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Nvidia platform against rogue AI

NEW YORK: Nvidia on Monday unveiled a security platform that the chipmaker said can stop AI agents from going rogue. The company said that its Open Agent Safety Platform includes software that "sets boundaries for agents", and follows a series of revelations from top AI companies about their models escaping and breaking into other organizations. The disclosures sparked debate about the safety of advanced AI systems. *AP*

Merger bid to keep Tata Sons private

MUMBAI: Tata Trusts, which own 66 per cent of Tata Sons, have proposed merging two operating companies with the Tata Group's holding company in a restructuring that would allow it to shed its classification as a non-banking financial company and a core investment company, helping it retain its status as an unlisted private company. The proposed restructuring involves the merger of TESS and TCE with Tata Sons, according to a statement. *NATION PAGE 7*



Songs that shaped a star

Bollywood music, dance reason I wanted to become an actor, says Sharvari

Contractors, retirees vent ire over dues

Stage protest at Secretariat seeking clearance of long-pending bills and retirement benefits



Protesters engage in a heated argument with police personnel at Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka's chambers in the Secretariat on Monday.

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Irked over the delay in clearing their long-pending bills and extending benefits, contractors and retired employees staged a protest at Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka's chambers in the Secretariat on Monday.

The contractors and retired employees said that the government had failed to clear their pending bills and retirement benefits despite several years having passed. They said all attempts to meet the Deputy Chief Minister personally and make an appeal had proved futile.

A family member of a retired employee said the employee had passed away on August 3, 2024, but not a single rupee had been cleared towards his retirement benefits. "How can a family survive without the retirement benefits?" the family member asked.

As police personnel denied them permission to meet the Deputy Chief Minister, heated arguments broke out between the protesters and police. "Officials and police personnel are not permitting us to meet the Deputy Chief Minister. Unless we are given an appointment, we will not leave the Secretariat," the retired employees said.

In several cases, contractors complained that though token numbers were being issued, their bills were not being cleared.

The protest was not an isolated incident. On September 17, several retired employees had queued up at the Finance Department in the Secretariat and appealed to officials to clear their pending retirement benefits.

Ever since the Congress government came to power in December 2023, the retired employees have been complaining over the delay in extending their benefits. Every month, about 1,000

employees were retiring from service and on an average, each employee is expected to get Rs 1 crore as retirement benefits.

But the State government has been delaying the retirement benefits, citing financial constraints. Buckling under the pressure from retired employees, the State government has been claiming that Rs 6,000 crore was released in the last three months towards clearing employees' pending bills and extending retirement benefits. However, employees argue that pending bills and retirement benefits continue to pile up every month following the retirement of several employees from service.

Holding Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy responsible for the struggles of retired employees, the opposition parties charged that more than 60 retired employees had died as the government failed to release retirement benefits on time.

SC refuses interim stay on UPI MDR charges

Seeks Centre, RBI, NPCI replies on plea challenging 0.4% levy

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to grant an interim stay on the imposition of merchant discount rate (MDR) on specified UPI person-to-merchant transactions above Rs 2,000 coming into effect from October 15.

The top court agreed to examine the challenge to the imposition of MDR and asked the Centre, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to respond within four weeks on the plea.

The apex court was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by advocate Anjan Datta challenging the Centre's decision to impose MDR on specified Unified Payments Interface (UPI) person-to-merchant transactions above Rs 2,000. The



plea has challenged the Centre's September 14 notification and the MDR framework announced on September 15.

Ending nearly six years of fully free UPI payments, the government has introduced a 0.4 per cent fee on transfers worth over Rs 2,000 made to merchants through the UPI platform from October 15 while explicitly ring-fencing everyday person-to-person transactions and small payments from any

law officer said. The bench asked the Centre to file its counter affidavit explaining the basis for the move to impose a fee on transfers worth over Rs 2,000 made to merchants through the UPI platform. Venkataraman said the charges for essential services are capped at Rs 5.

"We need all these facts in a short affidavit. It will help us understand better. It is less a legal issue and more a technical issue," the bench observed.

The court said it would like to see the legal source of implementing the charge.

"Is it a tax or a fee? If not a fee, then what is the executive basis for making this expropriation?" the bench said.

The law officer said it was not an expropriation. He said it was a settlement fee between the payment aggregators and the banks.

Khairatabad seat declared vacant

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Following the Telangana High Court judgment disqualifying Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender, the Legislative Assembly has issued a gazette notification stating that the seat stood vacant with effect from April 23, 2024.

On September 18, the High Court disqualified Danam Nagender for contesting the Secunderabad Lok Sabha election as a Congress party candidate while continuing as a BRS MLA.

The High Court held that his disqualification would take effect from April 23, 2024, the day he filed his nomination as a Congress candidate. It also shared copies of its order with the Election Commission of India and the Telangana Assembly. *(SEE PAGE 2)*

SHOT TO GLORY



Esha Singh from Hyderabad poses with the national flag after winning the silver medal in the women's 25m pistol event during the ongoing 20th Asian Games in Nagoya on Monday. — Photo:PTI

'Use airport land for bullet train'

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Coming down heavily on the Congress government, BRS working president KT Rama Rao questioned its decision to acquire agricultural land from farmers in Bahadurpally for the proposed bullet train project when substantial land was already available adjacent to the international airport in the vicinity. He reminded the government that the State had a 13 per cent share in the airport and that the land had also been given on lease to the GMR Group.

After interacting with farmers facing displacement over the bullet train project at Telangana Bhavan on Monday, Rama Rao said the BRS was not opposed to the bullet train, but would oppose any land acquisition in the name of the project if alternative government-owned land was available. He pointed out that around 5,500 acres had been acquired for the Shamshabad airport and questioned why the unused

portion of the airport land could not be considered for the rail project.

He also questioned the need to acquire around 1,000 acres for a station when a much smaller extent would suffice. He slammed the Congress government, reminding it that farmers who had been cultivating their lands for generations

were being forced to part with them.

Stating that the government was conspiring to acquire agricultural land cheaply for real estate ventures of Congress leaders, the BRS working president questioned the need to deploy around 4,000 police personnel at the farmers' properties if the government had clear documentary evidence to establish its ownership of the land.

He reminded the government that the Congress had earlier promised to return land acquired for the Hyderabad Pharma City after scrapping the project, but was now seeking to use the same land for the proposed Future City. *(SEE PAGE 2)*

No deadline to link mobile with driving licence

CITY BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Driving licence holders need not worry about losing the validity of their licences for failing to link or update their mobile numbers by the end of September. Transport authorities have clarified that the viral messages claiming automatic cancellation of licences are false.

