



Horse donated to TTD 'goshala' dies of chronic illness

Tirupati: A nine-year-old male horse, recently donated to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams' (TTD) Sri Venkateswara Gosamrakshana Shala, died despite medical treatment. The horse was placed under quarantine immediately upon its arrival at the goshala on July 13, and blood and dung samples were sent to the State Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory in Tirupati. "Despite all medical efforts and continuous monitoring by veterinary doctors, the nine-year-old horse died on Saturday," said SV Goshala Director AVN Sivakumar in an official press release from the temple body late on Saturday. Preliminary tests indicated that the animal was suffering from chronic liver and kidney ailments, he said. From day one, the horse showed signs of illness, including poor food and water intake, frequent sitting, rolling and difficulty in standing, he said, adding that

Covid-19 scare: Health Minister confirms Omicron RF.5 presence in Andhra

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav has said the Omicron RF.5 variant has been detected in the state following genome sequencing of four Covid-19 positive samples. The Health Department has sent four samples from Covid-19 cases reported in Kadapa district to a virology laboratory in Pune for testing, and the results have confirmed the presence of the RF.5 sub-lineage of the Omicron variant. "Genome sequencing at a virology laboratory in Pune has confirmed the presence of the Omicron RF.5 variant in four COVID-19 positive samples from Kadapa district," said Yadav in an official press release late on Saturday. The Minister held discussions with senior health officials over the phone regarding the findings from Pune and reviewed the prevailing Covid-19 situation in the southern state. RF.5 is a sub-lineage



of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus and is among the several Omicron sub-lineages identified across the world, said the press release. Director of Medical Education Vishnuvardhan said the RF.5 variant was being monitored as part of routine genomic surveillance of SARS-CoV-2. The World Health Organisation (WHO) is also tracking the strain, which has been reported in higher numbers in Singapore and some countries in South-east Asia. Citing

IMD forecasts rain for AP and Telangana for three days

The Meteorological Department has forecasted heavy rains in Telangana as well as Andhra Pradesh due to the impact of a low-pressure area. Holidays & Seasonal Events The Meteorological Department has forecasted heavy rains in Telangana as well as Andhra Pradesh due to the impact of a low-pressure area for four days. It stated that heavy rain along with thundering and lightning in many districts of both the states besides gusty winds with a speed of 40 to 50 kmph. It has also asked people to be cautious and especially instructed fishermen not to go to the sea for fishing. On the other hand, AP State Disaster Management Authority, also announced moderate rainfall in the districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Parvathipuram Manyam, Alluri Sitarama Raju, Eluru, Krishna, NTR, Guntur, Bapatla, Praka

sam, Nellore, Nandyal, and Kadapa. There will be light rains in other districts of the state. The Meteorological department said there will be rain along with thundering, lightning, and lightning strike in the districts of Vizianagaram,

Parvathipuram Manyam, Alluri Sitarama Raju, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, and Eluru on Monday. There will be light rains in some other districts of the State. According to the Met department, there is a chance of rains in Telangana for the next three days. It is predicted that light



rains will be witnessed in some regions, while in other regions moderate rains can be anticipated. It surely is a relief for the farmers, who are eagerly waiting for the rains and the common people who are suffering from the hot and sultry weather post summer season.

PM Modi to Inaugurate Bhogapuram Airport on August 1

Airport to be Dedicated to Nation in the Name of Alluri Sitarama Raju

Vijayanagaram, July 19: The long-cherished dream of North Andhra people is set to come true. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the state-of-the-art Bhogapuram Sri Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport and dedicate it to the nation on August 1. On Sunday morning, State Minister Kondapalli Srinivas inspected the progress of works at Bhogapuram Airport. He was accompanied by Nellikarla MLA Lokam Naga Madhavi, Markfed Chairman Bangaru Raju, Collector S. Ram Sundar Reddy, SP A.R. Damodar and Airport Authority officials. The Minister said that under the leadership of PM Modi and CM Chandrababu Naidu, Bhogapuram Airport will gain recognition as one of the most magnificent airports in the world. "The foundation stone laid by former Union Minister Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju is now becoming a reality," he said. Andhra



Pradesh's 'Bhagya Nagaram' "Just as Hyderabad is known as 'Bhagya Nagaram' of Telangana, North Andhra will shine as 'Bhagya Nagaram' of Andhra Pradesh with Bhogapuram Airport. With national highways and the new airport,

the face of Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam and Vijayanagaram districts will change completely. The Minister added that with companies like Google, Jindal, and RSR Mittal Nippon Steel already setting up industries and more on the way under CM Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh, North Andhra is poised for rapid growth. YCP Ready for Credit Theft "Jagan Reddy who said not even a single RTC bus would come here, is now ready to claim credit saying 'we built the airport' after PM Modi inaugurates it," the Minister alleged. Collector S. Ram Sundar Reddy said arrangements are being made for the PM's public meeting on nearly 60 acres with parking for around 3000 vehicles. SP Damodar said security has been divided into 4 sectors. The Minister instructed officials to expedite the approach roads and to arrange traditional performances like Thappetagullu, Kolatam and tribal dances.

CM Chandrababu congratulates National Award Winners, wishes Tollywood success

Naidu opined that art, culture, and cinema were the pillars of our identity and heritage and wished that the Tollywood would reach more heights. Holidays & Seasonal Events Congratulating all the 72nd National Film Awards' winners, Chief Minister Chandrababu said that he had special regards for the actors, directors, producers, technicians, and other crew members who have added prestige to the film industry and taken Telugu film industry on a new height with their hard work. Naidu opined that art, culture, and cinema were the pillars of our identity and heritage and wished that the Tollywood would reach more heights and inspire future generations with its sheer talent. The Chief Minister extended best wishes for all the award winners, hoping that they would receive greater awards in the future. Minister of Cinematography Kandula Durgesh also congratulated the winners of the 72nd National Film Awards. He appreciated the choice of Committee Kurrollu directed by Puri Jagannadh and produced by Niharika Konidela as the Best Film. Durgesh was happy and proud of Tollywood making



itself known for its power by getting nine National Film Awards.



Anakapalli to Kashi and Ayodhya special train flagged

The special train going from Anakapalle to Kashi and Ayodhya was flagged off by Railway Standing Committee Chairman and MP CM Ramesh Executive Branch. The special train going from Anakapalle to Kashi and Ayodhya was flagged off by Railway Standing Committee Chairman and MP CM Ramesh at Anakapalle Railway Station on Sunday morning along with MLAs. Speaking on the occasion, the MP said that as per the election promise, people from the parliamentary constituency are being taken to Ayodhya. He said that along with Ayodhya, darshan of Kashi is also being provided as per the instructions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said that the train will go from Anakapalle to Ayodhya with 1500 people in 20 coaches. He said that this journey will continue for five days. He said that another train will be made available soon. All facilities have been provided so that the devotees do not face any difficulties.



The rewritten criminal code leaves the victim behind

Under Section 360, no court can permit the withdrawal of a criminal prosecution without first giving the victim an opportunity to be heard. The government's approach to victim rights in the BNSS follows a familiar pattern: visible reform, invisible deficit. Give victims the right to be heard before the State drops the case — but give them no power to ensure the case is prosecuted competently in the first place. Give them the right to appeal an acquittal — but leave them defenceless against the institutional failures that produce wrongful acquittals. It is the legal equivalent of installing a ramp at the front of a building while leaving every door inside too narrow for a wheelchair. The gesture is made. The barrier remains. When the Indian Parliament replaced the old Code of Criminal Procedure — a relic of the British colonial era — with the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita in 2023, it did so with considerable pride. This was not merely a Legislative exercise. It was framed as an act of 'civilisational renewal'. Out with the colonial machinery of criminal justice; in with a framework built for the Indian citizen. The Ministry of Home Affairs described it as "victim centric." The government announced it as transformative. Or more precisely — it is transformative at the edges, where symbolism is visible, and stubbornly status quo at the core, where real injustice lives. To give the BNSS its due, it does move the needle in meaningful ways. Under Section 360, no court can permit the withdrawal of a criminal prosecution without first giving the victim an opportunity to be heard. Under the old law, the State could simply walk away from a case — cut a quiet deal, abandon a prosecution — and the victim had no statutory right even to object. That has changed. Section 413 expressly gives victims the right to appeal against an acquittal, an inadequate sentence, or insufficient compensation. Section 397 mandates free medical treatment for victims of crimes. Section 396 strengthens victim compensation schemes. These are not cosmetic changes — they represent a genuine expansion of the victim's footprint in the criminal justice process. These gains are gains at the margin. They tell the victim: you can speak before the State drops your case; you can appeal after you lose. What they do not tell the victim is the one thing that could make a difference at the critical, live, everyday stage of a criminal trial: you have the right to ensure that your case is prosecuted adequately. The one reform that wasn't made: Here is the structural problem the BNSS had the opportunity and the mandate to fix but did not. In every session's court trial — which is where murder, rape, organised crime, and the most serious offences are heard — the prosecution is conducted exclusively by a public prosecutor. Not a lawyer that the victim chose. Not someone the victim can hold to account. A government appointee, drawn from an overworked, underpaid, often under-resourced cadre of prosecutors, handling hundreds of cases at once. The victim can engage a private lawyer to "assist" the prosecution. But that word — assist — is not generous. The Supreme Court, in *Rekha Murarka v. State of West Bengal* (2020), made clear that assisting does not mean conducting.

