



PM Modi to inaugurate Bhogapuram Airport, here is the tour schedule

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's programme in Bhogapuram on August 1 begins at 10:45 a.m. when he reaches Bhogapuram airport in a special flight from Delhi. He will be received by the Governor Abdul Nazeer, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Union and State ministers. He will be taken to the passenger terminal building in a car where he will get a Kuchipudi dance performance by 200 students. After that, he will inspect the progress of work at the Airport between 11 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Then, he will be taken from the terminal building to the public meeting venue in an open jeep which will take 8-10 minutes, leaving his port at 11:17-11:25 a.m. The main function including the commencement of the new airport, laying the foundation stone of development projects and his public address is scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 12:55 p.m. The Prime Minister will leave Bhogapuram by special flight around 1:05 to 1:10 p.m., thus concluding a two hour and 25 minute long programme.

Air India announces flight schedule from Bhogapuram airport



Flight operations at Bhogapuram Airport—which Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate on Saturday—will commence on August 17. In light of this, Air India has announced its flight schedule up to October 24. The airline stated that it will operate five daily services between Hyderabad and Bhogapuram and two daily services between Bengaluru and Bhogapuram, along with an additional service on five days of the week (excluding Sundays and Fridays). Air India also announced plans to operate four daily services between Vijayawada and Bhogapuram.

PM to dedicate to nation projects worth Rs.17,900 crore in Andhra Pradesh

Visakhapatnam: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate to the nation various development projects worth over ₹17,900 crore during his visit to Andhra Pradesh on Saturday. He will lay foundation stones and inaugurate multiple projects at the inauguration of Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram district. The Prime Minister will lay the foundation for the ASIP Semiconductor Project at Visakhapatnam, being developed with an invest-



ment of over ₹460 crore. The facility is being developed by ASIP Technologies Pvt Ltd in partnership with ARACT, Re-

public of Korea. According to an official release, it is Andhra Pradesh's first semiconductor manufacturing facility approved under the India Semiconductor Mission. The facility will manufacture around 96 million semiconductor chips annually and create high-skilled employment opportunities, while also fostering a robust ancillary ecosystem to support semiconductor manufacturing. The Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone for the Transmission System for Integration of Kurnool-IV Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) - Phase-I (4.5 GW), being implemented by POWERGRID through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), with an investment of about ₹5,550 crore. He will also inaugurate the Transmission System for Kurnool Wind

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Take Measures To Ensure No Transport Problems

Buses Must Reach Minister Kondapalli Srinivas

Vizianagaram, July 31: "Minister For Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises, Rural Poverty Eradication And Nri Empowerment And Relations Kondapalli Srinivas directed officials to take measures to ensure there are no transport problems for people coming for the airport inauguration programme to be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. On Friday afternoon, the Minister held a special review with Transport Commissioner Balasubramanyam and Director Of Survey And Settlements Ronangi Koormanatham at the Collectorate Meet-



ing Hall. On this occasion, the Minister said arrangements should be made for buses to reach the venue by 7:00 Am on Saturday. Officials informed Minister Kondapalli Srinivas that 4,734 buses have been arranged from Anakapalli, Alluri Sitaramaraju, Parvathipuram Manyam, Srikakulam,

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AP CEO releases draft electoral roll under SIR 2026

The draft electoral roll for the SIR in Andhra Pradesh has been released. CEO Vivek Yadav stated that 3.71 crore voters submitted their enumeration forms. According to the Election Commission, 89.22% of the total 4.16 crore voters submitted their forms. Authorities identified 15.22 lakh deceased individuals and confirmed that 22.30 lakh people had either permanently relocated or were absent. Additionally, it was found that 7.37 lakh names were registered in two or three different locations. For those registered in multiple places, their names have been retained at only one location; genuine voters have the opportunity to re-register using Form-6. Objections will be ac-



cepted from July 31 to August 30, and the final electoral roll is scheduled to be announced on October 3. Officials released the draft electoral rolls for the state's 175 Assembly constituencies. It was stated that no voter's name would be deleted without notice and an inquiry.

Every stage of collection at Ram Mandir filmed

New Delhi: The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has tightened surveillance over donations offered by devotees at the Ram temple, with every stage of the collection and counting process now being videographed as part of enhanced transparency measures introduced amid an ongoing probe into the alleged theft of temple offerings. Trustee Mahant Dinendra Das told PTI that the new system has been in place since July 25 and covers the entire chain of handling donations -- from removing empty boxes from the counting room to transporting, filling, sealing and returning them under continuous camera surveillance. An eight-member monitoring team has been



deployed, and the process is being recorded through 360-degree cameras, he said. Around 40 donation boxes installed across the temple premises are now being emptied on different days instead of all at once, Das stated. "Before a donation box is emptied, the entire process of taking an empty

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Minister For Education And It Nara Lokesh Arrives In Bhogapuram



Bhogapuram, July 31: "Minister For Education And It Nara Lokesh arrived in Bhogapuram today. Tdp State President Palla Srinivas, Ministers Kondapalli Srinivas, Kolusu Parthasarathi, Mp Appalanaidu and others welcomed Minister Lokesh.



Vijayawada: Dedicated queue, new ramp for devotees

Vijayawada: Kanaka Durga temple EO and special grade deputy collector V K Seena Naik announced measures to ensure hassle-free participation for devotees in various pujas and rituals at the temple. During an inspection on Thursday, the EO, accompanied by senior officials, reviewed the movement of devotees and observed that pilgrims faced difficulties in reaching the puja mandapams during peak rush hours. To address the issue, he directed officials to create a dedicated queue line for devotees participating in special pujas. Under the new arrangement, devotees attending pujas and archanas will no longer have to pass through the main sanctum queue. Instead, they will be guided through a separate route starting from the Lakshmi Ganapathi Temple.



Pratapsons: The Secret Behind India's Enduring Wedding Fashion Legacy

India: As the high-end wedding fashion market matures in India, traditional stores are finding ways to differentiate themselves through authenticity, craftsmanship and customer loyalty. Although customer tastes are changing and online research is impacting purchasing behaviour, family businesses are proving that reputation is one of the biggest advantages established brands have in organised retail. Pratapsons is one of the Jaipur brands that has years of experience in the wedding fashion business. The company has been manufacturing custom-designed wedding dresses, designer saris, lehengas, and party-wear since 1954. At present, Pratapsons is run by Prem Prakash Taneja, who is continuing the tradition of the brand established by the 3rd generation of its founders. Founded as Pratap Cloth Store by Late Shri Pratap Rai Taneja and later joined by Late Shri Om Prakash Taneja, Pratapsons has evolved with the city of Jaipur becoming one of the country's premier wedding shopping destinations. Times have changed and so have consumer habits, but at Pratapsons, the focus on superior craftsmanship and quality has stayed constant. "If you want to keep legacy alive, you have to keep changing with every changing need and expectation of the consumer. Without sacrificing the principle which garnered confidence of customers for generations," says Prem Prakash Taneja. "Every generation has the responsibility to protect what it inherits while preparing it for the future. At Pratapsons, our commitment has always been to earn trust through quality, transparency and lasting relationships with our customers," says Prem Prakash Taneja. The Indian wedding economy continues to fuel strong demand for premium ethnic wear, with bridal shopping becoming one of the most experience-driven retail segments in India. Customers buying wedding attire still enjoy the physical retail experiences where craftsmanship, fabrics, embroidery and personalised styling can be evaluated before important purchasing decisions are made, say industry experts. This changing market has reinforced the importance of established retailers that have developed customer confidence over decades. For businesses like Pratapsons, repeat customers and family referrals continue to play an important role, reflecting the enduring value of trust in premium retail. As the brand continues to serve customers across Rajasthan and beyond, Pratapsons has also taken steps to reinforce brand authenticity and protect consumers from potential confusion in the marketplace. The company has also clarified that it has no other branches by the name of Pratapsons, and any other branch having the name of Pratapsons is not related to the company in any way. The company has made this clarification to help customers identify genuine Pratapsons branches and receive the service of the brand. Industry observers note that as established retail brands grow in recognition, protecting brand identity and ensuring customer clarity become increasingly important aspects of long-term reputation management. It is also the commitment towards authenticity that Prem Prakash Taneja is still leading Pratapsons with during the next phase of their development.

