

Make Loan Process Easier For MSMEs

Minister Kondapalli Srinivas Meeting Of Bankers And MSME Associations At Secretariat



Amaravati, August 6:“State Minister For Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises, Rural Poverty Eradication And Nri Empowerment And Relations Kondapalli Srinivas suggested bankers to make the loan process easier for MSMEs. On Thursday, the Minister speaking at a review meeting with state level bankers and MSME Associations held at the conference hall in 5th Block of the Secretariat under his chairmanship said that keeping in view the

Proposals Sent To Centre With Rs. 257 Crore For Development Of Ayush Medical Services

Will Discuss With CM For Filling Vacancies Under Zero Vacancy
Land Acquisition Completed For Ayurveda Medical Colleges At Dharmavaram, Pithapuram And Unani College At Proddatur With Rs. 210 Crore Steps Taken To Set Up Integrated Ayush Specialty Hospitals At Six Places With Rs. 90 Crore
State Health Minister Sri Satyakumar Yadav At Doctors Conference

Vijayawada, August 6:“State Health Minister Sri Satyakumar Yadav said highest priority is being given to expansion of Ayush Medical Services in the state. In this regard, he said proposals have been sent to the National Ayush Mission under the annual plan seeking sanction of Rs. 257 Crore for development of Ayush services for the financial year 2026-27. He also said discussions will be held with Chief Minister Sri Chandrababu Naidu for taking up recruitments under Zero Vacancy in Ayush and Food Safety departments similar to the Medical and Health department. A state-level conference for government Ayurveda, Homeo, Unani And Siddha Doctors was organized on Thursday at Tummalapalli



Kalakshetram in Vijayawada. Speaking as chief guest at the concluding programme, State Health Minister Sri Satyakumar Yadav said the previous YCP Government miserably failed in getting funds from the National Ayush Commission under annual plan. He said Rs. 85 Crore in 2024-25 and Rs. 166 Crore in 2025-26 were sanctioned

AP records over six-fold surge in FDI under TDP govt

Andhra Pradesh has witnessed a sharp rise in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under the Chandrababu Naidu-led coalition government, according to official data shared by the Union government in Parliament. Replying to a question raised by YSRCP MP Maddila Gurumoorthy in the Lok Sabha, the Centre said Andhra Pradesh received 608.59 million dollars in FDI in FY 2025-26, compared to just 92.13 million dollars in FY 2023-24, the last full financial year of the YSRCP government. This marks an increase of more than six times in less than two years. The data also shows a steady rise in investments after the TDP government assumed office. FDI inflows increased from 92.13 dollars million in FY 2023-



24 to 233.14 million dollars in FY 2024-2025, before rising further to 608.59 million dollars in FY 2025-26. In effect, the government received more than doubled FDI in its first year and nearly tripled it in its second year. The biggest investments during FY 2025-26 came into metallurgical industries, food processing, cement and gypsum products, services, automobiles, chemicals,

Cabinet clears 1.23L-crore PPP push, Amaravati projects

Amaravati: The state Cabinet on Thursday approved a series of policy, infrastructure, and governance reforms, including Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Policy to fast-track Rs 1.23 lakh crore projects, accelerate investment, strengthen Amaravati's development, and improve ease of doing business across the state. Briefing the media after the Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Information and Public Relations Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy said the Cabinet approved the draft Andhra Pradesh Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Policy-2026, designed to attract large-scale private investment across transport, logistics, ports, airports, urban infrastructure, healthcare, education, renewable energy, tourism and industrial development. The policy seeks to fast-track a Rs 1.23 lakh crore pipeline of PPP projects through transparent bidding and improved project governance. Besides earmarking Rs 1,500 crore under the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme, the Cabinet also approved a



first-of-its-kind Bridge Fund to provide interest-free financial support for projects that may not generate returns during their initial years. The Cabinet also approved implementation of a Land Pooling Scheme (LPS) for acquiring 2,344 acres in Mothadaka village for the proposed Errupalem-Namburu broad-gauge railway

line and the Amaravati Inner Ring Road. Farmers opting for voluntary land pooling will receive returnable developed plots, annuity, loan waiver, and pension benefits as per CRDA norms. To strengthen Amaravati's knowledge economy, the Cabinet cleared selection of the L-1 bidder for

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AP among four top performing states in PM Surya Ghar implementation

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh has emerged as one of the top-performing states in the implementation of the Centre's flagship PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY), with more than 4.11 lakh rooftop solar systems installed across the state, energy department special chief secretary K Vijayanand said on Thursday. Chairing a high-level video conference with the chairpersons and managing directors of AP discoms and senior energy officials in Vijayawada, Vijayanand reviewed the progress of the scheme and directed officials to achieve all installation targets within the stipulated timeframe. He said the state government is committed to accelerating rooftop solar installations, promoting clean energy and ensuring timely release of Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to eligible beneficiaries. As of August 4, Andhra Pradesh had installed 4,11,915 rooftop solar systems, of which 2,78,438 have been uploaded to the MNRE National Portal, he said. Another 1,33,477 systems



installed under the SC/ST Utility-Led Aggregation (ULA) Model are awaiting portal upload, placing the State among the top four performers in the country, he added. Reviewing the SC/ST ULA model, Vijayanand said the state has targeted 5,99,105 rooftop solar systems with a cumulative capacity of 1,198.21 MW. So far, 2,27,549 installations have been completed, achieving 38% of the target. Among the discoms, APSPDCL leads with 47 per cent progress, followed by APCPDCL with 35 per cent and APEPDCL with 32 per cent. He instructed EPC agencies to upload installation details to

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AgriGold depositors' repayment process to begin by Sept 15: Minister Nadendla

Minister for Food and Civil Supplies Nadendla Manohar said the State government is working with a clear timeline and a dedicated mission to deliver justice to AgriGold depositors, announcing that the official process of compensating beneficiaries will begin by September 15. Speaking to the media after a meeting of the Cabinet Sub-Committee constituted to address AgriGold issue, Minister Manohar said the government is systematically resolving legal hurdles and overcoming procedural challenges to ensure a transparent and time-bound settlement. He said the Cabinet Sub-Committee would meet the Chief Secretary on August 11 to discuss legal aspects of the



case, including inter-state issues, and finalise the procedures for auctioning AgriGold assets. The meeting, held at the State Secretariat on Wednesday, was attended by Home Minister Vangalapudi Anita and Revenue Minister Anagani Satya Prasad, who reviewed the proposed auction

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Origins of historic sites remain shrouded in mystery

Watching courtroom drama movies, whether in English, Hindi or Telugu has always been a favourite pastime with me. The Hindi movie ‘The Taj Story’ was among the recent ones I watched. It was about the Taj Mahal and the conflict of opinions regarding its original builder and its true nature as a monument that also has religious significance. The plot and its presentation on the screen set me off on a search for similar monuments elsewhere in the country and the world, whose backgrounds and stories are shrouded in mystery and controversy. The investigation proved most rewarding indeed. It showed up several well-known monuments such as the Giza Pyramid in Egypt, the Charminar in Hyderabad, the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the Qutub Minar in Delhi, the Nelson Column in Trafalgar Square, London, and the Joseph Stalin style statues in Soviet Union, apart from many others, including well-known monuments in countries like Japan. Their cultural significance, rich histories and interesting backgrounds notwithstanding, these monuments have been unable to escape the embarrassment of being subjects of conflict, for one reason or the other. Their architecture and the art that goes into them are important sources for understanding the complexity of, and interpreting, their history, a situation that has often led to their becoming battlegrounds for varying and often contradictory narratives. And, as societies evolved, their way of perceiving the ideas behind such monuments also changed over time; a dynamic phenomenon that has often caused the interplay between memory and modern values to lead to animated discussion and debate. In the very first leg of my investigation, it was no less than the legendary Taj Mahal of India that I found. The 17th century white marble mausoleum is generally believed to have been built by Moghul Emperor Shah Jahan. There have, however, been claims that it was originally a Hindu temple, specifically Tejo Mahalaya. While professional scholars rely on verifiable historical and architectural evidence, some groups have favoured the revisionist narrative. Courts of law as well as the Archaeological Survey of India have, however, repeatedly dismissed such claims as not being backed by credible proof. But the controversy is far from over. The controversy surrounding the Kashi Vishwanath temple and the adjacent Gyanvapi Mosque in Varanasi is another such a contentious issue and centers on historical temple demolition, ongoing legal battles over religious rights, and recent modern architectural corridor developments. The Ayodhya temple dispute involves historical, religious, and political tensions centered on whether a Hindu temple was destroyed to build the 16th-century Babri Masjid. Key flashpoints include the 1992 mosque demolition, the 2019 Supreme Court ruling, and recent trust management scandals. The demolition of the Babri Masjid occurred on December 6, 1992, when a large crowd of Hindu nationalist volunteers, known as kar sevaks, brought down the 16th-century mosque in Ayodhya. The event was organized by groups like the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), who claimed that the site was the birthplace of Lord Ram. The destruction sparked widespread religious riots across India, resulting in the deaths of around 2,000 people. The event deeply changed Indian politics and society, leading to decades of court battles.

