

Jana Sena focuses on booth-level strength ahead of local polls



Amaravati: With an eye on the upcoming local body elections, the Jana Sena Party has stepped up its organisational exercise, directing its cadre to strengthen the party at the grassroots and build a robust booth-level network to maximise the NDA alliance's prospects. Addressing party workers in Vijayawada on Friday, civil supplies minister and Jana Sena political affairs committee chairman Nadendla Manohar said the party leadership was assessing organisational strength at the local level and identifying constituency-specific public issues. Resolving these issues, he said, would enable the alliance to approach the local body elections with greater confidence. Manohar said Jana Sena was expanding

Contract worker dies in mishap at VSP



Visakhapatnam: An industrial accident at Coke Oven Battery 1 in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant resulted in the death of a contract worker. The incident occurred at around 11.45 am on Friday when an iron bar fell over the worker's head from a height of 7-mt. Despite being immediately rushed to a private hospital, the worker succumbed to injuries while undergoing treatment. The victim was identified as Ananta Barve (52). A case was registered, and the investigation is in progress. The investigation includes various angles, such as whether safety lapses or management negligence contributed to the incident.

Tirumala Srivari Pushkarini repairs from Aug 1 to 31



Tirumala: The repair and maintenance work will be carried out at the Swami Pushkarini adjacent to the Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple in Tirumala from August 01 to August 31. It is a usual practice to carry out Pushkarini repairs every year in connection with the Srivari Brahmotsavams. With this year's Brahmotsavams scheduled to begin on September 15, the TTD water works department is taking measures to complete these works on time.

its organisational structure alongside strengthening its leadership under party president and deputy chief minister Pawan Kalyan. He said constituency and district-level coordination committees would soon be constituted to ensure effective coordination among the alliance partners during the elections.

AP, Telangana to receive rains for next two days amid surface trough

The Indian Meteorological Department has announced that light to moderate rains are expected in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for next two days due to the formation of surface trough. The Amaravati Meteorological Centre has stated that moderate rainfall expected in Vizianagaram, Manyam, Alluri Sitarama Raju, Kakinada, Polavaram, Parvathi puram, NTR, Chittoor and Tirupati districts along with warnings of lightning strikes in some areas on Friday. While sight rainfall is likely in Palnadu, Markapuram, Nandyal, Anakapalli, Bapatla and Visakhapatnam districts. The officials have urged people to stay vigilant in the wake of possibility of lightning strikes in certain areas. On the other hand, as the surface trough continues to extend southeastwards, passing through Jaisalmer, Kota, Guna, Damoh, Dalton ganj, and Contai, the Hyderabad Meteoro-

logical Department predicted light to moderate rainfall is across Telangana including Hyderabad over the next two days. A warning was also issued indicating that the intensity of rainfall in the state would increase after July 26.



logical Department predicted light to moderate rainfall is across Telangana including Hyderabad over the next two days. A warning was also issued indicating that the intensity of rainfall in the state would increase after July 26.

Bandh over paper leak hits academic activity in state



would be no holiday. Teachers, students and parents attended the Mega Parents' Meeting, with schools conducting regular classes alongside the programme. Also Read - Rahul backs students protesting against paper leak in U'khand Advertisement Discover more Politics Emergency Alerts Service India News Portal Student organisations staged protests at various places demanding accountability over the alleged paper leak and seeking the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Chintakayala Vijay appointed to House panel on industry

Amaravati/New Delhi: Rajya Sabha Member Chintakayala Vijay has been appointed as a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry, a panel that examines policies, reviews



the functioning of the industrial sector, and makes recommendations on matters related to industrial development. The appointment was officially notified by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, which stated that the nomination was made by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

Lakhs throng Puri for 'Bahuda'

0 Puri: Lakhs of devotees on Friday started pulling the chariots of Lord Jagannath and his siblings as part of the 'Bahuda' Yatra in Puri, amid tight security arrangements. The chariot-pulling began after the ceremonial 'Pahandi' procession of the deities from the Gundicha temple to the 'raths' and 'Chhera Pahanra' (sweeping) rituals performed by Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingha Deb, the titular king of Puri. The 'Bahuda' Yatra marks the return journey of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Goddess Subhadra to the 12th-century Jagannath temple after their week-long stay at the Gundicha temple, about 2.6 km away. Amid chants of 'Jai Jagannath', 'Haribol' and beating of cymbals, lakhs of devotees, who thronged the pilgrim town to take part in the festivities, first started pulling Lord Balabhadra's chariot 'Taladhwaaja'. Also Read - Odisha: Fresh devotee death reported during Bahuda Yatra in Puri Advertisement Discover more Telangana News Coverage India News Portal Political Later, they pulled the 'Darpadalana' chariot of Goddess Subhadra and 'Nandighosha' of Lord Jagannath. Earlier in the day, the rituals commenced with servitors carrying the idols in the traditional 'Goti Pahandi' (procession in a queue) to the chariots



stationed outside the Gundicha temple. Though the 'Pahandi' was scheduled to begin at noon, it commenced at 10.50 am. Amid chants of "Jai Jagannath" and "Haribol", the deities were taken one after another to their respective chariots. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik, and several other leaders greeted devotees on the occasion. "Heartfelt congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the sacred 'Bahuda' Yatra. May the boundless grace of Lord Jagannath,

Mother Subhadra and Lord Balabhadra fill everyone's lives with happiness, peace, prosperity and joy," Majhi said in a social media post. Chakraraj Sudarshan, the divine discus of Lord Jagannath, was the first to be brought out of the Shree Gundicha temple and placed on Goddess Subhadra's chariot. CM Mohan Charan Majhi It was followed by Lord Balabhadra, while Devi Subhadra was carried to her chariot in the special 'Sunya Pahandi' procession, in which the goddess faces the sky while being carried by servitors.

KING
DAILY NEWSPAPER

Don't waste our time:
When the last refuge
refuses to listen

Supreme Court of India What makes the broader discourse surrounding judicial responsiveness impossible to ignore is that some of the most prominent calls for introspection have originated from within the judiciary itself. Barely four months ago, sitting Supreme Court judge Justice Ujjal Bhuyan addressed the Supreme Court Bar Association's National Conference in Bengaluru. He candidly observed that "many within the judiciary continue to suffer from the more loyal than the king syndrome," resulting in citizens languishing in jails for extended periods A profound silence often falls over a courtroom when the institution serving as the ultimate refuge for citizens declines to hear a plea. Such a moment unfolded Wednesday at the Supreme Court of India. A lawyer urgently mentioned a petition on behalf of students who had been protesting at Delhi's Jantar Mantar. For over a month, thousands of young aspirants had gathered to demand accountability for the repeated leaks of the NEET-UG examination papers. The counsel stated he possessed video evidence of excessive police action against the demonstrators and requested the matter be listed for the following day. Presiding over the bench, Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant, alongside Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana, declined the urgent listing. Citing the heavy demands on the Court's schedule, the CJI reportedly remarked, "We are not interested in videos, we don't have time to watch." He further added, "Don't waste our time, and don't waste your time." With FIRs already registered against the demonstrators, the students — many of whose futures depend on these very examinations — remained on the streets as the Court proceeded to its next judicial item. Widespread media reports have indicated that state-sponsored elements entered the peaceful protest of students to deliberately disrupt it with violence and vandalism. Furthermore, severe allegations of police brutality have surfaced. Petitions and eyewitness accounts presented before the Delhi High Court alleged devastating force used against minors and girls. Reports claim that law enforcement personnel not only engaged in pelting stones at the students but also resorted to using nail-studded lathis to inhumanly injure the peaceful protestors. To understand the full context of this confrontation, one must look back to remarks made from the same bench earlier in the year. On May 15, while hearing a separate matter regarding the designation of senior advocates, CJI Surya Kant made an oral observation noting that "there are youngsters like cockroaches, they don't get any employment, they don't have any place in profession," suggesting such individuals turn to social media and RTI activism to attack the system. The analogy sparked immediate public debate. The Chief Justice subsequently issued a clarification, noting that the remark was specifically directed at individuals entering professions with fake degrees, rather than India's unemployed youth. a satirical youth collective calling itself the "Cockroach Janata Party" (CJP) was formed in response, rapidly gathering tens of thousands of members. It was this very collective that helped organise the NEET-UG protests at Jantar Mantar two months later.

