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Vikram-1 highlights VSEZ’s technological ecosystem

Skyroot Aerospace undertook its maiden orbital launch of Vikram-1 Visakhapatnam: Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone (VSEZ) congratulated Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited on the successful launch of Vikram-1, India’s first privately-built orbital launch vehicle, and highlighted the key role played by VSEZ under Mission Aagaman. The Skyroot Aerospace manufacturing unit set up in the SEZ in 2021 in the GMR Aerospace and Industrial Park SEZ in Hyderabad, comes under the administrative jurisdiction of VSEZ. The landmark mission represents a defining moment for India’s private space sector and the country’s growing capabilities in advanced technology manufacturing. Vikram-1 is Skyroot Aerospace’s orbital launch vehicle and India’s first privately developed rocket designed to attempt an orbital mission. Standing approximately seven storeys tall, the multi-stage launch vehicle uses an all-carbon composite structure and is powered by a suite of in-house developed propulsion technologies, including 3D-printed engines and high-thrust solid rocket boosters. to carry small satellites weighing up to 350-kg to Low Earth Orbit (LEO), the maiden mission aims to place payloads into a 450-km orbit at a 60-degree inclination. The flight-ready Vikram-1 was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November 2025 during the inauguration of Skyroot’s Infinity campus. Its successful launch demonstrates the capability of the Special Economic Zone ecosystem in supporting globally competitive, high-technology industries through world-class infrastructure, a conducive policy environment and ease of doing business. This achievement highlights the strategic role VSEZ played in facilitating investments in cutting-edge sectors such as aerospace, defence, electronics and advanced manufacturing. It also reflects the growing contribution of SEZs toward the objectives of Make in India, Aatmanirbhar Bharat, and the development of India as a global hub for high-value manufacturing and innovation. VSEZ congratulated the entire Skyroot Aerospace team on this historic accomplishment and wishes them continued success in strengthening India’s commercial space capabilities and enhancing the nation’s position in the global space economy.

Andhra Pradesh CM denies privatisation of Sub-Registrar Offices

Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu clarifies that new 'Registration Seva Kendras' are designed to improve public service, not privatise Sub-Registrar offices. Read how the government plans to streamline registration, manage the Deepam 2.0 scheme, and address administrative challenges like litigant petitions and El Nino-related agricultural risks. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday clarified that 'Registration Seva Kendras' (Registration Service Centres) are being established solely to provide better services to the people and directed officials to counter the misinformation that Sub-Registrar offices are being privatised. He asked officials to inform the public of the facts regarding the deliberate misinformation campaign. The CM reviewed the performance of various departments at the RTGS Centre in the State Secretariat on Monday. The issue of alleged privatisation of Sub-Registrar offices came up during the re-



view. Speaking on the occasion, CM Chandrababu said, "The government is firmly committed to providing better registration services to the public. We are establishing Registration Seva Kendras (RSKs) to make registration services much easier. This is by no means privatisation." Stating that these centres will function similarly to Passport Seva Kendras, he directed officials to explain

how Passport Seva Kendras operate and how the subsequent processes are handled. Passport processing became very easy after Passport Seva Kendras were introduced; Registration Seva Kendras will function in the same manner. The Chief Minister alleged that some people are deliberately spreading false propaganda regarding these centres.

YSRCP hands over compensation cheques to affected fishermen families



YSRCP district president KK Raju, along with other leaders handing over compensation cheques to affected fishermen families in Visakhapatnam on Sunday Visakhapatnam: As assured by the YSRCP president that the party would provide Rs.7 lakh compensation to each affected fisherman family who died in the recent fishing boat tragedy, the YSRCP leaders handed over cheques to seven families in Visakhapatnam on Sunday, including the lone survivor Karri Chinna. A total of Rs 49 lakh financial assistance was given to the affected families.

Employees hail CM for implementing OPS

MLC and Government Whip Vepada Chiranjeevi Rao with employees and public representatives in Visakhapatnam on Sunday Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has been consistently working for the welfare of government employees and teachers Employees ceremonially performed ‘palabhishekam’ to the portrait of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu as a mark of gratitude Visakhapatnam: MLC and Government Whip Vepada Chiranjeevi Rao on Sunday said that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu provided financial security to thousands of state government employees by implementing the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) through GO 53. Speaking as the chief guest at a felicitation meeting organised by North Andhra employees who were brought under the OPS framework after transitioning from the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS), he said the coalition government had ensured financial security for nearly 11,000 families through the implementation of the pension policy. Chiranjeevi Rao alleged that the state witnessed a difficult phase between 2019 and



2024, during which government employees faced several hardships, including delays in receiving Dearness Allowance (DA) arrears and medical reimbursements. He said the present government has taken measures to address long-pending employee welfare issues. Also Read - Andhra Pradesh CM denies privatisation of Sub-Registrar Offices Advertisement Discover more South Asians & Diaspora Indian Current Events News Aggregation Service The MLC said that the government has extended OPS benefits to employees and teachers who were recruited through the 2004 notification but joined service after 2004 due to technical reasons, thereby making them eligible for pension and related service benefits.

Indian missile technology enhances Indonesia’s strategic autonomy in broader Indo-Pacific region

India and Indonesia have bolstered their strategic partnership with a landmark \$630 million defense deal, including the procurement of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles. Explore how this agreement enhances maritime security in the South China Sea and reflects the growing diplomatic alignment between New Delhi and Jakarta amidst regional power shifts. India and Indonesia have demonstrated that close cooperation between major neighbours is possible without succumbing to divisions created by competing global powers. The ability of New Delhi and Jakarta to maintain strong ties with both Russia and the United States while pursuing national interests without becoming subordinate to either side reflects a diplomatic balancing act worthy of admiration, a report has stated.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Indonesia from July 6 to 8 emerged as the most significant leg of his six-day tour of Indonesia, New Zealand and Australia, as New Delhi and Jakarta bolstered their strategic partnership with a series of substantive agreements. During Prime Minister Modi's visit to Indonesia, the spotlight was on two major defence agreements expected to significantly enhance India's defence exports to the Southeast Asian nation.

Bank of India celebrates ‘Kisan Diwas 2026’



Bank of India, Visakhapatnam Zone, celebrated ‘Kisan Diwas 2026’ with grandeur in Visakhapatnam Visakhapatnam: Bank of India, Visakhapatnam Zone, celebrated ‘Kisan Diwas 2026’ with grandeur. The bank observes July month as ‘Kisan Mah’ and 19th July as ‘Kisan Diwas’, every year commemorating Bank’s Nationalisation Day. The event highlighted the bank’s strong engagement with the farming community. Mega Kisan camps were organised in Visakhapatnam, Rajahmundry and Tadepalligudem centres. At all other centres, the Kisan camps were organised at the branches.

