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AP offers sops for 100% mobile connectivity

Amaravati: The state government has approved a policy initiative to achieve 100 per cent mobile connectivity across the state by providing government land free of rental charges and subsidised electricity for telecom towers in uncovered and

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AP CM Chandrababu Highlights Tribal Upliftment and Development Goals

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu stated that the upliftment of Adivasis is the government's primary goal. He made these key remarks while addressing the World Tribal Day meeting held in Vijayawada. The Chief Minister urged everyone to work for the nation, emphasising that one should focus on what they are contributing to the country rather than what the country has given them. He remarked that anything can be achieved with a commitment to one's country, flag, and agenda. He noted



that a student who studies well and establishes a start-up company is also serving the nation. He suggested that just as the

state and the country have a vision, every individual should have a vision for themselves, their family, and their village. He expressed confidence that Adivasis could achieve wonders if supported, and noted that the inclusion of the Dhimsa dance in the Guinness World Records was a matter Chief Minister said that there are 29 lakh tribal population in the state and that budget is being spent on their upliftment. He emphasised that the government's focus is on

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NEW MEMBERS MUST ADHERE TO PARTY DISCIPLINE: MINISTER KONDAPALLI SRINIVAS

12 Families Join TDP from Garudabilli Village in Gajapathinagaram Constituency

GAJAPATHINAGARAM: State Minister for MSME, Rural Poverty Alleviation, and NRI Empowerment Kondapalli Srinivas emphasized that all individuals joining the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) must strictly follow party rules and maintain discipline. On Sunday evening, 12 families from Garudabilli village in Bondapalli Mandal joined TDP under the leadership of Minister Srinivas at the party office in Gajapathinagaram, inspired by the party's development and welfare programs. Minister Srinivas formally welcomed the new members into the party fold by presenting them with party scarves. Speaking on the occasion, he reminded everyone that TDP is a disciplined organization and urged new recruits to work in close coordination with senior party leaders.

Key Highlights of the Event:
Key Entrants: Prominent lead-



ers joining included former Vice-Sarpanch Majji Appalanaidu, Ward Member Punnapureddy Swamy Naidu, former Water Association President Boddala Acham Naidu, Punnapureddy Appalaraju, Majji Ganapathi Rao, Punnapureddy Bhaskara Rao, along with their followers. Minister's Message: Emphasized the importance of

organizational discipline, teamwork, and alignment with senior leaders to drive regional growth. Prominent Attendees: Bondapalli Mandal TDP President Rapaka Acham Naidu, along with party leaders Namburi Rajesh (Bujji) and Kondapalli Suresh Babu, attended the event and welcomed the new members.

YOUTH MUST PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN POLITICS: MINISTER KONDAPALLI SRINIVAS

Minister Calls Upon TDP Youth Wing & ITDP Cadres to Counter Opposition Falsehoods

GAJAPATHINAGARAM: State Minister for MSME, Rural Poverty Alleviation, and NRI Empowerment Kondapalli Srinivas called upon young people to participate actively and dynamically in politics. Addressing a Youth Convention organized at the Gajapathinagaram Telugu Desam Party (TDP) office on Sunday evening, the Minister emphasized that youth are set to play a pivotal role in the future of politics. Minister Srinivas as-



sured that every hard-working TDP activist would receive due recognition within the party, urging members of the Telugu Yuvatha and ITDP (IT Cell) wings to operate with greater agility and strategy.

Key Highlights of the Convention:
Countering Propaganda: The Minister tasked the youth leadership with exposing falsehoods spread on social media by the YSRCP and countering their agitation programs

regarding DSC and medical colleges. Promoting Welfare: Urged young cadres to leverage social media platforms to actively highlight and promote the welfare and development schemes implemented across the state by the NDA alliance government. Division of Roles: Clarified that senior leaders in the constituency will handle organizational party responsibilities, while young activists

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EL NINO Threat: CM Naidu orders water conservation drive



Amaravati: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday directed officials to treat the Jaladhara-Jalaharati programme as a continuous water-conservation initiative, warning that the impact of El Nino could be more severe than initially anticipated and pose challenges to drinking water supply, agriculture and livestock. Reviewing

the programme through a video conference from his camp office, the Chief Minister asked officials to prepare in advance for a possible 39 per cent rainfall deficit between June and December. Officials said normal rainfall during the period is around 867 mm, while the current projection is only 525 mm.

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Several injured after bus plunged off culvert in Anantapur



In a shocking road accident on Hyderabad-Bengaluru highway near Pogarru village in Pamidi mandal in Anantapur a private travel bus and an Eicher vehicle collided and plunged off

Defence Minister salutes blood donors, says Op Sindoor shows India's will to defend itself :3

a culvert leaving eighteen passengers and the drivers sustained severe injuries in the accident. Motorists traveling on the same highway responded immediately and alerted the police. Police arrived at the scene promptly and shifted the injured to a hospital in Pamidi. The police, with the help of locals, rescued the drivers who were trapped inside the vehicles. A case has been registered, and an investigation is underway. Police suspect that the accident was caused by speeding and driver drowsiness.



