

AP CM Chandrababu reviews Vizag Economic Region Development Plan

Visakhapatnam: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu reviewed the development of schemes related to the Visakhapatnam Economic Region (VER) at a meeting held today (Wednesday) at the Secretariat. The Chief Minister gave necessary instructions to the concerned officials. He said that the A.P. government had taken up the Visakhapatnam Economic Region project for attracting an investment of Rs.9.50 lakh crore through different



projects. Further, he stated that the government would be contributing between Rs.3.50 lakh crore and Rs.4 lakh crore

and an action plan is being prepared for mobilizing Rs.5.30 lakh crore from the private sector. CM Chandrababu remarked that the government intends to develop the Visakhapatnam region with the 'Bay City' project serving as the anchor project. He clarified that the goal of the VER project is to develop the entire Visakhapatnam region through micro-level planning. He directed officials to prepare development plans that take into account every

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Nara Lokesh Calls on Youth to Join Global Digital Economy at IBM FutureNow Launch

Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Information Technology, J. Nara Lokesh, addressed the opening ceremony of the new IBM Consulting FutureNow Center here today. IBM is a multinational company that develops information technology. Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh urges youth to be part of the global digital economy. Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Information Technology, J. Nara Lokesh, addressed the opening ceremony of the new IBM Consulting FutureNow Center here today. IBM is a multinational company that develops information technology. In his address, the minister said, "The IBM FutureNow Center will play a pioneering role in positioning Visakhapatnam as a global destination

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New Trust Board for Sri Tirupatamma Ammavari temple



Vijayawada: The state government has constituted a new 14-member Trust Board for the renowned Sri Tirupatamma Ammavari Devasthanam at Penuganchiprolu in NTR district, one of the largest and most revered temples in the State. To this effect, the Secretary of the Revenue (Endowments) Department, K Kannababu, issued GO Rt No 1365 on Tuesday. According to the Government Order, Chunchu Ramesh Babu has been appointed as the Chairman of the Trust Board. The other board members include Pakalapati Anasuya, Polupongu Jyotsna Priyanka, Gugulothu Ramesh, Gajji Pedda Anjaneyulu, Orsu Suramma, Karnati Kavitha, Tanneeru Gopinath, Kalluri Srivani, Saripineni Apparao, Kakulapati Vijayalakshmi, Shanagavaru Venkateswararao, and Kolipaka Haimavathi. Additionally,

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Nara Lokesh lays stone for PV Sindhu's sports academy



Nara Lokesh lays stone for PV Sindhu's sports academy Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh laid the foundation stone for PV Sindhu's Center for Sports Excellence in Visakhapatnam, aimed at nurturing future sporting talent with world-class facilities. Nara Lokesh, the Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education and IT, performed the Bhoomi Puja (groundbreaking ceremony) today (Wednesday) for the construction of the 'Center for Sports Excellence' initiated by renowned Indian badminton player PV Sindhu at Thotagaruvu in the Arilova area of Visakhapatnam. Upon his arrival at the academy premises in Thotagaruvu, Minister Lokesh was accorded a grand welcome by PV Sindhu, her family members, TDP public representatives, party workers, and the general public. Subsequently, the Minister laid the foundation stone for the Center for Sports Excellence alongside PV Sindhu and the

Sports Minister, Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy. Lokesh unveiled the commemorative plaque installed for the occasion and inquired about

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Sarvani clinches junior girls chess championship

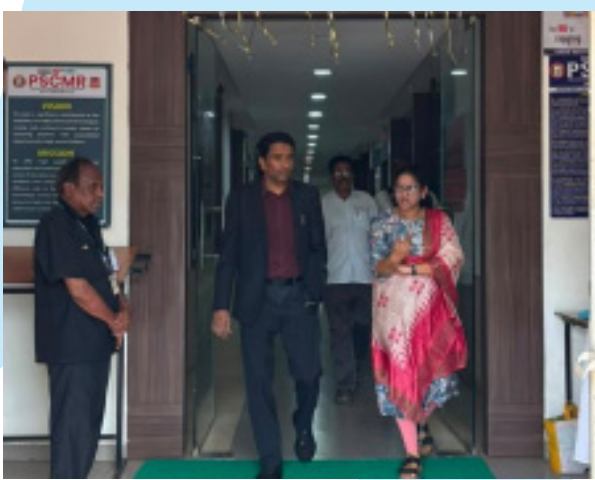
Vijayawada: Vijayawada's upcoming chess player, Ch Sarvani of the Mustabada Sports & Educational Academy, clinched the Andhra Pradesh Junior Girls Chess Championship with a flawless performance at the State tournament held in Visakhapatnam on August 1 and 2. Sarvani scored a perfect seven points from seven rounds to emerge as the State champion, earning the right to represent Andhra Pradesh at the National Junior Girls Chess Championship, scheduled to be held in West Bengal from October 27 to November 4 this year. A felicitation programme was organised in her honour at New RTC Colony in Vijayawada on Tuesday. Vijayawada East MLA Gadde Ramamohan Rao, the chief guest, felicitated the young champion and congratulated her on her outstanding achievement. He presented her with a cash award of Rs 5,000 in recognition of her achievement and

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TET Begins Peacefully On First Day District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha Inspects Examination Centres

Vijayawada, August 5: The AP TET (June, 2026) Online Examination for the district concluded peacefully on the first day. On Wednesday, District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha inspected the examination centre at PSCMR Engineering And Technology College in Vijayawada Urban limits. She examined the arrangements made for students to write the exam in a pleasant environment. On this occasion, the Collector directed officials and staff to remain alert for all days the examinations are being conducted without any problems or scope for mistakes. She said examinations are being held from 9.30 Am To 12.00 Noon and again from 2.30 Pm To 5.00 Pm till August 16. She said there are 5 Examination Centres in the district and 2 Centres in Khammam District of Telangana State. She said along with department officials, Flying Squad Officials have also been



appointed to conduct the examinations smoothly. After the examination, DEO L. Chandrakala speaking said that on the first day, in the morning session 765 Out Of 833 Candidates and in the afternoon session 236 Out Of 255 Candidates appeared. She said Helpline Number 93980 44628 is available at the DEO Office to provide assistance and clarify doubts to candidates.

CJP protest: SC says law enforcement must show restraint

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday underscored the need for law enforcement agencies to exercise restraint during protests and said youngsters must be pacified, even if some "misguided elements" indulge in stone-pelting, as it agreed to hear a plea seeking action against organisers of the July 20 'Sansad Chalo' march for allegedly inciting violence. A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana tagged the plea, filed by a retired Air Force officer, with a similar petition. Advocate Rizwan Ahmed, appearing for petitioner Maneesh Kumar Solanki, said, "Fifteen days have passed... What about the accountability of the organisers? They are going from channel to channel giving provocative statements and refusing to douse the fire". Referring to a recent law and order incident in Rajasthan, the lawyer argued that governments should not "bend backwards" to accommodate protesters.





**JRNY Entertainment:
11 Years In. You Won't
Believe Their Impact**

Delhi-NCR | 05 August 2026:
As India’s live entertainment and experiential marketing industry continues to witness unprecedented growth, the demand for integrated entertainment platforms capable of connecting brands, artists and young audiences has never been greater. Over the past decade, college festivals have evolved into some of the country’s most influential marketing and cultural platforms, while artist-led experiences have become an essential part of brand engagement strategies. Against this backdrop, JRNY Entertainment has emerged as one of India’s leading single-window entertainment companies, bringing together artist management, live entertainment, youth engagement and experiential marketing under one roof. Celebrating 11 successful years and entering its 12th year of operations, JRNY Entertainment continues to strengthen its presence as a trusted entertainment partner for educational institutions, brands, corporate organisations and public-sector undertakings (PSUs) across India. Founded in 2015 by Yashvardhan Goel after completing his B.Tech., JRNY Entertainment has grown from an artist management venture into a nationwide entertainment company that curates and executes 100+ college festivals annually. Over the years, the company has partnered with some of India’s most prestigious educational institutions, including leading Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and several of the country’s premier private universities and colleges. Beyond campuses, JRNY Entertainment works with corporate organisations, public-sector undertakings and leading brands to deliver large-scale entertainment and experiential marketing solutions across India.