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Language, land and legacy: Pertinent to protect Adivasi identity

Representational image The Adivasi identity rests on three foundational pillars: Language, land and legacy. For millennia, Adivasi knowledge has been rooted in forests, rivers, and mountains. This is not a set of outdated customs; it is an indigenous ecological philosophy in which the land is sacred; expressed through sacred groves, ancestral spirits, oral traditions, and seasonal festivals. In this framework, Adivasi societies have long served as essential stewards of ecology and social cohesion. Geographic Reference Language is the first pillar. Each Adivasi tongue holds nuanced names for plants, seasons, rituals, and kinship that cannot be translated without profound loss. Yet, today, Adivasi languages are among the most endangered in India. As younger generations migrate to towns and schools where dominant languages prevail, the use of mother tongues is declining. This decline is compounded by systemic stigma. Many educated Adivasi youth feel ashamed to speak their own language, as tribal tongues are often dismissed as “backward” in classrooms and workplaces. Consequently, many switch to dominant languages, severing the link with their elders. For the Koya-Gondi community, International Koya-Gondi Language Day, observed annually on July 21, serves as a vital reminder. Koya-Gondi is a sophisticated language of thought, culture, and memory, spoken by lakhs across Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha. Protecting it is not a sentimental appeal; it is a constitutional necessity. As of 2026, the inclusion of additional languages in the Eighth Schedule remains a subject of ongoing advocacy, with numerous communities—including those campaigning for Gondi/Koya—awaiting formal recognition. The Government of India must recognize Koya-Gondi as a major language and include it in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution to provide the dignity needed in education, administration, and media to ensure the language thrives. Land is the second pillar. In regions like Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Jharkhand, Adivasi traditions face mounting pressure. This is partly due to the expansion of external institutions, which often introduce worldviews that label local rituals and oral histories as obsolete, straining the social fabric that has historically allowed Adivasi communities to resist exploitation. This cultural pressure converges with the status of the 1/70 Act (Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Areas Land Transfer Regulation). While the Act is robust and continues to be enforced, it faces persistent legal pressure and ongoing judicial scrutiny rather than a single, definitive “do-or-die” trial in the Supreme Court. Also Read - 'Adivasis are original owners of India': Rahul Gandhi alleges erosion of tribal rights in Gujarat Discover more News Holidays & Seasonal Events Media Monitoring Service These ongoing judicial battles at the local and state levels, where private interests frequently seek to challenge or dilute its provisions, underscore that the protections afforded by the Fifth Schedule are not static; they require constant vigilance. If these protections are weakened, the constitutional promise to Adivasi people will be hollowed out, jeopardizing their status as distinct cultural and political entities.

Trainee IPS officer Uday Krishna Reddy attempts suicide amid sexual harassment allegations

Hyderabad: Trainee IPS officer Uday Krishna Reddy, who is facing allegations of sexually harassing a fellow trainee at the National Police Academy (NPA), allegedly attempted suicide. He was rushed to a private hospital in SR Nagar, where his condition is reported to be critical. The development comes a day after reports emerged that an internal inquiry committee of the NPA had found merit in the allegations against him. He had already been booked by the Attapur police based on a complaint filed by a woman trainee IPS officer. The complainant, a 30-year-old married trainee IPS officer from Karnataka, alleged that Uday Krishna Reddy sent her obscene messages, dragged her into a room, assaulted her by grabbing her hair, tried to strangle her, threatened her with a knife, and secretly recorded a private video. She further alleged that he used the video to blackmail her by sending it to her husband. Based on the complaint, Attapur police registered a case against Uday Krishna Reddy under multiple provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Information Technology Act. The investigation is underway. Meanwhile, the NPA's internal committee reportedly examined CCTV footage and other evidence before concluding that the allegations were substantiated. Following the inquiry, the academy placed Uday Krishna Reddy under suspension. Police had also issued notices to him in connection with the case. Before the alleged suicide attempt, he reportedly posted a WhatsApp status claiming he had done nothing wrong on Sunday.



Telangana braces for moderate to scattered showers between July 23 and 29



Hyderabad: Telangana is expected to witness moderate to scattered rainfall activity between July 23 and July 29, India Meteorological Department (IMD), New Delhi forecast has indicated. While several other parts of the country including Karnataka are expected to receive widespread rainfall, the IMD, New Delhi forecast has indicated that Telangana and coastal AP region will experience scattered to moderate rainfall. Overall, the forecast suggests that Telangana is expected to see rainfall levels trending toward the ‘below normal’ category between July 23 and 29. While there are no indications of heavy rainfall, the general public can expect respite from hot weather conditions. The IMD has indicated there is no probability of heat wave conditions or ‘warm nights’ across any part of the country between July 23 and 29, with temperatures likely to remain near normal levels. Meanwhile, the IMD, Hyderabad weather forecast on Monday has issued an alert over strong winds till July 24. “Strong surface winds up to 30-40 kmph are very likely to prevail at isolated pockets in remaining districts of Telangana,” IMD, Hyderabad said.

Banswada C-section complications: State inquiry team inspects Mother and Child Hospital

Nizamabad: The State government’s inquiry into the Caesarean section complications at the 100-bed Mother and Child Hospital in Banswada gathered pace, with an inquiry committee inspecting the facility where five new mothers fell critically ill after undergoing surgeries earlier this month. Narendra Reddy, executive engineer of Telangana Medical Services and Infrastructure Development Corporation (TGMSIDC) and a member of the inquiry committee, inspected the operation theatre, water supply tank, labour room and the structural quality of the hospital building. Hospital Superintendent Dr Vijaya Bhaskar briefed the team on the incident. Assistant Engineer Sagar Reddy accompanied the inspection. Narendra Reddy said the committee would submit its findings to the government after completing the inquiry. The incident came to light after five of the 10 pregnant women who underwent Caesarean sections on July 11 and 12 developed serious complications, including low platelet counts and urinary and kidney-related problems. They were shifted to the Government Hospital in Nizamabad, from where three women in critical condition were later referred to Nizam’s Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS), Hyderabad. Meanwhile, hospital authorities have suspended Caesarean procedures until the cause of the complications is established. Samples of medicines and other materials used during the surgeries have been sent for laboratory analysis as part of the investigation.



Telangana man booked for allegedly cheating, sexually exploiting woman on false promise of marriage

Kothagudem: A Telangana man was booked by Chhattisgarh police for cheating and sexually exploiting a woman by falsely promising to marry her. Initially a zero FIR was registered at Sukma police station on July 10, under Sections 69 (sexual intercourse obtained through deceitful means or a false promise to marry) and 318(4) (cheating) based on the complaint of the victim. It was transferred to Bhadrachalam town police station in Kothagudem for investigation on the point of jurisdiction. Subsequently, the local police registered an FIR against the accused Boda Soni Lal Naik of Housing Board Colony in Chunchupally mandal in the district. The complainant, who works as a teacher at a school in Sukma got married in the year 2017 and had an 8-year-old daughter. She was living separately from her husband since the year 2022 awaiting divorce. The accused lured the woman, who happens to be his school friend, into a sexual relationship, assuring her that he would help her obtain a divorce, marry her, adopt her daughter and support them throughout their lives. On February 29, 2024, Lal Naik took the woman to a hotel at Bhadrachalam, where he established physical relationship with her for the first time and continued it later while inducing the woman to pay him money by stating that the amount was meant for their future after marriage. Believing him, she paid him nearly Rs 2 lakh in several installments and also presented him with expensive gifts. Subsequently, the accused refused to marry her and neither returned the money nor the gifts. The complainant contended that the accused Lal Naik never intended to marry her or adopt her daughter, but had intentionally deceived her by making a false promise of marriage. The case is being investigated, Bhadrachalam police said.

Crafts Council of Telangana to host ‘Threads of Hope Bazaar’

Hyderabad: Crafts Council of Telangana (CCT) is organising ‘Threads of Hope Bazaar’, a special solidarity initiative dedicated to supporting artisans, craft communities, and small creative enterprises affected by the devastating fire that swept through Dastkar Nature Bazaar, New Delhi, earlier this year. The blaze destroyed stalls, inventories, and years of painstaking work, leaving numerous artisans facing severe livelihood challenges. The two-day bazaar will be held at CCT Spaces, MLA Colony, Off Road No 12, Banjara Hills on July 31 and August 1, 2026 from 10 am to 7 pm. The bazaar will bring together 26 artisan groups and creative enterprises directly impacted by the fire, representing a diverse spectrum of India’s craft heritage. Visitors can explore a collection of handcrafted products, including silk carpets, rugs, runners and cushion covers, Ajrakh and Bagru block prints, Banarasi handloom sarees, dupattas and stoles, Chikankari garments, Kantha and Lambani embroidery. Participating artisans and enterprises hail from craft-rich regions of India, including Kashmir, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Rajasthan, and West Bengal. The event will showcase sustainable and eco-conscious collections, women-led and artisan-driven enterprises, and traditional crafts reimaged for contemporary lifestyles.

