

UAE delegation meets CM Chandrababu, discusses setting up food cluster in AP



UAE Minister of Economy and Tourism, Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri, met with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu at the State Secretariat today and discussed the establishment of the food cluster with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. There was a significant progress in a key agreement reached at this year's Davos summit as the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has come forward to set up a food cluster in Andhra Pradesh. In this backdrop, UAE Minister of Economy and Tourism, Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri, met with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu at the State Secretariat today and discussed the establishment of the food cluster with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. Responding to the invitation extended by the Chief Minister

during his visit to Davos earlier this year, the UAE expressed its readiness to set up the facility in Andhra Pradesh. The UAE has decided to establish a value chain within the state's food processing sector. A partnership has been formed between the Andhra Pradesh government and the UAE to this end. Under this partnership, the plan is to create a value chain that facilitates the export of various horticultural products—including mangoes, bananas, and cocoa—to international markets. Minister TG Bharat, along with senior officials from the Food Processing and Industries departments and the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (EDB), participated in the meeting alongside the UAE delegation.

AP Home Minister Anita attends Future-Ready AP Police Retreat" workshop

She mentioned that the Police Department has organised various programs and brought different wings together under one umbrella Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Anita stated that freedom of speech is a fundamental right of every citizen in a democracy. However, she made clear that there is a need to exercise this freedom responsibly. She warned that with the recent expansion of social media platforms, some individuals are spreading false propaganda and making objectionable comments, and that strict action would be taken against them. A "Future-Ready AP Police Retreat" workshop, organised by the AP Police Department, was held today (Tuesday); Home Minister Anita participated and addressed the gathering. Home Minister Anita stated that the workshop would span two days and that Chief Minister Chandrababu would attend



tomorrow's session. She encouraged participants to share their advice and suggestions with the Chief Minister. She mentioned that the Police Department has organised various programs and brought different wings together under one umbrella. She highlighted the significance of the "Future-Ready" retreat taking place today. She noted that actions have been taken regarding attacks on women and mentioned the introduction of the "Eagle" system to curb marijuana cultivation.

MLA Sunitha counters YCP over Handri-Neeva works

Raptadu MLA Paritala Sunitha criticised the YSRCP during her Handri-Neeva canal tour, highlighting resumed irrigation works under the alliance government in Anantapur. Anantapur: Raptadu MLA Paritala Sunitha on Monday countered YCP's 'Project Yatra' by touring the Handri-Neeva canal alongside TDP district chief MS Raju and leader Paritala Sriram. Inspecting the overflowing Kuntimaddi tank, Sunitha sarcastically thanked YCP leaders for highlighting the infrastructure completed during Chandrababu Naidu's previous tenure. She termed YS Jagan Mohan Reddy the betrayer of Rayalaseema for stalling the



₹804-crore Peruru project and other reservoirs. Sunitha stated that under the alliance government, irrigation works have resumed rapidly, filling 45 tanks and 142 check dams, while MLA N Balakrishna launched branch canal works worth ₹750 crore.

Covid-19 Omicron RF.5 variant cases increase in AP, check for symptoms here

Covid-19 The covid-19 cases are rising slowly in Andhra Pradesh with a total number of cases in the state being increased to 19. The covid-19 cases are rising slowly in Andhra Pradesh with a total number of cases in the state being increased to 19. According to health department, district-wise statistics have shown that maximum cases—eight—have been recorded in YSR Kadapa district. Besides, two cases have been reported from both Guntur and Kakinada districts. One case each has been recorded from Parvathipuram Manyam, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, Eluru, NTR, Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore, and Bapatla districts. According to officials, four people have succumbed to death due to the virus. Whereas three patients have recovered from the illness and discharged themselves, eight patients are currently being treated in various hospitals. Moreover, four people are being isolated at their homes under the observation of the medical experts. The reason behind the increase in the cases is reportedly due to the Omicron RF.5 variant. As the cases have been increasing, the Health Department is requesting the people to be cautious; if anyone suffers from fever, cough, or cold, he or she must take tests right away. This slow increase in cases is alarming because of the deadly impact of the virus before. It has been instructed that medicines, test kits, and oxygen reserves should be made available in all government hospitals. Though at present the number of cases is low, but the doc-



tors have instructed the citizens to be careful about it and not be negligent. The experts reveal that the symptoms related to the Omicron RF.5 variant are generally mild in nature and no threat to anyone and the symptoms include a sore throat, cough, fever, and fatigue. The Health Department of the country has said that even though the RF.5 cases have been found in Singapore and some other Southeast Asian countries, there is no reason for being alarmed in this regard. If you are having any symptoms like fever, cough, sore throat, or fatigue, then you should get yourself tested. Old age people, pregnant women, and people with chronic diseases should be particularly careful. The officials in the health sector have cautioned the citizens about the pandemic and instructed to get themselves examined in the nearest government hospital if they had any symptoms of coronavirus including fever, cough, or breathing problems. The officials clarified that the District Medical and Health Department is constantly monitoring the situation and taking all the necessary steps to control the coronavirus with the support of the citizens.

Heavy Rainfall predicted in Andhra Pradesh due to Cyclonic Circulation



An advisory has been released by the State Disaster Management Authority to the people of Andhra Pradesh regarding the probable occurrence of heavy rains in the state over the next three days. There is cyclonic circulation that has developed over the west-central Bay of Bengal and adjacent North Coastal Andhra Pradesh. With regard to this, there is a trough extending from the height of 3.1 to 5.8 km above mean sea level through South

Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, South 2Rajasthan, and Gujarat till the northeastern Arabian Sea. This system will cause light to moderate rains in the area.

According to the Meteorological Department, there will be light to moderate rain or thunderstorm over North Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam on Tuesday and Wednesday along with gusty winds at a speed of 40-50 kmph.



Credibility goes for a toss in SIR democratic process

The evolving scenario in Telangana transforms the very definition of citizenship In a robust democracy, equality and transparency form the bedrock of the electoral exercise. However, the contemporary political landscape increasingly suggests that power resides not with the citizenry or the spirit of the Constitution, but within the complex labyrinths of the Election Commission and its rigid administrative machinery. Across the nation, public trust in central institutions is facing a noticeable decline. When a state’s electoral credibility depends entirely on centralized dictates, the confidence of the common voter begins to erode. A glaring manifestation of this institutional friction is currently unfolding in Telangana, centred on the implementation of the Summary Internal Review (SIR) and the related specialised enumeration drives. The core question dominating public discourse is both simple and alarming: Whose responsibility is it to ensure a clean voter list, the institutional machinery paid to maintain it, or the individual citizen who must repeatedly prove their right to exist in the eyes of the state?

Electoral audits and bureaucracy: Recent developments regarding the distribution of enumeration and verification forms have sparked widespread panic. While official channels boldly claim that nearly 99.99 per cent of these forms have been distributed, ground realities present a starkly different narrative. Reports indicate that by mid-July, barely 50 per cent of the target population had successfully received or submitted their documentation. With strict deadlines looming, even after an extension granted by the Election Commission of India (ECI) until August 3, the feasibility of covering the remaining population is highly questionable. Urban centres and towns are bearing the brunt of this logistical failure, with an estimated 35 per cent to 50 per cent of urban residents cut out from the direct distribution loop.

The chaos is amplified by the absence or inefficiency of Booth Level Officers (BLOs). Instead of conducting door-to-door verifications, many BLOs are reportedly operating from centralized community halls, indiscriminately handing out forms without verifying whether the recipients belong to that specific polling booth. This systemic failure forces voters to hunt down officials to protect their right to vote.

Why the 2002 linkage? The most controversial element of the current review process in Telangana is the administrative reliance on the historical 2002 SIR dataset. Citizens, who have actively voted in multiple consecutive elections over the past two decades, are suddenly being asked to establish continuity by proving their names existed on the rolls in 2002. If a voter cannot produce records linking them to the 2002 list, they are forced to re-verify their identity as if they were new applicants. This requires navigating a demanding documentation process: Filing fresh applications (such as Form-6 or correction templates); submitting physical copies of ration cards, Aadhaar cards, and Voter IDs; and navigating digital validations like mobile number linking and Aadhaar One-Time Passwords (OTPs). The administrative catch: For millions of economically marginalized voters, elderly citizens, or individuals lacking tech literacy.

