

Lokesh Stresses Values-Based Education, Honours Cultural Icons

Vijayawada: Education minister Nara Lokesh on Tuesday underscored the importance of value-based education and preserving the state's rich cultural heritage, when he met renowned spiritual scholar Brahmasri Chaganti Koteswara Rao and classical singer Shobha Raju here. Receiving Chaganti Koteswara Rao at his residence, Lokesh discussed with him the ways to inculcate moral values, discipline and ethical conduct among children from an early age, so as to shape them into responsible citizens. Chaganti explained that education rooted in ethics was essential for the holistic development of students and society. The spiritualist expressed satisfaction that he could be contributing to the AP government's efforts to strengthen value-based education. He pointed out that moral education modules designed under his guidance are already being taught to students in government schools on No Bag Day as part of the state's initiative to integrate ethical learning with regular education. Lokesh appreciated Chaganti's continued guidance in promoting moral values among students and, after the meeting, personally accompanied him to his car as a mark of respect. Also Read - Drowsiness, Speeding Major Causes of Early-Morning Road Accidents in AP Discover more Breaking news alerts Hyderabad news updates Political news coverage Later, the minister met cel-



ebrated Carnatic vocalist and Padma Shri recipient Shobha Raju, who popularised the devotional compositions of saint-poet Tallapaka Annamacharya. Shobha Raju presented Lokesh with a portrait of Annamacharya, while the minister honoured her with an idol of Lord Venkateswara. Lokesh praised the veteran musician for her lifelong contributions to preserving and promoting Telugu culture, Sanatana Dharma, spirituality and the musical legacy of Annamacharya. He said her efforts have helped carry the timeless devotional tradition to future generations.



El Niño, Poor Rainfall Affect Lakhs of Borewells in Rayalaseema

Anantapur: More than seven lakh borewells across AP's Rayalaseema, the region's primary source of water for agriculture, industry, and domestic use, have come under stress due to poor rainfall following the El Nino impact. This has raised concerns over groundwater recharge this season. Despite the supply of Krishna water through the 554-km Handri Neeva Sujala Sravanthi (HNSS) canal and the 130-km Tungabhadra High Level Main Canal up to the Penna Aho bilam Reservoir, large parts of Rayalaseema continue to depend on seasonal rainfall to replenish the groundwater levels. Officials estimate that the region requires around 600 TMC feet of rainwater annually to adequately recharge ground water aquifers that support extensive borewell usage. As the HNSS canal is largely lined and designed to fill designated tanks up to Kuppam, its contribution to groundwater recharge remains limited, except during periods of heavy rainfall. Groundwater department deputy director B. Gangadhar said Anantapur district alone has more than 2.20 lakh borewells, which require nearly 180 TMC feet of rainwater every season for effective recharge.

AP Extends Subsidised Power to Aqua Farmers, Steps Up El Niño Preparedness

Vijayawada: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday announced a series of measures to support farmers and the aquaculture sector, including extending subsidised electricity to aqua farmers in non-aqua zones, and strengthening El Nino preparedness. He also unveiled steps to stabilise shrimp feed prices and provide relief to tobacco growers. Reviewing the impact of El Nino, deficient rainfall, crop cultivation and water resources with senior officials at the secretariat, the CM directed officials that aqua farmers in non-aqua zones be supplied electricity at the subsidised tariff of ₹1.50 per unit, on par with farmers in notified aqua zones. The decision would take effect from this month and benefit about 12,500 aqua farmers. The CM said he would review agriculture, allied sectors and El Nino mitigation mea-



sures every Tuesday. Expressing concern over forecasts of below-normal rainfall until October due to El Nino, Naidu directed officials and public representatives to intensify awareness on the state government's El Nino mitigation action plan. Officials would organise statewide farmer awareness programmes from August 7 on contingency measures and alternative cropping strategies.

AP Polling Stations Total 50,330 After Reset

Vijayawada: The number of polling stations in Andhra Pradesh has increased from 46,397 to 50,330 following a process of rationalisation to ensure that no polling station has more than 1,200 electors. Chief Electoral Officer Vivek Yadav stated this at an all-party meeting held at the secretariat on Tuesday. He said the draft photo electoral rolls for all 175 Assembly constituencies were published on July 31, with August 1 as the qualifying date for the special intensive revision. As per the draft rolls, the state has a total electorate of 3,72,02,684, including service voters. Of these, 1,82,69,019 are men, 1,89,30,929 women and 2,736 third-gender electors. Also Read - Rs 18,233-Cr Connectivity Projects to Boost Krishnapatnam Industrial Hub Advertisement The CEO handed over soft copies of the draft electoral rolls for all 175 assembly constituencies to representatives of recognised political parties. Vivek

Yadav said booth-level officers (BLOs) conducted house-to-house verification between June 15 and July 24, during which 3,71,38,182 enumeration forms, accounting for 89.22 per cent of electors, were received and digitised. Some 44,89,512 electors (10.78 per cent) were found to be 'unavailable' (not present) at their registered addresses. These included, apart from 15,22,174 deceased persons, 14,43,888 persons who had permanently shifted, 7,37,218 with multiple enrolments, 7,77,905 who were untraceable and others falling under different categories. The CEO said polling station-wise lists of the absent, shifted, deceased and duplicate electors had been displayed at the offices of the electoral registration officer (ERO) and assistant ERO, as also at gram panchayats, municipal offices and polling stations. These were also being uploaded on the CEO's website to ensure transparency. "No de-



letion would be carried out without due process. Eligible citizens whose names are missing from the draft roll, or those who attained 18 years of age on or before July 1, 2026, can apply for inclusion during the ongoing claims and objections period," he stressed. The CEO said representatives of political parties expressed satisfaction with the revision process. He appealed to political parties, civil society organisations and citizens to actively participate in the revision exercise to ensure an accurate, error-free and inclusive electoral roll for the state.

Rs 18,233-Cr Connectivity Projects to Boost Krishnapatnam Industrial Hub

Nellore: Road and railway connectivity projects worth more than Rs 18,233 crore have been completed or are under implementation around Krishnapatnam Port, the Centre informed Parliament on Tuesday. In a written reply to a question by Rajya Sabha member Beeda Masthan Rao Yadav, Union ports, shipping and waterways minister Sarbananda Sonowal said the projects are expected to improve connectivity to the port and support the development of the proposed Kris City, logistics hubs and export-oriented industries in Nellore district. Under the Sagarmala programme, 12 last-mile rail and road connectivity projects have been identified for Krishnapatnam Port. Of these, Rs 2,212 crore have been completed, while seven of the nine identified road projects, involving an investment of Rs 16,021.51 crore, are under implementation. The projects include doubling and electrification of the Krishnapatnam-



Venkatachalam railway line, the Obulavaripalle-Venkatachalam rail link, a railway connection between Gudur and Krishnapatnam South Port, the Nellore-Krishnapatnam four-lane road, the Naidupeta-Krishnapatnam six-lane road, dedicated port connectivity roads, a greenfield road near Kandaleru Creek and upgradation of the Ballari-Krishnapatnam

National Highway. Masthan Rao said completion of the projects would improve cargo movement, attract investment and accelerate industrialisation and employment generation in the Krishnapatnam region. He urged the Centre to ensure timely completion of the projects and extend further assistance under the Sagarmala programme.

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DAILY NEWSPAPER

Let us build ethical communicators for India’s new era

Representational image National Public Relations Education Day is on August 6 Every profession has a key moment when education is as important as practical experience. Public relations have reached that point in India. As we celebrate National Public Relations Education Day on August 6, we have an opportunity to think about how education, ethics, innovation and professionalism can shape the future of India’s rapidly changing communication landscape. PR has evolved beyond just issuing press releases or organizing media events. Today’s PR professionals act as strategic advisors, reputation managers, crisis communicators and specialists in stakeholder engagement. They help build public trust. Whether in government, corporations, healthcare, education, technology, startups or non-pro fits, PR has become essential for connecting organisations with society. Over the past decade, India’s communication landscape has transformed significantly. The rise of digital media, social networks, artificial intelligence, influencer communications and the quick sharing of information has changed how organisations communicate. Reputation can now be built or damaged in minutes. As a result, organisations increasingly see professional communication as a strategic business necessity and not just to play a supporting role. PR consultants, corporate communication teams, government agencies and independent professionals now serve a variety of sectors. From multinational companies to new start-ups, organizations are investing in communication strategies that blend traditional media relations with digital engagement, content marketing, employee communication, investor relations, sustainability communication, and crisis management. Despite this progress, one of the biggest challenges for the profession is quality education. The demand for skilled PR professionals is growing faster than the supply of industry-ready talent. While many universities offer journalism and mass communication programs, there is still not enough focus on specialised education in strategic public relations, corporate communication, stakeholder management, research methods, digital analytics and crisis communication. Educational institutions must regularly update their curricula to include new communication technologies, data-driven decision-making, artificial intelligence, digital storytelling, social media management, reputation measurement and global communication practices. Classroom learning should be supported by internships, industry mentoring, simulation exercises, live projects and collaborative research with both practitioners and academics. It is equally crucial to develop communication professionals who see ethics as the foundation of public relations. In a time of misinformation, fake news, manipulated content and fast-spreading rumours, ethical communication is more important than ever. OET Trust cannot be manufactured; it must be earned through transparency, honesty, accountability and responsible engagement. Professional ethics require PR practitioners to provide accurate information, avoid misleading communication, respect confidentiality, consider public interest and maintain integrity during crises.

