



AP to receive rains from three days amid low pressure in Bay of Bengal

The low-pressure area that formed over the northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining North Odisha–West Bengal coasts remains centered over the same region today. Its associated cyclonic circulation extends up to 7.6 km above mean sea level and tilts southwestwards with height. Over the next two days, it is likely to intensify into a well-marked low-pressure area and move northwestwards across North Odisha and West Bengal. Meanwhile, the monsoon trough at mean sea level now passes through Jammu, Dehradun, Shahjahanpur, Basti, Patna, Bankura, and the center of the low-pressure area over the northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining coasts, extending southeastwards over the East-Central Bay of Bengal. Time & Calendars Over Andhra Pradesh and Yanam, northwesterly winds are prevailing in the lower troposphere.

Tirupati Targets Screening of Over 2.35 Lakh Children Under RBSK 2.0

Tirupati aims to screen more than 2.35 lakh children under the RBSK 2.0 programme, strengthening early detection and treatment of health conditions through comprehensive child healthcare services. Anganwadi children to be screened twice a year; school students once a year. Medical teams will screen children under the RBSK 4Ds – Defects at Birth, Deficiencies, Childhood Diseases and Developmental Delays & Disabilities Tirupati: The Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK-2.0), a flagship child health screening programme, will cover more than 2.35 lakh children in Tirupati district during the 2026-27 academic year. They include 87,151 children enrolled in Anganwadi centres and 1,48,594 students studying in government and private schools across the district.

Andhra CM Chandrababu Performs Jala Harathi at River Confluence

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu performed 'Jala Harathi' at the Krishna-Godavari confluence, highlighting the cultural, spiritual, and ecological significance of the sacred rivers. Holidays & Seasonal Events Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu participated in the 'Jala Harathi' (ritual offering of light to water) ceremony at the confluence of the Krishna and Godavari rivers in Ibrahimpatnam, NTR district and performed special prayers at the confluence site and offered floral garlands, ceremonial cloth, turmeric, and vermilion to the waters. He then performed the 'Jala Harathi' ritual. Subsequently, he paid tribute to the renowned engineer KL Rao on his 124th birth anniversary by garlanding his portrait. Speaking at the event, the CM stated that the government is organising pro-



grams to take the inspiring legacy of K.L. Rao—an eminent engineer—to every village. He noted that Godavari waters, diverted via the Pattiseema project, have reached the Krishna river basin, transforming the delta into a lush, fertile region. He also mentioned that the inflow of water from the Krishna river into the Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar reservoirs has decreased. The CM explained that the Pattiseema project was undertaken to protect farmers from the losses caused

by cyclones destroying their crops. He lauded K.L. Rao for playing a pivotal role in the construction of major dams such as Srisailem, Nagarjuna Sagar, Hirakud, and Kosi. He highlighted that Rao had also served as an international water expert for the United Nations in countries like Egypt and Sudan. He recalled that K.L. Rao was born in Vijayawada, elected as a Member of Parliament, and served as a Union Minister under three Prime Ministers. He noted that Rao served the nation through his contributions to the irrigation sector and hydroelectric power generation. The Chief Minister noted that Sir Arthur Cotton constructed the Dowleswaram Barrage on the Godavari and the Krishna Barrage on the Krishna River—a decision that transformed Andhra Pradesh into the nation's "Annapurna" (breadbasket).



YS Jagan alleges coalition policies have pushed aqua sector into crisis

Amaravati: Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party President YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday accused the coalition government of pushing the aqua sector into distress with its anti-farmer policies. He assured the aqua farmers that the party will stand by them and take the path of agitation till justice is done to them. Addressing a gathering at Bhimavaram in West Godavari district after an interaction with aqua farmers who poured out their woes, he alleged the coalition is helping the syndicate of companies that control the aqua sector at the cost of farmers.

AP minister Satyakumar says govt. ready to expand AYUSH infrastructure

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav unveils ₹350 crore in AYUSH development projects, including new medical colleges, integrated hospitals, and the 'Sanjeevini' digital health platform to boost government healthcare. Time & Calendars Andhra Pradesh Minister Satyakumar Yadav announced that development projects worth ₹350 crore are ready for the APAYUSH department. He participated in and addressed a one-day workshop titled "Medicinal Plants: The True Foundation of Health," held today (Wednesday) at the Tummalapalli Kalakshetram in Vijayawada. He stated that the government has taken measures to expand AYUSH infrastructure. He revealed that four new AYUSH medical colleges have been established, noting the existence of Ayurveda colleges in Dharmavaram and Pithapuram. The government is spending ₹70 crore on each college. He also announced that integrated AYUSH hospitals would be launched in six locations. The Minister mentioned that the government has approved six cen-



ters—including Tirupati, Tenali, and Nandigama—and is allocating ₹20 crore for each hospital. He added that over 1,500 AYUSH dispensaries have been modernized and that the government is focusing on preventive and wellness healthcare. He stated that the 'Sanjeevini' digital health platform is being implemented.



Doctor stabbed to death in Dharwad apartment; son seriously injured in attack

Dharwad ; A private hospital doctor was brutally murdered after being stabbed by unidentified assailants inside an apartment in Dharwad on Wednesday, while his son sustained serious injuries in the attack. The deceased has been identified as Dr. Kiran, an anaesthesiologist attached to a private hospital in the city. The incident took place at Ranka Stello Apartments on Barakotri Road under the jurisdiction of the Dharwad Suburban Police Station. According to police, unidentified miscreants entered the apartment and attacked Dr. Kiran with a knife, inflicting fatal injuries. His son, who was present at the scene, was also assaulted and suffered serious injuries. He was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital, where he is undergoing treatment. The motive behind the murder is yet to be established, and police have not disclosed any information regarding the identity of the attackers.

Kishan Reddy Urges State to Clear Pending Singareni Dues

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy urged the state government to release pending dues to Singareni, stressing that timely payments are vital for the company's financial stability and continued growth. Union Minister of Coals and Mines G Kishan Reddy on Monday asserted that the Centre is committed to strengthening Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) and protecting the interests of its workforce, while alleging that the Telangana government has failed to clear thousands of crores in dues owed to the coal mining giant. Telangana travel guide Addressing workers at a meeting held in Ramagundam Area-I as part of the Singareni Bharosa Yatra, the Union Minister described the company as one of Telangana's greatest assets and the liveli-



hood of lakhs of families. The public sector enterprise plays a vital role in supplying coal not only to Telangana but also to Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, thereby making a significant contribution to the country's power generation and the state's economy. Kishan Reddy said Singareni has the potential to further increase coal production but is facing financial stress due to mounting liabilities.

He noted that the company has been forced to rely on bank borrowings and pay interest because funds legitimately due to it have not been released. The Union Minister said both the Centre and the Telangana government have sought additional coal blocks for Singareni and reiterated that the Union government is positively considering such proposals to strengthen the company and ensure greater employment security. He also said the Centre is sympathetic towards resolving issues faced by contract workers and urged the State government to coordinate with the Union government on the matter. Launching a sharp attack on the Congress government, Kishan Reddy alleged that nearly Rs 27,000 crore due to Singareni has remained unpaid since it assumed office.

