



Collector Played Key Role Inaugural Journey Of Airport Minister Kondapalli Srinivas Congratulates Collector Ram Sundar Reddy

Vizianagaram, August 3:“State Minister For Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises, Rural Poverty Eradication And Nri Empowerment And Relations Kondapalli Srinivas said Collector Ram Sundar Reddy played a key role in the inaugural journey of Sri Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport.On Monday, the Minister met Collector S. Ram Sundar Reddy at the Collector's Office and felicitated him with a shawl and conveyed special congratulations.He said from the day Prime Minister Narendra Modi's airport inauguration schedule was released, the Collector made foolproof arrangements and performed duties with determination. He appreciated that following the instructions of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, under the leadership of Young Leader Nara Lokesh, and adhering to the suggestions of Special Observers and Ministers, and by coordinating all department officials, the inaugural programme was completed successfully without any hurdles.On this occasion, Minister Kondapalli Srinivas congratulated officials of all departments and the public who made the programme a success.

Maryland Governor Wes Moore hails Telugus for driving State's growth

Washington: Lauding the contribution of the Telugu community, Governor of the US state of Maryland Wes Moore said it was at the forefront of the state's emergence as a technology and medical powerhouse.Addressing the 19th conference of the American Telugu Association (ATA) in Baltimore on Sunday, Moore also acknowledged the leadership of Aruna Katragadda Miller, the Hyderabad-born Lieutenant Governor of Maryland. In 2022, Moore and Miller made history by becoming the first elected Black Governor and the first woman of colour to serve as Maryland's Lieutenant Governor. In its 250-year history, the US has elected three Black governors. “The Telugu community is at the forefront of Maryland's strength as a technology, medical, business and academic powerhouse,” Moore said while addressing the valedictory session of the three-day conference, which saw participation from thousands of community members across the US.The three-day conference also saw the participation of Virginia Lieutenant Governor Ghazala Hashmi, who was also born in Hyderabad and moved to the US with her parents at the age of



four.Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Telangana Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukhender Reddy, Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, MLAs T Rammohan Reddy, Yennem Srinivas Reddy, Manohar Reddy, and Telangana BJP president N Ramchander Rao were among those who attended the conference. The event also featured noted film personalities, including veteran actor Rajendra Prasad and playback singer Sunitha Upadrashta.Founded in 1991, the American Telugu Association serves thousands of families through educational initiatives, youth development, cultural programmes, health awareness activities, humanitarian relief, scholarships and community service.

Naidu Directs Officials to Focus on Supply of Potable Water Sampat G. Samritan 4 August 2026

Vijayawada:Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed the officials to focus more on ensuring supply of potable water to the people across districts. Naidu chaired a high-level review meeting with senior officials on the functioning of several departments, at RTGS centre in the Secretariat here on Monday. He wanted the officials to pay more attention to deal with the water scarcity due to the El Nino effect, directed them to assess the deficit rainfall and availability of water in the reservoirs in order to ensure supply of potable water so as to avoid a water shortage. The officials informed the CM that, with rainfall in the upstream of Krishna basin, there could be a better chance to get more water. The rain-fed water started flowing in the Krishna river in the last few days. They also reported that the Godavari was flooded. Based on this, the CM directed the officials to optimise the usage of floodwater coming up upstream in the Krishna ba-



sin and called for proper maintenance of such water. Cautioning the officials over the chance of shortage of fodder due to deficit rainfall in the coming days, Naidu asked them to take necessary measures to ensure availability of fodder See 2nd page

YSRCP hatching conspiracy to restruct the city development: Narayana

Nellore: Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MA&UD) Dr. Ponguru Narayana has alleged that the opposition YSR Congress Party is hatching conspiracies to derail the development of Nellore city out of political frustration. The minister, accompanied by Deputy Mayor Poluboyina Anil Kumar Yadav, inaugurated a newly developed public park and a community hall in Bhagath Thota under the 9th Division of Nellore Municipal Corporation on Sunday. Speaking on the occasion, Narayana recalled that as MA&UD Minister in 2014, he had secured substantial funds and laid foundation stones for several parks across the city. However, after YSRCP assumed office in 2019, those public amenities See 2nd page



Amara hospital holds organ donation awareness event

Tirupati: On the occasion of National Organ Donation Day, Amara Hospital organised an organ donation awareness seminar and a 5K walkathon on Sunday to encourage people to understand the importance of organ donation. Speaking at the event, Dr Siva Parvathi, Nephrologist at Amara Hospital, said organ donation is a noble act that can save many lives. Organs such as the heart, liver, kidneys and eyes donated after death can give patients a second chance at life. She urged everyone to learn about organ donation and register as organ donors, highlighting the message, “Organ Donation – The Greatest Gift of Life.” The



programme was attended by Dr Radhika from the Critical Care Department among others. The event was coordinated by the Marketing Department of Amara Hospital and drew the participation of more than 700 people. Members from IISER, IIT and others actively participated.

43 scooters distributed to physically challenged

Machilipatnam: Minister for Mines & Geology and Excise Kollu Ravindra distributed 43 Honda 125 cc petrol scooters to physically challenged beneficiaries in Krishna district at a programme organised by the Andhra Pradesh Differently Abled and Senior Citizens Assistance Corporation (APDAS) at the Collectorate premises here on Sunday. Speaking on the occasion, he said the State government, under the leadership of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, is committed to empowering persons with disabilities by helping them lead independent, self-reliant and dignified lives. He said



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Justice behind closed doors: A crisis of confidence

When a sitting judge of the Supreme Court publicly asks whether his own institution has taken “a step back” from the principle of transparency, the question deserves more than polite applause. Speaking at the launch of the Judicial Transparency Index: Assessing Disclosure of Information by the Supreme Court and the High Courts, a report prepared by the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, Justice Ujjal Bhuyan on Sunday noted that the deliberations of the Supreme Court Collegium on the elevation and transfer of judges remain confidential. The reasons for rejecting or deferring a recommendation are rarely disclosed in full, and that the criteria applied are not codified in any publicly accessible instrument. “Citizens have a right to know what is happening in the courts. They have a right to know who their judges would be,” he observed. The report that he launched gives that concern empirical weight. Its first systematic study of disclosure practices across the higher judiciary found that only five High Courts published their budgets on their websites for 2025-26, that none has published the criteria governing case allocation, and that, of 813 judges, only 87 have publicly disclosed their assets. Justice Bhuyan also questioned the continued use of the sealed cover procedure, noting that national security is often the justification cited. He welcomed the report while acknowledging that the judiciary had made “significant strides”, strides that have not yet cohered into a holistic approach. These are not abstract anxieties. They touch the heart of how a democracy chooses, and holds accountable, those who sit in judgment over it. A judiciary that enjoys public trust is better placed to enforce government accountability and uphold the rule of law. Transparency is the bridge between the two. The transparency deficit is nowhere more consequential than in appointments. And it extends beyond judges to the lawyers who appear before them. On July 28, Justice Harinath N of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, allowing a review petition and recalling an earlier consent order, recorded that the conduct of counsel raised “a serious question of professional misconduct and a deliberate attempt to commit fraud on this Court,” and that counsel appearing for the State and its instrumentalities had failed in discharging their fiduciary duty. The court expressly stated that it was not expressing any opinion on the involvement of the counsel concerned and directed the Director General of Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) to have the matter inquired into by an officer not below the rank of Inspector General.

The restraint of that phrasing itself is instructive: even while flagging systemic concerns, the Court scrupulously left adjudication of guilt to the inquiry. The Allahabad High Court, in Jubeda Begum v. UPSRTC, spoke of an “entitlement culture” in state counsel appointments, recalling the Supreme Court’s ruling in Kumari Shrilekha Vidyarthi v. State of U P that appointment procedures must be transparent and merit based. Public interest litigations before the Delhi High Court have challenged preferential allotment of chambers to relatives of advocates, and courts have asked the Centre to explain the empanelment of more than 650 advocates as Central Government counsel in the Supreme Court.

