

Chandrababu Naidu orders swift repatriation of Andhra Pradesh victims killed in Vietnam boat accident

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday directed officials to make swift arrangements to bring bodies of three persons who were among 15 Indian tourists who died after a boat capsized in Vietnam. The Chief Minister reviewed the assistance being provided to the victims of the Vietnam boat accident with officials. According to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), he directed officials to make swift arrangements to bring the victims back to their hometowns. Officials informed the Chief Minister that Gelle Kishore, who was injured in the accident, is currently undergoing treatment at a government hospital in Vietnam. The CM was informed that his health condition is gradually improving. The accident occurred during a leisure trip organised by a mobile phone company for the families of its cell phone distributors in India. One of the tourist boats carrying the group met with an accident near Phu Quoc Island, Vietnam. The boat was carrying 32 passengers, of



whom 15 lost their lives. Among the deceased were three persons from Andhra Pradesh, while another person from the state sustained serious injuries and is undergoing treatment at a hospital in Vietnam. Officials briefed the Chief Minister that the Indian Embassy in Vietnam has appointed an

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Mild earthquake in Bay of Bengal triggers tremors in Visakhapatnam

Visakhapatnam: A mild earthquake of magnitude 4.5 struck the Bay of Bengal off the Andhra Pradesh coast early on Sunday, with tremors being felt in several parts of Visakhapatnam city. According to the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), the earthquake occurred at 5:05:46 am IST at a depth of 10 km, with its epicentre located in the Bay of Bengal, about 225 km off the Kakinada coast at latitude 16.805 °N and longitude 84.381 °E. "A mild earthquake measuring 4.5 on the Richter scale occurred in the Bay of Bengal early on Sunday, and mild tremors were felt in several parts of Visakhapatnam city," a release said. No casualties, property damage or any other loss have been reported due



to the earthquake, it said. The tremors were mild and no panic was reported among residents, the release added.

Jagan Mohan Reddy accuses Andhra Pradesh government of coercive land acquisition in Undavalli



Hyderabad: The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has condemned the brutal and high-handed actions of the N. Chandrababu Naidu-led state government against farmers in Undavalli under the guise of developing Amaravati as the state capital. The YSRCP President YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Saturday on his X account that despite farmers clearly and unequivocally expressing their unwillingness to part with their lands — which are their sole source of livelihood — the government has refused to listen to their concerns or objections. Instead of engaging in dialogue, the state administration deployed a large contingent of police personnel, sent bulldozers into agricultural fields, and destroyed standing crops. Farmers were forcibly dragged out of their own fields, intimidated, and subjected to coercive tactics to seize their land, the YSRCP President said in the X post. He warned the Chandrababu Naidu-led state government and said such inhuman and arbitrary measures are unacceptable in a democratic society. "The majority of those affected are small and marginal farmers for whom these few acres represent their only means of sustenance.

Chandrababu Naidu pays homage to S Janaki



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday paid floral homage to the singer S. Janaki who passed away on Saturday. In his camp office, the chief minister offered homage to her and remembered the contribution made by her in the Indian music industry. "Legendary singer, S. Janaki has been an iconic voice that has moved millions of music lovers during her musical journey spanning six decades," he said. The chief minister said that her songs that will remain etched in the hearts of people.

Vietnam boat tragedy: Stranded Telugu tourists to reach Hyderabad tonight; remains of 15 dead moved to Ho Chi Minh City

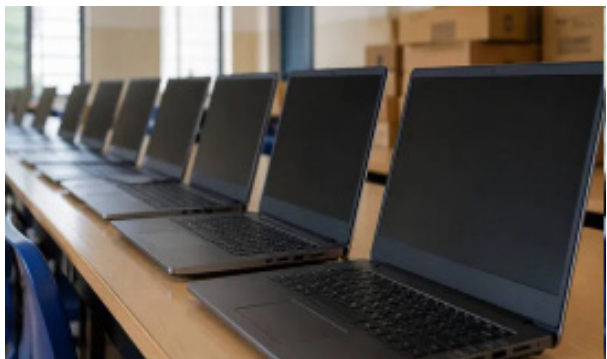


Amaravati: All Telugu tourists stranded on Vietnam's Phu Quoc Island following the boat tragedy on Saturday have safely reached Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi, the Andhra Pradesh government said on Sunday. According to an official release, they will depart Hanoi at 7.05 p.m. (local time) by Vietnam Airlines and are expected to reach Hyderabad at around 10 p.m. IST. The Indian

Embassy in Vietnam, the Andhra Pradesh government, and Andhra Pradesh Bhavan, New Delhi, continue to provide round-the-clock consular, logistical, and repatriation assistance. Three persons from Andhra Pradesh were among 15 Indians who died in the accident that occurred during a leisure trip organised by a mobile phone company for the families of its cell phone distributors from India. One of the tourist boats carrying the group met with an accident near Phu Quoc Island, Vietnam. The boat was carrying 32 passengers, of whom 15 lost their lives. One person from Andhra Pradesh sustained serious injuries and is undergoing treatment at a hospital in Vietnam. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday reviewed the assistance being provided to the victims of the Vietnam boat accident with officials. According to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), he directed officials to make swift arrangements to bring the victims back to their hometowns. Officials informed the Chief Minister that Gelle Kishore, who was injured in the accident, is currently undergoing treatment at a government hospital in Vietnam, and that his health condition is gradually improving.

YSRCP alleges Rs 112 crore laptop scam, seeks CBI probe

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh's main opposition party, the YSR Congress, on Sunday alleged a Rs 112 crore scam in the procurement of laptops for government schools by the Education Department. The party's student wing working president, A. Ravichandra, demanded that the government immediately cancel the tenders, halt the procurement process and order a CBI inquiry into the alleged irregularities. Addressing the media at the YSRCP central office in Tadepalli, Ravichandra said the government is procuring 27,672 laptops for



computer laboratories in 3,500 government high schools. He alleged that the contracts were awarded in a manner that 70 per cent of the supply would go to Shanbe and 30 per

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Andhra Pradesh: State Committed To Strengthening BC Education: Savitha

VIJAYAWADA: BC Welfare Minister S Savitha has asserted that the government is giving top priority to the education and welfare of Backward Class (BC) students by strengthening their residential institutions and improving infrastructure and the quality of food in hostels. Savitha promised that the MJP BC Residential School at Vatsavai would be upgraded into a junior college,

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The faith of crores of Hindus is on test

Throughout Indian history, several iconic temples were looted and destroyed by foreign invaders and later by regional empires. Somnath temple was looted and destroyed several times for the massive gold and jewels it possessed. Other temples so plundered include the Meenakshi temple at Madurai in the early 14th century and the Jagannath temple in Bhubaneswar. A sad irony is that such devious accumulation continues unabated, albeit by desi looters. I am not a politician. I don't belong to any party. But I am a Hindu. I try to live by dharma and karma. Sincerely. Honestly. I worship Shri Ram, the Maryada Purushottam. When Ram Lalla's temple came up in Ayodhya after 500 years, my heart was one of contentment as it marked the fulfilment of a wait that generations together did not live to see. Today I am heart-broken, as are millions of others, on coming to know that crores of temple have been siphoned off by the very people, who take pride in calling themselves as "Ram bhakts". That money was the offering made by common people, including farmers, workers, students and women. The donations were placed at the all-pervading Ram's feet. Bhakt Ramdas built a Ram temple at Bhadrachalam, with his money and the treasury of the Sultan of Golconda. For misusing government money, he was imprisoned and tortured for 12 years by the Sultan. It was the divine intervention of Lord Rama who repaid the debt to the Sultan in the middle of the night in his chamber that Ramdas was freed. The Sultan realized his mistake and understood that it was Rama and Lakshmana, disguised as young warriors, who appeared at midnight, and became Ram Bhakt and apologized to Ramdas. Till today, the offering of pearls and valuable gifts to Rams on Shri Rama Navami day continues. It follows the tradition set by the Sultan of Hyderabad in 17th Century. Where do these Chanda Chori bandits, who robbed our faith and betrayed our trust, stand? A true Sanatani, someone who truly worships Ram, cannot even imagine stealing from Ram Lalla's temple. It's like robbing your own 5-year-old child. Government Also Read - Ayodhya's Bhadarsa town renamed Bharat Nagar When we were children, we grew up hearing stories of Chambal valley dacoits. They looted everything in sight and vanished into the ravines. Bollywood even made heroes out of some of them. Films were shot there, songs were sung, and crime was almost glorified. But even in that world there was one law that everyone understood. If a murder is committed, the demand is simple: an eye for an eye. Because the murder is not just of a body. It is a trust. Today when we hear of Chanda Chori, the wound feels the same. For 113 crore Hindus, Ram Mandir is not brick and stone. It is faith. It is the dream that our forefathers carried to their last breath. They died waiting, praying, believing that Ram Lalla would one day come home. So, when faith is betrayed, when offerings meant for Ram are siphoned off, it does not feel like theft. It feels like a stab in the back, a murder of Aastha itself. Hindu faith, Sanatana faith, cannot be destroyed. Many invaders tried over centuries. Our personal devotion to God is the path to salvation.