JRNY Entertainment by the Numbers

- 11+ Years of Industry Excellence
- 1,000+ Artists Collaborated With
- 1,000+ Live Shows Successfully Executed
- 100+ College Festivals Programmed Every Year
- 10 Lakh+ Students Engaged Across India
- 100+ Brand Campaigns Delivered Presence Across IITs, IIMs, NITs and Leading Private Universities
- At the heart of JRNY Entertainment’s growth is its expansive campus ecosystem, which enables brands to connect with one of India’s most influential consumer segments: young audiences. Through college festivals, campus activations, sponsorship integrations, artist collaborations and immersive live experiences, the company helps brands build authentic engagement with students across premier educational institutions. By bringing artist management, bookings, festival programming and brand partnerships under a single integrated platform, JRNY Entertainment simplifies execution while delivering measurable value for brands, artists and event organisers alike. Over the years, JRNY Entertainment has collaborated with an impressive spectrum of India’s most celebrated artists and performers. Its portfolio spans legendary Bollywood voices such as Shreya Ghoshal, Mohit Chauhan, Mithoon, Javed Ali, Shaan, Papon and Ankit Tiwari, alongside new-age music sensations including Darshan Raval, Raghav Chaitanya, Chaar Diwari, Taba Chake and Raman Negi.

**Nara Lokesh Calls on Youth to
Join Global Digital Economy at
IBM FutureNow Launch**

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for Artificial Intelligence, digital services and exponentially growing innovations." Mr. Lokesh further added, "The alliance government aims to create an ecosystem that will attract investment and generate quality employment, nurture future talent, and provide the youth of Andhra Pradesh with opportunities to participate in the global digital economy." He also expressed satisfaction at the continuing interest of IBM in the state and looks forward to partnering with them to make Visakhapatnam a major center for Artificial Intelligence and digital innovations in India.

**Nara Lokesh lays stone for
PV Sindhu's sports academy**

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the academy's building design and the state-of-the-art facilities and amenities that would be available to athletes. He also viewed an audiovisual presentation about the academy and posed for a group photograph with everyone present. The event was attended by AP TDP President Palla Srinivasa Rao, Visakhapatnam East MLA Velagapudi Ramakrishna Babu, MLA Ganta Srinivasa Rao, SAAP Chairman Animini Ravi Naidu, SAAPMD S. Bharani, and Greenko Energy Efficiency Technologies Pvt. Ltd. Director Chalamalasetti Swathi, among others.

**New Trust Board for Sri
Tirupatamma Ammavari temple**

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Marriboyina Tirupathi Rao will serve as an ex-officio member. The order further stated that the senior-most Pradhana Archaka of the temple will also serve as an ex-officio member of the Trust Board in accordance with the provisions of the Endowments Act. The newly constituted Board will hold office for a period of two years from the date its members take the oath of office and secrecy. Located at Penuganchiprolu in NTR district, Sri Tirupatamma Ammavari Devasthanam is one of Andhra Pradesh’s most prominent temples, attracting lakhs of devotees from across the State and neighbouring States every year.

**Sarvani clinches junior
girls chess championship**

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wished her success at the national event. The programme was presided over by VR Bobba, former president of the Andhra Pradesh Chess Association. Speaking on the occasion,he appreciated Sarvani’s remarkable achievement and encouraged her to continue her pursuit of excellence at the national level. Sarvani’s coaches, Bandaru Mahalakshmi and Bandi Poojitha, were also felicitated in recognition of their dedicated coaching and valuable contribution toher success.

**ED searches premises linked to YSR
Congress leader in chit fund scam case**

Visakhapatnam: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday conducted searches at the premises linked to YSR Congress Party leader Malla Vijaya Prasad in a chit fund scam case. The ED officials conducted simultaneous searches at five places in Visakhapatnam and Hyderabad. The searches were conducted at the residence, office and other premises of the former MLA and chairman of Welfare Group of Companies. The raids were reported to be part of the investigation by the Central agency into the allegations of money laundering probe into alleged multi-state chit fund scam.The Central agency is probing the allegations against Vijaya Prasad and Welfare Group of Companies. ED officials from Odisha and West Bengal are reported to be participating in the searches. Police and CRPF personnel made tight security arrangements during the searches.Vijaya Prasad is YSRCP’s coordinator for Visakhapatnam West constituency. A few cases were filed against him in Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand in the past. In 2021, Odisha police arrested him for his alleged involvement in the 2019 chit fund case. He was then serving as the chairman of Andhra Pradesh Education and Welfare Development Corporation. Odisha Police had registered cases under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, PC and MC Schemes (Banning Act) of 1978 and OPID Act of 2011 in connection with the alleged chit fund fraud. There were allegations that he was involved in a Rs 1,200 crore chit fund scam in which thousands of depositors from Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Chhattisgarh and other states were allegedly duped.In 2016, the CBI also registered two cases against him in connection with the chit fund scams. The agency had carried out searches at his office and residential premises. Vijaya Prasad was elected to the Andhra Pradesh Assembly from Visakhapatnam West constituency in 2009 on a Congress ticket.



**Invitation Of Applications
For Setting Up Of New Private
ITIs And Sanction Of
Additional Trades/Units**

Vijayawada, August 6:“Director Of Employment And Training G. Ganesh Kumar in a statement said applications are being invited for setting up of new Private Industrial Training Institutes (Private ITIs) and for setting up additional trades / units in existing Industrial Training Institutes.He said applications are being invited from eligible institutions in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Directorate General (www.Dgt.Gov.In) for the year 2027-28. He said Registered Societies registered under the Societies Registration Act, Registered Trusts, Private Limited Companies and Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) are eligible to submit these applications.He said interested institutions should submit their applications on or before 30th September (30.09.2026). For other details in this regard, Director Of Skill Development, Employment And Training G. Ganesh Kumar in the statement said that the Director Of Skill Development, Employment And Training in Vijayawada can be contacted.

**Amaravati Championship
Competitions Being Conducted
Enthusiastically**

**District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha Inspects
Hockey And Athletics Competitions**



Vijayawada, August 5:“District Level Amaravati Championship Competitions are being conducted enthusiastically under the aegis of NTR District Sports Authority (DSA). On Wednesday, District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha inspected the hockey and athletics competitions along with district team selection trials held at MBP Municipal Stadium in Ajit Singh Nagar, Vijayawada. She interacted with the sportspersons and enquired about their opinion on the conduct of the competitions. She encouraged them to display their best performance, get selected for the district team and bring good name to NTR District at the state level. The Collector enquired with DSA officials about the conduct of competitions, facilities provided to sportspersons and ground arrangements. She directed that competitions should be conducted smoothly and transparently and that sportspersons should not face any difficulties. She said the main objective of the competitions is to identify talented sportspersons in the district and select them for the district team. Amaravati Championship–2026 Competitions are being conducted from July 15 to August 26 under the aegis of Andhra Pradesh Sports Authority (SAP) on the occasion of National Sports Day celebrated every year on August 29 to mark the birth anniversary of hockey wizard Major Dhyan Chand. Competitions are being held at constituency, district and state levels in 12 sports disciplines including Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Boxing, Basketball, Chess, Hockey, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Weightlifting, Volleyball, Yoga and others. Vijayawada RDO Vennela Srinu, DSDO K. Koteswara Rao and others participated in the programme.

**AP CM Chandrababu reviews Vizag
Economic Region Development Plan**

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area and sector within the VER's scope. He emphasized the need to focus on AI data center ecosystems, port-based industries, tourism, hydrogen, and clean-tech energy. The CM suggested that the area extending from Mulapeta Port to the Akhanda Godavari project in Rajamahendravaram should be included in the VER development plan. CM Chandrababu emphasized that the Visakhapatnam Economic Region should achieve progress through the integration of various projects. He suggested undertaking development within the VER through the convergence of funds. It was stated that the VGF scheme should be implemented to the extent necessary. Chief Secretary Sai Prasad and senior officials from the Finance, Industries, Municipal Administration, Forest, Energy, and Tourism departments attended the review meeting.