Factionalism grips Pinapaka Congress in Kothagudem

Kothagudem: Group politics in Pinapaka Congress intensified as the party leaders have been running separate factions against the MLA (ST) Payam, Venkateswarlu creating a rift in the party in the constituency. The MLA, who is said to be making efforts to tighten his grip on the party affairs in the constituency, has been facing opposition from his rival groups. Until recently, the party’s senior leader Tulluri Brahmaiah maintained a faction of his own. But recently, another leader. Gurijala Gopi, has started mobilising the party cadres creating his own faction against the MLA. These groups have been running the party programmes independently without the involvement of the MLA, much to his disappointment. Venkateswarlu, the second-time MLA comes from Left-wing background and contested as CPI candidate for Burgampad Assembly constituency before Pinapaka constituency was created. He is said to be a follower of Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and joined the Congress party

from the BRS prior to 2023 Assembly elections. He earlier was associated with the YSRCP and won the 2014 election on the party ticket. After his stint in other parties he is now trying to make his mark in the Pinapaka Congress, taking advantage of his position as the MLA. However, Brahmaiah, who is also a follower of Minister Srinivas Reddy, has been trying to overshadow the MLA in the party with his faction. On the other hand, a second-rung leader Gopi is also engaged in organising party programmes making his presence felt. As a result of which the party cadres have been left confused and could not decide whom they should follow, as the party has been divided into three groups in the constituency. The division in the party might affect its prospects in the next Assembly polls, said sources in the party. Meanwhile, the Congress senior leaders have urged the party high command and Minister Srinivas Reddy to intervene to bring order before the group politics damaged the party.

Two arrested for tiger’s death in Andhra’s Nallamalla forests

Amaravati: Making progress in the case relating to the death of a tiger under suspicious circumstances in Nallamalla forest, the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department arrested two suspects. Anji and Viranjaneyulu were arrested at Medikundur in Guntur district and shifted to Giddalur in Markapuram district for questioning, officials said on Tuesday. The Forest Department has intensified the investigation into the case following orders by Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. The carcass of an adult tiger was found on July 31 near Tettu Madugu in the Gundlakamma Range of the Racherla forest area in the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR), Markapuram district. The Forest officials were examining whether the tiger was poached, died after consuming poisoned bait or succumbed to other causes. The investigators suspect the tiger may have died 35 to 40 days before the carcass was discovered. The big cat’s paws and legs were missing, raising suspicions that the claws had been removed for illegal trade. The tiger’s remains have been sent to the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad and the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Bareilly, for forensic and post-mortem analysis. The in-



vestigators are awaiting forensic reports to determine the cause of the death. Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Environment and Forests, Pawan Kalyan, on August 1 ordered a probe into the death of a tiger at the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve. He said the incident of a tiger’s death in the Racherla Beat of the Giddalur Division within the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR) came to his attention. He posted on ‘X’ that for nature’s balance to remain undisturbed, the conservation of tigers is of utmost importance. “The loss of even a single tiger’s life is a matter of grave concern. This incident serves as yet another reminder of our responsibility to protect our forests and wildlife,” he said. Pawan Kalyan said he had directed the NSTR Field Director to conduct a comprehensive and transparent investigation to uncover the reasons behind this death.

Telangana health varsity announces registration schedule for MBBS, BDS admissions 2026–27

Hyderabad: The Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences (KNRUHS) on Tuesday invited online applications for admission into undergraduate MBBS and BDS courses under the Competent Authority Quota for the academic year 2026–27. Eligible candidates who have qualified NEET UG 2026 can complete their online registration and upload scanned original certificates through the official portal at tsmedadm.tsche.in. The registration window opens at 6 am on Wednesday, August 5, and will close at 6 pm on Wednesday, August 12, 2026. The MBBS/BDS admissions cover Competent Authority Quota seats across Government and Un-Aided Private Non-Minority and Minority Medical and Dental Colleges, includ-

ing the Army College of Dental Sciences in Secunderabad. Candidates applying under this quota must meet the required NEET UG 2026 cut-off scores of 213 marks (50th percentile) for General/UR/EWS candidates, 194 marks (45th percentile) for PWD (Persons with Disabilities) candidates in the General category, and 177 marks (40th percentile) for SC/ST/BC and reserved PWD candidates. Following registration, KNRUHS will release a provisional State Merit List, with final document verification conducted at the respective allotted colleges during admission. Detailed notifications, admission guidelines, and upcoming seat matrix updates can be accessed on the official university website at knruhs.telangana.gov.in.

Heavy overnight rain lashes Hyderabad: Massive waterlogging sparks commuter chaos

Hyderabad: Persistent overnight intense spells of downpour lashed Telangana, bringing normal life to a grinding halt. The relentless rainfall in multiple locations in Hyderabad and surrounding districts stretched from late Monday evening into the early morning hours of Tuesday, causing severe waterlogging. On Tuesday morning, the commuters in Hyderabad were welcomed with massive traffic jams that choked critical arterial roads and left them stranded. The traffic police and law enforcement personnel did their best to clear up choked traffic but people suffered inordinate delays. Based on the 24-hour (between 8.30 am, Monday and 8.30 am, Tuesday) rainfall data from TSDPS (Telangana State Development Planning Society), districts also recorded exceptionally heavy downpours. The Kamareddy district registered the highest rainfall in Telangana, led by IDOC (Integrated District Offices Complex) Kamareddy with 182.8 mm (18.28 cm), Pitlam at 127.0 mm (12.7 cm), and Mohammadnagar (Maqdumpur) at 124.8 mm (12.48 cm) while Kodangal in Vikarabad witnessed 115.0 mm (11.5 cm). In Hyderabad, the Saroonagar and LB Nagar (Circle-12) regions received heavy rainfall with GHMC Transport Building (Saroonagar) recording 113.0 mm (11.3 cm), Alakapuri Community Hall recording 109.5 mm (10.95 cm), and the L.B. Nagar GHMC Office receiving 95.8 mm (9.58 cm). The Barkas ESS in Chandrayangutta recorded 83.8 mm, Uppal/Bandlaguda logged 83.5 mm, and South Hasthinapuram registered 81.3 mm. Heavy downpour was also registered in other districts, including Sirgapoor (Sangareddy) received, which received 110.0 mm (11 cm), Tekulapalle in Bhadradri Kothagudem received 105.8 mm (10.58 cm), Yellareddipeta in Rajanna Sircilla recorded 105.5 mm (10.55 cm), and Garidepalle in Suryapet witnessed 102.0 mm (10.2 cm). The Hyderabad Traffic Police took to X on Monday evening and Tuesday morning to issue urgent alerts, warning commuters that heavy rainfall would persist and advising the public to avoid non-essential travel. Commuters navigating key corridors including LB Nagar, Uppal, Begumpet, and major underpasses, faced massive delays as standing water slowed traffic down to a crawl. In response, Disaster Response Force (DRF) teams, HYDRAA personnel, and municipal engineering wings were deployed overnight to clear clogged drain inlets and pump out accumulated water to restore normalcy.

Hyderabad man booked by Medak police for impersonating Interpol officer



Medak: A man, who was carrying identity cards of intelligence and Interpol, was booked by Medak police. The man, Bukka Santosh, of Kothapet in Hyderabad, along with his friend Srinath visited Medak Collectorate on Monday to present a representation to Collector Prathima Singh during grievances on a land dispute. Claiming himself as an Interpol officer, Santosh showed his two ID cards to the Collector. Suspecting them as fake, she asked the Medak DSP, Prasanna Kumar, and other officials to probe into it. After a thorough inquiry until midnight on Monday, the police registered a case against Santosh. Further investigation is underway.