The messages circulating on social media have led to confusion among motorists, with some reportedly approaching RTO offices fearing that their licences would become invalid. *(SEE PAGE 2)*

Sensex crashes to 6-month low amid crude shock

MUMBAI

Stock markets tumbled on Monday, with benchmark Sensex plunging 1,124 points to a six-month low and the Nifty closing below 22,800 as surging crude oil prices, geopolitical uncertainties, and weak global trends hit investor sentiment.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 1,124.02 points, or 1.52 per cent, to settle at 72,771.72, the lowest closing level since March 30, 2026. During the day, it lost 1,179.51 points, or 1.59 per cent, to 72,716.23. The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 360.25 points, or 1.56 per

MONDAY MELTDOWN

- SENSEX CRASHES 1,124 POINTS, ITS LOWEST SINCE MARCH 30
- Investors' wealth erodes by Rs 7.52 lakh crore
- All BSE sectoral indices end in the red; PSU Bank index tumbles 3.25%
- 29 of 30 Sensex stocks decline; Infosys lone gainer
- Surging crude prices and West Asia tensions trigger heavy selling
- Brent crude rises 3.81% to \$108.3 a barrel
- Foreign fund outflows, rising US bond yields add to concerns

Nifty falls 360.25 points to close at near 6-month low of 22,780.25

cent, to end at a near six-month low of 22,780.25. As many as 47 Nifty shares closed lower while three were up, reflecting across-the-board selling. Analysts said surging crude prices

following the US-Iran stalemate, foreign fund outflows, a spike in US bond yields and weak Asian markets triggered selling in PSU banks, FMCG, oil & gas and auto shares. *(SEE PAGE 2)*

No invite? Hyderabad offers walima-style feasts

ASIF YAR KHAN
HYDERABAD

For those who have always wanted to attend a walima reception but never managed to get an invitation, Hyderabad now has an alternative — walima-style dinners without a bride or groom.

A walima is the traditional Muslim wedding reception held after the nikah, where the groom's family invites

relatives, friends and members of the community to celebrate the marriage over a meal. In Hyderabad, walimas are known for elaborate spreads of biryani, mutton and chicken dishes, kebabs, desserts and other delicacies. The idea of organising walima-style dinners is slowly catching on in the city, giving people an opportunity to experience the food, music and atmosphere associated with a traditional

Hyderabad Muslim wedding. The events are attracting youngsters, IT professionals and families, including people who have heard about Hyderabad's wedding traditions but have rarely had an opportunity to attend a walima.

Earlier this month, a 'Daawat-e-Dastarkhan' event was held at a function hall in Nampally, where tickets were priced between Rs 999 and Rs 1,299. The

event featured a 20-item menu, including mutton murag, a meat platter, salads, chicken dishes, desserts and other delicacies. Sufi music and a performance of naubat added to the traditional atmosphere. Ayesha Ghazi, who organised the event, said the idea was to showcase Hyderabad's food and cultural traditions in a setting that brought together people from different backgrounds. *(SEE PAGE 2)*



Walimas are known for elaborate spreads of biryanis, desserts.

HYDERABAD

TGPSC exam schedule out

The Telangana Public Service Commission (TGPSC) has released the examination schedule for various recruitment notifications previously issued by the commission. All the examinations will be conducted in a Computer-Based Test (CBT) mode. The examinations will begin with the post of Assistant Scientist (Analyst Grade-II) in the Telangana Pollution Control Board on October 24.

HYDERABAD

Cancer run registrations

Registrations have opened for the 9th Edition of the Quambiant Global Grace Cancer Run 2026, powered by Evernorth Health Services, scheduled to be held on October 11 at Gachibowli Stadium. Organised by the Grace Cancer Foundation, the annual run aims to bring people together to create greater awareness about cancer, encourage early detection and screening, and support the larger fight against cancer.

HYDERABAD

HET, MDNIY sign MoU

Heartfulness Educational Trust (HET) and the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) signed an MoU at Kanha Shanti Vanam, the headquarters of Heartfulness on the outskirts of Hyderabad, entering into a mutual collaboration for the dissemination of Yoga nationally and worldwide for a period of five years. The main objective is to design, implement, and promote Yoga education.

OGH Goshamahal wait gets longer

Project unlikely to meet initial timeline; continued bureaucratic delays add to scepticism over completion milestones

M SAI GOPAL
HYDERABAD

The ambitious new medical complex for Osmania General Hospital (OGH) at Goshamahal Police Stadium is facing mounting scepticism. The timeline of the initiative has continually faced repeated setbacks due to bureaucratic delays, slow utility shifting, and administrative bottlenecks, threatening to push the venture far past its target completion milestones.

With the century-old heritage building, which used to house the inpatient block, shutting down, the operational capacity of the present OGH building has dropped considerably.

Lack of space has forced medical departments and patients into cramped, aging auxiliary and neighbouring blocks on the same Afzalgunj campus.

With no clarity on the timeline of the new OGH building, it is a daily struggle for doctors as well as patients. Quite often, there have been instances wherein senior doctors end up referring patients to Gandhi Hospital or Area Hospital in King Koti.

“To handle the patient inflow, waiting times for elective surgeries are prolonged.

Raising Concerns

DELAYS DUE TO PERSISTENT INTER-DEPARTMENTAL FRICTION AND SLOW MOVEMENT IN CLEARING TECHNICAL FILES.

- Difficulties in relocating underlying public utilities and managing complex civic infrastructure around the Goshamahal site
- PIL regarding land allocation and local residents' opposition concerning traffic congestion, approach road widening, and mortuary location
- Present OGH suffering from delayed elective surgeries and space crunch
- Opposition over proposal to demolish or acquire commercial properties for massive approach road to new OGH

DEMANDS BY T-JUDA

- Periodic, transparent progress reviews by senior authorities to enforce accountability
- Strict adherence to deadlines rather than open-ended projections.
- Timely financial allocations to prevent site work and material supply from stalling.
- Enforce stringent technical monitoring of structural components and worker safety.

It's a daily struggle, as patients and doctors are caught in the old, decaying building while waiting for the Goshamahal complex, which is already showing signs of delay,” senior doctors said.