AgriGold depositors’ repayment process to begin by Sept 15: Minister Nadendla
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process and other measures for expediting compensation to depositors. Manohar said the government would adopt a completely transparent approach and launch a dedicated website and online dashboard to provide real-time information on every stage of AgriGold asset recovery and compensation process. Drawing a comparison with the Sahara case, the Minister said AgriGold had mobilised Rs 6,380 crore in deposits through 5.85 lakh agents, including Rs 3,944 crore collected in Andhra

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to the Coalition Government. He said there is scope for sanction of huge funds from the Centre in the current financial year too. He said the Coalition Government has allotted 15 Acres near Guntur for setting up a Central Yoga And Naturopathy Research Institute with Rs. 100 Crore by the Central Government. He criticized that further action was stalled as the previous government diverted the land allotted for this institute to house sites. Surgeries In Ayurveda After Creating Awareness“He said Comprehensive Ayush Hospitals will be set up at Tirupati, Giddalur, Nandigama, Tenali, Tekkali, Rampachodavaram by spending Rs. 15 Crore each. He said Rs. 210 Crore will be spent for setting up Ayurveda Medical Colleges at Dharmavaram, Pithapuram and Unani Medical College at Proddatur with Rs. 70 Crore each. He also said construction works of Naturopathy Medical College at Visakhapatnam taken up with Rs. 70 Crore have reached final stage. He said works for construction of new buildings for Ayush Health And Wellness Centers have also reached final stage. The Minister said the Coalition Government has so far appointed 216 Ayush Doctors in various categories. He said the state government has given permission for 58 Types Of Surgeries related to Shalya Tantra And Shalakya Tantra sections in Ayurveda. He said after discussing with concerned sections and creating complete awareness on these treatment methods, they will be implemented. The Minister clarified that giving priority to Ayush does not mean reducing Allopathy treatment. He said Allopathy has highest priority in emergency treatment and surgeries. He said by changing food habits, lifestyle, and adopting yoga and naturopathy methods, one can stay away from diseases. Patient Details Digitized“Speaking at the inaugural programme, State Health Secretary G. Veerapandian said Ayush Medical Centers have been linked with AHMIUS Portal and details of 60,000 Patients have already been registered. Speaking at the concluding programme, Ronanki Gopalakrishna said the system has been strengthened to manage all services from patient registration to medicine distribution on a single digital platform. He expressed hope that this conference will further help in strengthening Ayush services in rural and urban areas in the last two years. He said a special action plan has been prepared to complete construction of new Ayurveda medical colleges and integrated hospitals quickly. Standards To Be Followed In Treatments“Central Government Homeopathy Advisor Dr. Preeta Kizhakkuthil said the same treatment standards should be followed in Homeopathy hospitals. Additional Directors Sekhar, Sai Sudhakar, Deputy Director Dhanunjaya Rao and other officials participated in the conference. 550 Ayush Doctors attended. This is the first time such a conference is being held at state level.

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importance of MSMEs in taking forward Hon'ble Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's prestigious programme of "One Family - One Entrepreneur", the loan process should be made easier for them. The Minister recalled that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu had discussed this issue with bank officials and mentioned it in the SLBC. He said this meeting was organized today in accordance with the goal of Hon'ble Chief Minister and that support and cooperation of various bankers is being sought to implement the Central Government's MSE CDP, PMEGP Schemes along with the State Government's AP Cluster Development Program, AP Chief Minister Entrepreneur Program. The Minister said the state stands at 4th Position in the country in covering loans under CGTMSE (Credit Guarantee Trust For Micro And Small Enterprises) and requested bankers to cooperate to bring it to the 1st Position as desired by Hon'ble Chief Minister. Bankers clarified the doubts of MSME Based Associations and explained to them the facilities available through banks. The Minister suggested the Industries Secretary to create a Unified Portal by the government for loan applications for MSME Entrepreneurs and make it available to them. SLBC Convener Sridharbabu, Industries Secretary Dr. N. Yuvaraj, MSME Development Corporation CEO Viswamanoharan, AP MSME Development Corporation Executive Director Sudhakar, MSME Joint Director Vijayaratnam, along with AP Chamber Of Commerce President Potluri Bhaskar Rao, Credai GS Mohan Rao, Food Processing Sambasiva Rao, Rajasekhar, Kovai Radhika, AP Textiles Mills Association Secretary U.M. Kumar and officials of various state level banks participated in this meeting.

Pradesh. Depositors were promised residential plots, but while money was collected for 18.57 lakh plots, only 5.76 lakh plots were actually identified, indicating that funds collected in the name of land allotment had allegedly been diverted. The Minister said the government had completed the identification of AgriGold's land assets across the country. According to the assessment, the company owns 23,430 acres nationwide, including 20,450 acres in Andhra Pradesh. Of these, the CID has already handed over 14,304 acres to the government. The Cabinet Sub-Committee has now decided to auction 6,330 acres through a transparent public auction and distribute the proceeds among eligible depositors. The auction guidelines will be finalised during the current month. the government would continue updating depositors through the proposed online dashboard to ensure complete transparency.

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the national portal within 24 hours and directed discoms to speed up consumer verification, clear pending inspections within seven days, and resolve portal-related issues to facilitate faster subsidy disbursal. Vijayanand also reviewed the proposed Utility-Led Aggregation Model for Backward Classes (BCs). under which the State government proposes to provide a Rs.20,000 subsidy for every 2 kw rooftop solar system. He asked officials to expedite beneficiary identification, preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and statutory approvals for the early rollout of the scheme. APSPDCL CMD L Siva Sankar, APEPDCL CMD I Prudhvitej, APCPDCL CMD P Pulla Reddy, NREDCAP MD M Kamalakar Babu and other senior officials attended the meeting.

Cabinet clears 1.23L-crore PPP push, Amaravati projects

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constructing T1 and T2 twin office towers at the Quantum Valley Tech Park, approved fresh tenders for the iconic 'Amaravati Eye' project under the PPP model, and sanctioned Rs 206.59 crore towards expanded consultancy services for the Legislative Assembly and the High Court complexes following design modifications. The Cabinet also approved recommendations of the Group of Ministers on fresh land allotments and revisions involving institutions such as GSI, CAG, APIIC, and HUDCO within the CRDA region. In another significant move, the Cabinet approved the Andhra Pradesh Omnibus (Ease of Doing Business) Act-2026, proposing amendments to multiple laws through a single piece of legislation to simplify industrial approvals and improve the state's investment climate. Establishment of RVS University and Pragathi University under the Private Universities Act and sanctioned compensation of Rs 12.44 lakh per acre for land acquisition for the proposed Kuppam Greenfield Airport were also approved. The government approved a new Pedestrian Safety and Universal Accessibility Policy-2026, adopting a zero-tolerance approach towards pedestrian fatalities through safer footpaths, scientific road safety audits, CCTV-based monitoring and strict accountability for civic agencies. The Cabinet decided to withdraw the Andhra Pradesh Disha Bill, 2019, following the implementation of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and in light of the Union Home Ministry's advice to introduce a fresh piece of legislation, if required. Among other major decisions, the Cabinet approved continuation of the Rs 1.50 per unit electricity subsidy for aquaculture farms from June 1, 2026, sanctioned land for PM-KUSUM solar projects in YSR Kadapa district, reorganised Urban Development Authorities in line with new districts, approved Rs 680.21 crore HUDCO loan for the Bulk Drug Park, approved Rs 600.48 crore for pending works on the Handri-Neeva Sujala Sravanthi Phase-II canal, facilitated installation of telecom towers on government land, sanctioned Rs 210.06 crore for Godavari Pushkaralu-2027 infrastructure and approved lease of government land for TDP district offices in Puttaparthi, Madanapalle and Amalapuram.

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electrical equipment and electronics, reflecting growing investor confidence across multiple sectors. The figures indicate a strong turnaround in Andhra Pradesh's investment climate under the TDP government. Since coming to power, the state government has focused on improving ease and speed of doing business, speeding up approvals, strengthening infrastructure and attracting global investors. In its reply, the Union government also highlighted several national initiatives supporting investments in high-growth sectors, including the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, the Semicon India Programme, BioE3 and other policy measures aimed at promoting manufacturing, innovation and research.