YSRCP hatching conspiracy to restruct the city development: Narayana

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were completely neglected purely due to political vendetta. Asserting that opposition tactics will not stall urban progress, Narayana revealed that 40 out of 47 proposed parks in Nellore have already been fully developed, while work on the remaining seven is advancing rapidly. To tackle the city’s persistent mosquito infestation and improve hygiene, the minister announced a comprehensive initiative to provide underground drainage connections to every household. To assist low- and middle-income families, the government will offer a 50 per cent subsidy on drainage connection charges for property owners paying annual tax between Rs 1,000 and Rs 2,000. Owners paying over Rs 2,000 in property tax will be required to pay the full fee. Following the inauguration, Minister Narayana conducted a door-to-door campaign in the Bhagath Thota locality, interacting directly with residents to review civic grievances and assess public amenities in the area.

43 scooters distributed to physically challenged

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around 1,800 Honda petrol scooters are being distributed to eligible beneficiaries across the state. The government had earlier provided 400 battery-operated vehicles, while the newly distributed petrol scooters would enable beneficiaries to travel longer distances for employment, self-employment and other livelihood activities with greater ease, he said. Motorcycles Scooters & Mopeds Ravindra said each scooter, valued at approximately Rs 1.15 lakh, would significantly improve the mobility and employment opportunities of persons with disabilities, reducing their dependence on others. Highlighting the government’s welfare initiatives, he said the monthly pension for persons with disabilities has been increased to Rs 6,000, while bedridden beneficiaries receive Rs 15,000. He added that the government is also implementing job reservations and providing financial assistance for self-employment through the Differently Abled Corporation. APDAS chairman Narayana Swamy, assistant director Kamaraju, Goud Corporation chairman Veeranki Venkata Gurumurthy, Machilipatnam Agricultural Market Committee chairman Kunche Durga Prasad, and other public representatives attended the programme.

Naidu Directs Officials to Focus on Supply of Potable Water Sampat G. Samritan 4 August 2026

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to the livestock. As for potable water in municipalities and rural areas, he directed the officials to conduct the tests on the water to check suitability for drinking and release the lab test reports on a regular basis. He also instructed the officials to inspect the Anganwadi Centres at regular intervals to ensure they function properly. Restoration Intensified During the review on the transport department, the officials informed the CM that they were using new technology to provide a series of services to the people and also the measures being taken up to withdraw the unnecessary norms. They said they were able to address corruption and simplified the services by taking up deemed registration within 24 hours, initiation of automated driving testing tracks and withdrawal of Form-5B. The CM directed them to eliminate unnecessary norms to the extent possible so that the people could avail a series of services without facing any trouble.

Unemployed youth protest in Hyderabad, demand recruitment for 19,000 police posts

Hyderabad: A group of unemployed youth staged a flash protest at Indira Park crossroads on Monday, demanding that the State government issue a fresh notification for a total of 19,000 police vacancies instead of limiting recruitment to the recently announced 7,437 posts. The protesters also demanded the government to increase the upper age limit for police recruitment, alleging that delays in issuing notifications had left thousands of aspirants ineligible after crossing the prescribed age limit. They called on the government to address the concerns of job seekers and expedite the recruitment process. On receiving information, the Chikkadpally police reached the spot and brought the situation under control.



Hyderabad to host BRICS anti-corruption meetings on August 4-5

Hyderabad: The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) will host the second meeting of the BRICS Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) and the second meeting of the BRICS Expert Network on Asset Recovery in Hyderabad, on August 4 and 5. The meeting is being organized in line with the theme of India’s BRICS Presidency, “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability. The meeting will be inaugurated by Rachna Shah, Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training, and is expected to witness participation from BRICS member countries, along with senior policymakers, experts, practitioners and representatives of anti-corruption and law enforcement agencies. At the Hyderabad meeting, BRICS members will deliberate on strengthening international cooperation for asset recovery, combating cross-border corruption, and enhancing transparency and accountability in governance. Among others, the discussions will focus on advancing practical cooperation through strengthening informal cooperation for tracing fugitive offenders sought in corruption cases and supporting extradition proceedings. A dedicated side event titled “Ethical Governance through Innovation and Tech-Driven Systems” will be on 5 August 2026.



Beware, your favourite rum and whisky might not be aged in a barrel, but in a lab: FSSAI

Hyderabad: An enforcement drive by food and health regulatory authorities across the country has exposed the practice of artificially flavoring classic rum and single-malt whisky, the alcoholic beverages that are purchased by customers on the basis of trust. A classic rum or a smooth single-malt whisky is purchased by customers based on the promise they have been aged by time, patience, and through tradition by the use of molasses/ grains fermented, distilled, in oak barrels. However, an enforcement drive by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in collaboration with health departments revealed some of the iconic spirits have relied on chemicals instead of proper barrel aging. According to statements from the Health Ministry and FSSAI, laboratory tests flagged widespread non-compliance across many popular whisky and rum variants. While authentic standard spirits derive their characteristic aroma, color, and sensory profile naturally through raw material fermentation, distinct distillation practices, and prolonged wood-aging, regulators found shortcuts. According to FSSAI, manufacturers have adopted shortcuts by relying on neutral alcohol or extra neutral alcohol (ENA), which is essentially flavorless and odorless, and artificially spiked it with identical external flavors, such as adding rum flavor to rum or whisky flavor to whisky.



“Manufacturers are found to add flavour externally, which mimics the product’s inherent aroma and taste, and sell the same as a standard product, thereby misleading consumers,” FSSAI report said. Such products are not only sub-standard but are also misrepresented by using the names of standard categories. At best, they can be identified as Rum-flavoured Spirit or Whisky-flavoured Spirit, etc. Further, the front of the pack completely fails to disclose the true nature of the product, FSSAI added. “The claim of ‘7 years old blended’ in the label of Old monk XXX Rum variant was also found to be misleading. The major ingredient of the rum is neutral (unmatured/unaged) spirit, while the matured rum spirit is only a minor ingredient of the rum (less than 5% as per investigation findings). This is also a clear violation of existing regulations, as the age claim of the spirit should be from the youngest of spirit in the blend as per FSS (Alcoholic Beverages) Regulations, 2018,” FSSAI said.

Bonalu Rangam: Oracle Swarnalatha predicts floods, fire accidents and loss of life in Telangana



Hyderabad: Oracle Swarnalatha warned Telangana of natural disasters and human tragedies this year. During the traditional held as part of Bonalu festivities at Ujjaini Mahakali temple, here on Monday, the oracle said Telangana could experience deluge and fire mishaps, with heavy human loss reported. Standing on an earthen pot for the ritualistic Rangam, Swarnalatha in her trance and speaking for mother goddess said, “I am not happy and am expressing anguish. Why should I answer you (devotees). You are not implementing what you assured me.” When Ujjaini Mahakali temple head priest Venugopal Sharma asked the

oracle about what was foretold this year, the oracle did not respond for a few minutes. He then asked her the reason for remaining calm to his query. She said the devotees assured her regarding the installation of a idol two months ago, but it did not happen. The priest said some people were creating a hurdle for the installation. The oracle said she would take care of the people who were creating hurdles. Regarding predictions, the oracle Swarnalatha said that this year Telangana would see deluge as well as fire accidents and heavy human loss. She advised the priest to control arrogance and said she was unsatisfied with the attitude.