Jammu court seeks inquiry report in alleged Vaishno Devi ‘fake silver’ case

Jammu: A court here has sought a detailed inquiry report into the alleged Rs 500 crore ‘fake silver’ matter linked to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine in Jammu and Kashmir’s Reasi district, while directing authorities to act on an application seeking preservation of evidence. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Jammu, Munish Kumar Manhas passed the directions on July 29 while hearing

an application filed by advocate Deepak Sharma seeking immediate preservation of the physical, documentary and electronic evidence connected with the case. Sharma had earlier submitted a complaint to the Inspector General of Police, Crime Branch, Jammu, and the Senior Superintendent of Police, Crime Branch, Economic Offences Wing, Jammu, on May 9, alleging adulteration, substitution, pil-

ferage and possible misappropriation of approximately 20 tonnes of silver offerings made by devotees at the shrine. He had valued the offering at around Rs 550 crore. Taking the application on record, the CJM directed the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Mata Vaisho Devi Bhawan, to take appropriate action regarding the facts stated in the evidence-preservation plea and to submit a detailed report regarding the enquiry being conducted by him on the next date of hearing on August 18. The application

before the court sought preservation of the remaining silver or purported silver articles, samples, remnants and residues, along with stock and vault records, weighing and dispatch registers, assay and laboratory reports, transportation documents and the complete chain-of-custody record. It also sought protection of CCTV footage, electronic inventory data, official emails, server logs, access records, audit trails, accounting records, reconciliation statements and other digital evidence connected with the alleged transactions.

Hyderabad Police seize 25 tonnes of adulterated spices in raids

Hyderabad: Hyderabad CP Sajjanar announced that H-FAST conducted surprise raids on facilities manufacturing adulterated spices in Hyderabad. Inspections were carried out at 13 spice trading firms following information received from the public. Over 25 tonnes of adulterated spices were seized, and three individuals were arrested in connection with these cases. Three cases have been registered at the Mailardevpally and Balapur police stations. Adulteration was detected in various spices, including carom seeds (ajwain), cumin, cloves, caraway seeds (shahjeera), and mustard seeds. CP Sajjanar said that the spices were being manufactured by using fabric dyes and synthetic colors. He said that they were using talcum powder and industrial dyes along with rice bran oil. He said that poisonous chemicals are being used to make the spices shiny and they were being dyed to look costly. About 89 tonnes of raw material was seized. He said that they will take strict action



against them under the Food Safety Act. He said that samples of the adulterated spices have been sent for the lab tests. CP Sajjanar said that the adulterated food when consumed may cause damage to liver and kidneys and also lead to complication like cancer, allergy and digestion disorder. He said that they have conducted raids in 659 places since the start of H-FAST 140 days back. He said that 202 FIRs have been filed till then and 246 tonnes of adulterated food items have been seized. He said that the people must immediately inform them in case if they come across any suspect food items.

Heavy Rains Lash Hyderabad, Several Districts In Telangana

Hyderabad: East and South Hyderabad were the most affected recording the highest amount of rainfall, of which GHMC limits saw the maximum. The weather in Telangana State saw a heavy rains lashed Hyderabad and several districts leaving the streets waterlogged. Motorists found it difficult to navigate through several water logged areas as HYDRA and GHMC teams were already busy with the task of removing water from several places. East and South Hyderabad were the most affected recording the highest amount of rainfall, of which GHMC limits saw the maximum. The rainfall recorded in various places in Hyderabad is as follows with Saroornagar 11.3 cms, LB Nagar GHMC office: 9.6 cms, Bandlaguda: 8.3 cms Barkas ESS/ Chandrayangutta: 8.4 cms, Rocktown colony and Vanasthalipuram NGO Colony: 8.0 cms each, Alakapuri colony 10.9 cms Ibrahimpatnam: 7.1 cms, Kapra GHMC Office: 7.0 cms, Mailardevpally: 6.7 cms, Peerzadiguda: 5.7 cms, and Gachibowli: 5.7 cms, South



Hastinapuram: 8.1 cms, The rainfall witnessed in the district was Nagireddypet mandal in cms, Medak town: 4.4 cms, Papannapet: 6 cms, Kowdipally: 4.8 cms in Medak district, Chityal: 4.1 cms Kamareddy: 6.9 Bhupalpally: 3.5 cms in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district, Gandeed: 3.7 cms and Hanwada: 3 cms in Mahabubnagar, Boinpally: 3.3 cms, Wanaparthi: 2.6 cms, and Mulugu: 2.6 cms in Rajanna Sircilla district. The weather department has also issued a warning regarding isolated few rain accompanied by thundershower activity in Telangana for the next two days as the Bay of Bengal witnessed weather changes. People residing in low-lying areas and motorists are requested to take care.

Hyderabad to receive rains on Tuesday, yellow alert issued

The Southwest Monsoon is on the prowl and with the current weather condition, the Meteorological Centre has issued a yellow alert warning for Hyderabad. The weather department said that there are chances of scattered thunderstorm activity with moderate to heavy rainfall on Tuesday. The weather department also announced with light rains expected at isolated places with cloudy sky. Moreover, the region witnessed heavy downpours on Monday as the charge of cumulonimbus clouds increased. Hydera



bad and North Telangana were also witnessed heavy rains on Monday. In addition, Kamareddy recorded the highest rainfall at 18.2 cm while Vikarabad and Sangareddy also witnessed heavy downpours.

Uttam Kumar Reddy reviews CMR system, plans action against defaulting rice millers

Telangana Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy conducted a review regarding the Custom Milled Rice (CMR) system in Telangana. Discussions focused on transparency and technological reforms within the CMR framework. A thorough examination was undertaken regarding CMR-related operations over the past 10–12 years. It was reportedly decided during the meeting to take stringent action against rice millers who have defaulted on CMR dues owed to the government; special emphasis was placed on the recovery of these arrears. The meeting included a comprehensive discussion on vigilance raids conducted so far, cases registered, and the progress of investigations. Officials submitted reports detailing the performance of rice millers, the status of CMR dues, and par-



ticulars regarding defaults on a district-wise basis. A decision was made to formulate new strategies to safeguard government assets. Instructions were issued for senior officials from the Civil Supplies, Vigilance, and Legal departments to attend the meeting. Official sources state that the primary objectives of the meeting are to protect the interests of farmers and safeguard government funds.

Quality Healthcare Boost in Mulugu: Minister Seethakka Inaugurates New Facilities at District Hospital



WARANGAL: Stating that the State government is giving top priority to education and healthcare, Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, Rural Water Supply, Women and Child Welfare Minister Danasari Anasuya Seethakka emphasised that every patient visiting government hospitals must receive quality medical services. On Tuesday, the Minister, along with District Collector Borkhade Hemant Sahadeva Rao, inaugurated several new facilities at the Government General Hospital in Mulugu district headquarters. These included a new Sadar camp, a UDID (Unique Disability ID) building, an oxygen plant, and four operation theatres catering to Orthopaedics, Gynaecology, General Surgery, and ENT departments. Addressing the gathering, the Minister said that with the support of the Chief Minister and the Health Minister, full-fledged medical staff have been appointed at the district hospital to ensure better healthcare services for people in agency areas. She also announced that a special dialysis centre will soon be set up at the district headquarters. She further stated that construction works of the

medical college and nursing college buildings are being expedited. In view of the increasing number of patients, steps are also being taken to establish another government hospital in the district. The Minister directed medical staff to provide services on par with private hospitals. Later, she interacted with patients undergoing treatment at the hospital and enquired about the quality of medical services being provided. Earlier in the day, the Minister, along with the District Collector, inspected the ongoing development works worth Rs 61.99 crore being taken up under the Central government’s PRASAD scheme at the Ramappa Temple in Palampet of Venkatapur mandal. She reviewed the progress with officials and directed them to complete the works within the stipulated time while maintaining quality standards. Additional Collector Sampath Rao, Library Organisation Chairman Banothu Ravichander, Market Committee Chairperson Rega Kalyani, Panchayat Raj Director Bhagavan Reddy, Tourism Department DE Nataraj, AE Vijay, local public representatives, and officials were present.

Kerala to develop AI-based disaster warning system after floods: CM

Pathanamthitta(Kerala): Kerala Chief Minister V D Satheesan on Tuesday visited the flood affected areas in the district and said that the government is considering coming out with an effective disaster management and resilience system to predict sudden climate changes. The CM, speaking to reporters here, said that the help of experts and artificial intelligence will be utilised to build the system which will act as an early warning mechanism.He said that the system will be implemented as pilot project in Pathanamthitta district. Satheesan also claimed that desilting of many rivers in the state, including Pamba here, had not been carried out since 2019 and that is why their levels rose rapidly during the recent heavy rains.He assured that urgent



steps will be taken to desilt rivers across the state, with Pathanamthitta being given a priority. The CM said that in the last few days, extremely heavy rainfall of over 300 mm occurred in some places within a short span of time, which led to landslides and landslips, especially within forested areas. “Fortunately, not many deaths occurred in the disaster,” he added.