Chandrababu Naidu orders swift repatriation of Andhra Pradesh victims killed in Vietnam boat accident

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agency to transport the mortal remains of the deceased to their hometowns. The process of handing over and transporting the mortal remains has already commenced. Officials explained that arrangements have been made to transport the tourists who survived the accident back to their hometowns by flight on Sunday. It was disclosed that the relevant mobile service provider has arranged the flight tickets for them. The CM instructed officials of Andhra Pradesh Bhavan in New Delhi to provide all necessary assistance until the affected individuals return safely to the country and the process of transporting the mortal remains is completed. He directed officials to coordinate with the Indian Embassy there regarding the transportation process. Earlier, the state government said that it responded swiftly to the tragic boat accident in Vietnam, in which three persons from Andhra Pradesh lost their lives. Chief Minister Naidu, Ministers Nara Lokesh and Vangalapudi Anitha have been continuously monitoring the situation and reviewing developments. Immediately after receiving information about the incident, Minister Nara Lokesh spoke with officials of the Indian Embassy in Vietnam to assess the situation and ensure that all necessary arrangements were initiated. He directed the Real Time Governance Society (RTGS) to continuously monitor the situation and coordinate all relief and repatriation efforts. The RTGS Command and Control Centre at the Andhra Pradesh Secretariat has since been monitoring the developments round the clock. RTGS officials have been maintaining close coordination with the Indian Embassy in Vietnam; AP Bhavan, New Delhi; the Andhra Pradesh Non-Resident Telugu Society (APNRT), and the concerned authorities in Vietnam to facilitate timely assistance to the affected families.

YSRCP alleges Rs 112 crore laptop scam, seeks CBI probe

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cent to Celkon after the tender norms were relaxed to benefit private contractors. He claimed that laptops available in the open market for Rs 45,000 to Rs 50,000 are being procured by the government for Rs 89,000 each, resulting in an excess payment of nearly Rs 40,000 per laptop. He alleged that this has caused a loss of about Rs 112 crore to the public exchequer. Ravichandra said the coalition government ignored the Central government's Make in India and Government e-Marketplace (GeM) guidelines. He pointed out that the Assam Education Department purchased laptops with similar specifications for Rs 38,501 through GeM and questioned why Andhra Pradesh is paying more than double that amount. He alleged that the tender conditions were deliberately diluted by allowing self-declarations instead of mandatory manufacturer details to benefit private companies. Ravichandra demanded that Education Minister Nara Lokesh explain the huge price difference and disclose the entire tender process. He urged the government to order a CBI probe, cancel the tenders and ensure transparent procurement of quality laptops for students. He warned that the YSRCP Student Wing would launch state-wide protests if the government failed to act. Meanwhile, YSRCP legal cell president Manohar Reddy demanded a halt to what he described as forced land acquisition in Undavalli. He said what happened in Undavalli was not a normal land acquisition process but an attack on the livelihood of small and marginal farmers. He alleged that the government used a large police force and bulldozers to destroy standing crops and forcibly take possession of farmers' land. Manohar Reddy told media persons that farmers in Undavalli, Penumaka and Nidamarru had been maintaining since 2014 that their land was fertile, comprised three-crop fields and should not be acquired. Despite their legal objections, the government ignored their concerns and hurriedly proceeded with road works. Banana plantations and other standing crops were destroyed while farmers watched in distress.

Andhra Pradesh: State Committed To Strengthening BC Education: Savitha

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while lauding the P-4 model as an effective instrument for rural development and poverty alleviation. The minister inaugurated a newly constructed dining hall and dormitory at the Vatsavai MJP residential school, built at a cost of ₹75 lakh with financial support from NRI philanthropist Chiru Mamilla Rambabu under the P-4 initiative. She praised Rambabu and his wife Vijayalakshmi for setting an inspiring example of philanthropy. She appealed to affluent individuals, particularly NRIs, to contribute to the development of their native villages. Describing the P-4 model as the CM's visionary initiative, Savitha said the government was committed to improving educational opportunities for BCs. She claimed that MJP residential institutions now enjoyed better demand than many corporate educational institutions due to their academic standards and student achievements.

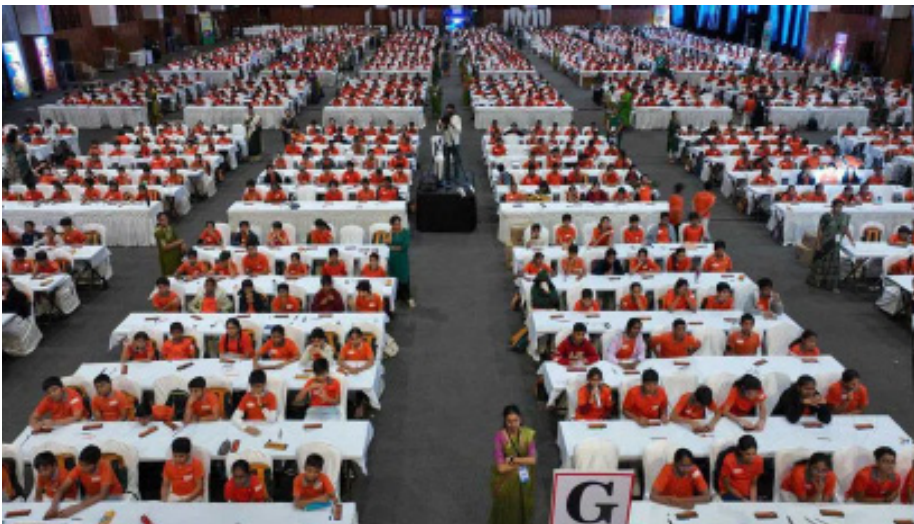
Speeding Ferrari crashes into Jubilee Hills apartment gate in Hyderabad, occupants flee scene



Hyderabad: A speeding Ferrari car crashed into the gate of an apartment building in Hyderabad's Jubilee Hills area in the early hours of Sunday. The incident occurred on Road Number 5 in the upscale Jubilee Hills under the Film Nagar Police Station limits. The occupants abandoned the heavily damaged Ferrari Roma, said to be worth more than Rs 3.50 crore, and fled before police arrived at the scene. The gate of Fort View Apartments was completely damaged in the collision. The front portion of the luxury car was badly mangled. The man driving the vehicle escaped after the accident. Police suspect that the person at the wheel was under the influence of alcohol and driving the vehicle at a high speed and in a rash manner. Police registered a case and launched an investigation into the person who was driving the vehicle at the time of the accident. Police were examining the CCTV footage to ascertain if there were other persons in the vehicle.

Police shifted the damaged Ferrari to the police station with the help of a towing vehicle. This is the second such incident in Jubilee Hills in less than a week. An SUV had crashed into Tollywood actor Dharma's residence on the night of July 9. A man who was under the influence of alcohol had rammed the SUV into the residence of Dharma on Road Number 10. The compound wall of the actor's house was damaged in the incident. The accused was identified as Karthik Kumar, who drove the SUV in a rash and negligent manner before losing control and ramming into Dharma's house. Luckily, there were no casualties. The actor alerted the police, who rushed to the spot and arrested the accused. A breathalyser test confirmed that the accused was drunk while driving the SUV. Police registered a criminal case against Kartik Kumar and launched further investigation.