Supreme Court to direct CBSE to make APAAR ID opt-out option explicit nationwide

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday said it would direct the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to implement the Orissa High Court’s ruling requiring an explicit “opt-out” option in the consent form for generation of APAAR (Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry) IDs. A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant, and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana, indicated that appropriate directions would be passed to ensure that the APAAR scheme remains voluntary and that parental consent forms clearly provide an option to refuse consent. “We will direct CBSE to implement this judgment on a pan-India basis... as the (Orissa) High Court order has been accepted. We are directing CBSE to examine the issues as well,” the CJI Kant-led Bench observed during the hearing. The apex court also clarified that CBSE circulars would remain subject to the prevailing law, including



the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023, and said the scheme would have to be implemented in accordance with the existing legal framework. The apex court was hearing a writ petition filed by the parents of four students challenging the constitutional validity of the APAAR ID scheme and the CBSE’s decision to require APAAR IDs for Board examination registration. Appearing for the petitioners, senior advocate Indira Jaising contended that although the government describes APAAR as a voluntary scheme, it is linked to Aadhaar and, in practice, compels stu-

dents to obtain Aadhaar in order to secure an APAAR ID. Arguing that the requirement effectively makes Aadhaar a precondition for education, Jaising submitted, “Right to education is not a targeted service. The right to education is a Constitutional right. Therefore, asking a child to get an Aadhaar and an APAAR for being sent up to exams is against the Constitution.” The petition also sought strict compliance with the DPDP Act while obtaining parental consent for APAAR enrolment, raising concerns over the collection, storage and processing of children’s personal data. During the hearing, the CJ Kant-led Bench asked whether the Orissa High Court’s judgment on the issue had been challenged. On being informed that it had not, the apex court said CBSE would be directed to implement the High Court’s directions across the country. The petition challenges the APAAR framework as an Aadhaar-linked, lifelong academic identifier, alleging that it creates a centralised digital architecture capable of long-term tracking and profiling of students. It contends that the scheme, though officially described as voluntary, is being implemented in a coercive manner by schools and education authorities, and that making APAAR mandatory for

Board examination registration violates the fundamental rights to privacy, education and decisional autonomy under Articles 21 and 21A of the Constitution. The plea further argues that the scheme lacks statutory backing, fails the tests of legality, necessity and proportionality laid down in the Supreme Court’s landmark K.S. Puttaswamy privacy judgment, and infringes the “right to be forgotten” by creating a cradle-to-career digital identity linked with Aadhaar. In December 2025, the Orissa High Court had held that while the authorities consistently maintained that the APAAR initiative was voluntary, the model consent form failed to reflect that position because it did not provide parents with an option to refuse consent at the outset. A single-judge Bench of Justice Sashikanta Mishra observed that the absence of an express opt-out clause undermined the voluntary nature of the scheme, observing that “the model consent form does not appear to have been happily worded” and that, if APAAR was intended to remain voluntary, parents should be given a clear option “to refuse to submit their consent or to opt out of it entirely”. The High Court consequently directed the authorities to amend the model consent form to incorporate an opt-out/refusal clause.

Revanth Reddy’s one lakh jobs promise remains unfulfilled after June 2026 deadline

Hyderabad: Like several other assurances, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy’s promise to fill one lakh government jobs by mid-June 2026 remains unfulfilled. In July last year, while launching the distribution of new ration cards in Nalgonda, the Chief Minister announced that the government would fill one lakh vacancies before completing two-and-a-half years in office, setting June 2026 as the deadline. Even though the deadline has passed, the promise remains unfulfilled. Given the State government’s financial situation, achieving the target now appears difficult. The Congress government has been claiming that it filled 70,000 government jobs after coming to power. However, the main Opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has disputed the claim, arguing that most recruitment notifications were issued and the process began during its tenure. On Saturday, BRS working president KT Rama Rao challenged the Chief Minister to produce details of the recruitment notifications supporting the claim of filling 70,000 jobs. He said he would retire from politics if the Chief Minister proved him wrong. Ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections, the Congress had made several promises to unemployed youth in its manifesto. These included filling two lakh government jobs within a year, providing a monthly honorarium of Rs 4,000 to unemployed youth, distributing electric scooters to women above 18 years pursuing higher education, and several other assurances. None of these promises has been fulfilled so far. The Congress had also promised to release an annual job calendar by June 2, listing vacancies across departments, and complete recruitments by September 17 every year. Although Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka released a job calendar in the Assembly in August 2024, recruitment notifications were rarely issued according to the schedule. Instead, both the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister claimed on several occasions that unemployed youth were urging the government to slow down the release of recruitment notifications. Amid these unfulfilled promises, unemployed youth continue to express disappointment.



Telangana orders fresh SET probe into Dharani and Bhu Bharathi

Hyderabad: With the Telangana Cabinet recently deciding to constitute a Special Enquiry Team (SET) to probe alleged irregularities in the Dharani and Bhu Bharathi platforms, the Revanth Reddy government has added yet another investigation to an already expanding list of probes. While including Bhu Bharathi appears intended to pre-empt allegations of a one-sided political exercise, the latest decision also fits a broader pattern of commissions, Special Investigation Teams (SITs), vigilance inquiries and anti-corruption probes, with no tangible outcome. The SET will examine the entire lifecycle of the land management system, from Dharani’s tendering process in 2020 to the present-day Bhu Bharathi portal, following forensic audits and pilot studies in Siddipet and Medak districts. Since December 2023, the Congress government has ordered or pursued investigations into nearly every major flagship initiative of the previous BRS regime. These include the judicial inquiry headed by Justice PC Ghose into the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme, the

ACB probe into the Formula-E race case, the SIT investigation into the phone-tapping case, inquiries into power purchases, alleged irregularities in the sheep distribution and fish seed distribution schemes, land transactions, mining issues and several other decisions taken during the previous government. However, despite nearly three years of investigations, the outcomes have remained limited. Most cases continue to be at various stages of investigation, forensic examination or litigation, with few reaching finality or resulting in convictions. Even the Justice PC Ghose Commission, projected as the government’s flagship inquiry into the Kaleshwaram project, has faced legal scrutiny. The Telangana High Court raised questions over aspects of the Commission’s functioning and report, including issues relating to procedure and the manner in which adverse findings were recorded against individuals, resulting in further legal proceedings and delaying any final closure to the issue.

Hyderabad SIR digitisation crosses 40%; Chandrayangutta leads, Musheerabad lags

Hyderabad: The digitisation of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls picked up in all 15 assembly constituencies in Hyderabad district, with Chandrayangutta continuing to top the digitisation of enumeration forms. The latest status report as of Monday morning from the District Election Office, Hyderabad, indicated the pace was picking up in the district. While Chandrayangutta assembly constituency was at the forefront in terms of digitisation, Musheerabad assembly constituency lagged behind other assembly constitu-

encies in digitisation, with 35.44% digitisation completed. Secunderabad Cantonment, which registered a low percentage until last week, has now picked up in digitisation. Sources in the GHMC told ‘Telangana Today’ that, as of now, digitisation of enumeration forms had been completed for 18,99,895 electors out of 47,39,669 electors across 15 assembly constituencies, with overall digitisation in Hyderabad district reaching 40.15%. Meanwhile, the Absent, Shifted, or Dead (ASD) electors, across all 15 assembly constituencies, were identified as 2,35,441 electors after the



completion of the distribution of enumeration forms. Yakutpura assembly constituency stood at the top with 33,864 ASD electors, while Amberpet registered a low of 5,872 ASD electors, who have still not collected the enumeration forms. Regarding online, the officials said that so far, the Booth Level Officers (BLOs) have received 4,44,932 enumeration forms, of which 4,22,922 enumeration forms have been verified.

