

Special Attention Should Be Given to Students

Minister Kondapalli



Srikakulam: Srinivas Invitation to Minister Kondapalli Srinivas for Srikakulam 'Shining Star' Program Vijayawada, July 18 "Minister In-charge for Srikakulam District and Minister for MSME, Rural Poverty Alleviation, and NRI Empowerment & Relations, Kondapalli Srinivas garu, suggested that special attention should be given to students. District Education Officer Ravibabu requested Minister Kondapalli Srinivas to definitely attend the 'Shining Star' program to be held in Srikakulam. On Saturday, the DEO of Srikakulam met the Minister at his office in Vijayawada and handed over the invitation letter. Speaking on the occasion, Min-

ister Kondapalli Srinivas said that under the leadership of Minister Nara Lokesh, the coalition government is making efforts to make government schools in the country a model for better education. He instructed the education department officials that everyone should cooperate in this initiative. He was requested to attend the 'Shining Star' program scheduled for Monday, the 20th in Srikakulam district and bless the children. The DEO informed that 187 students from 10th Class and 37 students from Intermediate have been selected as 'Shining Stars' across the district. AC Chandrabhushan and Sanyasi Raju participated in this program.

Diabetic and Ulcer Hospital Inaugurated

Vizianagaram: Proud That the First Hospital in Andhra State Has Been Set Up in Vizianagaram " Minister Kondapalli Srinivas Vizianagaram, July 18 "State Minister for MSME, Rural Poverty Alleviation, and NRI Empowerment & Relations Kondapalli Srinivas garu said it is a matter of pride that the first Diabetic and Ulcer Hospital in Andhra Pradesh, established with advanced methods, has been set up in Vizianagaram. On Saturday, Minister Kondapalli Srinivas inaugurated the Elegance Diabetic Foot and Ulcer Clinic on 100 Feet Ring Road in Vizianagaram by lighting a lamp and cutting the ribbon. Speaking on the occasion, he expressed happiness that an advanced 'Foot Care' specialty hospital has also been started here. He specially congratulated



Dr. Sravani Muddada and Dr. Shirin Palli for taking the initiative to bring such scientific and technological medical care, which was earlier limited to metropolitan cities, to the people of this region. The Minister stated that the establishment of the hospital reflects the development of our region. He later inspected various departments of the hospital.

Grand Birthday Celebrations of Former Minister Guntakandla Jagadishwar Reddy in Huzurnagar 10th Ward

Huzurnagar: The birthday celebrations of former Minister Guntakandla Jagadishwar Reddy garu were celebrated grandly in the 10th Ward of Huzurnagar. Leaders said that Jagadishwar Reddy garu played a key role as the right-hand man to KCR in the BRS party and also took an active part in the Telangana movement. His services as the Power Minister and Education Minister in Telangana state are unforgettable to the people. BRS Party 10th Ward leader Saraswathi Srinivas Raju garu said, "It is because of Jagadishwar Reddy garu's vision that Telangana is the only state in the country providing 24-hour power supply today." Prathi Kantam Bharathi, Karingula



Mangamma, Veena, Srinivasa Chari, Sheikh Rafi, Bala Saidha, Prafull Raju, Jada Gopi, Pachipala Gopi, Rohit, Riaz and others participated in the program.

CM Chandrababu inaugurates waste processing plant in NTR district

The modern facility is designed to process dry and wet waste by using scientific methods. South Asians & Diaspora Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday inaugurated a state-of-the-art waste processing plant at the Kondapalli Municipality of NTR district in a virtual manner. Mylavaram MLA Vasantha Venkata Krishna Prasad was present in the inauguration ceremony. The modern facility is designed to process dry and wet waste by using scientific methods. A crucial step has been taken towards environmental protection and pollution control. The state government has made further progress in finding a permanent solution to the waste management issue. The plant helps to reduce foul smells, spread of diseases, and



land and air pollution in the town. The Andhra Pradesh government has initiated the latest measure with the aim of creating a pollution-free, clean, and green Kondapalli. This modern waste management system will transform waste into a valuable resource.

AP Home Minister Anita orders strict action against assault on woman in Guntur

Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapudi Anita took strict note of a woman's assault in Guntur, ordering action against negligent police personnel and warning that offenders will face zero political leniency. South Asians & Diaspora Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapudi Anita took a serious note of the incident in which a woman was assaulted in Guntur district. She spoke with the Guntur District SP to gather details. The SP informed her that immediate, strict action had been taken against those responsible for the attack. Home Minister Anita also ordered action against the police personnel who were negligent in dealing the case and questioned why the Circle Inspector (CI) was negligent in taking



action following the incident. Anita also warned that no one—regardless of their status—would be spared if they harmed women. She emphasised that offenders must be treated strictly without regard for political affiliations. Home Minister Anita directed that a stern approach be adopted towards those who commit crimes under the guise of political parties.

Students told to excel in sports to overcome stress

West Godavari District Joint Collector KR Kalpashree addressing the students at SRKR Engineering College in Bhimavaram on Friday Bhimavaram: West Godavari district joint collector KR Kalpashree has urged students to actively participate in sports and develop excellence in at least one game to overcome stress and lead a disciplined life. She was speaking after inaugurating the Sagi Ramakrishna Raju Memorial Combined West Godavari District Badminton Tournament-cum-Selection Championship 2026 at SRKR Engineering College in Bhimavaram on Friday. The event was organised by the District Badminton Association under the chairmanship of Organising Secretary and Physical Director Dr CH Harimohan. Addressing the gathering, Kalpashree observed that students in earlier generations experienced far less mental stress as they balanced academics with sports and recreational activities. SRKR Engineering College Secretary and Correspondent Sagi Ramakrishna Nishanth Varma said the institution gives high priority to sports and provides facilities for various disciplines, urging students to make the best use of the opportunities available on campus.



College Director Dr M Jagapathi Raju, Principal Dr KV Muralikrishna Raju, Physical Director Dr Ch Harimohan, and Chief Administrative Officer Ch Dileep Chakravarthi thanked the District Badminton Association for choosing the college as the venue for the district tournament and selection trials. On the occasion, the joint collector felicitated S Hemanth Sri of Tanuku, who had represented India at the Asian Games in China, in recognition of his achievement. The tournament was formally inaugurated by Nishanth Varma. Indian current events District Badminton Association Secretary M Vamsi Krishna said the championship witnessed a record participation of over 460 players from the erstwhile West Godavari district. The selections are being held for age categories from Under-11 to Under-19, while veteran players in the 35-plus to 75-plus categories are also participating in the selection events.



Shikkhar Suri: Why Your Talent Isn't Earning What It's Worth

Share : Shikkhar Suri, an ex-Director, empowers Indian professionals to master global positioning. Discover his unique strategies for attracting international clients and leveraging AI for unparalleled career growth and success in a borderless economy. Most professionals spend years working towards a title like Director – Growth. Shikkhar Suri got there, then quietly walked away. He had every reason to stay. Over eight years across corporates and startups had taught him how to build businesses from scratch and scale them rapidly. Yet one question kept bothering him. Why were so many talented Indians still struggling to earn what they were truly worth? Not because they lacked skill. Engineers, marketers, designers, consultants, freelancers, and professionals across India possessed world-class capabilities. Yet many continued to struggle to land better jobs, attract global clients, or build successful careers. Shikkhar believes the answer was surprisingly simple. The problem wasn't talent. The problem was positioning. "Colleges teach people technical skills. Companies teach execution. But very few teach people how to communicate their value, build credibility, or position themselves for global opportunities," says Shikkhar. That realization changed the direction of his career. Rather than continuing to climb the corporate ladder, Shikkhar left the security of a leadership role to focus on a much larger mission: helping Indians build careers and businesses that are no longer limited by geography. In many ways, this wasn't the first time he had pursued an unconventional path. Back in 2012, long before artificial intelligence became mainstream, Shikkhar taught himself computer vision and built a tool that helped visually impaired people recognize numbers. It reinforced a lesson that still shapes his work today: technology creates real impact only when people know how to use it to solve meaningful problems. Also Read - Will Parliament debate or 'disrupt' again? Today, through his education platform, Shikkhar helps working professionals, freelancers, entrepreneurs, and agency owners learn how to position themselves globally, secure remote jobs, attract international clients, and leverage AI to compete in an increasingly borderless economy. His educational content has grown into a community of more than one million followers and has impacted over 50,000 professionals, students, freelancers, and entrepreneurs. Ask Shikkhar what separates people who succeed from those who remain stuck, and his answer remains unchanged. "The world isn't short of talent. It's short of people who know how to communicate the value of that talent." What began as one professional's decision to walk away from a corporate title has grown into a larger movement—helping Indians think beyond local opportunities and compete on a global stage.