Horse donated to TTD 'goshala' dies of chronic illness

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veterinary doctors closely monitored the animal and provided necessary treatment and special care based on expert advice. The donor, Vadivelu Mugandhan of Madurai, had visited the SV Goshala on Saturday and was present when the horse died, it added. Sivakumar said a post-mortem examination was conducted to ascertain the exact cause of death, and necessary samples had been sent for detailed laboratory analysis. A team of veterinary experts from Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University conducted the post-mortem. Preliminary findings revealed that the horse had been suffering from chronic liver, heart and kidney diseases, while the exact cause of death would be confirmed after the final post-mortem laboratory report is received, said the press release. Following the post-mortem, the horse was buried scientifically as per the prescribed procedure, it added. TTD is the official custodian of the Sri Venkateswara temple in Tirupati, considered the richest Hindu shrine in the world.

Covid-19 scare: Health Minister confirms Omicron RF.5 presence in Andhra

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scientific evidence currently available, he said there is no indication that RF.5 is more dangerous than other Omicron variants, and there was no need for the public to panic while only vigilance was required. RF.5 is a naturally evolved sub-lineage of the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2 and originated from the JN.1 variant through the LF.7 to PY.1.1.1 branches, the release said. The officials said that RF.5 is not a recombinant variant and is being continuously monitored by the WHO as part of routine genomic surveillance. The symp-

toms of RF.5 are similar to those seen in other Omicron sub-variants and include sore throat, cough, fever, headache, and body aches, said Vishnuvardhan. The Health Minister assured that Covid-19 cases in Andhra Pradesh continue to remain sporadic and hospitals have been fully prepared. He said special wards at teaching hospitals were being readied, while Covid testing kits and other necessary infrastructure were being arranged for detection of cases. According to the health department, so far, 16 Covid-19 cases have been reported in the State.

Mayawati seeks Parliament debate on Ayodhya temple row, public issues

Lucknow: A day ahead of the Monsoon session of Parliament, Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati said public outrage over the theft, misappropriation and embezzlement of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya has deeply shaken both Uttar Pradesh and the nation. In an X post in Hindi on Sunday, she said that both the ruling and opposition parties should set aside political animosity and discuss key issues in Parliament with utmost seriousness. "The widespread public outrage over the theft, tampering, and embezzlement of offerings at the Ayodhya Ram temple has shaken Uttar Pradesh and the entire country to its core. "People are holding those who politicised religion for electoral gains responsible for hurting their sentiments, which is echoing from streets to the courts, and are keeping a close watch on the issue, which is bound to heat up in Parliament as well," Mayawati said in the X post. The Monsoon session of Parliament will begin on Monday. "The nation and the general public are once again concerned about whether the session will fall victim to uproar and adjournments, or seriousness will be shown in calming the charged and agitated atmosphere fuelled by burning issues such as soaring inflation, poverty, unemployment, women's insecurity, and paper leaks in major examinations, and in finding satisfactory solutions to them," Mayawati said. Referring to the West Asia conflict, she said that issues of significant national and public interest, such as the ongoing US-Israel conflict against Iran and the devaluation of the rupee demand that both the ruling and opposition parties set aside political animosity, self-interest and narrow-mindedness. "They must unite to devise effective solutions and take commendable action. Otherwise, the lives of the 'bahujan' population in our country of nearly 140 crore people could face even harder times, leaving their future in limbo, which is being apprehended," she said. In this context, it is essential for Parliament to be fully serious and sensitive regarding these burning national issues, the BSP chief said. "It would certainly be best if this process begins with the current Monsoon session itself. An effective Parliament is crucial for ensuring people-friendly good governance," Mayawati added.



Man arrested for allegedly beheading elderly man over liquor money

Kumram Bheem Asifabad: A man was arrested for allegedly hacking an elderly man to death after he refused to give money for purchasing liquor in Rebbana mandal centre recently. Police said that Bogarapu Nagesh, an alcoholic from Kothaguda hamlet under Thungeda village was apprehended for murdering Masade Somaiah (65) of Parsanambala village at Rebbena railway station on Friday. He was nabbed with the help of CCTV camera footage and detained in Sirpur (T) railway station on Saturday. During interrogations, Nagesh admitted to hacking Somaiah and severing his head. He disclosed that he noticed Somaiah carrying cash at a tea stall and that he had refused to lend money for liquor. On fateful day, Somaiah and his wife Karunabai were at the railway station to send off his daughter. A case was registered against him. Investigations have been taken up.

Nagarkurnool food poisoning: Principal, warden and six staff suspended after 26 students fall ill



Nagarkurnool: Taking serious note of the food poisoning incident at Primitive Tribal Group Residential School, Mannanur that occurred last week, officials suspended Principal, warden ANM Nurse and four kitchen staff for their negligence. About 26 students had fallen sick after consuming kichdi in breakfast at the school. Students also complained about contaminated drinking water being supplied in the school. They were soon admitted in hospital and offered treatment. Officials claimed all the students have recovered and have been discharged from the hospital. However, taking serious note of the food poisoning incident at the school, senior authorities suspended Principal, Warden, and ANM nurse suspended and four kitchen staff members from duty. Officials stated that any negligence regarding students' health would not be tolerated. Orders have also been issued for a comprehensive inquiry into the incident. Staff has been warned that strict action would be taken against those responsible if such incidents recur. Special monitoring mechanism has been established for checking the food quality in residential schools, the officials added. EOM

BRS launches Rythu Padayatra from Annapurna Sagar to Ranganayaka Sagar demanding lifting of Godavari water



Siddipet: Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) has launched a padayatra from Annapurna Sagar to Ranganyaka Sagar in Siddipet district on Sunday, exposing the government's failure to impound the reservoirs built as part of Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS). A huge number of BRS workers and farmers joined the massive rally. Since the Congress government failed to lift Godavari water from Kannepally pump house, the BRS decided to launch multiple protests across the State, to expose Congress failures at a time when the State was reeling under serious drought. A couple of days ago BRS staged a 'maha dharna' at Kondapochamma Sagar. The party was also planning a protest at Mallanna Sagar this week. Since the water levels have come down in these four reservoirs, the future of paddy cultivation was in jeopardy in Siddipet district. The farmers have completed the sowing operations only in 24 per cent of the area so far in the district. Former Minister T Harish Rao, MLC Deshapathi Srinivas and several other leaders will participate in the protest.