Families displaced by Telangana power plant stage protest, demanding jobs



Hyderabad: People displaced by the Yadadri Thermal Power Station in Telangana’s Nalgonda district on Monday staged a protest, demanding jobs in the plant. Carrying placards and banners and raising slogans in support of their demands, the displaced families gathered in front of Yadadri Thermal Power Plant 5x800 MW in Veerlapalam village of Damercherla mandal of Nalgonda district. Tension prevailed when police personnel tried to disperse the protestors, who were demanding that the government provide permanent employment to at least one member of every family. The protestors including women wanted the government to fill vacancies in the plant. They said those who lack educational qualification should be provided skills and be provided suitable jobs. The protestors also wanted authorities to provide employment in the power plant’s associated organisations and various wings related to security, transport and house-keeping. The protestors urged the government to issue an order, fixing a time-limit to provide jobs. The displaced

families sought financial assistance till they are provided jobs in the plant. The displaced families said they would continue their protest till the District Collector visit them and give them a clear-cut assurance on their demands. Slogans like “We want justice” were raised by the protestors. They said they gave their lands for the project and it was the responsibility of the government to provide them livelihood. They alleged that the government failed to fulfil its promise to provide jobs to all displaced families. In April last year, Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister, M. Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, handed over appointment letters as junior assistants, junior plant attendants, office subordinates and house keepers to 112 selected people from among the displaced families of Veerlapalem village. The fourth unit of Yadadri Thermal Power Station was commissioned in January this year. Built by the Telangana Power Generation Corporation, the 4,000 MW project is claimed to be the largest State-run thermal plant in independent India.

Supreme Court says states can withdraw NEET protest FIRs against students without grave criminal antecedents



New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday clarified that the governments of Delhi and other states can close or withdraw FIRs against students who participated in protests against the NEET paper leak, provided they do not have antecedents involving grave and heinous offences. A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana also made it clear that the expression “criminal antecedents” referred only to grave and heinous offences. At the outset, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the top court that the Union government was serious in its commitment not to pursue FIRs against protesting students except those with criminal antecedents. Mehta said that FIRs against over 2,700 people with antecedents involving grave and heinous offences would not be withdrawn. During the hearing, senior advocate Gopal

Sankaranarayanan submitted that even lawyers’ children were beaten during the protests. “The videos are very shocking. We have given 300 videos to the court. Since directions have come from the top, the commissioner of police must look at all this. “Ideally, we have identified un-uniformed individuals committing such police excess. A direction has to go to the Commissioner of police and the RAF director as to why police used pellet guns etc,” he said. The matter is now listed for hearing on August 18. The apex court had earlier said police excesses or a ‘lathi charge’ cannot be justified merely because there is an agitation and underlined that the right to peaceful protest was “absolutely guaranteed”. The CJP-led march on July 20 in Delhi saw clashes between protesters and security personnel, who used lathis and teargas shells to disperse crowds attempting to move towards Parliament.

KTR writes to Rahul, seeks apology for ‘criminal waste’ comment

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao launched a scathing attack on Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on August 2, demanding an unconditional public apology and urging him to make Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy apologise for describing engineering students as criminal waste. In a formal letter addressed to Rahul Gandhi, KT Rama Rao questioned whether the Chief Minister’s controversial remarks represented the official position of the Congress party regarding students, engineers, and youth. Holding Rahul Gandhi politically and morally responsible as the leader who campaigned for the party and selected Revanth Reddy as Chief Minister, KTR asserted that the Congress leadership cannot distance itself from the remarks. He noted that Rahul Gandhi’s silence effectively amounts to an endorsement of the statement. Describing the remarks as a direct insult to lakhs of engineering students, educators, and parents, KTR stated that branding engineers as criminal waste diminishes the profession while demeaning the dignity of the constitutional office occupied by the Chief Min-



ister. The BRS working president alleged that these comments were not an isolated incident but part of a recurring pattern of humiliating young people, citing previous statements allegedly made by Revanth Reddy against university students, youth, and the teaching community. KT Rama Rao demanded that Rahul Gandhi issue an immediate unconditional public apology to students, engineers, teachers, and youth across the country. He further urged Rahul Gandhi to direct Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to withdraw his comments immediately and tender an unconditional apology to all affected individuals.

Vemulawada unveils scenic spiritual retreat at Gudicheruvu Lake

Rajanna Sircilla: Vemulawada, popularly known as Dakshina Kashi for the renowned Sri Rajarajeshwara Swamy Temple, has added a new attraction for devotees with the development of Gudicheruvu Bund Park. Located beside the historic temple, the park offers a blend of spirituality, nature and recreation, giving pilgrims a tranquil space to unwind after offering prayers. Developed by the Tourism Department with Rs 12

crore provided by the Vemulawada Temple Area Development Authority (VTADA), the project has transformed the Gudicheruvu lakefront into a scenic destination. The park’s centrepiece is a 40-foot-tall idol of Lord Shiva overlooking the lake, while idols of the Sapta Matrikas further enhance its spiritual ambience. Designed to reflect the essence of Shaivism, the park also features a Nataraja fountain, a Surya Namaskar platform,



landscaped gardens, walking tracks, cobblestone pathways and an

amphitheatre. The Tourism Department is also planning to introduce boating facilities, which are expected to further boost tourism in Vemulawada. The project was completed under the close supervision of Rajanna Sircilla District Collector Garima Agrawal. Officials believe the new facility will not only enrich the pilgrimage experience but also establish Vemulawada as a destination where spirituality, culture and nature come together.

Telangana Cyber Security Bureau registers case over alleged leak of Star Hospitals’ patient data

Hyderabad: The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) has registered a case after a leading hospital alleged that sensitive patient health records, personal information and confidential internal data were illegally published on a vernacular website. The complaint was lodged by Star Hospitals CEO Rahul Medakkar, who alleged that the hospital’s IT team discovered confidential data hosted on a website identified as “warehouse.diy” without authorisation. The complaint further stated that login credentials to access the website were also being circulated through WhatsApp. According to the complaint, the exposed data allegedly includes patients’ personal details, medical records, employee information and confidential hospital documents. The hospital authorities warned that the leak could expose patients and staff to identity theft, financial fraud, harassment and

reputational damage. Meanwhile, Star Hospitals said it shares data only with its authorised technology partners—Kranium Healthcare Systems, HEAPS Health Solutions India, Verventus Healthtech (Medblaze), IMImobile Cloud Communications (Cisco) and MarketXpander Services, for legitimate business purposes, and denied authorising any other entity to access or publish the information. Suspecting that unknown persons intentionally obtained and published the data, the hospital requested police to identify those responsible, block the website, preserve server logs and metadata. Based on the complaint, the TGCSB booked a case under sections of the BNS and IT Act and are investigating.



Tudumdebba demands resignation of FRO for assaulting youngsters

Mancherial: Tudumdebba, a tribal rights organisation, demanded that the government sack Indanpalli Forest Range Officer Laxmanarayana for thrashing five tribal youngsters. In a statement issued on Monday, Tudumdebba state president Godam Ganesh said that Laxminarayana had indiscriminately beat the youngsters for fishing in a stream in Kawal Tiger Reserve. He demanded that the forest minister Konda Surekha remove Laxminarayana from services with immediate effect. The state president warned that an agitation would be launched if the forest official was not sacked. He announced that they would lay siege to Indanpalli FRO office if the government did not respond to their demand. He wanted the department to carry out a com-

prehensive probe into the incident and to take action against the FRO. On Sunday evening at around 10 pm, tribals from different villages staged a rasta-roko on a road in Indanpalli village protesting against the assault. They reportedly vandalized furniture of the FRO office, faulting the forest officials for detaining the youngsters. They demanded the officials to immediately release the innocent youngsters. The tribals withdrew their protest after ITDA-Utnoor project officer Manda Makarandu assured them of justice. Heavy police force was deployed in the wake of the gathering of the protesters. Traffic on Jannaram-Utnoor-Nirmal route came to a standstill following the protest.