Breast Milk is Infant’s First Vaccine: Collector Dr Satya Sharada



WARANGAL: District Collector Dr Satya Sharada highlighted the importance of breastfeeding, stating that breast milk is the first vaccine for a newborn. She was speaking at an awareness programme held at CKM Hospital in Warangal on Thursday as part of World Breastfeeding Week celebrations. The Collector stressed that every newborn must be fed colostrum within the first hour of birth. She explained that colostrum enhances the baby’s natural immunity and provides essential nutrients required for healthy growth. She said that children who are breastfed are less likely to suffer from diseases such as diarrhoea, pneumonia and jaundice. Breastfeeding also supports better brain development and strengthens the emotional bond between mother and child. Dr Satya Sharada noted that breastfeeding offers multiple health benefits to mothers as well, including reduced post-delivery bleeding, faster recovery of the uterus, and lower risks of obesity, breast cancer, cervical cancer and Type-2 diabetes. She advised that infants should be exclusively breastfed for the first six months, followed by age-

appropriate complementary feeding along with continued breastfeeding. Lactating mothers should consume a balanced diet and adequate water to support milk production. The Collector also encouraged mothers with excess breast milk to donate it to milk banks, stating that such donations could save the lives of infants in need. She further emphasised the importance of Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) for low birth weight babies, noting that it ensures warmth, protection and better growth. She urged expectant mothers to prepare mentally and physically for normal delivery during pregnancy and cautioned against opting for unnecessary caesarean sections. On the occasion, students of the Government Nursing College presented a role play to raise awareness about the importance of breastfeeding and the KMC method. District Medical and Health Officer Dr B Raja Reddy, CKM Hospital Superintendent Dr Lakshmedevi, District Welfare Officer Rajamani, programme officers, doctors, nursing staff, ANMs, ASHA workers and Anganwadi staff participated in the programme.

Swiggy targets Rs 10,000-Crore EBITDA by FY31 on food, quick commerce growth

New Delhi: Food delivery and quick commerce platform Swiggy on Thursday said it is targeting an adjusted EBITDA of around Rs 10,000 crore by FY31, backed by growth across its food delivery and quick commerce businesses. For the April-June quarter of this financial year, the company’s consolidated adjusted EBITDA improved by Rs 162 crore on a year-on-year basis, following which the company’s loss narrowed to Rs 651 crore. The company, at Capital Markets Day 2026, said it expects to more than triple its consolidated Gross Order Value (GOV) to around Rs 2.5 lakh crore by FY31 from Rs 67,734 crore in FY26, a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of over 30 per cent. The company also highlighted progress towards becoming an Investor-Owned Commerce Company (IOCC), stating that domestic ownership crossed 50 per cent on July 1, 2026. Its board has approved raising the foreign shareholding cap to 49.5 per cent ahead of its 13th annual general meeting on August 18, 2026. “We are operating three of India’s largest and fastest-growing consumer opportunity spaces, food-delivery, quick commerce and out-of-home consumption, with each of these businesses having the potential to compound over the coming years,” Swiggy Managing Director and Group CEO Sriharsha Majety said. The company said by FY31, its food delivery business is expected to grow its GOV by 2.5-3.5 times and generate around Rs 5,000 crore in adjusted EBITDA, driven by affordability-led initiatives and operational improvements. Swiggy said India’s food services market is projected to expand from about USD 90 billion in 2026 to nearly USD 150 billion by 2031, with higher order frequency and affordability



expected to drive category growth. Its food delivery business reported a GOV of Rs 9,490 crore in the first quarter of

FY27, up 18 per cent year-on-year, while adjusted EBITDA run rate rose to Rs 292 crore. The company’s out-of-home consumption business, Dineout, completed its first full year of positive adjusted EBITDA in FY26, posting a GOV of Rs 4,600 crore, up 51 per cent year-on-year. Swiggy said Dineout is targeting five-fold topline growth and around Rs 1,000 crore in adjusted EBITDA by FY31, with projected GOV of Rs 20,000-25,000 crore. The business currently serves more than 52,000 monthly active restaurant partners across 75 cities. The company’s quick commerce business, Instamart, reported a GOV of Rs 7,907 crore in the first quarter of FY27, registering 40 per cent year-on-year growth, while narrowing its contribution margin loss to 0.2 per cent of GOV from the levels seen in the fourth quarter of FY25. Instamart now serves over 14 million monthly transacting users across more than 130 cities through a network of over 1,200 dark stores. The company attributed the improvement to stronger unit economics, including higher revenue per order and lower cost per order. More than 45 per cent of Instamart’s store network is now contribution margin-positive, while five of its seven largest cities, including Bengaluru, are operating profitably. Swiggy said Instamart is targeting a GOV of over Rs 1.5 lakh crore by FY31, from Rs 28,000 crore in FY26, supported by a monthly transacting user base of more than 40 million.

SCCL A high-level review meeting at the Naini Mine



Kothagudem: The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) on Wednesday reviewed coal transportation logistics at its Naini Coal Mine in Odisha, setting a target of moving at least 12,000 tonnes of coal per day to consumers and railway sidings to ensure uninterrupted fuel supplies to thermal power stations. A high-level review meeting at the Naini Mine was chaired by SCCL Director (Personnel & Finance) Gowtham Potru and Executive Director (Coal Movement) B. Venkanna. Representatives of major coal consumers, including Jindal Steel, Jindal India Power Limited, Meenakshi Energy Limited, and Tamil Nadu Power Generation Corporation Limited (TNPGL), besides transport agencies, participated in the discussions. Addressing the meeting, Gowtham Potru said the Naini Mine is projected to produce six million tonnes of coal annually, with supplies earmarked for nearby power plants, the Singareni Thermal Power Plant in Telangana and thermal power stations in Tamil Nadu. He urged transport agencies to ensure that coal is dispatched daily in line with production targets and called upon consumer companies to extend full cooperation in timely lifting of coal. B. Venkanna stressed the need for seamless transportation of coal to the Hindol Rail-

way Siding and Kamakhya Nagar Railway Siding, from where consignments would be moved by rail to various destinations. Representatives of the consumer companies assured SCCL that they were prepared to lift coal as per their daily allocations and would coordinate closely with transport contractors to ensure smooth movement. Transport agencies also expressed readiness to meet the stipulated transportation targets while highlighting certain operational bottlenecks along the transportation routes for early resolution. Later, the SCCL delegation met Angul District Collector M. Abdul Akhtar, IAS, and Superintendent of Police Rahul Jain, IPS, seeking administrative support for uninterrupted road movement of coal from the mine. Both officials assured the company of full cooperation in facilitating smooth transportation. SCCL officials instructed the Naini Area management to work in close coordination with transport agencies and consumer companies to achieve the daily transportation target of 12,000 tonnes. Earlier in the day, Gowtham Potru and B. Venkanna inspected the Naini Coal Mine and reviewed production operations. The review meeting was attended by Naini Area General Manager D. Baidya and other senior officials of the company.

ws Everyone Should Strive to Realize Professor Kothapalli Jayashankar's Vision: District Collector Adarsh Surabhi



Wanaparthi dist: Wanaparthi District Collector Adarsh Surabhi lauded the unforgettable services rendered by Professor Jayashankar in the achievement of a separate Telangana state. District Collector Adarsh Surabhi attended the birth anniversary celebrations of Telangana ideologue Professor Kothapalli Jayashankar as the chief guest on Thursday at the IDOC office in the district headquarters. On this occasion, accompanied by Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Khimya Naik and Additional Collector (Revenue) Vinod Kumar, the Collector paid tribute by garlanding the portrait of Professor Jayashankar. Speaking subsequently, he reiterated that Professor

Jayashankar's contributions to the cause of a separate Telangana were truly memorable. He noted that the lifelong efforts Professor Jayashankar dedicated to fulfilling the aspirations of the people of Telangana serve as an inspiration for future generations. He called upon everyone to draw inspiration from the Professor's ideals and work towards the development of society. District officials, Municipal Vice-Chairman Madhusudan Goud, 'Mahaneeyula Utsava Committee' (Committee for Celebrations Honoring Great Figures) President Gandham Nagaraju, leaders of various civil society organizations, public representatives, and others participated in the event.

Rajya Sabha adjourned till noon amid Opposition protest



New Delhi: Rajya Sabha proceedings were adjourned till noon amid slogan-shouting by the Opposition party members. Soon after the listed papers were tabled, Chairman C P Radhakrishnan went ahead with Zero Hour proceedings, but Congress members demanded that Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge should be allowed to speak. As the Chair called members to raise their Zero Hour mentions, Congress and members from some

other Opposition parties started raising slogans on various issues. The Chair repeatedly asked protesting members to return to their seats. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju also objected to continuous protests by the Opposition. Later, the Chair allowed Kharge to raise his point. However, Treasury bench members objected to it and the Chair, at around 11.25 am, adjourned the proceedings till noon.