Monkey, wild boar menace keeps Telangana farmers dependent on paddy despite government’s crop diversification push



Medak: While the government has been actively campaigning to encourage the farmers to take up alternative crops avoiding paddy and other rain intensive crops as the State received deficient rainfall this season, the suggestion was not going well with the farmers. Worried over the menace from monkeys, wild-boars and bird menace, farmers have refrained from cultivating maize, jowar, groundnut, and other coarse grains, fruit bearing orchards and vegetables at many places. Since the monkeys, wild boars and birds would not damage paddy much, the farmers had completely switched to the paddy cultivation over the years. However, the farmers and the state government were facing the biggest challenge in the form of El Nino patteern this year, which resulted in deficit rains across the State. To counter the issue, the State government came up with a contingency plan after consulting the organisations such as International Crop Research Institute for Semi-arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agriculture University (PJTAU). The agriculture department officials were actively educating the

farmers to switch the crops. Even the Ministers and Collectors were also participating in such programmes. During one such programme organised at Chegunta mandal headquarters on Saturday, farmers raised the issue of monkey menace when the Labour Minister and District Incharge Minister G Vivekananda was talking to them on the need to switch to the crops listed out in the contingency plan. It is not only an isolated incident, the agriculture officials were facing similar questions at grassroot level. As the monkey, and wild-boar population increased manifold, the farmers quit the fruit bearing crops, millets, groundnuts and many other crops over the years. The farmers have urged the government to come up with a plan to control the monkey and wild-boar menace. At some isolated places where a few farmers cultivated crops such coarse millets, the birds were feeding on them, pushing the farmers further into losses. The farmers further complained that the peacocks population has also increased manifold in many districts in the states which was also posing a serious challenge alternative crops.

Rahul, Kharge write to PM; seek probe into ‘theft’ of donations at Ayodhya Ram temple

New Delhi: Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding a probe into the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ayodhya Ram temple, saying



lakhs of devotees who donated their hard-earned money with faith are feeling “betrayed by the theft”. The opposition leaders in both houses of Parliament said the prime minister’s silence on the issue was unacceptable, and urged him to ensure accountability and restitution. “Our joint letter to PM Modi demanding an independent and comprehensive investigation into the financial affairs of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust. Lakhs of devotees who donated their hard-earned money with faith, devotion and trust are feeling betrayed by the theft,” Kharge said in a post on X on Sunday, while sharing the letter dated July 18. The alleged theft of donations offered at the Ram temple surfaced in the first week of June and has so far led to the arrest of eight people and the resignation of two senior functionaries from the Trust. On June 25, police registered an FIR in the case on a complaint by the Trust and arrested eight men. In their letter, both Gandhi and Kharge told the prime minister that he announced the Trust’s formation in Parliament on the Supreme Court’s directions, but its members were solely appointed by his government. It is public knowledge that the Trust’s members are affiliated with the RSS, VHP and its affiliates, the Congress leaders said, adding the Trust’s former general secretary was also his close associate. “Your silence now in the

face of such a crime is unacceptable. It is your duty to ensure accountability and restitution. We urge you to immediately order an independent and comprehensive investigation into the financial affairs of the Trust, including the handling of all offerings, including cash, gold, silver,” they said. They also demanded that the findings and the Trust’s accounts should be made public so that every devotee knows how their offerings have been utilised. “All those found responsible must be held accountable, irrespective of position or influence. The credibility of your government and the Trust rests on how transparently and swiftly you act. The people of India are watching. Jai Hind!” the Congress leaders said. Sharing the letter on X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh also urged the prime minister to break his silence on the issue. “It is only appropriate that the two LOPs have written to the PM on the Chanda Chori Astha Dhoka involving the Shree Ram Janmabhoomi Teertha Kshetra Trust in Ayodhya. “In one of his rare token appearances in the Lok Sabha on Feb 5, 2020, the PM had taken full credit while announcing the establishment of this Trust which has betrayed the faith and devotion of crores of devotees across the country. Pradhan Mantri Chuppi Todo!” Ramesh said in his post while sharing the letter and a video of the prime minister speaking in Parliament while announcing the formation of the Trust.

Protest against MP’s Ken-Betwa project ends abruptly after 15 days as police clear site

Chhatarpur: A 15-day protest against the Ken-Betwa Link and other development projects in Madhya Pradesh’s Chhatarpur district ended on Sunday after police cleared the agitation site and sent protesters back to their villages. Some protesters alleged that the movement leader Amit Bhatnagar was detained, while the police denied making any arrests. A police official argued that the protest was staged beneath an under-construction bridge and in the river, where rising water levels posed a serious safety risk. Bhatnagar was hospitalised as he had been on a prolonged hunger strike with deteriorating health, the official added. The protest, mainly by tribal women, was held for the last fortnight on the banks of the Barana river near Kupi village in Chhatarpur district. Protesters had also launched ‘jal satyagraha’, ‘chita (funeral pyre) satyagraha’ and a symbolic ‘faansi satyagraha’. The agitation was led by Bhatnagar, who staged an indefinite fast for 11 days. The Ken-Betwa Link Project, the country’s first river interlinking project under the National Perspective Plan, seeks to transfer surplus water from the Ken to the Betwa river to provide irrigation and drinking facilities in the drought-prone Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The protest, launched on July 3 on the banks of the Barana river

near Kupi village, opposed the Ken-Betwa river-linking project and other development works. The project has drawn opposition from sections of project-affected families and environmental groups over issues relating to displacement, rehabilitation and its impact on forests and wildlife, including parts of the Panna Tiger Reserve. Bhatnagar had been on an indefinite hunger strike for the past several days, demanding action on alleged irregularities in the implementation of the project and seeking compliance with environmental and legal provisions. Protest leader Divya Ahirwar alleged that police personnel reached the site in large numbers from around 5 am on Sunday and detained Bhatnagar and other protesters before he could address the media, on what she described as alleged corruption of Rs 400 crore in the project. The protesters had been demanding that the administration follow the law and ensure the rights guaranteed under the Constitution in implementing the project, she told reporters. Ahirwar claimed the administration would be responsible if any harm came to Bhatnagar or any of the protesters and appealed to people to speak out against corruption. Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Aditya Patle told PTI that protesters were taken in

buses to their native villages. Those from Panna district were sent there, while those from Chhatarpur and nearby areas were dropped at their respective villages. Patle denied that any protester was arrested or detained. Asked about the agitation being broken undemocratically, the ASP contended the protest site was beneath a bridge that was under construction. Secondly, he said the protesters were agitating in the river even as the water level was rising, which could have posed a serious risk at any time. Patle also argued all the protesters were residents of Panna district and, if they had any grievance, they should have staged the protest there as they had no connection with the place where they were demonstrating. He said Amit Bhatnagar had been on a hunger strike for a considerable period and his health was deteriorating. He was therefore admitted to a hospital. The officer added that all the other protesters were removed and sent away safely. The agitation had drawn attention over the past fortnight, with protesters alleging violations related to land acquisition, rehabilitation, environmental safeguards and project implementation. The administration has rejected the allegations and maintained that the project is being executed in accordance with the law. The administration has maintained



that the Ken-Betwa Link Project is of national importance and will boost irrigation, drinking water supply, and overall development in the Bundelkhand region. The demonstrators, however, alleged that assurances given by the administration in April had not been fulfilled. Bhatnagar claimed that people affected by the Ken-Betwa Link Project, as well as the Majhgaon and Runjh irrigation projects, had been denied justice. He alleged that displaced families had lost their land, forests, water resources, livelihoods and cultural identity, while some had been subjected to false criminal cases, illegal eviction, disconnection of electricity supply and demolition of schools. He demanded that the administration stop intimidating villagers and publicly display the list of project-affected families in every village.

Father-son duo booked for abetting woman’s suicide in Thane

Thane: A case has been registered against a father-son duo for allegedly abetting the suicide of a 46-year-old woman in Maharashtra’s Thane district after a note found on her mobile phone months after her death accused them of harassment, police said on Sunday. Based on a complaint lodged by the victim’s son, a first information report (FIR) was registered on July 16 under section 108 (abetment of suicide) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, in connection with her death in Badlapur in May, an official said. According to the police, the victim was an executive assistant at a private firm in Mumbai and had been in an extramarital relationship with the accused, Sagar Shivaji More, a resident of Navi Mumbai. The victim resided with her family in Chembur from Monday to Friday, but spent her weekends at her apartment in Badlapur. The automated alert was

raised on May 26 when the victim stopped answering her son’s phone calls. Family friends and relatives visited the Badlapur flat only to find the door locked from the inside, and on breaking in, the police found the victim hanging from a ceiling fan, the official said. In the days following the victim’s death, her son scanned her mobile phone and found a suicide note. “The letter explicitly urged the police to arrest the father-son duo, while tendering apologies to her son,” the official said, quoting the FIR. The complainant stated that Sagar More had been in an extramarital relationship with his mother and stayed with her frequently. Past employers and acquaintances of the victim also confirmed to the family that he had been harassing her over the past several months, he said. A probe is underway, and efforts are on to track down the suspects, the official added.

