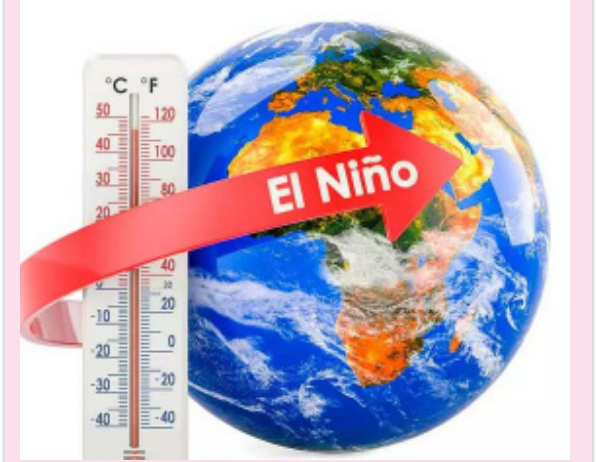


AP, Telangana and other states takes measures amid impact of El Nino



States take measures over El Nino effect on Southwest monsoon With the impact of El Nino on the southwest monsoon, as many as twelve states including Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Gujarat, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Jharkhand have been hit with deficit rainfall this creating hurdles to the farmers and agriculture works. The States are taking necessary steps to tackle the problem and cautioned the people to go for the crops that require less amount of water. The States have formed the teams in the districts and alerting the people of the deficit rainfall and giving suggestions on crops and the drinking water. Meanwhile, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu who has held a cabinet meeting on Thursday has reviewed strategies to tackle the impact of El Niño on the southwest monsoon and directed the officials that the public be kept informed about the evolving El Niño situation. He instructed ministers and officials to pay special attention to drinking water supply and the availability of cattle fodder. The chief minister has also asked the officials about the crops that are to be grown in this hour of the time with the impact of the EL Nino.

Lokesh to officials: Ground Rs 29.3Lakh cr investments fast

Amaravati: IT and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh on Thursday directed officials to closely monitor the implementation of industrial projects worth Rs 29.30 lakh crore that have been proposed since the NDA coalition government assumed office, stressing that investment commitments must translate into projects on the ground and employment opportunities for youth. Chairing a meeting of the ministerial committee constituted to facilitate the creation of 20 lakh jobs, Lokesh said 1,037 industrial projects with a proposed

YSRCP MPs seek Parliament debate on Mega DSC 2025 irregularities in Andhra

New Delhi: YSR Congress Party Rajya Sabha MP and Parliamentary Party Leader, Y.V. Subba Reddy, and Tirupati MP Maddila Gurumoorthy on Thursday moved motions in both Houses of Parliament seeking an urgent discussion on the Mega District Selection Committee-2025 recruitment process for over 16,000 teacher posts in Andhra Pradesh. Gurumoorthy submitted an adjournment motion in the Lok Sabha, while Y.V. Subba Reddy gave notice under Rule 267 in the Rajya Sabha, stating that the irregularities have placed the future of more

AP Cabinet meeting ends, here are the decisions approved

AP cabinet gives approval for key decisions The AP Cabinet meeting has concluded. Chaired by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, the meeting lasted for approximately three hours today (Thursday). Extensive discussions were held regarding the progress of the Bhogapuram Airport project. Additionally, it was decided to conduct further study on the recruitment of 3,168 government jobs in the second phase; the Chief Minister directed a cabinet sub-committee to examine this matter and present it for a final decision at the next cabinet meeting. The Cabinet gave a nod for financial assistance of Rs 25,000 to handloom weavers under the 'Nethanna Bharosa' scheme. The cabinet further approved setting up a government degree



college for the students who are hearing-impaired in Vedullapalli. The government gave a nod for the municipal land lease continuation for the Brahma Kumaris organisation in Srikakulam. The Cabinet also sanctioned Rs 50 crore for the organisation, security, and police arrangements related to the 'Pushkaralu' event. Approvals were also given for land allocations to various organizations and for pro-

viding a government guarantee to enable AP MARKFED to secure a loan of Rs 300 crore from the Central Bank. Furthermore, the Cabinet discussed the ordinance regarding the inclusion of Vishnu Women's University and Chalapathi University in the list of private universities. Discussions were also held regarding the grant of administrative sanction for Rs 641.10 crore for the construction of the Neradi Barrage.

Amaravati construction works going at brisk pace: AP minister Ravikumar

Gottipati Ravikumar stated that construction works in Amaravati underway with brisk pace The minister for Power in Andhra Pradesh Gottipati Ravikumar on Thursday stated that construction works in Amaravati, which is the capital of Andhra Pradesh, are taking place at a brisk pace. In his address to the press in Amaravati on Thursday, the minister said that the sacrifices of the farmers were responsible for the development in the capital region. The minister explained that the massive construction in Amaravati became possible due to the sacrifices of the farmers giving up their land. The minister flayed the past



government for not taking the capital Amaravati forward in the name of three capitals. He said that Amaravati is becoming an education city as the reputed educational institutions such as SRM, VIT, and BITS Pilani had already set up their campus there. Besides, he also mentioned that there will be a skill development university and college as well in Amaravati soon.



investment of Rs 29,30,357 crore have come forward, carrying the potential to generate employment for 24,66,165 people. He instructed officials to conduct monthly reviews and ensure continuous

monitoring of every project. The Minister said all departments must work in coordination on land allocation, statutory approvals and incentive disbursements to expedite project execution. He attributed the growing investor interest to the state's 'Speed of Doing Business' approach and asked officials to implement the policy effectively. Lokesh said Andhra Pradesh expects to attract more investments during the Partnership Summit scheduled to be held in Visakhapatnam in November. He also stressed the need to accelerate renewable energy projects to meet the power requirements of upcoming industries. He further directed officials to establish an automated system for providing incentives to MSMEs that commence operations within the stipulated timelines. Officials informed the meeting that 1,20,897 MSMEs had received incentives over the past two years. Lokesh called for greater focus on MSMEs capable of generating substantial employment. Ministers P Narayana, K Durge



Pawan Kalyan orders probe into Panchadarla mining violations

Amaravati: Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan has ordered a comprehensive inquiry into alleged environmental violations during gravel excavation on revenue lands at Panchadarla Hill in Rambilli mandal of Anakapalli district, while directing officials to initiate action to permanently protect the ecologically and culturally significant site. After reviewing a preliminary report submitted by the Anakapalli collector and consulting officials of the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB), Pawan Kalyan directed the Board to conduct a detailed investigation into the mining operations and submit a comprehensive report. Citing prima facie findings that the company holding mining permissions had violated environmental norms during excavation, the Deputy Chief Minister ordered the imposition of environmental penalties and other stringent action against the firm. He also directed that the company be made responsible for undertaking environmental restoration measures. To safeguard Panchadarla's natural water sources, Pawan Kalyan instructed officials to invite scientists from the National Institute of Hydrology (NIH) to scientifically examine the origin of the natural springs and recommend measures to preserve their continuous flow. He stressed that conservation efforts should take into account both the fragile ecosystem and the historic Sri Uma Dharmalingeswara Swamy Temple, situated at the foothills of Panchadarla. Emphasising that protecting ancient temples and natural heritage is a collective responsibility, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the Archaeology and Endowments departments to prepare a joint action plan for the conservation of the temple and its surroundings.