Youth booked under POCSO Act for harassing minor girl

Hyderabad: A youth has been booked under the POCSO Act by Banjara Hills police for allegedly harassing a minor girl, posting her photos and videos on social media, and demanding Rs 1 lakh to remove the content. According to the complaint, the unidentified suspect, whose details are yet to be known, had also allegedly attempted to assault the girl while under the influence of alcohol. He later called the victim’s uncle, demanding money and threatening the family. Based on the complaint lodged by the victim’s family, Banjara Hills police registered a



case under the POCSO Act and took up investigation. Efforts are on to trace the suspect and nab him.

Godavari recedes at Bhadrachalam, first warning withdrawn

Kothagudem: The River Godavari has receded and the flood flow dropped below the first warning level at Bhadrachalam in the district on Sunday. The water level, which was at 43 feet at 5 pm, dropped to 42.90 feet at 6 pm, with a discharge of 9.32 lakh cusecs. As a result, officials withdrew the first warning, much to the relief of residents living on the banks of the river. District Collector Ankit advised villagers who were evacuated from the flood-affected villages to remain at relief centres until the flood situation returned to normal. The panchayat staff started sanitation work in the villages inundated by floodwaters by removing silt and garbage that had accumulated in the villages.



Mancherial MLA Premasagar Rao’s confidant likely to join Congress soon

Mancherial: A staunch follower of Mancherial MLA K Premasagar Rao is all set to join hands with Minister Dr G Vivek, who is known to be a political rival of Premasagar Rao. The influential follower of Premasagar Rao used to settle disputes using his proximity to the MLA and was regarded as the legislator’s shadow. Officials vied with each other to remain in his good books and secure favourable postings and transfers. Over a period of time, he became a power centre and has now reportedly raised a banner of revolt after differences of opinion cropped up between them. He reportedly formed a faction against the legislator and strengthened his support base when Premasagar Rao was hospitalised a few months ago. He reportedly claimed that he could easily become an MLA if Mancherial witnessed a by-election in the near future. The leader is now reportedly planning to assert his political relevance by joining hands with Labour Minister Dr G Vivek, with whom Premasagar Rao is at loggerheads over protocol issues. He, along with 20 corporators of the Mancherial Municipal Corporation, is likely to call on Vivek in Hyderabad soon. On receiving this information, Premasagar Rao is reportedly tense and is making every effort to



persuade the corporators not to side with his rival. It is said that he is leaving no stone unturned to prevent the corporators from extending their support to the leader. It is rumoured that the leader is aiming to contest from the Mancherial Assembly constituency in the forthcoming elections. He reportedly has good relations with Opposition party leaders as well. He may be poached by other parties if the Congress denies him a ticket. His political moves and activities have reportedly become a headache for Premasagar Rao. Meanwhile, Vivek, who is already upset with the stance of Premasagar Rao, is trying to capitalise on the differences between the leader and the MLA. His son, Peddapalli MP Vamshikrishna, was not allowed to attend a programme held at Gudem village in Dandepalli mandal recently, further widening the gap between the minister and Premasagar Rao.

Recently inaugurated Falaknuma bridge develops pothole



Hyderabad: Less than a year after the inauguration of the parallel Road Over Bridge (RoB) at Falaknuma, a large pothole has developed on the bridge, posing a serious threat to motorists and raising questions over the quality of construction. The bridge, inaugurated on October 3, 2025, was built to ease traffic congestion between Chandrayangutta and Charminar. However, commuters say the appearance of a large pothole within such a short period reflects poor workmanship and inadequate maintenance. The pothole, located on the carriageway, has become a nightmare for motorists, particularly two-wheeler riders. As vehicles usually gather speed while climbing the bridge, many riders fail to notice the damaged stretch until the last moment, increasing the risk of accidents. “This bridge is not even a year old, yet such a huge pothole has appeared. It makes us wonder about the quality and standard of the construction work. Huge amount of public money has been spent, but the results are

disappointing,” said Mohammed Abdul Rahman, a resident of Falaknuma. Another commuter, Syed Imran Ali, questioned the durability of the project. “A bridge built with crores of rupees should last for decades, not develop potholes within months. The authorities should fix the problem immediately and investigate whether proper construction standards were followed,” he said. Motorists also expressed concern over the danger during night hours when visibility is poor. “At night, riders may not notice the pothole while approaching the bridge at normal speed. If a two-wheeler suddenly hits it, the rider can easily lose balance and fall onto the road, leading to serious injuries or even fatal accidents,” warned K. Ramesh, a daily commuter. Residents have urged the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) to repair the pothole on a war footing and conduct a comprehensive inspection of the bridge to prevent further deterioration and ensure the safety of commuters.

Akanksha Ranjan celebrates Friendship Day with Alia Bhatt, Athiya Shetty in heartfelt video



Mumbai: Actress Akanksha Ranjan celebrated Friendship Day on August 2, by sharing a heartwarming video montage which featured some of her favourite moments with close friends, including actress Alia Bhatt and Athiya Shetty. The video offered a glimpse into her BFF group’s candid get-togethers, vacations, celebrations and fun-filled outings. Sharing the montage on her social media account, Akanksha captioned the post: “Rich in life cos i have these guys Happy friendship day.” The post soon drew reactions from her celebrity friends in the comments section. Her sister, Anushka Ranjan, commented, “We’re quite enjoyable.” Athiya Shetty also reacted to the video, writing, “whatteeeee times.” For the uninitiated Akanksha shares a close bond with Alia Bhatt, and the duo often has been spotted holidaying together and attending family celebrations alongside their circle of friends. She is also good friends with Athiya Shetty and frequently shares

glimpses of their outings on social media. On Akanksha’s marriage earlier in July this year Alia Bhatt was seen turning emotional while delivering a heartfelt speech at the wedding celebrations. In a video shared by Akanksha Ranjan, from the wedding festivities, captured Alia speaking fondly about her and the special place she holds in their close-knit circle of friends. Calling the bride “the glue that holds us all together,” Alia had praised Akanksha for nurturing unique and meaningful bonds with everyone in the group. In her speech, Alia had said, “She’s the glue that holds us all together. She has the most perfect, special, individual relationship with every girl in the group and she always shows up. Which is why today when she showed up, walking down this beautiful aisle, looking like a dream, of course I was looking at her but I first looked at Shari. Because I’m like, that’s the boy she’s marrying. And looking at the tears in his eyes, I was like, it’s a good thing.”

Karthik Subbaraj unveils first look and title of Krishna’s 25th film ‘Murder in Town’

Chennai: Ace director Karthik Subbaraj on Monday released the title and the first look poster of actor Krishna's 25th film, 'Murder in Town', much to the delight of fans and film buffs. Taking to his X timeline, Karthik Subbaraj wrote, "Happy to unveil the First Look & Second Look of @Actor_Krishna's 25th Film



at the emotional burden of a challenging investigation. Another image of the actor, dressed in civilian attire and walking through a meticulously designed crime scene, too, has been released. Scattered evidence, a blood-stained file, an abandoned police cap, surveillance equipment, a devastating explosion and the rugged terrain spotted in