Take Measures To Ensure No Transport Problems

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Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram districts of Uttarandhra. They said a total of 2 Lakh 12 Thousand 500 people will attend Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting through these buses. The Minister suggested preparing bus schedules based on the time taken to reach the venue from various areas. He said arrangements should be made for buses to reach the venue in slot-wise manner so that people coming in vehicles face no problems. Officials informed the Minister that a Control Room has been set up at the Collectorate with a special app to track the location of each bus. The Minister suggested that during the return journey of buses, teams and in-charges should coordinate on places where buses need to halt for meals. He directed Police and Transport departments to jointly make necessary arrangements for regulation of vehicle traffic. Markfed Chairman Karrotu Bangaru Raju and officials participated in the programme.

PM to dedicate to nation projects worth Rs.17,900 crore in Andhra Pradesh

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Energy Zone/Solar Energy Zone (Andhra Pradesh) – Part A & Part B, implemented at a cost of around ₹3,550 crore, and the Transmission Scheme for Solar Energy Zone in Ananthapuram (2,500 MW) and Kurnool (1,000 MW), implemented by POWERGRID at a cost of over ₹820 crore. These transmission projects will enable the evacuation of power generated from the renewable energy zones in Kurnool and Ananthapuram and the transmission of power to beneficiaries across the country through the National Grid. They will facilitate the integration of a large quantum of renewable energy into the grid, improve the availability of clean power for demand centres, and contribute to India's energy transition and decarbonisation efforts by reducing dependence on fossil fuel-based power generation, said the release. The Prime Minister will dedicate to the nation and lay the foundation stone of National Highway projects worth over ₹1,880 crore. The projects to be dedicated include the four-lane access-controlled Greenfield highway from Recherla to Guruvaygudem section of NH-365BG, the four-lane access-controlled Greenfield highway from Guruvaygudem to Devarapalle section of NH-365BG, and the four-lane Tadipatri Bypass on NH-67. He will also lay the foundation stone of the high-level bridge at Lingasamudram on the Penchalakona-Yerpedu section of NH-565. These projects will ease congestion in Vijayawada and several other cities, improve road safety, reduce travel distance and travel time between Visakhapatnam and Hyderabad, and promote regional connectivity.

Ntr Bharosa Social Pensions Worth Rs. 98.12 Crore To Be Distributed To 2,24,793 Beneficiaries In District On August 1
District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha

Ntr District, July 31: "District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said that Ntr Bharosa Pensions will be distributed on a large scale on August 1 as part of strengthening social security for eligible beneficiaries in the district. She said all arrangements have been



completed to distribute social pensions worth Rs. 98.12 Crore to a total of 2,24,793 beneficiaries. The Collector said necessary instructions have been issued to Swarnagram and Swarnawards office staff to ensure pensions are delivered on time as every month under the Ntr Bharosa Pensions Distribution Scheme. She clarified that from the morning of August 1, Swarnagram and Swarnawards office staff should go directly to beneficiaries' houses and hand over pensions. She said special measures have been taken in all mandals and urban areas in the district to ensure beneficiaries receive pensions on time. A total of Rs. 98,11,85,500 funds have been kept ready for distribution and officials have been directed to conduct the programme transparently and efficiently. The Collector suggested that staff responsible for pension distribution should greet beneficiaries warmly and hand over pensions with respect. She said staff are responsible for providing services without causing any inconvenience to elderly, persons with disabilities and other beneficiaries. She directed that if any problems arise during distribution, they should be immediately brought to the notice of concerned Mpdos and Municipal Commissioners. She said steps should be taken to resolve problems immediately and ensure pension reaches every beneficiary. The District Collector called upon all departments to work in coordination to make the programme a success.

Opposition seeks NTA reforms, accountability during debate on anti-paper leak Bill

New Delhi: Opposition members have demanded a mechanism to ensure accountability for those involved in administering exams, constitutional recognition for the National Testing Agency, and reform of the education and recruitment systems. Congress member Mukul Wasnik said that the Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, proposes action within a set deadline, but who will be held accountable for the delay in investigation? He said there have been 152 paper leaks since 2014, but the minister only mentioned Congress-ruled states and skipped mentioning Gujarat. "There is discrimination in this too. Your government, my government. If the vision remains confined to a narrow mind, then we cannot progress. There has not been a single conviction in 152 paper leaks," Wasnik said. While establishing the National Testing Agency in 2017, the government said that the proposal was made in 1992, but Congress did not do anything, he added. "There have been 9-10 paper leaks after formation of NTA. There was no full director general there between 2024-26. Out of 39 positions, 25 are filled rest are vacant. You work through contractors. Re-exams were held recently; it was due to irregularity," Wasnik said. He said that the irregularity was mentioned, but those irregularities were not disclosed. Independent member Kapil Sibal said that the paper leak was a trigger and not the cause. "I spoke to children, but will not take their names as they will be targeted," he said. He said students mentioned that they don't get jobs as per their qualifications. "One of them said that the protest is not about one exam or a paper leak. It is about rebuilding trust in the education and recruitment system. The bill that has come assumes that there will be paper leaks," Sibal said. RJD member Sanjay Yadav said there is nothing new in this bill apart from increasing the quantum of punishment. He said that the government has to take its first test in 12 years and it failed. "This government has fired AK-47 and pellet guns on youth. Youth will respond to pellets with ballot," he said. He said NTA is registered under the Societies Act and it cannot be audited by CAG. Yadav said that NTA should be given constitutional authority. BJP nominated member Ujjwal Deorao Nikam, in favour of the bill, said harsher punishment is being prescribed in it for the betterment of students. "Let no



one say that this government does not listen. The voice of the street has been heard at the highest level. The education minister has himself stepped down. My young friends, a resignation will not secure your future. This bill changes what happens inside every examination hall in India," he said. Trinamool Congress' Rajeev Kumar said that formation of Nandan Nilekani-led committee is laudable, but this bill should have come after recommendation of the panel.

CPI member Sandosh Kumar P said there is an unholy nexus between political parties and coaching mafia in this country. "Who are these people arrested by the CBI after this NEET exam scam? Can the government claim accountability? There was a huge student upsurge in the country; that is why Dharmendra Pradhan has to resign," he said. Some of his remarks were expunged, considering it an allegation on a member of the ruling party. "We have a heartless government at the Centre. Modi government is for leakage and lathi charge only. Nothing more.

Every stage of collection at Ram Mandir filmed

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box from the counting room, carrying it to the donation box, placing the offerings in it and returning the sealed box to the counting room is videographed," he told PTI, adding that two professional videographers have been deployed for the purpose. The monitoring team comprises two bank employees, two trust representatives, two private security personnel and other designated staff.

Draft Voters List Of Ntr District Released

Claims And Objections Accepted From July 31 To August 30 – Final Voters List On October 3
Every Eligible Person Should Enroll As Voter
District Collector And District Election Officer
Dr. G. Lakshmisha

Vijayawada, July 31:“As per directions of Election Commission Of India, District Collector And District Election Officer Dr. G. Lakshmisha on Friday officially released the Draft Voters List of Ntr District at A.v.s Reddy Meeting Hall in Vijayawada Collectorate in the presence of representatives of various political parties as part of Special Intensive Revision (Sir-2026) programme.15.89 Lakh Voters Enrolled In DistrictAs per Draft Voters List-2026, district population is 24,45,334 and total 15,89,731 voters have been enrolled. Among them 7,71,648 are men, 8,17,936 are women and 147 are Third Gender voters. It is noteworthy that the number of women voters in the district is higher than men. The Sex Ratio is 1060 and there are 650 voters per thousand population.Pwnd And Service Voters Details13,755 Persons With Disabilities (Pwnd) voters are enrolled in the district. Also, there are 367 Service Voters, among whom 337 are men and 30 are women.Draft List Available In 1936 Polling StationsDraft Voters List has been made available for public verification at 7 Assembly Constituency Electoral Registration Officers (Ero) offices, Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (Aero) offices and 1,936 Polling Stations in the district.One Month Time For Claims And