DRINKING WATER GETS TOP PRIORITY

Farmers Should Take Judicious Decisions

VIJAYAWADA, JULY 24: Irrigation Department Engineer-in-Chief K. Narasimha Murthy said that due to the El Nino effect, rainfall has decreased across the country, especially in Karnataka, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh, leading to a significant drop in inflows into the Krishna River. Addressing a media conference at the Irrigation Compound on Friday along with CE B. Rambabu and SE J. Gunakar, the ENC explained the current water availability situation, drought conditions in the state, and the supply of irrigation and drinking water to the Krishna Delta. He stated that the state has recorded a 51% rainfall deficit compared to normal, and the Krishna Delta region has a 49% deficit. He added that with only around 50 TMC available in Almati, Narayanpur, and Jurala projects, and another 70 TMC cushion in Tungabhadra, water will reach Srisailem only if these projects fill up. He said water can be released to downstream areas from Srisailem and Nagarjunasagar only after filling the cushion in those projects. The government is managing water keeping in mind the drinking water needs of villages, towns, and municipalities up to June 2027, he said. Even the usable water in Pulichintal project has been reserved for drinking water purposes. Currently, though water

is being released to the RMC Canal through Pattiseema, inflows in the Godavari River have also dropped significantly. Due to drought in Maharashtra and Telangana, upstream reservoirs are not full, and inflows through Sileru have also reduced. Normally, Godavari flows last 100 to 125 days, but this year they may be limited to 60 to 70 days, he noted. While around 150 TMC of water is required for Krishna Delta irrigation, that much is not currently available. Due to reduced inflows, all pumps at Pattiseema cannot be

operated simultaneously, he explained. The government has decided to give priority to the drinking water needs of around 60 lakh people in Eluru, Krishna, NTR, Guntur, and Bapatla districts. Hence, he appealed that water released to the Krishna Delta should be used only for drinking water purposes. He urged farmers not to set up unauthorized pumps and draw water from the RMC Canal. Through public representatives and District Collectors, awareness is being created among farmers, and the use of unauthorized pumps has reduced to some extent. Given the low water availability, farmers in the RMC area should focus on crops other than paddy. If paddy is planted now, there is a risk of crop loss due to lack of water mid-season, he warned. He suggested taking up dry crops instead of paddy. He said that despite El Nino, there is a possibility of localized heavy rains in some areas. If inflows into Srisailem and Nagarjunasagar increase in future, a plan of action will be announced in consultation with the Agriculture Department based on the situation. The ENC appealed to farmers to understand the unprecedented situation and cooperate with the government. He clarified that the possibility of using remaining water for dry crops will be considered only after meeting drinking water needs completely.

A STRONG BOND FOR A GOLDEN FUTURE

Parent-Teacher Partnership Key for Holistic Development of Students
Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha & MLA Sriram Rajagopal (Tatayya) Participate

NTR DISTRICT / JAGGAIAHPET, JULY 24: District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha and Jaggayyapet MLA Sriram Rajagopal (Tatayya) said that Mega Parents-Teachers Meeting (Mega PTM) serves as a platform to further strengthen mutual understanding between parents and teachers for the educational progress and holistic development of students. They stated that such programs are being organized with the vision that only when schools and society work together can we achieve the desired results for strengthening students' futures. On Friday, the Collector, MLA, RDO G. Anil Kumar, DEO L. Chandrakala, local public representatives, officials from various departments, students and their parents participated in Mega PTM 4.0 held at Gentela Venkata Jogayya ZP High School, Jaggayyapet. At the school with 723 students, they reviewed students' Holistic Progress Cards and interacted with parents and teachers about the learning abilities of individual students. Later, they inspected the Science and Mathematics Labs. After inspecting the school library with nearly 9,000 books and the sports equipment exhibition, they took photos at the selfie stand set up on the premises and planted saplings. They also observed Tug of War and Rangoli competitions organized for students' parents. Addressing the Cordial Meeting later, Collector Lakshmisha said Mega PTM is being conducted successfully across the state. These meetings help examine students' progress from a 360-degree perspective, rectify shortcomings if any, and achieve excellent educational results. They also serve as a good platform to take parents' suggestions on the implementation of government programs and schemes, and to introduce parents to the school environment where their children study, she added. She said such programs are useful for discussing clear educational goals and the action plan to achieve them. Due to government efforts, good results are being achieved in Class 10 and Intermediate, and it is noteworthy that nearly 5,000 students have moved from private schools to government schools, she mentioned. The LEAP App digital platform is helping parents know their children's attendance, marks, and other details on their mobiles, the Collector added.

GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS ARE CENTERS OF KNOWLEDGE: MLA SRIRAM RAJAGOPAL MLA Sriram Rajagopal said that due to the efforts of Hon'ble CM and Hon'ble Education Minister, government schools are providing value-based education and imparting knowledge. Schools now have labs and vocational courses to enable learning by doing. Skills are being imparted in schools so that students can stand on their own feet in the future, he explained. Parental support is crucial for students' success. Such programs help parents take continuous interest in their children's education and

actively participate in school activities, he said. Mega PTM helps teachers discuss extensively with parents on students' academic progress, attendance, learning outcomes, special training programs, LEAP App usage, FLN progress, and school development measures, and encourages student talent, he added. The MLA expressed hope that students will make good use of schemes like Thalliki Vandhanam implemented by the government and achieve high career growth through good education. Those Present: Headmaster P.V. Nageswara Rao, Parents Committee Chairperson S. Mary, Tahsildar S. Sirisha, PC Ex-Officio Member Karlapati Srinivasa Rao, MEO Chitti Babu, Ward Councilor Geeta Rani, Assistant AMO Sirisha Rani, students, parents, and local leaders participated.

AVAILABILITY OF UREA AND DAP FERTILIZERS "IN NTR DISTRICT

NTR District, JULY 24: The distribution of Urea and DAP fertilizers in NTR District is being carried out in a completely transparent manner through the APAIMS App. Sufficient fertilizer stocks are available in the district to meet the current requirements of farmers. Current fertilizer stocks in the district are as follows: UREA At PACS: 3,574 Metric Tonnes With Private Fertilizer Dealers: 5,059 Metric Tonnes DAP At PACS: 587 Metric Tonnes With Private Fertilizer Dealers: 493 Metric Tonnes There is no shortage of Urea and DAP fertilizers in the district. Farmers are requested not to worry. If there are any complaints or issues regarding fertilizer sales, farmers can register their complaints by contacting the Command and Control Room at Phone No: 9154970454.

NEET paper leak protests spread to Jaipur; students demand Education Minister’s resignation



Jaipur: The students’ protest against NEET paper leak, which has been continuing at Delhi’s Jantar Mantar, has now spread to Jaipur. Scores of students and competitive exam aspirants gathered at Patrika Gate near Jawahar Circle, raising slogans against the paper leak and demanding greater accountability in the examination system. On Friday, protesters carried banners and placards, demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and strict action against those responsible for the alleged paper leak. The protest remained peaceful, with students reiterating their demand for transparent investigations and fair recruitment processes. Student and youth organisations have been protesting at Delhi’s Jantar Mantar since June 20 over the NEET paper leak and examination irregularities. The movement has drawn support from several politicians, sportspersons, Bollywood celebrities, activists, student groups and ordinary people from all walks of life. Meanwhile, two of Rajasthan’s prominent young leaders also joined the agitation in the national Capital, which has been continuing for nearly a month, demanding the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan and reforms to ensure a transparent examination system. Independent MLA Ravindra Singh Bhati, who represents the Sheo Assembly constituency in Barmer district,

and Nirmal Chaudhary, former president of the Rajasthan University Students’ Union, reached Jantar Mantar to express solidarity with the protesting students. Their visit comes days after police action, including a lathi-charge and tear gassing, against demonstrators at the protest site. Both leaders met the students and extended their support, urging the NDA government at the Centre to address their concerns through dialogue. The protests intensified after demonstrators marching towards Parliament reportedly faced police and RAF action, including shock baton charges and the use of tear gas. The developments in Delhi have sparked similar demonstrations in several states, including Rajasthan. Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk ended his 26-day indefinite hunger strike late on Thursday after holding discussions with Union Ministers J.P. Nadda and Dr. Jitendra Singh. He broke his fast by drinking juice in their presence. Following the development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi wished Wangchuk good health in a social media post. The Prime Minister also addressed the issue of examination paper leaks in a video message, outlining measures including stricter legal provisions, fast-track courts for paper leak cases and steps aimed at strengthening the integrity of the examination system.

India extends special invitation to Bangladesh PM Tarique Rahman for 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi

Dhaka: India has extended an invitation to Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman for the 18th BRICS Summit, to be held in New Delhi on September 12-13, where discussions are expected to centre on global cooperation, trade and sustainable development, according to local media reports. Addressing reporters on Thursday afternoon, Bangladesh State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam confirmed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had received the invitation letter from India and forwarded it to the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO). Despite not being a member or observer of the 11-member bloc, Bangladesh has been invited by India as a special guest, Bangladesh media reported. This special gesture from India comes amid efforts by both countries to strengthen bilateral ties and enhance regional cooperation. The current BRICS members are Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and the United Arab



Emirates. India’s BRICS chairship is guided by the theme “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability,” reflecting a people-centric and humanity-first approach articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 2025 Rio Summit. Last month, the Indian government assigned Union Cabinet Minister status to its High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Dinesh Trivedi, signalling the importance New Delhi attaches to relations with Dhaka. “The undersigned is directed to say that Shri Dinesh Trivedi, High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh, has been assigned the equivalent status of Union Cabinet Minister in the Table of Precedence (ToP) as a measure personal to him, without amending the Table of Precedence.