Four-year-old boy critically injured after father allegedly attacks him in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: A four-year-old boy was critically injured after his father allegedly attacked him with a stone in Gudimalkapur on Wednesday. The suspect, identified as Salman, was taken into police custody following the incident. According to police, Salman, a resident of Golconda, frequently consumed alcohol, leading to repeated disputes with his wife. He allegedly believed that his son,

Armaan, was an obstacle in their family issues and planned to kill the child. On Wednesday morning, Salman reportedly told family members that he was taking Armaan to visit relatives at Aramghar. Instead, he allegedly took the boy near a pillar of the PV Expressway, where he struck the child's head with a stone before repeatedly banging him against the pillar.

Harish Rao sounds alarm over AP bid to revoke Telangana project clearances, questions Congress govt's silence

Hyderabad: BRS legislature party deputy leader T Harish Rao on Wednesday accused the Congress government of allowing Andhra Pradesh to reopen a battle over Telangana's water rights. He warned that the agenda for the Godavari River Management Board (GRMB) meeting on August 18, could threaten clearances secured for several key projects. Speaking at Telangana Bhavan here, Harish Rao questioned the State government's silence over Andhra Pradesh's demand for a review of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) clearances for seven Telangana projects and its opposition to the Sammakka Barrage. "The Telangana government has failed to prevent it or at least raise an objection," he said, questioning whether the GRMB meeting was being used to advance Andhra Pradesh's interests. Andhra Pradesh had sought a review or stoppage of clearances granted to seven Telangana projects including Kaleshwaram, Choutapalli Hanmanth Rao, Chinna Kaleshwaram, Chanaka-Korata, Modikunta Vagu, Kadem-Gudem and Sitarama Lift Irrigation Schemes, besides opposing clearances for the Sammakka Barrage.

Harish Rao said these were projects for which the previous BRS government had secured approvals to utilise 383 TMCft of Godavari water. "While Chandrababu Naidu is trying to loot Telangana of its water share, Revanth Reddy mortgaged Telangana's interest to benefit his mentor," he said, demanding that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy immediately oppose the proposals.

The former Irrigation Minister said the Congress government did not secured approval for a new project in nearly three years, while DPRs of Sammakka, Palamuru-Rangareddy and Wardha projects had been returned on technical grounds. "Now, it is not even able to safeguard existing approvals," he said. He pointed out that the BRS government had secured approval for Sammakka Barrage

on August 25, 2022, for 47 TMCft. The project was designed to irrigate four lakh acres through SRSP Stage-II and another 40,000 acres through Ramappa and Pakhal, besides supplying drinking water to Mulugu and Warangal. He asked whether the Chief Minister was prepared to give up Telangana's 47 TMCft allocation. Harish Rao also questioned why the proposed Godavari-Banakacherla project had not been brought before the GRMB by Telangana. He said the Congress government was not adequately opposing projects that could affect its interests. He questioned whether there was an understanding between Revanth Reddy and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu over Banakacherla. The senior BRS leader raised concern over Andhra Pradesh disputing Telangana's claim to 968 TMCft of Godavari River water in its agenda. He said the allocation figured in the report submitted to the Justice Sri Krishna Committee during the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation process and was recorded in the minutes of the ninth GRMB meeting. He demanded that Telangana MPs fight the issue in Parliament and called upon union Ministers G Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay to clarify the BJP's position. Turning to water utilisation, Harish Rao alleged that only nine Devadula motors were switched on after pressure from the BRS and five pumps were operating at Yellampalli. He said Telangana's water utilisation under the Congress government fell to 26 per cent, against allocated 34 per cent. He also questioned why Congress governments at the Centre, in Maharashtra and in undivided Andhra Pradesh had failed to secure approvals for Tummidihatti, while clearances already obtained by Telangana were now facing a review. "Telangana water rights cannot be compromised," Harish Rao said, warning that the BRS would oppose every attempt to dilute the State's share and launch a larger agitation if necessary.

Eight Hyderabad colleges booked for allegedly submitting forged Fire NOCs

Hyderabad: A major forgery case has come to light after eight private colleges were allegedly found submitting fake Fire No Objection Certificates (NOCs) by forging the signature of HYDRAA Commissioner A.V. Ranganath. The forged documents were reportedly submitted to the Telangana Board of Intermediate Education as part of the colleges' recognition process. Following a complaint, the Lake Police registered a case under Sections 337, 336(3), 340(2), 318(4) read with 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Police have launched an investigation into the alleged forgery and use of fabricated official documents claiming to be issued by the Fire Department of HYDRAA. According to officials, the colleges involved are located in Tellapur, Chikkadpally, SR Nagar, Mehdiapatnam and Barkatpura. "We suspect the manage-



ment of these institutions were involved in preparing or submitting the forged Fire NOCs," said an official investigating the case. Officials also revealed that Fire NOCs submitted by around 60 more colleges are currently under scrutiny to verify their authenticity. Further action is expected based on the outcome of the verification process. The investigation is underway, and officials are examining whether more educational institutions were involved in the alleged forgery racket.

Ahmedabad registers nearly 20,000 pet dogs; Labradors remain the city's most popular breed

Ahmedabad: The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) has registered 19,756 pet dogs and 189 pet cats under its ongoing mandatory pet registration programme, with the latest figures highlighting the growing compliance with the civic body's registration drive. According to official details issued by AMC's Cattle Nuisance Control Department (CNCD), 17,380 pet owners have registered 19,756 pet dogs across the city, while 149 pet owners have registered 189 pet cats. The civic body said the current registration window for pet dogs and pet cats is open until September 30, 2026. Registration for pet dogs, which began last year, carries a fee of Rs 2,000, while pet cat registration, which commenced this year, is charged at Rs 200. The latest figures show Labrador Retrievers remain the most commonly registered breed, accounting for 3,939 registrations. They are followed by German Shepherds (Alsatis) with 1,527 registrations, Shih Tzus with 1,497, Golden Retrievers with 1,416, Pomer-



nians with 1,138, Beagles with 571, Siberian Huskies with 476, Pugs with 400 and Rottweilers with 356. Another 831 registrations fall under the "Other" breed category. For pet cats, AMC recorded 72 registrations for native cats and 117 under the "Other" breed category. Zone-wise, the western parts of Ahmedabad account for the largest share of pet registrations. The West Zone has registered 4,996 pet dogs owned by 4,380 owners, followed by the North-West Zone with 4,101 dogs registered by 3,573 owners. The South-West Zone has recorded 2,640 registered dogs, while the East, South, North and Central zones have registered 2,855, 2,372, 2,003 and 779 dogs respectively.

Bombay High Court orders Meta, X and Google to remove posts on Gadkari



Mumbai: The Bombay High Court on Wednesday granted interim relief to Union minister Nitin Gadkari, ordering Meta, X and Google to immediately remove all the "vile, abusive, obscene and defamatory" social media posts targeting him. A single-judge bench of Justice Arif Doctor issued the direction while hearing a civil defamation suit filed by the Minister for Road Transport and Highways challenging a series of AI-generated deepfake videos and manipulated digital posts that falsely alleged Gadkari and his family received illegal financial benefits from the Centre's ethanol-blended petrol (E20) initiative. "These posts, on the face of it, are abusive, vile and obscene," Justice Doctor said, adding, "The material, on the face of it, is absolutely vile and abusive. Such material should have no place on a public platform, which is accessible to everyone, including the younger generation." The bench directed Meta, X Corp and Google LLC to ensure forthwith that the posts are taken down. Justice Doctor also questioned the online platforms on whether they had any mechanism to take down such posts without the affected person having to approach the court. The platforms ought to take down such posts voluntarily, the high court said. "With all this technology at your disposal, don't you have some mechanism where there should be triggers? If someone uploads something vulgar or abusive, it should immediately be picked up and deleted. This is absolutely vile. Someone is just spewing venom," Justice Doctor said. The court said that if, in future, any similar posts, including deepfakes or AI-generated material, are uploaded, then the minister can approach the online platforms, which shall then act on the same. In future, there has to be some mechanism through which online platforms take down such material without

the person having to move the court, Justice Doctor said. The bench posted the matter for further hearing after four weeks, by when the respondents shall file their affidavits in reply to the minister's plea.

