

Passbook Distribution Program In Vindhyavasi Pattadar Passbooks



Distributed: Andhra Pradesh MSME and Rural Poverty Alleviation Minister Kondapalli Srinivas distributed official state-emblem (Rajamudra) Pattadar Passbooks to 309 farmers following land re-surveys in Vindhyavasi village, Dattirajeru Mandal, Gajapathina gam constituency.

Government Policy: The Minister highlighted that the initiative under 'Mana Bhoomi - Mana Hakku' fulfills the coalition government's pledge to provide official state-emblem passbooks without personal photos, ensuring security and

transparency for farmers across all re-surveyed villages.

Directives to Officials: Revenue officials were instructed to act responsibly in resolving land disputes, clearly explain re-survey details to the public, and come fully prepared to government events. Strict action was warned against negligent staff.

Key Attendees: TDP Politburo member Gantyada Sridevi, AMC Chairman P.V.V. Gopala Raju, BJP leader Reddi Pavani, and Mandal Party President Chappa Chandrasekhar participated in the event.

AP to procure 1,600 MW thermal power

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh is set to procure 1,600 mw of coal-based thermal power to meet rising electricity demand and strengthen long-term energy security, with the Andhra Pradesh Electricity



Regulatory Commission (APERC) granting in-principle approval to the state's power distribution companies to launch competitive bidding. The procurement will be undertaken through tariff-based competitive bidding under Section 63 of the Electricity Act, 2003, following the Design, Build, Finance, Own and Operate (DBFOO) model. The State will use standard bidding

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Jagan slams Naidu over 'attack' on DSC protesters

Amaravati: YSRCP president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, on Friday slammed Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu over the alleged attack on YSRCP cadres participating in a relay hunger strike to demand a CBI inquiry into the DSC 2025 paper leak and irregularities in recruitment of teachers. Jagan Mohan Reddy told Chandrababu Naidu that he may unleash police and arrest the protesters but cannot crush the anger of unemployed youth or silence Andhra Pradesh's Gen Z. "Mr Chandra babu Naidu, how low will your government stoop to protect your son? Is violence your answer to unemployed youth and your failed promises to them?," said Jagan Mohan Reddy in a post on 'X'. YSRCP has been



organising a relay hunger strike across the state to demand res-

Weather patterns change in AP and Telangana, rains expected

There are significant changes in the weather pattern in the Telugu states as there is formation of depression over the Bay of Bengal due to cyclonic circulation over southwest Bay and adjoining north Odisha. It extends up to 7.6 km above the sea level. Moderate rains are expected in Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, and Telangana in the next 48 hours. The winds in the lower atmosphere in Andhra Pradesh and Yanam are the main reason for rains as westerly and north-westerly winds blow in these areas. Widespread light to moderate rain or thundershowers are likely to occur in the North Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam on Saturday morning followed by thunderstorms and



lightning in a few places while gusty winds with speeds between 40 to 50 km/h are also likely. Light to moderate rain along with strong winds is likely to occur on Sunday and Monday as well. In South Coastal

Andhra, light to moderate rain is likely to occur on one or two places on Saturday followed by isolated thunderstorms and lightning and winds at speeds of 40 to 50 km/h. It will be simi-

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Andhra Pradesh: Local Body Mayors and Chairpersons likely to have direct elections



The alliance government in Andhra Pradesh seems to have considering a major change in the method of local government elections. The primary objective of changing the electoral system is to make the elections of Mandal Parishad Presidents, Zilla Parishad Chairpersons, Municipal Chairpersons and Mayors direct elections and not indirect. Historical background Earlier,

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Tirupati MP alleges discrimination against SC, ST employees in TTD

Tirupati: Tirupati MPM Gurumoorthy has raised concerns over the alleged discrimination faced by SC and ST employees in Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), along with the delay in filling



vacant posts and the growing workload on staff. Speaking to the media in Tirupati during the visit of National Commission for Scheduled Castes chairman to Tirumala on

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Mega DSC-2025 teachers rally against YSRCP in Kurnool



Kurnool (Andhra Pradesh): Nearly 4,000 teachers who were appointed through the 'Mega DSC-2025' recruitment process took out a rally here on Saturday, condemning the YSRCP over the alleged "misinformation campaign" on their

recruitment. Over the past several months, the YSRCP has levelled many allegations against the District Selection Committee, which recruited over 15,000 government teach-

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Bandh observed in Paderu of Alluri Sitarama Raju district, tension prevails

'Manyam Bandh' (tribal region shutdown) is proceeding amidst high tension in Paderu, the headquarters of Alluri district. Leaders from various tribal organisations staged a sit-in early in the morning at the local RTC complex junction. A heavy police force was de-

ployed in view of the shutdown. Protesters raised slogans demanding the immediate issuance of an alternative Government Order (GO) regarding the 'GO 3' reservation issue, the fulfillment of the promise made by CM Chandrababu, and the strict

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Tech upgrade of public toilets, a must to improve public health

Personal hygiene, public health, and environmental protection are inseparable pillars of a healthy society. Ensuring access to safe, clean, and hygienic public toilets is a fundamental responsibility of every government. Unfortunately, the condition of public toilets in many towns and cities across India remains deplorable. This is not merely an inconvenience—it has become a serious public health concern. The need for a toilet can arise unexpectedly while traveling or due to changes in diet. Yet, clean public toilets are rarely available in vegetable and fruit markets, fish and meat markets, bus stations, railway stations, shopping complexes, and along major highways. Farmers, truck drivers, porters, street vendors, and other daily wage workers traveling from rural areas are among the worst affected. In the absence of adequate toilet facilities, people are often forced to urinate or defecate behind shops, in residential colonies, basements, or vacant plots. Such practices create foul odours, attract flies and mosquitoes, and significantly increase the risk of infectious diseases. Even where public toilets exist, they are often poorly maintained. Gutka and pan stains on walls, cigarette butts, broken doors, non-functional flush systems, inadequate water supply, and unbearable foul smells discourage people from using them. Women and girls suffer the most from this lack of sanitation facilities. During emergencies, many are forced to suppress their natural needs for hours due to the unavailability of clean toilets, leading to urinary tract infections, kidney-related ailments, and other health complications. Many women even avoid drinking water before traveling because of the lack of safe restroom facilities. Although the Supreme Court of India has directed that every government school should have adequate toilet facilities, many schools still lack functional toilets. Even where toilets exist, poor maintenance makes them unusable. Adolescent girls face particular difficulties during menstruation, adversely affecting their education and, in many cases, contributing to school dropouts. Municipal regulations require commercial buildings, office complexes, and shopping malls to provide sufficient toilets on every floor. However, these rules often remain confined to paper. Weak monitoring by town planning authorities and municipal bodies has resulted in widespread non-compliance, causing significant inconvenience to the public. Open urination continues to be common in many urban areas. Although thousands of crores of rupees have been collected through the Swachh Bharat Cess, there is little transparency regarding how much of these funds are actually spent on constructing and maintaining public toilets. Another growing concern is that garbage bins placed adjacent to public toilets often turn these facilities into mini dumping yards. Sanitation workers are frequently denied basic protective equipment such as gloves, masks, mechanical cleaning tools, disinfectants, detergents, and phenyl. Continuous exposure to chemicals such as acids and bleaching powder without adequate protection increases their risk of respiratory and occupational diseases. In many urban public toilets, users are charged ₹3 to ₹5 even for using urinals.

Weather patterns change in AP and Telangana, rains expected

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lar on Sunday and Monday with rain. Rayalaseema may see light to moderate rain at one or two places on Sunday and isolated thunderstorms, lightning, and strong winds on Monday. As far as Telangana is concerned, it remains under the monsoon trough that prevails from Anupgarh and Delhi to Digha through the east-central Bay of Bengal according to the Hyderabad Metrological Centre. Hence, there are chances of light to moderate rains in isolated places in Telangana in the coming days. No advisories regarding heavy rains have been issued but people and travelers in the coastal areas should remain alert as there can be sudden rainfall.