Apoorva Makhija opens up about mental health struggle during ‘India’s Got Latent’ controversy

Mumbai: Content creator Apoorva Makhija turned emotional while recalling the fallout of the ‘India’s Got Latent’ controversy. The influencer revealed that she had experienced suicidal thoughts during the difficult phase and credited fellow content creator Sufi Motiwala for standing by her when she needed support the most. During a candid conversation with Sufi Motiwala in the reality show, Lock Upp Season 2, Apoorva admitted that she would not have been able to cope with the controversy had he not been by her side. Apoorva expressing her emotions upon meeting Sufi after a long time, said, “I have really missed you. Don’t do this again, I am starting to cry. Every time someone asks me about you and says, ‘How were you friends with him? He’s so mean,’ I tell them... I would’ve killed myself if, at the time of the Latent fiasco, had I didn’t have Sufi,” she said. Sufi Motiwala immediately responded, “Don’t say that.” Apoorva reiterated how crucial his support had been during that period. “I wouldn’t have been able to get through that. You were the only person with me. I wasn’t dating anyone. Personally, in my life, as a friend,” she added. Reflecting on their friendship, Sufi Motiwala admitted that the time they spent together was among the happiest periods of his life. “I will tell you the truth, bro. That one year was my most favourite year of my life when we were friends. I finally felt like I had a social circle in Bombay. I felt like there was someone I could go to whenever I wanted. And I genuinely missed



you a lot,” he said. The emotional exchange then ended with both apologising to each other. Apoorva said, “I am also really sorry. I know those little, little things can hurt a lot. And I am sorry for not creating that safe space for you when you needed it the most.” For the uninitiated, last year, Apoorva Makhija found herself at the centre of the controversy surrounding ‘India’s Got Latent’, the YouTube comedy show hosted by influencer Samay Raina. The show drew widespread backlash over allegedly offensive remarks made by her during an episode, which further prompted multiple police complaints and legal scrutiny against Apoorva and the other team members of the show. Apoorva Makhija had faced intense trolling on social media in the aftermath, back then.

NEET paper leak: Delhi court denies bail to doctor, calls him ‘active conspirator’

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Friday dismissed the bail plea of a doctor accused in the NEET paper leak case, saying it is prima facie clear from the probe that he was “one of the active conspirators of an organised paper leak gang”. Slamming the accused persons, the court said that their abhorrent and illegal acts have eroded the trust of the honest students who prepare for the exam with full zeal and honesty, and by burning the midnight oil to compete with their fellow candidates based on their sheer skill and competence. Special Judge Ajay Gupta was hearing the bail plea of the accused paediatrician Dr Manoj Bhagwanrao Shirure. In its order, the court said, “It is prima facie clear from the investigation carried out by the CBI and the incriminating material collected by them till date, that the present accused is one of the active conspirators of an organised paper leak gang.” It said that Shirure is part of a larger syndicate involved in illegal activities for monetary gain. “It is prima facie clear that he had not only sourced the candidates for the co-accused persons, but he had also received a substantial amount against the same.” “It is also prima facie clear from the record that he had also made all possible efforts to conceal the amount of Rs 5 lakh received for his aforesaid illegal activities from a co-accused; however, the said amount has been recovered by the CBI,” the court said. It dismissed the bail plea, considering the totality of facts and circumstances of the case, nature of allegations against the accused, his conduct and observing that as the probe is at a crucial stage, the possibility of the accused influencing the public witnesses cannot be ruled out. The court observed that the paper leak had impacted millions of NEET aspirants and if the allegations



against the accused persons were taken at face value, these would prima facie show that they “sabotaged” the exam to “satisfy their greed” and “to gain illegal wealth”. It said they also brought disrepute to the nation, besides causing a huge loss running into several crores of rupees to the government exchequer. “Further, their abhorrent and illegal acts have also eroded the trust of the honest students in the process of this exam, who prepare for the exam with full zeal and honesty and by burning the midnight oil, to compete with their fellow candidates on the basis of their sheer skill and competence,” the court said. On Friday, the court also extended the judicial custody of all 13 accused till August 6. During the arguments on bail, the CBI had claimed that the Latur-based doctor took Rs 5 lakh from a candidate’s family and allowed the candidate to access the leaked chemistry paper at his hospital before the examination. The federal agency had also told the court that Shirure had referred two other doctors to the alleged kingpin P V Kulkarni, and the children of these doctors also allegedly benefited from the paper “leak”. On May 12, the National Testing Agency cancelled the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Undergraduate), or NEET-UG, held on May 3 for medical admissions amid allegations of paper leak. A re-exam was then held on June 21.

Explosions break out near US base in northern Iraq

Irbil: A series of explosions broke out near a military base hosting US forces in northern Iraq, hours after the US military said it had wrapped up its 13th night of strikes against Iran. A journalist with the Associated Press heard at least seven blasts around 9:30 am local time in the city of Irbil, the capital of Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region, and observed at least four plumes of black smoke rising into the sky from areas near or inside the base after. The US and Iran have exchanged escalating strikes in fighting that began with a struggle over control of the strategic Strait of Hormuz. Iranian state media reported that four people had been killed and nine injured in the US bombardment. US Central Command said the latest barrage was designed to "further degrade Iran's ability to threaten civilian mariners and commercial vessels transiting regional waters" as the Americans push to regain control over the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's oil and gas transited in peacetime. It said the strikes ended shortly before 5 am local time Friday.

Bahrain activated its sirens twice later that morning, warning residents to shelter from detected incoming fire. Gulf states have also come under frequent fire over the past week. The previous day, Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels said they targeted two Saudi oil tankers in the Red Sea, potentially widening the Iran war as international oil topped USD 100 a barrel. Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi of Iraq, which has close ties to both the US and

Iran, was in Tehran on Thursday to call for peace and dialogue. He promised not to allow Iraqi territory to be used for attacks on Iran, his office said. Al-Zaidi met with Trump earlier this month in Washington.

US strikes sites across Iran

US strikes hit a naval base for the Revolutionary Guard in the north of Iran, the Iranian semiofficial news outlets Fars and ISNA reported Friday morning. Blasts overnight were also reported on Iran's Qeshm Island, home to stores of naval assets including drone boats that Iran can use to attack vessels on the Strait of Hormuz, as well as in Isfahan province, where there is a major Iranian air base as well as one of Iran's nuclear sites. More strikes reportedly hit Iran's southwest Khuzestan province and southern Fars province. Four people were killed and five wounded in a US missile attack on the outskirts of Ahvaz on the Karun River, Iranian state media said. An attack in Lorestan province in Western Iran injured two, state media said, while two more were injured by explosions in the port city of Bandar Abbas, a critical hub for moving military supplies as well as trade cargo. Meanwhile, the Houthis threatened to shut down another key trade route with the world economy already reeling from Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz. The Bab el-Mandeb Strait at the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, is a vital shipping chokepoint connecting the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden. Around 12 per cent of the world's trade, including a



fourth of global container traffic, passes through there, moving between Europe and Asia via Egypt's Suez Canal. The Houthi attacks put at risk oil shipments from Saudi Arabia's Yanbu port on the Red Sea and present a "double whammy" on top of the disruption in the Strait of Hormuz, said maritime data and analysis firm Lloyd's List Intelligence. Saudi Arabia has diverted millions of barrels a day of oil exports to Yanbu via an overland pipeline as the war has bottled up the Persian Gulf. President Donald Trump threatened "major military punishment" against the Houthis if their attacks on ships continue.

As the rhetoric escalated, so did economic fallout. The price of Brent crude oil, the international standard, spiked more than 6 per cent to about USD 100 a barrel. That's the highest level since May, before the two sides reached a preliminary peace agreement last month that has since collapsed.

Both sides dig in over Strait of Hormuz

Iran says it has the right to manage traffic and potentially charge fees in the Strait of Hormuz, which was open to all toll-free before the war. It has attacked ships using a route through the strait that is overseen by US forces and intended to be outside Tehran's control. Trump said on social media Thursday that sanctioned Iranian funds in the possession of the US will cover the expense of fixing boats damaged in the war. "Please let this statement serve to represent, until further notice, that from this point forth, any and all damages done to Ships, Cargo, or anything related thereto, will be paid for by Iranian Money that the United States has in its possession, and controls," Trump said. It was unclear what legal mechanisms Trump would use to access and spend the funds, but he said that doing so would be "the fair and equitable thing to do." Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi condemned the suggestion, writing on X that "once governments normalise confiscation, no one's assets are safe. Ensuing chaos will not be pretty or peaceful."