KING
DAILY NEWSPAPER

Address questions that need to be prioritised in the age of virality

Are viral controversies eroding India’s democratic fabric? This article explores the dark side of ‘participatory surveillance,’ the ethical crisis in the creative economy, and how the ‘punitive mesh’ of social media impacts free expression and individual parity.Indian current events In the recent past, we have seen numerous viral videos that became part of ‘participatory surveillance’ by the public against one person, a show and an event. In the last few years, we must have heard controversies such as Two Indias (Vir Das), India’s got talent YouTube show (Samay Raina), Galgotias Chinese Robot Dog Controversy (Galgotias University at India AI Impact Summit 2026, New Delhi) and the latest one, the Rs 370 biryani controversy. We picked up these controversies because most of these controversies were being criticised by ‘public judgment’, saying Indian culture, Indian values, Indian prestige and Indian women identity (Modern Indian women vs Indian culture) have been violated in the latest one. All the above-mentioned cases cannot be discussed with nuanced details. However, this article is trying to explore the question of ‘virality’ of the digital contents and its larger impact on people, society and ‘creative’ economy/creative labour/creative Work from the ethical and moral principles in a democratic society like India. Hyderabad city guide Circulation of videos, economy and people: When a video goes viral, its creator feels happy because it generates an ‘economic value’, while ‘emotional’ and ‘creative labour’ gets rewarded. Probably, one recognition, one like, one comment leads to more motivation to create future work and more job opportunities. That is how creative workers/artists, platforms and the creative economy grow. But what happens when an artist’s content gets humongous hate, and fans turn into furious critics? The same platforms and their algorithms, which used to be a ‘monetised system’ to the artists by people’s metrics of likes, shares, and subscriptions, turn into a denial of public spaces, humiliation, social injury and denial of what Nancy Fraser, social and political theorist, has called ‘participatory parity ‘-the strength of the individual as an equal member of the society. South Asians & Diaspora impacts of viral videos, a platform gives an identity of “celebrity image” to unknown people without considering their socio-economic status, like caste, class and gender. However, this is completely changed when a society becomes a part of ‘participatory surveillance’. It leads to what Assandro Corda, a criminologist (2026) calls the ‘Punitive Mesh’, that is, the result of Surveillance Capitalism, and now it is visible even in the creative economy. The irony of the present economy and its labour is FOMO (fear of missing out) from the platforms. The worker cannot afford to get away from these platforms even for a few hours, nor can they share content with the degree of checks and balances. We do have legal guidelines for content sharing by platforms. However, its authentic moral and ethical ‘credibility’ is decided by ‘public scrutiny’ based on local and national values, which sometimes contradict with ‘individual’ artist or organisation from their own experiences and learnings.

Khammam MP denies complaining against CPI MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao

Kothagudem: An electronic media report stating that Khammam MP Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy of Congress party had complained to Telangana Congress affairs in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan against Kothagudem MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao of CPI party has caused a stir among the political circles here.It might be noted that Congress and CPI had an alliance in the 2023 Assembly elections and Kothagudem seat was allotted to CPI. The news report claimed that Raghuram Reddy complained to Meenakshi Natarajan, alleging that Sambasiva Rao was involved in illegal sand mining and land grabbing as well as the problems he was facing in the constituency.As the news was telecast by the media outlet it went viral on social media on Tuesday. It compelled the MP Raghuram Reddy to issue a recorded video statement clarifying that the report aired on the television channel claiming he had complained to Meenakshi Natarajan about MLA Sambasiva Rao was completely false and he strongly condemned the malicious pro propaganda.The MP stated that Meenakshi Natarajan had summoned Congress MPs solely to seek an explanation regarding the ongoing special intensive review (SIR) of electoral rolls. He explained that details concerning the process were being gathered Assembly constituency-wise and he had attended the meeting as part of that exercise. During the meeting, he briefed Meenakshi Natarajan only on the progress and the work being done by the Congress party to create awareness among the voters; the development and welfare programmes being implemented at the grassroots level, the MP said.He alleged that the false news was broadcast for political gain. The CPI and Congress parties were working together in the State government and that there were no differences between them, the MP added.The CPI district secretary



Shaik Sabir Pasha and others also responded to the news report aired by the news channel; condemned the news report and said it was inappropriate for the media to disseminate false news. However, the MLA has not responded to the news report’s claims.

Man run over following argument over blocking road in Kandi

Sangareddy: In a fit of rage, a car driver ran over another person following an argument with the latter and his son in Kandi mandal headquarters on Tuesday night. The man, who sustained serious head injuries, died while he was being shifted to the government hospital in Sangareddy for treatment.According to Sangareddy Rural police, Kashipuram Anjaneyulu (43) was proceeding to his residence at 11.30 pm on Tuesday when he found Kashipuram Chakri standing on the road at Ambedkar Colony. Anjaneyulu picked up an argument with Chakri when Chakri’s father Ramesh (47) came to his rescue.

Hot and humid weather to persist in Telangana for another 24 hours: IMD

Hyderabad: Hot and humid conditions will continue to prevail in Telangana for the next 24-hours, India Meteorological Department (IMD), Hyderabad in its forecast on Wednesday said. “Hot and humid conditions are very likely to prevail at isolated pockets in Bhadradi Kothagudem, Khammam, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Mahabubnagar and Nagarkurnool districts. Strong surface winds up to 30 to 40 kmph are very likely to prevail at isolated pockets in all districts,” the forecast said.The Telangana State Development Society (TSDPS) weather data has said that the highest temperature of 38.6 degrees Celsius was recorded at Tirumalagiri Sagar in Nalgonda district. In the Greater Hyderabad region including Cyberabad and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts, the highest temperature of 37 degrees Celsius was recorded at ESS Quthbullapur.The day temperatures hovered between 35 degrees Celsius and



37 degrees Celsius in Rangareddy, Chevella and Sangareddy districts.The IMD, Hyderabad weather data indicated that between 8.30 am on Tuesday and 8.30 am on Wednesday, the maximum temperature of 37.2 degrees Celsius was recorded at Hayatnagar, followed by 36.7 degrees Celsius at Begumpet, 36.5 degrees Celsius at Hakimpet and 36 degrees Celsius at Patancheru.

Terrorist hideout busted in Poonch, ammunition recovered



Jammu: A terrorist hideout was busted in a forward village in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, leading to recovery of some ammunition, officials said.The hideout was unearthed during a joint search operation by police, Central Reserve Police Force and Army in Sawjian sector of Mandi, the officials said. They said 246 rounds of General Purpose Machine Gun were recovered from the hideout, which was subsequently destroyed. No one was arrested in connection with the recovery, they added.

Congress turns to BRS-era irrigation projects as drought deepens in Telangana

Hyderabad: The Congress government on Tuesday resumed the wet run of the Narlapur pump house under the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS). However, the decision has exposed an uncomfortable political reality that the ruling Congress was increasingly relying on the very irrigation infrastructure it spent the last two-and-a-half years trying to discredit.The successful trial run of the first motor at Narlapur was more than a technical milestone. It signalled a quiet but unmistakable shift in the government’s approach to major lift irrigation projects conceived and built during the BRS regime.Former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao had launched the wet run of the Palamuru-Rangareddy project at the same Narlapur pump house in Nagarkurnool district on September 16, 2023, commencing the pumping of Krishna water into the Narlapur (Anjanagiri) reservoir. Despite the BRS repeatedly demanding for completing around 10 per cent of pending works of PRLIS, the Congress dismissed them. The shift is not confined to Narlapur. The government recently ordered round-the-clock operation of all 10 pumps under the Devadula Lift Irrigation Scheme to fill 22 reservoirs across 12 districts, sanctioning Rs 146 crore to expedite related works. Though the project was initiated by the N Chandrababu Naidu government in 2003, the bulk of the work was completed during the BRS tenure.At the centre of the Devadula exercise is the Sammakka Barrage which was also built by the KCR government at Tupakulagudem in Mulugu district, downstream of Medigadda. The YS Rajasekhara Reddy government had laid a foundation for a barrage at Kanthanapally in 2009 but made no progress for years. The BRS completed the Sammakka Barrage in three years, relocating it 20 km upstream to avoid submerging 12 tribal villages and 11,000 acres of tribal land. The barrage lifts

88.18 TMCft across three phases, irrigates 5.57 lakh acres, and stores 7 TMCft.Government

Even as the government moves to maximise use of BRS-era assets elsewhere, it continues to rule out operating the Kannepalli pumps under the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme. The official position is that expert advice does not permit operations until Medigadda issues are addressed.

Since assuming office in December 2023, the Congress has consistently portrayed Kaleshwaram, Palamuru-Rangareddy, and other flagship projects as symbols of alleged financial irregularities and engineering failures under the BRS rule. Medigadda became the political shorthand for that campaign.However, the drought is producing a different narrative. As rainfall deficits are deepening, the reservoirs, pump houses, and barrages built during the BRS tenure are emerging as the State’s principal safeguards against water scarcity. The Narlapur reservoir, the Devadula project with support of Sammakka barrage, and the pumping infrastructure that once featured prominently in political attacks are now being positioned at the centre of the government’s water management response.Every operational milestone at Narlapur and every reservoir filled through Devadula reinforces the utility of assets the government had repeatedly described as emblematic of failure. The Congress set out to make Telangana’s irrigation projects the principal indictment of its predecessor. The drought has turned that argument inside out.— Congress now relies on BRS-built irrigation infrastructure. Congress earlier branded flagship projects as failures.— Congress resumes Narlapur pump house wet run. KCR launched Narlapur wet run in September 2023.— Devadula’s 10 pumps operate round the clock. Sammakka Barrage becomes drought lifeline.