Democracy needs humility, institutional accountability and respect for dissent

Power is a responsibility, not a licence for arrogance. History repeatedly reminds us that governments that become blinded by the trappings of authority eventually lose public confidence. The political developments unfolding across the country suggest that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Union Government is increasingly facing questions over its style of governance, democratic accountability and approach to institutions. On the anniversary of the Quit India Movement, it is worth reflecting on the lessons of that historic struggle. The movement launched in 1942 represented a collective assertion against colonial rule. Today, the phrase “Quit BJP” is being invoked by democratic forces as a political call for people to resist what they perceive as authoritarian tendencies and defend constitutional values. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP has secured three successive terms at the Centre. Yet, after more than a decade in power, there are growing signs of public dissatisfaction, particularly among young people. Protests relating to education, employment and competitive examinations have highlighted the anxieties of a generation that expects greater transparency and accountability from the Union Government. The controversies surrounding examinations such as NEET have intensified concerns among students and parents. Student protests across the country have demonstrated that educational policy cannot be divorced from questions of employment and social justice. The Congress and other Opposition parties have sought to amplify these concerns through parliamentary and public campaigns. Electoral setbacks in by-elections, too, should serve as a reminder that political dominance is never permanent. The BJP must recognise that voters can and do change their political preferences when governments fail to respond to their concerns. Such results should not simply be interpreted as isolated electoral events; they deserve to be viewed as indicators of the changing political mood. Institutions and the Constitution: One of the most serious concerns raised by the Opposition relates to the functioning of institutions that are expected to operate independently. The Enforcement Directorate, Income Tax Department, Central Bureau of Investigation and Election Commission have all faced questions regarding their functioning and perceived political pressures. The credibility of democratic institutions depends on public confidence in their neutrality. Allegations that investigative agencies are selectively used against political opponents must be addressed transparently. Similarly, concerns surrounding electoral processes and voter rolls deserve credible answers rather than political dismissal. The Constitution is the foundation of India’s democratic republic. Any attempt to weaken constitutional safeguards, whether real or perceived, must therefore be subject to rigorous public and parliamentary scrutiny. Dr B R Ambedkar’s legacy and his vision of constitutional democracy must remain central to this national conversation. The politics of faith: Religion and faith occupy an important place in the lives of millions of Indians.

AP CM Chandrababu Highlights Tribal Upliftment and Development Goals

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education, healthcare, infrastructure, and skill development. He mentioned that the development of nine ITDA centers would yield positive results and that road and connectivity facilities in tribal areas are being improved. Chandrababu announced plans to provide housing and solar power systems to all tribal families by December 2027 and revealed that agreements have been signed with telecommunication companies to rapidly establish connectivity in tribal villages.

EL NINO Threat: CM Naidu orders water conservation drive

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with August alone potentially recording a 56 per cent deficit. The water position is already under pressure. Officials said the state’s reservoirs currently hold 563.05 tmc ft, against 825.67 tmc ft during the same period last year, while groundwater levels are expected to decline further from August. Naidu directed officials to give priority to drinking water storage in Veligodu, Gorakallu, Auk, Jeedipalli and Cherlopalli reservoirs and prepare district-wise water allocations through the Nagarjuna Sagar canal system. “Water conservation must be a continuous process,” the Chief Minister said, directing officials to make maximum use of available water, including floodwaters entering the State from upstream areas. He asked them to identify villages and habitations facing drinking water shortages and keep water tankers ready in advance. The Jaladhara-Jalaharati programme has so far covered 82,865 works, of which 79,826 have been completed, with a sanctioned value of Rs 3,409.35 crore. The works include desilting tanks and feeder channels and construction of farm ponds and trenches. The Chief Minister also asked officials to protect standing crops amid the anticipated rainfall shortage by prioritising available water for agriculture and promoting less water-intensive crops in the future. At the same time, he directed them to ensure adequate water for industries even under constrained availability. Naidu called for a public awareness campaign on prudent water use, with collectors tasked with closely monitoring the situation at the field level. He also directed officials to act early against a possible fodder shortage district administrations were asked to ensure adequate fodder and water for livestock and establish Gokulams (cattle shelters) wherever necessary, backed by special district-level action plans. The CM further asked officials to identify tanks and canals that had remained dry for prolonged periods and explore micro-basin linkages to transfer water from surplus areas to water-deficit regions.”

YOUTH MUST PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN POLITICS: MINISTER KONDAPALLI SRINIVAS

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should drive field-level campaigns and communicate government performance to the public. “Prominent Attendees: The meeting saw participation from TDP Politburo Member Gantyada Sridevi, AMC Chairman P.V.V. Gopala Raju, TDP leaders Makkuva Sreedhar, Rapaka Acham Naidu, Chappa Chandrasekhar, Bujji, Pradeep, along with a large turnout of Telugu Yuvatha, ITDP members, and party supporters.

AP offers sops for 100% mobile connectivity

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commercially unviable rural areas. The decision is aimed at accelerating telecom infrastructure in remote villages and habitations where private operators have been reluctant to invest because of low commercial returns. The policy was approved as part of the government’s broader vision of promoting inclusive digital development and ensuring universal access to digital governance and citizen services. Under the new policy, Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) will be allotted suitable government land without rent for establishing mobile towers and associated telecom infrastructure. The State will also provide subsidised power supply until the towers become operationally viable. According to the government, the subsidy will continue until each tower reaches an estimated break-even point of around 450 subscribers, based on the prevailing rural Average Revenue Per User (ARPU). Once the subscriber threshold is achieved, the subsidy will be withdrawn and normal electricity tariffs will apply. The policy also mandates telecom operators to establish mobile towers, supporting infrastructure and Intra-Circle Roaming (ICR) facilities within prescribed timelines to ensure seamless connectivity across different telecom networks and maximise infrastructure utilisation. The government said the support mechanism would be reviewed every three years. If subscriber growth makes a tower commercially viable before then, the continuation of government assistance will be reassessed accordingly. The initiative is expected to provide a scalable model for eliminating mobile connectivity gaps through a phased expansion programme across Andhra Pradesh. The government has directed all departments, district collectors and heads of departments to extend full cooperation for the programme.

WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT RACING AHEAD UNDER ALLIANCE GOVT: MINISTER KONDAPALLI SRINIVAS
Rs.57.30 Lakh CC Road Inaugurated in Madhupada Village



GAJAPATHINAGARAM: State Minister for MSME, SERP, and NRI Empowerment Kondapalli Srinivas stated that welfare and infrastructure development are moving at a rapid pace under the coalition government. On Sunday, Minister Srinivas inaugurated a newly laid CC road built at a cost of ₹57.30 lakh in Madhupada village, Gajapathinagaram Mandal, followed by conducting the Intintiki Telugu Desam outreach program in the village. Addressing the gathering, the Minister noted that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu treats welfare and rural infrastructure—including roads and drainages—as two eyes of administration. Expressing gratitude to the villagers of Madhupada for their grand reception, he commended local leader Lenka Bangaru Naidu for his dedication to village development.