Assembly-wise digitisation in Hyderabad district up to 10 am on July 20

City & Local Guides	Assembly constituency: Digitisation in per cent
Musheerabad:	35.44 %
Malakpet:	37.00 %
Amberpet:	36.19 %
Khairatabad:	39.24 %
Jubilee Hills:	37.00 %
Sanathnagar:	36.27 %

Telangana borrowings touch 37.5 per cent of annual Budget target in first quarter

Hyderabad: Telangana’s finances continued to rely heavily on debt during the first quarter of 2026-27, with borrowings touching nearly 37.5 per cent of the annual Budget estimate by the end of June itself. Revenue receipts registered only a marginal improvement over the corresponding period last year, notwithstanding the State government’s efforts to improve its coffers. As per the latest report

by the Comptroller and Auditor General, the State mobilised Rs 21,919.23 crore through borrowings and other liabilities in the first three months against the annual estimate of Rs 58,458.71 crore, accounting for 37.5 per cent of the full-year target. This was almost identical to the 37.52 per cent recorded during the same period last year. In contrast, revenue receipts stood at Rs 42,525.96 crore, or



17.63 per cent of the Budget estimate of Rs 2.41 lakh crore, compared to 16.2 per cent during the corresponding period of the last fiscal.

Three minor girls missing from Hyderabad’s Domalguda; police launch massive search

Hyderabad: Three minor girls went missing from Domalguda, creating panic among their family members and prompting police to launch a large-scale search operation. According to police, the girls, who belong to migrant worker families from Chhattisgarh and live in Farid Basti, left their homes on Sunday and did not return. Concerned about their whereabouts, family members searched for them before filing a complaint that night. Officials who examined the CCTV footage have found that the girls boarded an auto-rick-

shaw from Himayatnagar and later reached Kacheguda Railway Station. Additional footage reportedly showed them at Secunderabad Railway Station, leading police to believe they may have travelled out of the city. Following the lead, special police teams have been formed to trace the girls. Officials are also examining the surveillance footage, coordinating with railway authorities, and alerting police units in neighbouring districts and Chhattisgarh to determine whether the children attempted to return to their native place.

Power staff stage protest against Yadadri plant privatization in Jagtial

Electricity employees under the banner of the Telangana Power Employees Joint Action Committee (TGPEJAC) staged a protest wearing black badges at the Divisional Engineer (DE) Office premises in Jagtial on Monday. The protest was organized against the state government's decision to invite tenders for privatizing the operations of the Coal and Ash Handling units at the Yadadri Thermal Power Plant. Responding to a call given by the TGPEJAC state leadership, electricity workers and staff arrived at the DE office on Monday morning wearing black badges to register their opposition. During the lunch hour, employees gathered in large numbers in the office compound and raised strong slogans against privatization moves in the power sector. Speaking on the occasion, TGPEJAC leaders condemned the government's attempt to hand over vital operations of profitable public sector power utilities to private entities. They stated that privatizing key sections like



coal and ash handling poses a severe threat to the rights of workers as well as the long-term survival of public sector power distribution companies. The union leaders demanded that the government immediately scrap the tender process. They warned that if the government fails to withdraw the decision, the union would intensify its protests across the state. TGPEJAC Secretary General Ramjee Naik, Convenor Armulla Prasad, Assistant Engineers (AEs) Sundar Satish and Shankar, along with a large number of division-level power employees, technicians, and staff participated in the demonstration and expressed their solidarity.

BLOs step up efforts to collect SIR enumeration forms after ECI deadline extension



Hyderabad: After the Election Commission of India (ECI) extended the date for SIR exercise, the BLOs have been busy tracking electors to collect filled-in enumeration forms. The activity focused on all the assembly constituencies, with BLOs approaching electors to ensure the forms were collected after being filled in. A BLO of the Jubilee Hills assembly constituency said that in several instances, they were unable to collect the filled-in enumeration forms, despite visiting the houses of electors more than three times. "We are now tracking their contact numbers. On the other hand, we are contacting the resident welfare association

(RWA) concerned and urging them to submit the enumeration forms," another BLO said. A few BLOs said they were contacting neighbours of the electors to submit the enumeration forms. Electors were also requested to contact the BLOs in person if they had any doubts while filling out the enumeration forms. BLOs admitted that the enumeration forms activity picked up after ECI announced a revised SIR schedule. "Before announcing it, we have completed the distribution of enumeration forms and are now concentrating on the collection of filled-in forms from the electors," a BLO said.

SIR: Kadiyams seek top spot for Station Ghanpur

Hanumakonda: Warangal MP Dr Kadiyam Kavya and former Deputy Chief Minister and Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiyam Srihari called upon Congress leaders and party workers to ensure that Station Ghanpur Assembly constituency secures the first position in the State in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. They were addressing a review meeting with SIR cluster in-charges, Mandal Congress presidents and sarpanches at Station Ghanpur town. Speaking on the occasion, the MP stressed that the voter list revision should be carried out with utmost responsibility so that not a single eligible voter is left out. She said nearly 80 per cent of the process had been completed, while voter mapping had reached 94 per cent. Srihari



added Station Ghanpur constituency is currently ranked fourth in the State and expressed confidence that it could secure the top position by completing at least 95 per cent enumeration by July 25. He announced that another constituency-level review meeting would be held at 3 pm on July 25 and directed all concerned to attend with a comprehensive progress report.

MLA Naini on Kazipet coach factory jobs

Hanumakonda: Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy demanded that jobs to be filled in the upcoming Kazipet Railway Coach Factory should be treated as the opportunity of local youth and that the Central Government should formulate a policy ensuring first priority for them in recruitment. He also urged the government to provide preference in employment to families who had lost their land for the coach factory project and ensure justice to unemployed youth from the region. The MLA participated in and extended solidarity to the padayatra organised by the Railway Joint Action Committee (JAC) and various people's organisations from Madikonda to Kazipet Railway Junction on Sunday. Addressing the gathering, he said the Kazipet Railway Coach Factory, for which the people of Warangal have been waiting for decades, should become a milestone in the industrial development of the region and create meaningful employment opportunities for local youth. He asserted that the benefits of employment generated by the factory should first



reach the youth of the region. Also Read - Perini dance is a symbol of state's cultural pride: Naini Advertisement He demanded that the majority of the nearly 3,000 jobs expected to be created in the coach factory should be reserved for youth from the erstwhile Warangal district. He called upon all political parties and people's organisations to support the decisions of the Railway JAC and strengthen the movement to protect the rights of local people. The MLA suggested that the government should organise special skill development programmes for unemployed youth who lack the technical qualifications required for the jobs.