Andhra Pradesh: Local Body Mayors and Chairpersons likely to have direct elections

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Mandal Parishad Presidents and Zilla Parishad Chairpersons were directly elected. However, a new Panchayat Raj System was introduced in such a way that elected members of MPTC and ZPTC elected their respective Parishad Presidents. What the government is planning? The current alliance government seems to have contemplating to amend the constitution to provide for direct elections to MPPs and ZPPs like election for Sarpanches and also for MLAs and ministers. This would enable them to serve their five year term without the challenges of no-confidence motions. Earlier, the TDP government had tried to cancel the posts of MPTC and ZPTC members contending that they did not have any powers. But, it could not do so. This new government also feels that direct elections to these posts would strengthen the local bodies. The Panchayat Raj system in Andhra Pradesh was initiated in 1959. The 73 rd Constitutional Amendment of 1992 and the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Act of 1994 have shaped today's system of local governance in the state. The three-tier system of Gram Panchayat, Mandal Parishad and Zilla Parishad was formed followed by direct election for members of the Gram Panchayat, MPTC and ZPTC. The elections for the members of MPTC and ZPTC were held for the first time in 1995.

AP to procure 1,600 MW thermal power

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documents notified by the Union Ministry of Power. The 1,600 mw procurement constitutes the first phase of a larger thermal capacity addition programme. The Central Electricity Authority's Resource Adequacy Plan has recommended approximately 5,588 mw of additional coal-based generation capacity in Andhra Pradesh by FY 2035-36. The procurement follows a review meeting chaired by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on April 27, 2026, after which the distribution companies and Andhra Pradesh Power Coordination Committee were directed to initiate the process. The APPCC approved the proposal on June 11, while APERC granted in-principle approval on August 6. Also Read First coal rake from Naini block reaches Telangana Advertisement Discover more Politics Energy & Utilities Physics The planned capacity is expected to provide firm and dispatchable power to support industrial growth, urbanisation and electricity-intensive investments. Thermal generation will also complement the State's expanding renewable-energy portfolio by supporting the grid during evening peaks and periods of low solar and wind generation. APERC has clarified that its approval is limited to initiating the bidding process and does not constitute approval of the final tariff or power supply agreements. After bidding, the distribution companies must submit the bid evaluation report, discovered tariff and draft agreements for regulatory scrutiny. The Commission has directed them to reject bids if tariffs are found to be uncompetitive. The regulator has also advised preference for projects connected to the Andhra Pradesh State Transmission Network, while allowing inter-State projects where their landed power cost at the State boundary is lower. The project is expected to create significant opportunities for private developers under the DBFOO model, besides benefiting equipment manufacturers, lenders, fuel suppliers and infrastructure companies.

Tirupati MP alleges discrimination against SC, ST employees in TTD

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Friday, Gurumoorthy said TTD, a major religious institution, should follow proper administrative practices and respect constitutional principles. He alleged that SC and ST employees were not receiving promotions fairly and were also facing discrimination in opportunities for small businesses. More than 10,000 vacancies remained unfilled, increasing the workload on existing employees. The MP also questioned the absence of SC and ST representatives from TTD meetings and alleged that discrimination could be seen in promotion lists. He further criticised TTD officials for allegedly failing to follow proper protocol for the National Commission for Scheduled Castes chairman during his Tirumala visit. Gurumoorthy urged government institutions to protect constitutional rights and ensure equal treatment for all employees.

Mega DSC-2025 teachers rally against YSRCP in Kurnool

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ers in 2025. Teachers from the erstwhile Kurnool, Kadapa and Anantapur districts gathered at Konda Reddy Buruju in Kurnool town and took out a large rally to the District Zilla Parishad office under the banner "Teachers' Self-Respect Rally." "Around 4,000 teachers appointed through the Mega DSC-2025 participated in a massive Chalo Kurnool programme on Saturday, strongly condemning what they described as a deliberate misinformation campaign by the YSRCP against the recruitment process," a release shared by a government source to PTI said.

They submitted a representation at the Mahatma Gandhi statue, asserting that the 'Mega DSC' recruitment process had provided them with an opportunity to realise their long-cherished dream of becoming government teachers. The teachers said they had spent years preparing for competitive examinations, overcoming financial and personal hardship, and securing appointments through the recruitment process. They strongly objected to the alleged attempts to portray their hard-earned jobs as the result of irregularities or political favouritism, the release said. Questioning the basis of YSRCP's accusations, the teachers challenged the opposition party to produce concrete evidence, instead of allegedly making political statements. The teachers asserted that the recruitment process involved examination, merit-based selection and certificate verification, maintaining that candidates who had worked for years to secure government jobs should not be subjected to alleged unnecessary suspicion or mental harassment. Bhargavi from Chittoor district, who had secured a teaching post under the sports quota, said the Mega DSC-2025 had brought immense happiness to her family. The certificate verification process was conducted transparently and the decision to provide opportunities to sportspersons through the recruitment process had given considerable encouragement to athletes, she said.

Ravi Naik, another recruit under the sports quota, said, "We did not buy our jobs. We earned them through our qualifications, examination performance and the prescribed selection process. Every candidate knows the effort required to become a government teacher." Meanwhile, YSRCP MLC L Appi Reddy said the opposition party will campaign against Mega DSC-2025, demanding an impartial CBI probe into the recruitment process. He questioned the alleged changes in the sports quota, merit lists and transfer of key officials connected with the recruitment process.

Reddy demanded Education Minister Nara Lokesh to take "responsibility" and resign, vowing that YSRCP would also raise the DSC issue in the Assembly and the Legislative Council, a release quoting the YSRCP leader said. Reddy said the party will undertake rallies in all the 175 assembly constituencies on August 10, involving students, unemployed youth and people's organisations. Similarly, former minister and YSRCP leader Sake Sailajanath demanded the coalition government to answer "serious questions" raised over alleged irregularities in Mega DSC-2025, instead of issuing explanations that "do not address the concerns of candidates." Sailajanath said irregularities were alleged at every stage, from the preparation of question papers and merit lists to appointments under the sports quota. He demanded a proper inquiry to restore confidence among candidates ahead of the next DSC.

Bandh observed in Paderu of Alluri Sitarama Raju district, tension prevails

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implementation of the 1/70 Act. They sat on the road, blocking RTC buses and private vehicles; however, the police intervened to clear the protesters and allow the vehicles to proceed. Consequently, buses ran empty, without passengers. The shutdown is continuing in the G. Madugula, Pedabayalu, Munchangi Puttu, Araku Valley, Dumbiguda, and Hukumpeta mandals of the district. In the Munchangi Puttu mandal headquarters, organizers staged the protest on the road, undeterred by the rain. Key participants included P. Appalanarasa (National Executive Member, Adivasi Adhikar Rashtriya Manch), Dharmanna Padal (District President, Adivasi Girijana Sangham), Sundar Rao (District Assistant Secretary, CITU), Radhakrishna (District Secretary, Girijana Samakhya), and others. A shutdown by tribal organisations is also underway in Rampachodavaram. Protesters raised slogans demanding the strict implementation of tribal laws, and shops remained closed due to the shutdown.

India emerging as trusted global med-tech partner: Modi

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday highlighted India’s growing self-reliant medical technology ecosystem, saying domestic manufacturing, reduced import dependence and government support are helping the country emerge as a trusted global med-tech partner. In a post on X, PM Modi shared an article written by Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda on India’s progress in building a domestic medical devices ecosystem. “Union Health Minister JP Nadda highlights India’s growing self-reliant med-tech ecosystem, driven by domestic manufacturing, reduced import dependence and schemes such as PLI and Medical Device Parks,” Modi said. PM Modi further noted that India was steadily emerging as a trusted global med-tech partner focused on affordable and accessible health care. In the article, Nadda said the government has been working to strengthen domestic manufacturing of medical devices through initiatives including the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, Medical Device Parks and the Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma-MedTech (PRIP) scheme. He said more than 50 high-end medical devices have started being manufactured in India under the PLI scheme, while continued foreign investment reflects growing investor confidence in the sector. Nadda said reducing dependence on imported medical devices could help strengthen supply chains and create scope for cost efficiencies, while improving access to advanced diagnostics, im-



aging systems, implants and intensive-care equipment. He also highlighted opportunities in emerging areas such as artificial intelligence, software as a medical device, connected medical devices, robotics and remote diagnostics. According to Nadda, India’s med-tech market is currently valued at \$15-16 billion and is growing at nearly 12 per cent annually. “The sector is the fourth-largest medical technology market in Asia and among the top 20 globally,” he said. Nadda said the government’s focus is also on strengthening regulatory systems, testing infrastructure and clinical evidence generation to improve patient safety and align Indian products with international standards. The minister said a stronger medical devices sector could contribute to manufacturing, employment, exports and technological development while making healthcare more affordable, accessible and resilient. Earlier in the week, a report showed that the domestic medical device industry is expected to emerge as a global powerhouse with a projected market size of \$250 billion by 2047. “India’s medical device sector — which is currently valued at around \$14 billion — is projected to reach \$30-50 billion within this decade and likely to reach \$250 billion by 2047,” it said.