Kerala HC orders fresh crowd management plan for Karkidaka Vavu Bali at Thirumullavaram

Kochi: The Kerala High Court has directed the preparation of a fresh layout plan for regulating the movement and smooth passage of the nearly two lakh pilgrims expected to congregate at Thirumullavaram Beach in Kollam district for Balitharpanam on August 12. A bench of justices Raja Vijayaraghavan V And K V Jayakumar called for a fresh layout plan after finding shortcomings in the one prepared by the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) for the ritual. The ‘Balitharpanam’ is a sacred Hindu ritual where offerings are made to departed ancestors to help their souls attain liberation and is widely observed during the Malayalam month of Karkidakam and is, therefore, also known as ‘Karkidaka Vavu Bali’. The court noted that in the Board’s plan, the dimensions of the proposed sheds and the pathways earmarked for pilgrim movement have not been specifically identified. “Considering that nearly two lakh devotees are expected to converge in an area of limited extent, it is imperative that the authorities clearly identify and demarcate the manner in which pilgrims would enter the Balitharpanam area, perform the rituals, proceed for the ritual bath and thereafter exit the area in a safe, orderly and seamless manner,” it said. It further said that adequate and unobstructed corridors for pedestrian movement must be earmarked to the maximum extent possible. Equally, the proposed sheds, for devotees to rest, should have clearly defined dimensions so that their erection does not impede or compromise the free movement of pilgrims or the access required for emergency services, the bench said. “The administration will be well advised to bear in mind that this is a one-time affair and if this exercise is carried out, the work that is required to be carried out in future will be greatly reduced,” it said. The court directed that the new layout plan, proposed to be prepared by the District Disaster Management Authority and the Town Planner, Kollam, shall clearly indicate the precise location, dimensions and capacity of ev-



ery shed proposed to be erected by the Board, the Balitharpanam Bhoomi Samrakshana Trust and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad. “The revised plan shall also specify, to scale, the width of the pedestrian pathways, movement corridors, access roads, ambulance routes, police and medical control rooms, enquiry counters, fire and safety aid posts, toilets, drinking water points, and all other essential facilities. “The dimensions of every structure and pathway shall be shown accurately on scale so as to eliminate any possibility of confusion or disputes at a later stage,” the bench said. The court directed the preparation of the fresh layout plan to be undertaken forthwith and all stakeholders, including the Balitharpanam Bhoomi Samrakshana Trust and the VHP, should be given an opportunity to participate in it and place their suggestions. “The revised layout shall necessarily incorporate the pedestrian movement plan, ambulance access, traffic circulation, roads and other essential features reflected in the sketch prepared by the Advocate Commissioner. “In addition, the revised layout shall indicate, to scale, the dimensions of every shed, pathway and open space so that there is complete clarity in the implementation of the arrangements,” the court said. It said that the new layout shall be prepared and finalised at the earliest so that all necessary arrangements can be completed well before August 11. It posted the matter on August 7 for further hearing and directed that the revised sketch be placed before it on that date.

Kejriwal alleges Centre planning ethanol blending in diesel, ATF

New Delhi: Aam Aadmi Party national convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday alleged that the Centre is planning to introduce ethanol blending in diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF), and urged people to avoid buying new vehicles for the next few years. In a post on X in Hindi, Kejriwal alleged the government planned to increase ethanol blending in petrol beyond 50 per cent after introducing E20 fuel. “It seems they are going to adulterate petrol with more than 50 per cent. They are just waiting for the atmosphere to calm down. First, they forced E20 petrol into your E0 and E10 vehicles and wrecked them. Today, if you buy a new E20 vehicle, the government will



force E50 petrol into it after a few days and damage it,” Kejriwal said. Alleging that the government would soon blend ethanol in diesel as well, Kejriwal urged people to avoid purchasing new petrol and diesel vehicles for the time being. In another post, he claimed the Modi government was planning to blend ethanol in ATF.

Bombay HC convicts Tarun Tejpal in 2013 rape case



Panaji: The Bombay High Court on Thursday convicted former Tehelka editor Tarun Tejpal on charges of rape in a 2013 sexual assault case and set aside a sessions court order acquitting him. A bench of Justices Neela Gokhale and Amit Jamsandekar of the HC’s Goa bench said it would pronounce its order on sentencing in the afternoon. Tejpal has been convicted under sections 376 (2)(f) (person who is a guardian or in a position of trust or authority rapes a woman), 354 (a) (sexual harassment) and 354 (b) (using criminal force on a woman with an intent to disrobe her) of the Indian Penal Code. Under section 376, Tejpal faces a minimum punishment of ten years

and a maximum of life imprisonment. While Tejpal’s counsel Aabad Ponda sought the minimum punishment, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Goa government, sought the maximum punishment to send a strong message that “no means no”. Tejpal, who was present in court, sought leniency, claiming that he was a “political victim” and the father of two daughters. The case relates to allegations by a former junior colleague that the veteran journalist sexually assaulted her inside a hotel elevator during the ThinkFest event in Goa in November 2013. After he was acquitted by the trial court in 2021, the Goa government challenged the verdict.

Two held, five others booked in Kerala minor sexual assault case

Pathanamthitta (Kerala): Two persons have been taken into custody and five others, including her father, booked for allegedly sexually assaulting a minor girl in Kerala’s Pathanamthitta district, police said on Thursday. According to police, seven separate FIRs under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act have been registered in connection with seven incidents of abuse after the victim a Class 10 student disclosed her ordeal to friends, prompting intervention by the Child Welfare Committee (CWC). Malayalapuzha police have registered six FIRs, and one at Perunad station, as the incidents occurred at different periods since the girl was studying in Class five, an official said. Police said that two persons have been taken into custody, including the owner of the rented house where the victim currently resides and another resident of the same building. Police are also interrogating a person as part of the probe, officials added. According to police, the victim’s father, who is currently abroad, has also been named an accused. Steps are being initiated to repatriate him to face legal proceedings. Also, one of the seven accused

has passed away, and legal procedures concerning him will be formally closed after the investigation, a police officer said. The police said the accused acted independently and were not known to each other. Police said the victim was often targeted while alone at home, as her mother works in lottery sales and remains outdoors for long hours. The incident came to light after the victim disclosed the ordeal to her classmates. Later, the school authorities came to know about it and passed the information to the CWC. After counselling, the police were informed, and cases were registered based on the victim’s statement, officials said. Police said that the victim’s medical examination was also completed and a magistrate recorded her statement. Further investigation into the matter is underway under the supervision of the Pathanamthitta District Police Chief. In the wake of a recent incident when a minor lodged a false complaint against 10 persons for sexually harassing her, police took the accused persons after completing the preliminary probe related to the genuineness of the information.

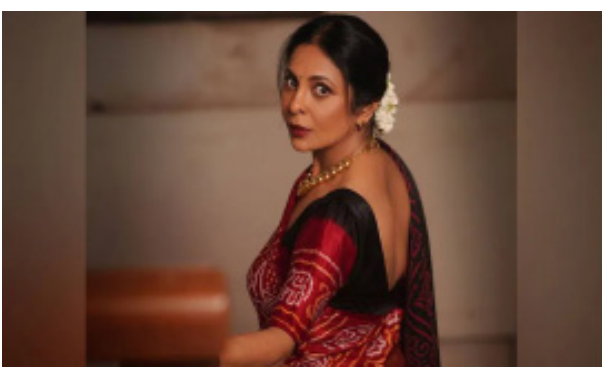
Padma Lakshmi shares nostalgic 1977 Chennai childhood throwback



Mumbai: India-born supermodel, TV host, producer, cookbook author and actor Padma Lakshmi took a trip down memory lane by sharing an old childhood photograph from 1977, reminiscing about summers spent in Chennai with her family. Lakshmi took to Instagram, where she fondly recalled learning to drive her grandfather’s 1969 Ambassador years later and the vivid memories of the Coromandel sun, mosquitoes and permission to play outside in the evenings. She wrote in her caption section: “Speaking of summers in Chennai – here we are in 1977 sitting on my grandfather’s 1969 Ambassador car. I would later learn to drive this thing in the 80s on the road to Mahabalipuram.” Lakshmi went on to share that her aunt taught her a lot about cooking. “That’s my Aunt Banu on the right, who taught me a lot about cooking and multiplication tables. She’d lock me in the room while everyone else watched Doordarshan television.”