CPM Demands Union Education Minister’s Resignation Over NEET Paper Leak, Condemns Action Against Sonam Wangchuk

Bhadrachalam: The Communist Party of India (Marxist) on Monday demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, holding him accountable for the alleged NEET examination paper leak, and condemned the Centre's handling of environmental activist Sonam Wangchuk's hunger strike. Holidays & Seasonal Events Addressing a protest organised by the CPM Bhadrachalam town committee at the Martyrs' Memorial near Ambedkar Centre, CPM state committee member AJ Ramesh alleged that the NEET paper leak had jeopardised the future of nearly 2.2 million students who appeared for the examination. He claimed that several students had suffered severe mental distress due to the controversy and demanded that the Union Education Minister accept moral responsibility and step down. Ramesh also criticised the Centre for allegedly ignoring protests held over the past several weeks at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi by student organisations and other groups demanding accountability over the issue. Parliament march Advertisement Discover more Real-time News Feed Hyderabad Water Management Media Monitoring Service Condemning the government's response to Sonam Wangchuk's indefinite hunger strike, Ramesh alleged that the activist was forcibly removed from the pro-



test site and shifted to a hospital despite ongoing efforts to resolve the issue. He described the action as undemocratic and said Wangchuk was continuing his fast from the hospital. The CPM leader further alleged that party General Secretary MA Baby was prevented by police from meeting Wangchuk at the hospital. He said protests would continue until the Centre responded to the demands and introduced reforms to address shortcomings in the education system. The demonstration was presided over by CPM Bhadrachalam town secretary Gaddam Swamy. District leaders MB Narsa Reddy, Karam Pullaiah, Bandaru Sharath Babu, Erramshetty Venkata Ramarao, P. Santosh Kumar, Nadella Leelavathi, Nakirekanti Nagaraju, Ajay Kumar, Kolagani Ramesh, Dhanakonda Raghavaiah, D. Kanaka Sri, Korada Srinivas, Sandra Bhupendra, senior leader MVS Narayana and others participated in the protest.

JioStar to launch six Bigg Boss editions this festive season; unveils India’s Bigg Reality coffee table book

Hyderabad: JioStar has announced the simultaneous launch of six editions of its flagship reality show Bigg Boss across Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Bangla during the festive season, beginning in September 2026. The company also unveiled India’s Bigg Reality, a first-of-its-kind coffee table book documenting the franchise’s two-decade journey, cultural influence and marketing impact. The six editions will air on the JioStar television network and stream on JioHotstar. Returning hosts include Salman Khan, Vijay Sethupathi, Nagarjuna, Kichcha Sudeepa and Mohanlal, while former Indian cricket captain Sourav Ganguly joins the franchise as the Bangla edition host. Accord-



ing to JioStar, the franchise reached more than 500 million viewers in 2025, generated over 438 billion viewing minutes and recorded a 47% year-on-year increase in engagement across six language editions. More than 625 brands across 46 categories, including 49 first-time advertisers, partnered with the show during the year.

‘Jana Nayagan’ set for grand global release amid massive fan frenzy

Chennai: The re-edited ‘Jana Nayagan’- the final film of C Joseph Vijay before he took charge as Tamil Nadu chief minister in May-is set for a grand global release on July 23, its production house KVN has said, amid mounting excitement among fans.

The production house announced bookings for the film across nearly 8,000 screens globally, spread across 30 countries and Indian states, and bookings surged at remarkable speed. According to a source, over 3,500 shows are planned in Tamil Nadu for the movie, which has a total runtime of 3 hours and 3 minutes. The number is expected to increase, the source added. On the massive anticipation surrounding ‘Jana Nayagan’, a source in the Theatre Owners Association said there was “tremendous pressure” for ticket bookings in the state. Theatres were struggling to accommodate the high demand, he added. On box office expectations, he said there was a possibility of the film entering the Rs 1,000 crore club. The film’s journey to certification was marred by significant delays, legal interventions and piracy issues. “Film leak” won’t hurt the industry or producers, he said, adding that such leaks do not reduce theatrical audiences as people would still prefer to watch a film in a theatre. Booking for the film opened to a massive response, with Rs 10.60 crore in tracked advance ticket sales recorded within hours. Tamil Nadu, where pre-sales began on July 19, reported phenomenal bookings, with single screens and multiplexes together selling over 90,000 tickets within hours of the window opening. In Chennai, Kamala Cinemas sold over 10,000 tickets within minutes of opening the portal, and Mayajaal Multiplex sold out 48 shows in less than an hour. The state government has capped ticket prices at Rs 190 in Chennai to regulate the fan frenzy and ensure the safety of the people. ‘Jana Nayagan’ is scheduled to be screened across 900 screens in Tamil Nadu. Despite an earlier leak, the film has continued to draw great interest. Film producer Venkat K Narayana confirmed the theatrical release on July 23 and said the film underwent modifications, including an update to the title card on posters to reflect Vijay’s position as the CM. The film has generated huge excitement, being widely seen as Vijay’s farewell to cinema as he now devotes himself full-time to politics. The KVN Productions head, sharing updates with the media, said the version audiences will see in theatres will be drastically different from the cut submitted to the Censor Board last year. The seven-month delay was used to add fresh footage, new songs and multiple modifications. In the film’s official title card, Vijay is described as “the Honourable Chief Minister of Tamil



Nadu” instead of merely as an actor. Direct references and nods to his political party, the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, have also been worked into the final cut. The Central Board of Film Certification had ordered nearly 20 seconds of cuts, 10 seconds of replacement footage, and muted religious references. Narayana described the CM as “an emotion for people across the globe,” saying Vijay’s journey from film icon to the state’s real-life leader had turned the film’s release from a mere movie launch into a “mammoth cultural and historical milestone.” The film is being released in multiple languages, with the titles adjusted to account for existing trademark rights-it is ‘Janeta’ in Hindi, ‘Janayaku’ in Telugu and ‘Janayak’ in Kannada. Narayana confirmed that he discussed the release date and promotional plans with Vijay. In Coimbatore, Prohibition Minister K Vignesh, accompanied by his supporters, TVK functionaries and sanitation workers, took part in a clean-up drive in the Kinathukadavu area. He later told reporters that Vijay’s fans always took part in such activities during the launch of Vijay’s films. “We are continuing the tradition,” he added.

Tamil Nadu Minister and TVK general secretary N Anand appealed to party workers, ministers, MLAs and district secretaries to celebrate the film’s release as a “grand festival.” He issued specific instructions on decorating theatres screening the film, in line with party guidelines, to ensure fans and the public watch it with great enthusiasm, given that ‘Jana Nayagan’ marks Vijay’s final outing. ‘Jana Nayagan’, directed by H Vinoth, features a prominent ensemble cast, such as Pooja Hegde, Bobby Deol, Mamitha Baiju, Gautham Vasudev Menon, Prakash Raj and Narain. The project has music by Anirudh Ravichander, cinematography by Sathyan Sooryan, and editing by Pradeep E Ragav. Ahead of the release, KVN Productions said on X: “Tested by fire. Forged by time. Built for history. The tougher the battle, the louder the victory.”

Mahesh Babu, Namrata Shirodkar and Shilpa Shirodkar share heartfelt birthday wishes for Sitara

New Delhi: India and Spain have agreed to advance technical discussions on interoperability between India’s Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Spain’s Bizum digital payments platform, according to a statement issued by the Commerce Ministry. The issue was taken up during Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal’s visit to Spain as part of his four-nation tour to Europe from July 13 to 18. Goyal held productive discussions with Carlos Cuerpo Caballero, First Vice-President and Minister of Economy, Trade and Business, and Jordi Hereu Boher, Minister of Industry and Tourism. He proposed an annual India-Spain Joint Commission meeting with business participation, while Spain proposed establishing a dedicated “India Team” to facilitate bilateral engagement. The two countries have also identified significant opportunities for collaboration in automobiles, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, textiles, renewable energy, tourism and infrastructure. Discussions also covered investment facilitation, mobility of professionals and joint investments in Latin America, leveraging Spain’s strategic position as India’s gateway to Europe and Latin America. The minister welcomed the flagship C-295 aircraft programme under the ‘Make in India’ initiative and the progress made on the Migration and Mobility Partnership and Social Security Agreement. Addressing the India-Spain Business Forum, Goyal called upon businesses to forge early partnerships to maximise opportunities arising from the India-EU FTA and outlined an ambitious “10×10×10” vision to increase bilateral trade, investment and tourism tenfold over the next decade.