Justice system must understand people in their own languages: CJI Surya Kant

Indore: The Chief Justice of India, Justice Surya Kant, on Saturday called for a more inclusive and people-centric justice delivery system, saying access to justice begins with dialogue and requires the legal system to understand the concerns of communities in their own languages and dialects. Inaugurating the two-day West Zone Regional Conference on ‘Enhancing Access to Justice’, CJI Surya Kant said the themes of the conference — ‘United Voice’ and ‘Stronger Tomorrow’ — reflected the need to make dialogue, dignity and inclusion integral to the functioning of the justice system. The CJI said these three principles should not remain mere slogans but should define how the legal system engages with citizens. “I do not view these words merely as slogans for a banner, instead, I see them as an accurate description of what the legal system looks like when it truly functions,” he said. CJI Surya Kant referred to Indore’s historical association with Devi Ahilya Bai and her approach to justice, noting that she would meet farmers, widows and traders directly without intermediaries. He said there was no barrier between the ruler and the people during her time and described the decision to hold the conference in Indore as particularly appropriate. The CJI said dialogue was central to building a justice system that genuinely responds to people’s concerns. A collective voice, he said, can emerge only when individual voices are heard. “Access to justice has never been built by laws alone; it begins with a conversation. Before justice is delivered, people must feel that they have



been heard,” CJI Surya Kant said. Emphasising the role of paralegal volunteers and legal services institutions, he said local problems required local solutions and understanding those problems demanded direct engagement with communities. He stressed that legal services personnel must understand local languages and dialects to properly comprehend the concerns of ordinary people. “Unless you communicate in their language and truly grasp the concerns of the common people by listening to their own words, how can you devise a solution?” the CJI said. He also emphasised that dialogue must be a two-way process, with the justice delivery system not merely communicating decisions but listening to communities and understanding their problems. The conference is being held on August 8 and 9 under the joint aegis of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), New Delhi, the Madhya Pradesh State Legal Services Authority, Jabalpur, and the Madhya Pradesh High Court. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law and Justice, Arjun Ram Meghwal, Supreme Court and High Court judges, office-bearers of Legal Services Authorities, judicial officers and other distinguished citizens are attending the conference.

Surrendering to RSS agenda: Vijayan slams Kerala govt over full Vande Mataram

Kannur (Kerala): Leader of Opposition in the Kerala Assembly Pinarayi Vijayan on Saturday demanded the withdrawal of the chief secretary’s order directing that the full version of Vande Mataram be sung during Independence Day celebrations, alleging that the state government was surrendering to the RSS agenda. Responding to reporters’ questions, Vijayan said the complete version of Vande Mataram was not in keeping with the country’s secular principles and claimed that the Constituent Assembly had decided that only its initial stanzas should be sung. “Regarding Vande Mataram, there is something that our country has generally accepted. That is, the song Vande Mataram in its entirety does not align with secularism. When we decided to be a secular nation, the Constituent Assembly itself decided that a song that does not align with secularism should not be recited in that manner,” he said. He said there was nothing wrong with singing its initial stanzas. “The Constituent Assembly decided that only the first few lines need to be sung. This was the policy of leaders, including Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. That policy was also the policy of the Congress,” he said.

Vijayan said the policy changed after the present government came to power and pointed to the full rendition of Vande Mataram during the Cabinet swearing-in ceremony. “The shift occurred when this (UDF) government came to power. On the very first day, during the Cabinet swearing-in ceremony, Vande Mataram was sung in full,” he said. “Singing Vande Mataram in its entirety is the RSS policy. It is an RSS agenda. The government here showed a stance of completely surrendering to it. Widespread criticism was raised against this,” he said. Vijayan said the issue had resurfaced following reports that Vande Mataram would have to be sung in full during the Independence Day celebrations on August 15, along with the national anthem. “If that is the case, it is a serious matter. That is the RSS policy; it is not what our country accepted. When it comes to singing Vande Mataram, only the initial stanzas need to be sung,” he said. “So, from the swearing-in ceremony to the current events, what we can see is how much they are surrendering to the RSS agenda. What needs to be done now is to urgently rectify this matter,” Vijayan said. On August 6, Kerala Chief Secretary Bishwanath



Sinha issued a letter following a communication from the Union Ministry of Culture regarding the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, which will be observed from August 9 to 17 this year. The letter said the 2026 edition of the campaign, launched in 2022 under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, had been integrated with the third phase of the nationwide commemoration of 150 years of the National Song Vande Mataram, as approved by the National Implementation Committee chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Accordingly, all physical celebrations during the period would combine collective singing of Vande Mataram with the hoisting or display of the National Flag, while digital participation would be

routed through the Har Ghar Tiranga portal, where citizens could upload their “Selfie with Tiranga”. The letter said the Government of India’s instructions regarding the recitation of Vande Mataram would be followed in full. CPI(M) leader P Rajeev on Saturday criticised the UDF government over the chief secretary’s order. In a Facebook post, Rajeev alleged that the state government had been waiting for a communication from the Union Culture Ministry before taking the decision. “If the government is to function as directed by the Central government, the chief secretary is enough. Is there any need for the CM and ministers to sit in those chairs?” Rajeev asked. He alleged that the UDF government had accepted the decision without registering even a mild protest. “The national position of the Congress on this issue is that Vande Mataram should not be sung in full. AICC organisational general secretary K C Venugopal should clarify whether there has been any change in that position. If the Congress policy has not changed, Chief Minister V D Satheesan should say which party he belongs to now,” he said. Rajeev criticised the Indian Union Muslim League for not objecting to the move so far.

DMK’s Kanimozhi challenges Tamil Nadu CM over Mekedatu amid delimitation row

Chennai: Defending the DMK’s decision to boycott the MPs’ consultation meeting on delimitation convened by the TVK government, party Deputy General Secretary, Kanimozhi Karunanidhi, on Saturday questioned Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay’s priorities and challenged him to take concrete action against Karnataka’s proposed Mekedatu dam. Kanimozhi asked whether CM Vijay

was prepared to send representatives of the Tamil Nadu government along with MPs from the State to meet the Union Jal Shakti Minister and personally submit the Assembly resolution opposing the Mekedatu project. She argued that there was no immediate basis for the TVK government to convene a meeting on delimitation, pointing out that the Union government had neither announced plans to



introduce a Delimitation Bill during the current Parliament session nor communicated any proposal to amend the existing law. “When there is nothing before us, what is there to discuss?” she asked, explaining the DMK’s decision to stay

away from the meeting. Kanimozhi recalled that the previous DMK-led government had already convened an all-party meeting on delimitation and adopted a resolution expressing Tamil Nadu’s concerns. She said the DMK remained firm in opposing any delimitation exercise that could reduce the State’s representation in Parliament or adversely affect its rights. She noted that the Congress, CPI, CPI(M), VCK and IUML were among the parties that had participated in the earlier all-party meeting and opposed any delimitation formula detrimental to Tamil Nadu.

Two killed, four critical as Kerala bus overturns on Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway

Ramanagara (Karnataka): Two people were killed and several others injured after a KSRTC bus travelling from Kerala to Bengaluru lost control and crashed into a large signboard on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway near Avaragere Gate in Ramanagara taluk on Saturday. The condition of four travellers remains critical and they are being treated at a hospital. The accident occurred within the limits of Bidadi police station. According to preliminary information, the bus was travelling towards Bengaluru when the driver lost control of the vehicle. The bus rammed into a large directional signboard installed beside the highway and overturned on the road due to the impact. Two passengers died on the spot, while several others sustained injuries, including both minor and serious injuries. The injured were immediately shifted to nearby hospitals, where they are undergoing treatment. The deceased were identified as bus driver Mithilesh and conductor Arun, according to the preliminary investigation. About 20 travellers were injured in the incident. Police have stated that the driver lost control during rain and smashed into a large roadside signboard structure, causing the bus to overturn. Due to the impact, the signboard also collapsed. Following the accident, traffic movement on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway was severely affected, with ve-



hicles piling up on the stretch. Police and emergency personnel rushed to the spot and initiated measures to clear the overturned bus and restore normal traffic movement.

Personnel from the Bidadi police station and the Fire and Emergency Services Department reached the accident site soon after receiving information about the incident. The exact circumstances that led to the driver losing control of the bus are yet to be ascertained. Bidadi police have registered a case and launched an investigation into the accident. The bus was travelling from Kozhikode in Kerala to Bengaluru. Luckily, no other vehicles were close to the bus at the time of the accident. More details are yet to emerge regarding the incident. It can be recalled that four passengers were killed and several others injured in an accident on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway in Karnataka's Ramanagara district in the early hours of March 23 after a bus crashed into a roadside fence.