Hyderabad man booked by Medak police for impersonating Interpol officer

Medak: A man, who was carrying identity cards of intelligence and interpol, was booked by Medak police.The man, Bukka Santosh, of Kothapet in Hyderabad, along with his friend Srinath visited Medak Collectorate on Monday to present a representation to Collector Prathima Singh during grievances on a land dispute. Claiming himself as an Interpol officer, Santosh showed his two ID cards to the Collector. Suspecting them as fake, she asked the Medak DSP, Prasanna Kumar, and other officials to



probe into it. After a thorough inquiry until midnight on Monday, the police registered a case against Santosh. Further investigation is underway.

Bhajan competition begins at Bhadrachalam



Bhadrachalam: The temple town of Bhadrachalam reverberated with devotional fervour on Monday as state-level Bhajan competitions commenced at the Sri Kalpavruksha Narasimha Swamy Temple, attracting Bhajan troupes from the Telugu States and several other parts of the country. Organised under the guidance of Dr Krishna Chaitanya Swamy, the three-day event transformed the temple precincts into a vibrant centre of devotional music and cultural expression. The competitions featured a blend of traditional Bhajans, Harinama Sankirtanas, Tappeta Bhajans, and devotional Kirtanas, with participating troupes presenting soulful renditions in their distinctive styles. The performances drew enthusiastic appreciation from devotees, who immersed themselves in the spiritual atmosphere. Thousands of devotees from different regions flocked to the temple to witness the inaugural day’s proceedings. The temple complex remained packed with pilgrims, including children, youth and elderly devotees. Dr Krishna Chaitanya Swamy said Bhajans were far more than musical performances and served as a powerful medium for preserving spirituality, culture and righteousness. “A Bhajan is not merely a song; it is a sacred expression of devotion capable of elevating the human spirit and

invoking divine grace,” he said, urging the younger generation to embrace India’s spiritual heritage and play an active role in safeguarding traditional devotional practices that are gradually fading from public life. Participants said the event had provided an important platform to promote Bhakti, cultural values, and Sanatana traditions. They also expressed gratitude to the organisers for bringing together Bhajan troupes from different States and honouring artists dedicated to preserving India’s rich devotional legacy. The competitions will continue over the next two days, with more devotional performances and cultural programmes scheduled at the temple.

Food Safety Department sounds alert on fake inspectors

Hyderabad: The Telangana Food Safety Department has issued a public warning after receiving complaints that fraudsters posing as Food Safety Officers are targeting roadside food stalls, dhabas and small eateries in Hyderabad outskirts, especially in Ranga Reddy district. The imposters allegedly threaten hoteliers with inspections, and penalties unless they pay cash on the spot. Fake food safety officers and extortion attempts targeting food business owners have been reported in the Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy districts. In some cases,

Who is Rajasthan Congress' real high command? Gehlot debate reignites rift

Jaipur: Is the Congress high command in Rajasthan sitting in Delhi, or does it still rest with former state Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot? The question has once again come to the fore after senior Congress leader Shanti Dhariwal recently referred to Gehlot as the party's "high command" in the state. The remark has sparked sharp reactions within the Congress and once again laid bare the deep factional divisions that continue to haunt the organisation. Soon after this episode, the party once again appeared deeply divided during a meeting convened in Jaipur to discuss preparations for the panchayat and urban local body elections. The meeting turned into a public display of internal resentment, competing power centres and leadership claims. At a time when the Congress is preparing for crucial municipal corporation and panchayat elections, the party debate unfolded alongside another uncomfortable spectacle for the Congress as former Malviya Nagar candidate Archana Sharma openly alleged that during the Assembly elections, her biggest battle was not against the BJP but against leaders within her own party. Intelligence Social Media Marketing International News She claimed that a conspiracy against her had begun nearly six months before the elections, leaving her to fight internal resistance rather than political opponents. Former Hawa Mahal candidate R.R. Tiwari echoed similar allegations, blaming his defeat on "Jaichands" within the Congress and accusing party insiders of working against official candidates. Tiwari, meanwhile, openly backed Dhariwal, arguing that while Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi constitute the national leadership, Rajasthan's political reality is different. According to Tiwari, Gehlot remains the undisputed centre of political influence in the state Congress because of his organisational network, public connect and decades-long leadership. The conflicting statements effectively revived the old question that has persisted ever since the Gehlot-Pilot rivalry emerged: who controls the Rajasthan Congress? However, the divisions within the party became even more visible inside the meeting hall. Supporters repeatedly raised slogans praising individual leaders despite repeated appeals to focus on the party. Also Read - Democracy has triumphed, students’ win: Gehlot Jaipur District Congress president Sunil Sharma urged workers to raise slogans only for the Congress, Rahul Gandhi and party president Mallika rjun Kharge. Congress MLA Rafiq Khan also appealed to workers not to promote personality-centric politics. Even Rajasthan Congress president Govind Singh Dotasra advised party workers to avoid slogan-shouting in favour of individual leaders during organisational programmes. Yet the slogans continued, an indi-



cation that the battle for political space in the Congress remains far from over. Prior to this meeting, Dhariwal had described Gehlot as the "high command" of Rajasthan Congress, a political statement carrying significant weight in a state where the former CM’s organisational grip has remained intact despite the Congress losing power in 2023. However, former minister Pratap Singh Khachariyawas rejected the assertion outright, insisting that only Rahul Gandhi is the Congress high command. "Rahul Gandhi is the high command. Shanti Dhariwal is a senior leader and can say anything," Khachariyawas remarked, attempting to end the debate. Amid the controversy over who constitutes the high command, Gehlot himself avoided claiming any such status. Responding to the debate, the former Chief Minister said discussions about leadership decisions were unnecessary because the authority rests entirely with the Congress high command. "This is not our responsibility at all. Why should we discuss something that is not within our purview? It is entirely the High Command's responsibility," Gehlot said. He explained that the central leadership continuously monitors political developments across states through surveys, public feedback and organisational assessments. "The high command continuously monitors the political atmosphere before and after elections. It assesses public sentiment, takes feedback from winning MLAs and conducts regular surveys. Rahul Gandhi has now established a dedicated institutional mechanism to conduct these surveys, including those related to ticket distribution. Decisions are taken after considering all these inputs. Therefore, there should be no speculation on these matters," Gehlot said. The remarks appeared to distance him from Dhariwal's claim while simultaneously reinforcing the institutional authority of the Congress leadership in Delhi. The renewed leadership debate comes amid visible signs of organisational discomfort. Former Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot has been notably absent from the Congress protest in Jaipur over the NEET paper leak issue. Congress state in-charge Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa has also been absent, prompting fresh speculation about coordination within the state leadership. Meanwhile, Gehlot has continued to strike an optimistic note, asserting that the Congress remains politically strong in North India and expressing confidence that the party will return to power in Rajasthan in the next Assembly elections.

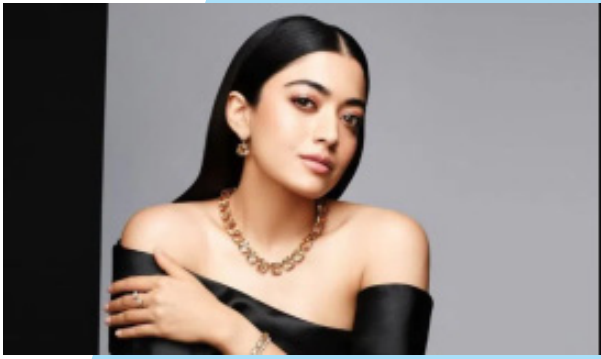


they have also offered fake food safety licences and training certificates in exchange for money. Real crackdowns on food safety violations are conducted jointly by the police and official food safety departments. Food Safety Officer from Ranga Reddy District Manoj Kumar said the department has received several

complaints from food business operators, who were approached by individuals falsely claiming to be officials. He clarified that genuine Food Safety Officers do not demand cash during inspections or issue licences or certificates at food stalls or commercial establishments.“All food safety licences, registrations, permits and training programmes are processed only through official government channels. No Food Safety Officer is authorised to collect cash during inspections or issue certificates on the spot,” he said.