#MurderInTown. Best wishes team. Written & Directed by @DirBalakrishnan. Produced by @manu_manthra #SriVishnuCreations @Yathrapictures. Starring: @thebindumadhavi @Bala_actor @VaibhavMuruges1 #Pandiarajan #ChinniJayanth #IMVijayan #Saravanan #Gajaraj @krishdayal17 #Tharshika #Nynika." Presented by Manu Manthra Creations and Sri Vishnu Creations, 'Murder in Town' has been written and is being directed by Balakrishnan. Sources say the director has crafted the film as an engrossing investigative crime thriller. While the title itself evokes intrigue, the first-look poster offers an equally compelling glimpse into a world where every clue matters, every decision has consequences, and every revelation leads to a deeper mystery. Also Read - ‘Sardar 2’ teaser: Karthi returns with high-octane spy action Advertisement Discover more Newspapers Regional News Updates Digital Newspaper Access In the first-look poster that was released, Krishna appears as Police Officer N. Athiyaman, carrying an intense yet contemplative expression that hints

this image create an atmosphere of mystery, suggesting that 'Murder in Town' will be far more than just a conventional whodunit thriller. Bindu Madhavi plays the female lead in this film, which will also feature a number of gifted actors such as Bala Saravanan, Vaibhav Murugesan, R. Pandiarajan, Chinni Jayanth, Kalaimamani Saravanan, ‘Padma Shri’ I.M. Vijayan, Krishnadayal, Gajaraj, Tharshika and Baby Nynika . The film, which is being produced by Mahendraraj Santhosh Kumar, Karunanithi Velappan and Suba Venkat of Manu Manthra Creations, Sri Vishnu Creations and Yathra Pictures, will have music by Ranjan and cinematography by T Gopal Krishna. Sources say Kavin Adithya is overseeing the editing works of this film, which has art direction by Venkat Bala. Costumes for the film have been designed by Vinod Sundar and Swetha Raghul. 'Kodangi' Vadivel has penned the dialogues of this film. Sources inform that the unit recently wrapped up the shooting of the film. They add that the unit has shot the film across Chennai and in the scenic locales of Kerala. The film is now under post-production.

TV actress Aditi Sharma files domestic violence complaint against husband and in-laws in Mumbai

Mumbai: Popular Bollywood actress Aditi Sharma is allegedly facing mental harassment and domestic violence. The actress as per reports has filed a domestic violence complaint against her husband. Aditi Sharma has accused husband Abhineet Vidyanand Kaushik, her mother-in-law, Urmila Kaushik, and her sister-in-law, Kirti Kaushik of harassing her. The complaint was lodged at Mumbai's Goregaon Police Station. Reports suggest that an FIR was registered on July 31 against the three based on Aditi Sharma's complaint. The actress as per reports has accused them of physical and mental harassment, domestic violence, assault, verbal abuse, doubting her character and misusing her stridhan (bridal jewellery). Aditi Sharma alleged that the behaviour of her husband has changed within two to three days of the wedding and he started objecting to her choice of clothes and picking fights over minor issues. She said that instead of contributing to household expenses, her husband would take money from her. According to the complaint, Aditi Sharma's husband allegedly began suspecting her character, accusing her of having an affair since January. She also claimed that her husband used to regularly check her mobile phone and started sleeping in a separate room. According to her statement to the police, Aditi met Abhineet in June 2021 and they had started dating each other. The couple began living together in a live-in relationship at a flat in Goregaon West in September 2024, before getting married on November 12, 2024.



Los Angeles: “Spider-Man: Brand New Day”, featuring Tom Holland and Zendaya, has earned over US\$ 900 million on the opening weekend at the global box office. The film, which is directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, released on Friday and has Holland reprise his role of Spider-Man and Zendaya as Michelle Jones-Watson. It also features Jacob Batalon as Ned Leeds, Krondon as Tombstone and Sadie Sink as Jean Grey, among others. The project has earned US\$ 927 million at the global box office, according to the entertainment news outlet Variety. The film follows Holland as he faces a new and powerful threat while grappling 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. Actors Mark Ruffalo as Bruce aka The Hulk, Jon Bernthal as the Punisher,

and Michael Mando as Scorpion round off the cast of the film. Besides “Spider-Man: Brand New Day”, Holland and Zendaya have recently collaborated on “The Odyssey”. The film is directed by Christopher Nolan and revolves around the Greek King Odysseus on a perilous 10-year journey after the Trojan War.

Erika Eleniak recalls Steven Spielberg’s reassuring support during her ‘E.T.’ debut

Mumbai: Actress Erika Eleniak looked back on her unforgettable experience of making her debut film “E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial”, revealing how filmmaker Steven Spielberg’s warmth and reassurance made her on-screen kiss with co-star Henry Thomas easy. Eleniak also shared her amazement at watching the iconic film for the first time and added that the filmmaker made everyone laugh and feel good on set. She wrote in the caption section on Instagram: “1982 - E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial Role: Pretty Girl (the



girl Elliott kisses at school). “I was 12 years old and spotted by a talent scout who worked for Steven Spielberg who saw me perform at a showcase. Eleniak

said: “I didn’t even know who Steven was at that time! I went and met with him, he was so nice to me and asked me if I wanted to be in his movie! Of course I said yes. Filming was very private. No one was allowed to hangout after filming. When it came time to kiss, I went in my trailer and cried! I was so nervous.” “But Steven was such a comfort and explained that it would be a “closed set” and only the people that needed to be there to operate the camera and such would be in the room.”

Sitender Malik wins second U17 world title as India finishes with 13 medals in Baku



Hyderabad: India’s freestyle wrestling contingent concluded their campaign on a highly positive note at the 2026 Under-17 World Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan, headlined by an electrifying Gold medal victory that evoked memories of Indian wrestling royalty. With three final-day podium finishes, India’s overall medal tally across Women’s Wrestling and Men’s Freestyle swelled to an im-

pressive 13 medals. The undeniable story of the championships was 17-year-old Sitender Malik in the 60kg division. Defending his U17 world title from 2025, Sitender squared off against Russia’s Sergei Karmrian in a tense championship bout. Delivering a masterclass in composed, clinical wrestling, the young Indian secured a 3-1 victory to capture the Gold medal.

India finishes fourth at Commonwealth Games 2026; Mandaviya hails improved medal tally



Hyderabad: India signs off from the Commonwealth Games 2026 with a commendable fourth-place finish. “Despite Glasgow 2026 being a trimmed-down edition without several disciplines where India traditionally excels, Team India improved from 30 medals in the comparable disciplines at Birmingham 2022 to 39 medals this year,” the Union Minister of Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya said on Monday. “Under the leadership of

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, the growing depth and strength of Indian sport is clearly visible,” he said. “Proud of every athlete, coach and support staff who gave their all for the Tricolour. As India prepares to host the Centenary Commonwealth Games 2030, we are committed to delivering one of the greatest editions in the history of the Games,” the Union Sports Minister said.

Khelo India boost will help produce more top athletes, says West Bengal Sports Minister

Hyderabad: West Bengal Sports Minister Dr Indranil Khan has praised the enhanced assistance to the national sports federations under Khelo India Scheme and asserted that it will help to produce more top level sportspersons from the state. The Khelo India programme is set to provide a major boost to sports in West Bengal with each assembly being allocated Rs. 5 crore each and the State Government planning to set up 100 indoor sports arenas. Welcoming the move, West Bengal Sports Minister Dr Indranil Khan expressed hope that the Khelo India scheme will provide a boost for athletes in the state. “We are thankful to the Prime Minister for the way he has encouraged sports and sportspersons. We are gearing up to host the Commonwealth Games in 2030 and the Olympics

in 2036. We are also increasing our podium finishes. With that vision in mind, Khelo India is already a phenomenal scheme to promote the next generation of athletes,” Dr Indranil Khan told SAI Media. “This scheme is helping athletes to rise from the grassroot level to the professional stage with professional, coaching, nutritional support and exposure. The way the central government is supporting sportspersons and with this increased budget, this scheme will provide a big boost to sportspersons in India,” he added.