Critique of Opposition: Alleged that the previous YSRCP regime racked up massive debts without executing developmental works, delaying state growth. Key Constituency Initiatives: Highlighted key achievements under the leadership of CM Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, and Minister Nara Lokesh, including the setup of a 100-bed hospital in Gajapathinagaram that is delivering quality medical services.

Job Creation Commitments: Stated that Minister Nara Lokesh is actively engaging with national and global industrialists to bring investments and fulfill the promise of creating 20 lakh jobs.

Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF): Handed over a CMRF cheque of ₹1,05,000 to local resident Reddi Srinu. Prior

to the meeting, the Minister offered special prayers at an Anjaneya Swamy idol consecration ceremony.

Prominent Attendees: Jana Sena leader Marapu Suresh

highlighted that wide roads in small villages reflect political commitment, urging citizens to leverage MGNREGS for rural beautification and cleanliness. TDP Politburo member Gantyada Sridevi, AMC Chairman P.V.V. Gopala Raju, and TDP District Vice-President Makkuva Sreedhar participated.

‘Women Who Master 2026 Hackathon’ receives encouraging response

Visakhapatnam: The Visakhapatnam south zone round of ‘Women Who Master 2026’, a national-level women-only hackathon, received an encouraging response at Dr Lankapalli Bullayya College of Engineering (Autonomous) in the city.



Organised by Aspire For Her in collaboration with Logitech and Prajna Resources Private Limited on Saturday, the day-long hackathon saw enthusiastic participation from women students representing institutions, including Andhra University, GITAM, KL University, Aditya College, Sri Vishnu Women’s College, Gayatri College, Sri Vasavi Engineering College and Vignan. While the announcement of wild-card opportunities further widened participation, the event also aims for the official attempt to gain a place in the Guinness World Record. The hackathon aims to encourage young women to explore Artificial Intelligence, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship and develop solutions to real-world problems. Participants are working on selected problem statements with mentor guidance and presenting their solutions before a jury, along with an on-site MCQ assessment. Speaking on the occasion, G Madhu Kumar, Secretary and Correspondent of Dr Lankapalli Bullayya Colleges, and D Deepak Chowdary.

Defence Minister salutes blood donors, says Op Sindoor shows India's will to defend itself

News Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Sunday that the Indian soldiers eliminated terrorists and their patrons in Pakistan and the ‘Operation Sindoor’ sent a global message that the nation was prepared to go to any extent to secure the safety of its citizens. The Union Minister also saluted the blood donors during the ‘Sindoor Maha Raktdan Yatra’ and called it “one of the greatest services to the nation”, stating that the initiative will serve as powerful reassurance to the Armed Forces that the nation was standing behind them. Rajnath Singh made these remarks at the Army Base Hospital in Delhi Cantt, where a special blood donation camp was organised. He stated that the name of the blood donation drive, ‘Sindoor Maha Raktdaan Yatra’, is truly remarkable as it serves as a powerful symbol. “The occasion that brings us all together is the ‘Maha Raktdaan Yatra’ (Grand Blood Donation Campaign). It is special because it is an event rooted in humanity, compassion, and patriotism. We have always regarded blood donation as a ‘gift of life’ or a supreme act of charity,” Rajnath said. The Union Minister said that blood donation has always been regarded as a “lifesaving gift”, but when a person donates blood for soldiers, it also becomes a resolve and symbol of national



defence. “Blood cannot be manufactured in a factory or created in a laboratory; it is produced only within a healthy human body, and only a human being can donate it to another. These very qualities make blood donation the greatest of all forms of charity,” he added. He also called upon the nation’s youth to transform blood donation from a mere “event into a culture” and to contribute to building a healthy, safe, and sensitive India by 2047. “I urge all citizens, especially the youth, to transform blood donation from a mere event into a way of life -- a culture. When India celebrates the centenary of its independence in 2047, our dream should not be limited to becoming a developed economy; we must also aspire to build a compassionate society where everyone is healthy and secure,” he said.

Search operation conducted continuously for nine day: Satheesan

Kochi: Chief Minister VD Satheesan on Sunday dismissed opposition allegations of lapses in the search for three fishermen who went missing following separate boat mishaps in Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram districts. CPI(M), CPI, and BJP leaders had earlier alleged a delay in launching a full-scale search operation after the fishermen went missing off Neendakara in Kollam and Vizhinjam and Muthalappozhi in Thiruvananthapuram on July 31. Speaking at an event here, Satheesan said continuous search operations had been carried out for the past nine days to trace the missing fishermen. He said that even when 148 people went missing during the previous LDF government’s tenure, such a prolonged search operation was not conducted. “If a fisherman goes missing at sea, his family has to wait for seven years to receive compensation. This government changed all that. There is no time to lose,” Satheesan said. He said that, in an unprecedented move in the state’s history, a search had been conducted for the past nine days with the assistance of the Central government. “Where else has a search been conducted for nine days?” he asked. He hit out



at the Opposition for raising allegations over the search operation. “Is this the first time in Kerala’s history that three people have gone missing at sea? Do you know how many people went missing during the LDF’s 10-year rule? It was 148,” he said. BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar said he did not want to enter into any controversy over the search operation. He said a state government minister had contacted him and sought his support for the Centre’s assistance in the search. “I immediately spoke to the defence minister and the PMO. From noon that day, the Coast Guard and Navy were completely mobilised. Their search has been going on for nine to 10 days,” Chandrasekhar said. The Nemom MLA described the incidents as tragic. “I am going to meet their families. However, it is my prayer and my hope that they will be found,” he added.