Harish Rao accuses Telangana government of delaying Employees Health Scheme

Hyderabad: BRS deputy leader and former Minister T Harish Rao accused the Congress government of failing to implement the Employees Health Scheme (EHS) promised to government employees, teachers and pensioners despite collecting premiums for two months. He demanded the immediate issuance of health cards and refund of the deductions collected for a scheme that was yet to become operational. In a statement, Harish Rao said the Congress government had repeatedly postponed the scheme. He reminded that the government first promised to launch it on June 2 and later shifting the date to July 15, without issuing operational guidelines or finalising agreements with network hospitals. Deducting 1.5 per cent from employees' salaries and pensions without implementing the scheme amounted to deceiving them, he said. The former Minister criticised the Congress government for failing to honour its election promise made under the Abhaya Hastham manifesto even after 30 months. He also accused the government of neglecting employees by delaying the Pay Revision Commission (PRC), six pending Dearness Allowances (DAs), abolition of the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS), and pension arrears. Contrasting it with the previous BRS regime, he said the K Chandrashekhara Rao government implemented two PRCs, granted 73 per cent fitment, enhanced pensions and provided cashless medical treatment through wellness centres and empanelled hospitals. The earlier government had also planned a stronger health scheme based on a one per cent employee contribution, he added. Harish Rao alleged that the government had failed to release funds under the police security scheme, neglected journalists' health cards, commissioned



reports claiming government employees were overpaid and recently threatened retired engineers. He warned that the BRS would launch an agitation if employee-related promises remained unfulfilled.

Vaishali Nagar railway underpass to remain closed for 20 days from July 16

Hyderabad: Motorists travelling through the Vaishali Nagar Railway Underpass will have to take alternative routes for the next 20 days as the underpass will remain completely closed from July 16 for road widening and storm water drain construction works. In a traffic advisory issued on Wednesday, Cyberabad Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Sunpreet Singh said the closure was necessary to facilitate civic works aimed at permanently addressing traffic congestion and waterlogging at the underpass. Accordingly, vehicles travelling from My Home Mangala towards Hafeezpet via the underpass will be diverted through Raghavendra Nagar Colony, High Tension Road, the RTA Office and Kondapur before reaching the Hafeezpet ROB. Similarly, motorists approaching the underpass from the Telangana Contractors Cultural Club side will also be rerouted through My Home Mangala T-Junction, Raghavendra Nagar Colony, High Tension Road, Kondapur and the Hafeezpet ROB. Also, vehicles travelling from Hafeezpet, RTC Colony and My Home Jewel towards My Home Mangala will be diverted via Pipeline Road, the Hafeezpet ROB, Genpact junction and Kondapur-Alwyn Road. Similar diversions have been arranged for traffic from Vasavi Lake City, Hafeezpet Lake and Gopal Nagar-Calvary Temple areas. Cyberabad Traffic Police have advised commuters to plan their journeys in advance.

No voter registration for Revanth Reddy in Nagarkurnool, says DEO

Hyderabad: Amid the row over Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's alleged dual voter registration, Nagarkurnool Collector and District Election Officer (DEO) Hemant Keshav Patel said there was no voter registration in the Chief Minister's name in Achampet Assembly constituency or anywhere in Nagarkurnool district. In a press note, the DEO said there was no case of double voting or dual enrolment in Nagarkurnool district in this matter. He said that since there was no voter registration in the district, the question of printing or distributing Enumeration Forms during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise did not arise. He appealed to people not to believe or spread baseless rumours. The clarification came after 'FactCheck_Telangana', the Telangana government's official initiative on X, issued a statement on Tuesday. The post, however, was deleted within hours for reasons that remain unclear. The issue triggered political discussion after electoral rolls showed Revanth Reddy as a voter in Kodangal Assembly constituency under Mahabubnagar Parliamentary constituency. His name also appeared in Achampet Assembly constituency under Nagarkurnool Parliamentary constituency. Both entries carried the same EPIC number, TES0274035. In its



now-deleted post on X, FactCheck_Telangana said the "Electoral Commission" had clarified that the appearance of the Chief Minister's name in two electoral rolls with the same EPIC number was an electoral roll anomaly. It said the issue was being addressed through the ongoing SIR exercise. The statement also said the correction would be made by the DEO concerned in accordance with the Election Commission of India's prescribed procedures. It further said the Chief Minister's family had informed the electoral authorities that they wanted to retain the voter registration in Kodangal constituency. They also requested the deletion of the entry from the Kondareddy constituency electoral roll.

Telangana CEO urges voters to submit SIR enumeration forms without delay



Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Electoral Officer C Sudarshan Reddy has urged voters to immediately fill out and submit the enumeration forms, which are distributed as part of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, to their respective booth level officers (BLOs) to safeguard their right to vote. In a statement, the Telangana CEO appealed to voters to carefully fill the form, leaving no scope for errors, and paste a passport-size photograph. He also advised voters to ensure that the form carries their signature and date, along with the BLO's signature. Stating that two

copies of the enumeration form have been distributed to each voter, Reddy said one copy should be submitted to the BLO and another one should be retained by the elector for future reference. He made it clear that an elector's name will be included in the draft electoral only after the filled enumeration form is returned to the BLO. Voters whose details are available in the SIR 2002 list must fill the relevant information, he said, adding that, if such details are unavailable, the voters should complete the form using their current particulars and submit it to the respective BLO.

Tharoor appeals to Wangchuk to end hunger strike at Jantar Mantar

New Delhi: Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Wednesday appealed to activist Sonam Wangchuk to end his fast at Jantar Mantar over alleged irregularities in the NEET exam and urged the government to engage in dialogue, asserting that such a move is not a sign of weakness but of statesmanship. In an open letter to the Jantar Mantar protesters, Tharoor said that with Parliament set to reconvene on Monday, there will be an opportunity to raise the students' issues in the highest forum of democracy. "That's where the problem should be addressed, not by fasting unto death. Please heed my plea," he said. "My dear young friends, I address you today not as a politician or an MP, but as someone deeply troubled by what is happening to your generation of young Indians. This is personal for me. I was born into a middle-class family: my father was a salaried newspaper employee, my mother a homemaker, with three children to educate on one income," he said. "For a family like ours, merit was not a slogan. Scholarships, fair examinations, honest results – these were the only way one salary could carry three children's dreams," the MP from Thiruvananthapuram said. The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) has been holding a protest at Jantar Mantar, demanding Pradhan's resignation over alleged irregularities in the NEET examination. Wangchuk joined the agitation on June 28 and has been on an indefinite fast since then. The organisation has also announced a march to Parliament on July 20. Tharoor said that he went to school in Mumbai and Kolkata, studied at college in Delhi, topped the university and earned admission to IIM, but chose instead to follow his passion for international affairs in the US on a scholarship. Nothing was inherited; everything was earned through hard work and examinations, he stressed. "So I know that a fair, merit-based system is the only ladder for young people from lower and middle-income families to climb. When that ladder is broken – papers leaked, examinations cancelled, trust destroyed – the children of the rich and powerful



do not suffer. "They have other ladders. It is your dreams, and your families' sacrifices (and tragically, in some homes, young lives themselves), that are betrayed," Tharoor said in his open letter on X. "To the young people gathered at Jantar Mantar, and those raising your voices peacefully across India: this country hears you," he said. "Your anger is not indiscipline – it is the anguish of a generation that did everything right and was still betrayed. You are not alone," the Congress leader said. "And to the millions of young Indians watching quietly: your generation is not a problem to be managed. You are the answer to India's future. Do not lose hope. 1 This ladder will be rebuilt – by you, and by every Indian who stands with you," he said. In his message to Wangchuk, Tharoor made a "heartfelt appeal" to him to end his fast. "You have awakened the conscience of the nation; that is what a fast is meant to do. India needs your voice for the long road ahead," Tharoor said. "With Parliament in session again from Monday, we will have an opportunity to raise the students' issues in the highest forum of our democracy. That's where the problem should be addressed, not by fasting unto death. Please heed my plea," he said. In his message to the government, Tharoor urged it to reach out and engage in the dialogue "our democracy owes its young citizens". "That is not weakness; that is statesmanship," he asserted. Activist Wangchuk is suffering muscle loss and is in "immense pain" but has refused to end his hunger strike despite appeals from various sections urging him to call off his 17-day fast and asking the government to initiate dialogue.

Police constable killed after car rams parked lorry on Rajiv Rahadari

Siddipet: The roadside parking of a lorry claimed the life of a police constable on Rajiv Rahadari on Tuesday night. The deceased Aare Kiran (27), working as a AR constable in Siddipet, was proceeding towards Siddipet from Hyderabad when he hit his car to a stationary lorry at a puncture shop near Pathur in Gajwel mandal. Kiran, who sustained serious injuries, died on the spot. The body was taken to the government hospital in



Gajwel for postmortem. The police registered a case.