Over 3,200 children participated in Telangana Regional Prodigy Championship 2026



Hyderabad: A record 3,200 kids, aged between 5 and 14 years, from across Telangana participated in the 22nd Telangana Regional Prodigy Championship 2026 organised by SIP Abacus on Sunday at Classic Convention Three, Shamshabad. One of the most anticipated highlights of the championship was the unique Concentration Round, conducted immediately after the main competition. The innovative round tested the ability of children to maintain focus and concentration despite distractions—a skill increasingly valued in today's fast-paced digital world. Addressing the students, Pannuru Prabhakar,

Principal, ARCA Global International School, explained how ancient India recognised the importance of Mathematics centuries ago, and its significance remains unchanged even in the era of Artificial Intelligence. Dinesh Victor, Founder and Managing Director of SIP Academy India, spoke on "Abacus Training in the Age of AI" and said many people mistakenly believe that children no longer need mental arithmetic because computers and AI can perform calculations instantly. The reality is exactly the opposite. AI can provide answers. Abacus training develops the mind that asks the right questions. AI gives information; Abacus builds brain power.

Two Pakistanis arrested for illegally staying in arnataka’s Chikkaballapura

Chikkaballapura: Two Pakistani nationals were arrested in Karnataka’s Chikkaballapura district after an inquiry found that they had allegedly obtained a ration card and voter identity card by suppressing facts regarding their nationality, police said on Sunday. The accused, identified as Farah Naz and her son Mohammed Fardeen, have been booked under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Foreigners Act and the Representation of the People Act. Further investigation is in progress, Chikkaballapura Superintendent of Police Kushal Chouksey said in a statement. “Credible information was received that Farah Naz and her son Mohammed Fardeen, both Pakistani nationals, had obtained a ration card and voter ID,” the SP said.

According to the statement, an inquiry revealed that Mohammed Ayub Khan, a native of Bagepalli who was working in the United Arab Emirates, had married Farah Naz, a Pakistani national, in the UAE. The couple has four children, of whom Mohammed Fardeen was born in Pakistan. The officer said that Farah Naz and Mohammed Fardeen are Pakistani nationals, while Mohammed Ayub Khan and the couple’s other three children are Indian nationals. The family is currently residing in Bagepalli. The SP said that after Chikkaballapura Police sought clarification, the Deputy Commissioner verified the records and cancelled the ration card “as it had been obtained by suppressing material facts regarding nationality.” The voter identity card was also cancelled by the competent authority, the statement added. Based on a complaint lodged by the Tahsildar of Bagepalli, a criminal case was registered against Farah Naz and Mohammed Fardeen under the appropriate provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Foreigners Act and the Representation of the People Act. “Both accused have been arrested, and further investigation is in progress,” the SP said.

Delivery agent arrested after woman alleges he entered her home and exposed himself

Bengaluru: In a horrifying incident reported from Bengaluru, a delivery agent working for the e-commerce platform was arrested after a woman alleged that he forced his way inside her house without permission and flashed at her after using her washroom, police said on Sunday. In a post shared on social media, the woman claimed that a delivery agent arrived to deliver a parcel and requested to use her washroom. She alleged that despite repeatedly refusing permission and asking him to approach a neighbouring house instead, the accused allegedly entered her home without her consent. The woman further alleged that af-



ter coming out of the washroom, the delivery agent exposed himself to her. She said she was left “shocked, traumatised and unsafe inside her own home”. The incident was reportedly recorded on her phone, and she has appealed for justice through a social media post. According to the Bengaluru Police, a case was registered at the Marathahalli Police Station following a complaint filed by the woman alleging sexual harassment by the delivery agent.

Pune building collapse: Death toll climbs to 8, one person still missing

Pune: The death toll in the Moshi garbage dump collapse in Pune’s Pimpri-Chinchwad has increased to eight after rescue teams recovered the bodies of seven more victims from the damaged administrative building of the Waste-to-Energy project on Saturday, officials said on Sunday. Rescue personnel also confirmed that one person is still unaccounted for, and search operations are continuing to locate the missing individual. The incident occurred at around 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday when a massive mound of garbage gave way and crashed onto the administrative building located inside the Moshi garbage depot operated by the Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation. At the time of the collapse, a total of 23 people were trapped. Of them, 22 were inside the administrative building, while one person was buried beneath a large heap of garbage adjacent to the structure. Five individuals managed to escape safely immediately after the incident. Following the collapse, authorities launched an extensive rescue operation involving personnel from the Indian Army, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), the Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation, the Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority (PMRDA) Fire Services and the police.

On the first day of the operation, rescue teams succeeded in pulling nine people out of the damaged building alive. Search efforts then continued to locate those who remained trapped inside the debris. On Thursday, rescuers recovered Bhavesh Wani from the collapsed struc-



ture and immediately shifted him to a hospital. However, doctors declared him dead upon arrival. The operation to reach the remaining victims continued over the following days, but rescue teams encountered major challenges due to the unstable condition of the damaged building, which posed a significant risk to personnel involved in the mission. To facilitate the rescue work, heavy machinery, including 12 excavators, dumpers and JCB machines, was deployed to remove debris surrounding the building and create a safer passage for rescue teams. Despite continuous efforts, the precarious state of the structure made it extremely difficult for rescuers to enter the building. In a bid to accelerate the operation, two advanced demolition excavators were brought to the site on Friday night. Working under the technical supervision of the NDRF, rescue per-

sonnel carefully dismantled the most hazardous concrete sections of the collapsed building in a controlled manner. The process enabled teams to gain access to the interior of the structure and resume the search operation. During the rescue operation on Saturday, teams located seven people trapped inside the building. All seven were immediately shifted to a hospital in Pimpri, where medical officers examined them and declared them dead. With the recovery of these bodies, the overall death toll in the tragedy has risen to eight. Meanwhile, one individual, believed to be buried beneath the garbage mound adjacent to the collapsed building, remains missing. Rescue personnel continue to carry out the search operation on a war footing. Officials said NDRF dog squads, along with specialised search equipment, are being used to locate the missing person.

Adityanath launches 35-crore sapling drive in Uttar Pradesh

Gorakhpur: Expressing concern over environmental degradation, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday said people take care of their own health but often ignore the health of Mother Earth, as he launched the state’s ‘Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam’ campaign to plant 35 crore saplings. “A mother is the most beautiful gift for every person and every living being. This gift is also present for all of us in the form of Mother Earth. We are concerned about our own health. From time to time, we visit doctors, but we do not make any arrangements for the treatment of Mother Earth, on whom we all depend. It is because of her that life itself survives, but we do not think about her health,” Adityanath said. Adityanath made the remarks at the inauguration of the mega campaign ‘Ek Pedh Maa ke Naam’ under which 35 crore saplings will be planted. He



also said that after coming to power in 2017, the BJP-led government in the state initiated a campaign to remove halogen lights from the state, and LED street lights were installed. South Asians & Diaspora “Because of this, the UP government managed to save Rs 100 crore. There has been a significant reduction in carbon emissions previously caused by halogen lights. Attractive LED street lights can now be seen illuminat-

ing the city, replacing the old halogen ones, which used to burn up insects and emit a terrible stench. This was an effort towards renewable energy,” Adityanath said. He added that the ‘PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana’ is providing solar panels that have effectively halved the electricity bills, while simultaneously making a new source of green energy available. Referring to the PM Ujjwala Yojana, Adityanath said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi provided free LPG connections to 10 crore families. In Uttar Pradesh alone, two crore families benefited from this, he added. “Ayo dhya has become the state’s first solar city. The street lights and the lighting in government buildings are powered entirely by the electricity generated within the solar city itself. All necessary steps have been taken to fulfil our obligations towards nature,” he said.