History should not repeat itself: Jairam Ramesh recalls 146 MPs’ suspension

New Delhi: Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Sunday recalled how an unprecedented number of 146 MPs were suspended during the 2023 Winter Session of Parliament and multiple significant laws were passed in the presence of minimal opposition, as he asserted that “history should not repeat itself”. The remarks assume significance as they come just before the final week of the ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament during which key laws, including the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, are likely to be taken up. “On December 13, 2023, when the Winter Session of Parliament was going on, two men jumped into the Lok Sabha from the Visitors Gallery, shouting slogans and releasing yellow smoke from canisters,” Ramesh said in a post on X. “Simultaneously two



others set off coloured smoke canisters outside. It was a shocking and severe breach of security,” he recalled. “The entire Opposition repeatedly demanded a statement from the Union Home Minister. None was forthcoming. He remained silent as he is doing now on the brutalities inflicted by the Delhi Police on protesting youth last month,” Ramesh said. Between December 14, 2023, and December 21, 2023, an unprecedented number of 146 MPs — 100 in the Lok Sabha and 46 in the Rajya Sabha —

were suspended, he pointed out. Following these record suspensions, with minimal opposition presence during the remainder of the session, Parliament passed multiple significant pieces of legislation, the Congress leader said. Citing examples, he said three criminal law reform bills were passed in the Lok Sabha on December 20 and in the Rajya Sabha on December 21. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, replaced the Indian Penal Code, 1860; the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, replaced the

Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973; and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, replaced the Indian Evidence Act, Ramesh pointed out. He also recalled that the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill was passed. “History should not repeat itself,” the former Union minister asserted.

The Congress on Friday issued a whip to its MPs in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, asking them to be present in their respective Houses on August 10, 11 and 12 as “very important” issues will be taken up for discussion. The opposition party has also conveyed to all its INDIA bloc allies to ensure that their MPs remain present on all the three days, sources said.

Bandi Sanjay accuses Congress govt of minority appeasement

Hyderabad: Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Sunday accused the ruling Congress and the BRS of pursuing minority appeasement policies. Sanjay Kumar, who participated in Bonalu celebrations here, hit out at the Congress government, alleging that

even basic facilities were not being provided to devotees during the festival. Bonalu has been declared a state festival, but where are the funds for its proper celebration?” he asked. “There are around 3,400 temples in Hyderabad. Is an allocation of only Rs 20 crore

for Bonalu celebrations enough? Why is Rs 33 crore allocated for Ramzan celebrations?” he asked. He sought to question why the history of the Telangana Armed Struggle and its fighters had not been included in the school curriculum.



Malaysian national held with over 4 kg hydroponic ganja at Chennai airport

Chennai: The air intelligence unit of Chennai Customs intercepted a Malaysian national attempting to smuggle over four kgs of high-grade hydroponic ganja through Chennai International Airport on August 7. Acting on passenger profiling, customs officials intercepted the traveler, who had arrived on a flight from Bangkok, as he attempted to walk through the Green Channel without making any mandatory declarations. Subsequent X-ray screening of his checked-in luggage revealed suspicious internal density images, prompting officers to conduct a detailed physical examination. During the search, officials recovered four packets containing a greenish, lumpy substance emitting a sharp, pungent odour, an official release from Joint Commissioner of Customs K M Guru Rajesh on Saturday late night said. The contraband was ingeniously concealed inside custom false bottoms constructed within the checked-in bags. Testing with a Narcotic Drug Detection Kit confirmed the substance to be Hydroponic Ganja (Cannabis), yielding a total net weight of 4,033 grams. Customs officers seized the illegal narcotics under Section 43(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. The passenger was formally arrested and remanded to judicial custody, while a detailed investigation remains in progress to trace the wider network. Following the seizure, Guru Rajesh also issued an advisory cautioning the public, particularly youth, to remain vigilant against offers of sponsored foreign travel and easy money for carrying unknown baggage on their return journey. He said analysis of recent cases reveals that smuggling syndicates frequently target young individuals by funding their travel, accommodation, and other expenses, and subsequently use them to carry and deliver contraband into India. Involvement in such activities can ruin lives, as these are serious offences under the law that invite strict punishment and long-term legal consequences, he added.

Rajamahendravaram medico accident case: Victim's father lodges complaint with police

Rajamahendravaram medico accident case: Victim's father lodges complaint with police FONT SIZE Select Hans India Now FOLLOW ON Google News A significant development took place in the case where a medical student Priyanka hospita



lised following the accident by youths in Rajamahendravaram with the victim's father, Venkatesh, lodged a complaint at the Prakashnagar Police Station in Rajamahendravaram. In the complaint, he urged authorities to take strict action against the accused. He stated, "On the night of the 3rd, the accused, driving rashly while intoxicated, rammed their car into Priyanka's scooter three times. The charges currently filed by the police are not severe enough; the sections should be altered to ensure the accused receive harsh punishment." District Additional SP Patil and DSP Subhash are currently discussing the matter with the complainant. It is known that Priyanka, who sustained severe injuries in the incident, is currently undergoing treatment on a ventilator at KIMS Hospital in Secunderabad. After

speaking with the police, Venkatesh addressed the media. "Doctors informed us that the car ran over Priyanka's head. Her condition is currently extremely critical, and her organs are gradually failing. The accused were driving recklessly under the influence of alcohol. Even though they knew that running someone over with a car could be fatal, they drove at high speed" Venkatesh said. Further, he alleged that they deliberately caused the accident and opined that his daughter's future has been destroyed. "We sought clarification from the police regarding any doubts we had about the investigation; they explained every aspect thoroughly, backed by evidence. We have faith in the police and believe that justice will be served. We are convinced that the investigation is being conducted properly," he stated.

Sri City marks 18th raising day with large blood donation drive

Sri City: Commemorating 18 years of industrial excellence, Sri City celebrated its 18th Raising Day on Saturday with a massive voluntary blood donation camp reflecting its core focus on corporate social responsibility. The social initiative was organized by the Sri City Foundation in collaboration with the Tirupati-based NTR Trust. The drive witnessed enthusiastic participation from industrial workers and corporate employees across major units situated within the integrated business city, including Axxelent Pharma, TIL Healthcare, NGC, THK, and Rockworth. Organizers noted an overwhelming response, praising the strong community spirit and culture of giving demonstrated by the industrial workforce. Coinciding with the milestone celebration, state authorities reaffirmed Sri City's growth trajectory with the Andhra Pradesh government allocating more than 2,000 additional acres for its expansion. Local leaders and urban planners stated that this substantial land addition will further solidify Sri City's position as a premier national manufacturing hub. The expanded zone is slated to host state-of-the-art industrial plants, generate thousands of local jobs, and upgrade regional infrastructure while attracting domestic and foreign



direct investment. Sri City officials stated that the township continues to balance competitive industrial standards with social inclusion and environmental care. Emphasizing its role as a model for "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (Self-Reliant India), management highlighted that manufacturing-led economic development must go hand-in-hand with community welfare initiatives. With fresh land allocations and ongoing infrastructure build-outs, Sri City remains uniquely positioned to shape Andhra Pradesh's industrial roadmap while actively contributing to India's broader economic goals.