Implement 2023 law without conditions: Rahul Gandhi to Rijiju

New Delhi: Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi on Saturday responded to Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju's remarks on the women's quota Bill, stating that the legislation was unanimously passed in 2023 with the "full support of Congress" and accused the government of "unnecessarily" linking it to delimitation. Taking to X, LoP Gandhi said, "Mr Rijiju, who would know better than you, as the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, that the Women's Reservation Bill 2023 has already been passed unanimously, with the full support of the Congress." "The question is, why has it still not been implemented even after three years, and why do you now want to unnecessarily link it to delimitation? Implement the 2023 law. Without any conditions," LoP Gandhi added. This came as Rijiju responded to LoP Gandhi's remarks on women, saying that the Congress party should now have no difficulty in supporting the Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament. This came as LoP Gandhi made the comments in an Instagram post on Friday, expanding on his response during his "Ask Me Anything" session on Thursday, where he spoke about the need to ensure greater freedom and space for women in Indian society. LoP Gandhi said that no country can achieve true progress or fulfil its potential if women are not able to express themselves freely, stressing the need to bring women's voices back into public discourse and create an environment where they can pursue what they want. He further argued that the inability of women to express themselves has a wider impact on the country's development and progress. LoP Gandhi stressed that women's empowerment should not be restricted to their participation in business or politics, but should extend to their everyday lives, including their homes, families and public spaces. He explained



that women should also have the freedom to express opinions that may differ from those of people around them and to question established norms within their families and society.

Responding to LoP Gandhi's remarks, Rijiju described them as a potentially positive indication of a change in the Congress party's approach towards women's political representation. "This seems to be a positive message from the Congress Party. There's a visible change of heart in Shri Rahul Gandhi Ji about women. Now, I hope Congress Party will support the Women's Reservation Bill unconditionally," Rijiju said. The exchange comes amid the continuing political debate over women's representation in India's legislative institutions and the implementation of the Women's Reservation Bill. The Women's Reservation Bill, officially enacted as the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023 (also known as Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam), is a landmark law in India that reserves 33 per cent of seats for women in the Lok Sabha (the lower house of Parliament), state legislative assemblies, and the Delhi Legislative Assembly. The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026 was introduced in April 2026 to fast-track the 33 per cent women's reservation in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies by using the 2011 Census for early delimitation. However, the Bill failed to pass in the Lok Sabha after falling short of the required two-thirds majority.

Jharkhand exam protest: Student delegation, govt meet for 2nd round of talks

Ranchi: The second round of talks between the students of the JPSC-JSSC Aspirant Nyay Manch and the Jharkhand government is underway at the State Guest House in Ranchi. An eight-member delegation of students from the Manch is holding face-to-face discussions with the delegation appointed by the state government. The students associated with the Manch have been protesting continuously since July 5, following the exposure of alleged irregularities in the 14th Civil Services Preliminary Examination by the Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) on July 2. Their indefinite agitation entered its 15th day on Saturday. Student leader Devendra Nath Mahato has also been on a hunger strike in support of the protesting aspirants. The eight-member student delegation, presenting its memorandum and demands before the government, comprises Chandan Kumar, Deenbandhu Mandal, Ravi Shankar, Prem Kumar, Pooja Kumari, Ramavatar Mahato, Bimal Kumar and Amit Kumar Sharma. Student leader Devendra Nath Mahato, who has been leading the agitation at Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium, has been on hunger strike for the past six days in support of the students' demands. "Thank everyone who is supporting this movement. I am having difficulty speaking for long. The protest, which began on July 5, has continued till now. Our demand is that all examinations conducted by the TDPL agency be cancelled and an inquiry be conducted," Mahato told IANS. "We are all students and our issue is the same. We went for talks yesterday, but the government kept delaying the matter. Today, a delegation of eight students is holding talks with the government," he added. Ramavatar Mahato, speaking to IANS, said, "Our meeting is regarding the 14th JPSC examination. The government should immediately cancel the JPSC examination. All the examinations conducted by TDPL should be cancelled." Talking to IANS, student leader Prem Nayak said, "We wanted to proceed under the leadership of Devindranath and hold talks with the Chief Minister. Our demand was that the talks should be held on an open platform, in an open ground. We don't know if the government will agree to this demand. This time, we won't rely on the government's hollow promises. "A student studies in a 10x10 room, bringing rice and lentils from home. If their job is sold for Rs 1 crore or Rs 80

lakh, where will poor students go? That is why it is very important to raise this voice strongly. This is where the economy starts to collapse. If an officer gets a job by paying money and giving a bribe, why would he not indulge in corruption?" he added. Meanwhile, several protesters continued to demand justice for the students and urged the government to address their concerns regarding the recruitment examination process. Rapper Suraj Tylon, speaking to IANS, said, "The students are demanding that the JSSC examination be cancelled. There should be transparency in the examination and its results. Everything, including how the cutoff was set, should be clarified."

The students have maintained that their agitation will continue until their demands are addressed and the government takes concrete steps towards resolving the alleged irregularities in the recruitment examination process. Earlier on Friday evening, the first formal round of talks between the government and the protesting students was held at the State Guest House in Morabadi. The meeting continued for around one and a half hours and concluded at 9:25 p.m. Student representatives described the discussions as positive, but the meeting failed to produce a final agreement between the two sides. The students made it clear after the meeting that their protest would continue until a final agreement was reached and their demands were fulfilled. They reiterated that they were seeking concrete action rather than assurances from the government. During the first round of discussions, a five-member government delegation and a 10-member student delegation participated in the talks. The students placed each of their demands before the government and sought a clear response on the issues raised during the ongoing agitation. Four ministers from the Jharkhand government participated in the first round of talks. They included Chamara Linda, Sudibya Kumar Sonu, Deepika Pandey Singh and Sanjay Prasad Yadav. Development Commissioner Ajay Kumar Singh was also present during the meeting. As the second round of talks is underway on Saturday morning, attention is now focused on whether the government and the student delegation can reach common ground on the demands that have kept the JPSC-JSSC aspirants protesting at Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium for the past 15 days.

IAF officer arrested over defence information leak, probe on

New Delhi: A Wing Commander of the Indian Air Force (IAF) was arrested two months ago by the Delhi Police for allegedly leaking sensitive information related to national defence, according to sources familiar with the matter. The officer has been booked under provisions of the Official Secrets Act and is currently in judicial custody, as investigators examine the circumstances surrounding the alleged leak and the network that may have been involved. "The arrest pointed to a larger espionage network aimed at collecting strategic military intelligence," Delhi Police sources said. According to the sources, the Wing Commander allegedly became the target of a "honey trap" operation carried out by Pakistani intelligence operatives. The officer is also accused of installing data-stealing software on the mobile phone of a colleague, allegedly with the intention of gaining access to and controlling the device.

Sources said the Wing Commander was arrested on the night of May 31 after the Intelligence wing of the IAF provided Delhi Police with specific inputs related to the case. "Initially, he was taken into police custody after his arrest. He was later sent to judicial custody in Tihar Jail. He has been booked under the provisions of the Official Secrets Act for sharing classified information and confidential documents related to national defence," the police sources said. The Indian Air Force spokesperson confirmed that the officer had been under surveillance before being handed over to the appropriate law enforcement authorities. According to the police investigation so far, sources said that the officer had been going through a difficult period in his personal life when he was approached by a woman through social media. The two subsequently began communicating regularly, including through video calls.

Manisha Koirala recalls life-changing role in 1942: A Love Story

Mumbai: Actress Manisha Koirala turned nostalgic as her 1994 romantic classic 1942: A Love Story gears up for a theatrical re-release on August 21. Looking back at the film, the actress reflected on how essaying the role of Rajeshwari in the movie remains one of the most transformative experiences of her career. Taking to her social media account, Manisha dropped a still of herself as Rajeshwari from the movie and penned an emotional note reflecting on the timeless love the film continues to receive. “Rajeshwari changed my life in so many ways. Every time I revisit #1942 A Love Story, I am reminded of the love it continues to receive from all of you. So happy it’s returning to cinemas, beautifully restored for a whole new generation. Back in cinemas from 21st August 2026,” she wrote. Directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra, 1942: A Love Story was set against the backdrop of India’s Quit India Movement and blended romance with the country’s freedom struggle. Manisha essayed the role of Rajeshwari Pathak, the daughter of a British loyalist, who falls in love with Narendra Singh, played by Anil Kapoor,



the son of a freedom fighter. The film also starred Jackie Shroff, Anupam Kher, Danny Denzongpa, Pran, Chandni and Brian Glover in pivotal roles. Apart from its compelling narrative, the movie is remembered for R.D. Burman’s final complete film score, featuring evergreen songs such as Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga, Kuch Na Kaho, Rim Jhim Rim Jhim and Rooth Na Jaana. Talking about Manisha Koirala, she went on to become one of Hindi cinema’s most acclaimed actresses. She made her Bollywood debut with Saudagar in 1991 before delivering memorable performances in films such as Bombay, Khamoshi: The Musical, Dil Se..., Gupta, Company and Lajja. In recent years, she has been praised for her performances in Shehzada, Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar and Lust Stories.