When journalism yields to political activism

When journalism yields to political activism The media’s obligation extends beyond questioning governments. An independent press is central to democratic accountability because it enables citizens to distinguish verified information from political claims. That role is now increasingly under strain. Across television, digital news platforms and YouTube channels, the distinction between reporting and political advocacy has become less clear. The consequence is not merely a more opinionated media environment but a diminished capacity for objective public reasoning. The media’s obligation extends beyond questioning governments. It also requires scrutiny of opposition parties, pressure groups and other centres of influence. Journalism serves public interest when it evaluates competing claims against evidence rather than amplifying them through ideological preference. As editorial judgement becomes increasingly influenced by political alignment and the economics of digital attention, this foundational principle faces growing pressure. Allegations relating to examination integrity, administrative lapses and procedural shortcomings warranted careful investigation. Students and parents, whose educational prospects were directly affected, were the principal stakeholders. Their concerns centred on transparency, fairness and institutional credibility. As the debate evolved, however, the discussion increasingly moved beyond examination reform. Political parties interpreted the controversy through broader ideological frameworks, while sections of the media reflected these competing narratives. Questions concerning the design, regulation and accountability of the examination system received less attention than the larger political contest surrounding it. The immediate concerns of the affected students risked becoming secondary to the political discourse. This pattern is evident across a range of public issues. Questions relating to employment, agriculture, public health, education or inflation often compete with politically more visible controversies that dominate news cycles. Governments have an incentive to emphasise narratives favourable to their record, while opposition parties seek to foreground issues that expose administrative shortcomings. Such political contestation is intrinsic to democracy. The responsibility of journalism, however, is different. Its role is not to replicate political priorities but to assess whether public attention is being directed towards matters of genuine civic importance. The transformation of the media ecosystem has complicated this responsibility. Television news increasingly operates within a highly competitive environment where audience engagement influences editorial choices. Digital platforms have further altered incentives by rewarding speed, emotional appeal and sustained engagement. Independent journalism has benefited from these technological changes by reaching audiences outside conventional media institutions. At the same time, the absence of editorial gatekeeping has enabled opinion, advocacy and reporting to coexist without clear distinction. BJP on Cong govt restricting media movement in Vidhana Soudha Advertisement Algorithm-driven distribution reinforces this tendency.

NTR District to be Developed as Major IT Hub“Building Owners Requested to Come Forward Commercial Buildings, Office Spaces and Vacant Lands on itinfra.ap.gov.in Portal : Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha



VIJAYAWADA, JULY 23, 2026: District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha called upon building owners, industrialists, landowners and the public to extend full cooperation to the government’s initiatives aimed at developing NTR District as a prominent IT Hub in the state. The government has taken special measures to identify the infrastructure required for the establishment of IT industries, IT/ITES companies and startup companies in the district and make them available to investors, she said. In this context, the Collector requested owners to register de-

tails of commercial buildings, office spaces, vacant lands and other properties suitable for IT operations available in the district on the government portal itinfra.ap.gov.in. Key Platform for Attracting Investments“ The portal has been designed to provide all the information required by IT companies to start operations in new locations at a single platform, the Collector explained. Registering details of buildings, office spaces and vacant lands on the portal will enable domestic and international investors to easily examine the available infrastructure in



various areas and facilitate investments, she added. The Collector suggested that owners of commercial buildings, managers of office complexes and landowners in the district make use of this opportunity and register their property details on the portal. This process will provide wide publicity to their properties and also enable them to be utilized as per the requirements of IT companies, she stated. The expansion of IT industries in NTR District will lead to increased employment opportunities and local job opportunities for youth, the Collector said. She added that the development of the IT sector will expand economic activities in the district and contribute to comprehensive development. For more details and registration process, contact District IT Officer Sushyam - 84979 61902, the Collector suggested.

Focus on Implementation of HRMS

Complete Employee Registration on Portal at the Earliest Complete EOD Process in PACS on Priority : Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha

NTR DISTRICT - VIJAYAWADA, JULY 23, 2026: District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha directed officials to pay special attention to the implementation of Human Resource Management System (HRMS) in Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) and to complete the employee registration process on the portal at the earliest. A special meeting of the District Cooperative Development and Coordination Committee was held on Thursday at Sri AVS Reddy Hall in the Collectorate under the chairmanship of Collector Lakshmisha. In the meeting, the progress of HRMS implementation and End of Day (EOD) process in PACS was comprehensively reviewed. The Collector clarified that HRMS implementation is a top priority program of the government and it is the responsibility of officials to complete it as soon as possible. She instructed that



details of all eligible employees should be registered on the HRMS portal without delay. She also suggested providing necessary technical and administrative support to the societies and completing pending processes. Similarly, the progress of the End of Day (EOD) process in PACS was also reviewed. She said that delay in completing this process is adversely affecting HRMS implementation and other digital initiatives. Therefore, she ordered that the EOD process in all pending societies should be completed immediately on a priority basis and field-level officials

should monitor it on a daily basis. The Collector made it clear that the District Cooperative Officer, CEO of Krishna District Cooperative Central Bank Ltd and other field-level officials should continue constant coordination with PACS CEOs and achieve progress in government priority programs. Those who attended: District Cooperative Officer N. Ajithakumari, District Agriculture Officer DMF Vijayakumari, District Fisheries Officer CH. Saubhagya Chakrani, representatives of KDCCB, NABARD and other departments attended the meeting.

Speed Up Investigation of SC, ST Atrocity Cases“No Delay in FIR and Charge Sheet Filing Provide Immediate Relief to Victims : Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha

VIJAYAWADA, JULY 23: District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha directed officials to expedite the investigation of cases related to attacks on SC and ST communities in the district and to ensure there is no delay in filing FIRs and charge sheets. A District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meeting was held on Thursday at the PGRS Meeting Hall in Vijayawada Collectorate under the chairmanship of the District Collector. The implementation of decisions taken in the previous review meeting was comprehensively reviewed. Committee members K. Kondalarao, T. Saibaba, and A. Sridevi spoke about the need for awareness programs for the social and educational development of SC and ST communities, inspections of government hostels, and student welfare. Responding to this, the Collector said there are a total of 78 government hostels in the district. Any deficiencies in basic amenities noticed during visits should be brought to the immediate attention of the district ad-



ministration. She added that special focus is being given to hostel issues in the Tiruvuru area. The Additional Public Prosecutor informed that as of March 31, 2026, 122 trial cases were pending, and an additional 18 cases were registered till June 20. Of these, one case ended in conviction and two cases resulted in acquittal. Witness examination was completed in 35 cases, and 5 cases are currently in the trial stage. The Collector’s attention was drawn to delays in issuing caste certificates and medical certificates in some cases. Responding to this, the Collector directed Police, Revenue, and Health department officials to issue the required certificates immediately. The Collector informed that a total of 67 SC/ST Atrocity cases have been registered in the district from Janu-

ary 1, 2025 till now. Financial assistance of Rs. 35,65,000 has been provided to victims in 58 cases at the FIR and charge sheet stage itself. Of the registered cases, 53 pertain to SC communities and 5 to ST communities, she said. The Collector directed ACPs to ensure there is no delay in investigation, FIR registration, and filing of charge sheets in SC/ST Atrocity cases. Later, reviewing the eradication of Manual Scavenging, the Collector clarified that there are currently no manual scavengers in the district. She instructed that sanitation workers must mandatorily use the safety equipment provided by the government. Municipal Commissioners were told to create awareness, and Sanitary Inspectors were directed to ensure safety standards are followed through special monitoring.

After urea shortage, inadequate power supply sparks farmer protests in Telangana



Hyderabad: After protesting against delays in paddy procurement last season and inadequate urea supply this season, farmers are now taking to the streets over poor power supply. All this amid deficit rainfall. Farmers in Suddala village of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district staged a protest at the local substation, alleging inadequate power supply and frequent outages. They raised slogans against the State government and demanded 18 hours of quality electricity for agriculture. The protesters alleged that unauthorized power cuts were disrupting irrigation through borewells. They said farmers were already struggling due to deficit rainfall and the erratic power supply was making cultivation even more difficult. “The Congress leaders’ claim of providing 24-hour power supply is false. We want 18 hours of quality power supply,” the farmers said. They also alleged that officials had failed to resolve the problem despite repeated complaints. On Wednesday, farmers from Indloor village staged a protest in front of a substation on the Tipparthi-Nakrekal road. They also held a rasta roko, accusing electricity department officials of ignoring their grievances. Last week, farmers in Jagtial district staged a rasta roko on the Korutla-Ailapur road, demanding quality power supply. They alleged that they were receiving only nine to 10 hours of electricity despite the government’s claim of providing 24-hour

supply. They said the government should not worsen the difficulties caused by deficit rainfall through inadequate power supply. Similar protests were held in Mylaram in Warangal district last week. Farmers there demanded quality power supply and the release of irrigation water through the Sri Ram Sagar Project (SRSP).