Nearly 50 pc of Telangana voters yet to submit SIR enumeration forms with nine days left

Hyderabad: With only nine days left for the house-to-house enumeration drive to conclude in Telangana, nearly 50 percent enumeration forms are yet to be submitted by the voters back to the Booth Level Officers (BLOs). This is raising concerns over whether or not the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls exercise will complete on time. While the enumeration forms distribution stood at 99.99 percent in the State, only 49.28 percent electors submitted their forms and the number of forms were digitised as of Tuesday. According to the statistics released by the Chief Electoral Officer Telangana, only 18.73 percent Medchal-Malakagiri voters returned their forms to BLOs and same are digitised. This is lowest among all districts in the State. While all 47,36,669 Hyderabad voters have been handed over their enumeration forms, only 22.22 percent filled up their forms and returned them to their respective BLOs. Similar trend is observed in Rangareddy district, where 33.43 percent out of 29,76,920 voters submitted



their forms and they are digitised. At 79.86, Yadadri Bhongiri registered the highest percentage of voters submitting their forms, which were digitised, followed by Nalgonda district where forms submission and digitisation stood at 73.11 percent. As per the SIR schedule released by the Election Commission of India, the house-to-house enumeration exercise will complete on July 24 and draft electoral rolls will be published on July 31. Claims and objections, if any, on the draft rolls can be submitted Between July 31 and August 30. The electoral registration officers (EROs) will issue notices, conduct hearings and verification, decide on enumeration forms, and dispose of claims and objections between July 31 and September 28. The final electoral rolls will be published on October 1.

Man hacked to death in Madhapur; police suspect personal dispute

Hyderabad: A 30-year-old man was hacked to death in Madhapur on Wednesday, allegedly due to a long standing personal dispute linked to a failed relationship. The victim, identified as Bhaskar, a native of Warangal district, was found murdered in Ayyappa Society under the limits of the Madhapur Police Station. According to information available, Bhaskar was earlier in a relationship with a woman from his native village. However, her family reportedly opposed the relationship and married her to another man about three years ago. The couple recently obtained a divorce. Police suspect that the woman's father believed Bhaskar was responsible for the breakdown of the marriage and had developed a grudge against him. Officials are now probing whether this animosity led to the fatal attack. Bhaskar's brother lodged a complaint with the police, alleging that unidentified assailants attacked and hacked him to death while he was alone in the Ayyappa Society area. The Madhapur police booked a case and are investigating from

all possible angles. Forensic teams examined the crime spot. Efforts are on to identify and nab those involved in the killing. Police said the exact motive and the role of the suspects will be established as the investigation progresses.

Ash tanker driver killed after vehicle plunges into gorge in Kothagudem

Kothagudem: An ash tanker driver has died in a road accident on Paloncha-Dammamet road at Pusugudem in Mulkalapalli mandal district. The deceased, Manoj Kumar of Uttar Pradesh died on the spot when the ash tanker he was driving lost control and fell into a roadside gorge. The tanker was going towards Suryapet. The local police booked a case and launched a probe into the incident.

Taskforce busts adulterated milk unit in Medak, seizes 150 litres

Medak: Taskforce police busted a gang that was preparing adulterated milk on the outskirts of Reddipalli village in Narsapur mandal on Wednesday morning. On a tip off, the taskforce sleuths raided the unit and seized 150 liters of adulterated milk, milk powder and various chemicals used in preparing the milk. The unit is owned by one Sivannagari Sudhakar Goud. The accused reportedly supplied the milk to Hyderabad and other towns in Medak district. The police registered a case. SP



DV Srinivas Rao will address a press conference to disclose the modus operandi of the accused by Wednesday evening.

Prashanth Reddy begins hunger strike under house arrest, BRS condemns police action



Nizamabad: Former Minister and Balkonda MLA Vemula Prashanth Reddy launched his day-long hunger strike at his residence in Velpur after the police placed him under house arrest ahead of his proposed protest over pending development works in Bheemgal. He will be on a day-long hunger strike even as BRS cadre reached his residence in large numbers. On Wednesday morning, the police surrounded his residence and informed that he was not allowed to venture out. The police also detained several BRS leaders and activists across the Balkonda constituency, and were shifted to various police stations to prevent the protest. The party leaders accused the State government of suppressing a peaceful democratic protest, and dismantling the protest camp erected in Bheemgal overnight. The hunger strike was planned to press for the completion of works, including the development works in Bheemgal Municipality, construction of a 100-bed hospital and renovation of the

RTC depot. The BRS alleged that these projects were substantially completed during its tenure but had since stalled under the Congress government. Speaking to media before commencing his hunger strike, Prashanth Reddy said the police action would not deter his fight for public issues, asserting that his fast would continue despite the house arrest. He demanded that the government announce a timeline for completing the pending works, including a 100-bed hospital, RTC depot, vegetable and non-vegetable market, and CC roads, instead of suppressing peaceful protests. BRS LP deputy leader T Harish Rao condemned the police action, alleging that the Congress government was stifling democratic dissent by preventing a peaceful hunger strike. He accused the government of resorting to repression instead of addressing public grievances and urged it to withdraw anti-democratic measures against the Opposition

High drama at ex-Andhra minister's house as daughter not allowed to touch body

Amaravati: There was tension and high drama at former Andhra Pradesh minister Mudragada Padmanabham's house at Kirlampudi in Kakinada district on Wednesday as his family members and supporters stopped his daughter Barlapudi Kranthi from touching his body. The Kapu leader, who passed away on Tuesday, had reportedly told his family members that his daughter should not be allowed at his funeral. Mudragada Padmanabham had serious differences with his daughter after she had openly supported Jana Sena leader Pawan Kalyan in the 2024 elections. Kranthi had called Pawan Kalyan the leader of the Kapu community and condemned her father's statement that he would change his name to Padmanabham Reddy if he failed to defeat the Pawan Kalyan in Pithapuram Assembly constituency. He had also pledged to drive Pawan Kalyan out of Pithapuram. After failing to defeat Pawan Kalyan, Padmanabham had changed his name to Padmanabha Reddy but had told his family members that his daughter should not be allowed near him even after his death. The former minister, who had led the movement for reservation for the Kapu community, had joined YSR Congress Party a few months before the 2024 elections. The former minister passed away in Hyderabad on Tuesday, following a brief illness. His body was shifted to Kirlampudi last night.



His family members and supporters had requested police not to allow Kranthi near the body in order to honour the wishes of the late leader. Police stopped cars carrying Kranthi and her supporters at Prathipadu on Wednesday morning. Following her request that she be allowed to see her father for the last

time, police advised her to reduce the number of vehicles in the convoy and proceed to Kirlampudi without her supporters. Police escorted Kranthi to her father's house but this triggered strong protest by family members and followers of the late leader. They tried to stop her from entering the house and raised slogans against her. As the police provided the escort, she managed to reach the body amid pushing and jostling. Her mother also expressed anger over her visit and blamed her for his death. Kranthi was not allowed to touch the freezer coffin containing her father's body. After spending two minutes there, she left the place. Meanwhile, the Andhra Pradesh government on Wednesday decided to conduct the funeral with official honours. The last rites will be performed at Kirlampudi on Wednesday evening. The decision to conduct the funeral with official honours was taken following a telephonic conversation between Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. Noting that Mudragada Padmanabham had served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) four times, a Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) once, and as a State Cabinet Minister, they decided to accord him a funeral with official honours and issued instructions to officials accordingly.