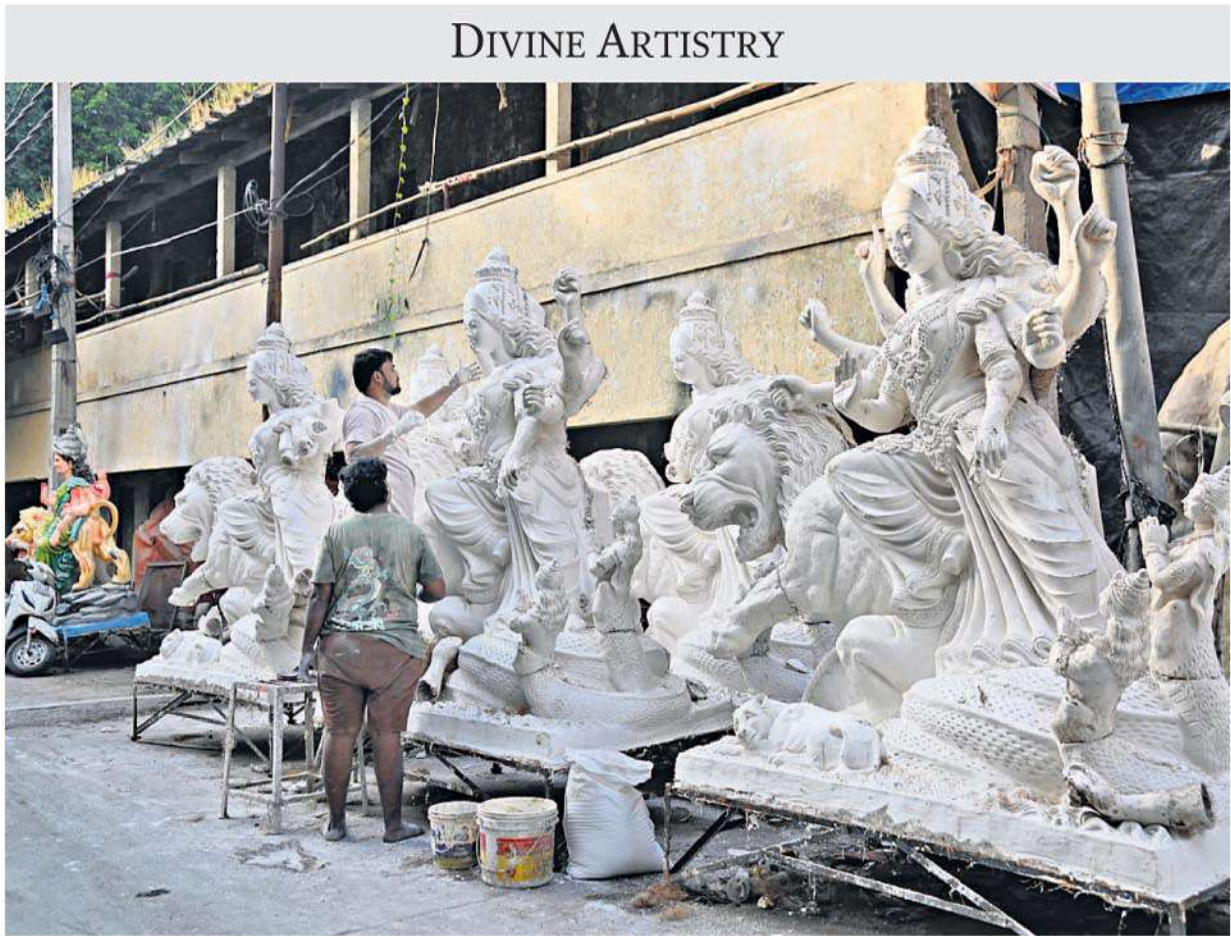
Doctors familiar with the issue have acknowledged that the OGH project needs immediate and special attention. “We request that the pace of construction and associated works be substantially accelerated and that all administrative, technical, financial and contractual bottlenecks be resolved immediately,” senior office

bearers of T-JUDA said. While the State government has previously set December 2027 for completion of the project, the junior doctors have argued that the promise on paper may fall short.

“We recently interacted with the senior health officials, who had assured us that the project will follow the timeline.

However, there is a definite need for frequent reviews to ensure the project is on time,” says general secretary, T-JUDA, Dr Narahari Chandrakanth Reddy. Beyond financial and bu-

reaucratic clearances, the medical fraternity is calling for strict monitoring of construction quality and safety, as well as the parallel development of essential utilities and supporting infrastructure. The ultimate demand remains the time-bound completion and commissioning of the hospital. Without these aggressively enforced measures, stakeholders fear the project will continue to miss critical operational windows, forcing thousands of patients and overburdened medical professionals to bear the brunt of the delays.



Ahead of the Dasara Navaratri, an artist readies the idols of Goddess Durga in Dhoolpet. — Photo: Surya Sridhar

DIVINE ARTISTRY

GAME ON

A worthy successor with slick combat

Control Resonant builds on the original's lore while introducing a new protagonist

Control was my favorite game of 2019, and ever since I finished Jesse's story, I have been eagerly waiting to see what Remedy had in store with its successor.

Resonant does not disappoint. Set on a larger scale and with a more expansive narrative, Resonant introduces a new protagonist: Dylan Faden, Jesse's brother, a man who literally wakes from a coma to fight the paranormal Hiss as it breaches containment and escapes into the wider world.

The game's opening is fast-paced, introducing combat early on and letting you choose the form of Dylan's weapon, the Aberrant. The Aberrant can take the shape of a sword, scythe, or hammer, and in special modes transforms further depending on how you chain your combos.

The speed and fluidity of combat are among Resonant's greatest strengths; the entire experience feels slick and highly responsive, making fighting a breeze when combined with the game's various unique mechanics for dodges and jumps.

However, despite the fluid combat, the enemies need rebalancing, especially in the early game when Dylan is underpowered and takes excessive damage. Remedy issued a day-one update to mitigate this to some extent.

In terms of raw speed, however, the combat experience is top-notch, and the haptic feedback on the PS5's DualSense controller significantly heightens the urgency and exhilaration of every encounter.

In terms of visuals and sound, the game is classic Remedy fare: colors are gorgeous, and the signature Control red gleams in all its grandeur.

Manhattan in its paranormal state is a joy to behold, as all sense of gravity, geometry, and physics is thrown out the window alongside floating bodies, rubble, and



Remedy's successor to Control is high-quality and lots of fun.

WHAT STANDS OUT

- The worldbuilding built off the first game is top-notch
- The shift in combat from first game is brilliantly executed. Dylan's journey with the Aberrant is fast and responsive.

FAILS TO IMPRESS

- The game's combat needs to be better balanced.

SNEAK PEEK

TITLE: Control Resonant
DEVELOPER: Remedy Entertainment
GAME TYPE: Single Player, Action
ROLEPLAYING GAME PLATFORMS: PS5, Xbox Series X/S, Microsoft Windows, and macOS
PRICE: Rs.3,599 on Steam, and Rs.3,499 on PlayStation and Xbox

VERDICT (ALL SCORES OUT OF 10)

Innovative Gameplay: **8**
Game Handling & Quality: **8.5**
Value for Time: **8.5**
Value for Money: **8**
Overall: **8.25**

even entire skyscrapers.

In one early mission, a touching sequence brings Jesse and Dylan together in one of the most gorgeously designed levels I have ever seen: with golden leaves, brilliant rays of light, an old CRT TV paired with a vintage gaming console, and a Christmas tree in all its splendor, offering a stunning departure from Manhattan's paranormal apocalypse. In terms of plot and lore, this is a brilliant extension of Control's narrative, with the Hiss proving vastly

deadlier now that they have breached containment into the outside world.