Rashmika Mandanna confirms hip injury, says tendon detached during ‘Mysaa’ shoot

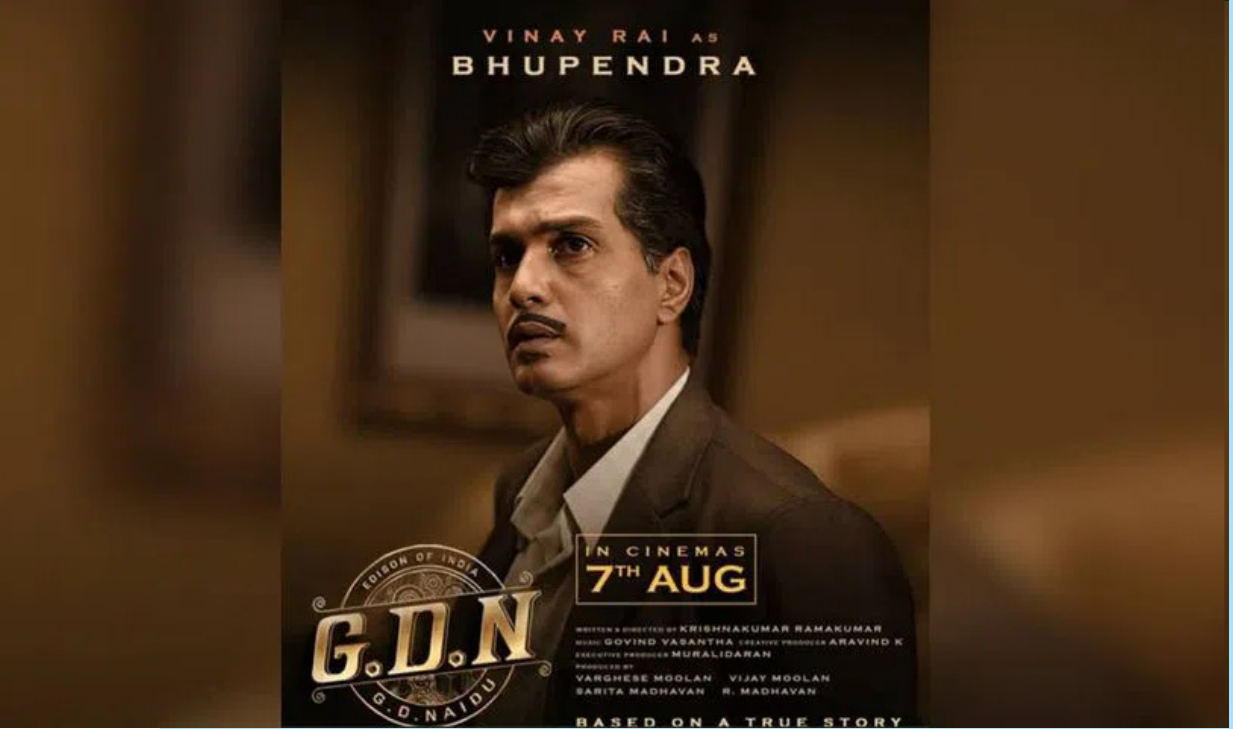
Mumbai: Actor Rashmika Mandanna has confirmed that she suffered a tendon detachment in her right hip while shooting for her upcoming film “Mysaa”, saying it



to your leg and one of those tendons on my right hip apparently had detached and that has to attach again, for me to be able to lift my leg up and stuff.. and this happened dur-

ing my dance shoot for ‘Mysaa’.. my god that’s the most aggressive film I’ve ever done for sure!” she added. The actor, however, reassured fans that she was recovering well. “It hurts but it’s not unbearable or something.. so ya that’s that.. and I feel like this is god saying you’ll never take a break if it’s left to you so here.. let me do it for you!” she said. Ma ndanna described the injury as a “freak accident” and said she was making the most of her forced break by solving puzzles. The actor also joked about missing her workout routine. “Really really trying not to put on weight cz well I workout and run like a beast which keeps me in a decent shape and now I won’t be able to workout or run for awhile and if I can’t workout then what do I doooo.. I eat.. and I become a dessert monster.. so uh hooooo! “Well that’s about it.. what else did I miss.. nothing na.. if anything I’ll update soon. Love ya! Don’t worry ok..” she added.

Fans delighted as Vinay Rai’s role in Madhavan-starrer GDN revealed



Chennai: The makers of director Krishnakumar Ramakumar’s eagerly awaited period film, ‘GDN’, featuring actor Madhavan in the lead, have now revealed actor Vinay Rai’s look in the film, much to the delight of fans and film buffs. Varghese Moolans Pictures, the production house producing the film, took to its Instagram page to share the look of the actor and also disclose the name of the character he played in the biopic. It said, “Introducing @vinayrai79 as Bhupendra. History remembers the visionary. It rarely remembers those who tried to stop him. G.D.N in theatres from 7th August.”The makers have also released Dushara Vijayan’s look as Ranganayaki in the film. Earlier, the makers had revealed that actor Karunakaran plays a character called Perunkili while actress Aditi Balan plays a character called Padmavathi in the film, which is a biopic of iconic Indian inventor, agriculturist and philanthropist G D Naidu. It is slated to hit screens worldwide on August 7 this year. India news headlinesThe makers had also released the looks of actress Sheela as the young Chellamal and actor Teejay Arunasalam as the young G D Naidu in the film. A trailer that the makers had launched earlier this month has triggered huge expectations among fans and film buffs. The trailer released begins with a person saying G D Naidu, in his old age, had gone mad, as he had bombed his own

building. The trailer then shows an Englishman asking, “Who the hell is this fakir?”It is then that GD Naidu’s character is introduced with flair. His detractors are jealous he is making millions through his transport system UMS. We also realise that he has started a polytechnic engineering college. The trailer shows actor Jayaram playing a very vicious character called Krishnan with power. He asks, “GDN charges huge amounts as fees but does he find paying tax a bitter pill to swallow?”The British realise that GDN is working within the system and that his books are clean. However, his rivals are intent on thwarting his fame and success by hook or crook. Vinay Rai’s character is seen telling an English official, “Soil the books.”Those in power try to restrict GDN’s growth by levelling trumped up charges against him. Jayaram’s character is seen ordering cops to search GDN’s premises claiming they had got information that GDN had developed machines for printing counterfeit currency. Eventually, we get to know from the trailer that GDN was an honest tax payer who was paying all his taxes on time and that he began questioning the government only when they began levying taxes unjustly on him. The trailer then shows the British government bringing treason charges against GDN, saying that he was doing business with the Nazis and that this was against the interests of the crown.

Mrunal Thakur threatens legal action over deepfake content

Mumbai: Actress Mrunal Thakur has issued a stern warning against the misuse of her identity through deepfake content. The actress, on Tuesday, stated that anyone creating or sharing such material using her ‘likeness’ could face legal consequences. Taking to her social media account, the actress shared a strongly worded note addressing the growing issue of AI-generated fake content. The note read, “Creating or sharing deepfake content using my likeness is illegal and unacceptable. Consider this your formal notice to stop immediately. Any further misuse of my identity will result in legal action.”The actress has, however, not specified which particular deepfake content or account prompted her latest warning. Talking about the actress, she recently was in news for her dance performance at a friend’s wedding, that took the internet by storm. On the work front, Mrunal had began her acting career with the television show, Kumkum Bhagya before making a successful transition to films. She was seen essaying the role of Bulbul, the younger sister of the lead, Sriti Jha in the show. After making her switch to Bollywood, she went on to receive good reviews for her per-



formances in her movies such as such as Love Sonia, Super 30, Batla House, Sita Ramam, Hi Nanna, The Family Star and Son of Sardaar 2 amongst others. Mrunal was last seen in the movie, Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai which also starred Varun Dhawan, Pooja Hegde. The movie marked the last directorial of ace filmmaker David Dhawan. He had announced the project to be his last at the trailer launch of the movie.

Salman Khan recollects jail time: Small area, 50-60 people, Indian style commode, lizards

Mumbai: Bollywood superstar Salman Khan recently recollected his time in jail, and spoke about facing the difficulties that prisoners often face in the jails. The actor recently went to the streaming reality show ‘Alliance’ to see his brother Sohail Khan. A promo from the show has gone viral on the Internet, and it shows Salman talking about the time when he was in the Jodhpur Central Jail. He told the contestants on the show, “Many years ago, when I went to jail, we had bars in front of us. In such a small area, there were 50-60 people there. One bathroom, Indian style commode, sometimes there were lizards, water and s*** were filled all the way till here”. The actor was in Jodhpur Central Jail in Rajasthan during his periods of incarceration. He spent time there across four different occasions between 1998 and 2018 in connection with the blackbuck and chinkara poaching cases. The case involves the illegal hunting of two endangered blackbucks in October 1998 during the filming of ‘Hum Saath-Saath Hain’ near Jodhpur, Rajasthan. The incident sparked widespread outrage from the local Bishnoi community, who consider the



animal sacred. The event also triggered jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, who has issued several threats to the actor owing to his involvement in the poaching case. Earlier, Salman Khan paid a visit to his sibling Sohail Khan, on the sets of the streaming reality show ‘Alliance’. The actor was seen dressed in a denim shirt, black pants, and cowboy hat. The actor posed for the paparazzi. The superstar’s visit came after one of the show’s most emotional moments. Sohail, who entered ‘Alliance’ as a wildcard contestant alongside his former wife Seema Sajdeh, was left heartbroken after she was eliminated from the competition. Reacting to her elimination, Sohail admitted that he did not want Seema to leave the show.