Avika Gor hospitalised with dengue, husband reveals health update

Mumbai: Actress Avika Gor has been hospitalised after being diagnosed with dengue. Her husband, Milind Chandwani, took to his social media account on Friday night to share her health update, followed by revealing his wife’s sheer dedication to her craft. He revealed that Avika continued shooting and fulfilling her professional commitments despite battling a high fever of 103-104 degrees for nearly five days. Sharing a video on his social media account, Milind revealed that Avika was admitted to the hospital the previous night after her health deteriorated. “So, Avika has been admitted to the hospital since last night. She has been suffering from 103-104 degrees fever for the last five days,” he said. Milind went on to praise Avika’s unwavering commitment to her work. He shared that despite running a high fever, the actress first completed a two-day project shoot, which wrapped up in a single day because of her fine skills. He revealed that after returning home and taking medicines during a brief break, she travelled to Delhi for an advertisement shoot as she did not want producers to incur losses due to postponement. He also clarified that she travelled to Delhi only after taking tests to ensure she had not caught any virus, which thankfully she hadn’t. He further said, “I told her many times that producers will understand. Postpone it. Tell them that you cannot make it. But she said someone’s time will go, someone’s money will go. I want to do as much as I can,” Milind said, adding that he has always admired her respect for her craft and for other people’s time and resources. Calling Avika’s work ethic inspiring, he added, “I have never understood where someone gets so much love for their work, so much respect for their craft. I don’t think many people in this industry do this.” Milind also urged fans to keep the actress in their prayers as she recovers. Towards the end of the video, he pointed out the irony of the situation, as he noted that while Avika was battling a high fever, her new song titled Bukhaar was also scheduled for release the same day. “So please support her because she won’t be able to share much today. Let’s promote the song on her behalf. I am proud of you, Avika,” he concluded. Avika later shared glimpses from her hospital bed on her social media account. In one post, she was seen smiling and flash-



ing a victory sign, writing, “The only thing that’s keeping me excited today other than my platelet counts... #Bukhaar releasing tonight at 6!!! P.S. Dengue SUCKS!” Another picture showed her hand with an IV drip attached as she continued treatment. For the uninitiated, Avika Gor rose to fame as a child actor with the television show Balika Vadhu, where she played the young Anandi. She later starred in popular shows such as Sasural Simar Ka and successfully expanded her career into the Telugu and Hindi film industries.

Mumbai cop deployed outside Salman Khan’s house collapses, dies

Mumbai: A policeman, who was on state protection duty for Bollywood superstar Salman Khan, was killed in the line of duty. As per a senior Mumbai Police official, 41-year-old constable Ganesh, who was deployed outside Salman Khan’s house under security, suddenly fell ill and collapsed, other police officers present at the spot rushed him to a nearby hospital, where the doctor declared him brought dead. Police said he died of a heart attack. The actor’s security has been beefed up in the light of him being on the radar of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, who wants to avenge the alleged hunting of the black buck by the superstar in the 1990s. Last year, Salman spoke with the media at a five star property in the Bandra area of Mumbai, and agreed that on some days moving with security does become

Nayanthara and Kavin’s ‘Hi’ release postponed to August 28

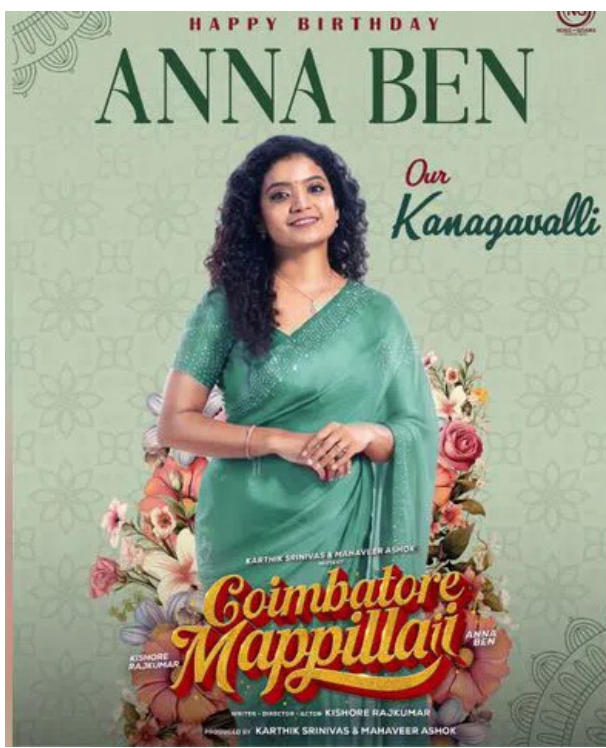
Chennai: The makers of director Vishnu Edavan’s eagerly awaited romantic entertainer ‘Hi’, featuring actors Nayanthara and Kavin in the lead, on Friday announced that the film would now hit screens worldwide on August 28 this year. Seven Screen Studios, one of the production houses producing the film, took to its social media timelines to make the announcement. It wrote, “We know you’ve been waiting to say HI ?? and here’s when you finally can! Mark your calendars for AUGUST 28 as the most heartwarming entertainer of the season arrives in theatres. Get ready for the fun-filled #HiMovie, featuring #Nayanthara and @Kavin_m_0431. A



@jenmartinmusic Musical. A film directed by @VishnuEdavan1.” For the unaware, the film was originally scheduled to hit screens on August 14. However, now the makers have decided to release the film on August 28. It may be recalled that the Censor Board has already cleared the film for release with a U/A certificate.

Anna Ben’s character Kanagavalli unveiled in Kishore Rajkumar’s ‘Coimbatore Mapillai’

Chennai: The makers of director Kishore Rajkumar’s upcoming romantic comedy ‘Coimbatore Mapillai’ on Friday revealed that actress Anna Ben plays a character called Kanagavalli in the film, much to the delight of fans and film buffs. The makers chose to reveal Anna Ben’s character in the film on the occasion of her birthday on Friday. Taking to its social media timelines to wish Anna Ben a happy birthday, Noise and Grains, the production house producing the film, wrote, “A Special Day For The One Who Makes Our Frames Beautiful. Here’s To The Beautiful Journey & A Blockbuster Ahead. Filled With Unforgettable Frames & Countless Memories. Happy Birthday @benanna love.” The production house also shared a poster that said, “Happy birthday Anna Ben. Our Kanagavalli.” For the unaware, ‘Coimbatore Mappillai’ is being directed by Kishore Rajkumar, who is best known for having directed the comedy drama ‘Naai Sekar’ featuring actor Sathish in the lead. Interestingly, Kishore Rajkumar is turning a hero with this film, which he is directing himself. The film also marks the entry of one of India’s leading media production and talent management companies, Noise and Grains, into film production. Under the Noise and Grains banner, producers Karthik Srinivas and Mahaveer Ashok are bankrolling this upcoming romantic-comedy family drama, which sources say will be about the problems an obese man faces when it comes to falling in love. Speaking about the film, Kishore Rajkumar had on an earlier occasion said, “This is a story filled with romance and humour. The screenplay is crafted to deliver a complete feel-good experience to



the audience. The driving force behind this project is none other than the legendary K. Bhagyaraj sir. Film lovers feel that movies like the ones he used to direct are no longer being made — this film aims to fill that gap.” He had added, “This lively film revolves around compatibility in relationships and places strong emphasis on the female lead. I am thrilled to be working with the incredibly talented Anna Ben. I sincerely thank Noise and Grains for giving me this opportunity.” The film’s cinematography and co-writing responsibilities are being handled by Praveen Balu, while editing is being overseen by Ram Pandian. Both of them had earlier collaborated with Kishore Rajkumar on ‘Naai Sekar’, where actor Sathish had made his debut as a lead actor. Art direction for the film is by Sri Sasikumar K. Costumes have been designed by Kiruthikha Sekar and the film has S N Asraf and Naresh Dinakaran as its executive producers.



a problem for him. The actor also said that he is not afraid of the threats, and has left it to God to look after him and safety.