However, during high-octane combat sequences, the heavy concentration of readable lore items in the same areas can disrupt the pacing and become overly distracting. A brilliant experience throughout, Resonant is a worthy successor to 2019's Control. Barring a few combat balancing issues and minor nitpicks, it stands as one of the finest games of 2026.

— Aditya Deshbandhu

NETRA to host event on Sept 30

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

More than 100 companies from 50 cities will converge in Hyderabad on September 30 for the National Conference on Solar and BESS for

Grid C&I Sector, hosted by the NetZero Energy Transition Association (NETRA) at Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI), Red Hills. Centred on the theme, “Addressing Reliability, Re-

siliency and Power Quality with Battery Storage,” the conference will bring together policymakers, power-sector leaders, distribution utilities, technology providers, developers, and investors.

Continuation

from page 1

Khairatabad seat...

Challenging the High Court judgment, Danam Nagender approached the Supreme Court. However, on September 24, the apex court upheld the High Court judgment.

Accordingly, Assembly Secretary Rendla Thirupathi issued a gazette notification on September 26 stating that, in pursuance of the High Court judgment, Danam Nagender, who was elected from the Khairatabad constituency, stood disqualified with effect from April 23, 2024. The notification effectively records the vacancy of the Khairatabad Assembly seat from the date of Nagender's disqualification.

‘Use airport land for...

He questioned the government's plans to expand the Future City project and alleged that the exercise was being used to serve real estate interests. He alleged that the Congress government was sparing the properties of its leaders despite violations of norms, while targeting the lands of the poor.

Rama Rao urged farmers to remain united and not sign away their lands. He said the BRS would continue the legal battle, including approaching the Supreme Court, if necessary, to protect their interests. He also assured the farmers that the BRS would continue opposing indiscriminate land acquisition while supporting the bullet train project itself.

Fresh row erupts over AIMIM legislator

Social media platforms have been abuzz with videos and posts by AIMIM opponents alleging that the legislator was involved in an immoral act with a woman while in Bihar.

The allegations have not been independently verified, and no video establishing the alleged act has been made public so far.

The posts circulating on social media have called upon the AIMIM leadership to take action against the legislator and demanded that the party conduct an inquiry into the allegations. Some of the party's critics have also threatened to make public a purported video of the legislator if AIMIM does not take action.

The fresh campaign has provided AIMIM's opponents another opportunity to question the conduct of its elected representatives.

The allegations against the legislator, however, remain unverified pending the emergence of authenticated material or findings from an inquiry.

No invite? Hyderabad offers walima-style feasts

“Walima is an important part of Hyderabad's culture, particularly its food and hospitality. Through this event, we wanted people to experience that culture, the traditional food, Sufi music and naubat in one place. We saw youngsters, IT professionals, families and groups of friends attending. Some had never had an opportunity to attend a traditional walima and came out of curiosity to experience the food and atmosphere,” she said.

Ghazi said the response had encouraged her to plan a second edition of ‘Daawat-e-Dastarkhan’.

For one guest, the event fulfilled a long-standing wish. “I had always heard about the lavish food and atmosphere at Hyderabad walimas and wanted to experience one myself. This event finally gave me that opportunity. I really liked the ambience, food and the overall experience, especially coming here with friends,” he said.

Restaurants are also tapping into the interest. Abidi's Virs-e-Deccan on Road No. 2, Banjara Hills, has introduced a buffet featuring Deccani and Hyderabad wedding-style dishes.

“We charge Rs 1,350 per person and it is available from afternoon till late night. People who want to experience Hyderabad walima food are coming with families and friends,” said restaurant manager Mohd Taufeeq.

No deadline to link mobile with driving...

According to Transport Department authorities, updating the mobile number is advisable as several transport services use the registered number for OTP-based verification, alerts and other online services. However, the absence of a linked mobile number does not by itself cancel or invalidate a driving licence.

Also, motorists can update their numbers through the ‘Sarathi-Parivahan’ portal without necessarily visiting an RTO. The official portal provides a ‘Mobile Number Update’ option under the driving licence services.

The process generally involves selecting the state, choosing the mobile number update option, completing the required verification and entering the driving licence and new mobile number details. Some users may find that their licence details are unavailable on the portal.

Transport authorities said this can occur when older licence records have not been fully migrated to the Vahan-Sarathi system and does not mean the licence has been cancelled.

Those unable to update their number online can approach the local transport office for assistance.

Sensex crashes to 6-month low amid crude shock

Among the 30 Sensex firms, 29 ended lower. Larsen & Toubro fell the most by 2.81 per cent. Power Grid dropped 2.62 per cent, Adani Ports by 2.38 per cent, HDFC Bank by 2.3 per cent, Hindustan Unilever by 2.27 per cent and Reliance Industries by 2.24 per cent.

Infosys was the only winner from the pack. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, jumped 3.81 per cent to USD 108.3 per barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,693.93 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

Investors' wealth declined by Rs 7.52 lakh crore on Monday. “Bears remained in control as the market breached a key psychological support level, reflecting growing investor caution amid deteriorating global macro conditions. “The US rejection of the ceasefire proposal has heightened concerns that tensions in West Asia could persist for longer than anticipated, reducing the likelihood of a near-term diplomatic resolution and in-

creasing the risk of prolonged supply-side disruptions and higher commodity prices,” Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said. Rising US bond yields are narrowing India-US yield spread, leading to foreign fund outflows and keeping market sentiment cautious, the analyst said.

The BSE SmallCap select index tanked 1.90 per cent and MidCap select index declined 1.39 per cent. The PSU Cap plummeted 3.25 per cent, Power tumbled 2.30 per cent, Telecommunication 2.30 per cent, Utilities 2.27 per cent, MidSmall Private Banks 2.17 per cent, Industrials 2 per cent, MidSmall Private Banks Quality Tilt 1.99 per cent Services 1.93 per cent and Private Banks index 1.86 per cent. “Indian equity benchmarks closed sharply lower, extending their recent weakness as a fresh surge in crude oil prices and renewed uncertainty surrounding US-Iran talks weighed heavily on investor sentiment,” Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, a wealth tech firm, said. 77

SIDDIPET

DJ operator dies during procession

The high-intensity sounds and vibrations of a public address system claimed the life of its operator at Singatam village in Gajwel mandal on Sunday night. According to Gajwel rural police, the victim, Dinesh (22), a resident of Kogalur, was operating a public address system for a living. A pandal committee at Singatam village had hired his DJ services for the Sunday procession. While the procession was underway, Dinesh fell unconscious while operating the system. The locals tried to revive him by performing CPR on him, but to no avail. When Dinesh was rushed immediately to the government hospital in Gajwel, the doctors declared him brought dead.