Overnight showers break three-week dry spell in Hyderabad



Hyderabad: After a dry spell that lasted for about three weeks, light to moderate showers swept through Hyderabad, bringing down maximum temperatures. The overnight showers, which continued on Tuesday morning, resulted in a pleasant, breezy morning. Adjoining districts of Rangareddy, Sangareddy, Cyberabad and Medchal-Malkajgiri also received light to moderate showers ranging from a maximum of 34.3 mm to 10 mm between Monday evening and early hours of Tuesday. Several districts, especially in northern

Telangana, received intense, heavy-to-very heavy spells of rainfall.

Parts of Mancherla district that received maximum rainfall include Kotapally (124.3 mm), Kannepalli (123.0 mm), and Tandur (120.3 mm), TSDPS rainfall data indicated. Heavy downpours ranging between 64.5 mm to 115.5 mm lashed Kamanpur (109.5 mm) and Peddapalli, Venkatapur (104.3 mm) and Wazeed (91.0 mm) in Mulugu and Mahadevpur (96.3 mm) in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district.

Telangana HC seeks CCTV footage in Narsampet custodial death case

Hyderabad: Justice T. Madhavi Devi of the Telangana High Court on Monday directed the State to produce the CCTV footage in connection with the alleged custodial death of a 30-year-old undertrial woman. The direction came in a writ petition filed by the brother of Pendyala Sucharitha seeking a fair and effective investigation into her alleged custodial death while lodged in the Special Prison for Women at Narsampet. Appearing for the petitioner, Senior Advocate V. Raghunath contended that the deceased was subjected to custodial torture and inhuman treatment by prison officials despite repeatedly complaining of ill health. It was submitted that she was assaulted inside the prison, which ultimately led to her death. Counsel also drew the Court’s attention to the injury noted on the scalp of

the deceased in the post-mortem report. The Government Pleader for Home submitted that a charge memo had already been issued to the officials concerned, departmental proceedings were pending and a magisterial enquiry into the incident was also underway.

In response, Senior Advocate Raghunath argued that departmental and magisterial enquiries could not substitute a fair criminal investigation into the complaint lodged by the deceased’s brother. Taking note of the rival submissions, Justice T. Madhavi Devi directed the State, prison authorities and the police to file their counter-affidavits and also produce the CCTV footage of the prison by the next date of hearing. The matter was adjourned by four weeks.

Attapur police arrest six, seize over 8 kg ganja in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: The Attapur police arrested six persons, including an alleged ganja peddler and a sub-peddler, and seized 8.410 kg of dry ganja worth Rs. 4.2 lakh, electronic weighing machines, a sealing machine, packing material, seven mobile phones and a motorcycle allegedly used to transport the contraband. According to the police, on receiving information, a team laid a trap near the Hanuman Temple on Bhopal Nagar Road in Attapur at around 12.50 pm on Sunday. A youth, Mohd Faizan Bakshi (19), who arrived on a motorcycle carrying a grey-and-black luggage bag, was intercepted after five others approached him to buy ganja. During questioning, the main suspect, Faizan, allegedly confessed to procuring the ganja from a supplier identified as Sailesh of Nagpur, Maharashtra, who is absconding. Police said Faizan supplied the contraband to Syed Sadiq (40), who allegedly repackaged it into smaller packets using electronic weighing machines and a sealing machine before selling it to local consumers. The police recovered 8.410 kg of ganja worth Rs. 4.2 lakh from the luggage bag carried by Faizan. They also seized three electronic weighing machines, a sealing machine, packing covers, an empty luggage bag, seven mobile phones and the motorcycle used to transport the narcotic substance. The remaining four suspects – Ali Ahmed (55), Riyaz

Ahmed Khan (22), Mohammed Jaffar (21) and Tausif Baig (22) – allegedly admitted that they had come to purchase ganja for personal consumption and further sale, police said. All six accused were produced before a court and remanded to judicial custody. Efforts are on to trace the absconding supplier from Nagpur.

KTR condemns police lathicharge on peaceful protestors in Delhi



Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao strongly condemned the Delhi Police’s use of force against peaceful and unarmed protesters, calling it extremely undemocratic and shameful. He demanded that the Centre immediately stop muzzling dissent. “You cannot answer questions with lathis and tear gas,” he said in a statement. Emphasising the constitutional right to dissent, Rama Rao said every citizen has the right to question those in power and asserted that such rights cannot be suppressed through force. He expressed solidarity with every student and citizen seeking accountability through peaceful means. He also appealed to the protesters to remain safe.



Microsoft’s ‘reset’ reshapes gaming giant amid studio cuts

Hyderabad: The last fortnight has been nothing short of a nightmare for fans, employees, and everyone connected to the Xbox brand, as Microsoft’s gaming division chose to implement “Resetting Xbox” – a move that saw 3,200 employees lose jobs and 4 studios leave the division. Resulting in protests, unionisation, and legal action, the resetting of the world’s largest gaming brand in terms of financial value and size of game catalogue brings to a halt the game-focused expansion ambition from just two years ago. The full ramifications of the “resetting” are yet to unravel as studios, fans, and employees lament the widespread cuts. It is difficult to explain the magnitude of these recent decisions based purely on numbers; thus, I would like to turn to examples to illustrate the unique predicament we find ourselves in as fans of video games. First, there are few games as iconic and popular as Doom in the first-person shooter (FPS) genre. Doom’s developer, id Software, was acquired by Microsoft alongside Bethesda and Arkane in March 2021 as part of a \$7.5 billion deal when it bought their parent company, ZeniMax. Doom has enjoyed a critically acclaimed, much-loved resurgence since the 2016 reboot of the franchise, the subsequent launch of Doom Eternal, and 2025’s Doom: The Dark Ages. Dark Ages received praise upon its release. The July 6th announcement, however, saw 50% of the staff at id Software let go, resulting in the loss of crucial manpower proficient with the game’s legendary engine, id Tech. The reset has led Doom makers to highlight how the studio’s growth has been irretrievably hampered. Microsoft, on the other hand, claims no essential resources were lost as part of this restructuring. Secondly, Microsoft’s reset sees a return to first-party exclusivity and a renewed willingness to compete against Sony for unique, console-specific gaming experiences. The move is expected to make Xbox hardware desirable again, spearheaded by the popularity of franchises like Fallout, Call of Duty, and The Elder Scrolls. However, one team that has been gutted as part of this shift toward single-player blockbusters is ZeniMax Online Studios, the developers behind the award-winning The Elder Scrolls Online (ESO). With an estimated 3 million monthly active players, the world of ESO keeps fans engaged as we all eagerly await The Elder Scrolls VI, which remains nowhere in sight. These layoffs are expected to shrink the ESO team significantly. Doom and ESO are just two of many such cases likely to emerge across the Xbox umbrella. However, as is evident in both instances, the decisions being made are not dictated by economic logic. They are instead driven by metrics of visibility and popularity, where Xbox funds and supports only its largest, most recognizable titles while sacrificing smaller teams and creative projects. There is far more to games than money, popularity, and massive production scale. If Xbox continues to “reset” along these lines, it risks killing the golden goose: because games then will be anything but fun.

40 kg dry ganja seized; four held, one absconding

Palvancha (Kothagudem): Excise Enforcement officials seized 40 kg of dry ganja near Rangapuram in Bhadrachalam district on Monday and arrested four persons, while another accused is absconding. The seizures were made during a vehicle checking drive conducted under the directions of Joint Khammam District Excise Deputy Commissioner V Somi Reddy and Assistant Commissioner R Kishan. According to Excise officials, 27.5 kg of dry ganja was recovered from a vehicle. The driver, identified as Binay Sarkar, a resident of

Malkangiri district in Odisha, was allegedly transporting the contraband from Malkangiri to Maharashtra when he was intercepted. In a subsequent search, officials recovered 6.2 kg of dry ganja from a motorcycle. One of the occupants, Noopa Ravikiran of Mulkalapalli in Bhadrachalam district, was arrested, while another accused, Thalla Dhanaraj, is absconding. The ganja was allegedly being transported from Malkangiri to Mulkalapalli. A further 6.3 kg of dry ganja was seized from another motorcycle.