Hyderabad SIR 2026: ASD electors drop to 2.60 lakh after verification drive

Hyderabad: A latest status report on the Special Intensive Revision-2026 of the electoral rolls has identified 2.60 lakh electors as Absent, Shift or Dead (ASD) in Hyderabad. On July 15, the District Election Officer, RV Karnan, had said that 11.50 lakh ASD electors were found missing. By July 21, the number of ASD electors came down to 2.60 lakh. Yakupura assembly constituency stood top with 37,197 ASD electors while Amberpet assembly constituency registered the lowest number of ASD electors, with 6,427. Meanwhile, the SIR exercise in Hyderabad district till date has completed 42.96% of digitisation of the enumeration forms. Out of 47,36,669 total electors, the BLOs collected enumeration forms from 20,34,849 electors in all 15 assembly constituencies. In digitisation, Chandrayangutta assembly constituency led with 49.36%.

Tension at Bollikunta in Warangal over installation of Shivaji statue



Warangal: A tense atmosphere prevailed at Bollikunta village in Khila Warangal mandal in the district on Thursday over installation of a Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj statue. Following a call by Hindu groups and the BJP that planned to install the statue at a local junction, the public supporting the statue’s installation gathered at the village in large numbers. Similarly, dalit groups and those opposing the statue’s installation next to a statue of Dr. BR Ambedkar also gathered at the village. As the village is divided into two factions and tension is built up, heavy police deployment has been made at the village to prevent any untoward incidents. Mamnoor ACP Venkatesh who arrived at the village appealed to both the factions to remain peaceful and find an amicable solution to the issue. He also told the outsiders to leave the village. The District Collector Dr Satya Sharada and other

officials also arrived at Bollikunta and are holding discussions with both the factions to resolve the ongoing dispute. Efforts are being made to collect the opinion of the majority to end the controversy surrounding Shivaji statue installation. It might be recalled that the dispute has arisen ever since certain Hindu outfits along with some villagers decided to install Shivaji statue at the village centre and performed ‘Bhoomi Pooja’ for the purpose amidst opposition from the local dalit community. On July 17, the Hindu outfits brought the Shivaji statue and placed it on the ground at the junction during mid-night hours. In view of the dispute over the matter, the local police, revenue and municipal officials removed the statue amidst heavy security. The statue was first taken to the municipal office premises at Nakkalagutta and later shifted to some other location.

KTR to issue legal notice to Revanth over Globarena allegation

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao decided to issue a legal notice to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy over allegations linking him and his family to private firm Globarena in connection with the 2019 Intermediate examination results controversy. He demanded that the Chief Minister either tender a public apology for spreading fake news or face legal action. Rama Rao took the decision after Revanth Reddy, while addressing a Congress protest in Kodangal against the detention of Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi in New Delhi on Wednesday, alleged that irregularities in the 2019 Intermediate examination results in Telangana that drove 27 students to suicide. He claimed that the contract was awarded to Globarena, which he termed as a proxy company linked to Rama Rao despite allegedly lacking the required experience and qualifications. Rejecting the allegations, the BRS working president accused the Chief Minister of spreading “fake news” over a tragic incident for political gain. “The Telangana Chief Minister should start acting



like a Chief Minister at least once in his solo term. Resorting to peddling fake news on a very unfortunate incident like paper leaks is abhorrent and demeans your position,” he said. He categorically denied any connection between himself, his family and Globarena. “Let me reiterate once again — BRS, my family and I have no links to Globarena whatsoever. My legal team is shortly sending you a notice to either apologise or face legal action,” he said. Rama Rao stated that he largely ignored Revanth Reddy’s vulgar and wild allegations in the past as they were absurd. “My silence doesn’t mean I agree with you. It’s just that I don’t like wrestling in the dirt,” he added.

Samyukta Kisan Morcha demands scrapping of FTAs signed by India with US, UK, EU

Khammam: Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) activists staged a protest here on Wednesday demanding the cancellation of free trade agreements (FTAs) that the Centre is signing with nations such as the USA, the European Union, the UK and New Zealand. Speakers argued that these agreements pose a severe threat to Indian agriculture, the rural economy, the dairy industry, small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) as well as the nation’s food security. Telangana Rythu Sangham president Madineni Ramesh, its district secretary Bonthu Rambabu, State Farmers’ union district president Dondapatti Ramesh and Progressive Agricultural Labourers’ union district secretary Bandela Venkaiah addressed the farmers. They stated that FTAs would lead to the flooding of the Indian market by heavily subsidised for-



eign agricultural products, a drop in remunerative prices for domestic crops, the destruction of farmers’ livelihoods, the rise of multinational corporate monopolies over seeds, and increased unemployment. The FTAs are anti-farmer and against national interests. The struggle against them would continue until the agreements were repealed to protect the interests of India’s farmers, ensure national self-reliance and secure the future of coming generations, the leaders said

NDSA clarifies decision on Kaleshwaram water pumping rests with Telangana govt

Hyderabad: Much to the dismay of the Congress government in Telangana, the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) clarified that it has no role in deciding whether water should be pumped from the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme during drought conditions. It asserted that such decisions fall entirely within the policy domain of the Telangana government. The NDSA issued the clarification in response to a representation from Telangana NRI T Laxmi Narasimha Gupta who is currently residing in Australia, seeking technical assessment and safe utilisation of the Kaleshwaram project during the ongoing drought. In response, the NDSA said its mandate under the Dam Safety Act, 2021 is limited to ensuring the safety, surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of specified dams and barrages to prevent structural failures. The authority said it does not deal with project planning or operational



decisions on where and for what purpose water should be drawn. It added that decisions on water allocation for irrigation or drinking water during drought are policy matters to be decided by the State government concerned. Referring to safety concerns over the Medigadda barrage and related structures, the NDSA said a Technical Oversight Committee has already been constituted by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. The committee is headed by an NDSA Member (Technical) and includes experts from the Central Water Commission (CWC), CWPRS and CSMRS to oversee rehabilitation works at the Kaleshwaram barrages.

Bihar Assembly witnesses uproar over Patna students’ stir, police lathi-charge on protestors



Patna: The Monsoon Session of the Bihar Legislative Assembly began on Thursday amid heated exchanges over Wednesday’s student protest in Patna and the subsequent police lathi-charge and tear gassing of the youngsters protesting over paper leaks in the country. The issue dominated the House from the outset, with the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and the Opposition trading sharp accusations over the violence that accompanied the demonstration. Even before the Question Hour commenced, a BJP legislator raised the issue in the Assembly, alleging that those who took part in the protest were not genuine students but politically motivated agitators. He claimed that he and several other BJP legislators were subjected to a life-threatening attack during the demonstration. The MLA maintained that while every citizen has the democratic right to protest peacefully, violence and vandalism cannot be justified under any circumstances. According to him, individuals associated with certain political parties had infiltrated the protest and attempted to disturb law and order under the guise of a student movement. He further alleged that vehicles belonging to BJP leaders and MLAs were attacked during the protest, arguing that such acts of violence did not reflect the conduct of students. While acknowledging the students’ right to raise legitimate demands, he said attacks on public representatives and damage to public property could not be condoned. Cabinet Minister Shravan Kumar stated that while protests and the raising of issues are legitimate, the current agitation is not being driven by the students themselves but is instead a sponsored affair; such incidents are occurring because individuals are being instigated by leaders from political parties. “Protests should be peaceful. In a democracy, everyone has the right to assert their rights and voice their opinions; however, the actions taken by political parties—specifically the RJD and Congress—in Patna on Wednesday are condemnable. The law in Bihar operates independently; this government neither frames anyone nor shields anyone,” Kumar said. The ruling party’s allegations triggered strong protests from Opposition members, who questioned the government’s handling of the demonstration and condemned the police lathi-charge on students. Opposition MLAs accused the government of suppressing the voices of protesting students and de-

manded accountability for the police action. Their objections led to noisy scenes inside the House, disrupting proceedings. As the exchanges grew increasingly heated, the Assembly Speaker, Prem Kumar, intervened and appealed to members from both sides to maintain the dignity and decorum of the House. The Speaker said that while every legislator had the right to raise matters of public importance, debates should be conducted peacefully to ensure the smooth functioning of the Assembly. He urged members to present their arguments in an orderly manner rather than resorting to disruptions. The Patna student protest and the subsequent police action have emerged as a major political flashpoint in Bihar. Opposition MLAs arrived at the Assembly complex carrying banners and posters during the Monsoon Session. In the portico, they raised loud slogans against the NDA government to protest the lathi-charge that had taken place the previous day on students. Chanting slogans like “Remove BJP, Save Education,” the Opposition MLAs staged a sit-in protest outside the Assembly complex. During the demonstration, they also demanded the resignations of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. “The government has used excessive force against students and attempted to suppress their voice. They have the power. Why are they not investigating it? It is a failure of the government over the paper leak and lathi-charge on students, which is highly condemnable,” said senior RJD legislator Alok Mehta.