Telangana state cabinet meeting: Massive escalation planned in irrigation project costs?

Hyderabad: The State government is reportedly planning a massive revision of the estimated costs of several major irrigation projects, citing factors like rising prices of raw materials, the impact of GST, design modifications, and other reasons. The proposals were discussed during the Cabinet meeting held here on Friday, sources said. According to sources, the government is considering increasing the cumulative cost of various irrigation projects by around Rs.1.26 lakh crore. In the first phase, the estimated costs of the

Sitarama Lift Irrigation Scheme, Devadula Lift Irrigation Scheme, Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme, Narayanpet-Kodangal Lift Irrigation Project, and the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) project are learnt to have been proposed for revision by nearly Rs. 35,000 crore. Interestingly, the Cabinet also decided to constitute a Special Enquiry Team (SET) to probe the alleged irregularities in the Dharani portal. The announcement was made by Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy while brief-



ing the media on the Cabinet decisions. However, there was no official announcement regarding the proposed escalation of irrigation project costs.

H-FAST raids Chandrayangutta fast food centres, seizes reused oil and coloured chicken

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Food Adulteration Surveillance Team (H-FAST), conducted a special drive against food safety violations at fast food centres in Chandrayangutta on Thursday. The inspections were carried out in coordination with the Food Safety Officer of GHMC to prevent food adulteration and ensure public health standards. During the drive, officials inspected Al-Madina Chinese Fast Food Center and Omer Chinese Fast Food Center in Chandrayangutta. Two cases were registered and three persons were apprehended for alleged violations. Officials found several violations, including preparation of food under unhygienic conditions, use of reused cooking oil and artificial food colours, absence of pest control records and failure to maintain prescribed



hygiene standards. The H-FAST team seized around 20 litres of reused cooking oil, 10 litres of fresh cooking oil, nearly 40 kg each of fried chicken and raw coloured chicken. Artificial and synthetic food colours packed in three boxes and six packets were also seized. The seized material was handed over to the SHO of Chandrayangutta Police Station for further legal action.

Cricket legend Sir Garfield Sobers passes away at 89 in Barbados

Hyderabad: Sir Garfield Sobers, one of the greatest all-rounders cricket has ever produced, passed away at his home in Barbados. He was 89. Sobers left an indelible impression on the game with his extraordinary skills as a batter, left-arm spinner and outstanding fielder. Late Sir Donald Bradman once described him as a "five-in-one cricketer". The great West Indian played 93 Test matches for the West Indies between 1954 and 1974, scoring 8,032 runs at an average of 57.78 and taking 235 wickets at an average of 34.03. The ICC's premier annual award in men's cricket — the Sir Garfield Sobers Award is named in his honour and recognises the most outstanding overall performer in men's international cricket across all formats. "A great innings has come to an end. In our hearts, now and forever, Sir Garfield Sobers," Cricket West Indies said in a post on X. Sobers made his first-class cricket debut 73 years ago at the age of 16, and his Test debut a



year later against England in Jamaica, where he scored 14 and 26 batting at No. 9 and took 4 for 75 in England's first innings. He played his initial Tests as a bowler, but at the age of 23, he scored his maiden Test hundred and also broke Len Hutton's world record for the highest individual Test score by making 365 against Pakistan at Sabina Park in 1958. Interestingly, that famous world record was later broken by fellow West Indian Brian Lara.

BRS leaders placed under house arrest despite High Court permission for Yuva Sangrama Sadassu

Hyderabad: Despite the High Court granting permission for the BRS party's "Yuva Sangrama Sadassu", the police are placing several leaders under house arrest and preventing them from participating in the programme. The BRS is conducting the meeting at Saroornagar on Saturday to highlight the Congress government's failure to fulfil the promises made to the youth. Initially, the police had denied permission for the meeting, but the High Court eventually granted permission. However, the police are still not allowing senior leader and former Minister P Sabithaindra Reddy and BRS General Secretary RS Praveen Kumar to participate in the meeting. They have been placed under house arrest. "I strongly condemn the police action of placing former Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy and senior BRS leader RS Praveen Kumar under house arrest," BRS MLC Shambipur Raju said. Detaining leaders even after the High Court granted permission is against the



spirit of the Constitution and disrespects the judiciary. It is unfortunate that the government, which is responsible for implementing court orders, is acting against the rules, he said. "In a democracy, every political party has a constitutional right to hold peaceful meetings and gatherings. Police attempts to suppress this right amount to trampling upon democratic values," Raju added. The government must immediately explain the detention of the leaders despite the High Court's permission. Police officials should immediately release the leaders, who have been illegally placed under house arrest, he demanded.

Collector Divakara TS calls for transparent implementation dairy scheme



Khammam Collector Divakara TS directs officials to ensure transparency and quality in the implementation of the Indira Mahila Dairy Scheme. Learn how the district plans to streamline cattle procurement and support women beneficiaries Khammam: "The purchase of dairy cattle under the Indira Mahila Dairy Scheme must be carried out in a transparent manner and strictly in accordance with government guidelines," Khammam District Collector Divakara TS said. Reviewing the implementation of the scheme on Friday, the Collector directed officials to ensure that administrative expenditure is kept under control while maintaining high standards of quality and transparency. He instructed officials to complete the sanction of loans through the concerned corporations immediately after the finalisation of the beneficiaries' list. Procurement of dairy animals should begin only after loans are sanctioned and in line with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) prescribed by the government. The Collector said beneficiaries must play an active role in the selection of dairy cattle and that only animals approved by them should be purchased. Officials were asked to prepare an action plan to procure 50 dairy animals every week for 25 beneficiaries, while ensuring that quality is not compromised despite expediting the process.

Heavy rains sink Tri-City, lay bare poor civic infra

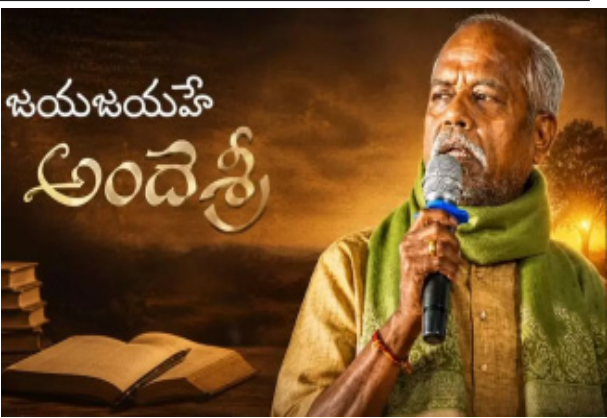
Roads resembled ponds, forcing residents to remain indoors for several hours Hanumakonda: Heavy rains that lashed Warangal, Hanumakonda and Kazipet on Friday morning again exposed the tri-city's long-standing civic infrastructure issues. Continuous rainfall from 8.20 am to noon inundated major roads and low-lying areas. Roads resembled ponds, forcing residents to remain indoors for several hours, while traffic came to a standstill at several busy junctions, causing severe inconvenience to office-goers, students and commuters. Rainwater accumulated on major roads and intersections, inundating Hanumakonda Chowrasta, Alankar Junction, RTC bus station, Julaivada, Prakash Reddy Peta, Deendayal Nagar, New Shyampet, Peddamma gadda, Surjit Singh Nagar, Pochamma Maidan-Desaipet Road (Warangal), Kashibugga, Warangal Railway Station Road, Karimabad, Rangasaipet, Somireddy and Bapuji Nagar (Kazipet). Water entered several low-lying colonies, leaving residents anxious and disrupting normal life. Residents said the situation was not an isolated incident but a recurring problem that persisted for decades.