Two persons, Velpula Bharat of Bhadrachalam and Gaddala Shashank of Mulkalapalli, were arrested. Police alleged that they were also transporting the contraband from Malkangiri to Bhadrachalam Kothagudem district.

Residents demand closure of belt shops in Bhadrachalam

Kothagudem: Belt shops (illegal liquor outlets) are thriving in the temple town of Bhadrachalam, much to the chagrin of residents as well as devotees visiting the temple. Residents have complained that the widespread sale of liquor through belt shops has been leading to law and order problems in the colonies. However, the officials concerned have not taken any

action to curb the menace of belt shops, they alleged. On June 15, members of all 20 wards in the Bhadrachalam Major Gram Panchayat passed a resolution banning the sale of liquor through belt shops. However, the sale of liquor has continued unabated, said 20th ward member Irpa Anasuya. She, along with Bandaru Sarath of the 4th ward, Kavuri Gopi of the 7th



ward and Ilamala Ashok of the 14th ward, has been staging protests demanding that the authorities remove the belt shops operating across Bhadrachalam

town. Anasuya stated that the temple, popularly known as 'Dakshina Ayodhya', attracts a large number of devotees every day. The Godavari Pushkaralu festival is scheduled to be held from June 26 to July 7, 2027, during which lakhs of devotees are expected to visit the town. The presence of belt shops and uncontrolled liquor sales might cause inconvenience to devotees, she said. Meanwhile, an elderly woman, Laxamma, said three persons had recently died in Subhash Nagar Colony due to excessive consumption of liquor.

Heavy rains cheer farmers in Mancheri, Asifabad



Mancheri: Both Mancheri and Kumram Bheem Asifabad districts saw moderate to heavy rains from Monday night to Tuesday morning, cheering farmers. According to a weather report on the website of Telangana State Development Planning Society (TGDPs), the average rainfall of Mancheri district was 58.4 mm, while Thandur mandal headquarters recorded the highest rainfall in Telangana by 120 mm. While Bellampalli mandal registered 119 mm of rainfall, Kotapalli mandal centre had 105.6 mm of rainfall. Kannepalli, Vemanapalli, Bheemini, Chennur, Kasipet, Nennal, Jaipur and Bheemaram mandals witnessed anywhere between 40 mm and 94.8 mm. The actual rainfall of the district was 281 mm as against the

normal rainfall of 371.4 mm from June 1 to July 21, showing a deficit by 24 mm. Meanwhile, Kumram Bheem Asifabad's average rainfall was 32.6 mm. While Rebbena mandal recorded the highest rainfall by 68.5 mm, Tiryan mandal had 68.5 mm of rainfall. Penchikalpet, Asifabad, Kagaznagar, Koutala, Wankidi, Jainoor, Kerameri and Bejjur mandals experienced anywhere between 22 mm and 46 mm of rainfall. The actual rainfall of the district was measured to be 328 mm when compared to 420 mm, reflecting a deficit by 22 percent. Farmers expressed delight over the rains. They said that the rains could prevent paddy, cotton, soy and other crops from getting withered. They were earlier anxious over a prolonged dry spell.

Raghuram seeks details on infra in govt schools

MP Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy raised concerns in the Lok Sabha regarding infrastructure and education quality in government schools. Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary detailed monitoring mechanisms like UDISE+ and the Samagra Shiksha scheme used to track school performance and facility availability. Khammam: Member of Parliament Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy raised a series of questions in the Lok Sabha on Monday on the quality of education and infrastructure in government schools, seeking details of the Centre's monitoring mechanisms, budgetary support and measures to improve learning outcomes. On the opening day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament, the MP asked whether the Union government conducts a national audit to assess teaching standards and basic infrastructure in government schools. In a written reply, Minister of



State for Education Jayant Chaudhary said the performance of schools is monitored through multiple mechanisms, including the Performance Grading Index (PGI), UDISE+, PARAKH assessments, the PM SHRI School Quality Monitoring Framework and social audits. The minister said UDISE+ provides data on school infrastructure such as toilets, internet connectivity and science laboratories, enabling the government to monitor the availability of basic facilities across states. Raghuram Reddy also sought to know whether the Centre was considering earmarking a minimum budget allocation per student to ensure essential infrastructure in government schools.

Police support eco-friendly Ganesh celebrations in MBNR



The Mahabubnagar District Police have pledged their support to the "Go Green - Save Environment, Clay Ganesh" campaign. Aimed at curbing water pollution from Plaster of Paris (POP) idols, the initiative encourages citizens to celebrate a sustainable and eco-friendly Ganesh Chaturthi. The Mahabubnagar District Police have assured support to the district-wide "Go Green - Save Environment, Clay Ganesh" awareness campaign aimed at promoting eco-friendly Ganesh celebrations. District Superintendent of Police Janaki gave the assurance when a delegation led by Mahabubnagar DCC President A Sanjeev Mudiraj met her on Monday and sought the police department's cooperation in creating awareness about the use of clay Ganesh idols during the upcoming Ganesh

Chaturthi festival. Responding, the SP appreciated the initiative and said environmental protection is a shared social responsibility. She noted that Plaster of Paris (POP) idols cause severe pollution to lakes, rivers, and other water bodies, and appealed to the public to opt for eco-friendly clay idols. She assured that the district police would extend all possible support to the campaign and help spread awareness among the public. Speaking on the occasion, A Sanjeev Mudiraj said the campaign aims to educate people, particularly the youth, about the environmental hazards caused by POP idols and encourage the use of clay Ganesh idols. He said every family choosing a clay idol would contribute to protecting water bodies, the environment, and future generations.

Goddess Balkampet Yellamma's Kalyanotsavam begins in Hyderabad

The Kalyana Mahotsavam of Goddess Balkampet Yellamma in Hyderabad was commenced with grandeur today. The Kalyana Mahotsavam of Goddess Balkampet Yellamma in Hyderabad was commenced with grandeur today morning (Tuesday) amid Vedic chanting and auspicious music. The Kalyanotsavam of the Goddess will be held on the auspicious time of 11:59 am amid the cheers of devotees. Ministers Konda Surekha and Ponnamp Prabhakar offered silk cloths and Mutyalu Talambalu (a form of sacred pearl to be worn during the marriage ceremony). In addition to ministers, Geetha Reddy, the wife of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy visited the temple. The celestial marriage of Goddess



Balkampet Yellamma is celebrated today (Tuesday) as a spectacular event. Ministers and representatives of the public, as well as thousands of devotees have been part of this celebration. The event is one of the symbols of spiritual tradition in Telangana.

Shiv Sena (UBT) terms Delhi protests ‘start of revolution’

Mumbai: Targeting the Centre over its crackdown on protesters demanding Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan’s resignation, the Shiv Sena (UBT) on Tuesday said the ongoing agitation marks the beginning of a revolution, with “millions of cockroaches” taking a decisive step. In an editorial published in the party mouthpiece Saamana, the Uddhav Thackeray-led party accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of protecting “corrupt and incompetent” ministers, alleging that he was “committing treason” and ruining the country. “That is why millions of ‘cockroaches’ are storming Parliament and demanding Modi’s resignation. This is the beginning of a revolution. Millions of cockroaches are taking a step toward revolution,” the editorial said.

Thousands of protesters on Monday joined ‘sansad chalo’ march of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) against alleged irregularities in various exams towards Parliament on Monday, fought pitched battles with police, who responded with lathicharge and firing of tear gas shells.

The editorial claimed that the Prime Minister was unwilling to accept responsibility and questioned why Pradhan continued to enjoy the government’s support. “Who exactly is Dharmendra Pradhan that he should be protected so much? Whoever he may be, he has ruined the lives of Indian youth. The responsibility for the leaking of the NEET examination papers rests on Pradhan’s shoulders, and he should be punished for it,” it said. The editorial also targeted other Union ministers, alleging that PM Modi had not sought the resignation of Hardeep Singh Puri over his alleged links to the “Epstein” case, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman despite claims that she had “ruined” the economy, or Defence Minister Rajnath Singh despite allegations that China had encroached on Indian territory in Ladakh.