Man allegedly shouting 'Allahu Akbar' stabs two in Manhattan; NYPD probes hate crime

New York: A man, screaming "Allahu Akbar", stabbed a Jewish man and another near a synagogue as fears of anti-Semitism and terrorism mount, according to police. The Jewish man, Moshe Yezhak Grunhaus, had left the Jewish Centre on Thursday afternoon when he was stabbed with a screwdriver, according to officials. A rabbi said Grunhaus was attacked after he had attended services for a Jewish day of mourning for the destruction of ancient temples in Jerusalem. The other victim, who was of East Asian descent identified as Chok Sung and was stabbed with a knife nearby. The attacks took place near Central Park, a major New York attraction. Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch identified the alleged assailant as 51-year-old Raul Morales and said police were evaluating whether it is a hate crime. "According to victim and witness statements, Morales yelled 'Allahu Akbar' during both attacks", she said. The victims are in a hospital and are expected to survive, she said.

A picture released by Manhattan Shomrim, a Jewish safety patrol, showed the alleged assailant as a tall, gaunt man with a closely shaved head wearing a camouflage-type T-shirt. Mayor Zohair Mamdani acknowledged that "the perpetrator yelled 'Allahu Akbar' during both attacks" but added in his post on X that the police department's "initial investigation suggests that mental health may have been a factor". "These hateful and despicable attacks have no place in our city", he added. City Council Speaker Julie Menin said in her post on X, "The fear in the Jewish community is real. Every New Yorker deserves to feel safe in their neighbourhood, regardless of their faith or identity". A Jewish organisation linked

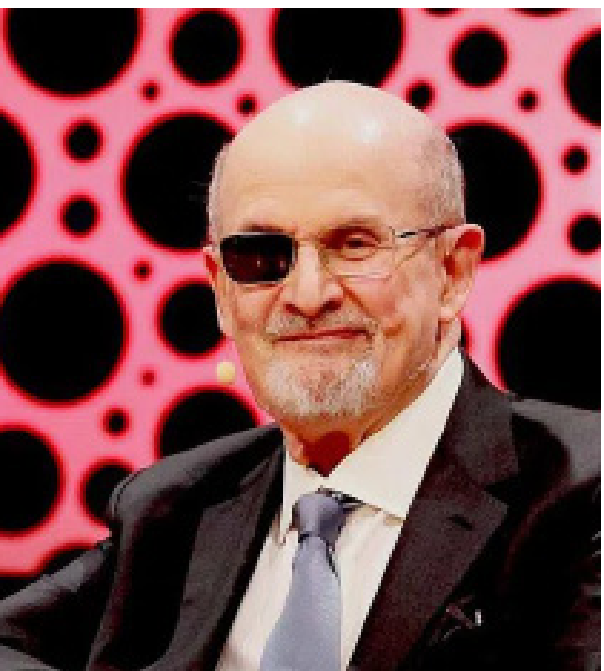


the incident and other anti-Semitic attacks to Mamdani's rhetoric against Israel. The United Jewish Appeal-Federation of New York noted, "These attacks came soon after Mayor Mamdani once again used his official platform to viciously attack Israel, the only Jewish state". "We cannot ignore the dangerous climate created when elected leaders relentlessly portray Israel — and, by extension, the many Jewish New Yorkers who feel a deep connection to it — as uniquely evil and illegitimate", it added. According to the police department, there were 152 confirmed hate crimes this year against Jews in the city till May, and during that month alone there was a 70 per cent spike in the anti-Semitic attacks compared to the previous year. According to police, Morales was caught after he barricaded himself inside a nearby public housing flat. Tisch commended "the bravery of a good Samaritan" who led police to the hideout of the alleged perpetrator. In recent times, the city has seen at least two serious terrorist attacks. In what authorities had called an Islamic State-inspired attack, two men shouted "Allahu Akbar" as they tried to bomb a protest by an anti-Islamist group outside Mamdani's official residence in March. On Monday, a man set a fire outside an immigration enforcement office in the city and fired shots from an air rifle.

Salman Rushdie recounts brutal 2022 stabbing attack at Hadi Matar's federal terrorism trial

New York: Author Salman Rushdie has given a chilling account of the attack that felled him on a stage at a literary meeting and cost him his right eye. "It was an enormous and expansive lake of blood," he said while testifying on Thursday at the federal terrorism trial of the assailant Hadi Matar. Rushdie narrated the chilling account of the blind fury he faced as stabbings rained on him. Knocked to the floor, he said, "I was on the stage, lying down, with an enormous pool of blood all around me". "I tried to get away, but he was on top of me, stabbing away," he said.

Matar, who was convicted in a New York State court of attempting to murder Rushdie in 2022, is now on trial at the federal court in Buffalo, charged with transnational terrorism. In the US legal system, there are separate state and federal laws, and a person can be tried separately under the two sets of laws for the same incident. Matar is serving a 25-year sentence that was handed him by the state court last year, and if he is convicted of the federal terrorism charges, he could face life in prison. A US citizen of Lebanese descent, Matar, 28, attacked Rushdie in an attempt to carry out the fatwa issued by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in 1989 demanding Rushdie's death because his novel, "Satanic Verses", was considered blasphemous, assistant federal prosecutor Timothy Lynch told the court on Wednesday when the trial began. After the fatwa was issued, Rushdie, a Booker Prize winner, went underground with British government protection. A decade later, he emerged in public and lives in New York City, where he is a professor at a university. Rushdie, 79, was participating in a literary programme at the Chautauqua Institution, a literary and arts centre about



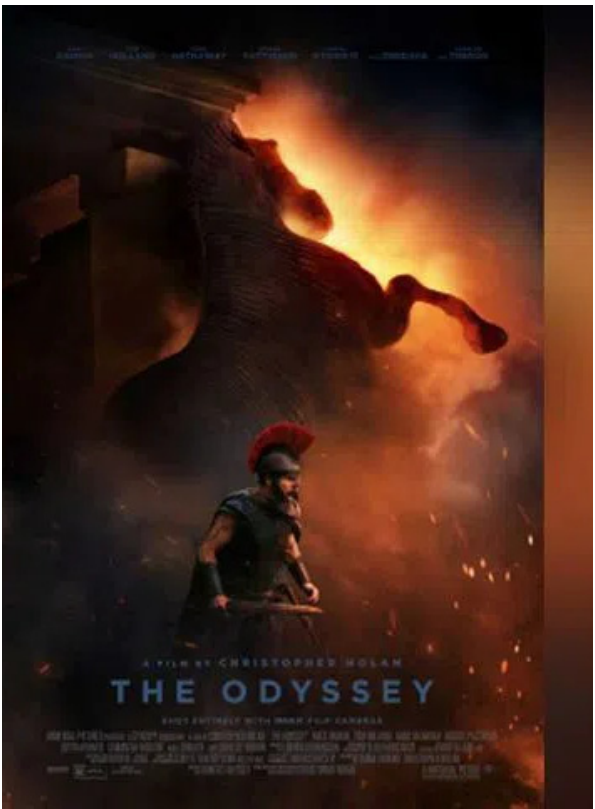
600 kilometres from the city, and, ironically, was to speak on the protection of writers when he was attacked. He has written a book about the incident, "Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder". Lynch asked Rushdie to remove the special glasses that he wears so the jurors can see the missing eye. Rushdie said that besides damaging his eye, the stabbings damaged his left hand, and he could not drive any more, and his liver was injured.

When they filed the charges last year, prosecutors said that between September 2020 and August 2022, when the attack took place, Matar attempted to provide material support and resources to Hezbollah. To rebut the terrorism charge, Matar's lawyer Nathaniel Barone has said that he was acting alone as an enraged Muslim and not on behalf of Hezbollah or anyone else. Barone asked Rushdie if he should have expected to be attacked by Islamic extremists because of his book, "The Satanic Verses". Rushdie curtly dismissed the line of questioning, saying, "I don't believe the book is on trial. Somebody else is on trial."

Christopher Nolan’s The Odyssey crosses Rs 100 crore in India

New Delhi: Filmmaker Christopher Nolan’s “The Odyssey” has earned over Rs 100 crore at the domestic box office in its first week of release, emerging as the biggest Hollywood film of the year. Featuring Matt Damon as Odysseus, Tom Holland as Telemachus, Zendaya as Athena, Robert Pattinson as Antinous, Lupita Nyong’o as Helen of Troy, Anne Hathaway as Penelope and Charlize Theron as Calypso, among others, the film was released globally on July 17.

The film earned over Rs 70 crore in India during its opening weekend and became another Christopher Nolan film to cross the Rs 100 crore mark at the domestic box office after “Oppenheimer”, according to a press release. “A journey is measured by distance, not by how it begins. ‘The Odyssey’s’ opening told us India was ready to show up. What has followed since, audiences returning day after day to fill every cinema screen available, tells us something more valuable. This is trust, not a moment. Crossing Rs 100 crore within a week is a number,” Denzil Dias, vice president and managing director, Warner Bros Pictures India, said in a statement. “What it represents is simpler. A packed house of strangers, gasping and cheering together, choosing the one place a story this size was built to be seen. That is what a cinema screen gives audiences that nothing else can,” he added. “The Odyssey” revolves around Greek King Odysseus (played by Damon) and his perilous 10-year journey home after the Trojan War. Beset by vengeful gods, sea monsters and enchantresses, he fights to reunite with his wife, Penelope (Hathaway), and son, Telemachus (Holland).