Ande Sri Anna Is Telangana's Kalidas, Says CM Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy paid tributes to the state's most iconic poet-lyricist Ande Sri on his birth anniversary today. Revanth Reddy also shared a video in which one could see Revanth saying that, "People call Ande Sri Anna as Telugu Kalidas or Telangana Kalidas." Recalling the poet's contribution, the Chief Minister said Ande Sri's famous song "Jaya Jayahe Telangana Janani

Jayakethanam" celebrated Telangana's rich history and glorious past while expressing hope for a peaceful and prosperous state. He said Ande Sri's poetry reflected nature, humanity, and the voice of the people. The Chief Minister also announced that the works for 'Smruti Vanam', a memorial dedicated to the people's poet, were being launched in his memory on the occasion of his birth anniversary. Ande Sri had very little formal

education, yet he became one of the most talented and respected Telugu poets. He also penned several songs for Telugu films. Despite his fame and recognition, Ande Sri continued to lead a simple life. Ande Sri's popular songs Mayamai potunna damma Manishanna vadu Palle neeku vandalu Jai bolo Telangana, Jana garjana la jadi vana Alli billi angura thota Chudu Telangana, chukka leni Ande Sri was awarded with Nandi Award (2006)



for the film 'Ganga'. Doctorate from Academy of Universal Global Peace (2014) Dasharathi Literary Award (2015) Ravuri Bharadwaja Literary Award (2015) Nakamma National Award (2022) Dasharathi Krishnamacharya Literary Award (2024) Lok Nayak Award.



Leaders congratulate Skyroot Aerospace after historic Vikram-1 launch

New Delhi: Congratulations poured in after Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace successfully launched Vikram-1, the country's first privately developed orbital rocket, under Mission Aagaman, calling it a significant step forward in India's space ecosystem. With the successful launch of Vikram-1, India scripted a historic chapter in its space journey, becoming only the third nation after the United States and China to have a private company capable of launching a rocket into orbit. Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan, in a post on X, extended heartfelt congratulations to Skyroot Aerospace on the successful launch of Vikram-1. "This landmark achievement marks a new chapter in India's space journey, showcasing the growing strength of our private space sector, advancing indigenous innovation, and reinforcing India's emergence as a global space power. The mission also reflects the immense potential of India's rapidly expanding space economy," the Vice President said. Home Minister Amit Shah said that with this successful launch, "India's space ambition reaches new horizon." "Heartiest congratulations to Skyroot Aerospace on the successful launch of Vikram-1, India's first privately developed launch vehicle. A firm step towards realising Modi Ji's vision of making space more accessible, this innovation will further strengthen India's space sector, elevating its stature as a global leader," Shah posted on X. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that the successful flight test of Vikram-1 marks a "significant step forward in strengthening India's private space ecosystem and expanding the horizons of innovation". "This achievement reflects the talent of our young innovators, the growing capabilities of Indian enterprises and the impact of reforms that have opened new opportunities in the space sector. India's space story is witnessing a new era of collaboration, entrepreneurship and self-reliance, with the private sector playing an important role in driving this transformation," Singh said in a post on X. Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda, taking to social media, said, "Heartiest congratulations to Skyroot Aerospace on the successful launch of Vikram-1 from Sriharikota. Skyroot Aerospace has become the first Indian private company to place an orbital rocket into space." Nadda said that this marks a significant leap for the nation's space industry and makes India the third country in the world to achieve private orbital launch capability.

PM Modi hails Skyroot's successful Vikram-1 launch as defining space milestone

Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh): In its maiden voyage, India's first homegrown private orbital rocket, Vikram-1 Test Flight-1 on Saturday successfully placed multiple technology demonstration payloads and postcards, including from Prime Minister Narendra Modi into a low earth orbit, with the PM calling the mission as a "defining moment" in the country's space journey. Dubbed 'Mission Aagaman' (arrival), it marks the entry of India's private space sector into the orbital launch market, spearheaded by Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace. The mission was a "grand success," the company said. The four-stage, seven-storey-tall Vikram-1 rocket lifted off majestically at 12.05 pm amid cloudy skies from the first launch pad of ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Centre, leaving behind plumes of orange smoke and marking a new era from this spaceport. A "planned hold" due to apparent navigation issues forced a revised launch time of 12.05 pm, as against the originally planned 11.30 am. After its ascent, the primary payloads — technology demonstrators from Grahaa Space, Cosmos erve, DCubed, and Skyroot's SCOPE — were sequentially deployed into a 450 km Low Earth Orbit (LEO). The launch vehicle also successfully deployed a micro-art payload, an 18-karat gold rocket and a handwritten postcard from PM Modi bearing the message "Vande Mataram", along with postcards from engineers, scientists, and Indian astronauts. The miniature micro-art payload, carrying micro-sculptures of the doyen of India's space program Vikram Sarabhai, scientist Sir CV Raman and former President APJ Abdul Kalam has been created "as a tribute to three visionaries who shaped India's scientific and



space journey," the company said. "Skyroot proudly named its rockets and engines after these icons," it added. PM Modi hailed the successful launch saying it proved the country's self-reliance push. Speaking to the CEO and co-founder of Skyroot Aerospace, Pawan Kumar Chandana and co-founder Naga Bharath Daka over the phone, the PM congratulated them and their company for the successful feat achieved on Saturday. Both top officials were present at the ISRO's Mission Control Centre (MCC) for the launch. PM Modi conveyed his "grand greetings" to them and said their today's "Mission Aagaman" (arrival) should proceed further. The mission "proves we can be Atmanir bhar," (self-reliant) he said, even as Chandana informed that the rocket was completely designed and made in India. Referring to PM Modi's post card bearing the message "Vande Mataram," a slogan which the launch vehicle carried to a low earth orbit of 450 km, Chandana said "your card has successfully reached orbit. Vande Mataram is in orbit." The PM pointed out that the country was celebrating 150 years of the Vande Mataram, adding, the national song inspired many to live and die for the country. Later, on his 'X' handle, the PM said that "this is a defining moment in India's space journey." "The growing participation of our private sector is opening new frontiers and accelerating innovation. This

achievement will encourage countless youngsters to dream bigger and innovate fearlessly," he added. Chandana said, "we are very proud that the government has enabled us and opened up the sector to private players, and now we stand as India's first private company which has launched a rocket to orbit and also created a global milestone. All from India with a fully, fully Indian team, 100 per cent built in India." Daka said India was the third country, after the US and China with private sector launch capability. ISRO chief V Narayanan credited PM Modi for opening up the space sector for the startup ecosystem of the country. "In 2020, the space sector reform was announced. Today, within six years, a startup company has successfully placed the satellite in the first attempt in the orbit. It is really a great, satisfying moment," he said. He also lauded the young team of Skyroot Aerospace, saying "it was told the average age is 28 years." "When the space sector reform was announced by the Prime Minister, we had only one startup company. Today, we have got 400-plus startup companies working in multiple areas. But you know, the launch vehicle development is a very tricky game, and I am really extremely happy that in the first attempt we have succeeded," he added. According to the company, the engineering data collected during this test flight will be analysed to validate guidance and navigation systems, and to guide future refinements for commercial satellite missions. With its Saturday mission, Skyroot Aerospace successfully demonstrated its orbital launch capability with the maiden flight of the Vikram-1 launch vehicle, moving beyond the suborbital flight achieved by its Vikram-S mission in 2022.