It further claimed that while the children of Union ministers are studying at universities abroad and securing well-paying jobs, “millions of unemployed cockroaches” have now become a source of concern for those in power and disturbed



their sleep. According to the editorial, public anger spread against Modi across the country, with young people from several states taking to the streets. It said slogans such as “Tanashahi nahi chalegi” (Dictatorship will not be tolerated) and “Modi satta chhodo” (Modi should quit power) were being raised during the protests. The Saamana said if people had overcome fear and chosen to protest fearlessly, the government’s jails would prove insufficient to contain them and incidents of firing would increase. It added that an atmosphere of widespread public anger had

taken hold across the country. Referring to activist Sonam Wangchuk’s indefinite fast, the editorial alleged that the government initially believed his protest could be crushed within five minutes. However, after his fast continued for 20 days and he remained determined to sacrifice himself, it panicked and shifted him to a hospital.

Wangchuk’s detention fuelled public discontent, with “millions of ‘cockroaches’” gathering at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, it added.

Woman injured during CJP protest placed on ventilator at RML Hospital



New Delhi: A young woman injured in the police action during the CJP protest here is on ventilator support at the Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital, sources said on Tuesday. The woman sustained injuries on Monday. “A young woman injured in police action during CJP protest is on ventilator in RML,” the sources said without providing further details. In a statement, Delhi Police had claimed on

Monday that more than 118 police personnel sustained injuries during the protest, while the number of injured protesters was 60. The protest, organised by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), saw thousands of supporters attempting to march towards Parliament demanding resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over alleged irregularities in examination.

Bengaluru Police seek AI chatbot records in triple murder investigation

Bengaluru: The Bengaluru Police have written to an AI tool company seeking details of chat history after the investigation into the recent triple murder case revealed that the prime accused used the assistance of an AI chatbot to execute the murders, which he had been planning for nearly six months, officials said on Tuesday. The murders were reported on June 22 this year at an apartment in Seegehalli under the limits of K R Puram Police Station, where Somasundar (52), his wife Muthulaxmi (48), and their younger daughter Supriya (19) were found stabbed to death. Days after the murders, the deceased couple’s elder daughter Shwetha (24) and her live-in partner Kenneth (25), who fled the spot after committing the crime, were arrested separately from Puducherry, where they had been taking shelter to evade arrest, police said. The investigation revealed that the alleged motive behind the murders appeared to be financial disputes and strained family relations, with Shwetha harbouring grievances against her mother for being “controlling”, they said. According to police, Shwetha had allegedly bor-

rowed Rs 50 lakh from her mother, Muthulaxmi, for Kenneth to start a cloud kitchen business. The money was spent, and she feared how it would be repaid.

While Kenneth and Shwetha allegedly acted in tandem, the entire planning and execution of the murders were carried out by Kenneth, who consulted an AI chatbot at every stage, including seeking information on how to kill, dispose of bodies, removing bloodstains, and whether the furnace built by him for the planned cloud kitchen business here could be repurposed to incinerate the bodies, a senior police officer said. During interrogation, Kenneth confessed to police that a trivial issue had triggered him to eliminate Shwetha’s family members. He also admitted that he depended heavily on the AI chatbot for guidance throughout the six months of planning the murders, the officer said, adding that it had acted as an accomplice in the crime. Following the detailed interrogation, the officer said investigators have written to the parent AI company seeking digital evidence of Kenneth’s chat history with the AI tool to corroborate his version.

Meanwhile, psychological assessments conducted during the probe revealed that Kenneth suffered from severe social isolation. Police alleged that Shwetha financially supported Kenneth while he remained socially isolated from friends and family. Police said Shwetha had earlier worked in the IT sector but lost her job after allegedly becoming increasingly influenced by Kenneth. After the murders, the accused duo allegedly went to Shwetha’s house, from where they stole cash and silver ornaments before fleeing to Puducherry, they said. Police said that after luring Muthulaxmi to their apartment on June 22, Kenneth stabbed her multiple times. Subsequently, when her husband and younger daughter arrived, they too were stabbed. Somasundar somehow managed to reach the staircase despite suffering grievous injuries. He was noticed by neighbours, who alerted the police.

In his dying declaration, Somasundar told police that he had been stabbed by his daughter and her live-in partner and urged them to rescue his wife and younger daughter before he was taken to hospital, where he later died, they added.

SC agrees to hear Dhoot plea against separate insolvency for Videocon firms

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to hear Videocon founder Venugopal Dhoot’s plea against an NCLAT order upholding separate insolvency proceedings for two group entities – “Videocon Industries Ltd. and Videocon Oil Ventures Ltd.” A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Alok Aradhe issued notice on the plea of Dhoot and posted the matter for further hearing on August 10. Dhoot has challenged a May 14 order of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), which set aside an earlier order of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) that had directed clubbing of the two cases. The appellate tribunal had said that creditors of Videocon Industries Ltd. (VIL) and Videocon Oil Ventures Ltd. (VOVL) had intended the corporate insolvency resolution processes (CIRPs) of the two companies to run independently, considering the distinct nature of their businesses and the need for a specialised resolution. In this, Bharat PetroResources Limited (BRPL), a state-owned Bharat Petroleum



subsidiary, has acquired VOVL, exercising its right of first refusal (ROFR), which was subsequently approved by the NCLT through a June 2024 order, while the CIRP of VIL is still pending. The appellate tribunal had said in its order that VIL and VOVL operate in starkly different sectors – “with VIL engaged in consumer electronics and VOVL in oil-related businesses” – making it impractical for a single entity to possess the expertise required to revive both operations effectively. The objective of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) is to keep the corporate debtor a going concern besides the resolution of creditor dues. The appellate tribunal had further said that the

“decision was taken in the commercial wisdom of the committee of creditors (CoC), which should not be interfered with by the tribunal (NCLT)”. On February 12, 2020, while allowing a plea filed by Dhoot, the NCLT had directed the resolution professional to consider and treat all assets, property rights, claims and benefits of Videocon Oil Venture, Videocon Hydrocarbon Holdings, Videocon Energy Brasil and Videocon Indonesia Nunukan Inc. as assets and properties of VIL for the insolvency process. Dhoot had sought that all foreign oil and gas assets be considered as assets of Videocon Industries. This NCLT order was challenged before the NCLAT by petitioners, which included public sector lender SBI, BPRL Ventures Indonesia and Pertamina Hulu Energi Nunukan Company, among others. On February 19, 2020, the NCLAT stayed this NCLT order. The matter dates back to 2012, when VOVL and VIL availed of finances on an obligor/co-obligor basis from a consortium of lenders led by the State Bank of India (SBI).

‘Manasaagadhe’ from ‘Toxic’ spots Yash and Tara Sutaria’s romance



The makers of Toxic have released the romantic second single 'Manasaagadhe', showcasing the chemistry between Yash and Tara Sutaria ahead of the film's worldwide release on August 26, 2026. The makers of ‘Toxic’ have shared the video of the film’s second single, Manasaagadhe, which exhibits a mellow romantic side to the much-anticipated action entertainer. After the super hit track ‘Tabaahi’, the team has shared the latest melodious song from the movie, which has also been released in multiple languages. Manasaagadhe has been picturized on the adorable chemistry between Yash and Tara, and unlike the previous track, the video does not mark any high-octane action sequences but focuses on the romance between the lead pair. Kiara Advani and Nayanthara also make brief appearances in the song, which has

a different treatment than the previous single – Tabaahi . The Telugu version of ‘Manasaagadhe’ has been penned by the legendary lyricist Ramajogayya Sastry, while the song has been beautifully rendered by Siddharth Basrur. The music has been composed by Tanishk Bagchi, Arslan Nizami, and Faheem Abdullah. Feed Toxic, directed by Geetu Mohandas, is a multi-studio production that has been co-produced by KVN Production and Monster Mind Creations. The film has garnered massive hype in recent weeks and will witness a grand theatrical release this year on August 26, 2026, across the globe. With two distinct songs, Tabaahi and Manasaagadhe, creating a buzz around the film, fans are excited to witness the Yash starrer action thriller’s intense drama, romance, and more.