Trade Unions call for constituency-level 'Jail Bharo' protests tomorrow

Pathikonda: Trade union leaders have issued a joint call to workers, farmers, and the general public to participate in large numbers in the constituency-level 'Jail Bharo' and protest demonstrations scheduled for August 10. The agitation aims to highlight resistance against the alleged anti-worker, anti-farmer, and anti-people policies of the Narendra Modi-led Central government. Addressing a preparatory meeting at the Devanakonda Tahsildar office premises on Saturday, Agricultural Workers' Union district president B Veera Sekhar and AITUC district assistant secretary M Narasarao outlined their core demands. The leaders

called for fixing a minimum wage of Rs 31,000 per month, immediate scrapping of the four labor codes, and the regularization of contract and outsourcing staff in permanent positions. Turning to agricultural grievances, the union representatives demanded remunerative prices for all crops calculated at 50 percent above production costs, recognition and credit facilities for tenant farmers, farm loan waivers up to Rs 2 lakh, and free crop insurance in drought-affected regions. They also insisted on expanding MGNREGS to guarantee 200 workdays annually at a daily wage of Rs 700, alongside creating an urban employment guar-

Andhra Governor calls for preserving cultural identity of tribals

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Governor S. Abdul Nazeer has called for preserving the traditions and cultural identity of tribals. On International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, he said that indigenous communities make invaluable contributions to our society, culture and heritage. "Their rich traditions, cultural identity and traditional knowledge must be preserved, while ensuring their rights, dignity, equal opportunities and inclusive development," he said. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu conveyed heartfelt greetings to all tribal brothers and sisters on the occasion of World Indigenous Peoples' Day. He stated that the tribal culture, traditions, and their unique way of life intertwined with forests and nature are a great source of pride for the society. He said the government has set the goal to improve education, health, and employment for indigenous people and remains committed to their holistic development. "The government is continuously striving with the aim of enhancing the self-respect of tribals, their self-reliance, and progress," he said. Also Read Saarathi Finance adds 11 branches across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana to deepen MSME lending network Advertisement Discover more Lifestyle Content Platform Technology News Hub Online Newspaper Subscription Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan said in his message on the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples that tribal communities are the eternal guardians of forests, custodians of ancient wisdom and living soul of Bharat's rich cultural heritage. "The forests have protected our Tribal communities for generations, and in return, they



have protected the forests as guardians of nature, culture and ancient wisdom. On the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, I extend my heartfelt greetings to all my Tribal brothers and sisters," said the Jana Sena leader. "This year's theme, "Honouring Indigenous Midwives: Safeguarding Life and Well-being," reminds us of the invaluable traditional knowledge passed down through generations and the vital role Indigenous women and communities play in protecting life, health, culture and heritage. My bond with our Tribal communities is deeply personal. Their affection and trust have always strengthened my resolve to work for their dignity and welfare," he said. "Through initiatives such as Adavi Thalli Baata, improved connectivity to remote habitations, livelihood opportunities, and stronger protection of forests and wildlife, we are working to ensure that development reaches every Tribal family while their identity and traditions remain protected. Their trust is a responsibility. Their heritage is our pride. Their progress is our commitment. Let us walk together towards a future where every Tribal family lives with dignity, opportunity, security and hope," the Deputy Chief Minister added.

Tirupati ready set to host grand 80th I-Day

Tirupati: District Collector Dr S Venkateswar has directed all government departments to work in close coordination and adhere strictly to timeline targets to ensure the grand success of the upcoming 80th Independence Day celebrations. Chairing a virtual review meeting from Tirupati on Saturday, the Collector reviewed venue preparations alongside District Superintendent of Police L Subba Rayudu, Joint Collector R Govindarao, In-charge Municipal Commissioner Sarada Devi, and District Revenue Officer G Narasimhulu. Dr Venkateswar emphasized that all official arrangements must strictly adhere to state protocol to prevent coordination gaps. He announced that State Endowments Minister Anam Rama Narayana Reddy will attend the main event as the chief guest. The Collector instructed the police department to execute foolproof security plans, traffic management, drone monitoring, flag-hoisting protocols, and ceremonial parade routines. Municipal authorities were directed to oversee stage setup, floral decorations, lighting, sanitation, and drinking water arrangements. Meanwhile, electric-



ity department officials were ordered to guarantee uninterrupted power supply throughout the celebrations. To highlight state initiatives, department heads were asked to set up informational stalls detailing key development programs and welfare schemes. Detailing security logistics, District SP L Subba Rayudu stated that police personnel are undergoing rigorous parade training and preparing the grounds. He added that an Additional SP will work alongside the District Revenue Officer to supervise security, vehicle arrangements, and protocol adherence. Officials from the Roads & Buildings, TUDA, Health, Education, Fire, Transport, Revenue, and Information & Public Relations departments attended the planning conference.



antee framework. Strongly opposing the privatization of public sector enterprises and rising fuel prices, the leaders pressed for declaring Kurnool district as drought-hit and expediting the Vedavathi and

Gundrevula reservoir projects. CITU mandal secretary M Ashok presided over the meeting, which was attended by trade leaders Yousuf Basha, Krishna, Y Mahendra, Ramanji, Bhaskar, and Vijay.