ObjectionsDistrict Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said if changes, additions, deletions are required in name, address or other details in the draft list, applications can be submitted to concerned Booth Level Officer (Blo), Tahsildar, Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (Aero) and Electoral Registration Officer (Ero) offices from July 31 To August 30, 2026.Notices And Disposal Of Objections Till September 28As part of revision process, issuance of notices, scrutiny, enquiry and disposal of claims and objections will continue from July 31 To September 28, 2026.Final Voters List On October 3After disposal of all objections and claims, the final voters list will be officially published on October 3, 2026, said the District Election Officer.Everyone Above 18 Years Should Enroll As VoterThe Collector suggested that every eligible person who has completed 18 Years should submit Form-6 along with Annexure-D and enroll as a new voter.She said notices will be issued to those who did not submit required details in Special Intensive Revision or whose submitted details have discrepancies. Those who receive notice should submit required certificates within the stipulated time.11 Valid Documents For VerificationAny one of the following documents can be submit-



ted for voter enrollment or verification of details: Government/Psu Employee Or Pensioner Id / Ppo Id Issued By Government Or Public Sector Undertakings Before 01-07-1987 Birth Certificate Passport Matriculation Or Educational Certificate Permanent Residence Certificate (Prc) Forest Rights Certificate Obc / Sc / St Caste Certificate Nrc (Wherever Applicable) Family Register Government Issued Land Or House Allotment CertificateConstituency-Wise General VotersTiruvuru (Sc): 1,95,574 (Men – 96,252, Women – 99,316, Third Gender – 6) Vijayawada West: 2,35,721 (Men – 1,15,786, Women – 1,19,902, Third Gender – 33) Vijayawada Central: 2,59,092 (Men – 1,25,076, Women – 1,33,967, Third Gender – 49) Vijayawada East: 2,49,985 (Men – 1,21,442, Women – 1,28,522, Third Gender – 21) Mylavaram: 2,64,459 (Men – 1,27,737, Women – 1,36,702, Third Gender – 20) – Highest Voters In District Nandigama (Sc): 1,91,709 (Men – 92,883, Women – 98,818, Third Gender – 8) Jaggayyapeta: 1,93,191 (Men – 92,472, Women – 1,00,709, Third Gender – 10)Constituency-Wise Service VotersTiruvuru (Sc) – 48 Vijayawada West – 58

Vijayawada Central – 67 (Highest In District) Vijayawada East – 60 Mylavaram – 43 Nandigama (Sc) – 41 Jaggayyapeta – 50District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said the main objective of Special Intensive Revision programme is to prepare a more transparent, accurate and error-free voters list. She said this Special Intensive Revision programme is being conducted as per Election Commission Of India Order No.23/2025-Ers/Vol.II Dated 09-09-2025.Collector's Appeal To PublicDistrict Collector And District Election Officer Dr. G. Lakshmisha appealed to every voter to mandatorily verify their name, address and other details in the draft list and get necessary corrections done. She said every eligible person should enroll as voter and called upon public, political parties, public representatives and officials to participate in coordination in Special Intensive Revision programme to prepare a complete and accurate voters list for the district.Dro M. Lakshminarasimham, Bjp Representatives K. Ganesh, P. Suresh Babu, Bsp A. Pawan Kumar, Tdp Representative Y. Ramayya, Ysrcp Representative Y. Anjaneya Reddy, Jsp Representative J. Srinivas Reddy, Election Section Deputy Tahsildars Anush Kumar, Reddy participated in the programme.

Giorgia Meloni says Italy may suspend Schengen with Spain over migration surge

Rome: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has announced that Rome was ready to take “extraordinary measures” to defend Italy’s borders and the safety of citizens, including through the suspension of the Schengen area with Spain. In a statement shared on X, Meloni stressed that the images coming from Ceuta are “striking” and once again demonstrate that uncontrolled illegal immigration poses a threat to the security of Europe’s borders.“The images coming from Ceuta are striking and demonstrate, once again, that uncontrolled illegal immigration poses a concrete threat to the security of Europe’s borders. I have spoken with Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi. Italy will not stand by and watch,” Meloni posted on X.“We are convening the relevant bodies, and following these meetings, we are prepared to intervene with extraordinary measures to defend the borders and the safety of citizens, including the suspension of the Schengen Area with Spain. On illegal immigration, we will not yield an inch: defending the borders, stopping human traffickers, and ensuring effective repatriations will continue to be the line of this Government,” she added. Italian Deputy Prime Minister Antonio Tajani also made a similar call. In a statement, Tajani termed the Spanish government’s decision to grant Spanish and European citizenship to more than 500,000 irregular immigrants “profoundly wrong” and expressed his support for closing the Schengen Area to Spain.“I am in favor of closing the Schengen Area to Spain and have full confidence in Minister Piantedosi’s actions. Irregular and uncontrolled immigration poses a danger to national security. The images coming from Ceuta show how the Madrid Government’s decision to grant Spanish, and therefore European, citizenship to over 500,000 irregular immigrants is profoundly wrong and encourages human



trafficking,” Tajani posted on X. Italian leadership’s statement came as hundreds of people travelled from Morocco to Ceuta by swimming or using

inflatable devices to reach Tarajal beach on Thursday.Meanwhile, Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares described Tajani’s statement as “unbecoming” and announced that he has summoned Italy’s ambassador.In response to Tajani’s post on X, Albares stated, “This message is unbecoming of the Foreign Minister of a partner and friendly country from which we expect European solidarity and not partisan demagoguery. Today’s events are related to a court ruling, having nothing to do with what the

tweet says. I have summoned the Italian Ambassador tomorrow.”After many migrants reached Ceuta by swimming, Spain on Thursday announced that it would dispatch additional army in Ceuta to reinforce security, Euro News reported. As many as nine people reportedly died while trying to reach Ceuta. Spain’s decision comes after Ceuta’s regional president urged Madrid to announce a national emergency and take control of the situation in the autonomous city, stating that local authorities were overwhelmed by an increase in illegal crossings.

Families of injured Delhi Police personnel allege attacks during Jantar Mantar protest violence

New Delhi: Family members of Delhi Police personnel injured during the Jantar Mantar protest have alleged that several officers were attacked during clashes at the demonstration, claiming that the situation turned violent after protesters allegedly breached security arrangements and damaged public property.The relatives of injured police personnel addressed a press conference in Delhi, sharing accounts of the injuries suffered by officers deployed at the protest site.The wife of an injured Delhi Police Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) said her husband had served in the force for 33 years.“My husband has been serving in the Delhi Police for 33 years. He joined as a constable and is currently posted as an ASI,” she said.Recalling the events of July 20, she said, “He left for duty at Jantar Mantar as usual. Around 11:00 a.m., he told me there was a huge crowd and that the protesters were marching towards Parliament. I asked him to take care of himself.”She said she later learned that her husband had been admitted to LNJP Hospital. “He told me the crowd had turned aggressive and that some mischievous elements had joined the protest,” she added.According to her, police personnel were attacked during the unrest. “They attacked police personnel with flower pots, stones, slippers, and shoes. He also said they broke the barricades put up for Parliament’s security,” she alleged.The daughter of another injured Delhi Police officer also shared her account, saying her father, an Inspector/Sub-Inspector rank officer, was deployed near the main protest site.“My father is an SI in Delhi Police. He was deployed at the main protest site



and stationed on the frontline near the barricades amid a large crowd,” she said.She claimed her father had expressed concerns about the nature of the protest. “He would often tell us that the protest no longer seemed like a student protest and that anti-social elements had joined it,” she said.Recalling the incident, she added, “On July 25, my father was dragged by a violent mob and was nearly lynched near the Jantar Mantar stage. He remained unconscious at RML Hospital for around four hours. Later that night, his colleagues brought him home, and his uniform was soaked in blood.”According to figures shared in a recent report, more than 250 police personnel were injured during the July 20 incident. The claims also stated that over 110 barricades were damaged, more than 300 body protectors and over 350 helmets were damaged.



Deadly coal mine blast in Pakistan kills 15, more than two dozen still trapped

Quetta: At least 15 coal miners were killed, while more than two dozen others remain trapped after a methane gas explosion ripped through a coal mine in the Sorange coalfield in Pakistan's Balochistan province, local media reported on Friday. According to the officials, 24 miners were working about 4,000 feet underground when the explosion took place at a private coal mine, Pakistan-based daily Dawn reported. A fire erupted in the mine after the explosion, resulting in the collapse of the structure. Another mine located near the site of the incident was also impacted. As many as 12 miners working in the second mine remained trapped. Chief Inspector of Mines Muhammad Atif said that 36 coal miners were present in the two mines when the incident took place. Atif said that the Mines and Minerals Department and the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) have initiated a rescue operation, and 21 miners remained missing until Thursday night while the rescue operation continued, Dawn reported. Also Read - BLA's tactical evolution keeps Pak security forces on their toes Advertisement He stated that the blast was believed to have occurred due to the accumulation of methane gas at a depth of around 4,000 feet, causing a fire and gathering of hazardous gases in the mine. Earlier in May, two miners were killed and another injured in two separate coal mine incidents in Shangla district of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The first incident took place at Mine No 5 of Akhorwal coal mines. The sources revealed that two workers were buried under debris during operations in the mine. Rescue teams, fellow miners and local residents retrieved the trapped workers after carrying out a rescue operation for nearly two and a half hours, Pakistan's another daily The Express Tribune, reported. In a separate incident, a miner died while working in a coal mine in Chaparmashti area. Local residents and labour organisations have voiced serious concern over the lack of safety measures in Pakistan's coal mines and called on the government and authorities to take notice of the issue.