‘They Call Him OG’ set for television premiere



Pawan Kalyan’s blockbuster They Call Him OG is set for its television premiere on ETV, while the makers have also confirmed an eagerly awaited sequel. Almost nine months after its successful theatrical run, Pawan Kalyan's blockbuster actioner 'They Call Him OG' is all set for TV premiere. In addition to that, the mega star has also confirmed a sequel to the movie. Ending the speculations, ETV channel has acquired the satellite rights to the film. With the channel airing the promos, it is likely that the film will see its TV premiere during the festive season in August. While the date is yet to be finalized, the promos have already created ample hype among the television viewers and the fans of Pawan Kalyan. Moreover, as the 'OG sequel' is all set to take off, the makers have revealed that it

will be the actor's own production house, Pawan Kalyan Creative Works, which will be producing the film. Unlike the first part, which saw the collaboration of multiple production houses, this one will see Pawan Kalyan's team standing alone at the helm of the production. Music composer Thaman S, who has given the original tracks and the background score of the first film, will be seen making his return to work on the successor. However, the makers have yet to reveal the director's name, as it is believed that Sujeeth, the director of the first film, might be on board for the second one. With a TV premiere and an OG sequel in the offing, Pawan Kalyan's 'They Call Him OG' continues to keep the audiences and the fans engaged and excited.

Ravi Teja begins dubbing for ‘Irumudi’, set for Aug 21 release

Hyderabad: The makers of director Shiva Nirvana’s upcoming film, ‘Irumudi’, featuring actor Ravi Teja in the lead, have now announced that actor Ravi Teja has commenced dubbing for the film. Having wrapped up his portion of the shoot, Ravi Teja has begun dubbing for the film. The makers have unveiled a dubbing studio video featuring the actor delivering the powerful dialogue, “I’ve only one daughter, and her name is Manamma,” in a deeply emotional voice, hinting at the film’s strong father-daughter bond. The video also features Baby Nakshathra and director Shiva Nirvana. Sources claim the shoot is in its final leg, with only three days of filming left. Meanwhile, post-production, they claim, is progressing simultaneously, ensuring the film remains on schedule for its grand theatrical release on August 21. Music director GV Prakash Kumar, who has composed a soulful and diverse soundtrack, has also commenced the re-recording work. The film has triggered huge interest in fans and film buffs ever since the makers released a glimpse video last month. The glimpse video that was released showed Ravi Teja lovingly taking care of his daughter in the film. The child, it is evident, is in a very happy space with her father. However, the glimpse video hints at something tragic happening. Ravi Teja is then seen turning violent. He turns an alcoholic. When his daughter urges him to quit alcohol, he becomes an Ayyappa devotee and wears the sacred mala to take back control of his life and kick the dreaded habit. The film, which happens to be Ravi Teja’s 77th film and was therefore being tentatively referred to as #RT77 until it was titled ‘Irumudi’, is being produced by leading production house Mythri Movie Makers. The title ‘Irumudi’ carries deep spiritual significance, as it symbolizes a devotee’s sacred offering and surrender to Lord Ayyappa. Ravi Teja, at the time of the film’s first look being launched, had said, “Some stories choose you at



the right moment in life. Feeling blessed to be part of one such story again, letting belief lead the way. Excited to begin this new journey called #Irumudi with @ShivaNirvana & @MythriOfficial Swamiye Saranam Ayyappa. ”Sources say director Shiva Nirvana has crafted a powerful script that fuses devotional depth, emotional weight, and mass appeal in equal measure. They further disclose that at the film’s core will lie a strong father–daughter bond, that will offer Ravi Teja a character arc unlike anything that he’s portrayed before. Besides playing a first-of-its-kind role, Ravi Teja, they say, has also undergone a transformation. Sources also claim that the film promises well-defined roles for every character, adding richness to the narrative. Priya Bhavani Shankar plays the female lead, with Baby Nakshathra portraying Ravi Teja’s daughter in the film. The cast also includes Sai Kumar, Ajay Ghosh, Ramesh Indira, and Swasika in key roles. Backed by producers Naveen Yerneni and Y Ravi Shankar, ‘Irumudi’ boasts a solid technical crew, with GV Prakash Kumar scoring the music, Vishnu Sarma handling cinematography, Sahi Suresh leading production design, and Prawn Pudi on the editing table. Shiva Nirvana has penned the story, screenplay, and dialogues, with Naresh Babu P serving as script coordinator.

Ramayana Trailer stuns insiders, Ranbir Kapoor wins big praise ahead

Mumbai: Director Nitesh Tiwari's ancient epic 'Ramayana' which stars Ranbir Kapoor in lead role is creating a buzz prior to its release. The makers of the movie have now unveiled a glimpse of the film's trailer to a selected audience. The trailer will be released globally on July 24, 2026. The trailer clip was watched by reputed journalists, directors and industry insiders. The trailer was praised by the people who watched it. Filmmakers like Atlee and Siddharth Anand were also left impressed by the Ramayana trailer. Popular Telugu film website's editor Idlebrain Jeevi posted the trailer review on X. He praised the trailer he watched at Bharat Mandapam, Delhi. He wrote , "Watched the #Ramayana trailer in 3D at Bharat Mandapam, Delhi, a couple of days ago. The trailer will be released to the public on 24 July. The casting is spot on, and the colour palette and overall visual identity feel authentically Indian. Artificial-looking and overly Western-style elements have been kept to a minimum." Also Read - Sai Pallavi’s emotional speech at ‘Ramayana’ event wins hearts Advertisement Praising Ranbir Kapoor and other leading cast , he said that Ranbir Kapoor is perfect as Lord Rama while admiring Sai Pallavi's



grace and Yash's Ravana look. He added, " It’s a spectacular trailer. Ranbir Kapoor is perfect as Lord Rama, while Yash is terrific as Ravana. Sai Pallavi delivers a graceful and convincing portrayal of Sita." He also praised the graphics of the movie. He added, " The visuals, music, and VFX are truly world-class.Can’t wait for the film to hit theatres on 8 November. ??". Check X Accout Here Fans landed in the comments box and expressed that they are eagerly waiting for the trailer to see Ranbir Kapoor in the Lord Rama avatar. The official release date of the movie has not been yet announced as it is expected to hit the theaters on Diwali.

India announces shooting squad for ISSF World Cup in Hangzhou



the women's 25m Pistol, while Anish, Omkar Singh and Bhavesh Shekhawat will compete in the men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol. In shotgun, Udavir Singh Jajee, Bhowneesh Mendiratta and Vivaan Kapoor will compete in men's Trap, with Pragati Dubey, Kirti Gupta and Rajeshwari Kumari in the women's competition. Gurjoat Singh Khangura, Parampal Singh Guron and Abhay Singh Sekhon make up the men's Skeet line-up, while Ganemat Sekhon, Darshna Rathore and Yashasvi Rathore will represent India in women's Skeet. India will also field teams in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team, 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team and Trap Mixed Team events. The competition programme begins on July 22, with the first medals decided in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team and men's 10m Air Rifle. The World Cup will continue through July 28, when the final medals will be awarded in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team and Trap Mixed Team events.

I didn't believe him initially': Samson recalls Rohit's support during T20 WC



better for that game after the Zimbabwe one. There are days I've played in the IPL and for India, and I've scored those centuries, when everything just feels right. It was one of those days. You just enjoy, stay in the moment, stay in the process, and things start happening automatically." Although his natural instinct is to accelerate after the Powerplay, Samson said the match situation demanded a different approach as wickets kept falling at the other end. "I also knew it was a very big game for India. After the powerplay, I usually go into fifth gear. I'm an opener, if I get through the Powerplay, and we bat till No. 8, my game plan is to take on the bowling. But in that game, every time I felt it was time to attack, a wicket would fall at the other end. That's when I realised the game is the biggest teacher. The game tells you what to do," he stated. Samson also opened up on the emotional celebration that followed the innings, saying it was an expression of gratitude rather than personal triumph, saying, "It's a very private celebration, but it became very public. I'm a very strong believer. I believe in my God, and I know it wasn't me." The wicketkeeper-batter said there were moments during the knock that even surprised him, reinforcing his belief that he was simply an instrument in helping the team. "I've played enough innings to know which shots I hit, and then there are some where I wonder, 'How did I hit that one?' I'm just very grateful that it happened through me, that I was able to help the team. That moment will stay with me till my last breath. It was very special," he mentioned.