Shefali Shah says her wedding trousseau handloom still carries ‘scent of new love’

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Shefali Shah shared a glimpse of a cherished handloom outfit from her wedding trousseau, which she called “timeless” and said that the ensemble still carries the “scent of new love” for her. Shefali shared a string of images from her photoshoot, where she is seen sporting a saree with Bandhej-inspired print, blended with Ikat-style motifs and a temple-style zari border. “This one has been with me for years. It was part of my wedding trousseau, and somehow, it still has the scent of new love. Taking me back to moments each time I wore it. And it’s timeless. Like our memories, eternal almost,” she wrote as the caption. Shefali added: “That’s the magic of handloom. Each time you wear it, you find a new magic that will continue growing alongside!” Shefali is married to filmmaker Vipul Amrutlal Shah. They got married in December 2000 and have two sons together. Talking about Shefali, the actress has carved a niche for herself as a power-packed performer, through powerful performances across film, television and digital platforms. Over the years, Shefali has earned widespread acclaim for her work



in films such as ‘Satya’, ‘Monsoon Wedding’, ‘Gandhi, My Father’, ‘Dil Dhadakne Do’, ‘Once Again’, ‘Doctor G’, ‘Three of Us’ and the Emmy-nominated series ‘Delhi Crime’. Before marrying Vipul Shah, Shefali was married to actor Harsh Chhaya. The marriage ended in separation. Shefali was last seen in the 2022 drama film co-written and directed by Avinash Arun. It stars Shefali Shah as Shailaja Desai, who has been diagnosed with dementia. Swanand Kirkire plays her husband Dipankar and Jaideep Ahlawat plays her childhood sweetheart, Pradeep Kamat. Three of Us premiered at the International Film Festival of India on 24 November 2022. It was released in Indian theatres nearly a year later, on 3 November 2023.

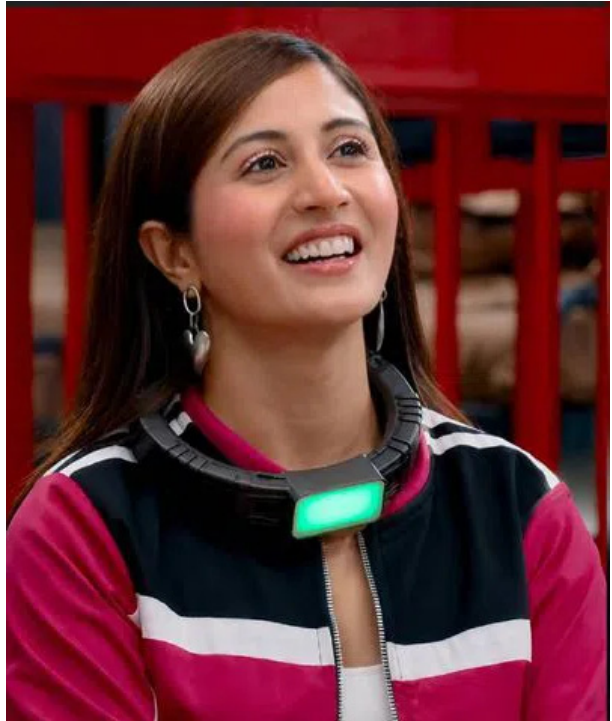
Hanu Raghavapudi pens heartfelt note as ‘Sita Ramam’ completes four years

Chennai: Hanu Raghavapudi, who directed the critically acclaimed romantic superhit film ‘Sita Ramam’, featuring actors Dulquer Salmaan and Mrunal Thakur in the lead, on Wednesday penned a note of gratitude to the film’s unit and to audiences on the occasion of the film completing four years. Taking to his Instagram page, Hanu Raghavapudi wrote, “Four years. Forever in our hearts” and shared a hand written page of gratitude. The letter he shared read, “Four Years of Sita Ramam... A letter that never stopped reaching hearts! Four years ago, we sent

a letter into the world. Today, it still finds new hearts.” He further went on to add, “To my wonderful cast... Dulquer Salmaan garu, thank you for carrying Ram’s kindness and dignity so beautifully. Mrunal Thakur ji, thank you for giving Sita a timeless soul. To Rashmika Mandanna garu, thank you for bringing Afreem to life with so much heart. To Sumanth garu, thank you for bringing strength, wisdom, and quiet emotion to Brigadier Vishnu Sharma.” The director next thanked his producers, without whose contribution and support the celebration wouldn’t have

Social media influencer Shreya Kalra lifts Lock Upp 2 trophy

Mumbai: After going through 6 weeks of an emotional rollercoaster, social media influencer Shreya Kalra finally lifted the trophy of ‘Lock Upp 2: Sach Ya Sazaa’. Shreya’s journey on the show has been a blast, garnering praises from both the viewers and co-contestants. Television actress Shivangi Joshi emerged as the first runner-up of the reality show, while Yogesh Rawat became the second runner-up. Ram Kapoor and Shilpa Shinde, two strong contenders of the show, got evicted extremely close to the finish line. All the top 5 contenders – Shreya, Shivangi, Yogesh, Ram, and Shilpa were asked to make a puzzle. The contestant with the most incorrect pieces would be evicted. Ram Kapoor lost the task, leaving Shilpa, Shreya, Shivangi, and Yogesh to fight for the trophy. Next, Yogesh was asked to convince Shilpa, Shreya, and Shivangi to pick the box that said ‘terminated’. Shilpa made the wrong choice and lost the challenge. The top 3 finalists – Shreya, Shivangi, and Yogesh were asked some difficult questions from the media as well as the jury comprising of actors. Awez Darbar accused Shreya of influencing her ex-flame to make certain claims about him while he was a contestant on ‘Bigg Boss 19’, affecting his image on social media. Actress Mannara Chopra demanded clarification from



Shivangi on her equation with fellow contestant Harshad Chopda. Shivangi was also questioned about manipulating Harshad into giving up his spot in the finale to make her the 1st finalist. Additionally, Yogesh was also slammed for his arrogance and attitude during the show. As the jury voted, Yogesh was out of the race as the winner of ‘Lock Upp 2’. Once Shreya and Shivangi bagged the top 2 spots, ex-contestants, jury, and the jailers – Farah Khan and Riteish Deshmukh voted. After Shreya received the maximum number of votes, she was declared the winner for this season of the show.

Remo Fernandes announces retirement from live performances

New Delhi: “Humma Humma” singer and musician Remo Fernandes announced at a concert in London that it would be his last live performance, saying a minor stroke and vertigo had taken their toll and he could no longer play the flute and guitar as he used to. Fernandes, best known for blending world music influences into a distinctive sound, made an emotional speech before the hour-long concert earlier this week to explain why he now has to perform while sitting on a chair. “Now sitting down and performing is not really my cup of tea. So that’s why I decided to call it a day and to stop performing,” Fernandes told the crowd at Cranford Community College in Hounslow. “Some years ago, after I took the third COVID vaccine, I suffered a minor stroke. And that stroke gave me some problems in the use of my fingers. So that made my guitar playing and my flute playing a bit difficult. And it was not as it used to be before. “And then last year, I suffered from vertigo. I had a bad fall, for which I had to undergo surgery on my cranium.” Fernandes said his doctor told him that he could not perform while standing, and that was when he decided to end his journey as a live performer. He said there were two reasons why he decided to perform one final time at the UK-Goan Festival. “I was supposed to perform here last year, but I could not perform because of my operation. And



the president of Goan UK, Mr Ravi Vaz, was kind enough to invite me again this year. And this year, I didn’t want to say no. I could not say no. So here I am,” he said. The second reason was that he had wanted to perform before Goans in the UK for a long time. “Finally, my wish has come true. And I’m going to be performing for you. And I wish to apologise for the fact that my fingers are not what they used to be. My throat is not what it used to be. And I have to sit down and perform,” he said. For the next hour, Fernandes took the audience on a trip down memory lane by performing the songs that made him a pop sensation, from “Maria Pitache” to “Humma Humma”. Fernandes is best known for blending Goan, Portuguese, rock, pop, Latin, reggae and world music influences into a distinctive sound. Born on May 8, 1953, in Goa, Fernandes studied architecture at Sir J J College of Architecture in Mumbai before choosing music as a full-time career. He rose to prominence in the 1980s, long before India’s independent music scene became mainstream. His English-language albums, including his debut “Pack That Smack” (1986) and “Bombay City”, established him as one of India’s leading rock musicians, while songs such as “Bombay City”, “Mr Minister” and “Down with Brown” became cult classics. Fernandes achieved nationwide fame with playback hits including “Humma Humma” (“Bombay”), “Huiya Ho” (“Khamoshi: The Musical”), “Pyar To Hona Hi Tha”, “O Meri Munni” and “Signal”. Over the years, he has performed alongside or shared the stage with internationally renowned musicians, including members of Queen and Led Zeppelin, and has toured extensively across India and abroad.



been as memorable.

