in its June-quarter net profit to Rs 13,349 crore and said demand, which had been affected by the West Asia crisis, was expected to improve during the ongoing quarter. Bharti Airtel and Sun Pharma were the laggards.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi jumped more than 4 per cent, Japan's Nikkei 225 index traded 1.91 per cent higher, Shanghai's SSE Composite index gained 0.76 per cent and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index climbed 1.73 per cent. **US markets ended higher on Thursday.**



day. "Tensions in West Asia continue without any clarity on a resolution to the geopolitical crisis. However, interestingly, markets are largely ignoring these negative developments," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

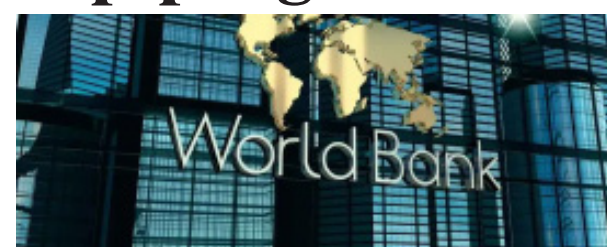
Global stock markets have completely ignored the renewed tensions, he said.

"This confident message from the market is significant. But investors have to be cautious, warranting close monitoring of the developments," Vijayakumar added. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 0.33 per cent higher at USD 76.55 per barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 532.86 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

On Thursday, the Sensex climbed 238.22 points, or 0.31 per cent, to settle at 76,741.82. The Nifty gained 80.75 points, or 0.34 per cent, to end at 23,962.80.

World Bank approves financing for India's solar rooftop programme

New Delhi: The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved financing to accelerate India's national solar rooftop programme, aiming to bring clean energy to millions of homes and create 1.7 million jobs across the renewable energy manufacturing, installation and services value chain. India has committed to achieving 'net zero' by 2070 and increasing non-fossil-fuel-based energy sources to 60 per cent of its electricity mix by 2035. While large-scale solar power has grown rapidly, the adoption of residential solar has remained limited. To unlock this potential, the Government of India launched the 'PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana' to incentivise solar rooftop instal-



lations for 10 million rural and urban households across the country, reduce household electricity costs and encourage local manufacturing of solar rooftop equipment. "The World Bank has been supporting India's solar rooftop sector for over a decade, mobilising more than USD 2 billion to catalyse market growth from 500 MW to over 27 GW of installed capacity," said Paul Procsee, World Bank Acting Country Director for India, on Friday.

AP cabinet meeting ends, here are the decisions approved

The Andhra Pradesh State Cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu in Amaravati, approved over 30 key agenda items. Prominent among these were multi-village drinking water schemes; the Cabinet sanctioned 10 major multi-village drinking water projects for villages at a cost of ₹9,355 crore. Approvals were also granted for 2,943 drinking water schemes, costing ₹1,811 crore, to serve water-scarce areas. Additionally, the Cabinet approved the modernization of the Peddagedda reservoir command area, as well as works related to feeder channels in Kuppam and the Beeraganipalle reservoir. Regarding land pooling decisions, it was decided to waive agricultural loans of up to ₹1.5 lakh for farmers across seven villages who are contributing land under the second phase in Amaravati; this waiver applies only to loans taken before January 6, 2026. A proposal to increase the annual lease amount—by ₹3,000 for dry lands and ₹5,000 for wet (Jaribu) lands—for farmers who have contributed or will contribute land was approved. Consequently, the total lease amount will rise to ₹40,000 for dry land farmers and ₹60,000 for wet land farmers. Approval was also granted to pay ₹159 crore in compensation to the Endowments Department for 307 acres of Inam land falling under the second phase of land pooling. Land allocations will be made to organizations approved by the CRDA, for the NFDB's large



aquarium-cum-office complex, as well as to the Isha Foundation, Art of Living, and the CII Global Leadership Center. Madhavi Hotel in Kadapa, and Sarovar Portico Hotel in Vijayawada. Approval was also granted for setting up an integrated amusement park in Kadapa. As part of the new tourism policy, a special framework has been proposed for hosting large-scale concerts (musical and cultural performances) in the state. An allocation of ₹50 crore has been made for tourism promotion. It was decided to provide incentives for major investments in the state, based on the recommendations of the SIPB. Discussions were held regarding the establishment of a logistics park spanning 63 acres in Tirupati district. Approval was granted for setting up 'Ambedkar Gurukula COEs' (Centres of Excellence) in Visakhapatnam, Guntur, and Nellore districts. The Cabinet approved proposals to provide residential coaching to students for IIT JEE and NEET examinations. Approval was also given for the establishment of a National Investigation Agency (NIA) special court in Visakhapatnam.