New Delhi: India wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson has revealed that he initially struggled to believe Rohit Sharma's reassurance that he would still have a role to play in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 after missing out on the playing XI during the latter stage of the campaign before rediscovering his confidence and producing one of the defining innings of India's campaign against the West Indies. Looking back2 on the difficult period following the New Zealand T20I series, Samson admitted he was mentally drained and could not see the path that Rohit envisioned for him. "To be honest, I didn't believe him at that time. Sorry. He might have spoken from his heart or from his experience, but that day I wasn't able to see what he was seeing. You could see it on my face; I was a bit off that day," Samson told JioStar. Samson explained that the disappointment of missing out lingered into the early stages of the World Cup, making it difficult for him to move on immediately. "Our World Cup campaign started two days after the New Zealand series, and it takes me at least a week to recover. I don't like to bottle things up, so it shows on my face if I'm not feeling 100 per cent. I went through that phase for four or five days before getting myself back on track," he added. The Kerala batter said the setback eventually became an opportunity for self-reflection, prompting him to reassess both his mindset and the reasons that drove him to play the game. "You know you've failed, so what's next? You're at the bottom, so from there, you can only go up. I started working on myself mentally. I started asking myself questions, why do I play cricket? What's my purpose? It was like I was rediscovering myself while the World Cup was going on. And then everything just came back," Samson said. That renewed perspective laid the foundation for Samson's match-winning innings in the virtual quarter-final against the West Indies, a knock he described as one of those rare days when everything clicked, as he said, "I prepared much

'Both teams will have equal chance of winning,' says Raza ahead of T20Is against India

Harare: Zimbabwe skipper Sikandar Raza has dismissed the thought of the 2026 T20 World Cup champions India being favourites in the upcoming three-match T20I series, saying the contest will not be one-sided and both teams will have an equal chance of emerging victorious. Zimbabwe are hosting the Shreyas Iyer-led side, with all three matches of the series to be held at the Harare Sports Club. The first match will be played on Thursday. India is coming to the contest after a poor show against Ireland and England. Under the new captain, Iyer, the team endured a 0-2 T20I series defeat to Ireland in Belfast before going down 0-4 in the five-match T20I series against England. India didn't impress in ODIs either as they lost the series by 2-1 under the captaincy of Shubman Gill. "Both countries will have an equal chance in this series. But one thing I am very sure about is that because Zimbabwe has been playing very consistent and very entertaining cricket, I can say this for sure that this series will be very entertaining. I think, as far as winning or losing is concerned, which is important for both countries, I think both countries have an equal chance to win the series." Raza told Star Sports. Accord-



ing to Raza, just like India, Zimbabwe is also going through a transition phase, which will make the series interesting. "Yes, I think India is also going through a transition, and I think to some extent you'll see Zimbabwe is also going to have a little bit of transition. I don't see it will be a one-sided series," he added. India and Zimbabwe have played each other ten times in T20Is. India leads the head-to-head record with 7 wins. Zimbabwe has won 3 matches. The last T20I encounter between the two teams took place on February 26, 2026, during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, where India defeated Zimbabwe by 72 runs.

Seven Indians progress to next round at Junior World Squash



India's top seed Anahat Singh and other rising stars kicked off their campaign at the 2026 World Squash Junior Championships in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada, with dominant performances. Discover the latest results and the Indian contingent's pursuit of historic titles in this prestigious junior event. India have kickstarted their campaign at the World Squash Junior Championships strongly with women's top seed Anahat Singh, who is hoping to become India's first-ever junior world champion, advancing into the next round after a straight-game 11-2, 11-1, 11-3 against Australia's Lilly Wilson. Amidst the excitement of the opening day, India's Saanvi Kalanki was able to impress and book her place into the next round after enduring a five-game battle against the Netherlands' seed, Elke Mols, 11-9, 9-11, 11-8, 7-11, 11-6. Kalanki, who took the lead in the opener, 11-9, was forced into a back-and-forth battle, with Mols levelling the scoreline twice to force a fifth game. However, it proved that the Dutch player's efforts were for nothing, as Kalanki was able to claim the fifth 11-6. Meanwhile, Anika Dubey registered a straight-game 11-7, 11-3, 11-5 victory over Anna Kuwahara of Japan and Rudra Singh received walkover by Khadija Abdulraheem of Nigeria. the trio of Aryaveer Dewan, Yusha Nafees and

Gurveer Singh, who received the first-round bye, advanced to the men's singles third round Aryaveer registered a 12-10, 11-6, 11-9 win over Levi Visser of Germany. Yusha secured a convincing 11-1, 11-1, 11-1 victory over Brazil's Matheus Frabetti while, Gurveer beat Christian Dromgoole of Ireland 11-3, 8-11, 11-5, 11-6. However, Purav Rambhia lost to England's Ronnie Hickling. Defending men's champion and No.1 seed Mohamad Zakaria started his run with a straight-game victory over Macau, China's Wu Cheok Io, as he aims to become the first men's player to win the title three times. At World Squash Junior Championships 2026, the individual competition from July 20 to 25 will be followed by the men's and women's team events from July 26 to 31 at the same venue. India's men's team heads into the competition after winning bronze in Cairo last year, ending a 13-year medal drought at the championships.

Argentina without Messi receive hero's welcome after FIFA WC heartbreak



Argentina's FIFA World Cup 2026 runners-up received a grand hero's welcome in Ezeiza, with fans, a red carpet and a military band celebrating the team's remarkable campaign despite the final defeat to Spain. Ezeiza: FIFA World Cup 2026 runners-up Argentina received a grand welcome at the airport with red carpet and a military band when they returned home following a heartbreaking 1-0 defeat against Spain in the final held at MetLife Stadium in New York. Despite the team failing to defend the title, the fans show their support to the national, thousands gathered outside the Argentine Football Association (AFA) office near at Ministro Pistarini International Airport in Ezeiza. After landing, the aircraft was moved to the private flight area FBO to facilitate the arrival of the delegation.

Coach Lionel Scaloni and the rest of the team were welcomed on the tarmac with a red carpet by the Grenadier Regiment to the rhythm of " Muchachos " and then by a multitude of fans in the surroundings of the grounds. white and blue umbrellas and wearing the number 10 jersey of their team captain, Lionel Messi; however, the 39-year-old, who might have played his last game for the national team, was not present with the squad.

Rupee falls 14 paise to 96.44 against US dollar on oil surge

Mumbai: The rupee fell 14 paise to 96.44 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, on risk aversion in global markets and a surge in crude oil prices. Forex traders said escalating US-Iran conflict and rising US Treasury yields weighed on the rupee. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 96.53 against the US dollar and traded in the range of 96.35 to 96.53 during the day. The domestic unit finally settled for the day at 96.44 (provisional), down 14 per cent from its previous close. On Friday, the rupee gained 12 paise to settle at 96.30 against the US dollar. “We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on escalating conflict between the US and Iran over the weekend and elevated crude oil prices. “However, diplomatic talks between the two nations may prevent a sharp fall in the Rupee. Any intervention by the RBI may also support the rupee at lower levels,” Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Mirae Asset ShareKhan. USDINR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 96.10 to 96.70, Choudhary added. According to Dilip Parmar — Senior Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, the recent spike in Brent crude, driven by geopolitical tensions, has pressured emerging market currencies like the Indian rupee. However, aggressive and anticipated interventions by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have effectively capped the currency’s downside, Parmar added. From a technical standpoint, the spot USD-INR pair encounters resistance at 96.50, while key support remains around 95.80, Parmar added. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges



the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading higher by 0.05 per cent at 100.81. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 0.01 per cent higher at USD 88.11 per barrel in futures trade. Analysts said crude oil prices surged following a fresh round of airstrikes by the US early Monday targeting Iran after announcing the death of another American service member, and Iran fired missiles towards Jordan that risked widening the conflict into neighbouring Israel. Meanwhile, Bahrain sounded its missile alert sirens Monday morning, warning of an Iranian retaliatory attack after US airstrikes targeted the Islamic Republic. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex declined 442.93 points to settle at 77,708.52, while Nifty was down 95.80 points to 24,238.50. Foreign Institutional Investors offloaded equities worth Rs 376.41 crore on a net basis on Friday, according to exchange data. According to the Reserve Bank data released on Friday, India’s forex reserves jumped USD 964 million to USD 675.157 billion in the week ended July 10. In the previous reporting week, the overall kitty had jumped by USD 7.26 billion to USD 674.193 billion.