Skyroot Aerospace’s Vikram-1 mission hailed by TDB as milestone for India’s private space sector

New Delhi: The Technology Development Board (TDB) under the Department of Science and Technology (DST) on Sunday congratulated Skyroot Aerospace on the successful Vikram-1 mission, describing it as a watershed moment for India’s private space sector that reinforces the country’s emergence as a global hub for indigenous space technologies and deep-tech innovation. In a statement, the Board said the successful mission marks a watershed moment for the country’s private space sector and demonstrates the transformative potential of home-grown deep-tech innovation. It added that the achievement also reaffirms TDB’s long-standing commitment to identifying, recognising and promoting indigenous technologies with strong commercialisation potential. The Board recalled that it had recognised Skyroot Aerospace at an early stage of its journey by conferring the National Technology Start-up Award 2022 during the National Technology Day celebrations. The award was presented by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, in recognition of the company’s pioneering work in developing indigenous cryogenic, liquid and solid propulsion technologies for the small satellite launch market. According to the statement, the award acknowledged both the technological excellence and commercial potential of Skyroot Aerospace, with the successful Vikram-1 mission now validating the vision behind the National Technology Awards, which aim to encourage breakthrough Indian technologies with the potential to create significant national and



global impact. Congratulating the Skyroot team, Rajesh Kumar Pathak, Secretary, Technology Development Board, said the company’s journey from an emerging start-up recognised through the National Technology Start-up Award to achieving a historic milestone in India’s private space programme reflects the strength of the country’s innovation ecosystem. He further said that, building on its innovation-led growth, Skyroot Aerospace has also submitted a proposal to the Technology Development Board under the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund, which is currently under consideration. The Board said it has consistently supported the commercialisation of indigenous technologies by promoting innovation-led enterprises across strategic sectors, including aerospace, defence, healthcare, clean energy, biotechnology, advanced manufacturing and digital technologies.

Twin fire incidents trigger panic, no casualties reported

Hyderabad: Two separate fire incidents were reported in Hyderabad late on Saturday night, one at a footwear godown in Shastripuram and another at a residential apartment building in Mehdiapatnam. No casualties or injuries were reported in either incident. The first incident occurred at a footwear godown in Shastripuram in Mailardevpally. According to preliminary information, the fire spread rapidly through the godown after it broke out, prompting residents to alert the Fire Department. Firefighters rushed to the spot and managed to contain the blaze before it spread to nearby buildings. The fire caused extensive damage to the footwear stock stored

inside the godown. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained. In the second incident, a major fire broke out on the fifth floor of FHASH Residency, opposite Madina Masjid in Vijaya Nagar Colony. Thick smoke engulfed the upper floors of the building, causing panic among residents. Fire fighters reached the spot and brought the blaze under control, preventing it from spreading to other parts of the apartment. Three fire tenders were pressed into service. Preliminary reports suggest the fire may have been triggered by a short circuit. Police and fire department officials are investigating both incidents to ascertain the exact causes of the fires.

B’luru law student murder case: Chit fund dispute, failed relationship emerge as motives

Bengaluru: In a twist to the female law student murder case, a financial dispute, coupled with a failed relationship, has emerged as the alleged motive behind the killing of the 22-year-old Amrutha in Bengaluru, adding a new dimension to a case that had initially appeared to be solely linked to a marriage proposal. Amrutha, the law student and employee at a diagnostic centre, succumbed to her injuries on July 15, two days after she was allegedly stabbed by Surya in Bengaluru’s Kodihalli area under the jurisdiction of the Jeevan Bheemanagar police station. Police said the incident occurred between 4 p.m. and 4.30 p.m. on July 13 near Amrutha’s residence off HAL Road. Surya, the younger brother of Dhanush, allegedly attacked her with a knife during an altercation, stabbing her in the chest and back. Investigations have revealed that apart from personal differences, a financial dispute involving a chit fund may have played a significant role in the crime. According to police sources, Amrutha’s mother was operating a chit fund business in which members of Dhanush’s family had invested. Surya had reportedly contributed a substantial amount to the chit scheme. However, even after the chit matured, an amount of approximately Rs 5 lakh allegedly remained unpaid. Investigators said Surya had repeatedly sought repayment from Amrutha and her mother and was angered by their failure to return the money. His resentment was further aggravated after Amrutha distanced herself from Dhanush and rejected his attempts to rekindle their relationship. Amrutha and Dhanush, who lived in the same locality, had reportedly been in a relationship for nearly four years. Their families became acquainted during religious gatherings, and the friendship eventually developed into a romantic relationship. However, police said Amrutha ended the relationship after learning that Dhanush



had allegedly concealed the fact that he had previously been married, was divorced, and had a child. Authorities are currently verifying claims regarding Dhanush’s marital status as part of the investigation. Despite the breakup, Dhanush allegedly continued to pursue Amrutha and had threatened her for rejecting his advances, investigators said. On the day of the incident, Dhanush and Surya allegedly visited Amrutha’s residence. During the confrontation, Surya is accused of once again demanding repayment of the money. When Amrutha reportedly refused, the argument escalated, culminating in the fatal attack. After the stabbing, Surya allegedly attempted to flee but was apprehended by local residents and handed over to the police. Amrutha was rushed to a nearby hospital, where she underwent treatment for two days before succumbing to her injuries on the evening of July 15. The Jeevan Bheemanagar police have registered a murder case against Surya and Dhanush and arrested both accused. Further investigation is underway.

Theft in uniform, Bengal police now lawbreakers: TMC MP Abhishek on his office demolition



Kolkata: Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee on Sunday alleged the West Bengal Police under the BJP government has become “lawbreakers”, a day after the South 24 Parganas district administration razed his constituency office in Amtala for alleged violation of building rules. The front portion of the building was bulldozed on Saturday after it was found to be constructed allegedly without an approved building plan and in violation of rules. Although Banerjee had accused the administration of colluding with the ruling BJP in the demolition action and said the TMC would move the Calcutta High Court over the matter, a state government official asserted that they acted under the law and followed required procedures. “The action was taken for violations of construction norms and did not have any political consideration,” the official had told PTI. In a post on X, Banerjee said his Lok Sabha constituency office at Amtala was demolished despite the Supreme Court and high court rul-

ings having held bulldozer demolitions unconstitutional. “The lawlessness in Bengal is on full display,” said the Diamond Harbour MP, who is the nephew of former chief minister Mamata Banerjee. He also said, “Videos showed West Bengal Police alongside BJP goons carrying away trunks filled with laptops, printers, documents, tables, chairs, and other furniture.” “This was not demolition; it was theft in uniform, carried out with utter contempt for the rule of law and while the matter remains sub judice before the High Court,” Banerjee wrote on X. “Those meant to uphold the law have become lawbreakers. Shame on West Bengal Police!” he added. A day earlier, Banerjee had said that his office, which was demolished, was built legally on purchased land and after getting all permissions. The three-time MP had warned that if there was a change in the government after the 2031 Assembly elections, the BJP’s party offices in the state would also meet the same fate.