Gadkari last week filed a suit against Meta, X Corp, Google LLC and unknown persons over "defamatory" deepfakes and AI-generated posts uploaded against him regarding the ethanol policy. The Union minister, in the plea filed through his advocate Sandeep Ladda, sought an immediate takedown of all fake and fabricated content and a permanent injunction against the circulation of posts that allegedly tarnished his reputation. He had also sought Rs 11 crore in damages for the defamatory content. The senior BJP leader claimed that several fake, AI-generated and defamatory posts were available online regarding the ethanol-blended fuel issue. Unknown persons uploaded and circulated posts and deepfake content falsely portraying him as being personally responsible for the programme and alleging that he and his family have financially benefited from it, the plea stated. This has caused irreparable harm to Gadkari's reputation and personality rights, it alleged. The allegations made in the online posts are "false, malicious and grossly defamatory without an iota of doubt", the suit stated, adding that they are designed to create a misleading public perception against Gadkari. The minister stated that the ethanol-blending programme and E20 policy are administered by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, not by him personally. While the plea clarified that no attempt was being made to stifle fair public debate or bona fide comments, it claimed that reckless and defamatory allegations had crossed the line of lawful speech.

PoK unrest leaves Lashkar, Jaish, Hizbul leaderships on backfoot; weakens Kashmir narrative



New Delhi: The ongoing confrontation between security forces and protesters in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) has left several terror outfits increasingly frustrated. Groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed and Hizbul Mujahideen, which have long kept their focus on Jammu and Kashmir, are understood to believe that the situation in PoK needs to be resolved so that their attention can shift back to their primary area of operation. The Pakistan establishment has attempted to use these terror groups to incite violence in the region and shift the blame onto the local population, which has largely been holding peaceful protests. However, Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin has appealed for restraint, urging both the protesters and the Pakistan establishment to step back and resolve the issue through dialogue. An official said that these terror groups believe the prolonged protests and the repeated use of force by the security forces are undermining their broader agenda. “Today (Wednesday) marks seven years since the abrogation of Article 370, and there is a massive difference when it comes to Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir,” the official pointed out. The official said the terror groups were created by Pakistan with the primary objective of targeting Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). Over the years, they allegedly sought to incite violence in the region and, through separatist networks, propagated the narrative that they were fighting for the interests of the people and that Jammu and Kashmir should be separated from India. Another official said that post the abrogation of Article 370, a lot has changed in J&K. “The people are happy that violence has come down and the tourism sector is thriving. If J&K remains peaceful and PoK is marred by violence, then these terror groups cannot push their agenda. If these terror groups try to push their agenda, the people of J&K could turn round and see the PoK situation as an example of what they do not want,” the official said. The agenda that J&K would be better off if separated from India and aligned with Pakistan loses credibility in the face of the continuing violence in PoK, the official said. An Intelligence Bureau official said the story today is one of two Kashmirs and the widening contrast between them. “This automatically punctures the agenda of the Inter Services Intelligence-backed terror groups. This explains their desperation and the appeals that are being made to restore peace in PoK,” the official said. While the Hizbul Mujahideen chief has been vocal about the issue, the heads of the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed are relatively quiet. The official said that although no public statements have been issued, there is growing disquiet within the leadership and cadres of these terror groups over the developments in PoK.

Salahuddin in his appeal said that the loss of lives, damage to property and forced disappearance of people of the region is inflicting severe damage on the morals of the Kashmiris. He even said that due to the violence, the borders are becoming vulnerable to enemy infiltration. The officials say that while the Hizbul Mujahideen chief may have appealed for peace, the borders are not vulnerable as India does not indulge in infiltrations of terrorists into Pakistan.

Hyderabad: A Warangal-based numismatist, Ragi Vaikunta Chary, was pleasantly surprised when he found a rare official bronze seal used by the Nizam’s financial administrator, Raja Shiv Raj Dharmwant Bahadur, in his collection. Raja Shiv Raj Dharmwant Bahadur, who, according to Vaikunta Chary, was considered the Financial Architect of Hyderabad, shaped the governance of the princely State of Hyderabad and worked as a senior financial administrator under

Rajya Sabha adjourned till noon amid Opposition protests and repeated sloganeering

New Delhi: The Rajya Sabha witnessed repeated sloganeering by Opposition members and interruptions during Zero Hour and discussion on various issues on Wednesday, leading the Chairman to adjourn the House till noon. After the laying of papers, when members began raising issues, Opposition MPs started sloganeering. Paul Sharma of the BJP spoke about the government’s achievements in Jammu and Kashmir. Meanwhile, Opposition members trooped into the well of the House and continued their slogans. Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan warned some members, saying, “Don’t force me to take action against you; it is against Rule 235 of the House.” When Dr M. Thambidurai of the AIADMK (Tamil Nadu) rose to speak, Opposition members again demanded permission to speak. The Chairman asked them to return to their seats, stating he would permit them only then. However, they paid no heed and kept up the sloganeering. Sanjay Bhatia of the BJP (Haryana) highlighted the government’s achievement of launching the first hydrogen fuel train and demanded that the route be extended to Jind-Panipat-Rohtak so that it could benefit farmers of the region. Sangeeta Balwant of the BJP (Uttar Pradesh) referred to the achievement of private company Skyroot in launching a rocket into space. Dr V. Sivadasan of the CPI(M) from Kerala raised the issue of private edu-

PM Modi hosts breakfast meeting with 37 BJP MPs at his residence

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday hosted a breakfast meeting with 37 Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Members of Parliament at his official residence as part of his ongoing outreach to parliamentarians during the Monsoon Session. The informal interaction is part of the Prime Minister’s practice of meeting different groups of BJP MPs during Parliament sessions to exchange views, discuss governance and parliamentary affairs, and strengthen coordination within the party. According to sources, Prime Minister Modi shared personal experiences with the MPs and held informal discussions on a range of issues during the breakfast meeting. Among those who attended were BJP MPs associated with the NCPI alliance, former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders who later joined the BJP, as well as senior party leaders Tarun Chugh, Vinod Tawde and BJP chief Nitin Nabin. The meeting was held against the backdrop of the ongoing Monsoon Session, during which the government has been pushing its legislative agenda while also engaging with lawmakers through regular interactions outside the House. Prime Minister Modi has been holding similar breakfast meetings with different groups of BJP parliamentarians during successive Parliament sessions. The interactions provide MPs with an opportunity to share feedback from their constituencies, dis-



cuss policy matters and parliamentary strategy, and engage directly with the Prime Minister in an informal setting. The Monsoon Session, which began on July 20, is scheduled to continue until August 13 with 19 sittings. Ahead of the session, Prime Minister Modi had called for constructive debates and the smooth functioning of Parliament, stressing that meaningful discussions and collective efforts were essential to advancing the country’s development agenda. The current session has witnessed debates on several important government bills and discussions on issues ranging from economic policy to public examinations and national security, while opposition protests have also led to repeated disruptions in both Houses on several occasions. The breakfast meeting is part of the BJP leadership’s broader effort to maintain regular engagement with its MPs during the session, allowing the Prime Minister to interact with legislators in smaller groups and receive feedback on governance, constituency-level issues and the party’s outreach initiatives.

Rare Nizam-era revenue seal found in Warangal collector’s personal collection

Mir Mahbub Ali Khan (VI-Nizam) and Mir Osman Ali Khan (VII-Nizam) of the Asaf Jahi dynasty. Chary said the Finance Minister’s office was Malwala Palace, near Charminar, which was demolished in 2000 as it was in a dilapidated condition. “I secured this official seal (1904–1905 CE) from my father, Ragi Satyanarayana Chary, who was a goldsmith. Raja Shiv Raja used the seal for financial matters such as bank transactions and other finance-related documents un-



der both the Sixth and Seventh Nizams,” Chary told .



cational institutes issuing notices to students who participated in the students’ protest in Delhi. The Chairman intervened and warned him that if he deviated from the subject, his speech would not go on record. Kavita Patidar of the BJP (Madhya Pradesh) highlighted the difficulties faced by common people with the Swasthya Bima (health insurance) policy. She demanded that the government simplify the language so that ordinary citizens can clearly understand which diseases are excluded. She also called for greater transparency, reduced documentation and accountability of insurance companies so that millions could benefit. Dr Medha Vishram Kulkarni from Maharashtra raised the issue of price differences in various medicines. She said the price of the same medicines should be uniform and pointed out that in the absence of stringent laws, profiteering ranged from 600 to 1,100 per cent. Referring to the Prime Minister’s emphasis on generic medicines, she urged adoption of global benchmarks to keep

the market competitive and suggested making it mandatory for doctors and chemists to prescribe only generic medicines. Opposition members then raised a point of order, which the Chairman declined. He invited Rajiv Kumar and asked if he wished to speak. Before the member could properly explain, the Chairman adjourned the House till noon. Earlier, when the Rajya Sabha assembled at 11 a.m., several papers and reports were laid on the Table of the House. Papers relating to the Ministries of Education, Social Justice and Empowerment, Home Affairs, Road Transport and Highways, and Women and Child Development were laid by Jayant Chaudhary, Ramdas Bandu Athawale, Nityanand Rai, B.L. Verma, Ajay Tamta and Savitri Thakur respectively. Anil Kumar Yadav Mandadi laid a copy of the Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal, Mines and Steel (2025-26). The report deals with the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations and Recommendations contained in the Committee’s Twentieth Report on Demands for Grants (2026-27) pertaining to the Ministry of Steel. Baidyanath Ram laid copy two reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (Eighteenth Lok Sabha).