Proud Day for India, Hyderabad: Revanth Reddy Hails Skyroot's Vikram-1 Mission

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday extended heartfelt congratulations to Skyroot Aerospace on the successful test flight of Vikram-1 under Mission Aagaman, an orbital-class launch vehicle developed entirely with indigenous technology. Congratulating the Hyderabad-based space-tech startup on this landmark achievement, the Chief Minister described the success of Vikram-1's Test Flight-1 — Mission Aagaman as a historic milestone for India's space sector and a moment of immense pride for Telangana. He commended Skyroot Aerospace for demonstrating the nation's growing technological prowess and spirit of innovation in space exploration. Recalling his visit to Skyroot Aerospace in April this year, the Chief Minister noted that he had flagged off the transportation

of the Vikram-1 flight hardware to the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, ahead of the Mission Aagaman launch campaign. He observed that the successful test launch marks a defining milestone in Telangana's journey towards becoming a global hub for aerospace and space technology. The Chief Minister further stated that this remarkable achievement reinforces Telangana's position as India's premier destination for aerospace innovation, advanced manufacturing, and next-generation space technologies. He expressed confidence that such milestones will significantly advance the State's vision of emerging as a globally recognized leader in the aerospace sector while inspiring a new generation of innovators and entrepreneurs. Revanth Reddy said in a post



on 'X'. Vikram-1, India's first privately built orbital rocket, developed by Hyderabad's own firm Skyroot Aerospace, has successfully lifted off from Sriharikota Telangana is where India's space dreams take shape. Congratulations to the entire Skyroot team — Hyderabad's innovation ecosystem continues to lead the nation into the future

FIFA World Cup may have cost US workplaces 11.7 billion dollar in productivity: Report

New Delhi: The FIFA World Cup disrupted US workplaces and may have shaved as much as \$11.7 billion off the country's productivity as millions of workers adjusted their schedules to watch matches, according to a report. NDTV Profit reported — citing UKG — that the tournament's global impact was nearly \$17 billion, due to higher absenteeism, late arrivals and early departures during the competition. In addition, the data from workplace platform Envoy showed highest work disruption coming the day after the United States men's team was eliminated from the tournament. Office attendance dropped 26 per cent on July 7, while employee entries dropped 11.5 per cent. That attendance drop was nearly 10 times larger than the post-Super Bowl attendance dip the company observed earlier this year. Visitor traffic — including client meetings, interviews and vendor appointments dropped 32 per cent, suggesting firms postponed meetings rather than closing offices outright. Once the host nation was knocked out, workplace attendance gradually picked up closer to normal even as the tournament entered the quarterfinal stage. As the World Cup final approaches, analysts said the Monday-after impact is likely to be far lower than "Knockout Tuesday" because the US is no longer in the tournament. Spain or Argentina will claim ultimate glory in front of a crowd of over 80,000 at New York New Jersey Stadium as they compete to be crowned FIFA World Cup™ champions. FIFA has announced Slovenian official Slavko Vincic has been appointed to referee the 2026 FIFA World Cup final between Argentina and Spain at the New Jersey Stadium on Monday (IST). World Cup winners in 2010, Spain are appearing in their second final, while Argentina are looking to lift the trophy for a fourth time following triumphs in 1978, 1986 and 2022 — also appearing in the 1930, 1990 and 2014 finals.



Chennithala denies Congress-KSU rift over ex-SFI leader's government pleader appointment

Kannur (Kerala): Kerala Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala on Saturday dismissed reports of differences between Chief Minister V D Satheesan and the KSU, over the appointment of a government pleader who was formerly associated with the SFI, saying any grievances within the party would be resolved through discussions. The controversy erupted after Satheesan said on Wednesday that government pleaders were appointed on the basis of merit and recommendations and that the government would not function under pressure from political or student organisations. The Congress's student wing KSU has objected to the appointment of a former Students' Federation of India (SFI) leader as a government pleader. SFI is the students' wing of the CPI(M). KSU state president Alosious Xavier on Friday said that if the UDF government considered his opposition to the appointment of a former SFI activist as a government pleader a "mistake", he would repeat it. Responding to questions from reporters, Chennithala said there was no such dispute within the Congress. "When you compare it to the disputes between the CPI(M) and the CPI, what dispute is there within the Congress? If there are any issues, we will sit together and resolve them," he said. Claiming that the maximum number of disputes existed within the opposition LDF, Chennithala said its constituents were unable to resolve their own issues. "They are in a state where they cannot even resolve the problems within the LDF. They can't even hold a front meeting. No such issues exist in Congress. If KSU workers have any grievances, those grievances will certainly be examined and resolved. I believe the chief minister himself will take the initiative," he said. Rejecting that the CM was unwilling to meet the aggrieved Kerala Students Union (KSU) leaders, Chennithala said hundreds of people meet Satheesan and other ministers every day.

"If the KSU leaders have an opinion, there is nothing wrong in expressing



it. They have expressed their opinions in the past as well. But there are certain procedures. If they meet the chief minister and place their concerns before him, he will certainly consider them. He will not disregard them. Not just him, all of us will consider them," he said. Meanwhile, Xavier on Saturday sought to downplay the controversy, saying the issue should not be portrayed as a major confrontation between the student organisation and the government. He said the matter related to a specific appointment and that the KSU had conveyed its concerns to both the government and the Congress leadership. "We informed the government of our concerns and also informed the party. The party has assured us that it will intervene in the matter. As a disciplined party worker, it is my responsibility not to say a single word more or less than that," Xavier said. He said the issue remained under discussion and expressed confidence that the KSU would soon get an opportunity to place its views before the government. "We are absolutely certain that it will never reach a stage where the KSU is ignored. We are waiting to meet our chief minister," he said. Asked whether time had been sought to meet Satheesan, Xavier said the KSU was in constant touch with the Chief Minister's office. Rejecting suggestions that AICC general secretary K C Venugopal was using the KSU to raise the issue, Xavier said the student organisation had always functioned independently. "KSU is an organisation that has the freedom to take independent positions and express its opinions. That has been its character from its inception," he said.

HPV Vaccine Essential for Protecting Girls' Health: Medical Officer Dr. Swapna

Nagar Kurnool: An HPV (Human Papilloma virus) vaccination programme was conducted at Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV), Uppununthala, under the supervision of Medical Officer Dr. Swapna. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Swapna educated the students about the importance of the HPV vaccine. She said the vaccine plays a crucial role in preventing cervical cancer and stressed the need to successfully implement the government's initiative by ensuring 100 percent vaccination coverage among all eligible girls aged 14–15 years. She added that the programme is highly beneficial for



safeguarding the health of adolescent girls. Geographic Reference MPHEO Madhu Naik, PHN Kavitha, MLHPs, Health Assistants, ANMs, ASHA workers, the Headmaster, teachers, and medical staff participated in the vaccination programme.

Kothaguda Tribal Gurukul College Principal Suspended Over Negligence

WARANGAL: The Telangana Tribal Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (TGTWREIS) has suspended T. Kalpana, Principal (FAC) of Telangana Girijan Welfare Girls Junior College (TGTWURJC-G), Kothaguda, in Mahabubabad district, on charges of dereliction of duty. The suspension orders were issued by TGTWREIS Secretary K. Sita Lakshmi following an inquiry into the functioning of the institution. The action comes in the wake of a protest by students on July 16, who staged a dharna in front of the college main gate from 7:50 am to 10 am. The students demanded immediate resolution of issues related to the poor condition of hostel toilets and

lack of drinking water. Taking note of media reports on the incident, higher authorities ordered an investigation. The inquiry reportedly found serious lapses in the administration of the college. According to the orders, despite students facing significant hardships, the Principal failed to take necessary steps to repair the toilets. It was also noted that an amount of Rs 7 lakh had been sanctioned in April 2026 for repairs, but there was negligence in supervising the works and utilisation of funds. In view of these findings, TGTWREIS has placed T. Kalpana under suspension with immediate effect for gross negligence in discharge of duties.

AAP criticises police action against Sonam Wangchuk, seeks dialogue

New Delhi: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday criticised the shifting of activist Sonam Wangchuk to a hospital by Delhi Police, with party national convenor Arvind Kejriwal saying that the Centre should have engaged in dialogue with him instead of using force. The party also appealed to students and youth to continue supporting Wangchuk's agitation and demanded that the Centre address the concerns being raised over the country's education and examination system instead of suppressing the protest. "Such arrogance is not right. Instead of forcibly lifting him, the Central government should have talked to Sonam Wangchuk," Kejriwal said in a post on X. He further said that instead of "crushing" the movement, the government should reform the country's education and examination system. Former Delhi education minister Manish Sisodia also attacked the Centre over the police action. "So, this is the solution to paper leaks: Beat up whoever raises their voice against paper leaks and don't let them raise their voice at all. This is not politics, it is cowardice," Sisodia said. Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh alleged that Wangchuk, who had been on an indefinite fast for 21 days, was forcibly shifted to a hospital instead of his demands being addressed. No representative of the Centre had spoken to the activist during his fast, he said, alleging that the police used force on protesters gathered at Jantar Mantar. The action was taken ahead of the Cockroach Janta Party's proposed march to Parliament on July 20, he pointed out, and appealed to the youth to continue supporting Wangchuk's agitation. Singh said attempts to suppress the movement through police action would not succeed. AAP Delhi president Saurabh Bharadwaj said police personnel in civil clothes entered the protest site with white bedsheets to block camera views, claiming that this was done to prevent any alleged manhandling of Wangchuk and other protesters from being captured on video. AAP MLA Sanjeev Jha, in a post on X, said that governments with authoritarian tendencies fear mass movements, but such movements cannot be brought to an



end through force or intimidation. According to Delhi Police, Wangchuk was shifted to the hospital following expert medical advice due to his deteriorating health condition and in compliance with the directions of the Delhi High Court.