It’s official: ‘The Paradise’ teaser to be out on Aug 6th

It’s official: ‘The Paradise’ teaser to be out on Aug 6th The makers of Nani’s The Paradise have officially announced that the film’s teaser will be released on August 6, while fans eagerly await an update on its release date. The makers of Natural Star Nani’s awaited film The Paradise have finally announced that the teaser for the film will out on August 6. Meanwhile, the makers also have shared a new poster with Nani in an all new avatar on the wings with the caption ‘Even his shadow flies with wings of smiles’ While the reveal of teaser has created a massive frenzy around the film, the buzz is also around the film’s release which is yet to be announced. It may be noted that the latest poster which was shared by the makers does not carry the release

of The Paradise which had already pushed back a couple of times The Paradise directed by Sri kanth Odela is one of the most awaited films in Tollywood. The director-hero duo had earlier delivered the superhit Dasara, and with the stellar team on board it is now being looked out by the Telugu movie buffs. Produced by Sudhakar Cherukuri under Sri Lakshmi Venkate swara Cinemas, the film also stars Mohan Babu, Raghav Juyal, Sonali Kulkarni, Sampoo rmesh Babu apart from Kayadu Lohar who plays leading lady opposite Nani.



Williams sisters headline Cincinnati Open doubles wild cards

Cincinnati: Serena Williams and Venus Williams have been awarded a doubles wild card for the Cincinnati Open, which runs from August 13 to 23. This will mark their first match together since the 2022 US Open. As a doubles team, the Williams sisters have won 14 Major titles and three Olympic gold medals. They last took the court for a doubles match together at the 2022 US Open and will be playing the Cincinnati Open for the first time as a team. For Serena, Cincinnati will mark the latest stop in her return to competition after nearly four years away from the tour. The 23-time Grand Slam singles champion returned to competition for the first time since the 2022 US Open at Queen's Club in June, teaming with Victoria Mboko in doubles before making another doubles appearance in Berlin alongside Karolina Muchova. She then returned to singles at Wimbledon, where she pushed 20-year-old Maya Joint to three sets before falling in the opening round. Venus has also received a singles wild card along with Sloane Stephens, Taylor Townsend, Darja Vidmanova, Elvina Kalieva, Caroline Dolehide and Lois Boisson. Venus owns a 12-10 Cincinnati Open record, having reached the semifinals in 2012 and quarterfinals in



2019. The 46-year-old first played on the WTA Tour in 1994, and has won 49 career singles titles, including seven Majors and the 2000 Olympic gold medal. She held the WTA No. 1 ranking for 11 weeks. Stephens, a Cincinnati semifinalist in 2013, returns for the first time since 2023. The 33-year-old American has won eight titles, including the 2017 US Open, and has been ranked as high as No. 3 in the world. Townsend, winner of the 2023 Cincinnati doubles title, made her first WTA Tour final in Austin and climbed back inside of the Top 100. The American will headline the doubles draw as the world's No. 1 team alongside Katerina Siniakova. Qualifying wild cards have been awarded to 2019 US Open champion Bianca Andreescu, Akasha Urhobo, Carol Young Suh Lee, Jeline Vandromme and Robin Montgomery, a 21-year-old American who claimed her first WTA title in June.

World junior squash champ Anahat Singh felicitated in Delhi

New Delhi: Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya felicitated in Delhi on Tuesday India's World Junior Squash Championship 2026 medallists, including Gold medalist Anahat Singh and bronze medal-winning Indian men's junior team Aryaveer Dewan, Yusha Nafees and Gurveer Singh. Anahat, 18, became the first Indian to win the World Junior Squash Championships women's singles title in Canada last week. This was her fifth participation at the competition and her second medal from the World Championships. She had won bronze last year in Cairo. Interacting with the athletes, Dr. Mandaviya encouraged the youngsters to treat their recent success as the beginning of a much longer journey, with major milestones such as the Asian Games 2026 and the Olympic Games



2028 lying ahead. Congratulating Anahat on her landmark achievement, Dr. Mandaviya said her historic triumph is worthy of inspiring millions of young Indians to take up squash. In a sweet gesture, Anahat also presented an autographed squash racquet and squash ball to the Hon'ble Minister. The youngsters also indulged in selfies and candid conversations, making the felicitation event a heart and joyful occasion.

HCA forms new committee to boost district infrastructure in Telangana

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) Secretary, Mr. M. Jeevan Reddy, announced the constitution of the District Cricket Infrastructure Development Committee under the guidance of the Single Member Committee, headed by Justice P. Naveen Rao (Retd.). The Committee has been constituted with the objective of strengthening cricket infrastructure and administration, while promoting the systematic development of the game across the districts of Telangana. The Committee will be chaired by T. Sheshnarayan, former Secretary of the HCA, whose extensive experience in cricket administration will provide valuable leadership in advancing district-level infrastructure development. **The following members have been appointed to the Committee:** Ramakrishna Udupa – Member, HCA M. Rajashekar – Representative, Mahbubnagar District C. Venkat Rao – Representative, Khammam District M. Venkat Reddy – Representative, Nizamabad District The District Cricket Infrastructure De-



velopment Committee will focus on improving cricket infrastructure and enhancing coordination with district cricket stakeholders. The Committee will work in alignment with the vision of the Single Member Committee to promote transparent, inclusive, and sustainable growth of cricket throughout Telangana. Furthermore, the Committee shall consult and seek guidance from the Cricket Operations Committee (COC) on matters relating to grounds, pitches, practice facilities, and other infrastructure to ensure all development initiatives align with the technical and operational standards of the HCA.

Will wipe off few players, benefit few others: Gopichand on badminton's new scoring system



New Delhi: Pullela Gopichand still remembers the disruption caused by badminton's scoring overhaul during his playing career and as the sport gears up to embrace another "tactical shift", the India coach believes a few players will be "wiped off". The 15x3 system (three games of 15 points each) will replace the current 21x3 format (three games of 21 points each) next year. The BWF said the shorter format would help in managing player workload in a crowded calendar. Gopichand recalled how he had won the All England title in 2001 under the traditional 15-point format before badminton briefly switched to the 7x5 scoring system. The experiment was abandoned within a year, with the sport reverting to the traditional 15-point scores for men and 11-point scores for women at that time. "When I won the All England, a few months later they moved from 15 to 7. It took me time because I was one of those players who was a stroke player. I wanted time to get adjusted. It took me a year to come back," Gopichand said in response to a PTI query during an interaction here ahead of the World Championships. "And then by the time I was kind of settling in, they brought us back to the long form and it was a death blow. Because you train, you detrain, and your endurance drops. Then to go back and play 15 was impossible. These definitely make a big impact. A few players, it will wipe off, a few players might benefit." Drawing parallels with the 15x3 system approved by the Badminton World Federation (BWF), Gopichand said the shorter format would place greater premium on speed, power and mental strength, particularly during the closing stages of the games. "You scoring points will be important, but you not giving away points will be even more important. The speed and the power and the focus need to be top notch. The mind will play much more," he said. According to the national coach, doubles players are likely to feel the biggest impact as shorter games will make every phase of the contest more critical. "The serve, serve-return and the attack will be even more fierce in the doubles game...people who can hold their nerves and play the strokes will be important," he said. "In singles, already you can see a bunch of youngsters playing that whether it's people like Alwi Farhan (Indonesia), Christo Popov (France). I think a lot of flat doubles kind of a game is what's being played. So I think that will be a few more players might end up coming like that. "The crucial points in the game will be the 11th and 12th points. How you take pressure at 13-14 or 15-14 will become very important. There will be a lot of pressure points throughout the match." Gopichand felt the