K'bad bypoll: Cong keeps suspense over its pick

Danam upbeat on nomination; Vijaya Reddy, Rohin Reddy being considered

S SANDEEP KUMAR
HYDERABAD

Will the Congress high command spring a surprise while finalising its candidate for the ensuing Khairatabad by-election? This is the question doing the rounds in Gandhi Bhavan.

Even as disqualified MLA Danam Nagender is exuding confidence about contesting the by-election, a section of Congress leaders feels that the party leadership may explore other options. The names of former corporator P Vijaya Reddy and Khairatabad DCC president Rohin Reddy are among those being considered, according to party leaders.

There are reasons for exploring other options. The Congress has suffered a setback at both the National and State levels following Danam Nagender's defection from the BRS to the Congress and his subsequent disqualification. The high command could take this into consideration while finalising the candidate, a senior leader from Gandhi

BJP faces Khairatabad test

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Despite the tall claims being made by the BJP State unit about gaining ground in Telangana, particularly Hyderabad, the ground reality presents a contrasting picture. Since the December 2023 Assembly elections, there have been two by-elections in Greater Hyderabad. The Secunderabad Cantonment by-election was held in 2024, followed by the Jubilee Hills by-election in 2025.

In both elections, the BJP failed to make a significant impact, while the

Congress emerged victorious. The Secunderabad Cantonment by-election was held on May 13, 2024, alongside the Lok Sabha elections. However, the BJP failed to win the seat. This was followed by the Jubilee Hills by-election in November 2025, where the BJP polled only 17,061 votes and finished a distant third.

Now, with Khairatabad by-election expected to be held soon, the BJP's ability to improve its performance has become a subject of discussion in political circles. After Ramchander Rao took charge as BJP State president in May

2025, the Khairatabad by-election will be the second election and an important test of his leadership.

The by-election will also be a test for union Minister G Kishan Reddy, as the Khairatabad Assembly constituency falls under the Secunderabad Lok Sabha constituency, which he represents. Against this backdrop, the Khairatabad by-election assumes significance for BJP ahead of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation elections, which have been due since January this year.

Several leaders are already showing interest in contesting the by-election.

record of switching loyalties also needed to be considered. Apart from Vijaya Reddy, Rohin Reddy is another probable candidate being discussed in Congress circles. This is mainly because of his close association with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. Rohin Reddy has also accompanied the Chief Minister to several major events, including overseas engagements, a party leader said.

The Chief Minister would want to leave his mark on the party's choice, the leader said. Compared to Danam Nagender, Rohin Reddy is much younger, which could also help the party promote young leadership, another leader observed. Amid these discussions, the high command will have to take the final call.

TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud has repeatedly maintained that the high command would decide the candidate. The Supreme Court has upheld Danam Nagender's disqualification, paving the way for the Khairatabad by-election.

He said the high command had been giving priority to women while selecting candidates for elections. There was no rule that Danam Nagender should be given another opportunity, he said, adding that his past

'Mudiraj quota promise pending'



BRS working president KT Rama Rao along with leaders of the Mudiraj Welfare Association of Rajanna Sircilla on Monday.

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao flayed the Congress government over the delay in implementing its promise to shift Mudiraj community from BC-D to BC-A category nearly three years after assuming power. He demanded that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy make a clear statement on the issue during his visit to Sircilla on September 30 and implement it without further delay.

He raised the issue when leaders of the Rajanna Sircilla district Mudiraj Welfare Association met him at Telangana Bhavan on Monday. Leaders belonging to

different political parties attended the meeting.

Rama Rao congratulated the Mudiraj leaders on the success of the recent Mudiraj Simha Garjana public meeting in Sircilla, which demanded their reclassification from BC-D to BC-A. He said the BRS would stand by the Mudiraj community until its demand was fulfilled and continue its fight for their rights.

The Mudiraj community leaders thanked Rama Rao for supporting their cause and said they would continue their agitation unitedly until the demand was achieved. They also felicitated him and presented him with a portrait of Goddess Peddamma Thalli.

BRS seeks details of Ponguleti probe

Leaders protest after cops stop them from entering ED office

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS MLAs, MLCs and other leaders staged a protest outside the Enforcement Directorate (ED) office at Basheerbagh here on Monday, after the police stopped them outside and prevented them from entering the office. They demanded the ED authorities to release details of the investigation into the searches conducted at the premises linked to Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy in September 2024.

The BRS leaders went to the ED office to submit a representation to the officials, seeking release of the investigation details, two years after the raids were conducted on the Minister's properties. After police obstructed them, BRS cadre staged a protest outside the office. Police later allowed the leaders to meet ED officials and submit the representation to Deputy Director Swathi.

MLAs KP Vivekanand and K Sanjay Kumar, MLCs Shambipur Raju and Naveen Reddy, BRS leader Talasani Sai Kiran Yadav and BRSV State president Gellu Srinivas Yadav were among those who participated in the protest.

In its representation, the BRS sought details of the searches conducted on Sep-



BRS MLAs, MLCs and other leaders staging a protest outside the ED office at Basheerbagh on Monday.

tember 27 and 28, 2024, at around 16 locations linked to Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy. The party asked the ED to disclose the present status of the investigation and details of any cash, documents, digital devices, bank accounts and other material seized during the searches.

The BRS also sought clarity on whether notices or summons were issued, whether a prosecution complaint had been filed and the status of any seized properties or other articles. The petition was submitted also

seeking updates on the investigations into the Narasapur Kodangal Lift Irrigation Scheme, Wattingapalli FIR and Kotwalguda-Manasa Hills matters on which the BRS had complained.

Speaking to the media later, the BRS legislators demanded that the Enforcement Directorate provide the information within 15 days and, if the investigation was still continuing, indicate a timeframe for further action.

With the cutout of the Minister sitting on a throne

of currency bundles, the BRS workers continued their protest and raised slogans against Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy outside the ED office after the leaders submitted their representation.

Earlier, BRS working president KT Rama Rao questioned the alleged silence of central agencies on the case. "Exactly two years since the Congress-BJP unholy nexus became official in Telangana," he posted on X, questioning why a Congress Minister was allegedly enjoying immunity.

Dalit BRS leaders attacked

STATE BUREAU
Sangareddy

Dalit BRS leaders of Malareddypet in Municipally mandal alleged that men working for a contractor, who were carrying gravel and other materials to a nearby road construction site, attacked them when they tried to stop heavy vehicles from passing through the village.

The BRS leaders, led by party village president Prem, asked the drivers of the heavy vehicles to avoid passing through the village as the roads were getting damaged. Since an alternative route was available outside the village, they suggested that the vehicles use it.

However, Prem alleged that the contractor's men attacked them while local SI Aravind remained a mute spectator.

BRS confident of retaining Graduates' MLC seat

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao expressed confidence that the party would retain the Hyderabad-Rangareddy-Mahbubnagar Graduates' MLC seat in the forthcoming elections and called on party leaders to focus on voter enrolment. He said the party had a favourable environment to retain the seat and urged leaders to ensure that every eligible graduate was enrolled as a voter.