India begin Sri Lanka Test preparations with crucial warm-up match



Colombo: Indian batters will be keen to fine-tune their skills against spin during a three-day warm-up match against a local Sri Lanka XI at the Nondescripts Cricket Club here on Friday as they gear up for a two-match Test series against the Islanders next week. Quality spin proved to be India's Achilles Heel against New Zealand and South Africa at home recently, and the challenge will not be any different against Sri Lanka. The Islanders have a capable unit of tweakers, particularly in home conditions, and thus this warm-up match assumes massive importance for Indian batters ahead of the first Test at Galle on August 15. Some frontline batters like skipper Shubman Gill, KL Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal had started preparations against spin individually at their home facilities before boarding the flight to Colombo, but that cannot really supplant an outing on a Sri Lankan pitch. The three-day match will give them valuable first-hand idea about local conditions, and it is important because many of them are playing the red-ball format for the first time on these shores. India's last Test series in Sri Lanka was in 2017, and the team composition has undergone vast changes in the last decade. In fact, only Rahul, Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja in this squad have appeared in Test matches in Sri Lanka. In the absence of an injured Jasprit Bumrah, pacer Mohammed Siraj will be India's bowling lead with support coming from Prasidh Krishna, Gurnoor Brar, Manav Suthar and Saransh Jain. This largely inexperienced bowling lineup, except Siraj and Kuldeep, will be eager to bowl on a Lankan pitch once again. Both

Brar and Jain had very good outings for India A against Sri Lanka A last month at Galle, and they will be raring to have another round of practice under their belt. Head Coach Gautam Gambhir emphasised on this point. "We know what is in front of us. We can do volume, we can push our limits, we can tick all the boxes and come 15th morning whether we are batting first or bowling first we will be absolutely ready with every answer to every question thrown at us." So make sure to tick all the boxes from now on," Gambhir exhorted his wards in a video posted by BCCI. However, intermittent rain is predicted to lash the city from Friday and that may jeopardise India's designs. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka also announced a strong SLC XI that contained some frontrunners to make it to the Test squad. Led by Sonal Dinusha, who has played three Tests for SL, the squad features pacers Vishwa Fernando, Lahiru Kumara and spinners Isitha Wijesundara and Ramesh Mendis. History

Teams (from)
India: Shubman Gill (Captain), KL Rahul (Vice-Captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rishabh Pant (WK), Sai Sudharsan*, Dhruv Jurel (WK), Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Manav Suthar, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Gurnoor Brar, Devdutt Padikkal, Saransh Jain, Auqib Nabi. SLC XI: Nishan Madushka, Ravindu Rashantha, Pasindu Sooriyabandara, Pavan Rathnayake, Ahan Wickramasinghe, Sonal Dinusha (Captain), Anjala Bandara (wk), Nipun Dananjaya, Lahiru Kumara, Vishwa Fernando, Asanka Manoj, Isitha Wijesundara, Ramesh Mendis, Kesara Nuwantha, Dilum Sudeera.

Griekspoor stuns World No. 3 Zverev in Montreal

Montreal: Tallon Griekspoor recorded the biggest win of his season at the Canadian Open as he stunned top seed Alexander Zverev 6-7(3), 6-2, 6-4 to earn his third Top-5 victory. The Dutchman arrived in Canada having triumphed in just one of his past eight tour-level matches. However, the former World No 21, currently at No. 69 in the ATP Rankings, has rediscovered his best level at the ATP Masters 1000 event to reach the third round. Griekspoor becomes the first men's player to beat the No. 1 seed in the Canadian Open opener since Nick Kyrgios defeated Daniil Medvedev in 2022. Griekspoor, despite possessing a 2-9 record against Zverev, has played him very tough in recent years. They split marathon outings in 2025 and Griekspoor let slip a double break lead in the fifth set at the 2024 French Open. With his potent serve, he can be difficult to break — and that was the case Wednesday. Griekspoor, ranked no. 69, down from his career high of no. 21 in 2023, did well to regroup in the match. He had a set point before the first set tiebreaker but went passive in the rally, missing a backhand. Griekspoor continued to



thrive and broke for 3-2 in the third frame by smashing an inside-out forehand to end a long rally. Down 2-4, 0-30, Zverev found a way to hold to realistically keep his chances alive. He duly faced his first break point in the next game and lost serve when Zverev crushed a backhand down the line. But he broke back and sealed proceedings by delivering a forehand down the line. His forehand produced 20 winners and Griekspoor went 17-for-18 at the net. He will next face Matteo Arnaldi or Fabian Marozsan. Six of the Top-10 seeds are already out in Montreal. Zverev, Daniil Medvedev, Flavio Cobolli, Taylor Fritz and Andrey Rublev all lost their opening matches, while Felix Auger-Aliassime was forced to withdraw due to a back injury. The draw has now opened opportunities for #NextGenATP stars Rafael Jodar and Joao Fonseca.

Ayush Shetty draws defending champion Shi Yuqi in BWF World Championships opener

Hyderabad: The Indian medal hopefuls were handed a tricky draw for the BWF World Championships 2026 to be played at the Indira Gandhi Stadium here from August 17-23 with Asian Championships silver medallist Ayush Shetty pitted against defending champion and top seed Shi Yuqi of China in the men's singles opening round. Among the other Indians, former world champion PV Sindhu will open her campaign against world number 141 Sophia Nobel of Ireland while 2022 world championships bronze medallist Lakshya Sen will face Collins Valentine Filimon of Austria in the men's singles first round and could face second seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand in the pre-quarterfinals. In the men's doubles draw, fifth seeds Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have a bye in the opening and will play the winners of the match between Alexander Dunn and Adam Pringle of Scotland and Thailand's Chaloepon Charoenkitamorn and Worrapol Thongsa-Nga. India is hosting the BWF world championships after a gap of 17-years and the live draw took place in the National Capital on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, Badminton Association of India general secretary Sanjay Mishra said, "That over Rs. 20 crore have been spent on refurbishing the Indira Gandhi Multipurpose Indore Stadium for the Championships and is confident that the hosting of the event will set new standards for world badminton. While India is aiming to win multiple medals on their home turf, all eyes would be on five-time world championships medallist PV Sindhu, who has struck form in the run-up to the Championships by winning the Japan Open last month. Sindhu has managed to avoid the likes of world



number one An Se Young of South Korea and defending champion Akane Yamaguchi of Japan before the medal rounds. Though placed in the same half as Young, Sindhu is likely to meet China's third seed Wang Zhi Yi in the pre-quarterfinals with a possible last eight clash against sixth seed Putri Wardani of Indonesia.

For Satwik and Chirag, the first real challenge is expected to come from the 12th seeded Indonesian pair of Raymond Indra and Nikolaus Joaquin, who reached the finals of the Indonesia Open in June this year. Speaking immediately after the draw ceremony, chief coach Pullela Gopichand pointed out that the men's singles category was one of the most open event in terms of number of players who could go on to win the title. "Overall it looks like a good draw from an Indian perspective. It will be a big first round clash between Shi Yuqi and Ayush Shetty and given Ayush's attacking game it is better to play Shi first up than later in the tournament," he added. Ayush has lost to the reigning world champion in all their three meetings but has run the Chinese close when they met earlier in the draw. Among the other Indians in fray, Unnati Hooda will face Thet Htar Thuzar of Myanmar in the opening round with a possible clash against 13th seed Michelle Li of Canada in the second round.

Birla Blazers survive late comeback to beat Charminar Chargers 34-33



Hyderabad: Birla Blazers scored a thrilling 34-33 win against Charminar Chargers after leading 22-8 at half-time to clinch honours in the sub-junior girls category of the Hyderabad district basketball championship at YMCA Secunderabad here on Wednesday. It was a low scoring first quarter which saw Birla Blazer's Tanvi using her height to good effect to score four points, but it was Anika's free-throw separated them as Charminar Chargers led 6 – 5 at end. The Blazers dominated the second quarter first with tight defence restricting Chargers to just two points and then in offence playing a fast paced game with Dishu scoring at will scoring 11 points. With support from Yagna and Mithanya, Blazers scored a massive 17 points to sit comfortably 22 – 8 at half time. After the lemon break a rejuvenated Chargers, led by Saanvika and two three-pointers scored 12 points in the team score of 16 to bridge the gap to just 2

points as Blazers led 26 – 24 at end of third quarter.