Jana Nayagan starring Thalapathy Vijay to re-lease on July 23, 2026

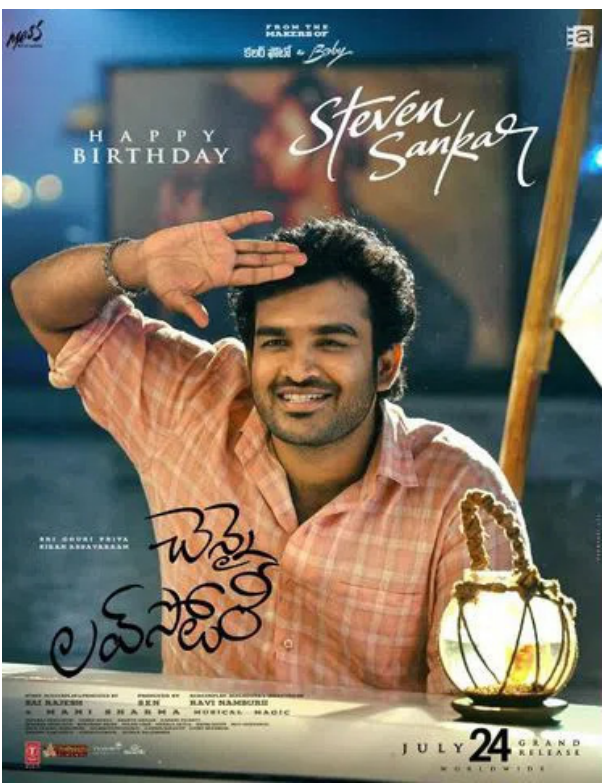
Mumbai: The makers of the upcoming film ‘Jana Nayagan’ starring Thalapathy Vijay, have announced the film’s release date. The film, which is set to be the final cinematic venture of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, will release in theatres worldwide on July 23, 2026. The film marks a landmark moment in Thalapathy Vijay’s illustrious cinematic journey, and is one of the most awaited films of Indian cinema. The film promises to be a fitting tribute to a career that has left an indelible mark on Indian cinema. Directed by H. Vinoth and produced by KVN Productions, Jana Nayagan brings together a stellar creative team to deliver a grand cinematic experience for audiences worldwide. Speaking about the announcement, producer Venkat K. Narayana said, “There are very few moments in cinema that feel truly historic, and Jana Nayagan is one such moment. As Thalapathy Vijay prepares for his final outing on the big screen, we are honoured to be a part of this journey and to bring this special film to his fans across the world”. He further mentioned, “It has been remarkable to witness a journey that began with cinema and went on to inspire millions, ultimately leading him to become the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, a testament to the extraordinary connection he shares with the



people. We are confident that Jana Nayagan will be a memorable theatrical experience and a fitting tribute to a phenomenal career”. The release date announcement sets the stage for what is expected to be one of the biggest theatrical events of the year, with fans and moviegoers gearing up to celebrate Thalapathy Vijay’s final chapter as a leading man on the silver screen.

Kiran Abbavaram’s character in ‘Chennai Love Story’ revealed as Steven Sankar

Hyderabad: The makers of director Ravi Namburii’s eagerly awaited Telugu romantic entertainer ‘Chennai Love Story’, featuring actor Kiran Abbavaram in the lead, on Wednesday revealed that actor Kiran Abbavaram plays a character called Steven Sankar in the film, much to the delight of fans and film buffs. The revelation was made as part of the birthday celebrations of actor Kiran Abbavaram, who celebrates his birthday on Wednesday. Mass Movie Makers, the production house producing the film, took to its social media timelines to make the announcement. It wrote, “Wishing our Hero @kiran_abbavaram a very Happy Birthday! Get ready to witness his memorable performance as STEVEN SANKAR, that’ll touch every heart & stay with you all forever. See you in cinemas worldwide on July 24. For the unaware, Sri Gouri Priya plays the female lead in this film opposite Kiran Abbavaram. She shot to fame with her performance in the Tamil romantic drama ‘Lover’, which went on to emerge not just a superhit film. Lover not only set the cash registers ringing at the box office, it was also hailed by the critics for its content that dealt with toxic relationships. While Kiran Abbavaram plays a character called Steven Sankar in Chennai Love Story, Sri Gouri Priya plays a character called Nivi in the film. A teaser released by the makers earlier shows Steven Sankar and Nivi having a conversation at a beach. Nivi asks Steven Sankar if he has watched the film ‘Baby’ and praises the way they have portrayed first love in it. She says that if one’s first love fails, life turns into hell. She says an individual’s first love is pure and that there is an element of truth in it, seeking to suggest that all other love affairs that happen after it aren’t as honest or pure. Steven Sankar responds to her argument saying, “If first love is the only one that is pure and honest, shouldn’t all our love stories stop with our mothers. For isn’t



every individual’s first love his/her mother?” Stating that there are several iconic love stories in history, Steven Sankar points out that for the protagonists of such stories, the love story for which they became famous wasn’t their first love. He says that if one’s first love fails for some reason, one’s best love is about to start somewhere else. Apart from directing the film, Ravi Namburii has also penned its screenplay. The film’s story is by Sai Rajesh, who is also one of the producers of the film. The film is being produced by SKN under the banners of Mass Movie Makers and Amrutha Productions. The film is being co-produced by Dheeraj Mogilineni. On the technical front, the film has music by Mani Sharma. Cinematography for the film is by the very capable Viswas Daniel while lyrics for the songs in the film are by Anantha Sriram. Bhaskar Mudavat is in charge of art direction while Santhosh Naidu has been assigned the responsibility of editing the film. Costumes are by Devi Parchuri and the film is being co-directed by Lucky Bezawada.

Farhan Akhtar celebrates 15 years of ‘Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara’ with nostalgic post

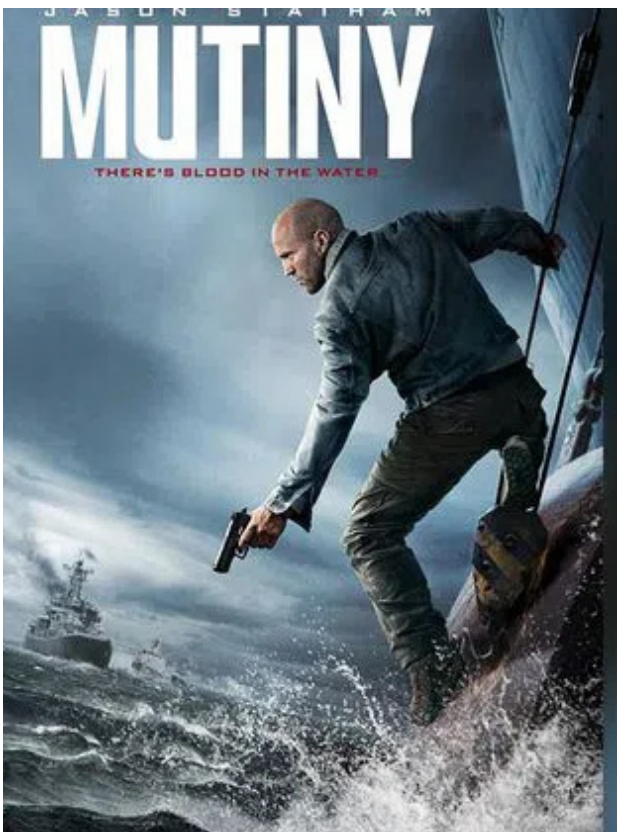
Mumbai: Actor filmmaker Farhan Akhtar turned nostalgic as his cult classic road film “Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara” completed 15 years since its release on July 15. Taking to his social media account, Farhan shared a carousel of stills from the film featuring Hrithik Roshan, Abhay Deol, Katrina Kaif and Kalki Koechlin. The final slide carried the words, “Some roads stay with you forever,” while the caption read, “15 years. Still seizing the day. Celebrating #15YearsOfZindagiNaMilegiDobara.” Talking about Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara, the movie has been directed by Zoya Akhtar and produced by Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani under the Excel Entertainment banner. “Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara” hit theatres on July 15, 2011 and the road comedy drama starred Hrithik Roshan, Abhay Deol, Farhan Akhtar, Katri na Kaif and Kalki

Koechlin, with Naseeruddin Shah and Deepthi Naval playing pivotal roles. The film followed three childhood friends, Arjun, Kabir and Imran, who embark on a bachelor road trip across Spain. The film was praised for its heartfelt storytelling, breathtaking visuals, memorable soundtrack by Shankar Ehsaan Loy and Javed Akhtar’s poetry. The film’s popularity also fuelled excitement around “Jee Le Zaraa”, announced by Farhan Akhtar in 2021 as a female led road trip film reportedly starring Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Katrina Kaif and Alia Bhatt. While the project has faced repeated delays due to scheduling conflicts, Farhan in an interview earlier this year, clarified that it has not been shelved and remains on track when the dates align.