Search for 400-year-old historic cannon stolen from MP’s Narwar Fort extends to Rajasthan



Jaipur: A large-scale search operation is underway in Rajasthan’s Karauli district after a 400-year-old historic cannon, stolen from Narwar Fort in Madhya Pradesh’s Shivpuri district, was suspected to have been transported to Hindaun. The cannon, weighing nearly 3,500 kilograms and believed to be worth Rs 3-5 crore in the international antique black market, was stolen on the night of July 15. Acting on intelligence received from Madhya Pradesh Police, Rajasthan Police launched an intensive search operation in Gavda Meena village under Hindaun Sadar police station limits. The search involved excavation at multiple locations using JCB machines, while a metal detector team from Bharatpur was also deployed to locate the missing cannon. More than 50 police personnel participated in the operation under the supervision of local police and administrative officials. Despite digging at five to six suspected locations between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., no trace of the cannon was found. Hindaun Sadar SHO Girraj Prasad said that Shivpuri Police had shared specific leads indicating that the stolen cannon may have been concealed in the village. Both Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan Police are jointly investigating the case and are working to determine when and how the cannon was transported across state borders. According to the investigation, the theft was executed with careful planning. The accused allegedly wrapped the massive cannon in mattresses to prevent damage, lowered it nearly 3,000 feet from the fort using an iron trolley fitted with bearings, and loaded it onto a transport vehicle before escaping. Investigators suspect the involvement of an organised interna-

tional antique smuggling network. Tyre marks of heavy vehicles and drag marks were found near the fort, supporting the theory that the cannon was transported using specialised equipment. The theft has exposed major security lapses at Narwar Fort. Although six security guards are officially deployed at the fort, both night-duty guards reportedly left their posts on the night of the incident. During questioning, one guard admitted that he had returned home due to the absence of basic security arrangements, including lighting and accommodation. Another guard confessed that the initial claim of an armed robbery was fabricated.

The stolen cannon was one of 14 rare cannons preserved in the open court of Narwar Fort, dating back to the Scindia princely state era. Following the theft, only 13 historic cannons remain at the site. The cannons are made from brass, bronze, copper and Ashtadhatu (eight-metal alloy) and bear inscriptions in Persian and Devanagari scripts, making them significant heritage artefacts. A joint team of the Madhya Pradesh State Archaeology Department and the police has inspected the crime scene and recovered crucial evidence, including mattresses, quilts, iron pipes and vehicle tyre marks. Officials are analysing the evidence to identify those involved and trace the transport vehicle used in the theft. Deputy Director of the State Archaeology Department, Tarun Kumar Mahobia, described the incident as extremely serious and said theft and security arrangements at the fort are under investigation. Narwar SHO Vinay Yadav confirmed that a case has been registered against unidentified persons and efforts are underway to recover the stolen cannon and apprehend the accused.

AIU recovers over 700 red-eared slider turtles at Kolkata Airport

Kolkata: The officials of the Air Intelligence Unit (AIU) of the Indian Customs Department, on Wednesday night, recovered over 700 red-eared slider turtles. The category of turtles classified as one of the world’s 100 worst invasive species, was recovered from the luggage of a passenger coming from Bangkok at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata on Wednesday night. It is learnt that a flight from Bangkok landed at the Kolkata Airport on Wednesday night and while a passenger from that flight was crossing the Green Channel, the AIU officials could feel the movements of some objects within his luggage. The AIU officials immediately detained that passenger and started searching his luggage. The search led to a total of 707 turtles being recovered from one of his bags. Later it was confirmed that these turtles belonged to the “red-eared slider” species. The passenger has already been arrested on charges of promoting wildlife smuggling. The AIU officials are investigating where the live turtles were brought from and where they were being taken to. Red-eared sliders are in high demand in the Indian pet market essentially for two reasons. First, since native Indian turtles are strictly protected under the Wildlife Protection Act, there is a demand for importing red-eared sliders through the illegal and unofficial route. Secondly, this species is in high demand in India because of its appealing red markings and easy maintainability as pets. However, importing red-eared sliders carries a severe environmental threat because of the destructive and invasive nature of this species. Wildlife activists feel that the main



danger in the smuggling of red-eared sliders into India is that when released into waterbodies by overwhelmed pet owners, they compete with India’s 29 native freshwater turtle species for food, basking sites, and nesting habitats. This species, being the known carriers of the Salmonella bacteria, also comes with direct health risks, especially for children. Keeping these factors in mind, the customs department follows a specific policy as regards to recovery of red-eared sliders. In events of interception of such live species, they are fed, stabilized, and immediately deported back to their country of origin to prevent them from entering the Indian ecosystem.

Saanvie Tallwar shares alleged on-set incident with Karan Kundra

The television actress says the alleged incident occurred before the director called "action," claims Ektaa Kapoor later apologised on Karan Kundra's behalf. Mumbai: Popular television actress Saanvie Tallwar is grabbing headlines after she made shocking revelations about harassment during the shoot of TV series 'Yeh Kahan Aa Gaye Hum'. She has accused popular actor Karan Kundra of harassment and claimed that Karan Kundra has kissed her. She claimed that while filming a scene, Karan kissed her before the director's cue, prompting her to slap him. Saanvie Tallwar during an interaction with 'The GlamWorld Talks', Karan Kundra was dating Anusha Dandekar at the time the incident happened and she even informed Anusha about the alleged harassment. She even claimed that when she tried to highlight the incident, the director began questioning her acting abilities after she stood up for herself. In a separate conversation with Filmibeat, she said, "There was a scene, but the director hadn't clapped action; even before that, he kissed me and I slapped him. He didn't react at that time, but then he came back after some time and slapped me hard. There is a difference between the intensity of a girl's and a man's slap. I fell on the floor and then he abused me and my family." more Hyderabad City Guide Maps Emergency Alerts Service She added that the direc-



tor made her feel that she did not know the acting. She further said, "Nobody supported me. Later, Ektaa ma'am (Kapoor) apologised on Karan's behalf and supported me. She managed to make things easy." She also mentioned it was Karan Kundra who was interested in her and she did not like him. Check Interview Here The actress said that women can easily understand the intentions of male and she knew that Karan is interested in her. She had already spoken to multiple publications about the incident but Karan Kundra has not yet responded to these claims. Check Interview Here Netizens are raising questions as to why such actors are not being supported and even some users mentioned in the comments box about the male dominance in the Television industry. Some users are of the opinion that Saanvie Tallwar is trying to get limelight by using Karan Kundra's name. Karan Kundra is engaged to Tejasswi Prakash after dating her for a long time.