UCC to be implemented soon; draft being prepared keeping tribals in mind: Bengal Minister

Kolkata: West Bengal Minister Dilip Ghosh on Sunday said that the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) would soon be implemented in the state and that the draft is being prepared with the tribal community in mind. Speaking on the UCC, Dilip Ghosh said, “The Uniform Civil Code law was bound to be implemented. It is only a matter of time, and it will be implemented very soon.” “There are distinct laws for tribal communities in various places. The bill’s draft is being prepared keeping this in mind. Whatever is necessary will be done accordingly,” he added. This came as the Chief Minister Suvenudhikari-led government on Saturday issued a notification naming the other eight members of the nine-member

committee headed by retired Judge of the Supreme Court, Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, to study the draft of the Uniform Civil Code Bill, West Bengal, 2026. Aiming to implement a Uniform Civil Code in West Bengal, the committee headed by Justice Desai will study the Bill and give recommendations, following which the final Bill will be drafted and tabled on the floor of the Assembly in August this year. The West Bengal Cabinet cleared the draft of the Bill on July 2. Regarding the industrial development in Bengal, Ghosh said that investments are coming in and the government will make all the necessary arrangements to ensure that the work starts as soon as possible. “Many people are coming



to set up industries in West Bengal. Efforts are underway to streamline the process to expedite this. Those setting up industries in Bengal will be granted permission without delay so that work can commence immediately,” he said. “Everything has been pending for the last 10 years. The government will make all necessary arrangements for anyone coming to set up a business, ensuring industries can start quickly... Many industries had been trying to establish themselves in West Bengal for a long time but were blocked by the previous government,” he added. Ghosh mentioned that some people have already



Vietnamese leaders express condolences to India after tourist boat tragedy kills 15 Indians

Hanoi: Vietnam’s top leadership on Sunday expressed condolences to the Indian leaders following the tourist boat accident that claimed the lives of 15 Indian visitors, conveying their deepest sympathies to the people of India and to the families of those who lost their lives, according to local media reports. The condolence messages were issued after a tourist speedboat carrying 32 Indian tourists, one Vietnamese tour guide and three crew members capsized in rough sea conditions off the coast of An Giang Province on Saturday. The accident resulted in the deaths of 15 Indian nationals, while several others sustained injuries. Nineteen people are reported to be safe, while two Indian nationals remain in critical condition and are undergoing intensive medical treatment. According to local media outlet Vietnam News, President To Lam, along with Prime Minister Le Minh Hung, sent separate messages of condolence to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In their messages, the Vietnamese leaders stated that authorities in the country have been carrying out urgent search-and-rescue operations, ensuring medical treatment for the injured, extending support to the families of the victims and maintaining close coordination with the Indian side to deal with the aftermath of the tragedy.

The leaders also noted that the concerned agencies have launched an investigation to determine the exact cause of the accident. On the same day, Vietnam’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Le Hoai Trung also conveyed a message of condolence to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar following the tragic incident, Vietnam News reported. Meanwhile, Tran Minh Khoa, Chairman of the People’s Committee of the Phu Quoc Special Zone, said the owner of the tourist boat has agreed to provide compensation of US\$1,000 to the family of each deceased victim and US\$500 to every injured passenger, local media reported. He further said that authorities in An Giang Province and the Phu Quoc Special Zone will also extend financial assistance of VNĐ26 million, approximately US\$1,000, for each person who lost their life in the accident, in addition to other support as provided under the applicable regulations. According to Khoa, police officials, medical teams and other concerned departments are working on a priority to complete the investigation, verify the identities of the victims and carry out all necessary formalities related to the case. He added that the authorities are also coordinating closely with diplomatic representatives and the families of the victims to complete the required procedures and facilitate the repatriation of the deceased to India or make alternative arrangements in accordance with the wishes of their relatives.

US, UK, 12 other nations reaffirm 2016 ruling invalidating China’s claims in South China Sea

Manila:

The United States, United Kingdom and a dozen other Western and Asian countries reasserted on Sunday that China’s expansive claims in the South China Sea are illegal based on a 2016 arbitration ruling. A joint statement issued by the nations said they rejected “destabilising” actions in the disputed waters that threaten regional peace. The announcement commemorated a July 12, 2016, arbitration ruling by a tribunal established in The Hague under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, saying the landmark decision is “a significant milestone and is final, legally binding and definitive.” China refused to join the arbitration initiated by the Philippines in 2013 af-



ter a tense standoff in the contested waters a year earlier that ended with Beijing effectively seizing a disputed shoal. Beijing rejected the 2016 ruling and continues to defend its claims to virtually the entire sea passage, a key global trade route that has long been feared as one of Asia’s most active flash points.

The areas has been the scene of repeated territorial standoffs involving China and the Philippines,

Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan. “We reaffirm the Arbitral Tribunal’s decision that there is no legal basis for China’s expansive maritime claims in the South China Sea, including those based on ‘historic rights,’” the statement said. The arbitration tribunal largely decided in favour of the Philippines, ruling that under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, “there was no legal basis for China to claim historic rights to

resources” in the South China Sea outside of its regular territorial areas recognised under the convention. The convention, largely regarded as the treaty governing the world’s oceans and seas, took effect in 1994 and has been ratified by more than 170 countries and parties, including China and the Philippines. In addition to the US and Britain, the other countries listed in Sunday’s statement included the Philippines, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Germany, Italy, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovenia. “We reiterate our strong opposition to any destabilising or unilateral actions including by force or coercion that threaten peace and stability in the region,” they said.

US attacks Iran over ship being hit in Strait of Hormuz; Tehran lashes out again at Gulf Arab states

Dubai: The United States attacked Iran early Sunday morning over an Iranian strike on a vessel in the Strait of Hormuz that set the container ship ablaze and forced its crew to abandon it. Iran apparently responded with attacks targeting Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. The strait has become the key sticking point in any further negotiations between Iran and the United States to find a permanent end to the war that began back on February 28. About a fifth of all traded oil and natural gas passed through the strait before the war began. Iran’s grip on it during the war led to a global energy



crisis, though oil prices have sharply dropped since wartime highs of USD 120 a barrel. The US military’s Central Command said it hit some 140 targets in the strikes, far more than the last two rounds, and went after missile and drone launch sites, ammunition dumps, communication equipment and other sites. The attacks “degrade Iran’s ability to attack civilian mariners and commercial vessels freely transiting the strait,” it said.

The new crossfire in the Persian Gulf comes days after US President Donald Trump suggested an interim deal in the Iran war was “over.” US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth wrote online: “Iran made a poor choice. Now they pay.

Bahrain, Qatar and UAE all attacked
The United Arab Emirates

warned the public Sunday of an incoming missile and drone attack as explosions could be heard in nearby Qatar. A missile alert sounded in Qatar shortly after the blasts. Qatar’s military said in a statement it intercepted the incoming Iranian fire. Meanwhile, missile alerts sounded in Bahrain, an island kingdom in the Persian Gulf home to the US Navy’s 5th Fleet. It wasn’t immediately clear what locations were under attack in the UAE, which so far hadn’t been targeted in the latest round of attacks by Iran.

Qatar’s former ruler Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani died at age 74

Dubai:

Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, who as ruler of Qatar transformed the tiny Persian Gulf nation into a global player in diplomacy, media and investment, and then shattered tradition by voluntarily turning over power to his son, has died, state media reported. He was 74. The state-run Qatar News Agency reported his death. It offered no cause. Sheikh Hamad, who stepped down in June 2013 after 18 years as emir,

was the architect of energy-rich Qatar’s stunning ambitions that turned it from a backwater into an international crossroads in less than a generation. Qatar owns the Harrod’s department store in London and founded the powerful Al Jazeera satellite news network. Qatar’s political reach today stretches from North Africa to Afghanistan and it hosted the 2022 FIFA World Cup, the world’s most-watched soccer event. Sheikh Hamad,



though long out of power, received thunderous applause from Qataris attending its opening match. But Qatar’s rise under Sheikh Hamad also rankled regional and Western allies with its independent-minded policymaking, including its close ties to Shiite powerhouse Iran, the Palestinian militant Hamas group and Egypt’s outlawed Muslim Brotherhood.

British military says crew abandons container ship earlier attacked by Iran



Dubai:

In the Strait of Hormuz attack, a Cyprus-flagged container ship was hit by Iran and suffered “significant engine room damage” and a civilian crew member is missing, US Central Command said. The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre,

overseen by the British military, said the ship had been travelling in a route hugging the shoreline of Oman. That’s been the way ships have gotten in and out of the Persian Gulf while avoiding Iranian territorial waters. The ship’s crew abandoned the vessel as it was ablaze, the centre said.