SS Rajamouli congratulates Skyroot Aerospace on historic Vikram-1 orbital launch

Mumbai: Filmmaker SS Rajamouli celebrated a historic milestone in India’s space journey as he congratulated Skyroot Aerospace for the successful launch of Vikram-1, the country’s first privately developed orbital rocket. Indian entertainment news

Taking to social media, the acclaimed director praised the Hyderabad-based team behind the achievement and highlighted the young minds who made the ambitious mission possible. Calling it a proud moment for the nation, Rajamouli lauded the team’s dedication and described the achievement as a reflection of what young India is capable of achieving. The ‘Baahubali’ director wrote on his X handle, “From India to orbit! @SkyrootA has scripted history with VIKRAM-1, India’s first private rocket to reach orbit, built by a Hyderabad-based team whose average age is just 28... This is what young India is capable of. Immensely proud... Congratulations to the whole team. Jai Hind.” The historic achievement by Skyroot Aerospace also received praise from several South Indian film personalities. Actors including Chiranjeevi and Mahesh Babu congratulated the team for successfully launching Vikram-1. Extending his wishes, Mahesh Babu wrote, “India reaching for the stars and delivering.... So so proud of our young team at Skyroot Aerospace from Hyderabad... #Vikram1 reaching



orbit on its very first mission is a testament to the brilliance and perseverance of our private space sector...!! Congratulations to @SkyrootA and every single person who poured their heart into this achievement...” South Asians & Diaspora Vikram-1, India’s first privately built orbital-class rocket, was launched on July 18. Developed by Hyderabad-based space startup Skyroot Aerospace, the historic maiden test flight—dubbed ‘Mission Aagaman’—lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. Vikram-1 has been developed to deploy small satellites weighing up to 350 kg into low Earth orbit (LEO). During its first mission, the rocket is planned to place a payload into a 450-km orbit with a 60-degree inclination.

Shah Rukh Khan celebrates as Los Angeles Knight Riders clinch maiden title win in MLC



Mumbai: Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan is over the moon with the title win of his team Los Angeles Knight Riders in Major League Cricket. On Sunday, King Khan took to his X, formerly Twitter, and penned a note celebrating his team’s win. He lauded the members of his team for their exceptional performance, conviction and sticking to commitment. He wrote, “The LAKR stadium. The championship, cricket in America, awesome @SunilPNarine74 @Jaseholder98 @Russell12A and all of the team. Absolutely outstanding. You all said we are here to win not just participate....and u showed it. Love u all.... Korbo Lorbo Jeetbo”. The Los Angeles Knight Riders (LAKR) scripted history as they clinched their maiden Major League Cricket (MLC) title, edging defending finalists Washington Freedom by a thrilling one-run margin in the 2026 final at the Oakland Coliseum. LAKR batted first, and posted 164 runs on the score board with valuable contributions from Sunil Narine and Jason Holder laying

ing the platform for a competitive total. In reply, Washington Freedom mounted a tense chase and came within touching distance, powered by a fighting knock from Pienaar. However, LAKR’s bowlers held their nerve in the closing stages, with Shadley delivering a composed final over to restrict Freedom to 163, sealing a dramatic victory. The victory marked the franchise’s first MLC championship after reaching their maiden final earlier in the tournament. LAKR’s disciplined bowling effort under pressure and timely all-round performances proved decisive as they completed a memorable campaign, lifting the trophy after one of the closest finals in MLC history. Earlier, SRK unveiled the Knight Riders Cricket Ground at Fairplex in Pomona, Los Angeles materialising his long-term vision of building a cricket ecosystem in the United States. The venue serves as the home ground of the Los Angeles Knight Riders in Major League Cricket and is expected to play a significant role in the sport’s growth ahead of cricket’s return at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Rakul Preet Singh says being part of Ramayana is an honour beyond words

Mumbai: Actress Rakul Preet Singh has expressed her excitement and pride about being part of the much-anticipated epic ‘Ramayana.’ She called the project a journey that goes beyond cinema. In her recent post on Instagram, the actress shared that being associated with a story rooted in India’s history, heritage, and culture is an honour and a truly unforgettable experience. Rakul shared glimpses from the grand trailer launch event of Ramayana and opened up about being a part of the epic project. Sharing pictures from the special occasion, the ‘Runway 34’ actress wrote, “An honour to be a part of something that feels larger than life, larger than cinema, our history, our heritage, our Ramayana. We represent Bharat to the world, a feeling that’s truly beyond words. Can’t wait for you all to step into this world with us.” Rakul Preet Singh will be seen portraying Surpanakha, the powerful and fierce sister of demon king Ravana, in Nitesh Tiwari’s upcoming two-part epic “Ramayana.” The ambitious adaptation features Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama, Sai Pallavi as Sita, and Yash as Ravana in pivotal roles. The film is planned as a two-part release, with the first installment arriving during Diwali 2026, followed by the second part scheduled for Diwali 2027. The grand trailer launch of ‘Ramayana’ took place in Delhi on July 18. The star-studded event was attended by Ranbir Kapoor, Sai Pallavi, Ravi Dubey, director Nitesh Tiwari, producer Namit Malhotra, Kunal Kapoor, Rakul Preet Singh, Vivek Oberoi, Arun Govil, Ajinkya Deo, Shobhna, sitar mae-



stro Rishab Rikhiram Sharma, Swami Ramdev, Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari, Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta, among others. The event was hosted by poet and writer Kumar Vishwas, who has also contributed to the much-awaited epic film. Speaking at the grand trailer launch of ‘Ramayana’ in Delhi, Yash opened up about his experience of being part of the ambitious mythological epic. The actor shared that portraying a significant character in the film not only gave him a memorable professional opportunity but also helped him improve his Hindi. Yash also expressed his gratitude to producer Namit Malhotra for bringing him on board and said the project has been a special journey for him on both personal and professional fronts. During the event, the ‘K.G.F: Chapter 1’ actor also delivered a speech in Hindi.

Katrina Kaif shares heartwarming moments from first birthday celebration as a mother



Mumbai: Actress Katrina Kaif shared glimpses of her first birthday celebration as a mother. She gave a peek into some heartwarming moments with her son Vihaan. In a touching picture, the actress can be seen lifting her baby boy in her arms and planting a sweet kiss on his little hand. Other heartwarming moments show Katrina posing alongside her husband, actor Vicky Kaushal. She also shared candid solo pictures from the celebration. One of the monochrome photos captures the actress making a goofy face, with her son’s tiny hand resting on her nose. World news digest

Alongside the images, the ‘Tiger Zinda Hai’ actress wrote, “Forever looking up in gratitude at the most precious blessing that You are Best Birthday Your not too bad either” (sic) The actress’ heartfelt glimpse offered a rare look into her journey as a new mom. Katrina Kaif celebrated her first birthday as a mother with an intimate and cozy celebration at home with husband Vicky Kaushal. In the

picture shared by the ‘Uri’ actor, the couple was seen sharing a sweet embrace under a beautiful white-and-gold balloon setup. The actor simply captioned the post, “Jaan Ka Janamdin (My love’s birthday).” Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal tied the knot in 2021. The couple embraced parenthood with the arrival of their son, Vihaan, on November 7, 2025. For the unversed, Vicky and Katrina’s relationship began with a fun and playful exchange on ‘Koffee with Karan,’ followed by a memorable televised proposal moment in 2019. The two later grew closer during the pandemic, keeping their romance away from the spotlight before taking their relationship to the next level. On the work front, Vicky Kaushal’s upcoming projects include “Love & War” and Mahavatar.” The actor has been preparing extensively for these films, undergoing rigorous training, physical transformations, and acting workshops to bring authenticity to his roles.

Samyukta Karthikeyan wins three gold medals at Telangana State Swimming Championship

Hyderabad: Samyukta Karthikeyan of Ranga Reddy district bagged three gold medals in the 50m breaststroke, 50m freestyle and 100m freestyle events at the Telangana State Sub-Junior and Junior Inter-District Swimming Championship held at the GMC Balayogi Sports Complex (Gachibowli) here.

Results:
50m breaststroke: 1. Samyukta Karthikeyan (RR) 38.71, 2. Jona Shiju (RR) 39.10, 3. Neena Bahl Kasturi (Hyd) 40.93.
50m freestyle: 1. Samyukta Karthikeyan (RR) 30.53, 2. Siva Kumari Nandigam (Medchal-Malkajgiri) 30.62, 3. K. Visudhi (Medchal) 31.23.
100m freestyle (Girls): 1. Samyukta Karthikeyan (RR) 1:07.09, 2. N. Siva Kumari (Medchal) 1:09.88, 3. K. Vidushi (Medchal) 1:09.02.
100m freestyle (Boys): 1. T.S. Tejas (Medchal) 56.96, 2. N. Yashaswi (Medchal) 57.19, 3. Hridesh Majhi (RR) 57.30.
200m butterfly: 1. T.S. Tejas (Medchal)



2:13.10, 2. S. Nageswara Abhinav Partha (Medchal) 3:38.78.
200m backstroke: 1. Suhas Preetham (Medchal) 2:10.04, 2. D. Varshith (Medchal) 2:14.36, 3. L. Abhay (Medchal) 2:18.56.
50m freestyle (Boys): 1. Mayank Gudey (RR) 27.11, 2. M. Sai Akhil (Hyd) 27.43, 3. Rian Peravalli (RR) 28.34.