Auqib Nabi breaks new ground as Jammu & Kashmir’s first Test cricketer

New Delhi: The long-standing door for a player from Jammu & Kashmir to reach the Indian men’s Test team was quietly shattered on Monday morning. From the quiet playfields of Sheeri village in Baramulla to being in the highest corridors of the game, Auqib Nabi’s relentless perseverance reached its rightful destination when he was included in the Indian Test squad for the upcoming two-match series in Sri Lanka, starting August 15. Dubbed as the ‘Baramulla Express’, Nabi got his maiden Test team call-up as a replacement for pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who has been sidelined due to left knee discomfort after picking up the injury in an ODI against England in Cardiff last month. The blow to Bumrah comes at a crucial juncture for India, whose World Test Championship (WTC) final qualification hopes hang in balance – the Shubman Gill-led team are currently occupying fifth place on the points table. For now, Nabi getting the Test team call-up marks the end of an agonising wait. Despite dominating the domestic circuit over the past two seasons by picking an astonishing 104 wickets, including a 60-wicket campaign that propelled Jammu & Kashmir to a historic maiden Ranji Trophy title earlier this year, the right-arm pacer, also a useful lower-order batter, was continuously passed over. His exclusion from India’s squad for the one-off Test against Afghanistan in New Chandigarh triggered widespread outrage, as cricket-loving netizens were majorly critical of the selectors for overlooking the domestic season’s top wicket-taker. But Nabi, whose recent First-Class outing in Galle for India A saw him pick six scalps was still on top of the selectors’ minds when an opening emerged. Nabi’s selection makes him the first player from Jammu & Kashmir to be selected in the Indian Test team. In all, he’s the third player from the state to be in the national set-up after Parvez Rasool and Umran Malik played white-ball games for India. The news of Nabi earning a Test squad inclusion has sparked jubilation in Jammu & Kashmir. Sunil Kumar, the left-arm pacer and Nabi’s new-ball partner in domestic cricket, was all smiles on hearing the news of his partner’s call-up via a WhatsApp group. “I am very happy for him because he is a person who’s very down-to-earth. He is a very hardworking person. “Today, his hard work has yielded the fruit he truly deserves. I talked to him when he was with India ‘A’ team in Sri Lanka. It was a normal conversation and right now, only congratulations and stuff like that has happened,” he said to IANS on Monday. Sunil also sees Nabi’s elevation to the Test team as a watershed moment for cricketers growing up in Jammu & Kashmir and aspiring to play for the country. “This is the first time that a guy from the state has gone to the Test Team. With the way our team was playing, especially in the past 2 years, we used to talk about who will break the barrier of getting into the national Test team and the person whose name always came first in this regard was Auqib bhai.

“Now, we all can see that he has achieved it. So, everyone here will get a boost as now that door is open, which was closed for a long time. More players and more talent can come out of J&K and they can achieve their ultimate goal.” While transitioning to the highest level brings intense scrutiny, Sunil remains confident that Nabi’s temperament will be his greatest asset whenever he gets to make a potential Test debut in Sri Lanka. “Auqib bhai will do well. There is no doubt about it because he is mentally tough. He knows that no matter what the conditions are, no matter how difficult a



situation it is, he doesn’t care. He knows that he has to come and bowl well in his areas to get the batters dismissed. I mean, he has the gumption and ability, as well as the awareness, to know that he can perform well at the Test level. Mentally, he is very tough.” For Muzaffar Mattoo, a BCCI-qualified coach who was the head coach of the under-16 team winning the Vijay Merchant Trophy Plate Group in 2025/26 season, seeing Nabi rise from a local club cricketer in Baramulla to the Indian Test team is the ultimate reward of years of hard work. World news coverage “It’s a great moment for all of us and for the whole of Jammu & Kashmir. So we are delighted enough that Auqib has got a call-up for Team India and we hope that he will deliver the same form which he has already delivered in the Ranji Trophy. It’s never late to get a call-up and we hope that he carries the same form there in Sri Lanka. The selectors felt that this is the right time for him. So we are all excited, we are all delighted and we hope all the best happens with Auqib,” he told IANS.

Recalling the early days when he first spotted a young Nabi and got him to play for Baramulla Cricket Club, Mattoo remembered recognising an innate spark that set him apart long before he made headlines on the domestic circuit. “It was way back in 2010 when I picked him up, as that was the time he would play in his backyard. He used to play in my club. Then I used to coach him also during under-19 and under-23 days “We went there to his backyard, saw him and picked him there only and got him in our club. From there, he got a break, and much-needed exposure. He played club cricket and later represented the state. He had that flair from the very beginning. I talked to him yesterday. “I said, ‘Fingers crossed. Let’s hope that you will get a call-up from Team India,’ and he’s got it now. After the Vijay Merchant Trophy win, we got the Ranji Trophy triumph and now Auqib earned selection in the Indian Test team. So, cricket fortunes are rolling well in Jammu and Kashmir.”

While reaching the Test team is a milestone, breaking into the playing eleven remains a competitive hurdle. With fellow pacer Gurnoor Brar also in the squad alongside Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna and Sri Lanka’s subcontinental tracks favouring spin, India are expected to field just two primary seamers. In Bumrah’s absence, India will have to activate Plan B in terms of their ideal fast-bowling composition. However, with his familiar experience on Galle’s pitches during the recent A-tour and momentum fully on his side, Nabi stands ready to take the field should the opportunity present itself. As Nabi prepares to leave for Sri Lanka with the Indian team on Tuesday, Sunil’s parting advice is simple: trust the process that propelled him to be in the Test set-up. “I would like to tell him to do what he has been doing.

Sensex, Nifty surge up to 1 pc in early trade as lower crude, FII buying boost sentiment

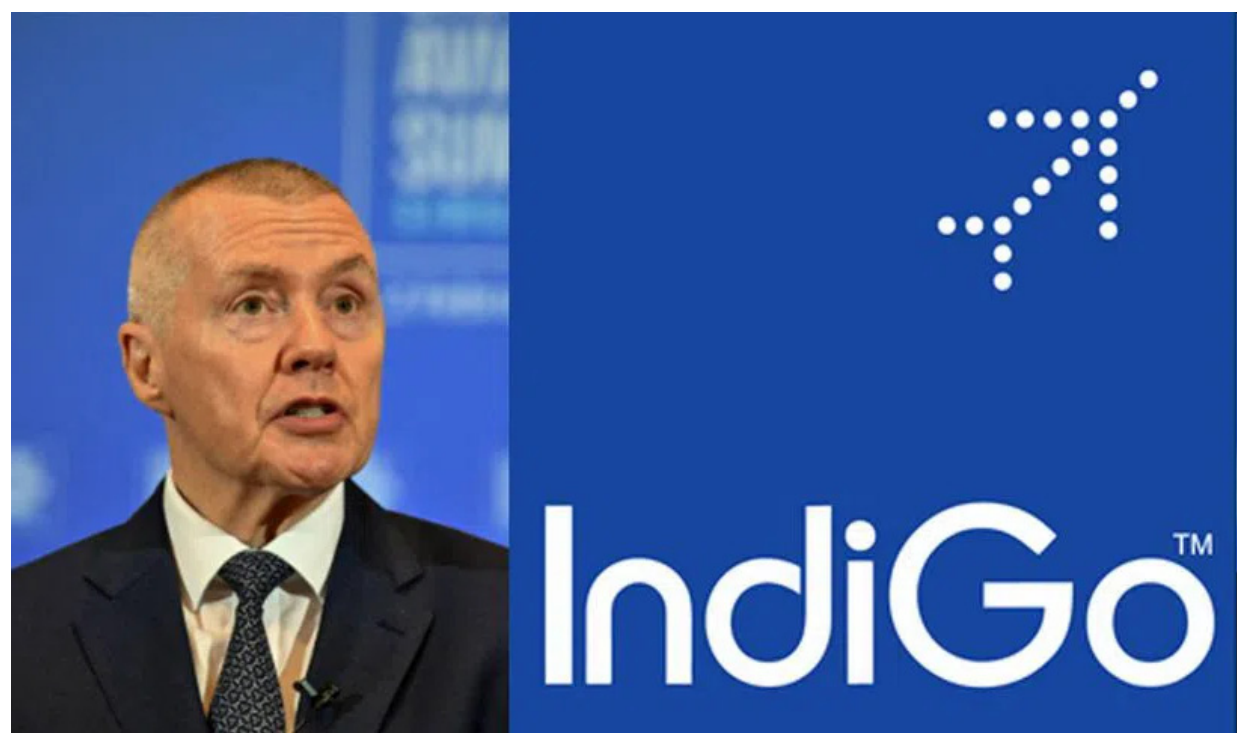
Mumbai: Indian equity markets traded higher on Monday as benchmarks rallied up to 1 per cent in morning trade, supported by broad-based buying across banking, FMCG and metal stocks amid easing crude oil prices, sustained monsoon progress and renewed foreign