Oppn MPs stage street play-like protest in Parliament over Ram Temple donation theft

New Delhi: Opposition MPs, including Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, and Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Purnia MP Pappu Yadav, on Friday staged a unique protest in Parliament over the alleged embezzlement of donations made to the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. The MPs also questioned the absence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah from Parliament. Pappu Yadav arrived at Parliament dressed in a saffron attire and staged a street play kind of demonstration. He was carrying a donation box to highlight the allegations of financial irregularities related to the Ram Temple donations in Ayodhya. During the protest, Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, Priyanka Gandhi, and several other Opposition leaders were seen making symbolic donations into the box. Speaking during the protest, Pappu Yadav raised slogans and accused those responsible for allegedly misusing funds collected in the name of Lord Ram. "Ram Ram japiyo re, sab maal hadapiyo re. Man mein Ram, Chintan mein Ram, Kan mein Shiv, Jivan Mein Sanso Mein," he told reporters. Samajwadi Party MP, Dharmendra Yadav, said the demonstration was aimed at drawing attention to allegations that devotees who made donations were not issued receipts and that CCTV footage related to the matter had allegedly been deleted. "This is a symbolic protest to highlight what has happened in Ayodhya. Devotees made donations, but there are allegations that receipts were not issued and CCTV footage was deleted. We want a discussion on this issue in Parliament," he said. He also alleged that there had been irregularities in the handling of temple donations and urged the Speaker to al-



low a debate on the matter. The protesting MPs were also seen carrying a banner that read, "Amit Shah Sansad Se Gayab Kyun? (Why is Amit Shah absent from Parliament?)." Earlier, on July 26, the Uttar Pradesh government officially reconstituted the SIT to investigate allegations of irregularities in donations and offerings made at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. Meanwhile, after Ayodhya's Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, responsible for overseeing the Ram Temple's administration, appointed IIT Bombay alumnus Jagdish Aphale as its first secretary, the Opposition leaders questioned the government as well as the organisation regarding measures to prevent misappropriation of the temple's funds in the future. Aphale has also been reportedly made the joint signatory for the temple body's financial transactions, following allegations of embezzlement of donations made at the Ram Temple in

Ayodhya. Samajwadi Party spokesperson Ashutosh Verma urged the government and the Trust to explain "whether the appointment will prevent future irregularities and what measures are being put in place for that?" "There are still unanswered questions about why no FIR has been lodged against Champat Rai. Until the government takes strict action, we will believe that influential people continue to be protected," he told IANS. Talking to IANS, Uttar Pradesh Congress President Ajay Rai said: "The Trust was constituted for a sacred purpose. However, people associated with the RSS indulged in corruption and theft in the name of Lord Ram...The Ram Temple Trust should be reconstituted and placed under the guidance of seers, including the Shankaracharyas." "The people of Ayodhya should also be included in the Trust, as they have a deep and historic association with Lord Ram and have served him for generations," he added.

CBI court sentences railway goods clerk to four years in jail in bribery case

Lucknow: A special CBI court in Lucknow has convicted and sentenced Durgesh Bahadur Singh, then posted as Goods Clerk at Dariyapur Junction Railway Station in Uttar Pradesh's Raebareli district, to four years' imprisonment in a bribery case, an official statement said on Friday. The sentence was pronounced on July 30. Besides the jail term, the court also imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 on the accused. According to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the case was registered on October 13, 2017, following a complaint by the Director of M/s R.D. Cement Industries Pvt. Ltd., Lucknow. The complainant alleged that Singh had demanded a bribe of Rs 60,000 in return for substantially reducing a demurrage charge of Rs 1.26 lakh levied on the company. The charge had been imposed after the firm failed to unload raw materials from a railway rake within the stipulated time. During negotiations, the accused allegedly agreed to accept the revised demurrage amount of Rs 37,800 and an illegal gratification of Rs 7,200 from the complainant. Acting on the complaint, the CBI laid a trap and caught Singh red-handed while accepting the bribe amount of Rs 7,200. Following the investigation, the agency filed a charge sheet against the accused public servant on November 30, 2017. After examining the evidence and concluding the trial, the CBI court found the accused guilty and sen-



tenced him accordingly, the agency said. It said it actively pursues corruption charges and takes them to logical conclusions. Recently, the CBI arrested an Assistant Engineer (AE) of Delhi's Public Works Department (PWD) along with a representative of a private construction firm and one of the firm's employees, in connection with a bribery racket involving the execution of a government construction project. Just a week ago, the CBI arrested a Senior Divisional Materials Manager (Sr DMM) of the North Eastern Railway (NER) in Varanasi for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 1.70 lakh.

Security forces bust terror hideout in dense Rajouri forest in J&K

Jammu: Security forces said on Friday that they have busted a terror hideout in the forest area of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, recovering stored rations, cooking utensils, etc. Officials said the hideout was found on Thursday evening during an area domination search operation in the Bangai forest area of Thanamandi in the district. The officials said the hideout had been constructed in a densely forested area, amid thick vegetation, and was not visible. It was only on close inspection that the hideout was detected. The seized items included two packets of rice, instant noodles, a knife, a lighter, a plastic sheet, an old blanket, a

gas stove nozzle, two candles, and a plastic bottle, they said. Search operations are still going on in the area. More details are awaited. Hideouts have been busted by the security forces in Rajouri district in the past as well. The recent incidents of hideout busting include Chamrer Forest (Thanamandi) when security forces unearthed a remote hideout containing a ready-to-use Improvised Explosive Device (IED), clothes, and eatables. In Darra Barachara (Thanamandi), during an earlier joint operation, security forces recovered 10 Under Barrel Grenade Launchers (UBGLs), a damaged ammunition box, and medical supplies from an unearthed



underground spot. In Gambhir Mughlan, search operations on May 23 led to heavy recoveries of automatic weapons, AK-47 rifles, pistols, and kilograms of explosive materials hidden in natural caves and dense vegetation. In Sagawat Forest (Darhal), where an underground hideout was found in August 2024, cooking

gas, blankets, and daily-use utilities were found. In 2023, a search operation was conducted in Kalakote, wherein weapons were found. Security forces and the Army are maintaining high alert along the International Border and the Line of Control (LoC) and in the areas close to these border districts of Rajouri, Poonch, Samba, Kathua and Jammu to ensure that the terrorists are prevented from getting a foothold in such areas. Intelligence agencies believe that as long as the terrorists are on the run, there is a high probability of them getting trapped in CASOs (Cordon and Search Operations) carried out by the security forces from time to time.

Hyderabad actor Teja Kalvakota shines in lead role in ‘Azadi 501’

Hyderabad: A local boy from Hyderabad is turning heads in the Telugu film industry. Karimnagar-born Teja Kalvakota is all set to shine in his seventh project, the much-anticipated Azadi 501. Teja, who is seen in the lead role in Azadi 501, graduated from the Indian Institute of Management and Commerce. Driven to make his mark in cinema, Teja recalls diving headfirst into every audition he could find. His persistence paid off with a breakthrough role in the Telugu web series ‘Pilla Pillagadu’, directed by Sumanth Prabhas, known for ‘Memu Famous’. The series was released in 2018 and received great appreciation from the audience “Pilla Pillagadu, which marked my entry into the world of films and web series, brought a wave of positivity and encouragement in my life,” he says.His next project, ‘Shivan,’ directed by VJ Shivan, a film poised for widespread acclaim, was unfortunately halted by the lockdown, putting its release on hold.Teja has also acted along with Naga Chaitanya in Majli, which was released in 2019. Though he poured his heart into



many auditions that didn’t pan out, Teja came close to landing a role in Niharika Konedala’s series ‘Hello World’. This near-miss only made him more determined to succeed.Teja Kalvakota now commands the spotlight as the lead in Azadi 501, a series that has quickly become a favourite among Gen Z viewers on Aha OTT.Shiva Teja directed Azadi 501, and Rachana Reddy produced it under the Thursday Cinemas banner.Azadi brings to life one of India’s most notorious tech scams, where a lot of people were drawn by the promise of an unbelievably inexpensive phone, sparking a nationwide fraud.Teja Kalvakota has acted in Pillapillagadu (Web Series, 2018), Majili, and others.