Rohit Sharma must counter Sam Curran smartly in Lord’s decider, says Abhishek Nayar

New Delhi: With the three-match ODI series between India and England locked at 1-1, former India assistant coach Abhishek Nayar has backed Rohit Sharma to make tactical adjustments against pace all-rounder Sam Curran in the series decider at Lord’s while insisting that the Indian captain’s strike rate is not a cause for concern. Speaking ahead of the final ODI, Nayar analysed Rohit’s approach in English conditions, the challenge posed by Curran, and the importance of adapting to the demands of the surface rather than chasing scoring rates. He believes the contest between Rohit and Curran could once again shape the early phase of India’s innings after the left-arm seamer kept the opener under pressure in the previous match. “Rohit Sharma will 100 per cent have to come up with a plan to counter Sam Curran. In the first ODI, he stepped out and tried to attack him. In the last match, he played a maiden over against Curran, which is very unlike Rohit. So, you will see a tactical change. Maybe he will play deep in the crease or stand outside the off stump. In the last game, he was expecting the ball to come in, but it kept moving away. “So, he will definitely have a strategy in place. I’m not sure if Sam Curran will trouble him with pace, seam, or swing. He will trouble him with consistency. The conditions are helping him a bit. But I think Lord’s will probably be a better pitch with shorter boundaries, so Rohit may find it easier to score,” Nayar told JioStar. The former India support staff member also argued that batting in England requires players to first assess the surface before worrying about scoring quickly. According to him, the second ODI demanded patience because of the movement on offer for the seamers. “Conditions are the most important thing. You have to respect them and in the second ODI, the ball was seaming and stopping, so batters had to



take time. Rohit Sharma had to take responsibility, especially with Shubman Gill getting out early. There was a moment during Sam Curran’s over when Rohit felt pressure, but overall his tempo was fine. Joe Root scored at a strike rate of 65-67, which was the required rate on this pitch. Big shots were difficult because of the extra bounce from a good length. Openers need to provide stability and give the middle order time to score later,” he added. While Rohit’s scoring rate has been under scrutiny during the series, Nayar maintained that the bigger issue lies elsewhere. He pointed to the captain’s inability to convert starts into substantial scores despite looking comfortable at the crease. “I’m not too worried about the strike rate of Rohit, but I am concerned that when he reaches a score of 26 or 27, he usually converts it into a fifty. He doesn’t get out to off-spinners often, but he did in the last match. For me, it’s more about mindset than skill. But he is batting well, so I’m not concerned,” he stated. India and England will face off at Lord’s for the deciding ODI on Sunday, with the visitors aiming to finish the tour on a winning note after the T20I series debacle.

17-year-old boy beaten to death in Old City

Hyderabad: A 17-year-old boy was allegedly beaten to death by unidentified persons at Shah Tekri in the Kalapather area of the Old City on Saturday night. According to the police, the victim, Mohammed Faiz, also known as Azaan, was a resident of Kalapather and lived with his family. Preliminary investigation revealed that shortly after midnight, Faiz received a phone call from some persons and left his

house to meet them. He was allegedly attacked with sticks at Shah Tekri, sustaining severe head injuries. He died at the scene before help could arrive. The Kalapather police reached the spot after being alerted, shifted the body to Osmania General Hospital for post-mortem examination, and registered a case. The police said the motive behind the murder is yet to be known.

FIFA WC 2026: Bukayo Saka proud to join England’s World Cup hat-trick legends after France rout



Miami: Bukayo Saka reflected on becoming the third England player to score three goals or more in two editions of the World Cup, after Gary Lineker and Harry Kane and stated that he feels proud to be part of the elite list. Saka came away with the match ball after scoring a hat-trick, getting on the scoresheet with first in the 37th minute, doubling his tally on the stroke of half time and completing his treble from the spot late in the second period. In doing so, he became the second England player to score a hat-trick in a World Cup knockout stage match after Sir Geoff Hurst in the 1966 final. The Arsenal dynamo became just the fourth Englishman to score a hat-trick at the global finals, after Geoff Hurst in 1966, Lineker 20 years later and then Kane at Russia 2018.

“That was fantastic. It was enjoyable and an amazing achievement of course. I’ve just been told there’s only four players for England that scored World Cup hat-tricks, and you know who those players are as well. That is an elite list to be part of. It makes me very proud,” Saka said. Head coach Thomas Tuchel

also highlighted Saka’s performance of Bukayo Saka, who notched a hat-trick. “He did everything right,” said Tuchel. “I just had a feeling in the semi-final for Morgan Rogers that he would be involved in something special. That was it. The games demand so much and we are forced into changes because of cramps and flow of the game. Bukayo showed he is a key player – that was never in doubt. I wasn’t even aware he had a hat-trick – I lost the overview of the goalscorers, but it is well deserved.” The result in Miami brought an end to England’s journey at this summer’s tournament, reaching the last four before going on to secure third place and there is plenty to be proud of, as Saka highlighted. “We built across the tournament, we had some amazing results,” said Saka. We fell short against Argentina and it hurts a lot for all of us and I’m sure it’s the same for the fans back home. We have to hold our heads high and move on to the next one. It’s how you react and use it as fuel. Today we finished strongly. That’s all we could really do and we did it.”

Vintage Sindhu stuns Yamaguchi to win maiden Japan Open title

Tokyo: Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu produced a vintage display of attacking badminton to outclass local favourite Akane Yamaguchi in straight games, clinching her maiden Super 750 title at the Japan Open here on Sunday. The 31-year-old became the first Indian to win the Japan Open, combining relentless attack with tactical discipline and composure in the decisive moments to register a 21-17, 21-17 victory over the three-time world champion and end a title drought of more than two years. Sindhu’s previous title came at the Syed Modi International in 2024. The triumph is her biggest title since winning the World Championships in 2019. Yamaguchi was appearing in her sixth Japan Open final, while Sindhu had not beaten the Japanese in a completed match in four years. Their meeting at the Malaysia Open earlier this year ended with Yamaguchi retiring after the opening game. Sindhu’s last full-match victory over her came at the Thailand Open in 2022.

On Sunday, however, the Indian dictated terms from the outset. She controlled the forecourt superbly, attacked with purpose rather than sheer power and repeatedly found answers whenever Yamaguchi threatened a comeback. Along with her powerful smashes, Sindhu’s precise net play proved decisive. She repeatedly worked the shuttle tight to the net, forcing Yamaguchi to lift and creating opportunities to unleash her trademark cross-court and body smashes. Sindhu raced to a 3-0 lead before a few unforced er-



rors, coupled with some brilliant shot-making from Yamaguchi, allowed the Japanese to draw level at 3-3. Both players traded errors in the opening exchanges before Yamaguchi’s service error made it 5-5. Sindhu then began to seize control with superb net play, patiently constructing rallies before finishing them with a cross-court winner to move 8-6 ahead. Another powerful smash extended her lead to 9-6, but two successive errors handed Yamaguchi a route back into the contest. A body smash from the Japanese made it 9-9 before Sindhu misjudged a shuttle to trail by two points at the mid-game interval. The momentum swung again after the break as Sindhu won a gruelling 36-shot rally to restore parity at 11-11. A thunderous cross-court smash put her ahead at 13-12 before Yamaguchi sent one long and the Indian won a net exchange, followed by a deep push to open up a 16-12 advantage. Yamaguchi responded with a clever push to Sindhu’s forehand and a return that clipped the back line, but Sindhu wrong-footed her rival with a disguised follow-up shot to stay ahead.