Rama Rao held district-wise meetings with party leaders from Hyderabad, erstwhile Rangareddy and Mahbubnagar districts at Telangana Bhavan on Monday. Recalling the party's victory with former Prime Minister PV Narasimha

Rao's daughter Surabhi Vani Devi as its candidate in the previous election, the BRS working president attributed the win to the coordinated efforts of party leaders and asked them to replicate the same approach.

He called for a coordinated campaign irrespective of the party's candidate and asked leaders to work systematically on voter enrolment and strengthen the party's prospects in both Graduates' MLC constituencies. He said youth were increasingly dissatisfied with both the BJP at the Centre and the Congress in the State. He also alleged that government employees, unemployed youth and educated sections were unhappy with the Revanth Reddy government.

Rama Rao wanted party leaders to prioritise voter enrolment and ensure that eligible graduates, including members of party leaders' families, registered as voters. He also referred to a recent meeting with party leaders from erstwhile Warangal, Khammam and Nalgonda districts, where they expressed confidence about winning the other Graduates' MLC seat.

Meanwhile, the former Minister, who enrolled as a voter for the upcoming Graduates' MLC elections in Hyderabad on Monday, urged all eligible voters to register and exercise their franchise.

Rama Rao called upon graduates to fill in the relevant forms and register their names to fulfil their democratic duty.

Disaffection: Krishank appears before CCS

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS spokesperson Manne Krishank appeared before the Central Crime Station (CCS) on Monday in connection with a case registered under Section 3 of the Police (Incitement to Disaffection) Act, 1922. He demanded that the govern-

ment stop its alleged vindictive action against the opposition and respond to allegations of corruption against Congress leaders before the people.

Speaking to the media after the questioning, Krishank alleged that the Congress government was trying to suppress voices questioning it by invoking

colonial-era laws against opposition leaders. He said the government was threatening Telangana youth with police cases for playing songs associated with the BRS and its president, K Chandrashekhar Rao.

He said he would cooperate with investigations whenever summoned, but stated that cases, arrests,

threats to family members and police action at his residence could not silence opposition voices.

On allegations surrounding ED searches at the properties of Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy two years ago, he asked why both the Central and State governments were hesitant to make the details public.

Secretariat turning protest venue under Congress: Harish

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS Legislature Party deputy leader T Harish Rao lashed out at Congress government following protests by retired employees and contractors at the Dr BR Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat on Monday. He said the seat of administration had turned into a venue for public protests under the Congress government.

Reacting to the protests, Harish Rao asked why the bills of small contractors and dues of retired employees had remained pending for years despite repeated appeals. He alleged that payments were being made to big contractors while smaller contractors were

He asks why bills of small contractors and dues of retired employees have remained pending despite appeals

being forced to wait for months.

He recalled earlier allegations by contractors that 20-30 per cent commissions were being demanded for clearing pending bills and asked whether payments were being withheld because they had refused to pay commissions.

Harish Rao reminded the Congress government of its assurance to release the

dues of retired employees in May this year. He said employees and teachers who had retired after March 2024 were facing difficulties without their retirement benefits.

He asked how the government could claim to be delivering "Prajapalana" (people's governance) when retired employees with more than three decades of service had to protest at the Secretariat to secure their dues. He slammed the government over the alleged use of police to prevent people from raising their grievances at the Secretariat.

He demanded that the government listen to the concerns of retired employees and contractors and clear their pending dues.

HC tells college to refund student

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
Hyderabad

Justice Juvvadi Sridevi of the Telangana High Court has directed Guru Nanak Homoeopathic Medical College to refund Rs 3.32 lakh to a student whose admission was cancelled after she had already been allotted a seat and permitted to pursue the course.

The writ petition was filed by Done Shabari Priya, challenging the cancellation of her admission by the Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences. She sought setting aside of the cancellation proceedings and, alternatively, a direction to refund the Rs.3.32 lakh tuition fee paid by her. The petitioner had been al-

lotted a BHMS seat in the Guru Nanak Homoeopathic Medical College under the Management Quota pursuant to an allotment letter issued by the University on October 27, 2025.

Acting upon the allotment, she paid Rs. 3.32 lakh towards tuition fee and was permitted to pursue the course. Subsequently, the University cancelled her admission on January 23, 2026, stating that she had secured 128 marks in NEET against the required 144 marks.

Counsel appearing for the petitioner, Baglekar Akash Kumar, submitted that even if there was an error in granting the allotment, the petitioner could not be made to suffer financially.

With no road, Gollagudem students walk through fields

STATE BUREAU
Kothagudem

The students and staff of Mandal Parishad Primary School (MPPS) at Gollagudem of Sujatha Nagar mandal in the district are facing a strange predicament. The village falls under Kothagudem Municipal Corporation's 21st division.

Lacking a proper access road to the school, they have been forced to walk through muddy agricultural fields to attend classes for the past fifteen years. It is said that in 2011, residents of Gollagudem requested public representatives and officials to establish a school for their children, leading to the sanctioning of the primary school. But villagers faced



The school stands in the fields over 600 metres from a local road.

difficulty finding a suitable site for construction.

A village elder, Veerla Venkateswarlu, came forward offering to provide the land on the condition that the school had to be named after his wife Seethamma; officials agreed to this proposal. He was awarded the

construction contract and completed the building. He promised to provide a piece of land for an access road at time of school's construction but failed to do so. The individual and his family are cultivating cotton and paddy on that land every year, evading commitment.

India blank B'desh 10-0, face Pak in semifinals

KAKAMIGAHARA

Defending champions India blanked Bangladesh 10-0 amid heavy downpour in their final group fixture of the Asian Games here on Monday with captain Harmanpreet Singh scoring a hat-trick.

India finished on top of Pool A and set up a blockbuster semi-final against arch-rivals Pakistan on October 1. The other semi-final will be played between Malaysia and South Korea.

India dominated Pool A with wins over Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Japan, South Korea and Bangladesh â€“ finishing with a goal difference of +45. The team will now have a well-deserved two-day break before the all-important semifinals.

India's goals came via Abhishek (3), Jugraj Singh (22) Harmanpreet Singh (27, 40, 45), Sukhjeet Singh (32), Lakra Shilanand (44, 45), Sanjay (59) and Man-deep Singh (60).

Rain left the pitch and the players drenched, making movement difficult. But the much fitter Indian team was better prepared for the rain-hit conditions. The start of the match was delayed by 30 minutes. **PTI**

Ramraj breaks PT Usha's 42-year-old record

Wins bronze in 400m hurdles on a day of record medal haul for India at Asiad

NAGOYA

Gulveer Singh won his second silver of the ongoing Asian Games, while long jumper Murali Sreeshankar and javelin thrower Yashvir Singh also finished second in their respective events, capping India's six-medal haul on the penultimate day of the athletics competition on Monday.