It is produced by Syncopy Inc and distributed by Universal Pictures. Actors Jon Bernthal, John Leguizamo and Travis Scott, among others, complete the film’s cast. They play Menelaus, the King of Sparta, Eumaeus and a bard, respectively. The film is based on Homer’s ancient Greek poem, which has been adapted for the screen several times. In 1954, the Italian-American co-production “Ulysses” featured actor Kirk Douglas as the Greek hero. Released in 2000, “O Brother, Where Art Thou?” was a loose, satirical adaptation directed by the Coen Brothers. “The Odyssey” (1997) was directed by Andrei Konchalovsky and broadcast as a two-part miniseries. It starred Armand Assante as the Greek king and Greta Scacchi as Penelope, and followed Odysseus’s perilous 10-year journey home after the Trojan War.

Yash praises Ranbir Kapoor’s dedication to playing Lord Rama in ‘Ramayana’



Mumbai: Yash has heaped praise on his “Ramayana” co-star Ranbir Kapoor, saying the latter made “great sacrifices” and worked with complete dedication to portray Lord Rama. Yash, Ranbir and filmmaker Nitesh Tiwary were at a panel for the film at the San Diego Comic Con on Thursday. A video of the south star is doing the rounds on X, formerly called Twitter, where he shared that the role of Lord Rama is one of immense responsibility. He went on to promise that the world will witness “a beautiful Rama”. Yash said: “I think that’s the most important thing I would like to add. Nobody in this world can come and say, ‘I have the virtue to play Lord Rama.’ That’s how we see it. Just the fact that he says, ‘I can’t do it,’ speaks volumes.” Yash, who is also a producer for the upcoming film “Ramayana”, said it’s not easy to play Lord Rama. “He’s a fabulous actor. I’m telling you guys, it’s not easy to play Lord Rama, and the way he has really worked for it... Huge respect to him because he’s a fantastic actor. A big actor. You guys will witness a beautiful Rama,

with great intent and great sacrifice. He has done this with complete dedication. I should really be telling you guys that.” Yash will be seen as 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 Rakul Preet Singh as Surpanakha. 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. However, the trailer launch for the world has been pushed as the makers have said that the decision comes after a major international development for the film. 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 maestro Rishab Rikhiram Sharma, Swami Ramdev, Ashwini Iyer Tiwari, Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta, among others.

Johnny Depp returns to the big screen as ‘Ebenezer’ trailer unveils dark take on Dickens classic

Mumbai: After a long hiatus, Hollywood star Johnny Depp is set to make his big-screen comeback with the upcoming film “Ebenezer”. The makers have unveiled the film’s trailer, offering audiences a glimpse of what to expect from the much-anticipated project. The makers on



Instagram shared the trailer of the upcoming film, which is directed by Ti West. The film is tagged as a dark reimagining of Charles Dickens’ classic, where Depp will be seen essaying the role of the infamous Christmas hater, cantankerous, penny-pinching, and grouchy Ebenezer Scrooge. The over-a-minute-long trailer begins with Depp as Ebenezer Scrooge saying the lines: “It’s good to be back.” It showcases how Depp’s character is tormented by the terrifying spirits of Christmas, haunting him throughout the Christmas season. The trailer of the film was captioned: “Bah Humbug! Watch the new trailer. Only in theatres November 13.” The film is slated to hit the screens on November 13. Ebenezer also stars Rupert Grint, Andrea Riseborough, Sam Claflin, Daisy Ridley, Arthur Conti, Ellie Bamber, Charlie Murphy, Henry Lloyd-Hughes,

Tramell Tillman, and Ian McKellen. The film comes right after Depp’s lengthy and publicized legal battle against former wife Amber Heard. The two accused each other of domestic abuse during their relationship, and the jury later found them both guilty of defamation. Depp has been feted with a Golden Globe Award and a Screen Actors Guild Award as well as nominations for three Academy Awards and two British Academy Film Awards. The star began his career as a musician performing in several amateur rock bands before making his feature film debut in the horror film A Nightmare on Elm Street.

He then acted in Platoon, 21 Jump Street, Arizona Dream, What’s Eating Gilbert Grape, Benny & Joon, Chocolat, Edward Scissorhands, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Alice in Wonderland and the Pirates of the Caribbean film series.

CBFC clears Ajay Bhupathi’s Srinivasa Mangapuram with U/A certificate

Hyderabad: The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has cleared director Ajay Bhupathi’s eagerly awaited film ‘Srinivasa Mangapuram’, featuring Mahesh Babu’s nephew Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni in the



lead, for release with a U/A certificate. The news of the CBFC clearing the film for release comes in the wake of the announcement that it will hit screens worldwide on July 30 this year. Taking to its social media handles, Chandamama Kathalu Pictures, one of the production houses backing the film, announced, “The Intense Love Story of the Season is CENSORED with U/A. #SrinivasaMangapuram GRAND RELEASE IN THEATRES ON JULY 30th. An @dirajaybhupathi Film.” Starring opposite Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni is Rasha Thadani, the daughter of Bollywood actor Raveena Tandon, who makes her Telugu cinema debut with the film. The film is set in the temple town of Tirupati and revolves around the characters of Vasu Babu and Manga, friends who turn lovers and live life with infectious joy until an unexpected conflict disrupts their paradise. Refusing to leave the town without Manga, Vasu Babu chooses to fight for his love, no matter the cost. Sources claim that Ajay Bhupathi, known for his intense and uncompromising storytelling, has presented a youthful love story enriched with impactful action and dramatic moments. The film has generated considerable in-

terest among fans and cinema lovers for several reasons. The film has been directed by Ajay Bhupathi, who earned critical acclaim for his raw and immersive storytelling in the hit films ‘RX 100’ and ‘Mangalavaram’. The fact that Ajay Bhupathi is helming the film has attracted considerable attention from moviegoers. The film also marks the big-screen debut of Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni, who carries forward the legacy of superstars Krishna and Mahesh Babu. Apart from this, well-known actor and producer Mohan Babu will be seen playing the character of Venkatappaya Naidu, the antagonist in the film. Presented by noted producer Ashwini Dutt and produced by P Kiran under the banner of Chandamama Kathalu Pictures, the film is being mounted with a strong creative vision and high production values. The film boasts an impressive technical team. Two-time National Award winner GV Prakash Kumar has composed the music for the film. The film has cinematography by Jayakrishna Gummadi and editing by Madhav Kumar Gullapalli. Production design for the film has been overseen by Sahi Suresh, while the action sequences have been choreographed by Real Sathish.

Darren Sammy backs West Indies to build on Sri Lanka success ahead of Pakistan Tests



Tarouba: West Indies head coach Darren Sammy has shown confidence in his side, saying that he could see ‘the light coming through’ as they gear up to face Pakistan in the two-match home test series starting from Saturday. West Indies, who are placed at eighth position in the World Test Championship points table, are coming to the contest after registering a 1-0 series win against Sri Lanka. According to the former player, the win gives hope of a revival to the Caribbean side, who are looking to move up the table with a win against the ninth-placed Pakistan. “We could see some light coming through, especially with the Sri Lanka series. Now we have Pakistan. Looking at the world rankings, we’re probably four or five points behind getting into the top six of the table [they are eighth and just three points from getting to No. 6]. The team knows what we’re looking to achieve. And each player understands the role that they’re playing in us achieving that,” he said ahead of the match as quoted by Cricinfo. “So, for me, my process has always been simple: understand what the direction we want to go, with

India aim for series seal against Zimbabwe in 2nd T20I at Harare

Harare: On recovery path with their maiden win under new captain Shreyas Iyer, India will look to sustain the winning momentum for an unassailable lead against Zimbabwe when the two teams face off in the second T20I here on Saturday. After being swept away by Ireland (0-2) and England (0-4), three-time T20 World Cup winners India produced a far better show in their series-opener here on Thursday, beating Zimbabwe by seven wickets to take a 1-0 lead. Young batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi’s 19-ball 50 and Mayank Yadav’s fiery 4-0-18-2 set up an important win for India in the opening match here, against an opponent which has thrived in home conditions of late. India chased down a modest 126 with more than six overs and seven wickets to spare, riding on Sooryavanshi’s fifty, a quickfire 35 from Ishan Kishan and a measured 28 not out from skipper Iyer. Abhishek Sharma, who began his T20I journey here at the Harare Sports Club and struck his maiden hundred in the format in the second game itself two years ago, would be keen to make amends after falling cheaply in the opening game. Sooryavanshi set the record for being the youngest to score a T20I half-century. The young batter would have been relieved getting the monkey off his back, especially when he was specifically targeted with short balls on England tour. But more than their batters’ strong



showing, the collective effort from a young pace attack would have pleased the team management, which has VVS Laxman in charge as the head coach for this series. India appeared to have adapted well to the conditions as Prince Yadav claimed 2/29 in a much-improved performance, while the debutant Ashok Sharma also cranked up high pace even though he remained wicket-less. But the biggest takeaway was a successful return to top flight cricket for right-arm pacer Mayank, who spent nearly two years on the sidelines with a string of injuries since making his debut. Mayank’s pace as well as control was top notch in the opening contest, with the dismissal of Zimbabwe batting mainstay Brian Bennett on a delivery that shaped away being the standout. Zimbabwe, on their part, would rue losing far too many wickets in the powerplay while not being able to handle the pace the Indian bowlers generated. From 26 for three, the hosts put on a modest 125 for seven which was never going to be challenging enough. There is no gap between the second and the final T20I, which will be played on Sunday in the short series.