Jason Statham’s ‘Mutiny’ set for August 21 release in India

Mumbai: PVR INOX Pictures on Wednesday announced that it will release Hollywood action thriller “Mutiny”, starring Jason Statham, in Indian cinemas on August 21. Directed by Jean-François Richet, the film is about a man who is framed for a crime he did not commit and is forced to unravel a dangerous conspiracy while evading powerful enemies. Statham essays the role of Cole Reed, who after witnessing his billionaire boss’s murder and being framed for the crime, boards a cargo ship on a one-man crusade to avenge his death only to discover an international conspiracy, according to official synopsis. The film also stars Annabelle Wallis, Roland Møller, Jason Wong, Adrian Lester and Arnas Fedaravicius. It is written by Lindsay Michel and J.P. Davis, and produced by Statham through his Punch Palace Productions banner along with Marc Butan. Statham, one of Hollywood’s biggest action stars, is known for films such as “The Trans-



porter” series, “Crank”, “The Expendables”, “Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw”, “The Meg”, “The Beekeeper” and “A Working Man”.

Sameera Reddy still can’t believe her daughter Nyra is ‘taking her to court’

Mumbai: Actress Sameera Reddy shared a fun and unexpected moment from her personal life. In her recent playful post, she revealed that her daughter Nyra is taking her to court. The ‘Musafir’ actress expressed her surprise over the playful situation. On Wednesday, Sameera took to her Instagram handle and shared a video where she is heard saying, “Where do your kids take you to? In PTA meetings? Principal’s office? Annual day functions definitely! To their friend’s birthday party? Guess where my Naira is taking me? To the court! “This was the only thing left to see. Stay tuned!” For the caption, she simply wrote, “Still can’t believe what’s happening! Smh.” Sameera Reddy and her husband Akshai Varde are parents to two children—a daughter, Nyra, who was born on July 12, 2019, and a son, Hans, who was born in 2015. The couple, who got married in 2014, often shares glimpses of their family moments and Sameera’s journey through motherhood on social media. The ‘De Dana Dan’ actress has been vocal about embracing the realities of motherhood. Sameera often shares her personal experiences with postpartum depression, body image struggles, and the challenges of post-



pregnancy weight changes. Through her candid social media posts, she encourages mothers to practice self-acceptance, and embrace their imperfections with confidence. On the professional front, Sameera Reddy is preparing for the release of her upcoming horror thriller “Chimni,” where she will be seen portraying the character of Kali. The film revolves around a grieving mother who finds herself in a haunted Chanderi palace, where a sinister spirit takes control of her daughter. The project also marks her acting comeback after 13 years. Directed by Gagan Puri, the film is uniquely inspired by the rare medical condition fetus in fetu. The project also stars Prachi Thakur, Shardul Rana, Aditya Kumar, Preeti Chaudhary, and Saurabh Agnihotri.

Indian hockey teams prioritize strength and conditioning ahead of joint FIH World Cup

New Delhi: Strength and conditioning has emerged as the central focus as India prepares for next month’s FIH Hockey World Cup, with chief coaches Craig Fulton and Sjoerd Marijne saying the ongoing national camps are aimed at ensuring the men’s and women’s teams peak physically for the marquee event. The World Cup will be held in Belgium and the Netherlands from August 15 to 30, marking the first time that the men’s and women’s tournaments will be staged simultaneously. The men’s team heads into the showpiece after an encouraging FIH Pro League campaign in Europe, where it registered wins over reigning world champions Germany, Olympic champions the Netherlands and Pakistan. “The players have come into the camp fresh after the break and you can see it in the energy on the pitch. The sessions have been sharp and competitive, with everyone eager to be back together,” Fulton said in a Hockey India release. “The first few days have been about getting the legs moving again, re-establishing our standards and now we are gradually building the intensity as we prepare for the World Cup.” India, the 1975 world champions, have been drawn in Pool D alongside England, Pakistan and Wales. They begin their campaign against Wales on August 15 before taking on England and Pakistan on August 17 and 19 respectively. Fulton said the camp has



struck the right balance between physical conditioning and tactical refinement. “We’re doing strong conditioning work early in the week to build our physical base, before moving into more tactical, unit-based sessions as the week progresses,” said Fulton. “We’re also doing a lot of small-sided games to keep decision-making sharp under fatigue, alongside daily video reviews to reinforce learning and specific work on our press and counter. “It’s about improving what we’re already good at and continuing to build on those strengths. It’s about improving what we’re already good at and continuing to build on those strengths.” The women’s team, meanwhile, enters the World Cup on a high after clinching the FIH Nations Cup title with an unbeaten campaign, earning promotion to next season’s Pro League. Placed in Pool D, India will open against China on August 16 before facing South Africa and England. “The team is very motivated for the upcoming period with the two major tournaments ahead.

India vs England 2nd ODI: Series on the line in Cardiff as India balance fitness issues and selection dilemmas



Cardiff: Skipper Shubman Gill’s fitness and Rohit Sharma’s form are major concerns for India as they seek to lock a much-needed series victory over England in the second ODI here on Wednesday. India’s six-wicket win in the first match in Birmingham gave them a 1-0 lead in the three-match series, but it also highlighted some worrying aspects of the team’s performance. Batting on 80, Gill had to walk off the field in palpable pain and India would hope that it was nothing more than cramps. A similar exit by Gill last year during the first Test against South Africa at Kolkata had led to hospitalisation, rendering him unavailable for the remainder of that engagement. So, the Men in Blue will not want an encore as Gill’s presence is imperative as leader and a tone-setting opener. While his opening partner Rohit does not carry any such fitness issues, the management will certainly look at his batting numbers. The Mumbai man seemed to have shelved his brazen aggression since losing captaincy, but the changed approach has not brought any bigger dividend yet. The ‘Hitman’ has played 13 ODIs just as a senior member in the team since October last year, making 563 runs at an average of 46.91 with a hundred and four fifties. It’s not a record to scoff at. But the current dynamics within the Indian dressing room and the absence of the safety net of captaincy around him have made it mandatory for Rohit to deliver on almost every outing. It will be a stretch of imagination to think that Rohit will be out of contention in the

race to 2027 ODI World Cup even if he courts a couple of more failures, but the way the think tank looked over Suryakumar Yadav and Sanju Samson recently offers a warning note to him. At 39, Rohit would not like to leave anything for chance as India also have an explosive top-order option in Ishan Kishan in the shed. Comparatively, Kohli, another one-format player, is in a better place both in terms of fitness and statistics. From October 1, 2025, the 37-year-old has churned out 621 runs from 10 matches at an average of 77.62 with three hundreds and as many fifties. So, the Delhi man would be expecting a far kinder treatment from the management at the moment. A major positive for India is the way pace ace Jasprit Bumrah returned to the 50-over set-up for the first time since the 2023 World Cup final. He was a delight to watch. Bumrah seemed to have regained his magic after a temporary loss of form during the IPL this year where he struggled for rhythm and wickets. Similarly, the return to form of all-rounders Axar Patel and Washington Sundar would also please the management to no end. **Changes in the eleven** After the Edgbaston victory, Gill had indicated that the management will try different combinations according to the conditions. The Sophia Gardens pitch often offers good bounce and carry, keeping pacers firmly in the mix. In that context, India can bring in seasoned left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh in place of Gurnoor Brar. Brar took the wickets of Ben Duckett and Jacob Bethell but conceded 61 runs in nine overs.

Gurnoor Brar credits Jasprit Bumrah for successful Edgbaston ODI debut

Birmingham: India left-arm pacer Gurnoor Brar credited senior fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah for helping him adapt to English conditions after the youngster produced a crucial opening spell in India’s six-wicket victory over England in the first ODI at Edgbaston on Tuesday. Gurnoor struck twice in the same over to remove England openers Ben Duckett and Jacob Bethell, triggering a collapse that saw the hosts slump from 61 without loss to 80/5. England eventually recovered to 258 through Joe Root’s unbeaten 76 and Liam Dawson’s 68, but India chased down the target in 45.2 overs thanks to Shubman Gill’s 80 before retirement hurt and an unbeaten 102-run fifth-wicket stand between Axar Patel (57 not out) and Washington Sundar (52 not out). Reflecting on his performance, Gurnoor said Bumrah’s guidance during the training sessions before the match played a significant role in his success. “I had heard that it was a lot of fun to play cricket in England, so I experienced it today, and it felt very good. During the two practice days, Jasprit bhai was bowling, and I asked him how to bowl on these wickets, how the ball behaves here, how the English batters attack, and what areas I should bowl in. He gave me a lot of inputs, which helped me a lot,” Gurnoor said in a video released by BCCI on X. The 25-year-old added that head coach



Gautam Gambhir and bowling coach Morne Morkel also encouraged him to trust his strengths and stick to his natural game. “Both Gautam Sir and Morne Sir told me that what I had done in the Afghanistan series and what comes naturally to me was to keep repeating my lengths and stay consistent. I wasn’t thinking too much. I just backed myself and challenged the batters.” Gurnoor also revealed that he closely observed Bumrah during practice to understand how to succeed in English conditions. “I was standing at mid-on while they were bowling and watching how they approached their spells, how the batters played them and how consistent they were with their line and length. They kept telling me ball by ball what I could do, so I just tried to keep hitting those areas.”