change could alter the character of the sport, with the format favouring flatter, faster exchanges over the more elaborate, stroke-heavy rallies a longer format allowed. "Players will try to be a lot safer and not too much of skills. That's one area which I think the sport will miss out on because a longer format typically gives you a little more freedom to open up your arms and play a few more strokes. Here it's going to be a lot more flat, parallel games," he said. **Not convinced by BWF's logic** Gopichand also felt the BWF could have achieved its objective of reducing player workload differently. "If they were planning to extend the tournament schedule to two weeks, they could have stayed on with the 21-point system because it doesn't make sense to shorten it and lengthen the tournament both at the same time," he said. "The purpose was to give rest to the players, and that could have been achieved by having the tournament over a 10-12-day period instead of six days. But probably BWF has its own reasons. It's very subjective." Gopichand believes veteran Indian players such as HS Prannoy and Kidambi Srikanth might benefit from the new scoring system. "It will be better for them. We're not very sure how exactly because when speed goes up these guys have to move quicker. So training to move quicker needs you to be a lot more agile, a lot more faster and that could lead to injuries as well. "The nuance is everything. The smaller detail is everything. If I had a choice I would pick the 15 for an older player... For some players it might be a little tough, but by and large Indian players are okay." **Who after Satwik-Chirag?** Gopichand has admitted India does not yet have a clear answer to who fill the men's doubles void once Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty move past their peak. Asked how India plans to build a supply chain in men's doubles beyond its top pair, Gopichand did not offer a ready roadmap. "It's a very valid question. I think we need to get the best players coming together, playing together, some system like that needs to be there. We are very democratic in that set-up. "We used to have five academies, or four academies, five years back. Today there are 500 academies — 5,000 independent players and 5,000 independent minds. When it comes to doubles, that compounds the problem," he said. He acknowledged that very few players, who consider themselves strong in singles, are willing to experiment in doubles. "Very rarely do we have a decent singles player pick doubles if he is good at it. Not very often do you see that switch...it could be good talent for singles but exceptional talent for doubles."

RBI likely to hold interest rates as inflation stays within target



Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is expected to leave key interest rates untouched in its monetary policy review to be announced on August 4 with an eye on promoting economic growth as inflation is seen to be under control, analysts said on Tuesday. The country's CPI inflation is currently well within the RBI's tolerance band of 2 to 6 per cent and the central bank sees the mid-point of 4 per cent of this range as the target to ensure growth with price stability in the economy. India's retail inflation rate touched 4.38 per cent in June which was largely due to the increase in global oil prices and some imported commodities used as inputs in production turning costlier. The public sector oil companies have largely absorbed the increase in crude prices to protect consumers. RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra has indicated that the monetary policy review committee would go in for an interest rate hike only if the inflationary pressure becomes more broad-based and not merely driven by temporary supply shocks. According to the RBI's economic forecast in June, re-

tail inflation is expected to come in at 5.1 per cent for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2027 while growth is expected to remain at 6.6 per cent. These projections were based on an assumption that crude oil would average about \$95 a barrel. Since crude prices have hovered at levels below this price the forecasts are expected to hold. India has imported more than 50 per cent of its crude oil at discounted prices from Russia in July to reduce dependence on the Gulf which has helped to keep prices within manageable limits. Similarly, the public sector oil companies have switched to the US for more than 70 per cent of their LPG imports. Some experts were of the view that the RBI should prop up the declining rupee by hiking interest rates to attract more foreign exchange from global investors. However, the RBI's measures such as scrapping capital-gains tax for foreign holders of Indian government bonds and making dollar deposit schemes for non-resident Indians more attractive have succeeded in attracting close to \$40 billion forex inflows to steady the rupee.

Stock markets trade mixed amid introduction of new closing auction session



Mumbai: Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty traded on a mixed note in early trade on Tuesday following introduction of a new auction mechanism for shares having futures and options (F&O) contracts. The Closing Auction Session (CAS) in the equity cash segment became operational on Monday, introducing a new auction-based mechanism for determining the closing prices of eligible stocks in a move aimed at making the price discovery process more transparent and robust. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 97 points to 78,736.20 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 173.95 points to 24,600.35. Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty on Monday ended with an unusual aberration after stock exchanges introduced the new auction mechanism. "The 390-point spurt in the Nifty yesterday caused primarily by the new closing auction session (CAS) for determining the closing prices of stocks in the F&O segment is expected to normalise today. The sharp spike in Nifty vis-a-vis Sensex was an aberration caused by the new CAS, and therefore, investors need not attach

much importance to this one-day aberration," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said. From investor's perspective, the significant trend is the positive development emerging in the economy and markets, he added. Extending the winning momentum to the fourth day, the Sensex jumped 544.39 points, or 0.70 per cent, to settle at 78,639.03. The Nifty climbed 390.70 points, or 1.60 per cent, to end at 24,774.30. From the Sensex pack, Asian Paints, Tata Steel, Trent, Bajaj Finance, Bharat Electronics and Kotak Mahindra Bank were among the major winners. Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, HDFC Bank and Tata Consultancy Services were among the laggards. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 1.36 per cent higher at USD 84.91 per barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 922.26 crore on Monday, according to exchange data. In Asian markets, South Korea's KOSPI, Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index were quoting lower, while Shanghai's SSE Composite index traded higher. US markets ended sharply higher on Monday.

India's logistics and industrial leasing touch record 36.2 mn sq ft in H1 2026



New Delhi: India's logistics and industrial real estate sector maintained growth momentum in the first half of 2026, as gross leasing across the top eight cities reached 36.2 million square feet supported by robust occupier demand across logistics, manufacturing and automotive sectors, a report said on Tuesday. The report from Cushman & Wakefield said the sector saw its highest first-half leasing volume on record, up 18 per cent year-on-year and 2 per cent higher than H2 2025. Warehouse leasing continued to dominate the market, accounting for 24.3 MSF of leasing volume and 67 per cent of total absorption during H1 2026. The segment recorded 11 per cent YoY growth, although activity moderated marginally by 6 per cent compared to H2 2025. Meanwhile, industrial leasing reached nearly 12 MSF during H1 2026, up 36 per cent YoY and 27 per cent higher than H2 2025, highlighting the increasing role of manufacturing-led expansion in shaping India's logistics and industrial real estate market. 3PL occupiers continued to drive leasing momentum in H1 2026, accounting for 12.2 MSF of absorption and a 34 per cent share of overall demand, up 64 per cent annually. Engineering & Manufacturing

(E&M) firms followed closely, leasing 10.2 MSF of space, contributing 28 per cent of total absorption and recording a 6 per cent YoY increase. Collectively, 3PL and E&M occupiers accounted for over 60 per cent of overall leasing activity, underscoring the continued strength of India's manufacturing and supply chain ecosystem. "Leasing activity continued to be driven by 3PL players, manufacturing expansion and sustained investments across supply chains and industrial infrastructure," said Abhishek Bhutani, Managing Director, Logistics & Industrial Services, Cushman & Wakefield.

The automobile sector emerged as a main growth driver, accounting for 4.8 MSF of leasing volume and 13 per cent of overall demand. Leasing by automobile occupiers nearly doubled compared to H1 2025. The growth was primarily led by industrial facilities, which accounted for nearly 63 per cent of the sector's leasing activity, supported by accelerated investments across the electric vehicle (EV) value chain. Delhi NCR emerged as the largest logistics and industrial market during, recording 8.7 MSF of leasing activity and capturing 24 per cent of overall demand.

Multinational giants get wider choice as GCC boom spreads in India: Report

New Delhi: The Global Capability Centres' (GCCs) boom in India has triggered a fierce competition among the states for a share in what is forecast to be a \$150 billion sector by 2030. This is also offering Western multinational giants a wider choice that now goes beyond Bengaluru which was until now the main focus of the IT industry, according to an article in One World Outlook. The article points out that GCCs are no longer the outsourced back offices of Western companies where a bank sent its data entry or a software firm sent its support tickets. "They are, increasingly, where global companies actually build things: risk models for international banks, chip design for semiconductor firms, AI platforms for consumer tech giants, and the software that runs supply chains from Ohio to Rotterdam," it observes. The GCCs are an entirely new layer of the Indian economy taking shape inside a five-year window. The Finance Ministry has pointed to GCCs currently contributing somewhere in the range of \$65-70 billion in gross value addition to the economy — a figure that could roughly double, to between \$100 billion and \$150 billion, by the end of the decade. The article states that GCCs have become the operational spine of a large share of global business. They run compliance for international banks, monitor cyber security for multinational insurers, engineer cloud infrastructure for retailers, and increasingly own genuine product and R&D mandates rather than just executing someone else's blueprint.