Daren Sammy confident of West Indies Test revival ahead of Pakistan series



Tarouba: West Indies head coach Darren Sammy has shown confidence in his side, saying that he could see ‘the light coming through’ as they gear up to face Pakistan in the two-match home test series starting from Saturday. West Indies, who are placed at eighth position in the World Test Championship points table, are coming to the contest after registering a 1-0 series win against Sri Lanka. According to the former player, the win gives hope of a revival to the Caribbean side, who are looking to move up the table with a win against the ninth-placed Pakistan. “We could see some light coming through, especially with the Sri Lanka series. Now we have Pakistan. Looking at the world rankings, we’re probably four or five points behind getting into the top six of the table [they are eighth and just three points from getting to No. 6]. The team knows what we’re looking to achieve. And each player understands the role that they’re playing in us achieving that,” he said ahead of the match as quoted by Cricinfo. “So, for me, my process has always been simple: understand what the direction we want to go, with my conver-

sations with the director, conversations with the captain and the players, and how we go about doing it. So if you see me looking calm all the time, it’s because I understand what we as a group are trying to do and not the noise from the outside,” he added. Sammy has also confirmed that Amir Jangoo is yet to recover from the shoulder injury he got during the New Zealand series, and Shai Hope will take the gloves. “With the injury to Jangoo, it brings another ask of probably Shai Hope to take on the mantle of the gloves again, I’m speaking to him. I’m trying to ask him for a couple more favours, because you’ve got to also consider his workload, keeping in mind the other two formats and asking him to score some real runs. It’s a conversation we’ll have,” Sammy said. The series opener at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy, to be played from July 25 to 29, will mark a historic moment, as it becomes the first men’s Test match to be ever staged at the venue and the 13th ground in the region to host international red-ball cricket. The second Test will take place at the historic Queen’s Park Oval from August 2 to 6.

Mayank Yadav’s childhood coach reveals how injury-hit pacer rebuilt himself after 21-month lay-off

New Delhi: While a brilliant spell of 2-18 in the first T20I against Zimbabwe provided immense joy for Mayank Yadav on his return to international cricket, the bigger picture stretches far beyond it for the Delhi-based tearaway pacer. A 21-month injury layoff due to a stress fracture in the back needing surgery in Christchurch, New Zealand in July 2025, Mayank picking Player of the Match award on successful return to international cricket at the Harare Sports Club is merely step one in taking the world by storm again – like how he did in a breakthrough IPL 2024 season. For Devendra Sharma, Mayank’s childhood coach at the Sonnet Club in the national capital, watching the speedster hit his strides and trouble the Zimbabwe batters with some serious heat again brought equal parts relief and satisfaction after a grueling spell on the sidelines. “He bowled exceedingly well. It was a treat to the eyes to see him perform very well. As his coach, it felt very joyful and I was really happy to see it because all the hard work done by him, including during the rehab phase, has paid off. I remember of the time he was very worried because things weren’t going well for him after picking the back injury in IPL 2025 and continuously was at the NCA (now the BCCI Centre of Excellence) in Bengaluru). “Before he left for Zimbabwe on July 20, I advised him to not stick much to bowling short balls all the time. I



told him, ‘Just see the footwork of the batter and bowl as per that,’ and that advice worked really well. It was also wonderful to see him get the backing from the likes of VVS Laxman,” an elated Sharma told IANS in an exclusive conversation on Friday. Mayank was right on the money when on a pitch with spongy bounce, he produced a steep delivery that squared Brian Bennett up and a faint edge was caught behind by wicketkeeper Ishan Kishan. The early breakthrough set the tone for Mayank, leaving Dion Myers tentative in his footwork as he struggled to cope with the pacer’s raw pace and eventually fell to him. Ten of Mayank’s first 12 deliveries were clocked in the mid-to-high 140kmph range, with his fastest ball touching 149kmph. With 21 of his 24 deliveries pitched either short-of-a-length or in the good-length area, Mayank extracted sharp zip and bounce off the deck, repeatedly squaring up the batters and hitting them high on the handle.

Adani Enterprises denies reports of plans to launch an airline

Ahmedabad: Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL) on Friday refuted media reports and market speculation claiming that the flagship Adani Group company is planning to launch an airline. Reports had earlier surfaced that the Adani Group was proposing to enter the airline business. “We would like to categorically deny the recent media reports and market speculation suggesting that Adani Enterprises is planning to launch an airline,” an Adani Enterprises Limited spokesperson said. “These reports are entirely base-

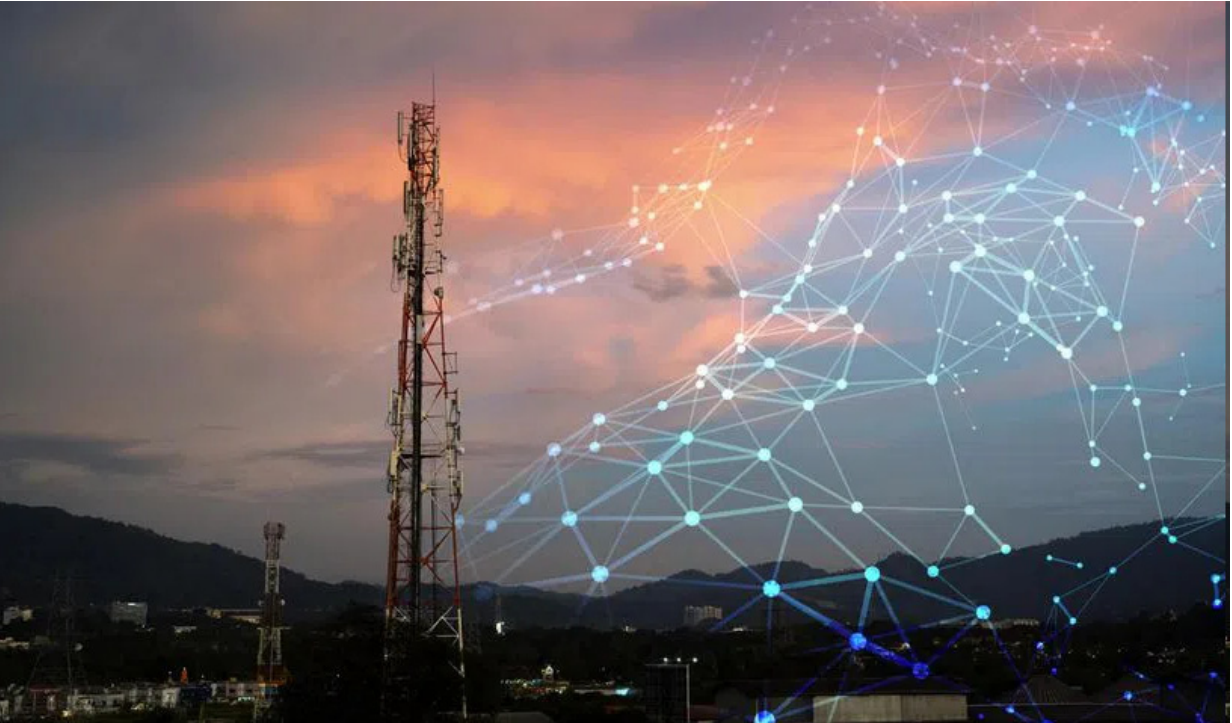
less and factually incorrect. Adani Enterprises is not evaluating any proposal to enter the airline business,” the spokesperson added. Adani Airports recently unveiled an ambitious programme to develop integrated airport cities across its airport network in five states with an investment of more than Rs 20,000 crore in the first phase. The development encompasses a land bank of over 655 acres across six airports in five states, including nearly 440 acres in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai



alone. Approximately 22 million square feet will be developed across Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Jaipur and Guwahati, Adani Airport City Limited (AACL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL), India’s largest private airport operator, said. It will develop integrated airport cities across its airport network, bringing together hospitality, retail, entertainment,

convention and commercial infrastructure within seamlessly connected, walkable urban districts. Nearly 70 per cent of the planned investment will be concentrated in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai, reflecting the Mumbai Metropolitan Region’s (MMR) position as India’s leading commercial, financial and aviation gateway, according to the company. The developments are designed as integrated, walkable urban districts where travellers, businesses and local communities can access hotels, offices, retail, dining, entertainment and convention facilities within environments seamlessly integrated with airport, Metro and city transport infrastructure.