In the keenly-contested fourth quarter, there was little to separate the two teams. With just 40 seconds left for the match scores were level 30 – 30, Dishu of Blazers scored two consecutive baskets through drive in to lead 34 – 30. With just 10 seconds left the clock Saanvika of Chargers scored a three-pointer to bridge the score to just one point at 33 – 34. However, Blazers were able to control the ball for the remaining seconds to win the thriller.

The scores: Final: Sub-junior girls: Birla Blazers 34 (Dishu 21, Yagna 6, Tanvi 4) bt Charminar Chargers 33 (Saanvika 17, Anika 8).

-6; Tanvi-4, Mithanya-2)

Tuesday match: Golconda Gladiators 42 (Akshith 12; Praneeth 8, Shried 8, Prajwal 7) bt Keesara Kings 33 (Havish 6, Satwik 6, Alex 4, Rohit 4).

Sensex weekly expiry to debut under Closing Auction System amid volatility concerns



Mumbai: The weekly expiry of headline index Sensex derivatives on Thursday will be the first to take place under India’s new Closing Auction System (CAS) as market participants brace for higher volatility amid concerns over relatively thin liquidity in the BSE cash market. Traders are approaching the session cautiously after the Nifty’s Tuesday expiry when the benchmark index surged more than 150 points during the closing auction that triggered sharp moves in derivatives and caught several market participants off guard. According to many analysts, concerns are more pronounced for Sensex because the cash market underlying the index sees significantly lower participation during the auction window than the NSE which raised the possibility that the final settlement price could be more susceptible to large trades. The effectiveness of the system depends on broad market participation, they added. The market experts further noted that auction volumes on the NSE have improved in recent sessions, with the gap between Nifty spot and futures prices narrowing, participation in the Sensex closing auction remains comparatively limited. Reflecting the uncertainty, implied volatility on Sensex call options rose sharply ahead of Thursday’s expiry which indicated that traders are pricing in a higher probability of signifi-

cant late-session price swings. In addition, under the Closing Auction System, stock exchanges collect buy and sell orders during a designated auction window and determine a single equilibrium price at which the maximum number of orders can be matched. However, the mechanism was rolled out to improve price discovery at market close. Meanwhile, some participants warned that low liquidity could make the settlement price easier to influence if a few heavyweight stocks witness aggressive buying or selling during the auction. Even relatively small price moves in index heavyweights could have a disproportionate impact on the Sensex closing level and, consequently, on options settlement, according to them. On the other hand, as per some analysts, such concerns may be overstated, saying that traders are likely to reduce exposure following the volatility witnessed during Tuesday’s Nifty expiry rather than take aggressive positions ahead of the first Sensex expiry under the new mechanism. Despite near-term concerns, analysts broadly expect any volatility arising from the Closing Auction System to be temporary as market participation improves and price discovery becomes more efficient over time. Additionally, BSE has issued an advisory for investors and traders to familiarise themselves with the CAS.

Indian markets open higher on hopes of US-Iran peace deal

Mumbai: Domestic equity markets opened higher on Thursday amid hopes of US-Iran peace deal and a better-than-expected June earnings season so far. Sensex started the session at 78,782.43, up 0.25 per cent or 200 points, while Nifty opened at 24,632.65, an increase of 8 points or 0.03 per cent. Sector-wise, IT, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and healthcare stocks were traded higher in early deals as Nifty IT, Nifty Chemicals, Nifty Pharma and Nifty 500 Healthcare jumped up to 0.50 per cent. On the other hand, Nifty Cement, Nifty Metal, Nifty Auto and Nifty Realty decreased by up to 0.52 per cent. From the Nifty constituents, Trent, Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M), NTPC, Power Grid, Bajaj Finance, TMPV, Bharti Airtel, ONGC, Hindalco Industries, JSW Steel, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Maruti Suzuki, Tata Steel and Bajaj Auto were among the top losers. Analysts said that the August monetary policy didn’t influence the market trend, adding that the brief message from the policy is that rate hike is some time away and therefore, interest-elastic sectors are unlikely to be influenced by interest rates in the near-term. However, there are interest-elastic sectors like financials and autos which are doing well due to other fundamental factors, according to the experts. They further noted that the Q1 results of financials — particu-



larly NBFCs and automobiles — signal sustained growth driven by buoyant demand conditions. “Strong sectors like pharmaceuticals and telecom have reported good results with indications of better times ahead,” they said. Moreover, foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned net sellers on Wednesday, offloading Indian equities worth Rs 943 crore, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) continued to provide strong support to the market and purchased equities worth Rs 2,883 crore. In addition, reports claim that there is a proposed agreement between Iran and Oman to help end the US-Iran war. Tehran would gain control over ships entering the Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz, marking a significant concession to Iran, they added. On the commodities front, international benchmark Brent crude slipped 0.51 per cent to remain below the \$80 per barrel mark, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude declined by 0.77 per cent to \$74.64.

Rupee falls 16 Paise to close at 95.24 against US Dollar

Mumbai: The rupee depreciated 16 paise to close at 95.24 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, on slight gains in the US Dollar Index and a modest increase in US Treasury yields. Forex traders said the rupee was pressured by a slight recovery in the US Dollar Index and foreign fund outflows, even as lower crude oil prices provided some underlying support. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 95.13 against the greenback and traded in a range of 95.12-95.24 during the session. It eventually settled at 95.24 (provisional), lower by 16 paise from its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee gained 20 paise to settle at 95.08 against the US dollar. “Indian Rupee declined today on a slight bounce in the US Dollar index and modest gains in the US treasury yields. “However, weak crude oil prices and hopes of a deal between the US and Iran prevented a sharp fall,” said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Mirae Asset ShareKhan. Choudhary further said that the rupee is likely to trade with a slight positive bias on a rise in risk appetite in global markets amid hopes of a deal between the US and Iran. “However, any bounce back in the dollar index and US treasury yields may cap sharp gains. Traders may take cues from weekly unemployment claims data from the US.



USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 94.80 to 95.50,” Choudhary said. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 99.78, down 0.11 per cent. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading higher by 0.09 per cent at USD 79.52 per barrel in futures trade. For India, Brent near USD 80 per barrel substantially reduces the pressure on the import bill, inflation and the current account compared with the USD 100+ levels seen in July, said Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP, said. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex climbed 373.76 points to settle at 78,954.76, while the Nifty closed marginally up by 11.35 points to 24,636. Foreign institutional investors turned to selling and offloaded equities worth Rs 943.42 crore on a net basis on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

PhonePe launches fixed deposit service, introduces Daily RD with partner banks and NBFCs

New Delhi: PhonePe on Thursday announced the official launch of Fixed Deposit (FD) Distribution on its platform, partnering with prominent banks and NBFCs. Expanding its comprehensive financial services suite, PhonePe in partnership with Shivalik Small Finance Bank has also introduced an innovative, first-of-its-kind digital micro-savings product — the Daily Recurring Deposit (SIP). This offering enables users to build a disciplined savings habit with investments starting at just Rs 100 per day. The launch enables opening FDs directly within the PhonePe app, designed to act as a stable, low-risk savings option. Users can seamlessly discover, compare, and instantly book FDs from trusted partners. FDs booked with the partner banks are insured up to Rs 5 Lakh by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), as per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines. Additionally, it enables users to invest across multiple banks and facilitates seamless management of all their FDs within the PhonePe app. A key highlight of the announcement is the introduction of the Daily RD (SIP), launched in strategic partnership with Shivalik Small Finance Bank. Combining the flexible, automated habit of a daily SIP with the security and familiarity of a bank deposit, the Daily RD allows mainstream consumers, Millennials, Gen Z, and underbanked populations to automate small-ticket investments ranging from Rs 100 to Rs 1,000 per day. Backed by the simplicity and scale of UPI Autopay, this micro-saving mechanism offers instant liquidity, allowing users to withdraw funds after just 7 days or stop the mandate anytime with no penalties on missing investments during a consecutive 15-day grace period. Speaking on the launch, Deep Agrawal, VP and Head of Payments at PhonePe said, “At PhonePe, our vision is to empower every Indian to accelerate their financial progress by unlocking seamless access to financial services. The launch of our fixed deposit distribution, along with the Daily RD



product, marks a significant milestone in that direction. Fixed Deposits remain a cornerstone of Indian household savings, offering guaranteed returns. By turning a traditionally offline process into a seamless, 100 per cent digital journey, with the ability to interoperably invest using any bank account on the UPI rails, we are making these savings instruments accessible to the heart of Bharat with absolute confidence, capital safety, and convenience. “PhonePe users can access and book fixed deposits on the PhonePe app via opening the PhonePe app and tapping Fixed Deposits or Daily RD under the “Mutual Funds & Deposit” section on the home screen. After that select the preferred partner bank or NBFC from the aggregated dashboard. Then, select the tenure (7 days up to 10 years) and enter the investment amount. Users now have to perform instantaneous digital identity verification via PAN and Aadhaar. Now, add nominee details and complete the secure payment via PhonePe UPI or Netbanking to book the deposit instantly. For Daily RD, authorise the automated UPI Autopay mandate. The PhonePe app offers flexibility to withdraw FDs and Daily RDs seamlessly at any time of the day.