Actor Pradeep Rawat dies at 74 after cancer battle

Mumbai: Actor Pradeep Rawat, best known for his roles in Aamir Khan-starrer Lagaan and Ghajini, died on Tuesday after a battle with cancer. He was 74. Rawat’s Lagaan co-star Yashpal Sharma shared the news of the actor’s death with a tribute on social media. “Pradeep Rawat, Ghajini, our Deva of Lagaan. RIP,” Sharma wrote. Rawat rose to fame with his portrayal of Ashwatthama in Mahabharat and later went on to work across multiple film industries. His other prominent roles include the television serials Tehkikaat, Chandrakanta and Yug, and films such as Meri Jung, Sarfarosh, The Hero: Story of a Spy and Chhava.



Sonu Nigam says childhood anger fuelled his passion and shaped his singing career

Mumbai: Playback singer Sonu Nigam has shared how he channelised his anger to shape the contours of his legendary singing career. The singer recently appeared on the ‘Game Changers: The Music Series’ hosted by trade expert Komal Nahta, and shared that he struggled with temper issues as a child. Opening up about the intense drive behind his endurance on stage, Sonu talked about an extraordinary milestone at one of the world’s most prestigious venues. He said, “I’ve done three-hour shows, and then, just two hours later, I performed another three-hour show. I did that at the Sydney Opera House- one three-hour afternoon show and another three-hour evening show on the very same day. I was able to do that because there’s a lot of fire inside me. And within that fire, there’s anger”. He further mentioned, “There’s compassion. There’s hard work. There’s consideration. That fire needs to exist. The important thing is that I’m using it the right way. That’s what matters, I haven’t let it consume me or make me irrational. In fact, when I was a child, I used to have a very bad temper”. Elsewhere during the conversation, the singer shared that he was once a romantic guy but his ambition kept him on track to chase excellence. He said, “My father



used to say, ‘You have two choices, either enjoy yourself now and struggle later, or struggle now and enjoy life later’. He used to say that all the time, and I listened to him. So, I chose to struggle then, and today I’m living a comfortable life. I worked hard after the age of 18 instead of going to college and hanging out with girls. I really wanted to, I was a romantic guy. I wanted to have girlfriends, I wanted to have affairs”. “But then I thought, ‘My father is saying this for a reason. Let’s not waste time. Let’s work hard’. So, after completing my 12th grade, I came to Bombay when I was 18. That turned out to be the right decision. If I hadn’t come then, I probably wouldn’t have gotten work until I was 19. By the age of 21, I was doing ‘Sa Re Ga Ma’. I came at the right time, and the right things happened. I also witnessed the beginning of television and caught that wave”, he added.

Sunny Deol on 43 Years of ‘Betaab’: ‘It began my journey in cinema’

Mumbai: Actor Sunny Deol looked back at the beginning of his illustrious film career as his debut movie “Betaab” completed 43 years. Marking the milestone, the actor shared a heartfelt note expressing gratitude for the love and support he has received throughout his journey in cinema. Taking to Instagram, Sunny shared a video from ‘Betaab’ film and wrote, “43 years ago, Betaab began my journey in cinema. The love I received the and continue to receive today has been my greatest strength. Grateful for every memory, every film and every person who has been part of this journey. Looking forward to many more years, more stories and more love. #Betaab.” The ‘Ghatak’ actor shared the popular song ‘Jab Hum Jawan Honge’ from the film. The romantic track, sung by Lata Mangeshkar and Shabbir Kumar, featured Sunny Deol and Amrita Singh and went on to become one of the memorable songs from “Betaab.” The 1983 romantic drama “Betaab,” directed by Rahul Rawail, marked Sunny Deol’s Bollywood debut and featured him opposite Amrita Singh. The film went on to become a major success and established Sunny as one of the promising actors of his generation. “Betaab” also starred Shammi Kapoor and Prem Chopra. The plot of the film was loosely based on William Shakespeare’s “The Taming Of The Shrew.” “Betaab” was launched in 1981



in the presence of legendary personalities including Dilip Kumar, Raj Kapoor, Dharmendra and Saira Banu. Before making his official debut with the film, Sunny Deol also appeared in a brief uncredited role in the 1982 movie “Main Intaquam Loonga,” which starred his father Dharmendra in the lead role. Upon its release, “Betaab” emerged as a major box-office success and became one of the highest-grossing films of 1983. The film’s popularity also led to remakes in other languages, including the Telugu version “Samrat” in 1987 starring Ramesh Babu and the Kannada adaptation “Karthik” in 2011 featuring Karthik Shetty.

Varun Dhawan finds striking a pose between workouts ‘fun’

Mumbai: Bollywood actor Varun Dhawan shared a gym picture flaunting his toned physique as he paused mid-workout for a striking pose. Varun took to Instagram, where he shared two shirtless selfies inside a gym. In the image, he is seen standing beside a cable machine with both hands raised above his head, gripping the equipment. The photo focuses on his sculpted arms, defined abs, and muscular physique. “Aap bhi workout ke saath pose karo maazaaa atta hain (You should pose while working out too... it’s so much fun!).” Varun was recently seen in the film Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai, a romantic comedy film directed by David Dhawan. The film also stars Mrunal Thakur, Pooja Hegde, Maniesh Paul, Chunky Panday, Jimmy Shergill and Mouni Roy. The film is intended to be David Dhawan’s final directorial film. Varun, who has starred in 11 consecutive box-office successes between 2012 and 2018. He began his career as an assistant director to Karan Johar in My Name Is Khan and subsequently made his acting debut in 2012 with Johar’s teen drama Student of the Year. He rose to prominence with leading roles in the romantic comedies Main Tera Hero, Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania, Badrinath Ki Dulhania and the action comedies Dilwale, Dishoom, and Judwaa 2, ABCD 2 and the drama Sui Dhaaga. Dhawan also received praise for portraying an avenger in the thriller Badlapur and



an aimless man coping with loss in the drama October. On July 31, Varun took a nostalgic trip down memory lane as he celebrated 10 years of his action-comedy film “Dishoom.” He recalled the memorable experience of working with John Abraham and Jacqueline Fernandez. Taking to Instagram, he shared a carousel photos giving a glimpse of his strong bond with John Abraham and Jacqueline Fernandez. Released in 2016, “Dishoom,” helmed by Rohit Dhawan, featured Varun Dhawan and John Abraham in the roles of police officers Junaid Ansari and Kabir Shergill. The action-comedy followed their race against time after India’s leading cricketer went missing in the Middle East, forcing the two officers with contrasting personalities to join forces for a 36-hour rescue mission.

Christopher Nolan says his adaptation of The Odyssey stays true to Homer’s vision

Los Angeles: Legendary filmmaker Sir Christopher Nolan, who has helmed ‘The Odyssey’, has shared that he doesn’t think his adaptation of ‘The Odyssey’



is “at odds” with Homer’s ancient Greek epic. The 56-year-old director spoke about the differences between his adaptation and Homer’s poem, which follows the heroic king of Ithaca, Odysseus, during his homecoming journey after the Trojan War. He told podcaster Zhong Shu, “Homer is describing when Homer’s story was written down, or first received by readers and audiences. That’s a pretty interesting gap, and for me, I don’t think I’m completely at odds with the way Homer is telling the story”. He went on, “When you look at it from a sort of historical perspective and the reason is, and what I got interested in as I adapted it, is that Homer’s writing about an era before his, he’s writing about an era hundreds of years before. His audience viewed it as being more advanced than theirs. They had this idea of

the greatness of this past civilisation. And so I became interested in that collapse, what they call the catastrophe, the Bronze Age collapse.