DoT mandates telecom data storage within India under new rules



New Delhi: The government has barred communication infrastructure providers, including those involved in cloud-based networks for telecom services, mobile towers and satellite gateways, from sharing any data outside the country, according to an official notification. The Department of Telecom, in a notification on the authorisation framework for infrastructure providers, has made it mandatory that all telecommunication data be stored within the country. “Every new authorised entity shall ensure that all systems of its telecommunication network and the data, logs and information associated with its telecommunication network shall be stored within India and no copies of such data, logs and information shall be routed, shared or made available outside India,” the notification, dated July 20, said. Authorisation frameworks are part of the government’s strategy to shift from a licensing regime to light regulation, as envisaged under the Telecommunications Act, 2023. Infrastructure providers, digital connectivity infrastructure providers, internet exchange point providers, satellite earth station gateway providers, cloud-hosted telecommunication network providers and mobile number portability providers at the national level can seek authorisation under the notified framework. Under the new norms, the Centre, for the purpose of monitoring compliance with the rules, may access and inspect the sites where telecommunication equipment and networks are established, “including within a user’s premises”, audit processes or systems established by such authorised entities for compliance with these rules, and may even issue no prior notice if the government considers that immediate action is necessary or expedient in the public interest. For monitoring compliance, the Centre may appoint a designated agency to audit the processes or systems established by the authorised entity. The notification said that the designated agency will neither collect nor require the disclosure of any information if such disclosure may harm the competitive position of any user or the authorised entity. Infrastructure providers under the new framework will be solely responsible for obtaining permission to roll out the network, and any de-

lay in obtaining such permission will not be a valid reason for non-compliance with any rules under the new framework. “The non-availability of right of way or delays in obtaining right of way permission by the authorised entity shall not be a cause or ground for non-compliance with any obligations under these rules,” the framework said. Data centre company Submer India Head Anupam Shrivastava, who has served as BSNL chairman and managing director, said the newly issued Telecommunications (Authorisation for Telecommunication Network) Rules, 2026, mark a transformative milestone for the country’s digital infrastructure. “As someone who has led traditional telecom infrastructure at BSNL and is now pioneering sustainable data centre solutions at Submer, I see this framework as a bold step towards a greener, highly secure, and cloud-integrated future,” he said. Shrivastava said the government has taken an uncompromising stance on data localisation, strictly mandating that all telecommunication network systems, associated data, and logs must be stored exclusively within India, and that no copies can be routed, shared, or made available outside the country. “This will undoubtedly trigger a massive surge in domestic data centre demand. The introduction of the ‘Cloud-Hosted Telecommunication Network Provider’ category, featuring a low barrier to entry with a Rs 10 lakh entry fee and zero annual authorisation fees, will seamlessly integrate cloud data centres with telecom networks to democratise infrastructure,” he said. ITU-APT Foundation of India President Bharat Bhatia complimented the DoT on issuing the detailed authorisation guidelines but said the key issue of spectrum assignment for gateway earth stations was still unresolved. “The current notification does not allow the authorised entities to apply for spectrum, which is key to the successful operation of the gateways. Currently, the gateways are run by ISRO, which is allotted the necessary gateway spectrum, but private players will be at a disadvantage. TRAI is presently holding consultations on this and will hopefully address the issue in its next recommendation,” he said.

Infosys shares declines nearly 3 per cent after revised FY27 guidance

New Delhi: Shares of IT services company Infosys on Friday declined nearly 3 per cent after the firm lowered the upper end of its full-year revenue growth forecast to between 1.5 per cent and 3 per cent amid continued macroeconomic uncertainty.



The stock dipped 2.70 per cent to Rs 1,023.30 on the BSE. At the NSE, the stock declined 2.32 per cent to Rs 1,023. Infosys on Thursday reported a 12.2 per cent year-on-year rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 7,769 crore for the June quarter and lowered the upper end of its full-year revenue growth forecast to between 1.5 per cent and 3 per cent amid continued macroeconomic uncertainty. India’s second-largest IT services company reported a 14 per cent rise in revenue for Q1FY27 to Rs 48,211 crore. Infosys also named company veteran Ashish Kumar Dash as CEO-designate, with the leadership transition scheduled for April 1, 2027, after incumbent Salil Parekh completes his second term, marking the end of a nine-year tenure. Notably, Parekh is Infosys’ longest-serving CEO who is not

one of the founders. The company delivered USD 5,082 million in Q1 revenue, recording year-on-year growth of 2.4 per cent and sequential growth of 1 per cent in constant currency terms (excluding currency fluctuations). “We had a one-time revenue impact due to a client decision during the quarter,” Infosys CEO and MD Salil Parekh said. AI services contributed 8.2 per cent of Infosys’ Q1 revenue, with the company highlighting strong momentum and long-term client relevance driven by AI-led services. “Overall, we continue to see the macro environment remaining uncertain. With our Q1 results and our outlook for the rest of the financial year, we are changing our revenue growth guidance to between 1.5 per cent and 3 per cent year-on-year growth in constant currency terms,” Parekh said.

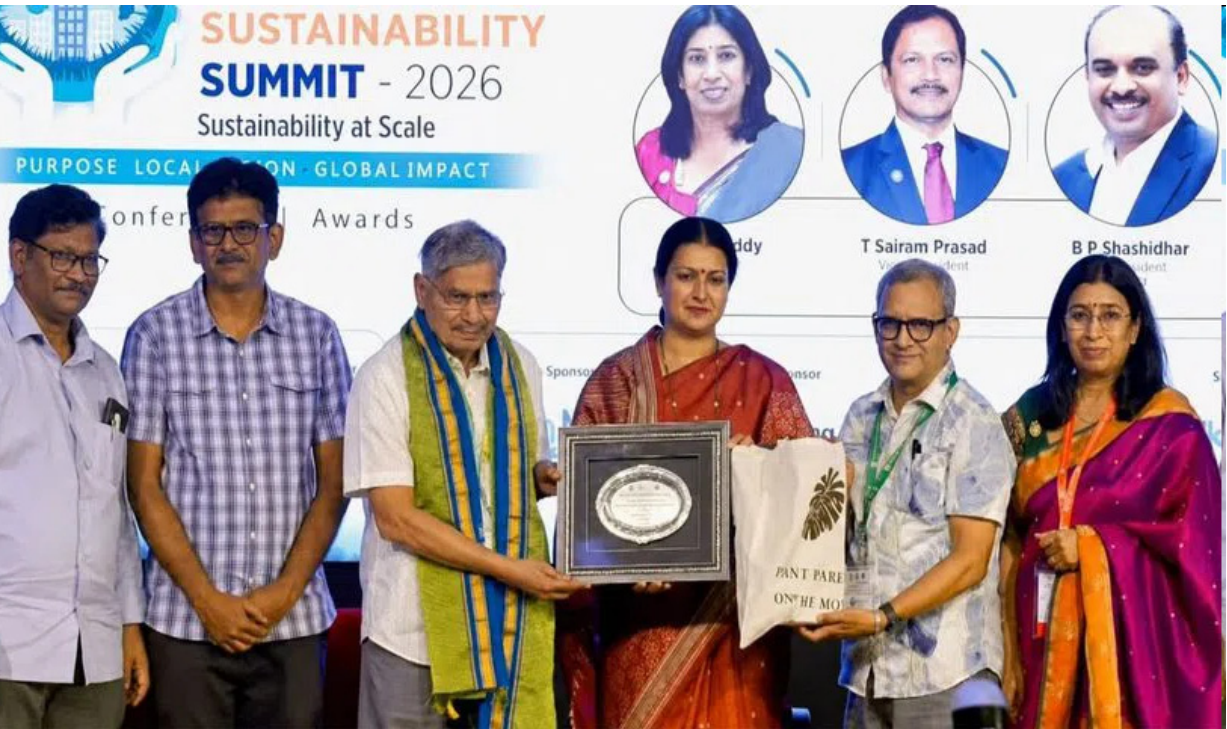
Stock markets fall sharply amid surge in global crude oil prices

Mumbai: Market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled in early trade on Friday as crude oil prices crossed the USD 100 per barrel mark amid escalating geopolitical tensions in West Asia. The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 512.07 points to 75,869.38 during initial trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 153 points to 23,713.60. From the Sensex pack, InterGlobe Aviation, Eternal, Bharti Airtel, Infosys, Bajaj Finance and Trent were among the major laggards. InterGlobe Aviation slipped over 2 per cent after IndiGo reported a net loss of Rs 238 crore for the three months ended June, as higher fuel prices and the West Asia conflict resulted in turbulence for the country’s largest airline. InterGlobe Aviation is the parent company of IndiGo. IT services company Infosys declined over 1 per cent after it lowered the upper end of its full-year revenue growth forecast to between 1.5 per cent and 3 per cent amid continued macroeconomic uncertainty. HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services and Sun Pharma were the gainers. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 0.03 per cent lower at USD 100.7 per barrel. “The total uncertainty and high volatility



in markets continue without any signs of immediate respite. The attack on Saudi tankers by the Iran-backed Houthis in the Red Sea is the main reason for the recent sharp spike in Brent crude to about USD 100. Such a high price is bound to revive India’s balance of payments concerns,” VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,999.23 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. In Asian markets, South Korea’s KOSPI tanked 5.56 per cent. Japan’s Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai’s SSE Composite index and Hong Kong’s Hang Seng index were also trading lower. US markets ended lower on Thursday. On Thursday, the Sensex declined 363.66 points, or 0.47 per cent, to settle at 76,391.39. The Nifty dipped 126.65 points, or 0.53 per cent, to close at 23,869.60.