The actor told the media,

“Bhagwan, Allah sab unpar hai. Jitni umar likhi hai, utni likhi hai. Bas yahi hai (It’s all up to God, Allah. What is written is written. That’s all). Sometimes, having to move around with so many people becomes a problem”.

Bishnoi, who gained national attention after the murder of Punjabi star Sidhu Moose Wala in 2022, has openly given threats to Salman for his alleged involvement in the black buck hunting case during the shoot of ‘Hum Saath – Saath Hain’. In 2024, two men on a bike fired multiple shots outside the actor’s residence Galaxy Apartments in the Bandra area of Mumbai. The investigation later revealed that the shooting was aimed at intimidating the actor and was carried out on the instructions of Lawrence Bishnoi.

Thompson's 8-wicket haul helps CA XI crush Bangladesh by innings and 38 runs in warm-up



Darwin: Bangladesh suffered a major setback ahead of their Test series against Australia after they were dismissed for just 54 in their second innings, handing the Cricket Australia XI an innings and 38-run victory in a three-day warm-up game on Saturday. Left-arm pacer Campbell Thompson was the chief destroyer for the hosts, finishing with 8-25 as Bangladesh's batting collapsed in just 17 overs on the third morning. Bangladesh had resumed their second innings with two wickets already down and needed to produce a strong response after conceding a 92-run first-innings lead. However, they failed to withstand the CA XI attack and were bowled out before lunch. Tanzid Hasan was the only Bangladesh batter to cross the 10-run mark, scoring 22. Thompson, a 22-year-old South Australian who had played only one first-class match before this game, took the first five wickets to fall in the second innings after beginning the damage late on the previous day. Off-spinner Corey Rocchiccioli briefly interrupted Thompson's run by taking a

wicket, adding to the six wickets he had claimed in Bangladesh's first innings. Thompson then returned to finish the job. He dismissed Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto for a duck after trapping him lbw and ended the match by taking the final two wickets with successive deliveries. "Sometimes you get lucky. It fell my way today, which was nice. It's always a good experience and opportunity to come and play up against a Test side a few days out from a series. Then to play alongside experienced Aussie guys as well, like Kurtis Patterson and Corey Rocchiccioli and stuff like that. So, just involving myself around these guys has been awesome," Thompson said after the match.

Ashmita Chaliha reaches Korea Masters Super 300 final



Hyderabad: Ashmita Chaliha showcased brilliant resilience to book her spot in the women's singles final of the Korea Masters Super 300 on Saturday. In a thrilling all-Indian semifinal, Chaliha overcame compatriot Rakshit Ramraj 21-13, 16-21, 21-13. After dropping a tight second game, Chaliha bounced back aggressively to dictate the decider, continuing the Indian contingent's stellar run at the

tournament. She will now battle China's Han Qianxi for the title in the summit clash.

Canadian Open: Leylah Fernandez defeats Andreeva to reach Round of 16



Montreal: The 2021 US Open finalist Leylah Fernandez ended a streak of seven defeats to Top 10 opponents by getting past Roland Garros champion Mirra Andreeva in the third round of the WTA section of the Canadian Open. Fernandez entered her match against fifth seed Andreeva and snapped her streak of defeats in a big way, matching her best-ever result at her country's signature event. The win left the 30th-ranked Fernandez primed for a Round of 16 clash with former US Open winner Naomi Osaka, the 11th seed who got the better of 20th seed Elise Mertens of Belgium 6-1, 6-4. The Canadian star routed the No. 5 seed 6-1, 6-4 in 1 hour and 21 minutes to return not just to the Round of 16 in Toronto, a result she previously recorded in Montreal in 2023, but also score her first Top 10 victory in more than a year. She last beat a player ranked as highly as Andreeva when she beat then-World No. 4 Jessica Pegula on the way to winning the Mubadala DC Open last year. Fernandez cruised against an out-of-sorts Andreeva up until 6-1, 5-1, when the 20-year-old came alive to hold from 0-30 in the eighth game and close the gap to 5-4. But a key forehand miss at 0-15 on Fernandez's serve at 5-4 turned what turned out to be the final game around, and the No. 30 seed wrapped up the win three points later. "The key for me was to stay positive, stay strong, and to keep being patient. I mean, she wasn't going to give away some easy balls," Fernandez said afterwards. "In the beginning there were a lot of long rallies, and that was a key for me to kind of stick with it, trusting in my abilities, and to continue playing my game throughout the match." The stat line of the match agreed with the left-hander's strategy. Andreeva made 19 unforced errors in the first set, and 34 for the match, double

her 17 winners. Fernandez, meanwhile, was tidy with eight winners and seven unforced errors. "[I was] telling myself to put the ball back in. I mean, I've trained a lot growing up in being consistent and hitting like a hundred balls in a row, and trying to hit, you know, a series where none of us miss," Fernandez continued. "It's like that's where I come back to. Like, I know I can do it. "There have been times where I just want to finish the point quickly, and in that moment I was like, no, trust in my abilities, trust in my fitness. I've put in the work. I know physically I'm strong. I know I can endure long rallies, long matches. So if it's going to take a hundred balls to hit to break her down, then so be it.

"That was kind of the mentality. I knew that if I can do it, and if I can put a little bit more pressure, I will have my chances to hit winners, or to take more chances in the point." Awaiting Fernandez is 2025 National Bank Open finalist Osaka, who defeated Elise Mertens 6-1, 6-2 on Friday. Osaka and Fernandez have split their two previous meetings on the WTA Tour Driven by Mercedes-Benz, with Osaka winning the most recent in 2025. Osaka said the toughest task with Fernandez is simply that she is left-handed. As for a particular shot, it's the left-handed serve that causes trouble for Osaka, and she pinpointed former World No. 1 Petra Kvitova's as an example. Osaka also lauded Fernandez's level-headed mindset throughout the match.

AIFF, IASD-IDA sign three-year MoU to strengthen oral healthcare for footballers

Hyderabad: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the Indian Academy of Sports Dentistry-Indian Dental Association (IASD-IDA) signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the Centre for Sports Excellence in Bengaluru on Monday, August 3, 2026, to strengthen oral healthcare support for players across Indian football. The partnership aims to integrate structured oral healthcare into the football ecosystem through preventive care, education, and referral support. The MoU formalises a collaboration that has already moved into implementation. At the AIFF-FIFA Telangana Talent Academy, athletes with identified oral health concerns have been referred for treatment through a designated dental institution. This week, a team of IASD-IDA sports dentists are on a visit to the AIFF-FIFA Odisha Talent Academy in Bhubaneswar to conduct pre-competition dental assessments, identify unmet oral health needs, triage athletes, and facilitate referrals, treatment and follow-up through an identified dental institution. The initiative has been designed as a continuum of care rather than a one-time screening exercise. Through IASD's flagship Krida Danta Suraksha - Champions' Winning Smiles programme, the partnership will combine dental assessments with oral health education, dental trauma and avulsion management, Basic Life Support training, preventive guidance and structured referral pathways. Over the three-year period, the programme will progressively expand across AIFF academies, national team camps and other football initiatives. It will also support coach and staff education, the deployment of trained sports dentists at selected events, the development of



standard operating procedures for dental emergencies, research, and evidence-based best practices for oral healthcare in football. AIFF Deputy Secretary General Mr M Satyanarayan said, "Player welfare extends far beyond the football pitch, and oral health is an important component of overall athlete wellbeing and performance. Through this partnership with IASD-IDA, we are taking another meaningful step towards providing our players, especially young girls, with access to specialised healthcare, while also building awareness and preventive practices across the Indian football ecosystem. We look forward to working together to establish a structured and sustainable oral healthcare programme for our academies, national teams and other football initiatives." World news coverage Dr Ashok Dhoble, Honorary Secretary General, Indian Dental Association, said, "This collaboration reflects IDA's commitment to taking preventive oral healthcare beyond the clinic and into the sporting environment. By bringing professional expertise, education and referral networks closer to athletes, we can strengthen safety, early intervention and long-term oral health across Indian football."