Elle Fanning, Julianne Moore to feature in ‘Moonson’



Los Angeles: Actors Elle Fanning and Julianne Moore are set to feature in “Moonson: A Life In Seven Verses”, which narrates the story of children’s book author Margaret Wise Brown. The film is directed by Rebecca Miller and is produced by the filmmaker alongside Damon Cardasis through their production company Round Films. Filmmaker Martin Scorsese is attached as an executive producer, according to the entertainment news outlet Deadline. Miller has previously directed a documentary series on Scorsese. She initially wanted to

make a film on him, but after her research, she realised there was so much about the filmmaker, she had to make an entire series. The film is based on the book “Margaret Wise Brown: Awakened by the Moon” by Leonard S. Marcus and tells the story of beloved children’s book author Margaret Wise Brown, whose classic books include Goodnight Moon and The Runaway Bunny, originally published in the 1940s, according to the outlet. Besides “Moonson”, Fanning will feature in “The Nightingale” alongside her sister and actor Dakota Fanning. The



Dhanush announces ‘Thamizh Murugan’ with Vetrinaaran

Actor filmmaker Dhanush has finally announced the highly anticipated project titled Thamizh Murugan after days of speculations, creating a frenzy in the industry. The film star has again teamed up with filmmaker Vetrinaaran for the third time after the blockbuster hits. History The announcement created quite an impression as the film is inspired by Lord Murugan. It was only a few days back that Jr NTR and director Trivikram Srinivas announced their project based on Lord Subramanya Swamy also known as Lord Murugan. The news created quite a splash in the social media circles with the fans creating a bevy of reactions. Right after that, the Tamil social media circles were abuzz with the reactions as people argued that Lord Murugan is the god of Tamil land and it was only fitting that the God belonged to them. This latest announcement of Thamizh Murugan has once again created waves on the social media. Both the projects are being made by different directors and stars but the simultaneous announcement is bound to create comparisons, says fans. Backed by Wunderbar films, the film is bankrolled by Dhanush and the actor has also signed on to play the lead role.

Vaishnavi Chaitanya turns heads in beautiful black dress

Actress Vaishnavi Chaitanya continues to intrigue her fans by sharing sensational pictures from her recent photoshoot. The young and beautiful actress looked stunning in a black dress. Vaishnavi looked fabulous in her recent look while effortlessly completing the lovely style with silver earrings, keeping her makeup minimal. She looked radiant as she flaunted

her confident and charming personality in the monochrome dress. The new pictures of the lovely young star continue to trend on social media as fans praise her elegant look. Many fans claimed that it was the best picture of Vaishnavi Chaitanya. They said she looked fabulous in the recent pictures. The actress has an adorable look that attracted millions of people on social

film is set to release on March 19. Moore will appear in Jessie Eisenberg’s “The Debut” for A24. It also features Eisenberg, Giamatti and Halle Bailey, among others. It revolves around Mona Friedman, a shy housewife who lands a role in a small community theater. She transforms into a zealous method actor and goes to extreme levels to protect her role.

Lara Dutta reunites with Priyanka Chopra after 26 Years, shares heartwarming pictures from Wimbledon

Mumbai: Actress Lara Dutta recently reunited with Priyanka Chopra and gave a glimpse of their enduring friendship. She shared pictures from their special reunion on her Instagram story, giving a glimpse of their cherished bond. The two actresses celebrated the friendship they have shared for over two decades. Lara posted a candid and happy photo of the two of them and captioned it, “26 years later, happy girls are still the...” She also added heart emojis to the post. Priyanka also dropped a picture with Lara and wrote, “So good to see my girl.” The pictures showed Priyanka and Lara smiling while posing together. The Desi Girl actress placed her hand on Dutta’s shoulder as they posed for the camera. The duo looked stylish and elegant. While the ‘Dostana’ actress looked stunning in a white outfit, the ‘Partner’ actress wore a blue dress paired with a white shrug and hat. Notably, Lara Dutta and Priyanka Chopra have shared the screen in two films. Their first collaboration was “Andaaz” (2003), a romantic drama



also featuring Akshay Kumar, which marked the Bollywood debut of both former beauty queens. South Asians & Diaspora The duo later reunited for Farhan Akhtar’s action thriller “Don 2,” where Priyanka played the lead role of Roma, while Lara made a special appearance as Ayesha. In 2000, Priyanka brought home the Miss World crown, while Lara Dutta won the Miss Universe title. Recently, Priyanka Chopra and Lara Dutta reunited at Wimbledon, where the global star made a stylish appearance at the prestigious tennis tournament. The ‘Baywatch’ actress attended the women’s singles semi-final and enjoyed the thrilling match from the stands. PeeCee also shared a sweet moment with her husband Nick Jonas by connecting with him over a FaceTime call during the game.

Ram Kapoor opens up on being molested in school, says abuser helped him heal

Mumbai: Actor Ram Kapoor opened up on one of traumatic experiences in life. In the latest episode of the streaming show ‘Lock Upp’, the actor shared that he was molested in school. However, the actor went on to reveal that the person, who did wrong to him, helped him get over the trauma induced by him on the actor. The actor,



who was marked “At Risk”, had to reveal the secret in a bid to save himself from elimination. He said, “I was 13 years old when I was molested in school. Till today, only my wife Gautami knows about it. I have never spoken about this publicly”. The actor explained that the experience left a lasting impact on him, even though he chose to bury the memory for years. The actor further mentioned that revisiting the incident was never easy, but he felt it was important to acknowledge it now, especially if it encouraged conversations around child-

hood trauma and the emotional scars survivors often carry. The actor said that both him and his abuser were kids in their teenage, and the latter did apologise to him, and “helped” him heal. While the revelation marked one of the most vulnerable moments of the season, it also went on to present a different part of Ram’s personality. The actor has often been in the spotlight for his outspoken nature and candid opinions on the reality show, this emotional confession offered viewers a different side of the actor. The actor also shared that he doesn’t know what he would tell his kids when they say, “He told this in front of the entire country but didn’t tell us”. After revealing his secret as a lifeline, the actor was marked secure, eventually leading to the elimination of Riyaz. Shreya was marked secure for the coming week on the show.

S Janaki's death: Remembering singer's last song Ammappoovinum her timeless grace

The voice that made listeners feel a multitude of emotions blended the comfort of a lullaby and the pain of loss in her last song. S Janaki's last recorded song in her six-decade-long musical journey soothed the ears of Malayalis through the song 'Ammappoovinum', from the film '10 Kalpanakal'. South Asians & Diaspora According to The New Indian Express article, Music director Mithun Eshwar considers every moment of the recording sessions with Janaki Amma precious. Reminiscing his first meeting with the 'Queen of Musical Expressions', Mithun said that he, while participating in a program at Kozhikode with his father, came to know that Janaki Amma was also there to attend the concert. When seeking blessings from her before the event, the young musician had never imagined that he would one day record her voice for a film. Also Read



- 'Irreparable loss to world of music', PM Modi expresses grief over S. Janaki's demise Advertiser Stepping into his second movie, Mithun suggested Janaki when he learned that there was a lullaby in the soundtrack. On getting a nod from the filmmaker, an immediate yes from Janaki made Mithun land in a recording studio in Hyderabad. "We had a harmonium at the studio, and I had the rare opportunity to explain the song to her using that," he said, recalling what he termed as priceless moments. Mithun still remembers how she would particularly ask the meaning of every word from the lyrics.



media. The young lady has grabbed fame and popularity and has emerged as a celebrity. Her stardom grows day by day as she continues to do remarkable works. All the latest pictures are full of sexiness,

elegance, and self-confidence as she becomes one of the most followed and admired young actors in the Telugu movie industry. As the actress prepares for the next phase of her career, she is currently working on one of her most anticipated projects to date: Epic – The Semester. With the excitement surrounding the movie’s release, her fans are waiting to see what the young actress does next. And with the new pictures that have taken social media by storm and a promising film in the pipeline, Vaishnavi Chaitanya has more reasons than ever to stay in the limelight.

Linda Noskova says glimpse of Wimbledon trophies inspired her to win maiden Grand Slam title



London: Newly crowned Wimbledon ladies' singles champion Linda Noskova revealed her winning mindset and revealed how a short sight at the trophies in the clubhouse when she headed for a bathroom break inspired her not to settle for a small trophy and to walk away with a Venus Rosewater Dish. With a 6-2, 5-7, 6-3 victory over her Olympic doubles partner, Czech compatriot and friend Karolina Muchova, Noskova prevailed at the All England Club in her first Grand Slam final to win the most prestigious of her three career singles titles.