What happens between the events of the Trojan War and Homer”. He further mentioned that his biopic ‘Oppenheimer’ influenced his approach to ‘The Odyssey’. He said, “I think (those themes are) something that from a modern perspective is frightening and interesting and I think for me it partly comes out of having worked on Oppenheimer before this, which is very much a film about the end of the world, about the end of and collapse of civilization, ultimately. So I think yeah I definitely carried that sensibility into this adaptation of ‘The Odyssey’”. ‘The Odyssey’ features an ensemble cast including Matt Damon, Tom Holland, Anne Hathaway, Zendaya and Charlize Theron. With Nolan’s signature large-scale filmmaking, practical effects and ambitious storytelling, the film has generated immense excitement among cinephiles.

ICC ODI Rankings: Scott Edwards, Roelof van der Merwe lead Netherlands' rise

Dubai: Netherlands players were rewarded for their recent performances in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 as several members of the Dutch side made significant gains in the latest ICC Men's ODI rankings released on Wednesday. The Netherlands have been in impressive form during the ongoing League 2 competition and recently registered a 57-run victory over Nepal in Utrecht to strengthen their position inside the top four of the standings, keeping themselves on course for a place in the ICC World Cup Qualifier. Captain Scott Edwards was among the biggest beneficiaries of the latest rankings update after his match-winning knock of 57 against Nepal. The right-handed batter climbed four places to joint 34th in the ODI batting rankings. The Dutch bowlers also enjoyed notable gains following the win over Nepal. Veteran left-arm spinner Roelof van der Merwe moved up 11 places to joint 63rd in the ODI bowling rankings after claiming two wickets in the contest. Fast bowler Logan van Beek also progressed, rising three spots to 76th after taking two wickets in the same match. Nepal players were also rewarded for their performances during the tri-series involving the Netherlands and Namibia. Wicketkeeper-batter Aasif Sheikh climbed two places to 76th in the ODI batting rankings. Among the bowlers, Lalit Rajbanshi improved by one position to reach 45th, while pace-bowling all-rounder Karan KC made one of the biggest jumps for Nepal, rising seven places to joint 83rd in the ODI bowling rankings. Namibia, who also featured in the League 2 tri-series, had four players register gains across the batting, bowling and all-rounder rankings. Jan Frylinck made the biggest leap among Namibia's batters, climbing 16 places to joint 90th in the ODI batting rankings. Left-arm pacer Ruben Trumpelmann advanced five places to 87th in the ODI bowling rankings, while all-rounders Bernard Scholtz and JJ Smit also improved their standings. Scholtz moved up one position to joint 34th in the ODI all-rounders' rankings, while Smit climbed three places to joint 47th, capping a productive rankings update for the Namibian contingent following their League 2 campaign.



Sri Lanka Cricket to host annual awards ceremony in Colombo on Friday

Colombo: Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) said that it will host the annual awards ceremony in Colombo on Friday, where they will honour the finest male and female cricketers for their outstanding performances during the 2025 season. The prestigious event will recognize 42 outstanding performers across both international and first-class domestic cricket. The highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the highly coveted Men's Cricketer of the Year and Women's Cricketer of the Year awards. Other major international accolades across formats include awards for the Best Batter, Best Bowler, Best All-Rounder, as well as the Men's Emerging Player of the Year and Women's Emerging Player of the Year. "We are delighted to stage the annual Sri Lanka Cricket Awards 2025, which serve as a fitting tribute to the exceptional performances of our players during the 2025 season," said Ashley De Silva, Chief Executive Officer of SLC, in a statement. On the domestic circuit, top performers in first-class cricket will be recognized with trophies for Best Batter, Best Bowler, Best All-Rounder, and Most Valuable Player (MVP). The champion teams of the Major Club Three-Day Tournament, Major Club Men's 50-Over Tournament, Major Club Women's 50-Over Tournament, and Major Club T20 Tournament will also be felicitated during the function. In addition, SLC will present four Lifetime Achievement Awards, honouring two cricketing stalwarts alongside two distinguished media personalities for their long-standing contribution to the sport. Recognizing the vital role of match officials, the board will also present the Umpire of the Year award during the ceremony, which is expected to gather top administrators, former international stars, and distinguished guests under one roof. As of now, Lanka Premier League (LPL) is on in the country, even as the Test team will start its preparations for



the upcoming two-game World Test Championship (WTC) series against India, starting on August 15 in Galle.

PCB warns players of ban for participating in unsanctioned cricket events

Lahore: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has warned former Pakistan cricketers against participating in unsanctioned overseas tournaments, announcing a series of disciplinary measures for those found to have featured in the ongoing 20th Asian Legends League in Zambia without obtaining the mandatory approvals. In an official statement, the PCB said it had taken serious notice of the participation of certain former Pakistan players in the tournament, which the International Cricket Council (ICC) has classified as an unsanctioned or disapproved cricket event under the ICC Regulations on the Sanctioning of Events and Player Release. The PCB also noted that the competition has not been sanctioned by the Zambia Cricket Union (ZCU), making participation in the event a violation of the applicable ICC regulations. "The International Cricket Council (ICC) considers this league as an unsanctioned/disapproved cricket event

Neeraj Chopra set for star-studded javelin clash at Lausanne Diamond League

New Delhi: Two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra will compete in the Lausanne Diamond League on August 21 against a star-studded men's javelin field featuring recently crowned Commonwealth Games champion and world leader Rumesh Pathirage of Sri Lanka, among others. The event will feature five participants from the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, which concluded on Sunday. Chopra, who won silver in Glasgow with a season-best throw of 85.83m in his second meet after returning from injury, will face Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem of Pakistan, reigning world champion Keshorn Walcott of Trinidad and Tobago, former world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada, former Olympic champion Thomas Röhler of Germany and Pathirage. The field will also include Tokyo Olympic silver medallist Jakub Vadlejch of the Czech Republic, Germany's Julian Weber, Switzerland's Simon Wieland and American Curtis Thompson, the world No. 2 this season. "The five javelin superstars who have won the last four editions of the Olympic Games and World Championships will be present at Athletissima on August 21 for a competition of extraordinary quality," the organisers said. The Lausanne meet will be Chopra's third competition since returning from a lower-back injury that



sidelined him in September last year. The 28-year-old opened his season with an 85.69m effort to finish fourth at the Doha Diamond League in June before improving to 85.83m to claim silver at the Commonwealth Games. "Although we always want the national anthem to play, I achieved my season's best and the comeback is going well. There are other competitions as well. I am happy," Chopra had said after winning silver in Glasgow. Chopra finished runner-up at the Lausanne Diamond League in 2024 with a career fourth-best throw of 89.49m, having won the title in 2022 with an 89.08m effort. Pathirage heads to Lausanne in red-hot form after winning the Commonwealth Games title with 89.75m. The Sri Lankan has a personal best of 92.62m, achieved at the Golden Gala Pietro Mennea in Rome in June this year, making him the only thrower to breach the 90m mark this season.