Happy Birthday Mrunal Thakur: Enchanting star who charmed the audience



From television to film stars – Mrunal Thakur is indeed a classic example of an actor who has been able to carve a niche for herself with her own efforts, dedication and hard work. As today happens to be her birthday, let us take a moment to appreciate her brilliant career as one of the most versatile talents in the industry. Whether Hindi or Telugu, Mrunal Thakur’s spellbinding performances keep the audience glued to their screens. Born on 1st August 1992 in Dhule, Maharashtra, actress Mrunal Thakur was raised in a Marathi speaking family. After studying in Jalgaon, Mrunal shifted to Mumbai for higher studies. However, the bubbly actress decided to give up on college and concentrate on television and films, which in turn turned out to be the right decision. She made her television debut in 2012 with a guest appearance on the show ‘Mujhse Kuchh Kehti... Yeh Khamoshiyaan’. However, it was the show ‘Kumkum Bhagya’ that made Mrunal a household name. She essayed the role of second lead Bulbul Arora Khanna on the Zee TV serial and gained massive popularity. In fact, she bagged the coveted ITA Award for her performance in the show. Apart from television shows, Mrunal has also par-

awards.Thereafter, she appeared in other Marathi movies, including the drama Duniya Dilli . Later in 2019, Mrunal made her Hindi debut with Super 30, a biographical drama film starring Hrithik Roshan. Super 30 turned out to be a massive hit and marked the actress’s entry into Bollywood. She thereafter appeared in Batla House with John Abraham in the same year.

In 2020, Mrunal starred in various movies, such as Ghost Stories , Toofaan , and Dhamaka . Although these films were either commercially or critically underwhelming, the actress received praise for her performances. In addition, Mrunal made her Telugu debut with Sita Ramam , where she played the lead role alongside



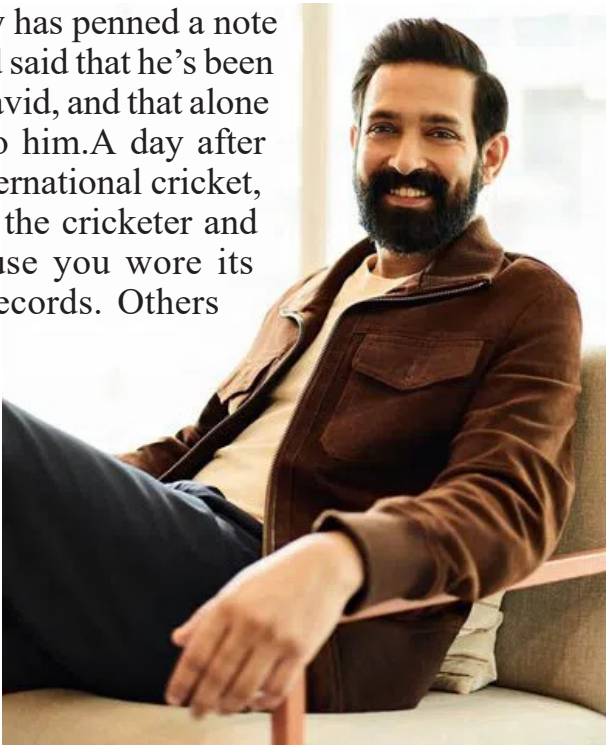
Dulquer Salmaan. The actress’s performance received massive applause, and Sita Ramam turned out to be a massive hit in the Telugu film circuit. In addition, the film earned Mrunal the Filmfare Award for Best Actress – Telugu. Besides Sita Ramam , Mrunal Thakur also appeared in Hi Nanna , starring alongside Nani. The actress’s performances in the film were highly appreciated, and Hi Nanna turned out to be a commercial success. It is important to note that, like any other film personality, Mrunal Thakur’s career also faced both highs and lows. Her films Jersey , The Family Star , and Son of Sardaar 2 were commercially unsuccessful. However, the actress has received critical acclaim for her performances in most of her films. The recent movies in which Mrunal has appeared include Do Deewane Seher Mein and the bilingual Kalki 2898 AD, in which she made a special appearance. Moreover, Mrunal has exciting projects ahead of her, including the upcoming film Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai , starring Varun Dhawan and Pooja Hegde, and the highly anticipated Pooja Meri Jaan . I am looking forward to seeing more of Mrunal Thakur’s career in the near future as she continues to captivate people with her mesmerizing performances.



icipated in reality shows like Nach Baliye 7 and the Box Cricket League. With stupendous success on television, Muraln forayed into films. She made her big screen debut with Marathi cinema before signing on for ‘Love Sonia’ (2018). The film, which dealt with the pertinent issue of human trafficking, did not find much success with the audiences. However, Mrunal’s performance was quite praiseworthy, garnering critical acclaim and

Vikrant Massey calls Ajinkya Rahane the ‘true heir’ to Rahul Dravid after retirement

Mumbai: Bollywood actor Vikrant Massey has penned a note for senior Indian batter Ajinkya Rahane and said that he’s been the only true heir to star cricketer Rahul Dravid, and that alone is enough for the world to be indebted to him.A day after Rahane announced his retirement from international cricket, Vikrant took to Instagram to bid adieu to the cricketer and said that “Indian cricket is richer because you wore its colours”. “Some players leave behind records. Others leave behind a standard. You played for the team before yourself, met triumph with humility and setbacks with quiet dignity, and reminded us that character can be as inspiring as talent,” Vikrant wrote in the caption.He added: “You’ve been the only true heir to Rahul Dravid, and that alone is enough for the world to be indebted to you In an age where visibility is often mistaken for value, you proved that true talent needs no PR campaign.”“Your selfless service, grit and passion for the game will be remembered for generations to come. Indian cricket is richer because you wore its colours. Thank you, Jinks @ajinkyarahane.Rahane announced his retirement from international cricket, drawing a curtain on a career that saw him feature in 85 Tests, 90 ODIs and 20 T20Is for India while also turning out in 212 IPL games for six teams.Rahane, who famously led the side to a spectacular Border Gavaskar Trophy series win in Australia in 2020-21, last played for India in the 2023 away Test series against the West Indies.He announced his retirement by sharing a video on social media with a caption, “Cap 278 signing off. Thank you for all the love and support over the years. Forever grateful.”Rahane made his India debut in 2011 during the tour of England and has 2962 ODI runs as well. He made his Test debut in 2013 and went on to score 5077 runs in 144 innings, including 12 centuries and 26 fifties.



Spider-Man: Brand New Day opens with Rs 72.44 crore in India

New Delhi: Tom Holland and Zendaya-starrer “Spider-Man: Brand New Day” has earned over Rs 70 crore on its opening day at the domestic box office. The film, directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, was released in India on Thursday in English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam in both 2D and 3D, a day ahead of its global release.It features Holland as Peter Parker / Spider-Man, alongside Zendaya, Jacob Batalon and Sadie Sink.According to trade tracking website Sacnilk, the film has earned Rs 72.44 crore gross at the domestic box office. “Spider-Man: Brand New Day” picks up four years after the events of 2021’s “No Way Home”, with Peter Parker living in isolation after erasing himself from the memories of everyone he loves.The film follows him as he faces a new and powerful threat while dealing with a surprising physical evolution triggered by the demands of his crime-fighting life.“Brand



New Day” is the 38th film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe and is produced by Kevin Feige and Amy Pascal.It also features Mark Ruffalo as Bruce aka The Hulk, Jon Bernthal as The Punisher and Michael Mando as Scorpion.Besides “Spider-Man: Brand New Day”, Holland and Zendaya have recently collaborated on “The Odyssey”. The film, directed by Christopher Nolan, revolves around the Greek King Odysseus on a perilous 10-year journey after the Trojan War.It has already earned over USD 700 million at the global box office.

Is Chiranjeevi planning a birthday surprise for his fans?

Though Vishwambhara, the latest Telugu film of the Megastar Chiranjeevi was one of the most anticipated movies, there hasn't been an update about this flick in quite some time. However, it is now being reported that the makers have planned a birthday surprise as his birthday falls on the release window for the film. Interestingly, Vishwambhara was set to release prior to Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu, which not only released first but also turned out to be a phenomenal hit at the box office. However, it seems that the wait for Vishwambhara might just end on August 22 which happens to be Chiranjeevi's birthday. As per the latest rumors doing rounds, makers of the flick have reportedly locked the first week of October 2026 for the film's release as a birthday surprise for the fans. Furthermore, the team has been working on the film's VFX so that movie lovers can experience best visual treat. Although the film's release date hasn't been officially confirmed by the producers yet, the film has been postponed multiple times. The fantasy enter-



tainer that stars Trisha and is directed by Mallidi Vasishta. Aashika Ranganath, Ramya Pasupuleti, Esha Chawla, and Ashrita Vemuganti Nanduri are also a part of the star cast. The music of the film has been composed by MM Keeravani. For now, the fans would have to wait till August 22, 2026 to know if Chiranjeevi's birthday will truly turn out to be a surprise for the viewers who have been waiting for Vishwambhara to hit the screens for a long time now.