Nikita Rawal shocked after female fan kisses her on the lips at Red-Carpet event



Mumbai: Actress Nikita Rawal was kissed on the lips by her female fan during a recent red-carpet appearance. A female fan approached Nikita Rawal for a selfie and the actress happily obliged for the picture, even smiling as she did so. However, unexpectedly, the actress was shocked when a fan kissed on her lips after clicking the picture. The incident happened in front of the paps, leaving the actress momentarily caught off guard. Nikita Rawal was posing at an event at the red carpet and then a fan walked up to her and asked for a selfie which the actress obliged. In the viral videos that caught the moment, the female fan is seen kissing Nikita on the cheek before pulling the actress closer and kissing her on the lips. The actress is seen trying to stop the fan. The ac-

trix can be visibly seen shocked in the video. The video is trending on Instagram currently and fans are sharing their experience in the comments section. Fans are raising the questions on the security of the celebrities and even some are of the opinion that fans should respect the privacy of celebs. Nikita Rawal has worked across Bollywood and South Indian cinema. The actress appeared in films including Black & White, alongside Anil Kapoor and Shefali Shah, Mr Hot Mr Kool, The Hero – Abhimanyu, Ammaa Ki Boli, Garam Masala and Cute Kamina. Nikia Rawal has received several awards for her work. Apart from acting, she has been involved in projects focusing on social issues. She is also set to feature in the upcoming film Roti Kapda Aur Romance, in which she stars alongside Arshad Warsi and Chunky Pandey.

Yash defends Kiara Advani amid ‘Tabahi’ trolling, says, “Whatever You Believe

Mumbai: Actor Yash showered praise on his co-stars, particularly Kiara Advani, Nayanthara, Huma Qureshi, and Tara Sutaria, at the trailer launch of their film 'Toxic' in Bengaluru on Saturday."The kind of role you have performed in this is just a glimpse in trailer. ""You are so dedicated man. I have seen you like work so hard and you know initially we all thought okay when you get all these actors there could be a problem and there could be so many issues. But I think the start, the beginning is Kiara was so down to earth she dedicated herself and surrendered to this vision in the way she has performed," he said. Yash also indirectly hit back at the trolls who criticised Kiara Advani for her bold scenes in the song "Tabahi," saying that she should always do what she truly believes in. "And what you have to go through as an actor unfortunately... (you should not care)... Whatever you believe in, you should do and people will celebrate, people will appreciate. It's just that we



are little ahead of times," he added. The film is directed by Geetu Mohandas. Shot simultaneously in English and Kannada, Toxic will also be released in dubbed versions in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil and Malayalam, taking its world of action, thrill and larger-than-life storytelling to audiences across languages. Directed by Geetu Mohandas, Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups stars Yash, Nayanthara, Kiara Advani, Tara Sutaria, Rukmini Vasanth and Huma Qureshi in pivotal roles. Produced by KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations, the film is set for a worldwide theatrical release on August 26.

Aamir Khan’s KBC 18 appearance sparks marriage jokes from fans

Mumbai: Actor Aamir Khan makes a special appearance on popular quiz show Kaun Banega Crorepati along with Sunny Deol and Priety Zinta to promote Batwara 1947. The movie Batwara 1947 will hit theaters on August 14. However, amid the promotional buzz, fans have found another reason to focus on Aamir, with many viewers trolling the actor over his recent third marriage to Gauri Spratt. A new promo for KBC 18 has Aamir Khan questioning Amitabh Bachchan about the season’s theme, ‘Sochna Padega’. “Aapne promo mein kaha hai ‘Sochna Padega’, toh kya sochna padega?" Aamir asks Big B. Amitabh reacts in his trademark style, telling him

that things will not be so easy this season because contestants will have to think. Aamir then agrees, saying, “Sochna padega, Sir... waakai sochna padega." While the exchange has caught viewers’ attention, some fans took to the comments box to relate the conversation with Aamir Khan's personal life. With the actor having married for the third time just last month, several are of the opinion that Aamir can easily tie the knot with the fourth one too. Various netizens say in the comments section that ask Aamir when he’s getting married for the fourth time while some say that he is perhaps there to talk about his marriages. Others kept the trolling lighter, joking that Aamir may have to

Mini Mathur on reality-show strategy: ‘Negativity has no place in the game’

Mumbai: Mini Mathur, who has emerged as the winner of the primary season of the reality show, 'Alliance,' talked about the thin line between strategy and dirty gameplay in reality shows. During her exclusive interaction with IANS, Mini shared that smart moves to stay ahead in the game are fine, but spreading negativity by doing personal attacks is something that is not appreciated. She was asked, "In reality shows, there is often a debate about the difference between smart gameplay and dirty gameplay. According to you, where should that line be drawn?" Mini told IANS, "A certain amount of manipulation is part of strategy. If you want someone to underplay their game because it benefits your own strategy or improves your position on the tracker board, that is perfectly acceptable. It is part of the game. However, personal attacks, insulting someone's gender, or shouting simply to create toxicity are things I do not believe in." She added that there is a fine line between playing strategically to survive and trying to pull someone down just to move ahead. "Personally, I do not think the second approach is necessary," Mini said. Mini also hoped that her winning the show gives out a message that one does not need to play dirty to win a reality show, contrary to the common notion. "Hopefully, my victory sends a message to other reality shows that you do not have to be down



and dirty to win. You can be straightforward, sharp, strategic, and even manipulative within the rules of the game. You can also be a woman over fifty and still defeat contestants who are half your age," she concluded. Premiered on Prime Video on June 26 this year, 'Alliance' saw Ravi Kishan and Riva Kishan, Kushal Tandon and Arslan Goni, Daisy Shah and Zaid Darbar, Mini Mathur and Nikhil Chinapa, Niti Taylor and Ruhee Dosani, Vanshaj Singh and Dolly Javed, Payal Dhare (Payal Gaming) and Sabby Suri, and Delbar Arya and Armaan Khera as contestants.