She took a bathroom break after the second set and spotted the two trophies in the clubhouse. She stared at the small salver for the runner-up and stumbled upon the Venus Rosewater Dish, the exact source of inspiration and motivation Noskova needed. From there, she never let the momentum shift again. "I was in the bathroom; I just splashed some cold water on me, started over again," she said. "But what really helped me, like the first step I took off court, the trophies were there. I was like, I'm not going to take the small one, I'm taking the big one. I have been so close. This will probably be the

heartbreak of my life. "I was looking at the big one. I was like, I'm taking this one no matter what. If I'm going to leave my soul on court in the third set, whatever that be. I was just telling myself that the match is starting over. "I just kind of started to focus on myself all over again, which was the key point. I started over. I would say that maybe the key point was the first game that I held my serve [in the third set]". At 21 years old, she's the youngest Wimbledon champion since her idol, Czech legend Petra Kvitova, who watched Noskova's triumph from the Royal Box after winning the first of her two Wimbledon titles in 2011. Noskova joins Kvitova as the only Czech players to make their Grand Slam final debut at Wimbledon — and both were victorious. Noskova is now the fifth Grand Slam singles champion to represent Czechia and the third Czech woman to win Wimbledon in the past four years, further cementing the country's remarkable success on the sport's biggest stage. She is now the first since Maria Sharapova in 2004 to win both the lead-up and the major on grass.

Argentina beat 10-man Switzerland 3-1 after extra time to set up World Cup semi-final against England

Kansas City: Julian Alvarez and Lautaro Martinez struck in extra time as Argentina outlasted 10-man Switzerland at Kansas City Stadium in the FIFA World Cup 2026 quarter-finals. Argentina netted in their 15th successive World Cup game. The only teams with longer scoring streaks in the competition are Uruguay (16 games from 1930-1962), Hungary (17 games from 1934-1962), Germany (18 games from 1986-1998), Germany (18 games from 1934-1958) and Brazil (18 games from 1930-1958).

Lionel Scaloni's side will now face fierce rivals England in the second semi-final at Atlanta Stadium on Thursday. At the start, 10 minutes into the game, Argentina struck after a corner from the left with a good cross from Leo Messi, which was well connected with a header by Alexis Mac Allister to make it 1-0. The first half was full of friction, with a lot of fighting in midfield and no major excitement in either penalty area, which meant that Scaloni's team went into the locker room with a narrow lead. The second half began with the Swiss team pressing forward in search of an equaliser. Emiliano Martinez had to make two saves to keep a clean sheet. However, after a one-two on the edge of the area, Dan Ndoye finished with a shot that curled



inside the box to make it 1-1. In the 72nd minute, Switzerland were reduced to 10 men after Breel Embolo was sent off, receiving a second yellow card after a VAR review for diving in midfield. With the extra man, Argentina dominated the possession of the ball and could have won it at the end with a great bicycle kick from Lisandro Martinez, well saved by goalkeeper Gregor Kobel. In extra time, Argentina searched for a breakthrough, moving the ball from side to side, but space remained elusive. Then Alvarez found it: he cut inside from left to right, unleashed a shot from the edge of the box, and buried it in the top corner for 2-1. But there was more to come: after a lethal counter-attack, Martinez pounced on a rebound inside the area and tapped it in to seal the 3-1 victory and secure the semifinal clash against England.

Cheteshwar Pujara blames poor fielding and depth for India's historic T20I series loss in England

New Delhi: Former India batter Cheteshwar Pujara has blamed India's lack of middle-order depth, shortage of quality all-rounders and poor fielding for the team's forgettable T20I tour of England. India suffered their first-ever bilateral T20I series defeat to England after Harry Brook and Co. won the fifth and final match in Southampton by 56 runs, sealing a historic 4-0 series victory. India also lost the preceding series against Ireland 0-2 for the first time. "England had batters at numbers five, six, seven and eight who contributed. When it comes to India, you had Tilak (Varma) at number five and Shivam Dube at number six, but they haven't contributed as much as England's middle order," Pujara said on JioHotstar's 'Match Centre Live'. "Yes, there is a failure at the top of the order, but India also doesn't have enough depth when it comes to their all-rounders, and that is a huge concern. The fielding has also been very poor. "You can accept that a young side doesn't perform well with the bat and the ball, but not fielding well is unacceptable. In the shorter format, fielding wins you games. You do make errors sometimes, but throughout the series, India has been very poor in the field, and that's a big concern." Former India assistant coach Abhishek Nayar said it a good wake-up call for the Indian batters as they consistently failed to deal with the short balls during the tour. "This series has been an eye-opener for them. Even when they played in Ireland and now in England, very rarely do you remember in a T20 format where teams have constantly targeted you with short balls. Almost every batter has been targeted with that," he said.

"It just tells you that England were better prepared than the Indian team and most importantly, India failed to adapt. I think Australian conditions will be different. India has predominantly done well in Australia because the ball actually comes on. There is not a lot of spongy bounce like they've felt in England. "It's a good wake-up call. It's a good reflection of what this team needs to do to win abroad. But I think come the World Cup, you'll find a more equipped team. And there'll be a lot of batters who'll go back and start working on the short ball immediately." Harsh to say that Iyer's future is in jeopardy as a captain Nayar also backed new captain Shreyas Iyer, saying he deserves time and ownership. "When you give someone the mantle of taking over from a champion side, you also want to give him the liberty of picking his side.



The first time you become captain, you don't get the liberty of saying, 'This is where I want to take the team,' he said. "You first handle the team and then see what you need to do with it. Post these two series, he'll have time to reflect, understand what he requires from this team, how he needs them to play and what he needs from the support staff. So, it will be harsh to say that Shreyas Iyer's future is in jeopardy as a captain." Nayar, who is also the head coach of the Kolkata Knight Riders in IPL, said Iyer needs the liberty to decide the course of the T20I side. "It's been a really hard series, and you can point fingers at Shreyas Iyer, but the more rational thing is to understand what he requires from this team. "Give him the ownership of feeling like this is his team, like Harry Brook does right now, Ben Stokes did with the England Test team, or Rohit Sharma did for India when he was the captain, or Virat Kohli did, especially with the Test team. "Then it's a better place to judge him. Even Shubman Gill, when he first became the ODI captain, didn't win a few series first up. As you get into your own, you build confidence and the team you envision. It's still early days, there's no panic button, but there needs to be clarity as to where this team is going. On the Indian spinners' poor form, Nayar said: "Axar Patel has been very successful for India because he could drift the ball back in. But T20 is also about form. When you don't see that drift, there's something to do with his action or the amount of cricket he's played. "Axar has bowled so many tough overs now that it's easy for England to target him. He will come back to form shortly, but India have also not been very consistent with their spinners. Kuldeep Yadav picks up wickets but has been in and out, while Varun Chakaravathy, with his injury, has had a rough couple of months with the Indian team. "Sairaj Bahutule and the support staff need to work with these guys with the future in mind, not discard players. Tell players what you expect from them and where you want them to get better. When you lose, you need to create direction, not chaos."

Prince Yadav, Ravi Bishnoi replace injured Harshit Rana and Varun Chakaravathy in India squads

Hyderabad: The Men's Selection Committee has named Prince Yadav and Ravi Bishnoi as replacements for Harshit Rana and Varun Chakaravathy in India's ODI and T20I squads, respectively. Rana reported a sudden onset of discomfort in his right hamstring during the third T20I against England at Trent Bridge. Subsequent scans revealed a Grade 1 hamstring injury. He has been ruled out of the forthcoming ODI series against England and will report to the BCCI Centre of Excellence (COE) for further assessment and management. Chakaravathy also reported a sudden onset of discomfort in his left hamstring during the third T20I against England. An MRI scan subsequently revealed a Grade 2 hamstring injury. Based on specialist medical advice, he has been ruled out of the upcoming T20I series against Zimbabwe. He will report to the BCCI COE for further management. India's updated squad for England ODIs:



Shubman Gill (Captain), Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer (Vice-Captain), KL Rahul (WK), Ishan Kishan (WK), Washington Sundar, Axar Patel, Shivam Dube, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Prasidh Krishna, Arshdeep Singh, Gurnoor Brar, India's updated squad for Zimbabwe T20Is: Shreyas Iyer (Captain), Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma (Vice-Captain), Ishan Kishan (WK), Shivam Dube, Suryansh Shedge, Rinku Singh, Harsh Dubey, Prince Yadav, Yash Thakur, Ashok Sharma, Mayank Yadav, Prabhsimran Singh (WK), Ravi Bishnoi.