fund inflows. Sensex surged 800 points or 1.02 per cent to an intraday high of 78,895.10 in early deals, while Nifty climbed 192.85 points or 0.79 per cent to 24,576.45. Sector-wise, FMCG, metal, cement and banking shares led gains, with Nifty FMCG, Nifty Metal, Nifty Chemicals, Nifty Cement, Nifty PSU Bank and Nifty Private Bank indices rising up to 1 per cent. However, media, pharmaceutical and healthcare stocks remained under selling pressure, with Nifty Media, Nifty Pharma and Nifty Healthcare falling up to 1.6 per cent. Broader markets also witnessed buying interest, with Nifty Microcap 500 and Nifty Smallcap 100 advancing about 1 per cent. According to analysts, the market appears poised for a breakout above the 24,500 level on the Nifty, aided by falling crude oil prices, favourable monsoon progress and foreign institutional investors turning net buyers. Resilient economic growth despite global headwinds, credit growth running above 18 per cent, healthy automobile sales and better-than-expected first-quarter earnings indicate that FY27

earnings growth could surpass earlier estimates, they said. The market experts further noted that strong inflows through FCNR(B), ECB and OFCB routes have helped stabilise the rupee, facilitating the return of foreign investors. From a derivatives perspective, Nifty's near-term trading range remains well defined. Significant 'PUT' open interest around the 24,400 strike continues to provide a strong support base, while heavy 'CALL' writing near 24,600 is expected to cap near-term upside, according to the experts. Meanwhile, the immediate support is placed at 24350, backed by a concentration of PUT open interest, indicating that traders expect Nifty to remain largely range-bound. A sustained hold above 24,350 would support a mildly bullish bias, while a break below that level could weaken sentiment. Meanwhile, Brent crude — the global oil benchmark — plunged more than 5 per cent to \$83.31 a barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude declined nearly 7 per cent to \$78.78 a barrel which also provided further support to market sentiment.

Willie Walsh assumes charge as IndiGo CEO



New Delhi: Willie Walsh on Monday took charge as the CEO of the country's largest airline IndiGo. A pilot and an aviation industry leader who just completed his tenure as the Director General of the global airlines' grouping IATA, Walsh's appointment as the CEO was announced by IndiGo on March 31. In a release on Monday, IndiGo said Walsh has assumed charge as the CEO to lead the airline's next era of growth and global ambition. The appointment of Walsh was announced on March 31, less than three weeks after the sudden exit of Pieter Elbers against the backdrop of massive operational disruptions at the airline in December last year. As CEO, IndiGo said Walsh would lead the airline's overall management and strategic direction, with a focus on accelerating its global growth trajectory, driving operational excellence, strengthening network and commercial strategy, and further enhancing customer experience. "IndiGo has built a remarkable legacy over the last two decades,

establishing itself amongst the largest airlines in the world in a short span of time. "With India becoming one of the world's fastest-growing aviation markets, the opportunities ahead for IndiGo are immense. There could not be a more exciting and opportune time for me to join IndiGo than now," Walsh said. IndiGo Managing Director Rahul Bhatia said Walsh's extensive global experience in the aviation industry, combined with his operational and strategic expertise, will be instrumental as IndiGo accelerates its international expansion strategy. Walsh has served as the CEO of Aer Lingus, British Airways and International Airlines Group. He also served as the Director General of the International Air Transport Association (IATA). With more than 430 planes, IndiGo operates nearly 2,200 daily flights. Shares of IndiGo rose 3.72 per cent to Rs 5,363.35 apiece while broader Sensex was nearly 1 per cent higher in the morning trade on the BSE.

RBI's 3-day MPC meeting begins today; all eyes on repo rate decision



Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) three-day Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting — led by Governor Sanjay Malhotra — begins on Monday with investors and economists closely tracking the central bank's assessment of inflation, economic growth and the future interest rate trajectory ahead of the policy decision due on August 5. The policy announcement is expected to provide cues on the outlook for interest rates, liquidity conditions and the broader economy amid an uncertain global environment.

Many analysts expect the six-member MPC to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent after maintaining the status quo in its June meeting. According to SBI Research, the RBI is likely to leave policy rates unchanged as consumer price inflation is expected to remain above 5 per cent over the next two quarters, while domestic economic activity has shown signs of

strengthening. The report said Q1 FY27 GDP growth could exceed 7 per cent, higher than earlier estimates. It further stated that an explicitly dovish message from the central bank appears unlikely in view of oil price volatility, pressure on the rupee and caution over external capital flows. However, the report noted that domestic fundamentals have improved helped by strong capital inflows in July, a recovery in foreign exchange buffers, better monsoon conditions and near-normal reservoir levels. Additionally, at its previous policy review in June, the RBI had unanimously retained the repo rate at 5.25 per cent and kept its policy stance neutral. The central bank also revised its FY27 GDP growth forecast to 6.6 per cent amid geopolitical tensions. Markets will also closely watch the RBI's commentary on inflation risks, growth prospects and global developments for signals on the future course of monetary policy.

India emerges as world's second-fastest growing solar energy market

New Delhi: India's installed solar power capacity has surged by a massive 50-fold from a mere 3 GW in 2014 to scale the 162.15 GW mark till June 30, 2026, marking the dawn of a new era in renewable energy, according to a factsheet issued by the government on Sunday. The country added 37 GW of solar capacity in 2025, surpassing the United States in annual additions to emerge as the world's second-largest solar growth market, it said. One of the most significant developments in the solar sector has been the decline in power tariffs over the past decade. This was driven by bidding through the e-Reverse Auction mechanism, where developers compete to supply electricity at the lowest tariff. As more developers participated, the tariffs declined from around Rs 18 per unit in 2010 to a record-low of Rs 2.44 per unit. The decline in tariffs has made solar power increasingly affordable. As a result, India has emerged as one of the world's lowest-cost solar power markets. In 2025, the Levelised Cost of Electricity (LCOE) from utility-scale solar PV stood at \$35 per MWh, well below the global average of \$44 per MWh. India's solar sector has received a major boost with the approval of the Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY) on July 31, 2026. The scheme aims to support 5,000 MW of Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) projects with co-located Energy Storage Systems (ESS). The ESS with a minimum storage capacity of two hours (10,000 MWh) will further help states manage peak demand. By utilising existing reservoirs and industrial ponds, the scheme will reduce pressure on scarce land resources. It will also improve grid



reliability through integrated energy storage. With an outlay of Rs 5,070 crore, the scheme will be implemented from FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31. Large solar projects in India contribute 118.79 GW of installed capacity. Some of the large solar projects include the Bhadla Solar Park (Rajasthan), Pavagada Solar Park (Karnataka), and Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Park (Madhya Pradesh).

Rooftop solar systems connected to the electricity grid contribute another 27.88 GW. The remaining capacity comes from hybrid solar projects and off-grid solar systems. Hybrid projects combine solar power with battery storage or other power sources, while Off-grid systems provide electricity in areas not connected to the grid. Total non-fossil fuel capacity reached 283.46 GW, including 274.68 GW of renewable energy capacity. On 29 July 2025, renewable energy sources met 51.5 per cent of India's electricity demand, the highest monthly share recorded so far. At COP26 in Glasgow, India announced the Panchamrit goals, which include 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2070. These commitments were reflected in India's updated Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement.