Mahesh Babu’s first look as Rudhra in SS Rajamouli’s ‘Varanasi’ unveiled on his birthday

Mumbai: As Tollywood heartthrob Mahesh Babu turned a year older on Sunday, the makers of his much-anticipated drama 'Varanasi' treated the movie buffs with his first look as Rudhra. Mahesh Babu was seen relaxing as he posed on a bamboo raft. In another photo, we could also see him standing amidst the wilderness looking at the vast landscape he was surrounded by. Dropping the captivating first look on social media, Mahesh Babu captioned the post, "Fierce isn’t his only shade... RUDHRA in #Varanasi. @urstrulyMahesh (sic)." SS Rajamouli also shared a heartfelt note for the birthday star, claiming that Rudra is someone born to fulfill a special purpose. The 'RRR' maker wrote, "Rudhra was born to fulfil a purpose much larger than himself. He carries a destiny he did not ask for. He is witty, he is vulnerable, and he is fierce. That is what Mahesh brought to him. Anyone can play fierce. Very few can play fierce and fragile in the same breath (sic)." Sharing his experience of shooting 'Varanasi', he went on to add, "These frames are from our Africa schedule, and the land gave us something no set could. Shooting around Kilimanjaro



and in the Masai Mara, I was stunned. There were mornings I felt even the 1.43:1 IMAX frame could not hold what was in front of us “ Mahesh Babu's 'Varanasi' co-stars Priyanka Chopra and Prithviraj Sukumaran wished him, saying, "Another trip around the Sun... before we travel across time. Happy Birthday Rudhra (Blue heart emoji)." It must be noted that 80% of filming for 'Varanasi' has already been completed, including the major action sequences. The remaining portions of the action entertainer are being filmed in Hyde rabad. Written by V. Vijayendra Prasad along with S. S. Kanchi and produced by K. L. Narayana and S. S. Karthikeya under the banners of Sri Durga Arts and Showing Business, "Varanasi" is believed to share the tale of Rudhra (Played by Mahesh Babu) as the city of Varanasi faces the impending arrival of an asteroid.

“think" about marriage again after his third wedding. Kaun Banega Crorepati 18th season carries the theme ‘Sochna Padega’ and is centred on thoughtful decision-making. Season 18 is scheduled to premiere on August 10 at 9 pm on Sony Entertainment Television and Sony LIV. Aamir Khan and Gauri Spratt tied the knot on July 5, 2026 and the couple registered their marriage under the Special Marriage Act before celebrating with close family and friends. The wedding marked Aamir’s third marriage. Aamir Khan first married to Reena Dutta in 1986 and divorced in 2002 after 16 years of marriage. They share two children, Junaid Khan and Ira Khan. The actor then married film-



maker Kiran Rao. The couple welcomed their son, Azad Rao Khan, in 2011 through surrogacy. They announced their separation in 2021 after 15 years of marriage.

India’s World Cup hockey journey from 1971 bronze to 2023

New Delhi: India’s men’s hockey team has had a roller-coaster journey in the World Cup, from winning the inaugural bronze in 1971 to lifting the title in 1975 and then enduring a long wait for another podium finish.The eight-time Olympic champions’ only World Cup triumph came in Kuala Lumpur in 1975, when Ajit Pal Singh’s side defeated arch-rivals Pakistan 2-1 in the final.Pakistan remain the most successful team in the tournament with four titles, while the Netherlands, Australia and Germany have won it three times each. Belgium are the other champions.

Here is a look at India’s World Cup journey through the 2023 edition: 1971 Barcelona

The World Cup was conceived after India and Pakistan jointly proposed a hockey tournament on the lines of football’s World Cup at the FIH Council meeting in 1969. Pakistan were initially awarded the hosting rights, but political tensions between the two countries forced the inaugural edition to be shifted to Barcelona.India topped Pool A after beating France, Argentina, Kenya and West Germany, but lost 1-2 to Pakistan in the semi-finals. Pakistan went on to beat Spain in the final to become the inaugural champions, while India defeated Kenya 2-1 to take the bronze medal.

1973 Amsterdam

India reached the final of the second World Cup in Amsterdam but missed out on the title after a dramatic finish against hosts the Netherlands. The Indian team finished second in Pool A behind West Germany before beating Pakistan in the semi-finals, with B P Govinda scoring the decisive goal.The final ended 2-2 after extra time before the Netherlands prevailed in the penalty shootout to claim their maiden World Cup title.

1975 Kuala Lumpur

March 15, 1975 remains the defining date in Indian hockey’s World Cup history. Led by Ajit Pal Singh, India defeated Pakistan 2-1 in the final to win their only World Cup title so far. Pakistan took the lead, but Surjit Singh equalised in the 44th

minute before Ashok Kumar scored the winner in the 51st minute. Seven-time Olympic champion India had topped their pool before defeating Malaysia in the semi-finals.

1978 Buenos Aires

India’s title defence ended in disappointment as the defending champions failed to qualify for the semi-finals and finished sixth. India won three of their six pool matches but suffered two defeats, including a heavy 0-7 loss to West Germany. Pakistan regained the title by defeating the Netherlands 3-2 in the final, while Australia finished third.

1982 Mumbai

India hosted the World Cup for the first time in Mumbai but could not make it to the final four, finishing fifth.Pakistan remained unbeaten and defeated West Germany 3-1 in the final at the Wankhede Stadium to win their third World Cup title. India’s Rajinder Singh Senior emerged as the tournament’s leading scorer with 12 goals.

1986 London

India endured their worst World Cup campaign to that point, finishing 12th and last in London.

Mohammad Shahid, however, was a standout performer for India and his dazzling dribbling earned him the Player of the Tournament award. Australia defeated England 2-1 in the final, while West Germany finished third. Three-time champions Pakistan ended 11th.

1990 Lahore

The World Cup in Lahore was played amid political tensions, a hostile home crowd and heightened security concerns. India, captained by Pargat Singh, finished 10th but earned the FIH Fair Play Award for maintaining their composure in difficult circumstances. The Netherlands defeated Pakistan to win the title, while Australia took the bronze medal.Geographic Reference

1994 Sydney

Under captain Jude Felix, India finished fifth in Sydney, their best World Cup result on artificial turf at that stage. Pakistan defeated the Netherlands 4-3 in



a penalty shootout in the final to win the title, with Australia finishing third.