Commonwealth Games 2026: Seema Kaliramna wins discus bronze as Tajinderpal Singh Toor finishes fifth

Glasgow: Seema Kaliramna won a bronze medal for India in Women’s Discus Throw with a best effort of 58.65m in the Commonwealth Games 2026 at Glasgow on Thursday night. Seema had only two valid throws in six rounds as she repeatedly had the disc entangled in the side netting on the wild night. After starting with a foul, Seema reached 57.32m and then threw to 58.65 before ending her campaign with three foul throws. But the 58.65m was enough to earn her a bronze medal. Another Indian, Nidhi Rani, ended fourth with a distance of 57.10m as Samantha Hall of Jamaica made history by winning the maiden gold medal for her country in discus throw. Julia Tunks of Canada took the silver medal with a throw of 60.67m. Meanwhile, there were setbacks for India in track and field competitions with two-time Asian Games gold medallist Tajinderpal Singh Toor failing to medal in the men’s shot put event and finishing fifth on Thursday night. Toor, who won gold medals in the 2018 Jakarta and the 2022 Hangzhou Asian Games, managed to produce a best throw of 20.27m in the third round and could not better it in the last three rounds and had to be satisfied with a fifth-place finish. The 31-year-old Toor, who has a personal best of 21.77m, opened with a throw of 20.06m. After reaching 19.98m in the second round, Tajinderpal Singh heaved the iron ball to 20.27m. In the fourth, fifth and sixth rounds, he made throws of 19.93m, 20-26m and 19.79m to eventually end without a medal.



Chukwuebuka Enekwechi of Nigeria secured the shot put title with a throw of 21.07m while New Zealand’s Tom Walsh got silver and Scott Lincoln of England bagged the bronze. Meanwhile, in the Women’s 5000m, India’s Asian Games gold medallist Parul Chaudhary finished 13th with a timing of 15 minutes 08.56 seconds. Australia’s Rose Davies won the gold medal, finishing the race first with a timing of 14:44.53, with her compatriot Jessica Hull taking the silver medal in 14:45.01. Megan Keith of Scotland took the bronze medal by finishing third in 14:49.10. All three of the medallists produced season-best efforts to take the three spots on the podium. The 19-year-old Sheriauna Haas of Canada thundered to victory in the Women’s 100m T47 race, with compatriot Chloe Dunbar just behind. The pair powered past favourite Anna Grimaldi of New Zealand, who had to settle for bronze.

Jay Shah says Africa’s return as Cricket World Cup host is a landmark for the sport



Hyderabad: ICC Chairman Mr. Jay Shah said South Africa hosting the 2027 ODI World Cup marked an exciting milestone on the road to the ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup 2027. “The unveiling of the host cities and the tournament brand signals the start of a journey that will unite fans around the world and build anticipation for one of our sport’s biggest glo-

bal events,” he said at a promotional event in Johannesburg. “The return of this prestigious tournament to Africa after 24 years is a landmark moment for cricket. We are confident that South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia will deliver an unforgettable event, showcasing the warmth, passion and rich diversity that make this region truly unique,” Jay Shah said.

Commonwealth Games: Lovepreet Singh wins weightlifting silver after Games record snatch

Glasgow: National record holder Lovepreet Singh settled for the men’s +110kg silver medal despite setting a Commonwealth Games record in the snatch as India’s weightlifters continued their impressive run at the Commonwealth Games here on Thursday. The 28-year-old from Amritsar lifted a Games record 176kg in the snatch before managing 212kg in the clean and jerk for a

total of 388kg. However, New Zealand’s David Andrew Liti produced a Commonwealth Games record lift of 223kg in the clean and jerk to overhaul the Indian and claim the gold medal with a total of 389kg. Liti had managed 166kg in the snatch. England’s Andrew Griffiths took the bronze medal with a total of 356kg, comprising 165kg in the snatch and 191kg in the clean and jerk.

Hockey Jammu and Kashmir and Hockey Arunachal register emphatic wins at Junior Nationals



Coimbatore: Hockey Jammu & Kashmir and Hockey Arunachal emerged victorious in Division ‘B’ matches on the third day of the 16th Hockey India Junior Men National Championship 2026 at the Coimbatore Hockey Ground on Thursday. Hockey Jammu & Kashmir registered a commanding 11-0 win over Kerala Hockey in their Division ‘B’, Pool A encounter. Harmanpreet Singh (11', 14', 36', 42', 51') starred with five goals, while Gamanpreet Singh (15', 24') added a brace. Kawalpreet Singh (25'), Taranjot Singh (29') and Arjun Pandit (32') also found the back of the net to complete the comprehensive victory.

In the Division ‘B’, Pool B fixture, Hockey Arunachal defeated Chhattisgarh Hockey 5-2. Mohd. Atif (11', 41', 52') led the charge with a hat-trick, while Salil Kindo (10', 14') struck twice to give Hockey Arunachal an early advantage. For Chhattisgarh Hockey, Mohit Nayak (24') and Vivek Yadav (34') scored their side’s goals. Earlier on the second day, Hockey Rajasthan, Telangana Hockey and Le Puducherry Hockey won their matches in Division ‘C’ while Uttarakhand, Arunachal and Chandigarh emerged victorious in Division ‘B’ on Wednesday. The day began with Hockey Rajasthan beating Assam Hockey 11-3 in Pool A of Division ‘C’. Mohammad

Ubaid Raza (31', 41', 51') scored a hat-trick while Himanshu Kumar Meena (8', 36'), Sandeep (36', 47'), Bisayati Azaj (49', 56'), Naman Patel (6') and captain Manvendra Gurjar (40') added to the tally for Hockey Rajasthan. Suraj Thakur (30', 53') and captain Amanat Ali (3') scored for Assam Hockey.

In Pool B, Division ‘C’, Telangana Hockey defeated Hockey Gujarat 3-1. Ganesh Ravula (13', 55') and Piyush (49') scored goals for the winning team while Divyeshbhai Rudhyabhai Wagh (42') was the lone goalscorer for Hockey Gujarat. In the same pool, Le Puducherry Hockey enjoyed a dominant 7-0 victory over Tripura courtesy of goals from Anbupathi (22', 25'), Gowtham (27', 59'), Rithish (10'), Illamaran (14') and captain Mohannath (28'). In the first match of Division ‘B’, Hockey Maharashtra and Hockey Jammu & Kashmir played out a 2-2 draw in Pool A. Laxman Chimnaji Metkar (33') and Krishna Vitthal Rathod (53') scored for Hockey Maharashtra and Arjun Pandit (30') and Harmanpreet Singh (57') for Hockey Jammu & Kashmir. In the same pool, Hockey Uttarakhand defeated Hockey Himachal with a commanding scoreline of 5-0. Vishal Kumar (32', 57'), captain Sarthak Mahar (53', 55'), and Suraj Kumar (20') scored goals for the winning team.

India wins one silver and two bronze medals at U17 World Wrestling Championships

Baku: India’s women wrestlers delivered strong podium finishes at the 2026 U17 World Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan, bringing home a silver and two bronze medals in highly competitive weight categories. Leading the charge in the 57kg division, Nikita Sehrawat put together a brilliant campaign to reach the championship final. Facing a formidable opponent in the reigning U17 World silver medallist Epenesa Elison of the USA, Nikita fought valiantly but ultimately sustained a 0-6 defeat. She finished second on the podium, securing a well-deserved silver medal for India. In the 49kg category, Kamna Babal showcased excellent resilience to claim the bronze medal. Following a semifinal setback against Japan’s Saika Uchida, Kamna bounced back in the third-place play-off against Russia’s Irina Tsydeeva. In a tense and closely fought bout, the Indian grappler edged out her opponent with a 3-2 victory to secure her spot on the podium. Adding



to the nation’s tally, Garima delivered a dominant performance in the 73kg bronze medal match. After a narrow 5-7 loss to USA’s Kaili Manuel in the semifinals, the former U15 Asian Champion regrouped effectively. She completely outclassed Spain’s Paula Benaixa Perez, registering a flawless 10-0 victory by technical superiority (VSU) to win the bronze. Earlier, in the 60kg Greco-Roman category at the U17 World Championships in Baku, India’s Darpan Raju Chaudhari kept his campaign alive by securing a hard-fought 5-3 victory (VPO1) over Greece’s Pavlos Tsentidis in the repechage round.