FM Sitharaman to meet PSB chiefs to review foreign currency deposit drive

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will meet the heads of public sector banks (PSBs) on Monday to review the progress of the foreign currency deposit mobilisation campaign being undertaken by the lenders. In a bid to attract foreign currency deposits by Non-Resident Indians, Overseas Citizens of India, and Persons of Indian Origin, the Reserve Bank of India last month withdrew, till September 30, interest rate ceiling on fresh Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) deposits of 3-5 years' maturity. The move came at a time when FCNR(B) deposit inflows weakened sharply, with net inflows dropping to just USD 946 million in FY26 from USD 7.1 billion in FY25. The Finance Minister will chair the meeting of chiefs of PSBs and financial institutions, including IDBI Bank, on mobilisation of FCNR(B) deposits, Overseas Foreign Currency Bonds and External Commercial Borrowings on July 13, sources said. Under the new arrangement, the RBI is offering a concessional foreign exchange swap facility to banks for FCNR(B) deposits with maturities ranging from three to five years. This significantly reduces the cost banks incur in hedging foreign currency exposure. Besides, the RBI announced a concessional forex swap facility to en-



courage PSUs to raise ECBs until September 30, 2026. State-owned enterprises, particularly central public sector enterprises (CPSEs), typically raise around USD 10-Å12 billion annually through ECBs. Given the current window of opportunity and the 3 per cent cost advantage available, many are expected to front-load their borrowing plans. SBI Research, in a report, said the concessional forex swap facility to incentivise ECB issuances by PSUs should accelerate such borrowings in overseas markets and this would help them access funds at competitive net pricing. It would reverse the decline in total ECB/ foreign currency convertible bond (FCCB) flows, which fell by around 30 per cent in FY26 to USD 42.9 billion from USD 61.2 billion in FY25, it said. According to sources, the finance minister may exhort them to increase credit flow towards productive sectors of the economy.

India's Russian crude imports hit record in Jun even as Moscow's oil revenues slip

New Delhi: India's imports of Russian crude oil surged to a record high in June, rising 34 per cent from the previous month despite a decline in Russia's overall oil export revenues, according to a report by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). India bought Russian crude worth EUR 4.5 billion in June, accounting for 83 per cent of its total Russian fossil fuel imports of EUR 5.5 billion, making it the second-largest buyer of Russian hydrocarbons after China, the report said. The sharp increase came as India's overall crude imports rose 5.4 per cent month-on-month, with Russian supplies to key refineries posting steep gains. Deliveries to Reliance Industries' Jamnagar refinery jumped 150 per cent from May, while imports at Indian Oil Corp's Paradip refinery rose 126 per cent. BPCL's Kochi refinery and Nayara Energy's Vadinar refinery recorded increases of 83 per cent and 45 per cent, respectively, CREA said. The surge in Indian purchases helped lift Russia's crude export volumes by 14 per cent in June, even as its crude oil export revenues fell 8 per cent month-on-month to EUR 348 million a day due to lower prices. Overall, Russian fossil fuel export revenues declined 1 per cent to EUR 734 million per day despite a 7 per cent rise in export volumes, the report added. "India was the second-largest buyer of Russian fossil fuels in June 2026, importing a total of EUR 5.5 billion of Russian hydrocarbons. Crude oil constituted 83 per cent of India's purchases, totalling EUR 4.5 billion. Oil products (EUR 488 million) and coal (EUR 444 million) constituted the remainder of their monthly Russian imports," CREA said. India continued to play a key role in global trade flows of refined fuels produced from Russian crude. Refineries in India, Turkiye, Brunei and Georgia exported oil products worth EUR 814 million to countries that have



imposed sanctions on Russia in June, including the European Union, Australia and the United States. An estimated EUR 369 million of those exports were refined from Russian crude, it added. The report noted that despite the European Union's ban on imports of oil products made from Russian crude, two shipments from Indian refineries using Russian crude were unloaded at EU ports in June. It also said the United Kingdom received its first cargo of jet fuel from Jamnagar after allowing imports of diesel and jet fuel refined from Russian crude under an exemption. "In June 2026, the UK unloaded its first shipment of jet fuel produced at India's Jamnagar refinery following the UK Government's exemption allowing imports of diesel and jet fuel refined from Russian crude oil. The cargo, valued at approximately EUR 63 million, was unloaded at the ports of Thames Haven and the Isle of Grain," it said. Jamnagar refineries are owned and operated by Reliance Industries Ltd. "Exports to the US originated at the Jamnagar refinery in India, the SOCAR-owned STAR refinery in Turkiye, and the Tupras Izmit refinery as well. In the prior three months, 60 per cent of the Tupras Izmit refinery's crude oil feedstock and 27 per cent of the Jamnagar refinery's feedstock came from Russia," it said. China remained Russia's largest fossil fuel customer in June, accounting for EUR 7.3 billion of purchases, while India ranked second with EUR 5.5 billion, CREA said. The report also highlighted the continued reliance of Russian oil exports on the so-called "shadow fleet".

Gold, silver likely to remain volatile amid US-Iran tensions

New Delhi: Gold and silver are expected to remain volatile with a corrective bias in the coming week as investors assess the latest flare-up in the US-Iran conflict, movements in crude oil prices and inflation data that could reshape expectations for global interest rates, analysts said. Fresh hostilities in West Asia have once again put markets on edge. The latest round of tensions began after Iran said it had struck a vessel travelling on an unapproved route and subsequently announced the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. The US Central Command later said it carried out strikes on Tehran, following which Iran retaliated by targeting American-linked installations in the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Bahrain. Analysts said any further escalation in the conflict could drive crude oil prices higher, revive inflation concerns and strengthen safe-haven assets such as the US dollar and Treasury yields, limiting the upside for precious metals. "For gold and silver, momentum remains weak and corrective. Focus will again turn to the US-Iran conflict. Any major escalation would push oil prices higher and strengthen safe-haven assets such as the US dollar and Treasury bond yields," said Pranav Mer, Senior Vice President, EBG – Commodity & Currency Research, JM Financial Services Ltd. Besides geopolitical developments, markets will closely watch inflation data from India, the EU and the United States for fresh clues on the monetary policy trajectory of major global central banks, he said.

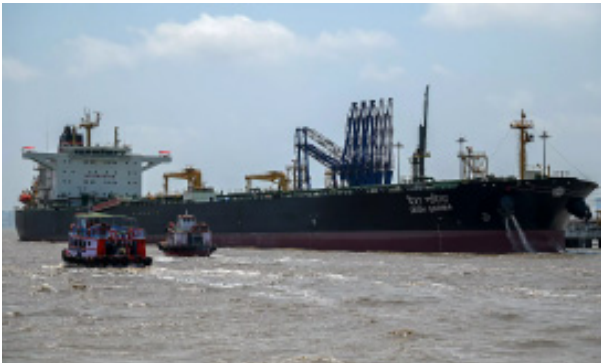
On the domestic front, MCX gold futures for August delivery fell Rs 3,900, or 2.65 per cent, during the week to close at Rs 1.43 lakh per 10 grams. Silver for the September contract also plunged Rs 14,746, or 6.2 per cent, to Rs 2.22 lakh per kilogram. "Gold witnessed another subdued week, declining by more than 2 per cent, as a combination of a stronger US dollar, firm crude oil prices and expectations of higher interest rates contin-



ued to weigh on investor sentiment," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst, Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, said. Despite intermittent recovery attempts, bullion failed to sustain gains, with every rally attracting fresh profit booking, he said. "The Indian rupee also witnessed a mild correction, which offered limited support to MCX gold. However, the impact of currency weakness was largely offset by bearish global sentiment, resulting in gold continuing its corrective phase," Trivedi added. In the international markets, Comex gold futures slipped USD 12, or 0.3 per cent, to end at USD 4,113.7 per ounce in New York, while silver fell 1.5 per cent to USD 60.16 per ounce. Analysts said market participants will closely monitor a series of key US economic indicators, including retail sales, housing data and weekly jobless claims, for further clues on the Federal Reserve's policy path. Chinese economic indicators, including GDP growth, industrial production, fixed asset investment, bank lending and trade data, will also be in focus as they could influence the outlook for industrial metals, which have shown signs of recovery over the past few sessions, Mer said. According to Trivedi, the repeated failure of bullion prices to hold on to gains reflects a cautious market, where investors continue to use rallies to book profits rather than initiate fresh bullish positions. "Unless there is a significant shift in geopolitical developments or macroeconomic indicators, sentiment will remain cautious until stronger fundamental triggers emerge," he added.