SC Delhi rally to beat Jamshedpur FC in Durand Cup

Hyderabad: New signing Lalrinliana Hnamte made his debut for Sporting Club Delhi a memorable one, scoring twice in the space of five minutes in the second half to complete a comeback win for his side against Jamshedpur FC in a Group C fixture of the IndianOil Durand Cup played at the Birsa Munda Stadium in Ranchi on Tuesday. Hnamte scored his brace in the 51st and 56th minutes after Jamshedpur FC took the lead in the 22nd minute through Sanan Mohammed. Despite the loss, Jamshedpur remain at the top of the table with three points from two matches, ahead of SC Delhi only on goal difference, with the latter having played just one match. That approach paid dividends midway through the first half. Pronay Halder won possession deep inside his own half before releasing Sanan with a perfectly weighted long ball over the top of the defence. The Kerala winger showed superb footwork to wrong-foot



Ashutosh Mehta inside the penalty area before unleashing a fierce left-footed strike past Nora Fernandes, leaving the goalkeeper with no chance and giving Jamshedpur a deserved lead. After a scrappy start to the second half, SC Delhi found the equaliser by capitalising on a costly goalkeeping error. Aimen found space on the edge of the penalty area and unleashed a low effort that appeared comfortable for Albino Gomes. However, the slippery conditions made the ball difficult to handle, and the Jamshedpur goalkeeper failed to gather it cleanly, spilling the rebound into the path of Hnamte.



under the ICC Regulations on the Sanctioning of Events and Player Release and the tournament has not been sanctioned by the Zambia Cricket Union (ZCU) as well," the PCB stated in a press release. According to the PCB statement, the ICC has reiterated that all foreign players must obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from their respective home board before taking part in overseas cricket events. The regulations also require member boards to take appropriate disciplinary action against players who participate in unsanctioned competitions. Failure to

enforce these regulations could invite action against the respective member board. The PCB said any individual found to have participated in unsanctioned event without obtaining the requisite approvals from the PCB will face strict disciplinary action. As part of the sanctions, the Board will impose ban of two years from the issuance of any PCB No Objection Certificate for participation in approved overseas cricket leagues or events. In addition, the individuals concerned will be declared ineligible for any cricketing, coaching, consultancy, mentoring and/or other assignments with the Pakistan Cricket Board and the Pakistan Super League (PSL) for a period of two years. PCB said it remains fully committed to implementing the ICC's regulatory framework governing international cricket. "The PCB remains fully committed to upholding the ICC Regulations and safeguarding the integrity and governance of the game.

RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 5.25 pc, raises growth forecast to 6.7pc

Mumbai: In an expected move, the Reserve Bank of India on Wednesday kept key interest rates unchanged for the third time in a row as it weighed the impact of uncertain energy prices and supply disruptions caused by the ongoing West Asia crisis. Announcing the third bi-monthly monetary policy for the current fiscal, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has unanimously decided to retain short-term lending rate or repo rate at 5.25 per cent with a neutral stance. The interest rate pause comes even as the Consumer Price Index (CPI) based headline retail inflation has crossed the RBI's medium-term target of 4 per cent at 4.38 per cent in June. However, RBI marginally raised the growth forecast to 6.7 per cent while lowering inflation projection to 5 per cent for the current fiscal. Additionally, the rupee has been depreciating continuously since

RBI targets rollout of polymer currency notes by FY28: Governor Malhotra

Mumbai: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Wednesday said the central bank is targeting the introduction of polymer currency notes by FY28 with field trials currently underway to assess their performance before a broader rollout. At the post-Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) outcome media briefing, Malhotra said the pilot programme for polymer banknotes is still in progress. "There is still a pilot going on for polymer notes," the RBI Governor said. "We will test the currency before bringing it to the market," he said. The RBI Governor also indicated that the central bank will evaluate the results of the field trials before taking a final decision on wider circulation. Malhotra further said the RBI is targeting the circulation of polymer notes by FY28. The remarks come days after the Finance Ministry informed Parliament that the government has approved the RBI's proposal to conduct field trials of polymer currency notes in the Rs 10 and Rs 20 denominations. According to the government, the central bank plans to issue one billion pieces each of Rs 10 and Rs 20 polymer notes as part of the pilot programme to assess their durability and



the beginning of this year. The rupee has been hovering between 95 and 96 against the dollar. Once considered among Asia's more stable currencies, the rupee has now become one of the worst-performing emerging market currencies this year, pressured by a mix of expensive oil, capital outflows, widening trade deficits and a surging US dollar. It has depreciated about 7 per cent so far in 2026 and is down roughly 6 per cent since the outbreak of the Iran conflict in late February.



suitability under Indian conditions. The RBI has maintained that polymer banknotes are more durable than conventional paper notes and could help reduce replacement costs, particularly for lower denominations that witness high circulation and wear and tear. Polymer notes also allow the incorporation of advanced security features, including transparent windows and enhanced anti-counterfeiting elements. The government has clarified that there is currently no proposal to replace paper currency entirely. Polymer notes, if introduced, would circulate alongside existing paper banknotes. The RBI has also stated that any decision on wider adoption would depend on the outcome of the field trials and operational assessment of the notes under varied climatic and usage conditions across the country.

Govt operationalises inventory based e-commerce export framework

New Delhi: The government on Wednesday operationalised the inventory-based cross-border e-commerce facilitation framework by notifying detailed procedures for registration, inventory management, compliance, reverse logistics and dispute resolution under the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), 2023. In a public notice, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) -- under the Commerce Ministry said the operational procedures along with a new application form -- Aayaat Niryaat Form (ANF) 9A -- for registration of Exporters-on-Record (EORs), would come into effect immediately. Under the framework, entities seeking to operate as exporters-on-record will be required to register with the DGFT through ANF-9A and inform the authority of any changes in registration particulars within 30 days. The decision places primary responsibility on the exporter-on-record for maintaining export inventory, ensuring goods match the specifications



declared by sellers and complying with all destination-country requirements before export, including testing, certification, labelling and other regulatory norms. It also mandates the maintenance of a digital repository linking procurement records, GST invoices and export documents with each seller-on-record. The

Sensex, Nifty rise in early trade as crude oil prices ease ahead of RBI policy

Mumbai: Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty climbed in early trade on Wednesday following a decline in crude oil prices and foreign fund inflows. Investors are also awaiting the RBI monetary policy decision to be announced shortly. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 397.59 points to 78,826.54 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty went up by 62.7 points to 24,677.60. From the Sensex pack, InterGlobe Aviation, Mahindra & Mahindra, Trent, NTPC, Larsen & Toubro and Bajaj Finserv were among the major winners. Sun Pharma, Tata Consultancy Services, Titan and Bharat Electronics were among the laggards. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 1.16 per cent lower at USD 78.44 per barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 2,446.47 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data. "The sharp dip in Brent crude to below USD 80 and record closing in the US markets augur well for the Indian market today. The focus of the market today will be the monetary policy," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said. The growth resilience in the economy, improving corporate earnings growth and FIIs turning buyers for the sixth day in a row are positives from the market perspective, he added. In Asian markets, South Korea's KOSPI jumped 4 per cent, Japan's Nikkei 225 index climbed 3 per



cent. Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index were also trading higher. US markets ended sharply higher on Tuesday. "Domestic sentiment has also improved as foreign portfolio investors continue to rebuild positions in Indian equities following a prolonged period of outflows. The recent recovery in the rupee, supported by softer crude oil prices and improving global risk sentiment, has further enhanced the appeal of Indian financial assets," Hariselman Radhakrishnan, Founder & CEO of HST Wealth, a research analyst firm, said. Although global uncertainties have not completely receded, investors appear increasingly willing to look beyond near-term geopolitical risks and refocus on corporate earnings, liquidity conditions and domestic growth prospects, he added. On Tuesday, the Sensex declined 210.08 points, or 0.27 per cent, to settle at 78,428.95. The Nifty dropped 159.40 points, or 0.64 per cent, to end at 24,614.90.

Rupee gains 39 paise ahead of RBI policy as crude oil prices decline

Mumbai: The rupee gained 39 paise to 94.89 against the US dollar in early trade on Wednesday supported by falling crude oil prices following progress in US-Iran talks and a pause in planned strikes. Forex traders said investors are closely awaiting the upcoming RBI monetary policy decision for further cues. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 94.90, then touched 94.89, registering a gain of 39 paise from its previous close. On Tuesday, the rupee closed at 95.28 against the American currency. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 99.80, down 0.06 per cent.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading lower by 1.11 per cent



at USD 78.48 per barrel in futures trade. On the domestic equity market front, the Sensex climbed 375.01 points to 78,803.96 in early trade, while the Nifty was up 62.7 points to 24,677.60. Foreign institutional investors purchased equities worth Rs 2,446.47 crore on a net basis on Tuesday, according to exchange data. Forex traders said attention has now shifted to this week's RBI policy meeting. The three-day meeting of the Reserve Bank of India's rate-setting panel started on Monday amid expectations of a status quo on the benchmark repo rate, with the Monetary Policy Committee slated to announce its decision on August 5. In June, the Reserve Bank had kept its key policy rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent and adopted a cautious wait-and-watch stance as policymakers assessed the fallout of the West Asia conflict. The RBI policy decision is widely expected to keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent. The real focus, however, will be on the RBI's tone. Even if rates remain unchanged, any indication that the RBI is becoming more cautious about inflation could have a bigger impact on the rupee than the policy decision itself," CR Forex Advisors MD Amit Pabari said. Pabari further noted that optimism around the Hormuz talks could help the rupee test its support zone of 94.80-95.00. As "long as this holds, the pair may gradually drift back toward 95.80-96.20 over coming sessions. But if the Hormuz deal actually goes through, the rupee could see a sharper move of 30 to 40 paise on the stronger side," he said.