Cube Highways Trust InvIT, Indo MIM among 4 public issues opening nextweek

New Delhi: The primary market will remain active next week, with four public issues, including the InvIT of Cube Highways Trust and the initial public offerings (IPOs) of Indo MIM, Lohia Corp and Xtranet Technologies, set to open for subscription. Cube Highways Trust will open its Rs 5,000-crore InvIT public issue on July 22 and close on July 24. The price band has been fixed at Rs 151-152 per unit, while anchor investor bidding will take place on July 21. The issue is a 100 per cent book-built offer for sale by existing unitholders as the trust transitions from a privately listed InvIT to a publicly listed platform. Ahead of the public issue, Cube Highways Trust raised Rs 1,250 crore from strategic investors through unit subscription agreements. The IPOs of Indo MIM, Lohia Corp and Xtranet Technologies will open on July 23 and close on July 27. Anchor investor bidding for the three mainboard issues are slated for July 22. Precision engineering components maker Indo MIM's IPO comprises a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 500 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 6.82 crore shares by existing shareholders. According to market sources, the total issue is expected to be over Rs 3,500 crore. The firm intends to utilise Rs 400 crore from the fresh issue to repay borrowings, while the balance will be used for general corporate purposes. Founded in 1996, Indo MIM operates 15 manufacturing facilities across India, the US, the UK and Mexico, catering to the automotive, defence, medi-



cal, consumer and aerospace sectors. Manufacturer of machinery and equipment for technical textiles Lohia Corp's IPO is entirely an OFS of up to 2.59 crore equity shares, with the company not receiving any proceeds from the issue. Lohia Corp manufactures machinery and equipment used to produce technical textiles, particularly polypropylene (PP) and high-density polyethylene (HDPE) woven fabrics and sacks. IT services and solutions provider Xtranet Technologies is launching a Rs 170-crore fresh issue with no OFS component, according to the RHP. The proceeds will be used for debt repayment, purchase of systems and hardware, working capital requirements, and general corporate purposes. Founded in 2002, the company offers a diverse portfolio delivering end-to-end services including enterprise applications, digital services, managed services, proprietary platforms. So far in 2026, 32 companies have launched their maiden public offerings, while the IPO of Caliber Mining & Logistics is currently open for subscription.

Reliance Retail to rapidly expand JioMart, dark stores, omni-channel business

New Delhi: Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL) will 'rapidly' scale its online business, expand dark stores and strengthen omni-channel capabilities, as the retailer expects these investments to translate into higher margins and earnings growth, a top company official said. Outlining a three-year roadmap, Reliance Retail CFO Dinesh Taluja said the company will invest in the infrastructure of JioMart and omni-channel reach across platforms, even as margins have come under pressure from rising technology and dark-store investments. "We are looking at growing our online businesses pretty rapidly during this year. We will expand dark stores. We will grow our omni-channel platforms. We will grow JioMart," Taluja said in the company's earnings call. Besides, it will also focus on improving the operational metrics around availability, speed, and reliability with a market-by-market focus on achieving positive unit economics. "Each market, the unit economics, we need to have a clear path to positive unit economics. Accordingly, we are evaluating each and every market and focusing our investments in that manner," Taluja said. By FY28 and FY29, the company expects to convert scale into value by increasing repeat rates, basket size and customer lifetime value. In the next three years, Reliance Retail has an ambition of "2A—Operating EBITDA". EBITDA refers to earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation. According to him, the scale being built this year is expected to create value through improved margins and stronger cash generation over the next two years as customer acquisition, repeat purchases and basket sizes improve. The company also plans to improve profitability through a higher share of private labels, increased



monetisation opportunities and greater marketplace income. "We will use all these levers to improve economics, which will start reflecting meaningfully in the numbers over the next two years," he said. Taluja said the current year will be focused on laying a strong foundation while pursuing disciplined growth, with emphasis on customer quality rather than merely chasing volumes. The company has set internal targets around metrics such as order density at dark stores, repeat purchase rates, fulfilment costs and contribution margins, and will calibrate investments based on performance. "We will grow quite quickly, but we will also look at the quality of business, not just the volume," he said. As benefits from higher order density, better product mix, productivity gains, improved inventory turns and monetisation initiatives begin to accrue, Reliance Retail expects returns on capital to improve, with EBITDA and cash generation accelerating in the coming years, Taluja added. The company is also witnessing strong traction from its omni-channel strategy. According to Taluja, omni-channel customers spend about 2.7 times more than pure offline customers, while their spending has grown 20-25 per cent year-on-year. He said Reliance Retail's fashion quick-commerce offering, AJIO Rush, has also recorded strong momentum, with order volumes rising 136 per cent sequentially during the quarter. Taluja noted that the service, which offers fashion deliveries within two to four hours, was launched only a few quarters ago and is still in the early stages of scaling up.

Reliance-BP's KG-D6 gas output falls 7% in June quarter as decline persists

New Delhi: Natural gas production at the KG-D6 fields operated by Reliance Industries Ltd and BP Plc fell nearly 7 per cent year-on-year in the June quarter, as the natural decline that began in mid-2025 continues. In an April-June quarter earnings presentation at analyst call, Reliance said gas output in Q1 averaged 24.8 million standard cubic meters per day, down from 26.6 mmscmd in April-June 2025. The output was lower than 25.2 mmscmd in the preceding January-March quarter. Production from the second-wave of discoveries in the KG-D6 block peaked in January-March 2024 to 30.6 mmscmd but has since been on the decline. Output has since fallen by 19 per cent. Reliance did not immediately provide additional details on production volumes or a timeline for arresting the decline. At the analyst call, a company official said, "In KG-D6, whilst there is a natural decline, it's lower than what we had expected, so we have a plan to offset this natural decline, which I'll talk about shortly." As the operator of KG-D6 block, Reliance holds a 66.67 per cent stake while BP has the remaining 33.33 per cent. Reliance has so far made 19 gas discoveries in the KG-DWN-98/3 or KG-D6 block in the deepsea of Bay of Bengal. Of these, D-1 and D-3 — the largest among the lot — were brought into production in April 2009, and MA, the only oilfield in the block, was put into production in September 2008. While the MA field stopped producing in September 2018, output from D-1 and D-3 ceased in February 2020. Reliance had faced sharper than anticipated decline in output at D-1 & D-3, whose production planning happened before BP came in. The



wells it had drilled saw unanticipated water and sand ingress in wells, leading to output fall. Subsequently, Reliance and BP, which was brought in as a technical partner in 2011, invested about USD 5 billion in bringing to production three deepwater gas projects in block KG-D6 — R-Cluster, Satellites Cluster, and MJ. Gas and condensate production from the R-Cluster field started in December 2020 and Satellite Cluster in April 2021. MJ field was put to production in June 2023. At peak, the three were supposed to meet about 15 per cent of India's total natural gas demand. India consumes around 200 mmscmd of gas currently. Reliance said it fetched USD 8.89 per million British thermal unit of gas sold in Q1, down from USD 9.97 a year back. It realised USD 107.4 per barrel price for the oil/condensate produced in the quarter, up from USD 69.9 a barrel last year. BP, which has been assisting Reliance in producing oil and gas from KG-D6 block, has since been roped in as technical partner by state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to assist in arresting and raising oil and gas output from Mumbai High as well as western offshore fields — the biggest in India.

Cube Highways Trust InvIT, Indo MIM among 4 public issues opening nextweek

New Delhi: The primary market will remain active next week, with four public issues, including the InvIT of Cube Highways Trust and the initial public offerings (IPOs) of Indo MIM, Lohia Corp and Xtranet Technologies, set to open for subscription. Cube Highways Trust will open its Rs 5,000-crore InvIT public issue on July 22 and close on July 24. The price band has been fixed at Rs 151-152 per unit, while anchor investor bidding will take place on July 21. The issue is a 100 per cent book-built offer for sale by existing unitholders as the trust transitions from a privately listed InvIT to a publicly listed platform. Ahead of the public issue, Cube Highways Trust raised Rs 1,250 crore from strategic investors through unit subscription agreements. The IPOs of Indo MIM, Lohia Corp and Xtranet Technologies will open on July 23 and close on July 27. Anchor investor bidding for the three mainboard issues are slated for July 22. Precision engineering components maker Indo MIM's IPO comprises a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 500 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to 6.82 crore shares by existing shareholders. According to market sources, the total issue is expected to be over Rs 3,500 crore. The firm intends to utilise Rs 400 crore from the fresh issue to repay borrowings, while the balance will be used for general corporate purposes. Founded in 1996, Indo MIM operates 15 manufacturing facilities across India, the US, the UK and Mexico, catering to the automotive, defence, medical, consumer and



aerospace sectors. Manufacturer of machinery and equipment for technical textiles Lohia Corp's IPO is entirely an OFS of up to 2.59 crore equity shares, with the company not receiving any proceeds from the issue. Lohia Corp manufactures machinery and equipment used to produce technical textiles, particularly polypropylene (PP) and high-density polyethylene (HDPE) woven fabrics and sacks. IT services and solutions provider Xtranet Technologies is launching a Rs 170-crore fresh issue with no OFS component, according to the RHP. The proceeds will be used for debt repayment, purchase of systems and hardware, working capital requirements, and general corporate purposes. Founded in 2002, the company offers a diverse portfolio delivering end-to-end services including enterprise applications, digital services, managed services, proprietary platforms. So far in 2026, 32 companies have launched their maiden public offerings, while the IPO of Caliber Mining & Logistics is currently open for subscription.