India's Russian Crude Imports Hit Record in June

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cent of India's purchases, totalling EUR 4.5 billion. Oil products (EUR 488 million) and coal (EUR 444 million) constituted the remainder of their monthly Russian imports," CREA said. Refineries in India, Turkiye, Brunei and Georgia exported oil products worth EUR 814 million to countries that have imposed sanctions on Russia in June, including the European Union, Australia and the United States. An estimated EUR 369 million of those exports were refined from Russian crude, it added. The report noted that despite the European Union's ban on imports of oil products made from Russian crude, two shipments from Indian refineries using Russian crude were unloaded at EU ports in June. It also said the United Kingdom received its first cargo of jet fuel from Jamnagar after allowing imports of diesel and jet fuel refined from Russian crude under an exemption. "In June 2026, the UK unloaded its first shipment of jet fuel produced at India's Jamnagar refinery following the UK Government's exemption allowing imports of diesel and jet fuel refined from Russian crude oil.

Constable killed, three injured after car rams multiple vehicles in Ongole

Amaravati: A police constable was killed and three others injured after a car hit several vehicles in Andhra Pradesh's Prakasham district on Sunday, police said. The accident occurred in Ongole town on the bypass road when the car driver lost control of the vehicle and hit the constable who was going on a bicycle. The Armed Reserve constable Mariyadas (36) fell on the service road, sustained critical injuries and died on the spot. After hitting the bicycle, the car rammed into an auto-rickshaw carrying garbage and a two-wheeler. Three other persons sustained minor injuries. Reports said that a female doctor was travelling in the car. She was attending a state conference of gynaecologists in Ongole. The accident occurred when the doctor was returning from the coffee shop. District Superintendent of Police V. Harshavardhan visited the accident site. Police registered a case and took up the investigation. More details are awaited. State Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha expressed grief over the death of an AR constable in the accident. She assured all assistance to the family of the deceased.

"Losing a police personnel who served for the safety of the people is an irreplaceable loss for the police family. I extend my deepest condolences to his



family members. The government will stand by their family and take steps to ensure all necessary assistance and support are provided," she said in a statement. The home minister directed the officials to provide better medical treatment to those injured in this accident. She also directed that a comprehensive investigation be conducted into the causes of the accident and that necessary actions be taken. Meanwhile, two persons were killed in another accident in Andhra Pradesh's East Godavari district. According to police, an unknown vehicle rammed into the tractor. Two labourers travelling in the tractor died on the spot. The accident occurred early Sunday morning on the Kolkata-Chennai national highway near Yarnagudem in Devarapalle mandal. The deceased were identified as Srinu (39) and Kadali Rajender (32), both from Devarapalle. Police launch an investigation to identify and trace the vehicle which hit the tractor and sped away.

Several injured after travels bus collides divider in Nandyal

A road accident happened in Nandyal district on Sunday where a travel bus crashed into the road divider and leaving several people injured. According to the preliminary information from the police, the travel bus had started its journey from Hanamkonda to Tirupati on Saturday night and crashed into the di-

vider in Nandyal district on Sunday. Upon receiving information soon, the police reached the spot and took the injured people to the hospital. The police have started investigation on how the accident happened. It is mentioned that there were 60 passengers traveling in the bus when the accident happened.

Special prayers held for Dy CM Pawan Kalyan's recovery



Anantapur: Following successful double shoulder rotator cuff surgery on Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Janasena Party chief Konidela Pawan Kalyan, party cadres organized special prayers in Anantapur on Saturday for his speedy recovery. Andhra Pradesh Culture Led by City President Podili Baburao under the guidance of AHUDA Chairman TC Varun, cadres performed inten-

sive Abhishekam and Archana rituals at the Sri Varada Anjaneya Swamy Temple on Court Road. A Sankalpam was offered in Pawan Kalyan's name, with leaders praying for his swift return to active public service and welfare-focused leadership. The spiritual event saw wide participation from senior party functionaries, corporation directors, and 'Veera Mahilas'.

IIITDM Kurnool celebrates VIII convocation; 250 graduates receive degrees



IIITDM Kurnool hosted its VIII Convocation on Saturday at the Krishna Seminar Hall, conferring degrees upon 250 students. The graduates included 211 B.Tech., 29 M.Tech., one Dual Degree, and nine Ph.D. scholars. The institute reported a 77% placement rate for 2025-26, tracking a highest package of Rs 65 lakh and an average of Rs 11.68 lakh. Kurnool: The Indian Institute of Information Technology Design and Manufacturing (IIITDM) Kurnool celebrated its VIII Convocation on Saturday, awarding degrees to 250 graduates across various disciplines. History The ceremony, held at the Krishna Seminar Hall, was attended by faculty, academic leaders, and families. Padma Shri awardee and Mridangam maestro Dr Yella Venkateswara Rao graced the event as Chief Guest, while Board of Governors Chairman Prof N V Ramana Rao presided. The institute expanded its academic offerings by introducing interdis-

ciplinary minor programs in emerging fields like Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, and Entrepreneurship. On the placement front, IIITDM Kurnool achieved a 77 percent placement rate, with 93 recruiters extending 101 offers.

The highest annual package scaled to Rs 65 lakh, while the average package stood at Rs 11.68 lakh, drawing top recruiters like Micro soft, Amazon, and Deloitte. Infrastructure upgrades included expanded hostels and a new 500 kWp rooftop solar plant. A total of 211 B.Tech., 29 M.Tech., one Dual Degree, and nine Ph.D. students received their degrees. The institute also honored academic toppers with medals. Sohaib Aftab received the Institute Gold Medal for securing the highest CGPA among B.Tech. students, while Amit Sur was named the M.Tech. topper. Yangoti Sai Bhavya was awarded the (Late) Durvasula Manikyamba Endowment Gold Medal.

Heatwave Forecast In AP After Mercury Shoots Up By 6.5 Degrees



Visakhapatnam: Temperature has shot up by 6.5 degrees Celsius in Narsapur in AP and about five degrees Celsius at Bapatla and Jangamaheswarapuram in central Andhra on Saturday. Several other places have recorded an increase in temperature by three to four degrees. Following this, the IMD, Andhra Pradesh, has forecast revival of heat waves in parts of the state during the next three days. IMD senior scientist Dr S. Karunasagar said dry weather, westerly winds, lack of moisture, and absence of weather systems in Bay of Bengal have led to the heat conditions. "Initially we gave a heatwave warning for three days. But heat wave conditions might continue further till a system forms in the Bay of Bengal," Karunasagar said. A source pointed out that a break in monsoon also causes a rise in temperatures. Dry soil converts more of the Sun's energy into heat, rather than evaporating the moisture, making temperatures rise faster. Private weather website

Skymet has however forecast that a cyclonic circulation is likely to develop over the north-northwest Bay of Bengal. Under its influence, a low-pressure area is likely to form over the northwest Bay of Bengal adjoining the Odisha-West Bengal coast during the first half of next week. The system might have a little impact on Andhra Pradesh, except for north Andhra. The current weather system has slowed down the sowing of paddy in several parts of the state, particularly in rain-fed areas, where farmers are waiting for adequate rainfall before transplanting seedlings. Narsapuram recorded 39.4 degrees Celsius, about 6.5 degrees more than the normal temperature. Bapatla registered 40.6 degrees, 5.8 above normal. The temperature at Jangamaheswarapuram is 40.9 degrees, 5.1 degrees above the normal. In North Andhra, Visakhapatnam recorded 37 degrees Celsius of temperature. During the last 24 hours ending 8:30 am on Saturday, Chittoor district received 2 cm of rainfall and Rajahmundry 1 cm.