Vithya Ramraj clinched a bronze in the 400m hurdles, adding to her medal of same colour from the last edition, and shattering the legendary PT Usha's 42-year-old national record in the process.

Rohit Yadav won his first major medal with a bronze in India's 2-3 finish in the men's javelin thrown event. Parul Chaudhary, however, could not defend her gold in the women's 5000m event, settling for a bronze at the Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium, which was soaked with rain for the third day on the trot.

It was a record medal haul day for India, but the wait for gold continues with just



India's Vithya Ramraj celebrates after winning bronze in women's 400 meter Hurdles final event in Nagoya, on Monday. —Photo: PTI

a day left in the competition.

Misfortune struck Sreeshankar, who had also won a silver in the last edition, as he hurt his ankle in his fourth jump and did not take the last two attempts. His

second round jump of 8.07m was, however, enough for him to win silver.

Shi Yuhao of China won the gold with a jump of 8.17m while Uzbekistan's Anvar Anvarov claimed the

bronze with an effort of 8.06m.

Gulveer, meanwhile, kept on adding medals in his cabinet with a silver in the men's 1500m with a personal best effort of 3:36.72. He had

already won a silver in the 10,000m in the ongoing edition. Kazuto Iizawa (3:36.35) of Japan won gold while compatriot Nagiya Mori won the bronze with an effort of 3:37.92.

Double podium finish in javelin: Yashvir wins silver, Rohit bronze

NAGOYA

The Indian duo of Yashvir Singh and Rohit Yadav produced superb efforts to secure the silver and bronze medals respectively as the country registered a double podium finish in the men's javelin throw competition at the Asian Games here on Monday.

Yashvir, the 24-year-old from Haryana, came up with a personal best of 85.72m in his sixth and last attempt to surpass fellow Indian Rohit Yadav and claim the silver medal.

Rohit, the 25-year-old from UP, threw the javelin



Rohit Yadav, right, and Yashvir Singh pose for photographs after winning bronze and silver medals respectively. —Photo: PTI

at 84.35m to bag the bronze medal. Sri Lanka's superstar Rumesh Pathirage claimed the gold with an effort of 88.33m.

Yashvir had won a bronze medal at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games this year, but Rohit could not finish on the podium there. **PTI**

Boxers Lovlina, Priya, Kapil enter semifinals

NISHIO (JAPAN)

Lovlina Borgohain's medal collection continued to swell as the seasoned Indian boxer assured herself of a second consecutive Asian Games podium finish by moving to the semifinals while Priya Ghanghas and Kapil Pokhariya too advanced to the last four stage here on Monday.

Lovlina notched a commanding 5-0 win over South Korea's Seong Suyeon in the women's middleweight (75kg).

Asian Championship gold medalist and reigning Commonwealth Games

champion Priya then came from behind to also register a unanimous decision victory over Tajikistan's Miigona Samadova in the 60kg quarterfinal.

Pokhariya, one of only three boxers to miss out on the podium at last month's Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, then out-punched South Korea's Kim Gichae 0-5 to storm into the men's 90kg semifinal.

Six Indian boxers including Parveen Hooda (65kg), Ankush Panghal (80kg) and Narender Berwal (+90kg) will thus return with medals from the continental tournament. **PTI**

Squash teams in quarters

NAGOYA

The Indian men's and women's teams on Monday marched into the quarterfinals of the Asian Games squash competition with the latter producing a gritty win over Japan here.

Indian women, seeded third, got past Japan 2-1 despite lead player Anahat Singh losing to world number six Satomi in five games.

The 17th ranked Anahat had beaten the world number six Japanese in the individual semifinals before finishing with a historic silver. Indian women, bronze medalists in previous edition, had beaten China 3-0 in their opening match. **PTI**

Dogged Esha saves the day in shooting

Battling pain, exhaustion her perseverance ends in silver

NAGOYA

Esha Singh fought through pain, exhaustion, and five nerve-wracking shoot-offs in a gruelling test of skill and temperament before settling for silver in the women's 25m pistol at the Asian Games on Monday.

It was a performance that demanded every ounce of her resilience and perhaps meant more to her than a gold medal.

The world No. 1 in the event, the 21-year-old Indian endured an aching arm and shoulder, survived a series of heart-stopping eliminations and pushed herself to the very limits in one of the most dramatic finals of the Games.

Even as the gold slipped through her grasp in a nerve-shredding shoot-off against China's Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist Jiariuxuan Xiao, Esha had already demonstrated the fighting spirit that has made her one of the most formidable young shooters on the international circuit.

Her silver was India's only individual medal from the shooting ranges on



India's Esha Singh during the 25m pistol women's individual shooting final. —Photo: IANS

Monday, but the manner in which she earned it made it a performance to savour.

In a final that swung between drama, exhilaration and heartbreak, Esha first survived three shoot-offs against North Korea's Kim Hyon Suk before engaging in two more against Xiao in the battle for gold. The Indian eventually bowed out after the two shooters were locked at 38 hits, equalling the Games record.

The silver added another chapter to Esha's growing Asian Games collection. **PTI**

Ankita-Rutuja beaten by Kazakhstan pair

NAGOYA

India's campaign in the women's doubles tennis event at the Asian Games 2026 ended in the opening round on Monday after Ankita Raina and Rutuja Bhosale were beaten by Kazakhstan's Anna Danilina and Yulia Putintseva in a closely fought three-set encounter in Nagoya.

The Indian combination made a strong start and edged the opening set 7-5, but Danilina and Putintseva recovered strongly to level the contest with a 6-3 second-set win. The Kazakh pair then held their nerve in

the deciding match tie-break, winning 10-5 to complete the comeback.

The result brought an early end to India's women's doubles challenge, although the tournament is not yet over for either Raina or Bhosale. The two Indians are also competing in the mixed doubles draw and will have another opportunity to extend their stay in the competition.

The Indian pair had initially put themselves in a strong position by claiming the opening set but could not convert that advantage into victory. The second set slipped away 3-6. **IANS**

Raichandani's double century puts India U-19 in charge

RAJKOT

Opener Lakshya Raichandani smashed an unbeaten double century as India Under-19s took a commanding 213-run first-innings lead over Australia Under-19s on the second day of the opening Youth Test here on Monday.

Raichandani remained

unbeaten on 210, studded with 20 fours and four sixes, as India reached 430 for eight at stumps after Australia were bowled out for 217 in their first innings.

The 17-year-old, who had scored an unbeaten 110 in the third Youth ODI against Australia earlier this month, continued his rich run of form with a dominant in-

nings in the longer format.

After India lost opener Sagar for 11, Raichandani anchored the innings through the day and took the attack to the Australian bowlers as wickets fell around him.