ICC revamps World Cup formats to introduce Super 7 in ODI and Super 10 in T20

Edinburgh: The International Cricket Council (ICC) Board has announced a comprehensive structural overhaul of its major men’s events, which include introducing a three-stage format for the 14-team ODI World Cup and expanding the second stage of the T20 World Cup to a ‘Super 10’ format along with eliminators. The decisions were finalized during the ICC’s Annual Conference in Edinburgh, following recommendations from the Chief Executives’ Committee (CEC), with the governing body saying it’s “an objective to create more meaningful contests, elevate competitive standards, and enhance the experience for athletes and fans.” While the ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup will continue to feature 14 teams, the tournament format will shift away from the traditional format. Instead, it will feature a three-stage competition leading to the finals. The lower-ranked three teams (Teams 12, 13, and 14) will initially square off in the round one named ‘Super Series’, with only the top team progressing to the main stage. Round 2 will consist of 12 teams split into two groups of six teams playing 30 matches. The top three teams from each group, along with the next highest-placed team across both groups, will advance to a newly minted seven-team round-robin stage called ‘Super 7’ (worth 21 matches). The top four teams from the Super 7 stage will qualify for the semi-finals. “The structure has been designed to strengthen the competitive narrative across every stage of the event, with matches from Round 1 and Round 2 carrying higher consequence with a highly competitive Super 7 stage witnessing 7 qualifying teams going through a round-robin stage to qualify for the semi-finals. “The increased consequence and enhanced competitive intensity promises to enhance the overall experience for fans while continuing to provide emerging

teams with the opportunity to compete on cricket’s biggest stage,” said the ICC. Meanwhile, encouraged by the performance of emerging nations in the 2026 Men’s T20 World Cup edition, the ICC has decided to expand the second stage of the 20-team event from eight to ten teams. The opening group stage will now feature five groups of four teams each (30 matches total), a shift from the previous format of four groups of five teams. The top two teams from each group will advance to the ‘Super 10’ stage, which will comprise two groups of five teams. In a significant tweak to the knockout path, only the top team from each Super 10 group will directly qualify for the semi-finals. The teams finishing second and third in their respective groups will face off in cross-over ‘Eliminators’ to secure the remaining two semi-final spots. “This promises to expand the representation of cricket’s emerging nations in the Super 10 stage while also delivering higher competitive standards. The addition of ‘eliminators’ where the 2nd and 3rd ranked teams from groups in the Super 10 stage compete against each other for spots in the semi-finals also then adds significant consequence to the closing matches of the Super 10 stage,” added the ICC. The ICC Board also charted the roadmap for other teams to qualify for the 2028 T20 World Cup cycle.



Air India Express starts Abu Dhabi service from Navi Mumbai airport

Abu Dhabi: Navi Mumbai International Airport commenced international services on Wednesday, with Air India Express operating the first overseas flight from the airport to Abu Dhabi. The Air India Express flight, carrying around 100 passengers, took off from the airport at 2.55 am (IST) and landed at Abu Dhabi airport in the UAE after around two-and-a-half hours. The Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), being developed in multiple

phases, started domestic services on December 25, 2025. Air India Express will operate flights from there to Abu Dhabi three times a week. As the Air India Express flight, operated with a Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft, prepared for take-off, the pilot in command said it would be a historic flight and a landmark journey. Shakir Abid, who was on board the inaugural flight along with his wife and daughter, said he was excited and that the journey

was also about creating good memories. They are taking a connecting flight from Abu Dhabi to Muscat, where they will celebrate their daughter Safa Abid's third birthday later this week. The inaugural flight also carried NMIA's first global perishable export shipment. In less than seven months, NMIA has connected 46 domestic destinations, served more than 2.3 million passengers and now handles around 150 Air Traffic Movements (ATMs) each day. Air India Express Chairman Nipun Aggarwal, in a release issued on Tuesday, said Navi Mumbai is a key pillar of its dual-airport strategy, complementing the network from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International



Airport in Mumbai. "The launch of our first scheduled international flight marks the beginning of a new phase in Navi Mumbai International Airport's journey," Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL) CEO Arun Bansal said in the release.

Rupee rises 5 paise against US dollar in early trade

Mumbai: The rupee rose 5 paise to 96.11 against the US dollar in early trade on Wednesday amid heightened tensions in West Asia and a weaker greenback. Higher crude oil prices and FII outflows prevented a sharper rise in the local unit, while a positive opening in the domestic equity markets lent support, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 96.12 and inched up to 96.11, up 5 paise from its previous close. The unit had depreciated 48 paise to close at 96.16 against the US dollar on Tuesday. Iran on Wednesday threatened to halt all energy exports from West Asia over the US reimposing a naval blockade on the Islamic Republic. In a statement carried by Iranian state television, the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard threatened oil and gas exports from the region. "The export of oil and gas from the region will be either for everyone or for no one," it said. "The rupee came under significant pressure on Tuesday, slipping past the 96-level for the first time since May as a combination of surging crude oil prices, higher US Treasury yields and geopolitical tensions triggered broad dollar demand. Brent climbed to its highest level in over a month after the US-Iran conflict intensified," Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP, said. The rupee is expected to trade in the range of 95.90-



96.50, he said. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 100.81, down 0.11 per cent. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 1.10 per cent to USD 85.66 per barrel in futures trade. On the domestic equity market front, stock markets rebounded in early trade, with the Sensex rising 553 points to 77,603.57 and the Nifty up 148.15 points to 24,198.40. Foreign Institutional Investors on Tuesday offloaded equities worth Rs 739.69 crore in the domestic equity market, according to exchange data. On the domestic macroeconomic front, wholesale price inflation rose to 9.87 per cent in June from 9.68 per cent in May, led by a sharp increase in prices of food and non-food items. Net direct tax collection grew 16.40 per cent to over Rs 6.51 lakh crore till July 13 in the current fiscal year, driven by higher corporate tax collections, government data showed on Tuesday.

SBI Funds Management IPO fully subscribed on Day 2

New Delhi: The initial public offer of SBI Funds Management Ltd got fully subscribed on the second day of bidding on Wednesday. The Rs 9,812.91-crore IPO received bids for 14,51,33,924 shares against 12,45,63,536 shares on offer, registering 1.17 times subscription, as per NSE data till 11:21 hours. The category for non institutional investors attracted 2.65 times subscription. The quota for retail investors received 97 per cent subscription and the portion meant for Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) got subscribed 8 per cent. SBI Funds Management earlier raised Rs 2,663 crore from anchor investors. The anchor book saw participation from global investors such as GIC, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, Capital World Investors, BlackRock, Fidelity Management & Research, Goldman Sachs Asset Management and Norges Bank, alongside leading domestic institutions like Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), HDFC Mutual Fund



(MF), ICICI Prudential MF, Nippon India MF and HDFC Life Insurance. The IPO will close on July 16. The price band has been fixed at Rs 545-574 per equity share. The public issue is entirely an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 17.09 crore equity shares by existing shareholders State Bank of India (SBI) and Amundi. SBI will sell a 6.3 per cent stake, while Amundi will divest 3.7 per cent. Post listing, SBI's holding will decline to 55.46 per cent from 61.76 per cent, while Amundi's stake will reduce to 32.56 per cent. The issue size was earlier proposed at Rs 11,693 crore but was subsequently reduced after the company completed a pre-IPO placement of about Rs 1,880 crore.