Anantapur NGO wins national award for climate change and carbon mitigation efforts



Hyderabad: Accion Fraterna-Ecology Centre (AF-EC), Anantapur, has been conferred the Excellence in Carbon Mitigation and Climate Change Management Award by the UN Global Compact Network India and the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) at the FKCCI Global CSR and Sustainability Summit 2026, held in Bengaluru on Thursday. The award recognises organisations driving impactful corporate social responsibility (CSR) and sustainability initiatives aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar inaugurated the event, and the award was presented by Davangere Member of Parliament Dr. Prabha Mallikarjun along with FKCCI President Uma Reddy during the summit’s awards ceremony. Dr. Prabha congratulated AF-EC for its impactful work and expressed hope that other farmers would also learn from its initiatives. AF-EC Director Y.V. Malla Reddy received the award on behalf of the organisation along with members of the NGO’s team. AF-EC was selected from among 147 organisations nominated across 11 categories for its work in mitigating climate change in 300 villages in Anantapur district. The organisation has promoted wa-

tershed development through soil and water conservation measures, encouraged agroecological and natural farming practices to enhance soil carbon, improved the resilience of rainfed agriculture, and helped reduce distress migration. The organisation has also adopted 12 villages under its Climate Adaptation and Resilience in Agriculture (CARA) initiative to strengthen the resilience of farming communities to climate variability. The programme focuses on six components—community awareness, climate-resilient cropping systems, water management, nutrient management, diversified livelihoods, and weather-based agro-advisories—to make agriculture more productive, remunerative, and sustainable. Speaking on the occasion, Y.V. Malla Reddy said the awards were instituted to recognise corporates, non-governmental organisations, and other institutions that have made a meaningful impact through CSR and sustainability initiatives aligned with the SDGs, creating a lasting global impact. The FKCCI Global CSR and Sustainability Awards recognise excellence across several sectors, including healthcare, education, livelihoods, rural development, water management, waste management, energy management, and carbon mitigation and climate change management.

Former Andhra minister Seediri Appalaraju remanded in hit-and-run evidence tampering case

Visakhapatnam: A court in Andhra Pradesh’s Srikakulam district on Thursday sent former minister and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader Seediri Appalaraju to judicial custody for 14 days in a case registered against him for allegedly tampering with evidence in a hit-and-run case involving his son. The YSRCP leader, who was arrested from his residence in Kasibugga, was produced before a court in Palasa. After the court remanded him to judicial custody, he was shifted to Ampolu jail near Srikakulam. Appalaraju is facing allegations of misleading investigating officers and tampering with evidence in connection with the hit-and-run case involving his son, Arav Varma. On July 10, a 45-year-old man, Danayya, died on the spot after a two-wheeler allegedly ridden by Arav hit him on the Old National Highway at Kasibugga. Local police initially registered a case against another youngster, Siddardh, a friend of Arav. However, CCTV footage recovered from a nearby petrol station established that Arav was riding the vehicle before the crash. Following the revelation, police arrested both Arav Varma and Siddardh. As Appalaraju alleg-



edly used his influence to shield his son, his name was also included in the First Information Report (FIR). He is accused of exerting pressure on the victim’s family to withdraw the case and attempting to conceal evidence. Former Chief Minister and YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy condemned Appalaraju’s arrest, alleging that the Chandrababu Naidu Government had turned a road accident into a weapon of political vendetta. “The 18-year-old son of former Minister and BC leader from North Andhra, Seediri Appalaraju, was arrested and remanded not under provisions relating to a road accident, but on a murder charge, after being blamed for accidentally causing an accident while riding a motorcycle. Now, the arrest of his father makes it clear that the Government’s objective is to politically persecute an entire YSRCP leader’s family,” Jagan said in a post on X.

YS Jagan extend birthday wishes to KTR, wishes good health and happiness

KTR and YS Jagan Mohan Reddy YS Jagan extend birthday wishes to KTR Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy extended warm birthday greetings to BRS working president and former minister of Telangana K Taraka Rama Rao as the latter turns a year old. Friday, 24 July. Taking to X handle, YS Jagan addressing KTR as "dear brother" wishes him good health, happiness, and strength to serve the people. The former chief minister has wished KTR as wonderful and successful year ahead. "Happy Birthday, dear brother Tarak! May God bless you with good health, happiness, and the strength to stand firm for the people. Wishing you contin-



ued success and a wonderful year ahead!," Jagan wrote on X. The two leaders share camaraderie despite they are from different political spectrum. KTR who celebrates birthday today is yet to respond to the wishes. However, KTR is holding a protesta on the NEET paper leak in Hyderabad.

Krishna delta farmers told to skip paddy as El Nino bites

Vijayawada: With severe water scarcity threatening the Krishna delta during the ongoing kharif season, water resources department (WRD) engineer-in-chief (irrigation) and Polavaram irrigation project chief engineer K Narasimha Murthy urged farmers to make informed cropping decisions and opt for dry crops instead of paddy, cautioning that sufficient irrigation water may not be available for the water-intensive crop. Narasimha Murthy, along with Krishna delta chief engineer B Rambabu and Vijayawada circle superintending engineer J Gunakar, addressed a press conference at the Farmers’ Training Centre on the irrigation department campus in Vijayawada on Friday. He explained the prevailing drought conditions in the state, the current water availability in the Krishna river, and the status of irrigation and drinking water supply to the Krishna delta. He said nearly 150 tmc ft



of water is required for paddy cultivation in the Krishna delta during the kharif season. However, the state does not have adequate water resources to support such cultivation this year. He attributed the crisis to the El Niño-induced rainfall deficit, stating that Andhra Pradesh has recorded 51 per cent below-normal rainfall, while the Krishna delta region has witnessed a 49 per cent rainfall deficit. Water storage in upstream reservoirs, including Almati, Narayanpur, Jurala and Tungabhadra, remains critically low, delaying inflows into the Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar reservoirs.

REGISTRATION SERVICES FUNCTIONING SMOOTHLY“IN NTR AND KRISHNA DISTRICTS

(Vijayawada) K. Rama RaoBYLINENTR DISTRICT - VIJAYAWADA, JULY 24, 2026BODY - 2 ColumnsDeputy Inspector General of Registration and Stamps (Vijayawada) K. Rama Rao on Friday said that following discussions by the Commissioner of Registration and Stamps Department, the Document Writers Association withdrew its pen-down protest. As a result, registration services are being provided as usual in all Sub-Registrar Offices. Similarly, services are continuing without any disruption in NTR and Krishna districts as well, he stated in a press release here. He said steps have

been taken to expedite the registration of pending documents so that the public does not face any inconvenience. To clear the backlog of documents pending for the last four days, the working hours of all Sub-Registrar Offices in NTR and Krishna districts have been extended till 9 PM on Friday, he added. The DIG clarified that people coming to the offices for registration services need not worry. Registration services are being provided in the most transparent, efficient, and public-friendly manner, he said.

Tomato prices fluctuate in Seema amid changing demand

Amaravati: Tomato prices in Rayalaseema markets witnessed fluctuations on Friday in line with changing demand, according to state agricultural marketing department director Ravi Pattan Shetty. In a statement on Friday, Shetty said a total of 12,215.08 metric tonnes (MT) tomatoes arrived at major market yards in the region. This included 5,564.91 metric tonnes of Grade-I tomatoes and 6,650.17 metric tonnes of Grade-II tomatoes at Palamaneru, V Kota, Punganur, Madanapalle, Mulakalacheruvu, Gurramkonda, Kalikiri, Pattikonda, Rapthadu (private market) and Peepully (private market). Prices remained stable at the Palamaneru, V Kota, Punganur and Madanapalle markets due to the arrival of good-quality tomatoes.



At Kalikiri market, demand from other districts and states pushed prices higher than last week, although they dipped slightly compared to Thursday. Mulakalacheruvu market continued to witness peak seasonal arrivals, with prices being determined by prevailing demand and supply conditions.