Apple set to outperform smartphone industry, say experts

New Delhi: Apple is expected to outperform the broader smartphone industry despite mounting component cost pressures, driven by the strength of its ecosystem, pricing power and loyal customer base, industry experts said on Friday after the company reported record June-quarter revenue. According to Prabhu Ram, Head of the Industry Intelligence Group at CyberMedia Research (CMR), Apple delivered a fundamentally strong quarter, supported by record iPhone and Mac revenues, an all-time high installed base and resilient gross margins despite sustained memory cost inflation. "Apple's ecosystem strength, pricing power and loyal installed base continue to give it a competitive advantage over Android OEMs, many of whom face a more difficult trade-off between protecting margins and sustaining volumes as component costs continue to rise," Ram said. However, he noted that Apple's ability to absorb rising memory costs through inventory management and supply chain efficiencies is narrowing, while Services and Greater China revenues remain areas to watch. Tarun Pathak, Research Director at Counterpoint Research, said Apple delivered another record revenue quarter in India, with Mac emerging as the standout performer,



driven by strong adoption of MacBook Neo alongside robust demand for the iPhone 17 series despite supply constraints. He expects Apple to register single-digit volume growth but double-digit value growth in India during the calendar year 2026 and said an iPhone price hike is highly likely as memory prices continue to rise. "Apple is expected to outperform the industry across its key hardware categories, driven by the strength of its installed base and the initial positive reception of Siri AI," Pathak said. Moreover, Apple reported June-quarter revenue of USD 109.4 billion, up 16 per cent year-on-year, while diluted earnings per share rose 29 per cent to USD 2.02.

IndiGo to decide next aircraft order in 2030: Rahul Bhatia

New Delhi: India's largest airline IndiGo will decide on its next aircraft order in 2030 after assessing the development of next-generation aircraft, as it aims to be an early adopter of new technology, Managing Director Rahul Bhatia said. The airline, which completes 20 years of operations next month, has grown from launching services with a single aircraft type in 2006 to operating more than 440 aircraft and serving over 140 destinations. It has more than 900 aircraft, including Airbus A350-900s, on order, with deliveries scheduled through 2035. "The reason we have taken a pause right now is because we want to see what happens with the next-generation aircraft. Who will launch it and when? Whenever that new technology comes along, I think it will be our next bite of the cherry and decide the future of this company beyond the current generation of aircraft," Bhatia told PTI in an interview. Next-generation aircraft generally refer to planes that incorporate advanced technologies and have lower emissions. IndiGo has doubled its order for the A350-900 aircraft to 60 and also holds options to purchase 40 more. Deliveries are expected to begin in 2028 as the airline expands into long-haul international operations. The airline, which has a domestic market share of more than 66 per cent, currently operates a fleet of A320 family aircraft, ATR turboprops and five Boeing 787 Dreamliners leased from Norway's Norse Atlantic. "We will see how things evolve over the next few years. My own view is that we are pretty well set till 2035," Bhatia said when asked about future aircraft orders. Also a co-founder of IndiGo, Bhatia said lower costs and sustainability would remain central to the airline's fleet strategy. "We want to be an early entrant as new technology comes along. We want to embrace that, improve our cost structure and be a more environmentally friendly airline." He said a decision on future orders could come in the early 2030s. "We have options for 40 A350s, which we can convert. It will depend on how things evolve over a period of time between now and when the next-generation aircraft comes



into service. Should we feel there is a need for a top-up order, we will do that," Bhatia said. In FY2026, IndiGo allocated USD 820 million towards aircraft purchases through its GIFT City entity. Bhatia said access to new technology would be a key factor in determining the airline's next round of aircraft purchases. "what you don't want to do is, as new technology comes along, you don't want to be saddled with a lot of older-generation aircraft," he said. As part of its strategy to reduce costs and increase flexibility, IndiGo is shifting from operating leases to finance leases for new aircraft. Bhatia said moving away from operating leases to finance leases fundamentally lowers the airline's cost structure while providing greater flexibility. "(For) planes that you finance, should you at any moment in the future decide you want to convert them into operating leases, you can. But you can't do it the other way around. It just provides you with optionality. And optionality in our business is critical," he said. IndiGo is among the few airlines globally that have not been significantly affected by aircraft delivery delays caused by supply chain disruptions, supporting its rapid expansion in both domestic and international markets. The airline carried more than 123 million passengers in FY26 and has served over 880 million customers since its inception. It currently operates more than 2,200 daily flights and plans to increase international capacity as it prepares to induct A321XLR aircraft and A350s into its fleet over the coming years. In its 2025-26 annual report, the airline said ongoing supply chain constraints affecting aircraft production, engine availability, maintenance cycles and component sourcing have put pressure on airlines' expansion plans globally.

Crude oil futures fall as West Asia shipping improves

New Delhi: Crude oil futures fell 3 per cent to Rs 7,811 per barrel on Friday, tracking weak global benchmarks as improving tanker movement through key West Asia shipping routes eased concerns over immediate supply disruptions despite lingering geopolitical risks. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), crude futures for August delivery depreciated by Rs 226, or 2.81 per cent, to Rs 7,811 per barrel. Similarly, the September contract also dipped by Rs 190, or 2.43 per cent, to Rs 7,616 per barrel on the commodities bourse. Traders said signs of improving oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait reduced the geopolitical risk premium in crude, prompting selling in domestic futures. "MCX crude oil prices declined on Friday, tracking weakness in the energy market as crude shipments through key West Asia maritime routes improved despite limited progress in US-Iran negotiations," said Pinky Yadav, Commodity Fundamental Analyst at Choice Broking. In the international markets, Brent crude futures for September delivery declined by USD 1.81, or 2.03 per cent, to USD 87.22 per barrel on the Intercontinental Exchange. West Texas Intermediate crude for the September contract also slipped by USD 1.80, or 2.15 per cent, to USD 81.79 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Yadav



said crude prices weakened globally after tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz increased, with more vessels transporting millions of barrels of oil. At the same time, Saudi tankers also resumed movement through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.

According to Kpler shipping data, 25 commodity vessels transited the Bab el-Mandeb Strait on Thursday, though traffic through the Strait of Hormuz remained limited to two tankers. Analysts said the improvement in shipping activity followed last week's threat by Yemen's Houthi to blockade Saudi vessels, which had briefly pushed crude prices above the USD 100-per-barrel level. However, concerns over global supply disruptions persisted after fresh strikes again halted crude loadings at Kazakhstan's key Black Sea export terminal, Yadav said. She added that Saudi Arabia has proposed an international maritime coalition involving representatives from 43 countries to safeguard Red Sea shipping following the Houthi blockade.

Bajaj Finance shares jump 7 per cent after strong Q1 results

New Delhi: Shares of NBFC Bajaj Finance on Friday jumped 7 per cent after the firm reported a 28 per cent year-on-year rise in consolidated profit after tax (PAT) for the June quarter of FY27. The stock surged 6.81 per cent to Rs 1,128, its 52-week high, on the BSE. At the NSE, the stock climbed 7 per cent to its 52-week high of Rs 1,128.10. Bajaj Finance on Thursday reported a 28 per cent year-on-year rise in consolidated profit after tax (PAT) to Rs 6,081 crore for the June quarter of FY27, driven by growth in core income and improvement in asset quality. The company posted a PAT of Rs 4,765 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year. Net interest income grew 23 per cent to Rs 12,571 crore during the April-June period of FY27, compared with Rs 10,228 crore in the year-ago period, Bajaj Finance said in a stock exchange filing. The NBFC's net total income climbed 22 per cent to



Rs 15,224 crore during the quarter under review from Rs 12,460 crore in the year-ago period. The company's asset quality strengthened, with gross non-performing assets improving to 0.96 per cent as of June 30, 2026, from 1.03 per cent a year earlier, while net non-performing assets dropped to 0.39 per cent from 0.50 per cent during the same period.