Lisa Kudrow reveals strange signs after her mother's death during COVID

Los Angeles: Popular actress from HBO mockumentary series The Comeback, Lisa Kudrow shared an emotional story about the aftermath of her mother's death. The actress's mother, Nedra Stern died in February 2020 just as the global Covid pandemic was beginning to take hold. Primetime Emmy Award Lisa Kudrow narrated that an unexpected series of coincidences following her mother's death brought profound comfort to her family during a period of intense grief. She claimed that after her mother passed away, a sequence of synchronised, unexpected occurrences unfolded across different locations, waking up multiple family members almost simultaneously. According to Kudrow, she experienced a sudden, unexplainable awakening at the time of her mother's death. She said that Nedra Stern's spirit was around her family members and they were feeling unusual before she left this world. She also said that despite living in different house woke up at the exact time of their mother's passing due to an unusual disturbance in his bedroom. Lisa Kudrow during a candid chat revealed the spiritual side of how our family members are connected with us. The actress's mother passed away during the Covid pandemic



and the family faced severe restrictions on holding traditional memorial services for her mother. Lisa Kudrow said that family members are very important to everyone and they hold special despite not being with each other physically. She seems devastated by her mother's loss and recalling the moments she spent with her mother provides her relief. Known for her comedic role, Lisa Kudrow explained how broken she felt after her mother's death. Lisa Kudrow is best known for her roles as Phoebe Buffay in the television sitcom Friends (1994–2004) and Valerie Cherish in the HBO mockumentary series The Comeback (2005–2026). Her accolades include two Actor Awards and a Primetime Emmy Award. She will be next seen in Untitled Romy and Michele's High School Reunion sequel

Badshah-Isha Rikhi divorce rumours go viral after actress shares unseen wedding photos

Mumbai: Indian rapper and song-writer Aditya Prateek Singh aka Badshah is grabbing headlines for his personal life. The singer who is married to Punjabi actress Isha Rikhi is heading towards divorce as per social media reports. This comes after fans started discussing Isha Rikhi's post which features her marriage pictures. Isha Rikhi has recently shared unseen videos and photos from their intimate wedding ceremony. In the clips, Isha and Badshah are seen exchanging garlands, while another unseen, intimate video shows Badshah kissing Isha on the cheeks. Sharing the memories on Instagram, Isha wrote, "Every storm is a



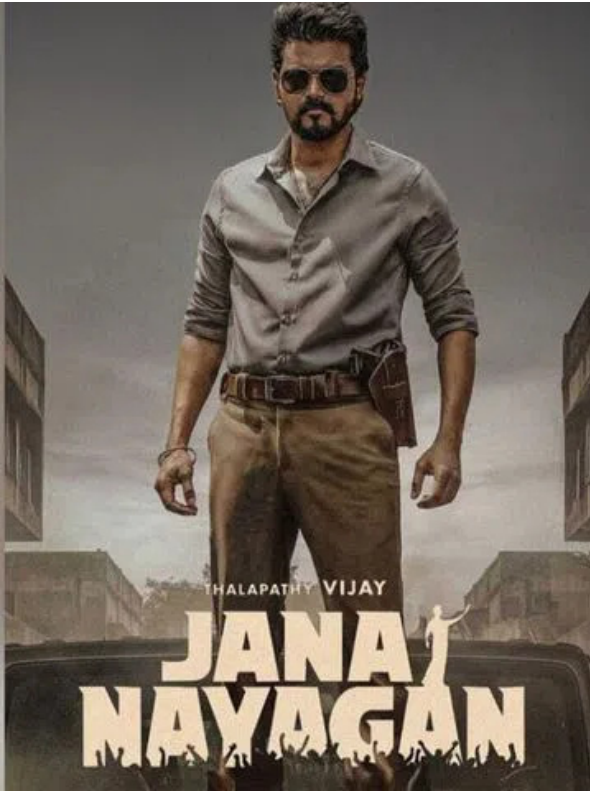
lesson. Every prayer is hope. ??" Check Instagram Link Here Soon after her post, fans have started speculating that the couple is headed for a divorce. Most of the social media users opined that the couple may no longer be together or are planning to get separated.

Arun Vijay and Mahat Raghavendra share emotional notes for Vijay ahead of Jana Nayagan release

Chennai: Even as Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay's eagerly awaited last film 'Jana Nayagan' finally hit screens on Friday, well known Tamil actor Arun Vijay penned an emotional note to actor Vijay, in which he recalled how Vijay had shared words of encouragement with him when he was in his low phase and how it changed his entire perspective and purpose. Taking to his social media timelines to pen the heartfelt message, Arun Vijay wrote, "To the person I admire as a colleague, an elder brother and a leader... with happy tears and a proud heart, (I am) ready to witness the #onelastdance of our #Thalapathy Vijay anna!!"

He went on to say, "You have always inspired us through your work and setting a benchmark in the industry. I can never forget your words of encouragement when I was in my low phase, it changed my entire perspective & purpose. Thank you anna... We will miss you here, but happy that you have taken a bigger role now in serving people. Sure you will give your 100% as you always have. We stand by you. Love you loads!!#Jananayagan @actorvijay." Arun Vijay wasn't the only one who turned emotional. Actor Mahat Raghavendra too had penned his thoughts on watching Vijay's last film. Taking to his Instagram page to pen a note of gratitude to Vijay for all his films which he said had filled his childhood with happiness, Mahat Raghavendra wrote, "Dearest Vijay Anna, Tomorrow, Jana Nayagan releases, and my heart feels heavy. I grew up watching you. Your smile, your jokes, and your films filled my childhood with happiness. Every release was a celebration, and every visit to the theatre felt special because you were on that screen."

He went on to say, "I write this not just as one among millions of fans, but as someone who was blessed to share the screen with you as your younger brother in Jilla. That memory will always be one of the greatest gifts of my life." Stating that theatres would always be full and that many stars would come and



light up the silver screen, Mahat said, "Many films will be made. But no one can ever replace you. The magic of watching a Thalapathy film on the big screen is something I will miss forever." Thanking Vijay for the memories, he said, "Thank you for all the memories, the smiles, and the happiness you gave us. Your magic may leave the silver screen, but it will never leave our hearts. To us, you'll always be the one and only Ilaya Thalapathy... our forever Thalapathy." For the unaware, director H Vinoth's 'Jana Nayagan' has triggered huge interest as it is Vijay's last film as an actor. It was originally scheduled for release for the festival of Pongal in January this year. However, its release had to be postponed after the film, which was sent to the Censor Board for clearance, was referred to a Revising Committee under Rule 24 of the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules. The Censor Board only recently cleared the film, which was submitted to it for clearance in December last year. 'Jana Nayagan', which hits screens on Friday, boasts a powerful ensemble cast featuring Vijay, Bobby Deol, Pooja Hegde, Mamitha Baiju, Prakash Raj, and Gautham Vasudev Menon.

Tom Holland training without dance doubles for Paul King's Fred Astaire biopic

Los Angeles: Hollywood star Tom Holland, whose latest release is The Odyssey, has shared some details about the upcoming Paul King-directed biopic on dancer-actor Fred Astaire. Nearly five years after he revealed he'd be leading a Fred Astaire biopic, the actor recently shared an update on the Steven Levenson-penned film, as well as the "absolute dread" of training to emulate Astaire's dance moves. "For me, what I love about my job is the challenges," he explained on Good Morning America, reports deadline.com. Holland added: "We have Fred Astaire next, is what we're planning on doing. And as soon as I finish with these tours, I'm diving back into the dance studio. "I did my first few rehearsals recently, and it both filled me with excitement and absolute dread because I've got so much work to do to try and do Fred proud," he shared.

The actor said that with his onscreen dancing in the biopic, he has "a desire to use no doubles, to do all of the dancing, to shoot those dances in one shot – how (Astaire) would have done it." Fred Astaire, who was widely regarded as the "greatest popular-music dancer of all time", received an Honorary Academy Award, a BAFTA Award, a David di Donatello Award, three Emmy Awards,



three Golden Globe Awards, and a Grammy Award. As a dancer, he drew influences from many sources, including tap, classical dance, and the elevated style of Vernon and Irene Castle. His trademark style greatly influenced the American Smooth style of ballroom dance. He starred in musicals such as Top Hat, Swing Time, Shall We Dance, Holiday Inn, Easter Parade, The Band Wagon, Funny Face, Silk Stockings and The Towering Inferno to name a few.

Meanwhile, talking about the Holland-starrer "The Odyssey" is directed by Christopher Nolan. An adaptation of Homer's ancient Greek epic poem The Odyssey, it stars an ensemble cast including Matt Damon, Tom Holland, Anne Hathaway, Robert Pattinson, Lupita Nyong'o, Samantha Morton, Zendaya, and Charlize Theron.