In Brussels, Goyal co-chaired the



3rd India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) Ministerial Meeting. He welcomed the adoption of the 2026-27 TTC Action Plan and the listing of 21 additional Indian fishery establishments, taking the total number of approved Indian establishments to 625. India also raised the issue of listing Indian ship recycling yards and proposed launching an India-EU dialogue on skills, education and talent mobility. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to work towards the early signing and implementation of the India-EU FTA. The discussions also covered negotiations on the Investment Protection Agreement and the Geographical Indications Agreement, cooperation on the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), regulatory simplification, market access for agricultural products, duty derogation for Basmati rice, steel scrap etc. In Finland, Goyal met Riikka Purra, Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, and Sakari Puisto, Minister of Economic Affairs. The discussions focused on expanding cooperation in artificial intelligence, 6G, quantum technologies, clean energy, the circular economy, advanced manufacturing and innovation.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu recalls telling Karan Johar he set unrealistic expectations about marriage

Mumbai: Southern beauty Samantha Ruth Prabhu called filmmaker Karan Johar the reason for unhappy marriages during her debut appearance on the popular chat show, ‘Koffee with Karan,’ in the 7th season of the show. As Samantha shared the ‘Koffee with Karan’ couch with Akshay Kumar, she pointed out that Karan was, on some level, the reason for not-so-happy marriages across the country. “You are, on some level, the reason for unhappy marriages”, the ‘Yashoda’ actress said. Samantha went on to explain that Karan has set unrealistic expectations regarding the concept of marriage with his movies. “Because you have marketed this idea of marriage and wedding lehengas and wedding songs and, you know, from our youth, and you have, like, portrayed life to be ‘K3G’ when in fact, the reality is ‘KGF’,” the ‘Kushi’ actress went on to explain. On the personal front, Samantha is all set to embrace motherhood as she will be welcoming her first child with her filmmaker husband, Raj Nidimoru soon. Samantha recently confirmed her pregnancy with her filmmaker husband. As she addressed the media during the success meet of her latest release ‘Maa Inti Bangaaram’, Samantha stated that she will be taking a maternity break. “After Maa Inti Bangaaram, I will have to take a small break, given my condition. I’ll have to take maternity leave. After that, I’ll be back with another film for my fans,” Samantha shared. For those



who do not know, Samantha got married to filmmaker Raj Nidimoru, one-half of the popular director duo Raj & DK, in December last year. According to the reports, Samantha first met Raj as they were shooting the Amazon Prime Video series, “The Family Man 2”, in which she played a powerful role. This is Samantha’s second marriage. She was earlier married to actor Naga Chaitanya. After dating for some time, the duo decided to tie the knot in October 2017. However, they announced their separation in October 2021.

Nathan Smith wins ICC Men’s Player of the Month award for June 2026 after Test series heroics in England

New Delhi: New Zealand seamer Nathan Smith was on Monday named the ICC Men’s Player of the Month for June 2026 following his superb performances during the 2-1 Test series victory over England. Smith, 27, played a pivotal role in New Zealand’s historic Test series triumph on English soil by picking 16 scalps at an average of 23. With several frontline New Zealand quicks sidelined due to injuries, Smith remarkably stepped up to lead a depleted bowling attack and delivered under pressure. The Kiwi pacer claimed the prestigious monthly honour ahead of fellow nominees, India captain Shubman Gill and Bangladesh all-rounder Mossadek Hossain. “This is really special. It was a great tour of England for the boys, and this is pretty cool. I don’t usually play for individual awards, but it’s nice to receive this recognition and, more importantly, to have contributed to a series win. “Personally, it was really satisfying to contribute to the win. That’s all I want to do for New Zealand – try as hard as I can and contribute in whatever way I can. Unfortunately, we had a



few injuries during the series, so I had to step up and open the bowling. “It’s something I’ve done in domestic cricket and a little bit for New Zealand before, but it was nice to shoulder the responsibility and bowl a few overs with the new ball,” Smith said in an ICC statement on Monday. His standout performance came during the opening Test at Lord’s, where he dismantled the hosts with a brilliant return of 6-70 in the second innings, concluding a memorable match with nine wickets.

Saba Karim highlights pace dilemma and spin needs after India’s ODI series loss to England

New Delhi: Former India wicketkeeper-batter Saba Karim believes India’s batting unit emerged with plenty of positives from the ODI series against England, but says the team’s immediate priority should be settling on a pace attack capable of delivering in Jasprit Bumrah’s absence and fine-tuning combinations ahead of future assignments. Assessing India’s performance after England claimed the three-match series 2-1, Karim said the top order had answered several important questions, with Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill both making significant contributions. “India have ticked several boxes. Rohit’s century put an end to all the speculation surrounding him. Shubman Gill scored runs, batted with great positivity and showed impressive leadership. So, I don’t see any major issues with the batting,” Karim told JioStar. While expressing confidence in the batting group, Karim said India’s bowling department still requires greater clarity, particularly regarding the pace attack if Bumrah is unavailable. “India’s focus now should be on identifying the pace bowling attack if Jasprit Bumrah isn’t available. In these conditions, our young and inexperienced pace bowlers struggled



a bit. That’s why the upcoming five-match ODI tour of New Zealand will be a real test to evaluate these combinations,” he added. Karim also stressed the importance of having a wicket-taking wrist spinner in the side and urged the team management to adopt a more conditions-based approach while selecting the playing XI. “You need a wrist spinner who can provide wickets in the middle overs, whether that’s Kuldeep Yadav or someone else is a different discussion. India need to dive deeper into their planning according to the opposition, the conditions and the ground dimensions and then take the field with the right resources and the right combination,” he stated. India’s bowling attack came under pressure throughout the deciding ODI at Lord’s as England amassed 387/5 before defending the total to seal the series.

Donald Trump booted during FIFA World Cup trophy presentation after Spain’s victory

New York: US President Donald Trump and FIFA chief Gianni Infantino faced jeers from spectators upon taking the field to present the World Cup trophy, following Spain’s victory in the final, before the US president attempted to gatecrash Spain’s victory party. Trump arrived at the stadium on Marine One, with the president’s helicopter first flying over the stadium about 45 minutes before kick-off. He received “scattered boos” following the performance of the U.S. national anthem when Trump was briefly shown on the stadium’s video boards, according to The Guardian. Trump was seated in a suite behind thick glass with Infantino. Other dignitaries and former players sat nearby, including Spain’s king, Felipe VI, Canada’s prime minister, Mark Carney, and Mexico’s president, Claudia Sheinbaum. However, when the US president and Infantino came on to the field for the presentation after Spain clinched victory, boos rang out around the stadium and ambient crowd noise rose to 84 decibels when Trump entered the field. The situation grew more awkward following the trophy presentation when Trump attempted to remain on the stage to join the Spanish squad’s celebrations. In a video circulating all over



social media, Spain player Rodri initially nudged the US President to step aside before Infantino stepped in to guide him toward the edge of the podium. Despite the intervention, Trump remained standing alongside the players during the team’s victory festivities. Earlier, the summit clash descended into chaos immediately after the final whistle, with players exchanging punches and Argentina midfielder Leandro Paredes grabbing Spain’s Eric Garcia by the throat. Beyond the clash with Garcia, Paredes tackled Gavi to the ground, shoved him in the face, and seemed to kick a boot toward the 21-year-old Barcelona midfielder. At the same time, Molina appeared to swing a punch at Rodri, causing the Spanish captain to stop and angrily confront the Argentine defender.