Sensex, Nifty trade higher as Bajaj Finance rallies

Mumbai: Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty were trading higher in early deals on Friday, tracking a sharp rally in Bajaj Finance, foreign fund inflows and a decline in crude oil prices. Profit-taking in IT stocks, however, restricted the market rally during initial trade. The 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 49.91 points to 77,970.95 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty went up by 28 points to 24,343.65. From the Sensex pack, Bajaj Finance jumped over 6 per cent after the firm on Thursday reported a 28 per cent year-on-year rise in consolidated profit after tax (PAT) to Rs 6,081 crore for the June quarter of FY27, driven by growth in core income and improvement in asset quality. Bajaj Finserv, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bharat Electronics, Maruti, InterGlobe Aviation, Adani Ports and Sun Pharma were also among the gainers. Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra, ITC and HDFC Bank were among the major laggards. Foreign Institutional Investors



(FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 3,623.51 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 0.98 per cent lower at USD 88.16 per barrel. In Asian markets, South Korea's KOSPI rebounded sharply and jumped 14.28 per cent. Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Shanghai's SSE Composite index also traded in positive territory, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index traded lower.

Excitement For Launch Of Wings To North Andhra Dreams

**All Arrangements Ready For Prime Minister's Visit
Works Completed With Sankalpam Of Chandrababu Garu
Jagan Spreading Falsehoods On Bhogapuram
Jagan's Visit To Misdlead People
Indecent Behavior With Woman Si Deplorable
Prime Minister Mentioning Airport Inauguration Is A Matter Of Joy And Pride
Minister Kondapalli Srinivas And Mp Kaliseti Appalanaidu At Press Meet**

Vizianagaram, July 31:Minister For Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises, Rural Poverty Eradication And Nri Empowerment And Relations Kondapalli Srinivas said people of North Andhra are eagerly waiting for the inauguration of Sri Alluri Sitaramaraju International Airport, which will give wings to North Andhra dreams. On Friday evening, the Minister along with Mp Kaliseti Appalanaidu addressed the media at the Airport Media Point.Speaking on the occasion, Minister Kondapalli said all arrangements are ready for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit. He said he felt joy and pride as Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself mentioned the Alluri Airport inauguration in a post on Twitter. He said the Prime Minister will be welcomed with Thinsa Dance famous in Araku region by 13,000 artists and with 250 Kuchipudi artists. He said along with Prime Minister Modi, Governor Abdul Nazeer, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy

Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and other ministers will participate in the airport inauguration. He said arrangements have been made meticulously with an estimate of more than 3 Lakh people attending.The Minister said Ysrcp Chief is making false statements on Bhogapuram. He said videos remain as evidence where he mocked saying "Will an air bus come to Bhogapuram where even an Erra Bus did not come earlier". He said Ysrcp leaders are experts in trying to take credit. He said the Coalition Government built one of the most beautiful airports in the world within two years of coming to power. He said the airport will improve the transport system and create golden opportunities for future generations.He alleged that Jagan visited to meet former minister Appalaraju who is in jail after committing a mistake, in the name of Mulakath and consolation, and staged a show of strength. He said even after the Mulakath time was over,



he stayed back and misled people. He questioned why not a single Ysrcp leader visited the victim's family and instead went to meet the former minister in jail for doing wrong.He further said that even though he himself went as minister to the families of fishermen missing in the sea and to the family of deceased Danayya, Jagan is making false statements that ministers did not go and is misleading with words. It is shameful. He criticized that Jagan Reddy's visit was to waste time and divert public attention to corner the government machinery during the Prime Minister's visit.He said Ysrcp leaders behaving indecently with a Woman Si without considering that she is a woman suits only Ysrcp leaders. He said all people of Andhra Pradesh are watching Jagan's atrocities and obstructions.Mp Kaliseti Appalanaidu said people are coming voluntarily for the airport inauguration and the airport will be inaugurated in a grand manner under the minute-to-minute supervision of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. He said the Nda Government is working as per the promises made to people. He

said Alluri Airport is ready for inauguration in a festive atmosphere. He questioned how appropriate it is for the Goddali Party Chief to deliberately arrange a visit and console Appalaraju who did wrong. He said the Coalition Government is working for welfare and development without political considerations with the principle that politics is separate and development is separate. He said Jagan Reddy should apologize to the people of North Andhra and attacking a Woman Si to demoralize officials is extremely painful. He said Jagan's attitude will be brought to the notice of the Prime Minister.He said the Goddali Party, which was in power for five years, tried to grab 500 Acres. He said it is shameful that Jagan left for Bengaluru on his return journey without consoling. Before the media meet, they inspected the venue, stage and arrangements where the Prime Minister will address, as well as Vvip and Vip sections for the visit. They also visited the Police Command Control Room and directed police officials to ensure there are no traffic problems and that people and artists do not face any inconvenience.

Here is a complete transcription of the speech provided in the video: "I'm here specially to address the students, because I'm one among you 20 years ago. It's very

Because, uh, this is my second session at AI Summit, conducted by Sri Sridhar Kosaraju Garu. The first event I attended, I was deeply connected with the students' participation. I thought, 'I'm not going to miss this event,' even though I had a busy schedule where Honourable Prime Minister and Honourable Chief Minister are inaugurating our Bhogapuram Airport tomorrow.“It's busy for me to monitor the things for tomorrow's event, but still, I don't want to miss this event, and I'm here for you, just to keep conveying my message on what we have to do and what the government is trying to do for all of us.“Respected, uh, please, on the dais, Sridhar Kosaraju Garu, Chairman for APTDTI, and I also recognize Mr. Suresh Batha, Additional Director for Software

Technology Parks of India, and I recognize Mr. Kishore Dasari, President-designate for ITAP, and I also recognize Suresh Nara, President for Talent AP.“A very good morning, my dear students and industrial partners and industrial leaders.“In fact, it's a changing world. And I would, I would like to say that, you know, every year the technology has been, has getting upgraded, which we never anticipate that, you know, how big the change could come.“So I would always say that as a student, and a IT professional, because I'm an IT professional for 17 years where I worked as an ERP consultant for Oracle. I implemented Oracle product for various industries across the globe.“Throughout my journey, it was



always a learning part. So we think that we know so much, but it's a lot to learn. In my journey, as an IT professional, implementing the product for various sector-oriented industries is always challenging.“Some industries are connected across the globes, and you need to implement a product which will actually give a solution to operate the industry across the globe. And similarly, you have industries which require a new technology which is not there in the product—the customization.“So back in those days, IT was just giving a solution for your finance accounts. But later today, if you see, IT is getting integrated in every vertical of industry.“I had a discussion with Sridhar Kosaraju Garu.

He's saying that there's a hackathon being conducted by Mega Industries, which is primarily on the construction side and manufacturing side.“So I, I clearly, clearly gives a message how does the IT is going into several different sectors of industries. So I would recommend the students, you have to be very aspirational. Because I would clearly say that, as a student, I always believed that, you know, my percentage of marks in my graduation is more important, my ability in getting the marks is more important, my ability in getting sports or, you know, getting into a national sports is one, one aspect.“But I would really recommend the students to participate at the events like these to understand what the industry is looking at, what the industry wanted you to become, and how the industry would really appoint you in the next level. So you should really think to attend these events, because I'm not... I'm pretty sure that you all attended this event out of passion, but one should really think that, you know, what are you taking away from this event, because...”

Officials Should Show Special Initiative In Pgrs Grievance Redressal Provide Meaningful And Permanent Solution So That Grievances Do Not Re-Open Special Pgrs Programme Being Conducted For Resolution Of Pending Problems District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha, Vijayawada East Mla Gadde Ramamohan

RaoVijayawada (Patamata), July 31:“District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha directed officials to examine Pgrs grievances received from people with utmost responsibility and to provide permanent and meaningful solutions so that there is no

situation for re-opening. She said government’s special Pgrs programmes aimed at resolving public problems should focus on results. As part of 'One Month – One Constituency – Four Visits' programme, one constituency is se-

lected every month and special Pgrs programmes are being conducted for four Fridays. In this background, the 4th Phase programme was held on Friday at Nallurivari Kalyana Mandapam on Nsm Public School Road, Patamata. In the programme, District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha, Vijayawada East Constituency Mla Gadde Ramamohan Rao and District Joint Collector S. Elakkiya received petitions from people and discussed the problems with concerned officials.Speaking on the occasion, District Collector Dr. Lakshmisha said 241 petitions were received in the three phases of special Pgrs programmes held on July 3, 10 and 17 in Vijayawada East Constituency, and 137 petitions were



received in the 4th phase. Thus, a total of 378 petitions were received in four phases.She directed that every petition received should be thoroughly examined by concerned department officials and if necessary, field visits should be conducted to provide permanent solution to the problem.