There Is No Shortage Of Fertilizers In The District Farmers Need Not Stand In Queue Lines

Surprise Inspection At Sri Manikantha Seeds And Fertilizers Detailed Review Of Fertilizer Distribution System District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha

Nandigama, August 6:“District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha on Thursday made a surprise visit to Sri Manikantha Seeds And Fertilizers shop in Nandigama town and inspected the fertilizer distribution process at the field level. She personally inspected whether fertilizers are being provided transparently to farmers and whether government rules are being followed. She checked whether helpline numbers required for farmers and fertilizer price lists were displayed clearly in the shop. She also examined whether farmers purchasing fertilizers had completed the relevant crop registration. On this occasion, the District Collector examined the fertilizer details allotted to farmers through the APAIMS App. She reviewed the app for details such as farmer’s cultivated land area, crop registration, allotment of fertilizers like Urea, DAP as per eligibility, quantity already obtained, and balance yet to be obtained, and gave necessary instructions to

officials. Speaking on this occasion, District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha made it clear that there is No Shortage Of Fertilizers in the district. She said there is no need for anyone to stand in queue lines for fertilizers. She said every farmer registered in the APAIMS App can obtain fertilizers as per eligibility at any time. She explained that the fertilizer quota allotted by the government to each farmer remains earmarked for that farmer only, and there is no need to take it all at once. Farmers can obtain fertilizers as per their quota whenever required. The District Collector suggested that farmers should not use chemical fertilizers in excess of requirement. She said excessive use of fertilizers will have a negative impact on crops, soil fertility, environment, and also on the health of people consuming the food. She suggested farmers to use fertilizers only in the quantity required for one acre as per scientific standards. The Collector said that by cultivating Green



Manure Crops, soil fertility can be increased and chemical fertilizer usage can be reduced significantly. She also said that by following the Crop Rotation method, the land remains fertile and farmers get stable income. In the backdrop of El-Nino effect across the country, she suggested farmers to focus on Dry Land Crops keeping in view water availability. She said that by selecting crops according to weather conditions, losses can be avoided and profitable agriculture can be done. District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha Inspects Organic Farming Fields In Raghavapuram. Later, the District Collector visited crop fields being cultivated under organic methods in Raghavapuram Village and interacted directly with farmers. She enquired about crop yield, cultivation methods, and mar-

ket opportunities. She also enquired whether farmers had taken crop loans through banks. The District Collector said vegetables and food products grown without chemical fertilizers and pesticides are very beneficial for health. She said vegetables grown under organic methods are tasty as well as have high nutritional value. She appealed to the public to purchase organic products grown by farmers to promote organic agriculture. She suggested farmers to increase the area under organic cultivation every year and give priority to natural farming. Nandigama RDO A. Anil Kumar, Tahsildar Noothakki Suresh Babu, MPDO Vara Prasad, APO Sarat Babu, revenue staff, agricultural extension officers and officials of other departments participated in this tour.

Getting Voting Right Is The Responsibility Of Every Eligible Person

Apply With Required Certificates And Enroll As A Voter Deadline For Receipt Of Claims And Objections Till August 30 Claims And Objections To Be Resolved By September 28 District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha



Nandigama, August 6:“District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said every eligible citizen must necessarily get voting rights and enrolling as a voter is everyone’s constitutional responsibility. In the backdrop of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls being carried out across the country as per directions of the Election Commission Of India, the District Collector personally reviewed the manner in which the special electoral roll revision process is being implemented effectively. She inspected the notices being issued for scrutiny of Claims And Objections in Nandigama town limits. She directed BLOs to create complete awareness among the public, receive every application as per rules and complete the enquiry in time. She suggested that services should be provided transparently without causing any inconvenience to the public. The Collector said the Draft Electoral Rolls for the district were released on July 31, 2026. She said eligible persons need not be disappointed even if their name is not enrolled in the voter list for any reason, or if their name has been deleted. She suggested them to contact the concerned BLO and file Claims And Objections with required certificates. The Collector said notices will be issued on the submitted claims and objections, and after conducting a comprehensive field level enquiry, steps will be taken to re-enroll every eligible person in the voter list. She said every application will be

scrutinized transparently and decision will be taken as per rules. The Collector revealed that the deadline for filing Claims And Objections is August 30, 2026. She said all received applications will be examined and steps will be taken to resolve them by September 28, 2026. She requested that every eligible person should submit their applications before the deadline expires. She suggested that those who were earlier enrolled as voters and whose names are not present in the currently announced draft voter list should register their objections by submitting any one of the 11 Approved Certificates prescribed by the Government Of India. She said if applications are made with proper proof, they will be examined as per rules and voting rights will be given to those who are eligible. The Collector said every Indian citizen who has completed 18 Years of age is eligible for voting right, and suggested eligible youth to apply through Form-6 with relevant certificates and get their names enrolled in the voter list. She called upon that voting right is the most valuable in protection of democracy and every eligible person should utilize this opportunity. Nandigama RDO A. Anil Kumar, Tahsildar Noothakki Suresh Babu, Municipal Commissioner Lovaraju, MPDO Vara Prasad, revenue department officials and staff participated in this visit.

Teams To Meet Every Farmer At RSK Level From Tomorrow To Tackle Super El-Nino Impact

Natural Farming Inputs Including PMDS Seed Kits Available At BRCs District Agriculture Officer Smt. Ch. Tirumala Devi

District, August 6:“Keeping in view the impact of Super El-Nino, District Agriculture Officer Smt. Ch. Tirumala Devi informed that from tomorrow (07.08.2026) teams will meet every farmer in the jurisdiction of each RSK across the district with RSK Incharge Team Leader as Gram Sahayakulu of Agriculture Allied Departments, Gram Prakruthi Vyavasaya Staff, Gram Saguneeti President And Members, Gram Adarsha Rythulu. These teams will meet farmers and create awareness to prevent crops sown from being damaged due to El-Nino heat by: Spraying Liquid Jeevamrutham, a natural farming method Sowing 6 Types Of Inter Crops in cotton and chilli crops for guaranteed income In fields where main crops are not sown, create awareness to prepare PMDS Seeds (Seed Balls Of 20 To 30 Types Of Crop Seeds, 12 Kgs In One Kit) under natural farming method and sow them so that farmers get minimum

income. In mango orchards, sow these PMDS Seeds and use them as fodder after 40 days Similarly, sow these PMDS Seeds in vacant lands for fodder. She said these PMDS Seeds are Not Available in seed shops. They are available only at Prakruthi Vyavasaya Vanarula Kendram (BRC) set up in natural farming villages. APCNF District Project Manager G. Srinivasa Rao informed that at present there are 37 BRCs in the district and these BRCs have the capacity to provide 900 Quintals Of PMDS Seeds, i.e., approximately 7000 Kits. He further said that keeping in view farmers' needs, all natural farming resources like Sticky Traps, Pheromone Traps for pest and disease control, Kashayams, and Tonics for spray for crop strength have been made available at BRC centers. For details of these BRCs, he suggested farmers to contact Gram Agriculture Sahayakulu or Gram Prakruthi Vyavasaya Staff.

Scholarship For Children Of Ex-Servicemen

Vijayawada, 2026:“For the academic year 2026-27, the Kendra Sainik Board, New Delhi has invited applications for scholarship under the Prime Minister Scholarship Scheme for children of Ex-Servicemen studying in the first year of professional courses. Eligible Courses:“B.E., B.Tech, M.B.B.S., B.D.S., B.Ed., B.B.A., B.Pharmacy, L.L.B., M.B.A., M.C.A., B.Sc. (Nursing) and other professional courses. Eligibility:“Candidates must have secured a minimum of 60 Percent Marks in the qualifying examination for admission to professional courses. Scholarship Amount: Rs.

30,000/- Per Year for Male Students Rs. 36,000/- Per Year for Female Students How To Apply:“Eligible candidates should fill Annexure – I, II & III through www.ksb.gov.in and submit the completed online application forms along with relevant certificates to the District Sainik Welfare Office on or before the Last Date: 31-12-2026. District Sainik Welfare Officer (Retd. A.C. Bha) Sri Y. Eswara Rao, Vijayawada informed the above. For further details, contact District Sainik Welfare Office, Vijayawada during office hours or call Phone No. 0866 – 2473330 / 86888 17829.