Banks expect FCNR deposit inflows to rise before RBI deadline

Mumbai: Banks remain optimistic about a sharp pick-up in foreign currency non-resident (FCNR-B) deposits before the RBI’s September 30 deadline for the special scheme, despite initial inflows falling below expectations. Bank executives said they are forging relevant partnerships with overseas entities to help mobilise the flows, noting that actual activity under the scheme began only at the end of June after the central bank issued FAQs clarifying the necessary points. They also pointed out certain issues, including tax treatment in some jurisdictions that makes such investments infeasible, and noted that tapping non-resident Indians (NRIs) in the Middle East, Singapore and Hong Kong is best suited for the scheme’s success. Among public sector lenders, Punjab National Bank has mobilised USD 425 million against its target of USD 2.5 billion, Union Bank of India has garnered USD 106 million against its target of USD 2 billion, Indian Bank has collected USD 140 million against its target of USD 2 billion, while Central Bank of India has mobilised just USD 8.8 million against a target of USD 400 million. South Indian Bank has set a target of USD 1 billion but has not disclosed the amount mobilised so far. Among lenders that disclosed collections without specifying targets, RBL Bank mobilised USD 150 million, while Canara Bank mobilised USD 80 million. Several private sector banks, including HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank and YES Bank, refrained from disclosing the quantum of FCNR(B) deposits mobilised during their earnings calls, making it difficult to assess the industry’s overall progress. It may be recalled that recently, top policymakers held discussions with bankers, urging them to accelerate inflows under the scheme. To attract foreign funds, the RBI has allowed banks to offer attractive returns on



FCNR(B) deposits, including five-year deposits, by suspending the interest rate ceiling on fresh FCNR(B) deposits under the special scheme. Kotak Mahindra Bank Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Ashok Vaswani said demand from non-resident Indian (NRI) customers has been strong, though the pace of mobilisation will depend on the bank’s ability to arrange leverage through partner institutions. “The NRI customer demand is very strong because it’s such an attractive opportunity. It’s our ability to get the supply side done which is going to make the difference,” Vaswani said. Vinay M Tonse, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of YES Bank, said inflows are well above its normal market share. “Existing limits for the leveraged FCNR offering have been fully utilised and the bank is awaiting higher limits due to industry-wide demand. We have started offering 9x leverage and could review the limit in the coming weeks depending on market demand,” Tonse added. Bank executives maintained that mobilisation is likely to pick up closer to the September 30 deadline as overseas depositors typically take investment decisions towards the end of the scheme period and lenders intensify their outreach to NRIs. Asheesh Pandey, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Union Bank of India, expressed confidence that margins can be improved further despite the evolving interest rate environment.

Domestic air traffic drops nearly 12 per cent to 1.35 crore in June; IndiGo widens market lead

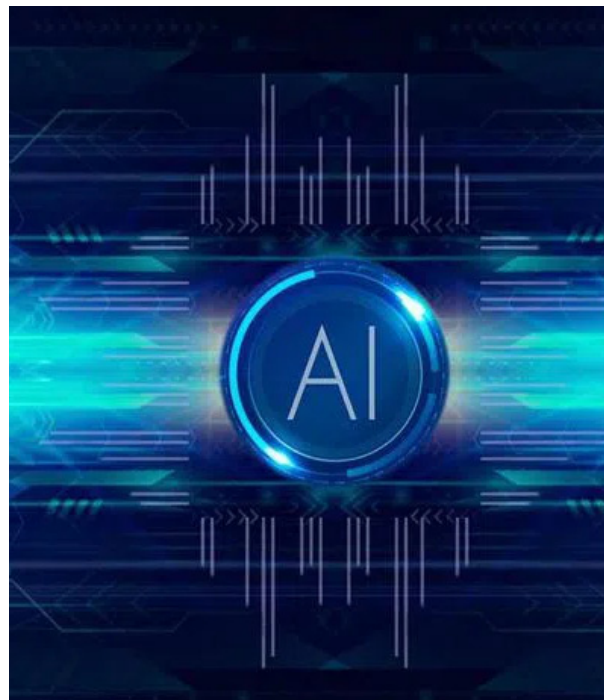
New Delhi: Domestic air traffic fell nearly 12 per cent to 1.35 crore in June compared to 1.53 crore passengers flown by the carriers in May, according to latest official data. In comparison to the number of 1.36 crore recorded in June 2025, the decline has been marginal last month. Generally, June, July and August are lean periods for airlines in terms of traffic. IndiGo’s market share climbed to 66.3 per cent in June from 64.9 per cent in May while that of Air India Group to 23.9 per cent from 25.6 per cent during the same period, the data from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) showed. The market share of Akasa Air rose to 6.4 per cent in June from 5.8 per cent in May. In the case of SpiceJet, the market share dropped to 1.9 per cent last month from 2.5 per cent in May. “Passengers carried by domestic



airlines during January – June 2026 were 864.04 lakhs as against 851.74 lakhs during the corresponding period of the previous year thereby registering an annual growth of -1.03 per cent,” DGCA said in its traffic data report for June. In the wake of surging fuel prices due to the West Asia conflict, airlines had also temporarily curtailed their networks. IndiGo had an On Time Performance (OTP) of 89.4 per cent in June, followed by Air India Group at 85.9 per cent, Akasa Air (82.7 per cent), Alliance Air (74.7 per cent) and SpiceJet (33.5 per cent).

AI helps ECI detect duplicate voters during electoral roll revision in Telangana

Hyderabad: Technology is playing a crucial role in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral roll in the State, flagging duplicate and triplicate votes across the constituencies in the State. After implementing photo similar entries (PSE) and demographic similar entries (DSE) during SIR exercise in West Bengal, the Election Commission of India (ECI) rolled out the same features in ongoing SIR exercise in the State. Using Artificial Intelligence, the PSE, which is embedded in the Electoral Roll Management system, is flagging voters who have identical or closely matching photographs for the BLOs and EROs to verify the electors. In addition, the DSE search has been deployed to scan through the voters’ details such as the elector’s name, father’s name, mother’s name, spouse’s name, age and date of birth, and address. The application is flagging issues if same or similar demographic entries appear in two or more electoral lists. This is enabling the authorities to verify the details with electors. Speaking to ‘Telangana Today’, one of the BLOs in the Kukatpally constituency said he found three votes of a person with the same name but with different spellings. “I came across one voter, Shankar, whose name has different spellings in different polling booths. However, father’s name remained the same in all three votes. The application flagged it as a triplicate vote, and I have to call up the voter to ascertain which one vote has to be retained,” the BLO said. Another BLO revealed that after he filled up details of a



voter in the ERONET, the application flagged double votes, with one in Khairtabad constituency and another in Amberpet constituency. “Using the PSE and DSE, the application is mapping voter details in the given database and flagging the double or multiple votes of a person. Since it’s a double vote, there is a need to verify with the voter before marking it as a double vote for removal,” the BLO said. Not just intra-State, the application has been flagging individuals with multiple votes across the different States, aiding officers to issue notices for removal of votes. According to the ECI, a staggering 6.44 crore votes had been removed from the final electoral roll of West Bengal after SIR 2025 and 2026. This could be made possible using the PSE and DSE applications in the ERONET.