"As per High Court orders and on expert medical advice, due to the deteriorating health condition of Sonam Wangchuk, he has been shifted to a government hospital for essential medical care. While complying with the High Court orders, the protesters tried to create an obstruction, during which a slight commotion ensued. However, police exercised maximum restraint and undertook the exercise safely," the police statement said. Wangchuk and three activists from the All India Students' Association (AISA) have been on an indefinite hunger strike since June 28 in support of the Cockroach Janta Party-led protest at Jantar Mantar over alleged irregularities in the NEET examination and the reported deaths of students linked to the controversy. Their health has been on a steady decline over the last three weeks. The Delhi High Court has directed that Wangchuk's health be regularly assessed and that appropriate medical intervention be provided if required. On Friday, doctors said he had lost nearly 9.5 kg since the beginning of the hunger strike, though Wangchuk maintained that he would continue the fast despite his worsening condition. AISA members Neha, Aameen and Manish, however, continued their hunger strike at the protest site on Saturday, with the organisation claiming that protesters formed a human chain to prevent police from removing them.

‘Chennai Love Story’ director Ravi Namburii says he turned emotional while filming Kiran Abbavaram’s final scene

Hyderabad: Ravi Namburii, the director of upcoming Telugu romantic entertainer ‘Chennai Love Story’, featuring actor Kiran Abbavaram in the lead, has now disclosed that he turned emotional while saying ‘action’ for the last time to actor Kiran Abbavaram during the making of the film. Taking to his Instagram page to post a clip of actor Kiran Abbavaram delivering his final dialogue during dubbing, the director wrote, “Remember this dialogue and the gesture. I literally mean it. You cannot forget this character once the film releases. Felt so emotional when I realised this is going to be the last time I say action or take to him. @kiran_abbavaram ... this journey with you is so memorable anna. Love you forever.” 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

Pawan Kalyan’s wife Anna Konidala shares emotional Tirumala climb after his surgery

Hyderabad: Anna Konidala, the wife of Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and well known Telugu star Pawan Kalyan, who recently offered prayers at Tirupati has now disclosed how she completed the challenging climb to Tirumala. Taking to her Instagram page to share pictures of her climb to Tirumala, Anna, whose trip to the holy place comes in the wake of the successful surgery that her husband Pawan Kalyan recently underwent, wrote, “I knew the climb to Tirumala would be difficult. I just didn’t expect it to be this difficult. Not only physically, but mentally too. There were so many moments when I wanted to stop and give up. So I started counting my blessings instead of the steps. She then went on to list all her blessings, saying, “My family. My health. The people I love. Everything life has given me. Support from millions of people and their prayers for our family.”

Anna said that it was a privilege to walk and feel exhausted.

“Every time I felt I couldn’t go any further, I’d sit down for a few minutes, catch my breath, watch everyone else slowly making their way up... and then get up and keep walking with them. By the end, I was completely exhausted,” she said and added, “But somewhere in the way I realised that nobody was climbing because it was easy. Everyone had their own prayer, hope or gratitude. Maybe that’s why this journey stays with so many people. You arrive tired. But your heart



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.



feels lighter than when you started.” It may be recalled that Anna had penned a note of gratitude to the doctors who had treated Pawan Kalyan on the day he was discharged from the hospital after having successfully undergoing a surgery. In that post, Anna had said, “Today, we were finally discharged from the hospital, and our hearts are full of gratitude. A heartfelt thank you to this incredible team for taking such exceptional care of my husband and performing his surgery with the highest level of skill and professionalism. We knew he was in the very best hands, and that gave our family something priceless — peace of mind.” She went on to add, “Our sincere gratitude to: Dr. Dinshaw Pardiwala – Arthroscopy Surgeon, Dr. Shyam Sunder Gaonkar – Senior Anaesthetist, Dr. Hitesh Yadav – Assistant Doctor, Dr. Arpit Mutha – Assistant Doctor. Thank you not only for your expertise, but also for your kindness, dedication and compassion throughout this journey.

Christopher Nolan’s The Odyssey earns over Rs 20 crore in India on opening day

New Delhi: Filmmaker Christopher Nolan’s “The Odyssey” has earned over Rs 20 crore at the box office in India on the first day of its release. Featuring Matt Damon as Odysseus, Tom Holland as Telemachus, Zendaya as Athena, Robert Pattinson as Antinous, Lupita Nyong’o as Helen of Troy and Clytemnestra, Anne Hathaway as Penelope and Charlize Theron as Calypso, among others, the film was released globally on Friday. According to trade tracking website Sacnilk, the film earned Rs 17.40 crore nett at the domestic box office. The gross collection of the film stands at Rs 20.76 crore at the domestic box office. The total box office collection stands at USD 39.8 million globally. “The Odyssey” revolves around the Greek King Odysseus (played by Damon) on a perilous 10-year journey home after the Trojan War. Beset by vengeful gods, sea monsters and enchantresses, he fights to reunite with his wife, Penelope (Hathaway), and son, Telemachus (Holland). It is produced under Syncopy Inc and distributed by Universal Pictures. Actors Jon Bernthal, John Leguizamo and Travis Scott, among others, round off the cast of the film. They play Menelaus, the King of Sparta, Eumaeus and a bard, respectively. The



film is based on Homer’s ancient Greek poem, which has been adapted several times earlier. In 1954, “Ulysses”, an Italian-American co-production, featured actor Kirk Douglas as the Greek hero. “O Brother, Where Art Thou?”, released in 2000, was a loose, satirical adaptation directed by the Coen Brothers. “The Odyssey”, released in 1997, was directed by Andrei Konchalovsky and was broadcast as a two-part miniseries. It starred Armand Assante as the Greek king and Greta Scacchi as Penelope, and followed Odysseus’s perilous 10-year journey home after the Trojan War.

SS Rajamouli unveils Priyanka Chopra’s first look as Mandakini in ‘Varanasi’

Mumbai: Ace Filmmaker S.S. Rajamouli has unveiled the first look of global icon Priyanka Chopra from his upcoming magnum opus ‘Varanasi’, introducing her in and as her character, Mandakini from the movie. Taking to his social media account on Saturday morning, Rajamouli shared two striking pictures of Priyanka, accompanied by the caption, “Grace when she smiles. Fire when she doesn’t. Mandakini... @PriyankaChopra in #Varanasi.” The first still presents Priyanka in an intense avatar. Dressed in a black corset-style outfit with her hair tied in a high, tousled bun, she sports a fierce expression. Set against a warm, amber-lit backdrop, the image hints at the powerful side of Mandakini’s character. In contrast, the second photograph captures Priyanka in a carefree and happy mood.



Wearing a white crop top paired with black cargo pants and a beige jacket draped over her shoulders, the actress is seen jumping mid-air with her arms spread wide. The actress’ smile reflects on the “grace” of her character which Rajamouli referred to in his caption. For the uninitiated, ‘Varanasi’ marks Priyanka Chopra’s first collaboration with S.S. Rajamouli and also stars Mahesh Babu in the lead.