India-origin pharma patents jump four-fold, innovation pipeline tops 1,095: Report

New Delhi: India-origin pharmaceutical patent families have risen more than four-fold over the past decade, while the country's drug discovery pipeline has expanded to more than 1,095 programmes across 195 companies, signalling a rapid shift from generics-led manufacturing to innovation-driven research, a report showed on Wednesday. According to a joint report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and HealthKois, the country is at a juncture where the next five years will determine whether it can transform its strengths in scientific talent, cost competitiveness and data into a globally competitive life sciences innovation ecosystem. Pharma patent families originating from India increased more than four-fold to 2,995 in 2024 from around 716 in 2015, while private equity and venture capital investment in the pharmaceutical sector more than doubled to \$731 million in FY26, it said. During the same period, the number of biotech startups rose from nearly 1,500 to 2,400. India's share of global pharma patents from 3-4 per cent to about 10 per cent is qualitative, not just quantitative, the report said. Moreover, India has already produced more than 10 novel drug assets over the past decade, with companies increasingly moving beyond generics and biosimilars to develop, license and commercialise innovative medicines for global markets, the report noted. It highlighted four key drivers behind the momentum like nearly \$5 billion in government funding for early-stage and translational research, stronger academia-industry collaboration, regulatory reforms that have reduced drug development timelines from



180-270 days to 60-120 days and shared research and manufacturing infrastructure such as Genome Valley and C-CAMP. The report also pointed to early success stories, including BIRSA 101, India's first indigenously developed CRISPR-based therapeutic and NexCAR19 — an indigenous CAR-T therapy priced at nearly one-tenth the cost of comparable overseas treatments. "India's innovation trajectory is gaining real momentum, and its evolution into a sustained innovation engine is well underway," said Priyanka Aggarwal, Managing Director and Senior Partner at BCG India and Southeast Asia. "We are seeing India-origin science licensed by global pharma majors and indigenous CAR-T therapies treating patients at a fraction of the global cost. Capital that understands the science and is willing to back it through the early, uncertain years will be the difference between a handful of breakout successes and a durable innovation engine," said Charles Janssen, Co-Founder and Managing Partner, HealthKois. India's biggest opportunity lies in combining its cost advantage, scientific talent and large, diverse patient datasets to build globally competitive innovation platforms rather than competing solely on frontier science, according to the report.

Sensex jumps over 550 points, Nifty rebounds in early trade

Mumbai: Market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded in early trade on Wednesday after a sharp decline in the previous session, led by bank stocks and supported by softer-than-expected US inflation data, which reinforced expectations that the Federal Reserve may adopt a less aggressive monetary policy stance in the coming months. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 553 points to 77,603.57 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty rose 148.15 points to 24,198.40. From the Sensex pack, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, Eternal, InterGlobe Aviation, UltraTech Cement and State Bank of India were the major gainers. Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, Power Grid and Tech Mahindra were among the laggards. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi jumped 7.66 per cent. Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index traded higher, while Shanghai's SSE Composite index quoted lower. US markets ended higher on Tuesday. "Global cues turned relatively supportive overnight. US equities ended higher, with the S&P 500 gaining 0.38 per cent and the Nasdaq advancing 0.90 per cent, after softer-than-expected June CPI data reinforced hopes of a more accommodative Federal Reserve policy," Rajesh Palviya, Head of Research, Axis Direct, said. Brent crude eased towards USD 85 per barrel after



US President Donald Trump withdrew the proposed 20 per cent transit fee through the Strait of Hormuz, he added. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 1 per cent higher at USD 85.63 per barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 739.69 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data. "Providing some support to global sentiment, US consumer price inflation eased to 3.5 per cent in June, below market expectations of 3.8 per cent, indicating that underlying price pressures may be moderating. "The softer-than-expected inflation reading has reinforced expectations that the Federal Reserve could adopt a less aggressive monetary policy stance in the coming months, offering some relief to global risk assets despite heightened geopolitical uncertainty," Ponnudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth-tech firm, said. On Tuesday, the Sensex tanked 561.46 points, or 0.72 per cent, to settle at 77,054.94. The Nifty dropped 158.95 points, or 0.66 per cent, to end at 24,052.05.

Sudhakar Reddy is new Kurnool ZP CEO

R. Sudhakar Reddy assumed charge as Kurnool Zilla Parishad CEO and pledged to protect ZP assets while strengthening local revenue generation. Kurnool: R Sudhakar Reddy officially assumed charge as the Kurnool Zilla Parishad CEO on Monday. After being congratulated by ZP Chairman Errabothula Papireddy and staff, he met Collector Dr A Siri. Reddy pledged to focus on protecting ZP and Mandal Parishad assets



while actively increasing local revenue sources.

Pawan Kalyan discharged from hospital in Mumbai after surgery



Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan was discharged from Mumbai's Kokilaben Hospital after a successful shoulder surgery and is expected to resume public duties after recovery. Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena party chief Pawan Kalyan was discharged from a hospital in Mumbai after a successful shoulder surgery at the famous Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital in Mumbai. After stay-

ing in the hospital for post-operation and recovering a bit, he was discharged today morning by the doctors who performed the operation on him four days back. While the Deputy Chief minister was in hospital, the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis met him and inquired about the health. And now, Pawan Kalyan would take rest for few days and join the public service.

Food Commission Directs Action Against Substandard Eggs in Anganwadis



Food Commission has ordered strict action against the supply of poor-quality eggs at anganwadi centres, aiming to ensure safe, nutritious food for children and strengthen quality checks. Amadaguru: State Food Commission Member E Lakshmi Reddy conducted a surprise inspection of a Model Anganwadi Centre on Tuesday and ordered immediate action over quality lapses in the supply of nutritional food. During the visit, Lakshmi Reddy checked the quality of nutritional supplements and reviewed the centre's records. He found that the eggs

supplied to children and pregnant women did not carry the mandatory identification markings. Additionally, the eggs were underweight and of poor quality. Warning that negligence in welfare programmes will not be tolerated, Lakshmi Reddy ordered show-cause notices to be issued immediately to the ICDS Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) for poor monitoring, the Anganwadi teacher for negligence, and the contractor for supplying substandard eggs. He directed officials to rectify all deficiencies immediately to ensure beneficiaries receive high-quality nutritional support.

Collector orders swift house-to-house voter verification by July 24

Nandyal: The district administration has initiated measures to implement the revised schedule for the Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls issued by the Election Commission of India, with July 1, 2026, as the qualifying date. District Election Officer and Collector G Raja Kumari has directed all election officials to strictly adhere to the updated programme and ensure a highly transparent, error-free, and time-bound exercise. Reviewing the revised calendar, the Collector stated that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will continue their house-to-house verification of electors until July 24. Simultaneously, the rationalisation and reorganisation of polling stations must be completed within the same timeframe to facilitate an accurate and updated electoral database. As per the revised schedule, the draft electoral roll will be published on July 31, opening a window for eligible citizens to submit claims for inclusions, deletions, corrections, or trans-



positions of entries until August 30. The scrutiny and disposal of all claims and objections will be undertaken between July 31 and September 28. The final electoral roll is scheduled for publication on October 3, 2026. Collector Raja Kumari instructed the election machinery to launch an extensive public awareness campaign to inform voters of the revised dates. She also directed officials to formally communicate the new calendar to all recognized political parties, ensuring close coordination among all stakeholders for the smooth and efficient completion of the revision process.

Suzlon donates Rs 2 lakh for Anantapur school sports



Collector O Anand receiving a 2 lakh CSR donation cheque from Suzlon Associates representatives for the Anantapur District School Sports Championship-2026 at the Collector's Camp Office in Anantapur on Tuesday. Suzlon Associates donated ₹2 lakh under its CSR initiative to support the Anantapur District School Sports Championship-2026, with Collector O. Anand appreciating the contribution. Anantapur: Suzlon Associates has contributed 2 lakh under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative to support the Anantapur District School Sports Championship-2026, District Collector O. Anand said while receiving the donation at the Collector's Camp Office on Tuesday. Representatives of Suzlon Associates, along with District

Sports Development Officer (DSDO) Manjula, presented the cheque to the District Collector during the programme. Speaking on the occasion, Collector O Anand appreciated the company's CSR contribution, stating that the financial support would help in the successful conduct of the District School Sports Championship-2026. DSDO Manjula expressed gratitude to Suzlon Associates for extending the CSR assistance and acknowledged the company's support for promoting school-level sports in the district. The 2 lakh contribution will be utilised for organising the District School Sports Championship-2026, aimed at encouraging student participation in sports and strengthening school-level sporting activities across the district.

Matchbox-sized saree wonder gifted to Srisailam Goddess

Srisailam: In an extraordinary display of traditional craftsmanship, a lightweight silk saree that can be folded to fit inside a matchbox was offered to the presiding Goddess Bhramaramba Devi at the Srisailam Temple on Tuesday. Renowned handloom artisan and Kala Ratna awardee Nalla Vijay Kumar from Sircilla, Telangana, presented the unique handwoven creation. Pothugunta Ramesh Naidu, Chairman of the Temple Trust Board, formally received the saree along with board member Kodde Kanthivardhini. Vijay Kumar and his family



handwove the saree on a traditional loom over the course of a week. Despite measuring 5.5 metres in length and 48 inches in width, the Ikkat-style silk garment weighs only 200 grams.