2026 FIFA WC: Ivan Toney charged over alleged nightclub assault

London: England's FIFA WC 2026 player Ivan Toney has been charged with assault causing actual bodily harm following an alleged incident at a London nightclub last year, the Metropolitan Police confirmed on Friday. The 30-year-old striker, who currently plays for Saudi Pro League side Al-Ahli, is accused of involvement in an incident that allegedly took place at a nightclub on Wardour Street in Soho on December 6, 2025, according to The BBC. According to the Metropolitan Police, officers investigated the matter after receiving reports of an assault at the central London venue. Following the investigation, Toney was formally charged on July 31 and is scheduled to appear before Westminster Magistrates' Court on September 24. "A man has been charged with assault following a Met investigation. Ivan Toney, 30, of Northampton, was charged on Thursday, 31 July with assault causing actual bodily harm," Police said in a statement. Responding to the charge, a spokesperson representing Toney said the England forward acknowledges the legal proceedings but intends to contest the allegation.

"Ivan acknowledges the charge and, while he is naturally shocked by the development, he welcomes the opportunity to clear his name before the court," the spokesperson told the BBC. Toney is among England's established international forwards and was part of the national squad at the FIFA World Cup, where he featured during the tournament, including England's victory over France in the



bronze medal match. The striker began his professional career with his hometown club Northampton Town before securing a move to Newcastle United in 2015. His breakthrough came at Peterborough United, where his prolific goalscoring performances attracted widespread attention and earned him a transfer to Brentford in 2020. At Brentford, Toney developed into one of the Premier League's leading forwards, scoring 72 goals in 141 appearances across all competitions, including 36 league goals. His performances earned him his first England call-up in 2022 before making his senior international debut in March 2023. Toney has represented England 10 times and scored his maiden international goal in a friendly against Belgium at Wembley Stadium in March 2024 before completing a high-profile move to Al-Ahli in the Saudi Pro League.

Indian stock markets post weekly gains as crude prices ease

Mumbai: The Indian equity benchmarks posted gains for the second consecutive week, over sharp corrections in crude oil prices and strong Q1 FY27 earnings results. Nifty jumped 0.77 per cent during the week and shed 0.27 per cent on the last trading day this week to reach 24,570. At close, Sensex was down 455 points, or 0.58 per cent, at 78,499. It added 0.52 per cent during the week. Small-cap stocks continued to outperform, supported by strong earnings traction and stock-specific catalysts, while PSU banks led sectoral gains on improving fundamentals. Metals benefited from a stronger growth outlook and resilient domestic demand, while automobiles gained momentum on expectations of healthy festive-season demand, said market watchers. The week started on a volatile note triggered by the rollout of the new F&O Closing Auction Session (CAS), but markets regained stability as participants adapted to the revised framework, an analyst said. "Sentiment improved meaningfully with the sharp decline in crude oil prices, which helped strengthen the macroeconomic outlook and supported expectations of easing inflationary pressures," he added. Globally, softer labour market indicators reduced the likelihood of a near-term Fed rate hike, leading to a moderation in US bond yields



and a weaker dollar. This, coupled with sustained safe-haven demand ahead of key US economic data releases, provided additional support to gold prices. On the domestic front, the RBI reinforced confidence by maintaining its policy stance, while modestly upgrading its growth outlook and lowering inflation projections. The ongoing Q1 FY27 earnings season has further strengthened investor confidence, with results broadly exceeding expectations and driving broad-based buying interest. Broad market indices outperformed the benchmark indices, as Nifty Midcap100 added 0.87 per cent, while Nifty Smallcap100 jumped 2.73 per cent during the week. Investors are looking for cues from upcoming US labour market and inflation data for further clarity on the Fed's policy trajectory. Domestically, CPI and WPI inflation readings, along with credit growth trends, will provide key insights into India's growth-inflation dynamics.

Global tech sector records over 1.63 lakh layoffs this year to date

New Delhi: Global technology companies have announced 1,63,427 layoffs since the start of 2026, with AI cited as a factor in 91,215 of those job cuts, a new report has said. The report from TradingPlatforms said enterprise software accounted for roughly 8.14 per cent of the total job cuts, making it the fifth most affected tech subsector after Cloud and SaaS (37,492 layoffs), e-commerce and marketplaces (22,633), IT services (16,756) and social media (13,592). Nearly 88.6 per cent enterprise software layoffs this year have occurred at US-based companies, with 11,792 of the 13,308 job cuts recorded globally. Cisco recorded the largest number of layoffs among US-based enterprise companies, with 4,000 positions cut, followed by Amdocs with 2,900 and Autodesk with 1,000. In Asia and the Middle East, workforce reductions are spread across key innovation centres, with Israel recording the highest number of layoffs, followed by India and Singapore. The cuts span a wide range of sectors, including AI startups, e-commerce platforms, and cybersecurity firms. Israel ranks a distant second after the US, with 660 enterprise software layoffs across two companies. On July 22, Israeli workplace software maker Monday.com announced plans to cut around 20 per cent of its global workforce, or roughly 620 employees, as it restructured around its AI Work Platform. No company has reduced its workforce more aggressively in 2026 than Oracle, which has cut 25,254 roles across multiple rounds since January. While the company had already begun trimming staff toward the end of 2025, the scale of layoffs escalated sharply in March, when thousands of employees across the United States, India, Canada, and Mexico were dismissed in a sudden wave of cuts. Canada's information management software company OpenText announced in July 2026 that it had cut around 2 per cent of its global workforce, or roughly 400 employees, as part of "ongoing organisational planning". OpenText said the impact on its Canadian workforce was minimal, despite the company being headquartered in the Kitchener-Waterloo area. Cisco said the roughly \$1 billion in re-



structuring costs from its cuts would go towards its AI strategy. Monday.com described its 20 per cent workforce reduction as a restructuring around its "AI Work Platform". ServiceNow's cuts landed alongside a separate milestone, its AI portfolio crossing \$1 billion in annual contract value. Investors rewarded all three companies as Cisco's shares jumped 17 per cent in after-hours trading, Monday.com's rose 2.3 per cent, and ServiceNow's climbed roughly 9 per cent over the following week. Stanislava Savisheva, analyst at TradingPlatforms, said that all these layoffs were blamed on AI. "The message from markets is increasingly clear: massive waves of layoffs are now seen as a sign of discipline, as long as the story is some kind of pivot toward AI. Fewer employees, framed the right way, now reads as a stronger business, with its priorities straight," Savisheva said.

Gold rates today in Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam surges, check the prices on 8 August, 2026

The gold rates today in Hyderabad surged on 8 August, 2026. Going by the rates today, the price of 10 grams of 22-carat gold is Rs. 1,39,650 with a hike of Rs. 1000 while the rate of 10 grams of 24-carat gold is at Rs. 1,52,350 with a hike of Rs. 1090. While in Visakhapatnam, the gold rates have been similar to that of Hyderabad with ten grams of 22-carat gold at Rs. 1,39,650 with a hike of Rs. 1000 while the rates of 24-carat gold is Rs. 1,52,350 with a hike of Rs. 1090. While the Silver rate today at Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam is at Rs. 2,40,000 per kilogram. The gold rates in the international market have been fluctuating. Over the past few weeks gold rates have experienced a fall during the wedding season, fluctuating around Rs. 1,40,000 for 10 grams of 24-carat gold and approximately Rs. 1,50,000 for 10 grams of 22-carat gold. The gold prices mentioned here are due at 8am, the prices could alter at every moment and hence the gold buyers need to track the live prices



at a given time. The mentioned prices here are closing prices of yesterday while today's price would begin either with a decrease or increase.

US tariff bill raises concern over Indian engineering exports



New Delhi: The US Senate's approval of a bill empowering President Donald Trump to impose tariffs of up to 100 per cent on top importers of Russian energy has raised concern about engineering exports from India, an industry body said on Saturday. Though the bill is yet to complete the legislative process, a statement from EEPC India warned of potential fallout if the measure becomes law. "This development is really concerning for us, considering the US is the top market for Indian engineering goods," said Pankaj Chadha, Chairman, EEPC India. "While the bill is yet to complete the legislative process, the development is really concerning for us," he said, as any additional levy would dent the competitiveness of Indian shipments. "The bill, named the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, if approved by the US Congress and becomes law, may have a significant impact on Indian goods exports. At present, however, it would be premature to discuss any possible impact of this legislation," Chadha noted. The engineering goods exports to the US stayed

positive in financial year 2025-26 despite US President Donald Trump's recently imposed tariffs, but any additional levy would dent competitiveness of shipments. Indian engineering goods exports to the US touched \$19.60 billion in value, with 2.3 per cent year-on-year growth. The US Senate passed a sweeping Russia sanctions bill that does not name India but could expose it and other major buyers of Russian energy to tariffs of up to 100 per cent. Passed by the Senate by 86-11 vote, the Lindsey Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026 now goes to the House of Representatives, where senior Democrats have objected to its tariff provisions. The legislation requires the administration to identify countries using trade data rather than naming them in the statute. It covers the five largest importers of Russian crude oil, the five largest importers of Russian natural gas and the five leading countries facilitating Russian oil sanctions evasion. Those determinations would be based on the most recent 12-month period and reviewed every 180 days.