Doping violations force India’s Commonwealth Games weightlifting squad cut to 11

Glasgow: Weightlifter Dilbagh Singh has been withdrawn from India’s Commonwealth Games contingent after the country’s quota was reduced because of multiple Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs) during the qualification period.India’s weightlifting quota for the Games has been cut from 16 to 11.The Indian Weightlifting Federation had named a 12-member squad, spearheaded by Olympic silver-medallist Mirabai Chanu, for the showpiece and said it was told about the reduced quota only on Wednesday.“The federation got to know about the reduction of quota from 12 to 11 lifters only yesterday,” a well-placed source told PTI. “Since Dilbagh is suffering from a back injury and did not train at all during the preparatory camp in Birmingham, a decision was made to withdraw him,” he said. N Ajith (71kg), Sairaj Pardeshi (88kg) and



Harcharan Singh (110kg) were banned for doping ahead of the CWG.Woman lifter Vanshita Verma (86kg) was also sanctioned for an anti-doping rule violation in the qualification period. The reduction in quota is another setback for Indian weightlifting, which has repeatedly faced sanctions because of doping offences.

CWG 2026: Lovlina Borgohain gets bye into 75kg semifinals, secures India’s first medal

Glasgow: India have opened their medal tally at the Commonwealth Games 2026 (CWG) before the opening ceremony as the Olympic medallist boxer Lovlina Borgohain moved straight into the semi-finals after receiving a bye.The Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain moved straight into the women’s 75kg semifinals after a bye. With only five athletes in the draw, three competitors, including Lovlina, advanced straight to the last four, while the remaining two were scheduled to contest the lone quarterfinal match.Under Commonwealth Games boxing rules, all losing semifinalists are awarded bronze medals, guaranteeing Lovlina at least a bronze medal before her opening bout in Glasgow.Lovlina will begin her campaign on July 31 against Taafaki in the semifinals, with a spot in the gold medal bout at stake. A win would propel Indian into the final and guarantee her at least a silver medal, while a loss would still see her leave Glasgow with the bronze medal.It will be her maiden Commonwealth Games podium finish. Lovlina exited in the quarter-finals at Gold Coast 2018 after losing to eventual champion Sandy Ryan and lost her opening bout at Birmingham 2022. She competed in the 69kg category in both the previous editions.The medal also means that Lovlina will medals at all possible major multi-sport events she is eligible to compete in; Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. Notably, Lovlina along with Tokyo Olympic



silver medallist weightlifter Mirabai Chanu will be the flag and baton bearers when the Indian contingent steps out, dressed nattily, for the opening ceremony on Thursday.Lovlina is a seasoned star whose performances speak volumes about what she has achieved for India across various competitions. In Tokyo, she did herself and the nation proud by winning bronze. Her rise from kickboxing to regular boxing has been very purposeful. As a role model for many Indian athletes, she has won a gold medal at the 2023 World Championship. In addition, Lovlina also won a silver medal at the Asian Games in 2023 in Hangzhou, China. She has not won a medal before at the CWG.

Andhra Pradesh’s M. Venkatram Reddy selected for World Athletics Championships in Oregon

Hyderabad: Middle-distance runner M. Venkatram Reddy of Andhra Pradesh has been selected to represent India in the World Athletics championship to be held in Oregon (USA) from July 25 to August 10.Mr. M. Narayana Rao, chairman of Andhra Pradesh Athletics Association selection committee, informed on Thursday that Venkatram, who won gold in the SAF Games and the Asian Athletics under-20 championship, was tipped to be one of the strong contenders for medals at the highest level from India.“We, the APAA, congratulate Venkatram and wish he would come back with laurels,” he said in a joint statement signed by D. Nageswara Rao, president of VDAA, Mr A.V. Raghavendra Rao, joint secretary of AFI, Mrs A. Hyma, executive committee member of AFI.SAAP VC & MD Bharani also congratulated Venkatram on his selection.



PV Sindhu bows out of China Open after tight three-game loss to Chen Yufei

Changzhou:Indian badminton ace P V Sindhu let slip early advantage to bow out of China Open with a gruelling three-game loss to local favourite and world number four Chen Yufei in the second round here on Thursday.Sindhu lost 21-16 20-22 18-21 in the energy-sapping match that lasted close to one and a half hour. The 30-year-old Hyderabadadi had entered the tournament on a high after winning the Japan Open last week, ending a lengthy title drought.That the match was going to be a closely fought affair was evident in the opening game itself in which Sindhu rallied from 7-13 to be 16-16.The Indian then reeled off five consecutive points to grab the early advantage.However, it was Chen’s turn



to pull off a comeback in the second game as Sindhu frittered away four game points.Chen, who is a gold-medallist from Tokyo Olympics in 2021, took the game 22-20, clawing back from a 16-20 position.The deciding third game also went neck-and-neck for most part before Chen broke away at 17-17 to clinch the victory.

Uncapped Prabhsimran eyes maiden India cap

New Delhi: Punjab wicketkeeper-batter Prabhsimran Singh is hoping the upcoming T20I series against Zimbabwe becomes the moment he finally makes his international debut, with the uncapped opener saying his immediate goal is to earn his first India cap and make the most of the opportunity if selected.Named in India’s squad after impressing in domestic cricket and the IPL, Prabhsimran also described the intense competition for opening slots as a positive challenge and praised fellow youngster Vaibhav Sooryavanshi following their recent stint together with India A.For the 24-year-old, a maiden appearance in India’s colours would fulfil one of the biggest ambitions he has carried since taking up the sport. “When you start playing cricket, there are two main objectives in your mind, and even in your parents’ minds, to represent the country and to play in the IPL. I am playing in the IPL, but now I’ve gotten this opportunity to represent the country. I got it earlier as well during the Asian Games, but unfortunately, I couldn’t play. Now, my only wish is that I return as a capped player this time around and, obviously, perform well there so that I get more opportunities,” Prabhsimran told JioStar.Prabhsimran was part of India’s squad for the Asian Games but did not feature in a match. With another opportunity now knocking, the opener is eager to translate selection into an on-field appearance and establish himself in the national setup.Geographic Reference



Competition at the top of India’s batting order has intensified with several young players staking a claim through

domestic performances and the IPL. However, Prabhsimran believes the battle for places is a healthy one that pushes players to improve. “The IPL is such a big platform where you rub shoulders with international players from all around the world, youngsters from across the country, established players representing India, and even legends who are playing alongside you. So, obviously, it is a bit tough. But if you look at it, it’s healthy competition. There is so much competition just for the opening spot in the Indian team, and the only thing that comes to mind is, ‘Just give me an opportunity, and if I get the chance, hopefully I’ll do well’,” he added.Prabhsimran also reflected on his recent experience opening the innings alongside teenage batter Sooryavanshi during the India A assignments against Sri Lanka and Afghanistan, saying the partnership allowed the two youngsters to learn from each other both on and off the field. “Recently, we went to play the India A series against Sri Lanka and Afghanistan, and Vaibhav was there with me too. Watching him bat is so much fun; it brings a lot of joy. Since we were opening together, we got to spend more time together and discuss various things. It was a great experience,” Prabhsimran stated.

Rohit Yadav and C. Venkata star as India U19 beat Sri Lanka U19 by 211 runs to win Test series

Colombo: Leg-spinner Rohit Yadav and pacer C. Venkata shared seven wickets among them as India U19 subdued Sri Lanka U19 by 211 runs on the fourth day of the second Youth Test here on Thursday.India U19 won the two-match series 1-0 after the first contest ended in a draw. It was a spirited comeback from Indians after they lost the preceding Youth ODI series 1-2.Starting the day on 155 for four, chasing a distant target of 472, the home side was folded for 260 in 76.5 overs, shortly into the post-lunch session.Skipper Vimath Dinsara, overnight 55, was the first to depart for 64, falling to pacer Pranav Raghavendra.It was the last nail on Sri Lanka’s hopes to at least extend the fight. Rohit Yadav (4/49), who backed the three-wicket haul of



Venkata (3/27) the previous evening, soon ran through the lower order to reduce SL U19 to 242 for nine.There was a token fight from Sethmika Seneviratne (42, 49b, 6×4, 1×6) which only delayed the inevitable.Off-spinner J. Hemuchudeshan brought an end to Sri Lanka’s innings and the match, dismissing Seneviratne.