Puttaparthi tops state with 93.56% positive rating for housing schemes

Puttaparthi: Sri Sathya Sai district has secured the top rank in Andhra Pradesh in Positive Public Perception for the implementation of housing schemes, Housing Managing Director Arun Babu said during a high-level review meeting with District Collector A Shyam Prasad. Andhra Pradesh History The district recorded a 93.56% positive public perception in June, while 28,639 of the 57,889 sanctioned houses have been completed and work on the remaining units is progressing. Arun Babu directed officials to expedite the completion of pending



houses and layouts, while Collector A Shyam Prasad said timely financial assistance is being released to beneficiaries and instructed officials to intensify field-level monitoring to achieve housing targets.

YSRCP demands extension in Andhra SIR deadline by a month

Amaravati: YSR Congress Party has demanded that Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Andhra Pradesh be extended by one month. Andhra Pradesh Culture The main opposition party cited glitches in the SIR to demand its extension by one month. It also alleged that the coalition government is mounting pressure on officials and collecting data in advance. YSRCP MLC Lella Appi Reddy told media persons on Friday that the leaders of Telugu Desam Party (TDP) are forcing the officials to first upload the data in the MyTDP app before sending it to the Election Commission office, and every effort is being put to heckle democracy, making the Election Commission redundant in the State. He claimed that elected represen-

tatives, ministers and even personal assistants of the ruling party leaders are threatening Booth Level Officials (BLOs) to first upload the data in their party app before sending it to the Election Office, and when a BLO went to lodge a complaint at a police station, it was not accepted, and there was pressure not to go ahead with the complaint. We have complained to the Election Commission on the irregularities and will again give a representation besides exploring legal options as well," he said. Government The YSRCP leader said that the enumeration process has many irregularities which came to light at Atmakur, Tamballapalle and other places, and the official statement boasting of figures stands no ground. "As our leader YS Jagan Mohan

Baseless attacks diverting focus from devpt: Senior TDP leaders



Anantapur: Senior Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders on Thursday strongly condemned the remarks made by former YSRCP MLA Thopudurthi Prakash Reddy against IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh and Madakasira MLA MS Raju, labeling them contrary to democratic values. In a strong show of solidarity, Puttaparthi MLA Palle Sindhura Reddy, former minister Dr Palle Raghunatha Reddy, and Kalyandurg MLA Amilineni visited Raju's residence. India News Updates Speaking to the media, Dr Raghunatha Reddy emphasized that while political criticism is free in a democracy, it must remain within the bounds of decency. He noted that per-

sonal attacks diminish public life and damage political traditions. MLA Amilineni demanded an immediate public apology from Thopudurthi, calling for action against provocative statements. Concurrently, Government Whip Kalava Srinivasulu criticized the YSRCP leaders for engaging in baseless personal tirades. Addressing a press conference at Raju's residence, Srinivasulu stated that Minister Nara Lokesh is aggressively focusing on bringing investments and driving state development. He urged opposition leaders to act responsibly and offer constructive suggestions instead of making degrading allegations that lower the standard of public discourse.

Safety panels seek 41.5 acres for crash gates and growth

Kurnool: The Airfield Environment Management Committee on Thursday convened a high-level review meeting at the District Collectorate to comprehensively evaluate environmental compliance, operational aviation safety standards, and critical infrastructure requirements at Orvakal Airport. The strategic session was chaired by District Revenue Officer (DRO) Venkatanarayanamma. During the meeting, airport authorities urged the district administration to fast-track pending land acquisitions. They requested the immediate clearing of three acres to facilitate the unhindered movement of Crash Fire Tenders (CFT) through emergency gates, alongside completing the acquisition of an additional 38.5 acres earmarked for the airport's future expansion. Furthermore, officials reported that while



land for a dedicated waste disposal yard matching Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) norms has been identified, the formal transfer process remains pending. Aviation hazards were heavily flagged by the technical team, who pointed out that open blasting activities in nearby areas generate excessive dust, severely affecting aircraft visibility and movements.



Reddy had pointed out, every eligible voter should be given the opportunity to exercise the franchise, and as the process has been going on at a slow pace and the work at the ground level is not complete, we demand that the process be extended by one more month," said LellaAppi Reddy. YSRCP MLC also demanded that the Election Commission use its discretionary pow-

ers and check the irregularities. TDP and Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu have been trying to use every opportunity for political gain even at the cost of democratic values, he said. There are many duplicate votes to be weeded out, and the information is that in Kuppam (Chandrababu Naidu's constituency) itself there are 30,000 bogus votes, he added.