Government signs MoUs to strengthen support for startups

New Delhi: The government on Saturday said it has signed strategic MoUs with key industry leaders and ecosystem enablers to support startups. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, signed an MoU with Cashfree Payments India to strengthen support for DPIIT-recognised startups by enhancing access to digital payment infrastructure, financial technology solutions, and capacity-building initiatives. World news coverageThe collaboration seeks to combine DPIIT's institutional reach with Cashfree Payments' expertise in digital payments to enable startups to scale efficiently and contribute to India's innovation-led growth, according to an official statement. Eligible startups will receive access to secure and scalable payment and payout solutions,



identity verification and risk management services, along with preferential onboarding support and commercial benefits. DPIIT also signed an MoU with Darwin Dynamics to strengthen entrepreneurship development and foster a more inclusive, innovation-driven startup ecosystem in India. The partnership aims to expand the reach of the Startup India initiative by promoting entrepreneurship across tier 2, tier 3 and rural regions, while enabling greater access to mentorship, institutional networks.

APTD C Launches One-Day Vijayawada - Vadapalli Vijayawada Tour Package Flagged Off By APTDC General Manager Sri T.S.V. Narayana

Vijayawada, August 8:“The Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTD C) on Saturday formally launched the Vijayawada - Vadapalli - Vijayawada vehicle bus service from the Central Reservation Office in front of NTR District Collectorate. APTD C General Manager Sri T.S.V. Narayana flagged off the bus. Speaking on the occasion, he said the package has been designed to provide devotees and tourists a planned pilgrimage experience with modern, comfortable transport and food facilities. He said the tour will start every Saturday at 4:00 AM and return to Vijayawada by 7:00 PM the same night. The package price has been fixed at Rs. 1,160/- for Adults and Rs. 1,000/- for Children. The fee includes comfortable bus transport charges along with Morning Breakfast And Lunch. He said temple darshan ticket charges will have



to be borne by the tourists themselves. APTD C General Manager Sri T.S.V. Narayana said devotees and tourists who wish to avail this special pilgrimage can book their seats in advance either online through the website www.aptdc.gov.in or directly at the Central Reservation Office (CRO) located beside Lemon Tree Hotel, Bandar Road, Vijayawada.

Public Money Wasted In Kubir Rs. 76 Lakh Drainage Canal Collapses Even Before Completion



Kubir, August 8:“The Drainage Canal constructed from Vaddera Colony To Peddavagu in Kubir Mandal Headquarters, Nirmal District at a huge budget of nearly Rs. 76 Lakh has collapsed even before completion. Locals are expressing strong anger, stating that this incident occurred due to lack of supervision by officials and negligence by contractors. Residents of Vaddera Colony, Medari Galli, and the premises of the Local Government Hospital have been facing severe difficulties for decades due to sewage

problems. During heavy rains, sewage water used to enter the hospital premises and houses in Medari Galli. Recently, District Collector Sri Bhavesh Mishra personally inspected the problem. Moved by the hardships of the people here, he sanctioned Rs. 76 Lakh in funds specifically for a permanent solution to the problem. However, due to lack of supervision by officials and the selfishness of contractors, the Collector's intention has gone down the drain.

Alumni Donates Rs.75 Lakh Medical Equipment To Siddhartha Medical College

Donation Details: Siddhartha Medical College alumni donated 15 advanced medical devices worth Rs.75 lakh to improve healthcare services for patients and enhance medical training for students
Collector's Remarks: Krishna District Collector Dr. G. Laxmisha attended as the chief guest and praised the alumni for their social responsibility and contribution toward



upgrading hospital infrastructure. ““Key Equipment: Hospital Superintendent Dr. Raghunandan and Principal Dr. A. Y. Rao highlighted the 'Sterile Connecting Device', which enables safe, low-volume blood transfusions for children, along with advanced gel-technology devices for blood compatibility testing.
Impact: Over 6,000 patients received blood supplies in the last six months, and this new equipment will make future blood transfusion processes faster, safer, and more efficient.
Key Attendees: Principal Dr. A. Y. Rao, Superintendent Dr. Raghunandan, Alumni Association Secretary Dr. Amanna, Transfusion Medicine Associate Professor Dr. Anitha, and Assistant Professor Dr. Ranjitha participated in the event.

Women's Flight To Success With RAISE Wings

Industrial Units Running Successfully
Special Center Emerging As Rural Incubation Hub
Training Programs, Workshops, And Job Melas Conducted
RAISE Center Activities Reached 5,000 People
Steps Towards One Family - One Entrepreneur Vision
District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha



NTR District / Ibrahimpatnam, August 8:“District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said the RAISE Center is working exceptionally to bring out the entrepreneurial skills hidden in women and shape them into industrialists. She said the RAISE Center is growing as a special Rural Incubation Center by providing necessary training, guidance, technical support, and marketing opportunities to women of Self-Help Groups in rural areas. On Saturday, Collector Lakshmisha visited the Self Employment Expo held at the RAISE Center, Guntupalli, Ibrahimpatnam Mandal. She inspected 27 Stalls set up with products from industrial units established with the support of the RAISE Center. She later addressed a media conference. The Collector said in the journey towards achieving the goals of Viksit Bharat and Swarna Andhra, the RAISE Center is serving as a key stepping stone to reach the Hon'ble Chief Minister's visionary milestone of One Family - One Entrepreneur. She said training programs are conducted daily at this center, along with Workshops Every Saturday and Job Melas from time to time. She said 30 Workshops have already been conducted and they have reached 5,000 Women. She said many of them have already set up industrial units and are moving forward successfully. From Idea To Action: Collector Lakshmisha said through the RAISE Center, women are being encouraged to convert their skills into employment opportunities, and necessary support is being provided to develop small-scale businesses. She said the success stories of women who are growing from self-employment to entrepreneurs in Micro And Mini Food Processing and Value-Added Product Manufacturing are inspiring many more. She said the RAISE Center is helping women move

from a stage of waiting for jobs to a stage of providing employment to others. She said women's economic empowerment not only improves family financial conditions but also strengthens the rural economy. She said the center is focusing on making use of locally available resources, skills, and women's capabilities for Value-Added Product Manufacturing, Marketing, And Branding. She explained that RAISE is supporting trained women by connecting them with Bank Loans, Government Schemes, And Market Opportunities to ensure their units grow steadily. She said many women who are moving forward successfully in the industrial sector in society are acting as mentors and embodying the P4 Spirit, and are serving as resource persons. Training On Modern Technology Like AI: Collector Lakshmisha said training women on the use of modern technology like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and developing their skills to get good jobs is a symbol of the RAISE Center's success. She said awareness is also being created on Open Network For Digital Commerce (ONDC), FSSAI Certification and others. She said the RAISE Center was set up with the goal that everyone should have a skill and that skill should create employment, and NITI Aayog is also supporting it. She said the local MLA and MP are also supporting this center, and called upon everyone to become partners in the efforts being made to take this center further with the coordination of DRDA, MEPMA and other departments. Collector Lakshmisha said any aspiring woman, irrespective of educational qualifications, can utilize this center. DRDA PD Sri ANV Nanchar Rao, DPM Sri A. Srinivasa Rao, RAISE Manager Smt. B. Tejaswini and others participated in the program.

CC Road inauguration and launch of the 'Intintiki Telugu Desam' program

Chief Guest: Kondapalli Srinivas, Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Rural Poverty Alleviation, and NRI Empowerment & Relations
Venne village, Jami Mandal, Gajapathinagaram constituency
Inaugurated a newly constructed CC road built at a cost of 75 lakh
The Minister highlighted that the coalition government is committed to developing rural infrastructure
Distributed brochures showcasing the welfare and development initiatives un-

dertaken by the government over the past two years
Stated that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu initiated the 'Intintiki Telugu Desam' program to evaluate government performance and directly understand local issues in every village. ““Local villagers, youth, and women offered a grand welcome with firecrackers and traditional mangal harathi. ““Local party leaders including Poliparthi Swami Naidu, Varri Ramana, Dhaniyala Paidiraju, Bandaru Sailakshmi, and Kommineni Srinivasa Rao participated in the event.