Priyanka Chopra reveals why she calls Nick Jonas ‘Babu’ on Jonas Brothers podcast

Mumbai: Actress Priyanka Chopra’s affectionate nickname for husband Nick Jonas stole the spotlight on the latest episode of the Jonas Brothers’ podcast. Kevin and Joe Jonas who heard her referring to Nick as Babu, stated that they “love” the couple’s dynamic and the cute love name. During a fun rapid-fire segment on the podcast, the brothers quizzed Nick about Priyanka’s favourite things about him and their relationship, leading to many candid revelations. Speaking about their dynamic at home, Nick shared that whenever Priyanka calls out “Babu,” he instantly knows she needs his help. Priyanka added how she needs him for everything at home. “My hands don’t work when Nick is at home. It’s like, ‘Babu,’” Priyanka joked, prompting Nick to add, “When I hear that, I’m like, ‘Yes,’” she added. Mimicking everyday situations, Priyanka continued, “‘Babu, the remote’s not working.’ ‘Babu, the internet’s not working.’ ‘Can I have a drink, please?’” Reacting to the exchange, Kevin and Joe couldn’t help but laugh, saying, “Oh, we love it. That’s great. Everyone’s got their dynamic. We love it. Love to see it.” Priyanka responded



warmly, saying, “Yeah. I’m very grateful for it. I love you, Nick.” Earlier in the conversation, Nick correctly guessed that Priyanka’s favourite physical feature of his is his “giant back”. Priyanka also revealed that if she could remove one thing from Nick’s wardrobe, it would be his golf clothes because she “loses” him to the sport. “Golf clothes, because I lose you to golf,” she said, before adding, “You look hot in golf clothes.” For the uninitiated, Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas who tied the knot in lavish Christian and Hindu in Jodhpur in December 2018, complete nine years of marital bliss this year. The couple welcomed their daughter, Malti Marie Chopra Jonas, via surrogacy in January 2022 and have often shared glimpses of their family life.

FIFA WC 2026: Yamal fit for Spain’s World Cup final against Argentina, says De la Fuente

New York: Spain forward Lamine Yamal has overcome fitness concerns and will be available for Sunday’s World Cup final against Argentina, head coach Luis de la Fuente said. Yamal, 19, was seen limping after Spain’s 2-0 win over France in the semifinals and missed his team’s training session on Thursday. “He had a strong knock, which was very painful,” De la Fuente was quoted by Xinhua as saying. “Just to err on the side of caution, we decided to give him some rest. He was fine in training today. He participated with his teammates. He is fine and in optimal condition.” De la Fuente said Saturday’s final training session would be the last opportunity to catch any late setback before Sunday’s match at New York New Jersey Stadium. “That’s the most critical time,” he said. “If there are any setbacks, there won’t



be time to recover.” The match will be Spain’s first World Cup final since it won the tournament in 2010. Argentina is chasing back-to-back titles and a fourth overall, having previously won in 1978, 1986 and 2022. De la Fuente, whose side has reached the final unbeaten with only one goal conceded, said both teams were deserved finalists and saw similarities in the way they play.

“On Sunday we will watch a great show,” he said. “Two super teams, in my opinion, very similar in many respects in terms of attitude and talent. I believe both Spain and Argentina will have a game plan where talent and good football will rule over everything else.” The teams have had starkly different routes to the final. While Spain has largely controlled opponents with its possession-based game and miserly defense, Argentina has relied on late goals to win each of its four knockout games. De la Fuente said no lead was out of reach for Lionel Scaloni’s side. “They have been down on the scoreboard and been able to come back,” he said. “But we’ve also had situations like this in the history of our national team. “Lionel Scaloni and myself, we both share many concepts, values and principles that drive teams. We’re similar, and that shows that in the biggest teams you require those attitudes. When things are so level, it’s all down to details. De la Fuente admitted he did not plan to man-mark Argentina captain Lionel Messi, who has had a direct hand in 12 of Argentina’s 19 goals this tournament. He shared his own personal experience facing the eight-time Ballon d’Or winner when he was coaching Sevilla’s youth team. “We went to Barcelona, and I had heard great things about a kid named Messi,” the 65-year-old said. “So we assigned a player to mark him man-to-man, but in the 70th minute, I substituted the marker because he was on a yellow card. The score was 0-0, and in the span of 15 minutes, Messi scored four goals against us. So we won’t use man-to-man marking this time. We have to stay alert and pay special attention, certainly.” De la Fuente said Yamal should not try to emulate Messi, but simply play his own game. “Messi is a role model to younger players, with his attitude and the way he plays,” he said. “Lamine has to be himself, and the best way we can support him is to let him be the person and footballer he is, because he has great potential.”

France and England battle for third place at FIFA World Cup 2026

Miami: France and England will conclude their FIFA World Cup 2026 campaigns on Sunday when they face off in the third-place playoff at Miami Stadium in Florida. After falling short in the semifinals, both European heavyweights will be aiming to finish the tournament on a positive note, even if the bronze-medal contest falls well short of the occasion they had targeted. France’s hopes of reaching a second successive World Cup final were ended by an impressive Spain side, while England endured a heart-breaking exit after conceding late against defending champions Argentina. Although neither team would have envisioned ending its campaign in a playoff for third place, pride, momentum and a podium finish remain on the line.

The fixture also carries added significance for France manager Didier Deschamps, who will oversee Les Bleus for the 187th and final time after a remarkable 14-year spell in charge. The former World Cup-winning captain leaves behind one of the most successful managerial eras in French football and will hope to sign off with a victory. History slightly favours England, who have won 17 of the previous 32 meetings between the two nations, with five ending in draws. However, France prevailed in their most recent World Cup meeting, edging England 2-1 in the quarterfinals of the 2022 edition after Harry Kane missed a crucial late penalty. France enter the contest with greater consistency and could again lean on the attacking brilliance of Kylian Mbappé, who remains in contention for a second consecutive World Cup Golden Boot. England, led by Harry Kane and Jude Bellingham, have enough firepower to trouble any opponent, but will need a sharper all-round display to deny France a winning farewell for Deschamps. Live streaming and live telecast of the FIFA World Cup 2026 matches will be available on the Zee5 platform and app in India. A subscription will be required. Live telecast of the FIFA World Cup 2026 will be available on the Unite8 Sports 1, Unite8 Sports 1 HD, Unite8 Sports 2 and Unite8 Sports 2 HD TV channels in India.



England have slight edge over India in Lord’s ODI decider, says Kapil Dev



Greater Noida: Former India captain Kapil Dev believes England hold a slight edge over India heading into the series-deciding third ODI at Lord’s on Sunday, saying the hosts enjoy the advantage of familiar conditions while India’s biggest challenge has been finding the right team rhythm. With the three-match series level at 1-1, the iconic Lord’s will host a winner-takes-all contest after India claimed the opening ODI at Edgbaston before England bounced back with a four-wicket victory in Cardiff, powered by Joe Root’s unbeaten 99.

Speaking to IANS, the 1983 World Cup-winning captain described the series decider as an evenly balanced contest but gave England a slight edge because of home conditions. He also felt India’s inability to gel as a settled unit has been the main reason behind their T20I series defeat and the ODI series remaining undecided until the final match. “I think both teams are 50-50 at the moment. Since England are playing at home, you can say they have a slight edge, maybe 51 percent,” Kapil told IANS. “Looking at the way our team has performed in the T20Is and so far in the ODI series, I don’t think the team has gelled completely yet. If this

Indian side starts clicking as a unit, I would even give them a 60 percent chance,” he added.

India head into the decider with positives despite the defeat in Cardiff. Virat Kohli returned to form with a fluent 65, while Jasprit Bumrah remains the leader of the bowling attack. However, Rohit Sharma will be looking for a significant contribution after an inconsistent run with the bat. England, meanwhile, will once again rely heavily on Root, who has continued his remarkable consistency in ODI cricket and will be aiming to guide the hosts to another home series triumph. A victory at Lord’s would also help India end a 22-year wait for an ODI win at the iconic venue and secure their eighth bilateral ODI series win over England since 2010. Kapil also threw his support behind India head coach Gautam Gambhir amid discussions surrounding the team’s recent performances, saying the decision on the former opener’s future lies with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the selection committee. “That is up to the cricket board and the selection committee to decide. I think he has done a fairly good job, and I wish him all the best,” Kapil said.

Argentina vs Spain: All-Spanish World Cup final sparks emotional dilemma for fans

Buenos Aires: Cervantes and Borges. Tortilla and asado. Flamenco and tango. Argentines and Spaniards have long been united by blood ties and a relationship of mutual admiration, but the World Cup final between these two Spanish-speaking nations has placed many of them at a crossroads: Should they support La Furia or La Albiceleste on Sunday? “It feels like being caught between a rock and a hard place,” admitted Juan Manuel Posada, a 75-year-old Spaniard originally from Asturias who settled in Buenos Aires in 1968. The clash in New Jersey will mark the first All-Spanish-speaking World Cup final since the inaugural 1930 tournament, when host Uruguay defeated Argentina 4-2 in Montevideo.