Aptdc To Launch One-Day "Vijayawada - Vadapalli" Tour Package From 8th Of This Month

Vijayawada, August 5:“Aptdc General Manager (Transport & Marketing) T.S.V. Narayana in a statement said that Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (Aptdc) will launch a one-day "Vijayawada - Vadapalli Tour Package" from 8th August (Saturday) with Central Reservation Office (Cro) in Vijayawada as the hub.He said this package has been designed with the aim of providing devotees and tourists a planned pilgrimage experience with most comfortable transport and food facilities without any hassles.He said this tour package will start at 4.00 Am on August 8th from Central Reservation Office in Vijayawada and will return to Vijayawada by 7.00 Pm in the evening. He said the package price has been fixed at Rs. 1,160/- For Adults and Rs. 1,000/- For Children. He said this fee includes comfortable bus transport charges along with morning breakfast and lunch facility. However, he clarified that temple darshan ticket charges have to be



borne by the tourists themselves.Aptdc General Manager T.S.V. Narayana in the statement said that devotees and tourists who wish to avail this special trip can book their seats in advance either online through www.Aptdc.Gov.In website, or by directly contacting the Central Reservation Office (Cro) located at Bander Road, Beside Lemon Tree Hotel, Vijayawada.

Minister Kondapalli Reviews Marketing Of Swayam Ap Brand Products Discussion On Integration Of MSME DPR App With Stree Nidhi App Minister Says Awareness Should Be Created Among SHG Women On Processing Charges Waiver

Amaravati / Vijayawada, August 5:1“State Minister For Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises, Rural Poverty Eradication And Nri Empowerment And Relations Kondapalli Srinivas said all possibilities are being examined to bring 65 Products manufactured by SHG Women under the Swayam AP Brand into the market. On Wednesday, the Minister held a review with Serp Directors at his camp office in Vijayawada on several issues. On this occasion, the Minister directed officials to coordinate with APNRTS to explore opportunities for export of products manufactured by SHG Women and import of raw materials. He said the feasibility of setting up a Solar-Powered Mobile Laundry Unit in the model of electric vehicles should be studied and it should be promoted as an institutional business under PMEGP.He reviewed the progress of setting up business, service and industrial units by 5 Lakh Women in this financial year and made it clear that implementation of the programme should be expedited in accordance with Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri Nara Chandrababu Naidu's vision of "One Family - One Entrepreneur".The Minister suggested officials identify vacant government buildings in key areas of gram panchayats and set up Livelihood Training Centres there to ensure training in skill development for rural women and youth. He reviewed the performance of 163 Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) established at FPO Level under NRLM and said available infrastructure should be utilized effectively to ensure maximum benefit to farmers.The Minister suggested strengthening the system further to ensure institutional loans reach SHG members easily and continuously by reviewing the integration of DPR Preparation App developed by MSME with Stree Nidhi App and the progress of SHG Bank Linkage. He directed officials to create wide awareness among SHG women about the exemption of Loan Processing Charges, Documentation Charges and Inspection Charges on SHG Cash Credit Limit (CCL) loans being collected by Union Bank Of India, State Bank Of India, Andhra Pradesh



Grameena Bank, Indian Overseas Bank and Canara Bank. Minister Kondapalli directed that steps should be taken to ensure all eligible SHGs fully avail the benefit of these exemptions.

Strong Measures For Eradication Of Bonded Labour System Need For Clear Understanding Of Difference Between Migrant And Bonded Labourers District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha At District Level Vigilance And Monitoring Committee Meeting



Vijayawada, August 5:“District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha directed officials that all departments should work in coordination and strictly implement the law for eradication of bonded labour system in the district.She gave several key instructions to officials at the District Level Vigilance And Monitoring Committee For Implementation Of Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act Meeting held on Wednesday under her chairmanship at the PGRS Meeting Hall in Vijayawada Collectorate. At the beginning of the meeting, committee members created comprehensive awareness among officials of various departments

C.R. Media Academy Offers "Diploma In Journalism" Course With Very Low Fee

Vijayawada, August 5:“C.R. Media Academy Chairman Sri Alapati Suresh Kumar in a statement said the Academy is offering a good opportunity to pursue "Diploma In Journalism" course with very low fee. He said although this course is specially intended for working journalists, general candidates who are degree qualified and have interest in journalism profession are also eligible to apply for this diploma course. He said the course has been designed in accordance with the goals of establishing high standards in journalism.He said if journalists have professional qualification, they can achieve much better results. He said the "Board Of Studies" comprising professors of journalism departments of various universities under the leadership of Prof. D.V.R. Murthy, Professor Of Journalism & Mass Communications, Andhra University And Present Vice Chancellor Of Ongole Andhra Kesari University, has designed this diploma course.He said candidates can gain the capability to work with high standards for electronic, social media news channels and newspapers by learning this course. He said Prof. P. Bobby Vardhan, Retired Head Of The Department, Journalism & Mass Communications, Andhra University will act as Course Director. Similarly, Prof. K. Jyotirmayi, Head Of The Department, Journalism & Mass Communications, Acharya Nagarjuna University will act as Coordinator on behalf of the university. He said the duration of the course is 6 Months.He said classes will be conducted by selected retired professors and senior journalists. He said two classes will be held every day from Monday to Friday, from 8 Am To 9 Am and 9 Am To 10 Am. He said these classes will be conducted in Online (Correspon-



dence) mode. He said at the end of the course every candidate has to write assignments under the guidance of the Course Director. He said Acharya Nagarjuna University will announce the final results by adding assignment marks to the marks obtained by candidates in examinations. He said Nagarjuna University will issue diploma certificate to successful candidates. He said Media Academy and Acharya Nagarjuna University have entered into an agreement for this.For Working Journalists:“Candidates should fill their details in the application downloaded, and send applications along with xerox copies of Intermediate Certificate, Accreditation Card Or Id Card Or Service Certificate and Demand Draft Of Rs. 2,000/- drawn in favour of Secretary, C.R. Media Academy.For Other Candidates:“Candidates with interest in journalism should send application along with Degree Certificate and Demand Draft Of Rs. 2,500/- drawn in favour of Secretary, C.R. Media Academy.Candidates should click the link drive.Goo gle.Com to download the application. Other details are also given in this link, he said.Applications should be sent to the below address:“Secretary,“Andhra Pradesh C.R. Media Academy,“40-6/4-8, 4th Floor, Revenue Colony, “Mogalrajapuram, Vijayawada. 520 010He said the Last Date for sending applications is August 20 of this month. Classes will commence from the First Week Of September.

tween these two categories and initiate legal action only after ascertaining the actual situation. The District Collector directed that the Labour Department should frequently conduct special inspections in quarries, brick kilns, sand kilns and other areas where labourers work in large numbers in the district. She said areas with scope for bonded labour system should be continuously monitored and immediate action should be taken if any violations occur. She said special meetings should be held with quarry managements, brick kiln operators and owners of other industries to create comprehensive awareness on Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act. She directed officials to clearly explain to them the punishments and legal consequences if the Act is violated.District Joint Collector S. Ilakkiya speaking said voluntary organizations are playing a key role in eradication of bonded labour system. She suggested that further action should be taken only after thoroughly examining whether the concerned persons are migrant labourers or bonded labourers. She said the goal of eradication of bonded labour system can be effectively achieved only if Revenue, Labour, Police, Women And Child Welfare Departments and all other concerned departments work in coordination.District Labour Officer G. Dhanalakshmi, Vasavya Mahila Mandali Social Worker K. Vijaya, Dalit Bahujan Resource Centre Representative Rama devi, SC Member Boorugu Narayana, Social Worker G. Tirupathi Rao, DPO Mahalakshmi, Sub Inspector Of Police P. Sivarama Prasad, DRDA Officer, officials of various departments and committee members participated in the meeting.