Crude oil prices climb over 2 pc to \$96 amid escalating West Asia tensions



New Delhi: Global crude oil prices surged more than 2 per cent on Thursday, with Brent crude climbing above \$96 a barrel after Iran-backed Houthi militants claimed responsibility for attacks on two Saudi Arabian oil tankers in the Red Sea, raising concerns over global supply disruptions. International oil benchmark Brent crude rose 2.5 per cent or \$2.42 to trade above \$96 a barrel, building on its six-week high from the previous session. Similarly, US benchmark West Texas Intermediate (WTI) surged over 2 per cent or \$1.84, hovering near \$88 a barrel. The Houthis said they had targeted the Saudi oil tankers Encelia and Layla using missiles and drones, alleging that the vessels had breached a blockade imposed by the group. Earlier, the UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) reported that a commercial vessel had been struck by a projectile off Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coast near Al Shuqaiq, sparking a fire onboard. However, the agency did not identify the ship involved. The reported strikes are

seen as a major escalation in the conflict, marking the first direct attacks on oil tankers operating in the Red Sea. The waterway has become an increasingly important export route for Saudi Arabia, allowing crude shipments to bypass the Strait of Hormuz — one of the world's busiest oil transit corridors. The fresh attacks have added to fears of tighter global oil supplies, extending a rally that has already pushed Brent crude nearly 30 per cent higher this month. Analysts have warned that oil prices could return to the \$100-per-barrel mark if geopolitical tensions continue to escalate and supply disruptions intensify. According to them, the latest attacks have aggravated the West Asia conflict and pushed Brent crude above \$95 per barrel, a level that could negatively impact market sentiment in India. They said the dependence on imported crude makes elevated oil prices a key macroeconomic risk, with the potential to pressure inflation and external balances.

Rupee slips 4 paise to 96.57 against US dollar amid rising crude oil prices



Mumbai: The rupee declined 4 paise to close at 96.57 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, as heightened hostilities in West Asia kept global crude oil prices elevated. However, a likely intervention by the RBI provided support to the local unit, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 96.53 and traded in a narrow range of 96.45-96.59 during the day before eventually settling at 96.57 (provisional), down 4 paise from its previous close. The rupee depreciated by 28 paise to close at 96.53 against the US dollar on Wednesday. "The rupee traded with a negative bias on weak domestic markets and surge in crude oil prices, which continued to rise as the US struck Iran for the 12th consecutive day while Iran continued to strike US facilities in the Gulf," Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said. "However, diplomatic talks between the two nations may prevent sharp fall in the rupee. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 96.30 to Rs 96.85," Choudhary said.

V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Ltd, said, "The negative factor impacting the rupee is the sharp spike in Brent crude following the escalation of the conflict in West Asia, particularly the attack on Saudi oil tankers by the Houthis." RBI's intervention in the market will prevent sharp depreciation in the rupee, he added. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading flat at 101.12. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 2.21 per cent higher at USD 96.15 per barrel in futures trade. Forex traders said crude oil prices remain elevated amid concerns over the security of oil shipments through the Red Sea and Strait of Hormuz. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex extended losses on Thursday, declining 363.66 points to settle at 76,391.39, while the Nifty was down 126.65 points to 23,869.60. Foreign Institutional Investors offloaded equities worth Rs 819.20 crore on a net basis on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

Infosys announces Ashiss Kumar Dash as CEO-Designate, Salil Parekh to step down after 9 years



Infosys announces Ashiss Kumar Dash as CEO-Designate, Salil Parekh to step down after 9 years The company said Parekh will step down effective from April 1, 2027. Parekh, who joined Infosys in January 2018, is the longest-serving non-founder CEO in the company's history. His current five-year term was scheduled to end on March 31, 2027. IT bellwether Infosys on Thursday announced that its CEO and Managing Director Salil Parekh will step down from his role after nine years at the helm, as the company appointed Ashiss Kumar Dash as CEO-Designate. The company said Parekh will step down effective from April 1, 2027. Parekh, who joined Infosys in January 2018, is the longest-serving non-founder CEO in the company's history. His current five-year term was scheduled to end on March 31, 2027. "The Board is delighted to appoint Dash as CEO-designate. Our industry is entering a period of considerable change. The Board was clear that our next CEO needed to combine the ability to drive bold transformation with the judgment to preserve the values and customer trust that have always distinguished Infosys. It gives me great pleasure that we have an internal leader as our next CEO," said Nandan Nilekani,

Chairman of the Infosys board. Indian Current Events In an exchange filing, Infosys said that "the Board approved its intention to appoint Ashiss Kumar Dash as the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of the Company with effect from April 1, 2027, upon fulfilment of all statutory requirements". Dash is currently the global head of a diverse business portfolio comprising multiple industry verticals and is planned to succeed Parekh as Managing Director and CEO on April 1, 2027, following the completion of Salil's second term, after over 9 years. Dash has held senior leadership roles spanning customer facing businesses, delivery, and global operations across multiple geographies. He also leads the sustainability business across the company. He has consistently delivered strong business performance, helped clients navigate complex business and technology transformations, and built high-performing global teams, said the company. "On behalf of the Board, I also thank Salil for his outstanding leadership over 9 years. Under his stewardship, Infosys has strengthened its market position, expanded its capabilities, delivered significant value to shareholders, and built a strong platform for future growth," said Nilekani.

No decision yet to raise ethanol blending in petrol beyond 20 per cent: Govt

New Delhi: The Union government told the Parliament on Thursday that no decision has been taken so far to increase ethanol blending with petrol beyond 20 per cent. Any future decision regarding higher ethanol blends will be taken only after detailed scientific and technical studies and consultations with all relevant stakeholders, including automobile manufacturers, oil marketing companies and research institutions. However, E85 fuel (containing 85 per cent ethanol and 15 per cent petrol) has been introduced exclusively for use in Flex Fuel Vehicles (FFVs) designed and certified for such fuel (E85) and does not constitute an increase in the nationwide base ethanol blending level of petrol, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi said in a written reply to a query in the Lok Sabha. He also clarified that ethanol has been used globally for more than a century, with countries such as Brazil operating higher ethanol blends for decades. In India, the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme has been implemented through a phased, scientifically validated and consultative process involving NITI Aayog, automobile manufacturers, oil marketing companies, Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) and other technical institutions. The scientific studies, field validation and extensive real-world operating experience have shown that E20 is a safe, cleaner and technologically superior fuel when used in accordance with the prescribed specifications and manufacturer recommendations. The Union government's assessment is based not



only on laboratory research but also on large-scale experience after nationwide implementation, Minister Gopi said. "E15+ blended petrol has been in widespread use for more than three-and-a-half years and E19-E20 fuel for more than two-and-a-half years. More than 20 crore two-wheelers and over 3 crore petrol cars have been operating on these blends without any verified evidence of widespread engine failure or vehicle breakdown attributable to ethanol blending. This is further validated through large-scale real-world experience. Manufacturer service data confirm that there is no abnormal corrosion, wear or reduction in vehicle life due to E20 fuel. Manufacturers continue to honour warranty obligations for vehicles using E20 fuel, providing further confidence in its safety and reliability," he added. "One of the country's largest passenger vehicle manufacturers serviced 2.84 crore vehicles during FY 2025-26, including nearly 1.5 crore older, non-E20-certified vehicles, without reporting any E20-related engine damage or abnormal component wear. Similarly, one of the leading two-wheeler manufacturers has reported, based on extensive service records, no higher incidence of damage in vehicles operating on E20 compared with earlier fuel blends," the Minister said.