Name "Vizag" As Per Airport Rules

Misunderstandings Among Public Should Be Cleared Minister Kondapalli Srinivas Appeals

Vizianagaram, August 3: State Minister For Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises, Rural Poverty Eradication And Nri Empowerment And Relations Kondapalli Srinivas said the name "Vizag" will be mentioned for Sri Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport only as per airport rules. Addressing a media conference at the Collector's Office on Monday, the Minister clarified several issues. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Kondapalli Srinivas said as per the suggestions of the Civil Aviation Authority, it will be called Vizag and not Bhogapuram. He requested media friends to clear the misunderstandings regarding the name. He said everyone should note that even though Shamshabad Airport is in Rangareddy District, it is referred to as Hyderabad or Shamshabad Airport. He said even though Bhogapuram Airport is in Vizianagaram District revenue-wise, there is nothing wrong in calling it Vizag and it should be noted that the name Vizag is being mentioned only as per rules. The Minister said already 70% Blue Collar Jobs at Bhogapuram Airport have been given to locals. He said for White Collar Jobs, others are being appointed based on required qualifications, experience and expertise. He said there should be no misunderstandings even on employment matters and he will speak to Gmr company once again. The Minister also extended special congratulations to everyone who was part of making Prime Min-



ister Narendra Modi's visit a super success. He said from district level officers to village level officers, everyone worked with responsibility and public representatives and people also made the inaugural programme a success. Following the call given by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu to give a grand welcome to Prime Minister Narendra Modi who came to our region, he thanked everyone who worked to make the programme a success, especially media friends. He said it is a matter of great happiness that the Prime Minister Modi's meeting was a success without any lapses in the airport inaugural programme due to coordination among all departments in all sectors. The Minister said Bhogapuram Airport will definitely become the growth engine that will change the future of Uttarandhra in the coming days. He said the development of Uttarandhra region is possible only with the Coalition Government and requested media friends to remove the misunderstandings among people.

Participate In Photography Competitions..

Last Date For Entries Is 5th Of This Month
World Photography Day Competitions
In Three Categories
Enthusiasts Should Make Use Of Competitions
District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha

Vijayawada, August 3: "District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha in a statement on Monday said that awards will be presented at district level on the occasion of World Photography Day on the 19th of this month. He said enthusiastic photographers should submit entries by 6 Pm On August 5th and there will be no extension of deadline. He said photo journalists, enthusiastic photographers and studio photographers from Ntr District can participate in the competitions. He said competitions will be conducted in three categories. In the first category, photo entries can be sent on Andhra Pradesh Heritage, Tourism and Culture related to the district. In the second category, topics are Youth, P4 and Economic Development - Welfare. The third category will be Best News Photo competition, he said. He explained that in each category, First Prize is Rs. 10,000, Second Prize is Rs. 7,000, Third Prize is Rs. 4,000 along with Six Consolation Cash Prizes of Rs. 2,000 each. He said one photographer can send three photos from one category and a total of nine photos from all three categories. The photos should be taken between June 12, 2025 and July 31, 2026. Photo size should be 12X10 and photos should be taken only in Ntr District and should be for publicity purpose only, he clarified. He said Watermarks and Morphing will not be permitted. He said the decision of the judges will be final in

selection of best photos. Original photo entries can be submitted directly or by post to Dpro Office, State Guest House, Vijayawada - 520002, he said. For other details, Collector Lakshmisha suggested to contact K. Ravi, Divisional Pro (9010156550).

Get Ready For India Skills Competitions..!

Youth Should Participate In Large Numbers In India Skills Competitions
Golden Opportunity To Showcase Talent In 63 Skill Categories
District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha

Vijayawada, August 3: "District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said India Skills Competition is emerging as a great platform to identify skills among youth across the country and showcase talent at international level. He suggested that youth should participate in large numbers in these competitions. Collector Lakshmisha along with Joint Collector S. Elakkia and officials unveiled the posters of India Skills Competition (2026-27) at Sri Pingali Venkayya Meeting Hall. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector called upon students studying in Itis, Polytechnics, Degree and Engineering Colleges in the district to compulsorily participate in these prestigious competitions and showcase their talent at national level. He said students have the opportunity to participate in a total of 63 Different Skill Categories. He suggested stu-

Resolution Of Public Grievances Is The Government's Main Objective

189 Petitions Received In Pgrs
Special Focus On Resolution Of Pending Petitions
Reports Should Be Given Only After Speaking To Every Petitioner : District Collector Dr. Lakshmisha
Issues Directions On Land, Survey Issues, Fertilizer Distribution And Farm Ponds



Vijayawada, August 3: "District Collector Dr. Lakshmisha said the state government's main objective is to resolve public problems quickly and transparently. He received petitions from people from across the district at the Pgrs Programme held on Monday at Pingali Venkayya Meeting Hall in Vijayawada Collectorate. He said a total of 189 Petitions were registered in the programme, of which 78 Petitions were related to the Revenue Department. He directed that every petition received from the public should be resolved within the stipulated time limit. He suggested that pending petitions should be examined with special priority and resolved immediately. He said public confidence in the government will further strengthen only if the response to public problems is quick. As a large number of complaints are being received in the district regarding Land Disputes, Survey Issues and Revenue Matters, the Collector directed concerned officials to examine at field level and provide quick solutions. He suggested continuously monitoring the Pgrs Portal and giving special focus on pending cases. He made it clear to officials that complaints received through the state government's 1100 Toll Free Service should be resolved with utmost responsibility. He directed that endorsement

should be given only after speaking directly with each petitioner. He suggested creating wide awareness among people on 1100 Services. The Collector directed officials to resolve every complaint received from the Chief Minister's Office with highest priority. He said not a single application should be neglected. He said multiple petitions are being received on the same issue due to improper resolution of problems at field level and suggested that officials should focus on quality solutions. He directed that Land Surveys pending since last November and December should be completed as soon as the weather is favourable. He said a large number of petitions from mandal level coming to the Collectorate indicates that grievance redressal at local level is not happening properly. He said the Chief Minister's Office is continuously reviewing grievance redressal mandal-wise and suggested that Rdos should give special focus on this issue. He directed that every issue related to Land Boundaries, Records or Land Rights should be resolved urgently and action should be taken with highest priority even if the issue is small. With demand for fertilizers increasing during the rainy season, the Collector directed that all Fertilizer Shops and Cooperative Societies should open by 6.00 Am. He suggested setting up tents and providing shade along with drinking water facilities at centres where more farmers come. He directed that price list along with Collectorate phone number should be displayed clearly at every fertilizer shop and society. He suggested that Divisional Revenue Officers, Tahsildars and Mandal Agriculture Officers should monitor fertilizer sales daily and take action to prevent irregularities and diversion. The Collector said Farm Ponds are crucial for increasing groundwater levels. As the rainy season has begun, he directed that works of all sanctioned farm ponds should be completed quickly in every mandal. He suggested that Rdos and Mpdos should monitor these works daily for the next one month and complete 100 percent. Tenant farmers from Atkuru Village brought to the Collector's notice that Cultivator Rights Cards (Ccr Cards) have not been received. He held a review with Agriculture Department officials. Clarifying that there is no connection between the Re-Survey Process and Ccr Card Distribution, he directed officials to issue Ccr Cards to the concerned farmers today itself.



dents register through <https://www.Skillindiadigital.Gov.In/Home>. The Collector said skills form the foundation for employment, self-employment and global opportunities. He said these competitions are the best opportunity for youth to prove their talent. Collector Lakshmisha suggested that managements of all educational institutions in the district should widely inform their students about this information and take steps to ensure maximum registrations. Dro M. Lakshminarasimham, District Skill Development Officer S. Srinivasa Rao, Dr. Kolleti Ramesh, Dr. J. Suman and others participated in the programme.