Irfan Pathan says Virat Kohli’s legacy is bigger than scoring runs at Lord’s

New Delhi: Former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan believes Virat Kohli’s reputation does not hinge on scoring runs at Lord’s, saying the batting great has already proven himself across the world and that his latest half-century should be appreciated for the quality of the innings rather than the venue where it came. Kohli struck 74 in India’s chase of 388 in the third ODI against England at Lord’s, sharing a crucial partnership with Rohit Sharma before the visitors eventually fell 27 runs short as England clinched the three-match series 2-1. Questioning the significance often attached to performances at the historic venue, Pathan said Kohli’s legacy has long been established. “I’ve always wondered why it’s considered so important to score runs at Lord’s. Virat has scored runs everywhere in the world. It might be a prestige thing, but if this half-century hadn’t come, would his importance in world cricket, or Indian cricket, have diminished? Absolutely not. Whether he scores runs at Lord’s or not shouldn’t be given that



much importance, especially from an Indian fan’s perspective. Virat Kohli was a master, and he will remain a master,” Pathan told JioStar. Pathan also highlighted Kohli’s awareness during the chase, noting how the former India captain adjusted his approach as the required run rate climbed in the latter stages of the innings. “In this game, though, the way he batted stood out. Once he got to around 45, he knew he had to switch gears because of the required run rate.

“You can never write a champion off”: Saina Nehwal praises P.V. Sindhu’s Japan Open triumph

New Delhi: Indian badminton great Saina Nehwal is impressed with PV Sindhu’s improved attack, and said the Japan Open triumph showed the two-time Olympic medallist still has it in her to win more titles as champions can never be written off. The 31-year-old Sindhu clinched her maiden Super 750 title at the Japan Open after defeating three-time world champion Akane Yamaguchi of Japan in straight games in the women’s singles final in Tokyo on Sunday. It was her biggest title since winning the 2019 World Championships. Her previous titles came at the 2022 Singapore Open Super 500 and the 2024 Syed Modi International Super 300. “The last 2-3 years were actually very tough. She was trying to come out of the injuries but the way she has come out of it... the Super Series win that she won yesterday after defeating three or four top players here. And quite comfortably, she has attacked very hard. Her attack has improved a lot,” Saina said. “So, that shows that, obviously, there are opportunities to win. But as you age, with injuries, you have to tackle it well. So, it is stressful when you play at that level. So, I am sure she is going through a little bit of stress and pressure. “But I think after winning this, she has got her confidence back. And you can never write a champion off. She is always going to come back and do well. She has played at that level for so many years.” The 2012 London Olympics bronze medallist also hoped the younger crop of players would achieve consistency. “I think a lot of youngsters who

are playing well, they have to come and win. Because consistency is very important in badminton,” she said on the sidelines of a Niva Bupa event. “That’s why I think we are the second most loved sport. Because there is a lot of consistency. So, just the juniors have to look forward to the next championship. And doing well there is important.” India will host the Badminton World Championships from August 17 to 23, marking the return of the event to the country after 17 years, and Saina said the hosts have players capable of winning medals at home. She also hoped the tournament would be conducted smoothly. “I am very happy after so many years India is hosting the World Championships. As we see Sindhu is in great form. She won the Japan Open yesterday, played extremely well,” said Saina, who won silver and bronze at the 2015 and 2017 World Championships respectively. “And Lakshya is playing extremely well. We have great players who are, I think, capable of winning it in India in front of our home crowd. And at the same time, quite a few youngsters also will be there in participation. “But I just hope that it will be one of the finest championships in the world. And I don’t have any complaints about how it was in the India Open. I just want it to go smoothly and perfectly.” Saina’s comments come in the backdrop of the India Open Super 750 in January, which was marred by complaints over pollution and hygiene, besides incidents of pigeons and monkey sightings inside the venue.

Gold futures climb Rs 294 to Rs 1.41 lakh per 10 gm on MCX

New Delhi: Gold prices on Monday increased by Rs 294 to Rs 1,41,200 per 10 grams in futures trade as speculators created fresh positions on a firm spot demand. On the Multi Commodity Exchange, the yellow metal contract for August delivery traded higher by Rs 294,

or 0.21 per cent, at Rs 1,41,200 per 10 grams in a business turnover of 720 lots. Fresh positions built up by participants led to a rise in precious metal prices, analysts said. Globally, gold futures fell 0.17 per cent to USD 4,010.69 per ounce in New York.



Banks expect FCNR deposit inflows to rise before RBI deadline

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

It may be recalled that recently, top policymakers held discussions with bankers, urging them to accelerate inflows under the scheme. To attract foreign funds, the RBI has allowed banks to offer attractive returns on FCNR(B) deposits, including five-year deposits, by suspending the interest rate ceiling on fresh FCNR(B) deposits under the special scheme. Kotak Mahindra Bank Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Ashok Vaswani said demand from non-resident Indian (NRI) customers has been strong, though the pace of mobilisation will depend on the bank's ability to arrange leverage through partner institutions. "The NRI customer demand is very strong because it's such an attractive opportunity. It's our ability to get the supply side done which is going to make the difference," Vaswani said. Vinay M Tonse, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of YES Bank, said inflows are well above its normal market share. "Existing limits for the leveraged



FCNR offering have been fully utilised and the bank is awaiting higher limits due to industry-wide demand. We have started offering 9x leverage and could review the limit in the coming weeks depending on market demand," Tonse added. Bank executives maintained that mobilisation is likely to pick up closer to the September 30 deadline as overseas depositors typically take investment decisions towards the end of the scheme period and lenders intensify their outreach to NRIs.

Asheesh Pandey, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Union Bank of India, expressed confidence that margins can be improved further despite the evolving interest rate environment. He added that deposits have been mobilised from several locations, including Australia and the UAE. "Deposits have come from several locations, including Australia and the UAE. We have five dedicated NRI branches and have identified another 20 branches with a large NRI customer base to run a focused mobilisation campaign. We have also set up an NRI cell to contact customers individually instead of relying only on SMS campaigns," he said. However, Sandeep Batra, Executive Director at ICICI Bank, while affirming support to make the scheme a success, said raising such funds would dilute net interest margins (NIMs), which are already under pressure across the banking system. Earlier, Barclays, in a report, said foreign currency non-resident (FCNR) deposit inflows are likely to fall short of market expectations despite gaining momentum in the coming weeks. Without specifying a figure, the brokerage noted that while stronger inflows could materialise during the remaining two-and-a-half months of the FCNR scheme, "it will require a relatively high run rate to get to anywhere close to market expectations by the time the window closes at the end of September." Barclays also said comparisons with the 2013 FCNR scheme may be misleading as higher US interest rates have reduced the relative attractiveness of such deposits. HDFC Bank's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer also cited experts as saying that the scheme could yield around USD 50-55 billion in inflows, lower than the USD 70 billion expected by some analysts.

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

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

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges



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

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

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



plans to improve profitability through a higher share of private labels, increased monetisation opportunities and greater marketplace income. "We will use all these levers to improve economics, which will start reflecting meaningfully in the numbers over the next two years," he said. Taluja said the current year will be focused on laying a strong foundation while pursuing disciplined growth, with emphasis on customer quality rather than merely chasing volumes.

The company has set internal targets around metrics such as order density at dark stores, repeat purchase rates, fulfilment costs and contribution margins, and will calibrate investments based on performance. "We will grow quite quickly, but we will also look at the quality of business, not just the volume," he said. As benefits from higher order density, better product mix, productivity gains, improved inventory turns and monetisation initiatives begin to accrue, Reliance Retail expects returns on capital to improve, with EBITDA and cash generation accelerating in the coming years, Taluja added. The company is also witnessing strong traction from its omni-channel strategy. According to Taluja, omni-channel customers spend about 2.7 times more than pure offline customers, while their spending has grown 20-25 per cent year-on-year. He said Reliance Retail's fashion quick-commerce offering, AJIO Rush, has also recorded strong momentum, with order volumes rising 136 per cent sequentially during the quarter.