When Western firms decide where to place a new AI centre of excellence, or where to consolidate a risk function, they are not choosing between "onshore" and "offshore" anymore. They are choosing between an increasingly differentiated menu of Indian states, each offering a distinct combination of subsidy, talent pipeline, regulatory ease, and specialisation. It highlights that global companies now have a varied choice among states to choose from depending on the specialisation required. "A bank looking to build out fintech and risk capabilities has a genuinely different calculus in Gujarat, with its GIFT City tax advantages and financial-sector focus, than it does in Karnataka, where the depth is in engineering and product design, or in Telangana, where pharma and BFSI talent pools overlap in ways few other states can match. A firm chasing pure cost efficiency for high-volume, moderate-complexity work might find Uttar Pradesh's tier-II cities or Bihar's emerging incentive regime more compelling than anything Bengaluru can now offer, simply because the latter's costs have risen with two decades of success.

Andhra police arrest YSRCP leader in kidnapping case in Gujarat

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Police arrested YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader and former MLA Shaik Mohamm ed Mustafa in an alleged kidnapping case. The former MLA from Guntur East was arrested in Gujarat late on Monday night by a police team from Nuzvid. The YSRCP condemned the police action and termed it political vendetta by the TDP-led coalition government. Mustafa and his son Basheer were booked for kidnapping a tobacco trader's son and two others following a dispute over tobacco procurement transaction. A case was registered against them for kidnapping. Sections of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act were also invoked against them. Mustafa, who has a tobacco godown in Guntur, procures tobacco from traders. K. Suryachandram, a trader from Eluru district, used to sell tobacco to the former MLA. Recently, the trader had stopped selling tobacco to him due to the price drop. On Saturday night when Suryac hand ram's son Abhi, driver Balaraju and G. Durga Rao were on their way to Guntur to sell tobacco to another company, they were stopped at Nuzvid by Mustafa's son Basheer and his aides. Demanding payment of dues, they allegedly kidnapped the three men and seized the tobacco laden vehicle. Suryachan dram claimed that when his son informed him, he spoke to Mustafa over the phone. The former MLA allegedly threatened that if he failed to come to his godown in Guntur with the money, he would not be

able to see his son. The trader lodged a complaint with the police. His son and two others were later released by kidnapers. Mustafa and his son went absconding while their aides involved in the kidnapping surrendered before the police. YSRCP has condemned the police action against Mustafa and his son and termed it political vendetta by the TDP-led coalition government. YSRCP president and former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy alleged that Mustafa and his son had been implicated in a kidnapping case despite having handed over the person concerned to the police. YSRCP Guntur District President and former minister Ambati Rambabu alleged that the former was being subjected to political vendetta through fabricated criminal cases. He said that the coalition government led by Chief Minister Chandra babu Naidu was misusing the police machinery to politically target YSRCP leaders after failing to confront the party democratically. He said a routine business dispute involving an advance payment of ₹36 lakh for a tobacco transaction had been deliberately converted into a serious criminal case, including kidnapping, attempt to murder and SC/ST Atrocities charges, solely to deny Mustafa and his son Basheer bail. Ambati said police violated legal procedures by conducting late-night searches in apartments where Muslim women were residing. He stated that officers entered nearly seven apartment complexes in plain clothes between 9 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Several injures after a travels bus overturns in Gannavaram

A ghastly road accident occurred near Gannavaram in Krishna district where a Travels bus plying from Chennai to Visakhapatnam overturned on the central divider of National Highway-16 near Telaprolu in Unguturu Mandal leaving twelve passengers injured. Upon the information, locals along with the police arrived the spot and rescued the injured from the bus and shifted them to the Pinnamaneni Siddhartha Hospital in

Outapalli. It is alleged that that a lorry coming from the opposite direction hit the bus which had overturned on the divider, while trying to avoid it. The lorry driver suffered severe injuries to his legs and was also taken to the hospital. Police have registered a case and are investigating the cause of the accident. They have also facilitated the restoration of traffic on the National Highway, which faced a long backup due to the accident.

MP Satish Babu seeks greater share for AP under Samudra Manthan initiative

Rajya Sabha MP Sana Satish Babu urges Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri to prioritize Andhra Pradesh and KG Basin under the 'Samudra Manthan' offshore exploration initiative. Rajya Sabha MP Sana Satish Babu urged the Centre to ensure Andhra Pradesh receives a significant share of the benefits under 'Samudra Manthan: A Landmark Initiative for Offshore Exploration and Viksit Bharat' during the Consultative Committee meeting of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas held in New Delhi on Monday. The meeting, chaired by Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri, focused on expanding India's offshore exploration and strengthening the country's energy security. Welcoming the Union government's ambitious initiative, Sana Satish Babu congratulated the Ministry and highlighted that the Krishna-Godavari (KG) Basin, one of India's most promising offshore hydrocarbon regions, is located off the Andhra Pradesh coast. He stressed that the State should receive maximum benefits from the programme considering its strategic importance in India's energy landscape.



The Rajya Sabha member proposed establishing an Oil and Gas Manufacturing Zone in Andhra Pradesh by leveraging the State's ports, industrial ecosystem and skilled workforce. He also recommended setting up an offshore skill development and training centre in coastal Andhra Pradesh to equip local youth with specialised skills and enable MSMEs to participate in the offshore energy supply chain. Sana Satish Babu further urged the Centre to allocate a fixed share of newly discovered deepwater wells in the KG Basin, taking into account the region's vast hydrocarbon potential. He also sought the development of a common offshore infrastructure hub at either Kakinada or Visakhapatnam to support processing.

AP, Telangana to receive heavy rains on Tuesday evening



The Meteorological Department has issued a weather advisory for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana over heavy rains today. The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) has warned that thunderstorms with lightning may occur in the state over the next three hours. An 'Orange alert' has been issued as rain showers are expected in the districts of Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, Alluri Sitarama Raju, and Anakapalli. People living in Gajapathinagaram, Srungavarapukota, and Bheemunipatnam were asked to be cautious and take care. A 'Yellow alert' has been issued in the Annamayya, Sri Sathya Sai, Tirupati, Chittoor, and Ananthapur districts as light to scattered rains with lightning are expected in these districts over the next few hours. As a precaution, the disaster management authority asked farmers, workers, and herders to stay away from trees or open places and take shelter. Read more... The monsoon trough at sea level was extended to Nagaland through Anupgarh, Delhi, Shahjahanpur, Basti, and Chhapra. Meanwhile, a cyclonic cir-

culation develops over South Interior Karnataka and surrounding areas at 5.8 NM above sea level. Also, a cyclonic circulation prevails at 4.5 NM above sea level over the westcentral Bay of Bengal and coastal Andhra Pradesh. It has been clarified that rains are expected for the next three days. In addition, warnings have been issued about the likelihood of scattered light rains, or thunderstorms with lightning, over many parts of Telangana for the next three days. It has been clarified that Telangana's Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Mulugu, Bhadradri Kothagudem, Khammam, Nalgonda, and Suryapet districts are likely to have scattered heavy rains today. In addition, it has been warned that strong surface winds of 30-40 kmph may develop in isolated districts of Telangana. Hyderabad Meteorological Center has announced that strong surface winds of 30-40 kmph are likely to develop in isolated areas in all the districts of Telangana tomorrow and the day after. People living in these districts should take necessary precautions and avoid going outside during this time.

WB, ADB delegation reviews safety, environmental standards in Amaravati capital projects



Amaravati: A joint delegation from World Bank (WB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) visited Amaravati Capital City on Monday as part of a three-day review mission to assess the implementation of environmental, social and safety standards in ongoing infrastructure projects. The visit began with a review meeting at APCRDA headquarters in Rayapudi, where the delegation interacted with officials of the Environmental and Social Management Unit (ESMU). The team assessed safety practices at labour camps established for workers engaged in various capital city construction projects and reviewed compliance with environmental and social safeguard measures, occupational health standards and workplace safety protocols. The delegation also discussed the responsibilities of APCRDA, Amaravati Development Corporation Limited (ADCL), Programme Management Consultants (PgMC) and Project Management Consultants (PMC) in ensuring effective implementation of environmental and social safeguards. The team offered several recommendations

aimed at strengthening compliance and improving safety management across project sites. Social Development Wing Director Velugoti Ramulu, Chief Strategy Officer Adusumilli Uma, and other senior APCRDA officials participated in the review meeting. Following the discussions, the World Bank and ADB representatives visited multiple construction sites across Amaravati Capital City to inspect ongoing works and evaluate safety measures being adopted by contractors. They suggested additional improvements to enhance workplace safety and ensure adherence to international standards. The delegation also reviewed training programmes being conducted for construction workers and stressed the importance of the proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at all project locations. Officials and contractors were further advised to strengthen traffic management and safety measures for heavy construction vehicles operating near project sites to minimise risks and ensure the safety of local residents and road users.