CSIR-IICT, ISRO’s VSSC join hands to develop indigenous green blowing agent technology

Hyderabad: Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT) has signed an MoU with Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), to jointly develop indigenous technology for next-generation environmentally sustainable blowing agents for advanced strategic applications. The resulting foam and polymer materials developed through blowing technology can play a vital role in developing thermal insulation for space launch vehicles, structural damping and acoustic protection for spacecraft, and lightweight core materials essential for structural integrity and payload optimisation. Dr D Srinivas Reddy, Director, IICT, said

the collaboration would accelerate development of indigenous, environmentally sustainable blowing agent technology and reduce India’s dependence on imported specialty fluorochemicals. Dr Rajeev UP, Director, VSSC, said Fluoroorganics Laboratory at IICT possesses niche R&D capabilities and specialised infrastructure for the safe handling of anhydrous hydrogen fluoride (HF), a critical requirement for the synthesis of next-generation environmentally compliant blowing agents. Dr Punna Nagender, project leader, IICT, said the collaboration aims to develop an indigenous technology that will strengthen India’s capabilities in advanced fluorochemicals.

YSR Congress calls for handling protests with responsibility, sensitivity



Amaravati: A day after the police lathi charge on students protesting the NEET paper leaks in the national Capital, the YSR Congress Party has called for handling of protest by students and young people with responsibility and sensitivity. The party demanded that the NDA government listen to their genuine concerns and works towards meaningful solutions. “Democracy must not only be upheld, but must also be seen to be upheld,” reads a post on YSR Congress Party’s official handle on ‘X’. “The protests by students and young people in New Delhi should be handled with responsibility and sensitivity. Governments must listen to their genuine concerns and work towards meaningful solutions. Peaceful protest is a fundamental democratic right. At the same time, everyone should exercise restraint and ensure that the protests remain peaceful,” it said. The YSRCP stated that the NEET paper leak has shaken the confidence of students and parents in the examination system. This makes it essential to introduce comprehensive reforms that improve transparency, security, and accountability in the conduct of examinations, it said. The

party also flagged the issue of alleged irregularities in DSC examination in Andhra Pradesh. “In Andhra Pradesh, too, evidence has emerged regarding leaks, irregularities, and malpractice in the DSC examinations. Instead of treating the issue as a political controversy, an impartial enquiry by an independent agency is needed,” it said.

“Whether it is NEET or DSC, there should be no compromise when it comes to the future of students. Bringing out the truth, fixing systemic flaws, and taking strict action against those responsible is the duty of every democratic government,” it added. Last month, YSRCP president and former Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy had reminded Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu that Gen Z is watching all the irregularities in DSC exams. “Remember Chandrababu, this is Gen Z. Gen Alpha is also coming. If you cause trouble instead of admitting your mistakes, cockroaches will rise,” he had said. “We are also cockroaches in the state of Andhra Pradesh,” he had remarked when asked about the movement launched by Janata Cockroach Party after the leak of the NEET paper.

712 petitions received at PGRS



Anantapur Joint Collector C Vishnu Charan directed officials to resolve public grievances, especially land disputes, transparently and within stipulated timelines. Anantapur: Joint Collector C Vishnu Charan on Monday directed officials to resolve public complaints transparently and within stipulated timelines. Speaking at the PGRS and Revenue Clinic meet in the Collectorate, he stated

that land issues, including boundary disputes and re-survey errors, must be fixed on priority, warning that negligence would invite disciplinary action. He mandated that officials must speak directly with petitioners before submitting action reports under the 1100 toll-free system. The single-day drive received 712 petitions, including 285 revenue cases.

237 toppers get shining stars awards

BC Welfare Minister Savitha honoured 237 SSC and Intermediate toppers with Shining Stars Awards 2026 in Puttaparthi, recognising academic excellence with cash incentives. Puttaparthi: BC Welfare Minister Savitha, MLA Palle Sindhura Reddy, and Collector Shyam Prasad presented the “Shining Stars Awards-2026” to 237 SSC and Intermediate toppers at Mahi Srinivasa Gardens on Monday. The meritorious students received medals, certificates, and cash incentives totaling ₹47.40 lakhs, with each receiving ₹20,000. MLA Sindhura Reddy stated the alliance government prioritizes education to build



a strong foundation for youth. Minister Savitha praised the role of parents and teachers, while former minister Dr Palle Raghunatha Reddy urged students to work diligently. Senior education officials and parents attended.

Long-term water security ignored by successive regimes, slams

Congress party leaders staging a protest in front of the Collector office in Kurnool on Monday Prolonged dry spells have dealt a severe blow to local farmers, causing newly sown seeds to either fail to germinate or completely dry up in the fields. The protestors submitted a memorandum to the district administration, seeking the immediate release of water from the Gajuladinne Project into the Handri catchment area to alleviate the drinking water shortage Kurnool: Extending full support to the agitation organized by the Handri Catchment Protection Committee, Congress leaders, farmers, and party workers staged a massive protest at the District Collectorate on Monday. The protestors demanded urgent measures to address the worsening drinking water crisis in villages along the Handri river basin. Following a rally from the Zilla Parishad office to the Collectorate, committee representatives and farmers submitted a memorandum to the district administration, seeking immediate intervention to safeguard rural communities currently affected by severe drought-like conditions. Speaking on the occasion, Kurnool District Kisan Congress President A Surya Prakash Reddy stated that nearly 50 villages in Kallur and Kodumur mandals are reeling under severe water scarcity due to inadequate rainfall and El



Niño-induced climatic changes. Service Machine Learning & Artificial Intelligence Politics He noted that local farmers have suffered heavy losses as seeds sown at the onset of the season either failed to germinate or completely dried up during prolonged dry spells. He appealed to the administration to ensure an uninterrupted drinking water supply by immediately releasing water from the Gajuladinne Project into the Handri catchment area. Furthermore, Surya Prakash Reddy stressed the need for long-term solutions to Kurnool’s recurring droughts. He urged the State Government to expedite the completion of the Vedavathi Project near Alur and the Gundrevula Project to strengthen regional water security. Criticizing successive regimes for failing to address irrigation concerns, he appealed to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to proactively complete these pending projects. District Congress leaders DV Sambasivudu and E Lazarus also joined the agitation.

227 meritorious students honoured with ‘Shining Stars Awards’

Law Minister NMD Farooq honoured 227 SSC and Intermediate toppers with Shining Stars Awards 2026 in Nandyal, recognising academic excellence and promoting education reforms. Nandyal: Andhra Pradesh Minister for Law and Minority Welfare NMD Farooq on Monday stated that recognizing talent inspires students to achieve greater success and bring laurels to the nation. He was speaking at the district-level “Shining Stars Awards-2026” programme held at ASR Function Hall, where meritorious students who excelled in the 2025–26 SSC and Intermediate Public Examinations were grandly felicitated. Minister Farooq affirmed the government’s commitment to supporting deserving students across both government and private institutions. Highlighting the state’s educational reforms, he pointed to the mega recruitment of 16,347 teachers through DSC, free bus travel for poor students, and the expan-



sion of the midday meal scheme to Intermediate colleges. A total of 227 students, including 183 SSC and 44 Intermediate toppers, were honoured with a cash incentive of ₹20,000 each, a gold medal, and a certificate of appreciation. District Collector G Raja Kumari advised parents to support children based on their natural abilities rather than exerting undue pressure, while urging them to attend the Mega Parent-Teacher Meeting on July 24. Graduate MLC Bhoomireddy Ranga Gopal Reddy added that the accolades would significantly boost the academic confidence of the youth.

Shining Stars awards presented



Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav honoured 230 SSC and Intermediate toppers with Shining Stars 2026 awards in Anantapur, recognising academic excellence. Anantapur: Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav on Monday presented the “Shining Stars - 2026” awards to 192 Class 10 and 38 Intermediate toppers at the JNTU NTR Auditorium. Each meritorious student received a certificate, a medal, and a ₹20,000 cash incentive. Min-

ister Keshav lauded Education Minister Nara Lokesh for bringing radical curriculum and nutritional reforms to position government schools above private systems. Urban MLA Daggubati Venkateswara Prasad praised the academic excellence achieved by students from poor backgrounds, while District Collector O Anand urged them to aim higher. Numerous top welfare board directors and education officials attended.