Buenos Aires was founded by a Spaniard

It was a Spaniard, Pedro de Mendoza, who founded Buenos Aires in the mid-16th century. The battles for independence did not alter the strong cultural influence of the Iberian Peninsula on the young nation — an influence that deepened with the waves of Spanish migration in the first half of the 20th century. “It’s as if I’d arrived just yesterday. My heart is in Asturias, in Spain, and with the Spanish national team. Without a doubt,” said Posada, a fan of the Spanish club Sporting de Gijón who, in his adopted country, became a supporter of Independiente de Avellaneda. “If Spain wins, great, but if Argentina wins, I won’t



be upset at all,” he added in the Asturian accent he still retains. Manuel Fernández Acevedo is 81 years old; he left Baiona, in Vigo, with his family when he was very young to settle in Argentina, where his daughter and granddaughter were born. Torn between the two countries, he said, “May the best team win. If Spain wins, that’s great, and if it’s Argentina’s turn, that’s fine, too.”

A deep relationship

Just as literature, gastronomy, and music were enriched by that bond of brotherhood, football also felt its impact, with Argentina’s Alfredo Di Stéfano and Lionel Messi standing out as the greatest icons at Real Madrid and Barcelona, respectively. Surprisingly, there is no classic football rivalry between the two countries, partly because, in nearly a century of World Cup history, the Spanish and Argentines have faced each other only once. That encounter was during the group stage of the 1966 World Cup, resulting in a victory for La Albiceleste.

AI skills feature in 15.4 per cent of tech job descriptions: Naukri report



New Delhi: AI fluency is rapidly emerging as a baseline workplace capability, with AI-related skills now featuring in 15.4 per cent of technology job descriptions, while AI skill mentions in non-technology roles have increased nearly six-fold, says a report. According to Naukri's latest World AI Day Report 2026, AI-related skills now appear in 15.4 per cent of technology job descriptions, up from 0.9 per cent in 2020, reflecting a nearly 17-fold increase in employer demand over the past six years. The report drew insights from nearly 27,000 professionals across 80+ industries and 15+ cities and analysed over 3 lakh job descriptions. Interestingly, AI adoption is spreading beyond traditional technology functions. Mentions of AI-related skills in non-technology job descriptions have increased from 0.26 per cent in 2020 to 1.59 per cent in 2026, reflecting nearly six-fold growth. As AI talent becomes increasingly valuable, professionals with AI skills continue to enjoy a measurable salary advantage. "AI is no longer a future trend, it is already reshaping how India works. It's showing up in job descriptions, hiring patterns, workplace tools and career decisions. The real question now is readiness," Sumeet Singh, Group CMO, Info Edge

(India) Ltd, said. According to the report, professionals with AI skills earn higher median salaries across both IT and non-IT roles than peers without AI skills. AI-enabled roles have also recorded stronger salary growth over the past four years, reinforcing the growing business value of AI expertise. AI hiring has grown fastest among professionals with 13 to 16+ years of experience, followed by those with 16+ years, as per the report. Recruiter demand has also increased significantly for higher salary brackets, including Rs 40-49 lakh and Rs 50 lakh and above, indicating that organisations are investing in experienced professionals capable of leading enterprise AI transformation. AI usage is particularly high among professionals working in AI-intensive functions. Product Management, Data Science and Analytics, and Engineering, Software and QA report the highest proportion of professionals who rely heavily on AI in their work. The report noted that India's AI journey has entered a new phase. While organisations are accelerating AI adoption and demand for specialised skills continues to grow, sustained investment in workforce development will determine how effectively businesses and professionals realise AI's full potential.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Q1 net profit rises 22.55 per cent to Rs 5,480 crore



Mumbai: Private lender Kotak Mahindra Bank on Saturday reported a 22.55 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 5,480.46 crore in the first quarter of the financial year 2026-27. In the year-ago period, Kotak Mahindra Bank's consolidated net profit stood at Rs 4,472.18 crore. On a standalone basis, the bank's net profit stood at Rs 4,122.96 crore in the June 2026 quarter, compared with Rs 3,281.68 crore in the year-ago period. The bank's core net interest income increased by 9 per cent year-on-year to Rs 7,928 crore in the reporting quarter from Rs 7,259 crore in the first quarter of the financial year 2025-26. However, the bank's net interest margin declined to 4.53 per cent in the June quarter from 4.65 per cent in the year-ago period and 4.67 per cent in the previous quarter. In the reporting quarter, the bank's fee and services

income increased by 11 per cent to Rs 2,500 crore from Rs 2,249 crore a year ago. On a sequential basis, it declined by 10 per cent. Total deposits of the bank grew by 14 per cent year-on-year to Rs 5.59 lakh crore in Q1FY27 from Rs 4.92 lakh crore in Q1FY26, according to the investor presentation. Kotak Mahindra Bank's current account deposits increased by 15 per cent year-on-year to Rs 78,107 crore. The bank recorded a 15 per cent year-on-year increase in advances to Rs 5.28 lakh crore in the June quarter from Rs 4.59 lakh crore in the same period a year ago. The bank's asset quality also improved in the reporting quarter, with the gross non-performing asset (NPA) ratio at 1.18 per cent as on June 30, 2026, compared with 1.48 per cent as on June 30, 2025, and 1.20 per cent as on March 31, 2026.

Sensex jumps 965 points, Nifty tops 24,300 led by banking and IT stocks



Mumbai: Indian equity benchmarks ended sharply higher on Friday, supported by strong buying in private banking, information technology and auto stocks. The Sensex rallied 964.58 points, or 1.25 per cent, to close at 78,151.45. The Nifty also ended firmly in the green, rising 261.55 points, or 1.09 per cent, to settle at 24,334.30. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the 24,400 level remains the immediate resistance and coincides with the 200-day Exponential Moving Average (EMA), making it a crucial hurdle for the index. "A sustained breakout above this zone could reinforce bullish momentum and pave the way for an advance towards the 24,500-24,600 region," as per the expert. "On the downside, the 24,200 zone is now expected to act as the immediate support, having successfully transitioned from a key resistance level and reinforcing the broader recovery structure, followed by the 24,000 psychological mark, which remains a crucial support zone for preserving the broader recovery structure," the analyst added. Among sectoral indices,

the Nifty Private Bank emerged as the top performer, gaining 2.12 per cent. The Nifty IT index advanced 1.75 per cent, while the Nifty Realty and Nifty Auto indices climbed 1.34 per cent and 1.24 per cent, respectively. In contrast, healthcare-related stocks remained under pressure, with the Nifty Pharma and Nifty Healthcare indices ending the session as the biggest sectoral laggards. Despite the strong rally in the benchmark indices, the broader market underperformed. The Nifty Midcap 100 index declined 0.41 per cent, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 index fell 0.21 per cent by the close of trade. "Investor sentiment remained resilient despite persistent concerns over elevated AI valuations, ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, and heightened volatility in global markets," as per an expert. Market experts further stated that there is a shift in market momentum, with strong traction moving toward large-cap stocks, led by the IT and banking sectors. "This is supported by optimism around business updates and Q1 earnings expectations," as per an analyst.