YSRCP chief Jagan accuses Andhra govt of ‘hushing up’ Guntur stripping atrocity

Amaravati: YSRCP supremo YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Saturday accused the Andhra Pradesh government of “hushing up” the alleged stripping and attack on a Guntur woman by a TDP leader and his family members and claimed that action was taken after the video of the atrocity went viral, triggering widespread public outrage. On July 15, a TDP leader, Mallela Venkata Ramana Murthy (45), and eight of his family members allegedly attacked Nageshwar Rao’s family and stripped his wife in the middle of a road in Guntur’s Nagarampalem area. Police said the dispute arose after Rao denied a bribe of Rs 10,000 allegedly demanded by Murthy, a local TDP ward secretary. “What is even more disturbing is that although the incident occurred on Wednesday (July 15), it was allegedly kept under wraps for nearly three days. It was only after videos of the assault surfaced on social media and triggered widespread public outrage that the government suddenly began projecting itself as taking swift action,” reddy said in a post on X. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday said he was “deeply disturbed by the incident reported from Guntur.”

“The humiliation of any woman is completely unacceptable and has no place in our society. I have ordered immediate and stringent action. A criminal case has been registered, the accused has been arrested, and the party functionary involved is being suspended,” said Naidu in a post on X. My government’s commitment is unequivocal: the law will be enforced “fairly and firmly, without fear or favour,”

he asserted. “No individual will receive protection on account of political affiliation. Every woman in Andhra Pradesh must have the confidence that her dignity and safety will always be protected,” Naidu added. Further, IT Minister and TDP working president Nara Lokesh said he issued directions for the TDP functionary (Murthy) involved in the stripping and attack case to be suspended from all party posts.

However, Reddy called the government’s response an attempt to “claim credit” after allegedly trying to suppress the incident and termed it deeply shameful. Police apprehended Murthy and eight of his family members on the night of July 17. Asserting that the Chandrababu Naidu-led government should hang its head in shame over this incident, the opposition leader claimed that it was not just a stain on humanity but also a “shocking reflection of the complete collapse of law and order in the state.” “Had the police acted promptly when the victim first approached them and lodged a complaint immediately after the initial assault on Wednesday, this horrific crime could have been prevented,” he said. If the complaint was registered without alleged delay, the accused was detained, and the victim was given protection, would this brutal incident have occurred, asked Jagan. The government shunted out the local inspector, Y Satyanarayana, into a vacancy reserve (VR) role for the delay in arresting the accused. “Instead of standing by the victim, why was there silence? What is the purpose of police stations if not



to protect victims and uphold the law? Are they meant to serve justice or merely carry out the wishes of those in the ruling party? Why was there an attempt to settle the matter instead of taking legal action?” asked Jagan. Further, he questioned if the law will “wake up only after videos go viral” and wondered if a victim’s “complaint had no value unless public outrage forces the authorities to act?” Failing to respond when the crime was unfolding and then staging a show of action only after public anger erupted cannot be called policing, Jagan claimed.

According to the former CM, Naidu’s government has allegedly encouraged attacks on opposition leaders, party workers, and social media activists. Instead of acting as an impartial institution, the police system has been reduced to a political weapon to shield those in power, he alleged. “The law has been selectively used to protect ruling party leaders while harassing opposition members and victims through intimidation and questionable criminal cases. This has pushed the state towards a dangerous breakdown of the rule of law,” said Jagan. This environment has created

a sense of impunity among ruling party leaders at every level, from villages and wards to towns and cities, he alleged, observing that they appear to believe that no matter what they do, the “police will protect them.” As a result, some leaders have become emboldened to commit increasingly serious acts of violence and humiliation, particularly against women, believing they will face no consequences because they enjoy political patronage, he alleged. This has severely undermined women’s safety across the state and forced many women to fear those who are supposed to uphold the law, Jagan claimed. “Chandrababu Naidu, is this the women’s safety your government claims to provide? Is this your model of good governance? Is this what you call policing? The growing anger of women across the state will ultimately hold your government accountable,” Reddy said. However, during a public meeting in Gudivada in Krishna district today, Naidu said Murthy was immediately suspended from the party and arrested. Moreover, the CM asserted that he will not spare anyone committing mistakes, whether someone is from a different party or the TDP.

Bus runs over pregnant woman after bike slips near Panchalingala



Kurnool: A heartbreaking road accident claimed the life of a five-month pregnant woman on the National Highway near Panchalingala village on Saturday, plunging her family into deep mourning. The victim was identified as Priyanka (28), a native of Gadivemula. The tragedy occurred while Priyanka was traveling to her maternal home for prenatal care, riding pillion on a motorcycle driven by her father, Ramudu. As they were navigating the stretch just past the Tungabhadra River bridge, the motorcycle suddenly lost balance, causing both father and daughter to fall onto the busy road. Moments later, an APSRTC bus bound for Hyderabad from Anantapur coming from behind ran over Priyanka, killing her on the spot. Ramudu sustained severe injuries in the mishap and was immediately rushed to the Kurnool Government General Hospital by local residents for emergency treatment. Geographic Reference

Upon receiving the information, the Taluka police rushed to the scene, secured the area, and shifted the body for a post-mortem examination. The police have registered a case and launched a thorough investigation to determine the exact cause of the accident. The incident has raised serious road safety concerns among locals.

Teja Junior College shines with stellar NEET 2026 ranks



Teja Junior College excelled in NEET 2026, with T Navaneetha securing AIR 1039 and multiple students achieving top national ranks for MBBS and BDS admissions. Health Education & Medical Training Anantapur: Teja Junior College has achieved outstanding success in the NEET 2026 results. Leading the district, T Navaneetha secured an exceptional All India Rank (AIR) of 1039, while S Sirivennela achieved a brilliant AIR of 2923. Furthering the institution’s success, eight students placed within the top 50,000 and 15 within the top 100,000, securing paths toward MBBS and BDS

admissions. Director Tejeswara Reddy stated that the college has consistently brought national prestige to Anantapur across NEET, JEE Mains, and JEE Advanced exams. Chairperson Uma Devi and Academic Director Anil Kumar emphasized that delivering such exceptional results from a single campus within just three years of inception is a historic feat. The management, along with Academic Directors Adarsh, Sai Chaitanya, Netra Vani, and the administrative team, congratulated the students and thanked the parents for their trust.

Advanced stenting saves elder at KIMS Saveera

Doctors at KIMS Saveera Hospital successfully treated a 67-year-old heart attack patient with an advanced OCT-guided stenting procedure, avoiding open-heart surgery. Surgery Anantapur: Doctor sat KIMS Saveera Hospital successfully treated 67-year-old Dudekula Dastagiri, who suffered a severe heart attack, using an advanced Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT)-guided



stenting procedure. This cutting-edge, minimally invasive technique allowed the

patient to completely avoid open-heart bypass surgery. A coronary angiogram had revealed critical triple vessel disease, including severe narrowing of the left main coronary artery. Although open-heart surgery was initially recommended, the patient declined due to personal reasons. As an alternative, a cardiology team led by Consultant Cardiologist Dr. Spandana performed the complex OCT-guided intervention.