EXPO TO PROMOTE YOUNG
ENTREPRENEURS“WALL
POSTER UNVEILED
COLLECTOR DR. LAKSHMISHA



VIJAYAWADA, JULY 23, 2026: District Collector Dr. Lakshmisha unveiled the wall poster for MSME Expo – Conclave 4.0 being organized by BNI at the PGRS Meeting Hall in Vijayawada Collectorate on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, the organizers said that the MSME Expo along with Conclave 4.0 will be held grandly from July 24, 25, and 26 at SS Convention, Vijayawada. The main objective of the event is to promote the growth of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), business expansion, investment opportunities, networking, and to create awareness on modern business trends. Conclave 4.0 is being organized as Andhra Pradesh’s largest business networking platform. Leading industrialists, entrepreneurs, experts, startup founders,

and MSME representatives from various sectors across the state will participate and share their experiences. Special sessions will be conducted on new business opportunities, collaborations, technology, and market expansion for business growth. The organizers also announced that Pullela Gopichand, renowned badminton coach who has rendered distinguished service to Indian badminton, will attend as the Chief Guest for the main event on July 26. Those Present at the Wall Poster Launch: MSME Expo Chairman Trinadh Nanduri, Conclave Chairman Yuva Kishore, Convener Devakumar, Secretary K. Lakshmi Shanti and others participated in the program.

Valuable Platform for Holistic
Development of Students
Collective Effort Needed for Success
Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha

NTR DISTRICT - VIJAYAWADA, JULY 23, 2026: District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha on Thursday said that the State Government’s prestigious Mega Parents Teachers Meeting 4.0 will be celebrated across the district on Friday, July 24 in a festive atmosphere. The objective is to improve educational standards in government schools, ensure holistic development of students, and strengthen the partnership between parents and teachers. The government is conducting these meetings with utmost priority to increase school enrollment, achieve excellent results in Class 10 exams, and enhance personality development of students, she stated. Mega PTM will be held in 691 Primary, 23 Upper Primary, 208 High Schools and 10 Government Junior Colleges in the district. Along with students and parents, hon’ble public representatives, donors, and alumni will also participate. Key agenda includes analysis of students’ learning outcomes, review of school facilities, Class 10 results, Thalliki Vandhanam scheme, Shining Stars, and G-FLN results at primary level and other government schemes. The event will also feature sports equipment and photo gallery exhibitions. For parents, competitions like Rangoli, Lemon and Spoon, Musical Chairs, and Tug of War will be organized. The program will include a LEAP App demonstration, speeches by chief guests, Q&A sessions, and cultural programs. As part of the event, food prepared under the Dokku Seethamma Mid-Day Meal Scheme will be served to students, their parents, and guests. The Collector appealed to everyone to participate and make this program, aimed at ensuring a golden future for children, a grand success. VIRTUAL MEETING WITH FIELD LEVEL OFFICERS As per the instructions of District Collector Dr. G.



Lakshmisha, DEO L. Chandrakala and Additional Project Coordinator R. Rameshbabu held a virtual meeting with Headmasters of schools. They gave instructions for the smooth conduct of the program and directed officials to involve students, parents, villagers, and public representatives to make it a success.

Madhav terms students ‘anti-national’
Vijayawada: BJP state unit president P V N Madhav alleged that the Congress was directly and indirectly supporting alleged anti-national forces by backing protests over the NEET paper leak. He claimed the agitation in New Delhi had gone beyond the examination issue and questioned the country’s sovereignty. Speaking to media during the protest, Madhav alleged that urban Naxals and anti-national elements had infiltrated the protests and accused the Congress of exploiting student concerns for political gains. He further claimed that BJP workers holding a peaceful demonstration in Vijayawada were attacked by Congress activists with sticks and eggs. The BJP leader also alleged that more than 150 examination paper leaks had occurred during the UPA regime, while the Narendra Modi government had taken immediate action by arresting those responsible in the NEET paper leak case.



AP Cabinet meeting to be held
today to take key decisions

Andhra Pradesh Cabinet meeting under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu will be held today (Thursday) at the Secretariat Andhra Pradesh Cabinet to meet today day under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu at the Secretariat, Velagapudi. In this meeting, the Chief Minister will address various issues with the ministers. After returning from his trip to Delhi, the Chief Minister will reach the Secretariat to attend this meeting. Various issues like state development, investment, infrastructural projects, and administration will come under discussion in the meeting that commences at 10:30 am. Various proposals for allocating land to different entities to attract investments in Andhra Pradesh will come up for discussions in this cabinet. Other issues like cooperation with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in food processing sectors, investments, and exporting will possibly



be discussed in this meeting. Apparently, the government seems to be concerned about creating more job opportunities in food processing industries. Arrangements for the inauguration of Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport in Bhogapuram, Vizianagaram district will be reviewed in this cabinet meeting that is expected to be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 1st. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu will guide the ministers about the success of the inauguration, security, and other aspects in the meeting.

Former Andhra minister held
for tampering evidence in hit-
and-run case involving son

Seediri Appalaraju The YSRCP leader is facing allegations of misleading investigating officers and tampering with evidence in a hit-and-run case involving his son, Arav Varma. Visakhapatnam: Police in Andhra Pradesh’s Srikakulam district arrested former minister and YSR Congress Party leader Seediri Appalaraju on Wednesday for allegedly tampering with evidence in a hit-and-run case involving his son. Police arrested the YSRCP leader from his residence in Kasibugga and shifted him to the local police station. Police were recording his statement. He is likely to be taken to a government hospital for medical examination before producing him to a magistrate. Tension prevailed at Appalaraju’s house at the time of his arrest as a large number of his supporters had gathered there, alleging political vendetta and harassment by the NDA government. The YSRCP leader is facing allegations of misleading investigating officers and tampering with evidence in a hit-and-run case involving his son, Arav Varma. On July 10, a 45-year-old man, Danayya, died on the spot after a two-wheeler allegedly ridden by Arav hit him on the Old National Highway at Kasibugga. Local police initially registered a case against another youngster, Siddardh, a friend of Arav. However, CCTV footage recovered from a nearby petrol station established that Arav was riding the vehicle before the crash. Following the revelation, police arrested both Arav Varma and Siddardh. As Appalaraju allegedly used his influence to shield his son, his name was also included in the First Information Report (FIR). He is facing charges of exerting pressure on the victim’s family to withdraw the case and attempting to conceal evidence. Meanwhile, former Chief Minister and YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has condemned the arrest of Appalaraju. He alleged that Chandrababu Naidu’s government has stooped to the level of turning even a road accident into a weapon of political vendetta. Government Famous Quotations “The 18-year-old son of former Minister and BC leader from North Andhra, Dr Seediri Appalaraju, was arrested and remanded not under provisions relating to a road accident, but on a murder charge, after being blamed for accidentally causing an accident while riding a motorcycle. Now, the arrest of his father, Appalaraju, makes it clear that the



government’s objective is to politically persecute an entire YSRCP leader’s family,” Jagan said in a post on X. “What exactly is Dr Seediri Appalaraju’s crime? Is it questioning the excesses of the Chandrababu government? Is it standing by the people of Palasa? Or is it earning respect as a doctor and serving the public? Is this the new legal system being implemented in Andhra Pradesh, where Chandrababu gets his political agenda published through the Yellow media and the police later convert it into a criminal case? Will the same standard be applied to every road accident involving TDP leaders, Ministers, their relatives or followers? If a family member of a TDP leader is involved in an accident, will that person and the other members of the family also be arrested in the same manner?” asked the YSRCP chief. He alleged that these arrests reveal a conspiracy to implicate and silence leaders who question the government’s failures, corruption and anti-people decisions. “Dr Seediri Appalaraju rose through his own merit from an ordinary fishermen’s family. He excelled in education, became a doctor, provided medical care and saved many lives. With the blessings of the people, he was elected as a YSRCP MLA and served them as a Minister. Attempting to portray such a person as a criminal through false charges is reprehensible. If his 18-year-old son is facing a charge that a shepherd unfortunately died in an accidental collision while he was riding a motorcycle, how can that become murder? How can the father be linked to an accident involving his son? Is this not a grave injustice?” asked Jagan. “The YSRCP cannot be intimidated through arrests. The party will stand firmly by every leader and every worker who fights for the people. Mr Chandrababu Naidu, power is not permanent. The people will not tolerate the false cases, illegal arrests and abuse of authority taking place today. They will certainly teach your government a fitting lesson,” he added.