NRIs can bring USD 70-80 billion through FCNR initiative: Expert

Singapore: Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) have the potential to bring USD 70-80 billion in foreign currency inflows into India through the ongoing FCNR initiative, under which banks are offering higher interest rates for a limited period, a Singapore-based chartered accountant said on Friday. The estimate was also discussed during a global webinar organised by the Singapore Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) in association with the ICAI's International Affairs Committee and its 25 overseas chapters on Wednesday. The Foreign Currency Non-Resident (FCNR) scheme allows NRIs and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) to safely deposit and grow their overseas earnings in major foreign currencies with Indian banks. These deposits operate like traditional fixed deposits, except the money remains in foreign currency instead of being converted into Indian rupees. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has permitted banks to offer higher interest rates on FCNR deposits for a limited period as part of its strategy to bolster forex reserves and support the rupee amid the West Asia crisis. "As much as USD 10 billion has been raised so far under the FCNR initiative, which is open till September 30, 2026," ICAI Singapore Chapter Chairman Sanjay Gattani told PTI. Echoing the views shared by experts at the webinar, Gattani said NRIs have the potential to bring USD 70-80 billion in foreign currency inflows into India through the FCNR initiative. "Such inflows would substantially enhance India's external financial position while provid-

ing NRIs with an opportunity to contribute directly to the nation's development," he said. The webinar, held on July 15, drew nearly 1,800 participants, including chartered accountants, NRIs, accredited investors, business leaders, family offices and finance professionals from across the world. Gattani said that, considering the investment capacity of participants and the leverage available through FCNR deposits, the webinar alone had the potential to facilitate investment commitments of more than USD 2 billion. "This is a testament to the trust that the global Indian community continues to place in India's economic future and the power of well-curated knowledge initiatives in mobilising meaningful capital," he said. The webinar aimed to familiarise overseas Indians with the recently announced FCNR opportunity and its potential benefits for both investors and the Indian economy. Senior representatives of HDFC Bank, HSBC and State Bank of India explained the FCNR framework, investment process, regulatory requirements, taxation aspects and the advantages available to NRIs. ICAI Singapore Chapter Vice-Chairman Kushal Jaju said the interactive session addressed a wide range of investor queries, helping participants better understand the practical aspects of investing under the scheme. Gattani said a recurring theme during the discussions was that the current FCNR initiative represents a "once-in-a-generation opportunity" for the Indian diaspora to participate in India's growth while benefiting from an attractive investment avenue.

Significant step forward in India's space ecosystem: Jagan

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party chief Jagan Mohan Reddy on Saturday congratulated Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace for the successful launch of Vikram-1, the country's first privately developed orbital rocket, under Mission Aagaman, calling it a significant step forward in India's space ecosystem. In a post on X, Reddy said, "Congratulations to Skyroot Aerospace on the successful launch of Vikram-1, a landmark achievement as India's first privately developed orbital launch vehicle. This milestone reflects the extraordinary capabilities of our scientists, engineers, innovators, and entrepreneurs." Executive Branch "This marks a significant step forward in India's space ecosystem. Wishing the entire team continued success as they inspire a new era of innovation and technological excellence for our nation," he added. With the successful launch of Vikram-1, India scripted a historic chapter in its space journey, becoming the only third nation after the United States and China to have a private company capable of launching a rocket into orbit. Government The landmark mission lifted off from the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) First Launch Pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR) in



Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, marking a major milestone for India's rapidly expanding private space sector. "LIFT-OFF! Vikram-1 has left the pad at Sriharikota. India's first privately developed orbital rocket is flying. History is being made," Skyroot Aerospace said in a post on social media platform X. "Safe tower clearance. At T+10 seconds, Vikram-1 Test Flight-1 has cleared the launch tower," it added. Named after Dr Vikram Sarabhai, the father of India's space programme, the four-stage Vikram-1 launch vehicle is designed to provide rapid and on-demand launch services for small satellites. The mission is also expected to strengthen India's position in the global commercial launch market. The seven-storey rocket is headed for a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) at an altitude of about 450 km. With the successful launch, India joined an exclusive group of nations where private companies have demonstrated orbital launch capability.

Pawan Kalyan's wife Anna Konidala shares emotional Tirumala climb after his surgery



Hyderabad: Anna Konidala, the wife of Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and well known Telugu star Pawan Kalyan, who recently offered prayers at Tirupati has now disclosed how she completed the challenging climb to Tirumala. Taking to her Instagram page to share pictures of her climb to Tirumala, Anna, whose trip to the holy place comes in the wake of the successful surgery that her husband Pawan Kalyan recently underwent, wrote, "I knew the climb to Tirumala would be difficult. I just didn't expect it to be this difficult. Not only physically, but mentally too. There were so many moments when I wanted to stop and give up. So I started counting my blessings instead of the steps. She then went on to list all her blessings, saying, "My family. My health. The people I love. Everything life has given me. Support from millions of people and their prayers for our family."

realised that nobody was climbing because it was easy. Everyone had their own prayer, hope or gratitude. Maybe that's why this journey stays with so many people. You arrive tired... but your heart feels lighter than when you started." It may be recalled that Anna had penned a note of gratitude to the doctors who had treated Pawan Kalyan on the day he was discharged from the hospital after having successfully undergoing a surgery. In that post, Anna had said, "Today, we were finally discharged from the hospital, and our hearts are full of gratitude. A heartfelt thank you to this incredible team for taking such exceptional care of my husband and performing his surgery with the highest level of skill and professionalism. We knew he was in the very best hands, and that gave our family something priceless — peace of mind." She went on to add, "Our sincere gratitude to: Dr. Dinshaw Pardiwala — Arthroscopy Surgeon, Dr. Shyam Sunder Gaonkar — Senior Anaesthetist, Dr. Hitesh Yadav — Assistant Doctor, Dr. Arpit Mutha — Assistant Doctor. Thank you not only for your expertise, but also for your kindness, dedication and compassion throughout this journey. We will always be grateful."

Workshop held for low vision students



Students participating in the workshopGeographic Reference Vijayawada: Vijaya Mary Integrated School for the Blind, Carmel Nagar, Gunadala, organised a one-day Digital Accessibility Workshop for low vision students in collaboration with Bengaluru-based Enable India to enhance their digital skills and independence. The workshop was inaugurated by Sister Rajeswari, Headmistress, in the presence of Nirmala, Resource Teacher, and Sister Arockia Mary. A total of 17 low vision students participated in the programme. The training was led by Y Rajesh, Senior Executive, Enable India, along with trainers Keerthan Kumar, Bhuvaneswari,

and Nagababu. Participants received practical training on Android and Windows accessibility features, including font enlargement, display contrast, screen magnification, zoom functions, cursor visibility, screen readers, dark mode, brightness settings and the use of low vision assistive devices. The sessions focused on enabling students to use smartphones and laptops independently for education and everyday activities. The school management expressed gratitude to Enable India for its continued support in promoting digital accessibility and empowering students with visual impairments through assistive technology.

SRM-AP launches student-built air taxi



CV Sridhar, Director of Andhra Pradesh Quantum Mission, Vice-Chancellor Prof Ch Satish Kumar and dignitaries with Team Skyworks at SRM University-AP in Amaravati on FridayGeographic Reference Amaravati: SRM University-AP takes the first step towards innovations in sustainable, autonomous and intelligent air mobility with the launch of the student-led innovation called DOXI, an air taxi and an indigenous advanced air mobility platform, conceptualised, designed, and developed by students of SRM-AP. Fabricated by Team Skyworks, comprising 10 B Tech students and their mentor Associate Professor Dr Pradyut Kumar Sanki, DOXI was launched at the university campus with a live demonstration in the presence of AP State Quantum Mission Director CV Sridhar, Vice-Chancellor Prof Ch Satish Kumar, Dean (Research) Prof Ranjit Thapa, Deans, Directors, faculty and students. Built with a modular architecture, DOXI, the Air Taxi, features a 16-motor electric eVTOL configuration built on a carbon fibre frame for lightweight strength. The prototype features a payload capacity of up to 80 kg and has successfully demonstrated stable vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) capabilities during live flight tri-

als. The aircraft can reach a top speed of 50 km/h with a flight endurance of 25 minutes, all at a remarkably low operating cost of Rs 3.5 per km. Also Read - SRM-AP to launch B.Tech in health engg Advertisement Discover more Online newspaper access Politics Executive Branch CV Sridhar, who was chief guest, congratulated the research team on their landmark invention. From volumetric analysis of forest landscapes and civilian infrastructure to rescue operations, he stated that this innovation reflects the growing synergy between academia, industry, and emerging technologies that will shape the future of our nation. "Today is the fruition of our institutional philosophy - Imagine, Innovate, Prototype and Launch", remarked Vice-Chancellor Prof Ch Satish Kumar. Team Skyworks — Manikanta (Founder, Team Lead and Chief Test Pilot), Ajit Kumar (co-Lead), Sai Sankar (Software Engineer), Ch Manikanta (Testing Engineer and Documentation Engineer), K Manoj Kumar (Power Electronics Engineer), J Sai Deekshith (Avionics Engineer), Ashwith (Avionics Engineer), B Ramprasad Reddy (Embedded Systems Engineer), Agastya Pandey (Software Engineer), and Sanjay (CAD Design Engineer)