Special Aadhaar Camps from July 21 to 24“Public Urged to Avail Services: Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha



BYLINEVIJAYAWADA, JULY 20 :BODY - 2 ColumnsDistrict Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha on Monday announced that special Aadhaar service camps will be available in the district from July 21 to 24 and urged the public to make use of them.The camps will be held at selected Swarna Gramam, Swarna Ward offices as well as Government Schools and Colleges, the Collector said in a press release.Services Available at Camps:New Aadhaar enrollmentUpdate of Name, Ad-

dress, Date of Birth, Mobile NumberBiometric details updateBiometric update for children aged 5 to 15 years and aboveThe Collector stated that measures are being taken to provide Aadhaar services to the public in a timely and transparent manner. Special emphasis is being given to conduct camps in schools and colleges to ensure easy access to Aadhaar services for students.

BoldSwift Disposal of 22-A Land Cases in NTR District

Certificates Issued to 10 More BeneficiariesSUB
HEADING - Span 2 Columns, 18ptTransparent and Time-Bound Resolution of Applications: Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha

BYLINENTR DISTRICT - VIJAYAWADA, JULY 20, 2026: The state government is committed to providing speedy justice to landowners whose properties were wrongly included in the prohibited 22-A list, said NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha. She added that the district administration is working with a special action plan towards this goal.In line with the state government guidelines, every application is being scrutinized in a transparent, legal and expeditious manner. Highest priority is being given to the resolution of 22-A cases, the Collector stated.Certificates Distributed to 10 Beneficiaries“A program was held on Monday at A.V.S Reddy Hall in the Collectorate regarding the de-notification from 22-A list and restoration of land ownership rights. Collector Dr. Lakshmisha along with Joint Collector S. Ilakkiya handed over clearance certificates to 10 beneficiaries.Speaking on the occasion, the Collector informed that a special drive has been taken up in the district for disposal of 22-A cases. As part of this drive, certificates are being distributed to applicants immediately after



their cases are resolved.62 Acres De-notified in 3 Months“The Collector said the district administration is committed to impartially examine every eligible application and ensure quick disposal. She revealed that in the last three months alone, 62 acres of land have been removed from the 22-A prohibited list in the district.The government is implementing special programs with the objective of creating dispute-free villages and is taking steps for resolution of land-related issues. In this context, Dr. Lakshmisha urged the public to approach the concerned revenue officials without any hesitation to bring their grievances to their notice.

Anakapalli MP flags off free Ayodhya-Varanasi pilgrimage train

Anakapalli MP CM Ramesh with pilgrims aboard the free Ayodhya-Varanasi spiritual pilgrimage train on Sunday The special pilgrimage train was flagged off in the presence of Anakapalli MLA Konathala Rama Krishna amid chants of ‘Jai Sri Ram’ The first phase of the pilgrimage includes devotees from the four assembly constituencies Elaborate arrangements, including volunteers and other necessary facilities, have been made to ensure pilgrims’ comfort and safety throughout the journey Anakapalli: Fulfilling a key promise made during the elections, chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways and Anakapalli MP CM Ramesh on Sunday launched the first phase of the free Ayodhya-Varanasi spiritual pilgrimage tour from Anakapalli district. The special pilgrimage train was flagged off at Anakapalli Railway Station in the pres-



ence of Anakapalli MLA Konathala Rama Krishna amid chants of ‘Jai Sri Ram’. The first phase of the pilgrimage includes devotees from the four assembly constituencies under the Anakapalli Parliamentary constituency, with nearly 1,500 pilgrims embarking on the sacred journey to Ayodhya and Kashi (Varanasi). Addressing the gathering, MP CM Ramesh said that he was fulfilling his election promise of enabling people to undertake a free pilgrimage trip to Ayodhya.

Lucky Draw Conducted for Family Planning Beneficiaries“Rs. 5,000 Cash Incentive Awarded to Each Winner

Family Planning Crucial for Maternal Health, Economic Growth and Social Welfare: Collector Dr. Lakshmisha



BYLINEVIJAYAWADA, JULY 20, 2026 : As part of World Population Day-2026 celebrations, the District Medical and Health Department organized a special Lucky Draw at A.V.S Reddy Meeting Hall on Monday to promote family planning programs.District Collector Dr. Lakshmisha and Joint Collector S. Ilakkiya participated in the program2 and selected the winners. Cash incentives of Rs. 5,000 each were distributed to the beneficiaries.Speaking on the occasion, Collector Dr. Lakshmisha said, "Family planning is not just limited to population control. It is very important for maternal and child health protection, family economic development and social welfare."She suggested that people should widely adopt both permanent family planning methods and modern temporary methods like PPIUCD and Antara Injection. She called upon eligible couples to avail family planning services available in government medical institutions.On the occasion of World Population Day on July 11, 2026, winners were selected through lucky draw

from eligible couples who underwent family planning surgery, beneficiaries who received PPIUCD post-delivery, and women who used Antara injection.LIST OF WINNERS:1. Family Planning Surgery Category - Couples with more than 3 childrenTammishetti Malleswari - Ranigari Thota UPHCSk. Nazia - Giripuram UPHCBhavari Anjali - Vijayawada Rural2. PPIUCD Beneficiaries CategoryK. Tejavathi - Singh NagarD. Mariamma - Christurajapuram3. Antara Injection Users CategoryG. Sagar Rani - IbrahimpatnamK. Narasamma - KonduruThe Collector stated that the main objective of this program is to promote family planning methods among the public and strengthen the concept of "Small Family - Happy Family".Later, the Collector unveiled an information wall poster on family planning.“DM&HO Dr. Sravana Babu, NTR Vaidya Seva District Officer Dr. Suman, District Statistical Officer and other officials from the Medical and Health Department participated in the program.

Andhra: Sharmila demands TDP-led coalition to raise farmers’ voice in Parliament

APCC chief Y.S. Sharmila urged the TDP-led coalition to raise Andhra Pradesh farmers' issues in Parliament and press the Centre for relief measures. Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee president Y. S. Sharmila on Monday demanded that the partners in the ruling coalition in the state raise the voice of farmers in Parliament. In an open letter to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, she said the MPs of Telugu Desam Party (TDP), Jana Sena Party (JSP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) should highlight in Parliament the problems faced by farmers in the state. She said the MPs must confront the Central government on issues faced by aqua, tobacco, mango, tomato, onion and other farmers. If necessary, they should stage a walkout and exert pressure for farmers’ welfare. Sharmila warned that if the government fails to respond immediately, the Congress Party will intensify the statewide agitation along with the farmers. The APCC chief stated she was writing the letter in extreme anguish after directly witnessing the plight of the state’s farmers. Referring to the saying that a kingdom where farmers cry does not prosper, she said farmers in Andhra Pradesh are shedding tears. The system that once provided a helping



hand to the farming community has vanished under coalition rule, she added. Also Read - Two crop insurance schemes extended by one year Advertisement Discover more India News Portal Legislative Branch Emergency Alerts Service She claimed that from tomato to mango farmers, and from tobacco to aqua farmers, the entire farming community in Andhra Pradesh is in deep crisis. There are no guaranteed prices and exploitation is rampant across the state, she said. Sharmila alleged that both the Central and state governments have let down the farmers. She stated that it was a disgrace that when debt-ridden farmers were dying by suicide, MPs from the state were busy pleasing Prime Minister Narendra Modi.