India lost eight wickets but Raichandani held firm to complete his double hundred and put the hosts firmly in control of the contest.

Raichandani, though, got good support from skipper Yashbardhan (54) and Mohit (58 not out), who made a handsome contribution while batting at number 10. Raichandani has already added 137 runs for the ninth wicket with Mohit, after having stitched 124 runs for the third wicket with Chauhan.

Earlier, Australia were dismissed for 217, with Blake's 102 being the stand-out contribution. Left-arm spinner Om claimed five wickets for 53 runs, while Mohit Ulva took three for 37.

Raichandani's marathon knock has given India a substantial first-innings advantage with two days still remaining in the match. **PTI**

HCA league: Varun cracks ton

SPORTS BUREAU

Hyderabad

A Varun Goud cracked a century (109 ret'd hurt, 133b,13x4,2x6) for Team A against Team B in the HCA senior men's practice match here on Monday.

The scores: Senior men's practice match: Team B 336 in 81 overs (Aryan Krishna 31, CTL Rakshann Readdi 3/54, Tanay Tyagarajann 3/94) vs Team A 324/4 in 69 overs (Tanmay Agarwal 62, A Varun Goud 109 ret'd hurt, HK Simha 62batting, CV Milind 70 batting)

Bengal under-23 team tour to Hyderabad:

Bengal 110 in 40.2 overs (Pranav Varma 5/37, Md Abdul Malik 3/28) vs Hyderabad 93/3 in 37 overs.

Under-19 men's practice match: Vinoo Mankad Team 288/8 in 45 overs (B

Varshith Reddy 38, Shaik Rehaan Roshan 42, P Advith Reddy 53, Durga Ujjwal 85, B Hishanth Prem Charan 3/36) lost to HCA XI 292/8 in 43.4 overs (Pranav Suryadevara 75, G Rithish Reddy 51, Parth Sharma 3/52).

Under-14 girls one-day league: Team-1 223/7 in 35 overs (Kajal Kumar 57, J Meenakshi 51, Rauthi Verni 44, Vallabdas Ritvika Goud 4/19) lost to Team-2 225/3 in 32.1 overs (Sura Gayatri Goud 57, Nama Vareesha 37, L Kovida Samanvi 45 not out).

Team-16 238 in 33.4 overs (G Venya 53, M Shree Nithya 55, V Vishvika 34) bt Team-15 163 in 30.2 overs (Sahasra B 30, Gagana Deepika 38no, Sai Deekshita 3/7).

Team-11 126 in 31.4 overs (Shacchi Thapa 3/17) lost to Team-10 127/4 in 21.5 overs

(Lakshmi Aadhya B 49no). Team-8 154/9 in 35 overs (Bhavishya Reddy 55, Soumya Sharma 3/4) lost to Team-6 157/3 in 19.3 overs (M Sri Chaitra 57).

Team-5 143 in 29.1 overs (N Neetha Shashwatha 72) lost to Team-7 144/6 in 28.1 overs (D Venya Patel 36no).

Team-3 164/8 in 35 overs (P Shanvi 50, A Adhira Moksha 3/33) lost to Team-4 165/5 in 17.4 overs (R Devi Priya 52, V Nikeshini 50, N Sahasra 3/11).

Team-12 193 in 32.2 overs (V Gnanaprasuna 44, Akshara Rathod 68, G Krithika Sree 3/25, C Siri Vennela 3/11) bt Team-9 143/4 in 35 overs (Zaina Baig 51).

Vanisha claims three gold medals in UK

SPORTS BUREAU

Hyderabad

Vanisha Surineni of Hyderabad delivered an outstanding performance at the AWPC World Powerlifting Championship 2026, held in Manchester, UK.

Representing India on the global stage, Vanisha showcased strength, determination and competitive spirit by participating in multiple events in the Women's Teen-2 (60kg) category, securing three gold medals.

In the highly competitive Women's Teen-2 (60kg) SBD event (Squat, Bench Press and Deadlift), Vanisha displayed remarkable all-round strength and lifted a combined total of 320kg, earning the gold medal and securing the top position.



Vanisha Surineni

Continuing her strong performance, Vanisha competed in the Women's Teen-2 (60kg) Only Deadlift event, where she lifted an impressive 150kg to claim another gold medal.

Vanisha completed her medal haul in the Women's Teen-2 (60kg) Only Bench Press event, where she lifted 40kg to finish first.

Railways win senior nationals

SPORTS BUREAU

Hyderabad

Indian Railways won the Senior national ball badminton championship for a record 12th time.

Railways defeated host Andhra Pradesh 35-23, 36-11

in the final at Srikalahashi.

Earlier, in the semifinal Railways scored a 35-29, 37-35 win against Tamil Nadu and then got the better of Puducherry 35-23, 35-20 in the quarterfinal.

Importantly, the Railways team, led by N. Kalai Selvan,

includes Ch. Vengala Rao, GP Vignesh, DV Ganesh, R. Rajesh, HR Sanjay, P. Karthik, VR Vithin Kumar, S. Karthik and Karthikraj.

The team was coached by K. Shashi Kumar of SCR and Ramana Murthy, also of SCR, was the manager.

From medium pace to left-arm spin, Sakshi charts new course

VV SUBRAHMANYAM

Hyderabad

Changing from a medium-pacer to an off-spinner and then settling down as a left-arm spinner was never easy for any bowler.

But Sakshi Rao did it with remarkable ease to leave a huge impact on the Hyderabad team. And when she features in the senior probables' matches for the forthcoming BCCI Senior Women's T20 Cricket Championship, she is, not surprisingly, determined to make another lasting impression with her performances on the field.

Interestingly, Sakshi got inspired to take up cricket after watching, apparently in huge disappointment, India lose the 2017 Women's World Cup final in England. "That was when I told my dad to put me in cricket. I



Sakshi Rao

started off at Daniel's Cricket Academy when I was 14 and then, after a few months, moved over to City Cricket Academy in Uppurapally, where my coach-mentor, Mohd Ahmed sir, has been guiding me," she said in a chat with Telangana Today.

One of the high points of Sakshi's career was her spell of six for 13 in 9.1 overs against Meghalaya in the 2024 BCCI Women's Under-

23 Trophy at Mulapadu.

For someone who looks back with pride at her four for 42 against the formidable Mumbai side in the 2024 BCCI Senior One-Day Tournament in Ahmedabad, when she dismissed the top-order batters, Sakshi, like many others, is dreaming of playing for India.

"Obviously, playing in ICC events is the ultimate goal. I know it is not going to be easy, but I am confident of making it," she said.

Sakshi believes that her strong points, besides her bowling, are her batting and fielding.

Sakshi, a BA final-year student of Dr BR Ambedkar College in the city, has been playing for Hyderabad consistently for both the Under-23 and senior teams. With this year being her last in the former age group, she is keen to give her best this season.