1998 Utrecht

European teams dominated the tournament in Utrecht, with hosts the Netherlands defeating Spain in the final to claim their third World Cup title.

Germany finished third, while India, led by Dhanraj Pillay, struggled to adapt to the conditions and finished ninth.

2002 Kuala Lumpur

The 2002 edition marked the introduction of the 16-team World Cup format. Germany defeated Australia in the final to win the title, while the Netherlands finished third. India managed three wins, one draw and five defeats in nine matches and ended the tournament in 10th place.

2006 Monchengladbach

India endured another difficult campaign under captain Dilip Tirkey, failing to win a single match in the pool stage. They drew against South Africa but lost their other matches to finish at the bottom of their pool.India later defeated South Africa in the classification match, with Rajpal Singh scoring the winner, to finish 11th among the 12 participating teams. Germany defeated Australia in the final to retain the title, while Spain took the bronze medal.

2010 Delhi

India’s biggest highlight at the 2010 World Cup on home soil came in the pool stage when they thrashed arch-rivals Pakistan 4-1 before a packed Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium. India finished fourth in their pool and missed out on a semi-final berth, eventually ending the tournament eighth. Australia defeated Germany 2-1

in the final to lift the title, while the Netherlands secured the bronze medal.

India’s wait for another World Cup podium finish continued.

2014 The Hague

India endured a disappointing campaign in The Hague, suffering heavy defeats to Belgium, England and Australia and finishing ninth in the pool stage. Akashdeep Singh was India’s standout performer, scoring five goals in the tournament. Australia thrashed hosts the Netherlands 6-1 in the final to win the title, while Argentina took the bronze medal.

2018 Bhubaneswar

India hosted the World Cup in Odisha, the hockey heartland of the country, for the first time.

Led by captain Manpreet Singh, India drew against Belgium and defeated South Africa and Canada to finish top of their pool.

However, the hosts lost a closely fought quarter-final 1-2 to the Netherlands and finished sixth, their best World Cup result in several years. Belgium defeated the Netherlands in a penalty shootout to win their maiden World Cup title, while Australia finished third.

2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela

India hosted the World Cup for the second successive time and again finished **second in their pool**.

The hosts, captained by Harmanpreet Singh, were knocked out by New Zealand in a penalty shootout in the crossover match and eventually finished ninth. Germany defeated Belgium in a shootout to win the title, while the Netherlands finished third.

Ashmita Chaliha becomes third Indian women’s singles player to win BWF World Tour Super 300

Hyderabad: Ashmita Chaliha became the third Indian women’s singles player to win a BWF World Tour Super 300 title this year as she came back from a game down to beat China’s Han Qian Xi in the Korea Masters final in Asan on Sunday.The 26-year-old left-hander got the better of Han 14-21, 21-14, 21-14 in 53 minutes to clinch the biggest title of her career and join the exclusive club of Super 300 winners from India.While former World No.1 Saina Nehwal and former world champion PV Sindhu have won many titles at this level, Devika Sihag won the Thailand Masters in February and Tanvi Sharma clinched the Chinese Taipei Open crown last week.

Ashmita, who also trains at the National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati along with Tanvi, joined the list on Sunday. “I feel really great and unbelievable.But then I am trying to digest it. Now, I am hungry for more,”

*said Ashmita after becoming the first Indian to win the Korea Masters crown. *The World no. 50, who had packed off top seed Hina Akechi in the quarterfinals, began the final with a flourish and opened up a 9-5 lead before a flurry of errors saw her drop five straight points and conceded the advantage in the opening game.



But the Guwahati-born shuttler made amends in the next two games, showed patience to stay in the rallies and find the winners on crucial junctures to wrap up the final.

Breaking down the final, Ashmita said, “In the first game, it was a little bit tricky because of the drift condition. So I was not able to manage it. But in the second, the other side was more comfortable and there was less drift. So I was able to control it. And in the third, after 11 points, I changed again. So I was on the good side. So I’m glad that I could pull off.”

NorthEast United FC beat Karbi Anglong 4-1 in Durand Cup

Guwahati: A brace from Alaaeddine Ajaraie, complemented by late strikes from substitutes Macarton Louis Nickson and debutant Etyan Gonzalez Morales, powered defending champions NorthEast United FC to a commanding 4-1 victory over Karbi Anglong Morning Star FC in a Group F clash of the 135th Durand Cup at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium on Saturday.The victory strengthened NorthEast United FC’s push for a place in the knockout stages while extending their unbeaten run in the Durand Cup to 14 matches. The defending champions have now gone unbeaten in the competition since their last defeat in 2023.NorthEast United FC head coach Juan Pedro Benali set his side up in an attacking 4-2-4 formation, and the defending champions immediately asserted their authority, dominating possession and pinning Karbi Anglong Morning Star FC deep inside their own half.The pressure paid off in the seventh minute when NorthEast United were awarded a penalty after Junior Onguene Nkengue brought down Alaaeddine Ajaraie inside the box following a corner. The Moroccan forward stepped up and calmly converted from the spot, sending goalkeeper Jaspreet Singh the wrong way to give the Highlanders an early lead. NorthEast continued to press for a second, with Redeem



Tlang narrowly missing the target after being set up by Ajaraie. The Highlanders controlled the tempo and repeatedly exposed the spaces in the Karbi Anglong defence, but the debutants remained in the contest.Against the run of play, Karbi Anglong found an equaliser in the 28th minute. A misplaced pass from NorthEast defender Soraisham Dinesh Singh gifted possession to Junior Onguene Nkengue, who made amends for his earlier mistake by keeping his composure to finish from close range and make it 1-1. NorthEast responded by stepping up the pressure once again. Ajaraie came close to restoring their lead with a superbly struck free-kick, but Jaspreet Singh produced an outstanding save to keep the effort out. Redeem Tlang also continued to threaten, but Karbi Anglong defended in numbers and held firm to take the teams into the interval level. Benali made two attacking changes at half-time, bringing on Parthib Sunder Gogoi and Macarton, and the move paid immediate dividends.

Titan sees continued growth momentum in July, MD Ajoy Chawla says

New Delhi: The growth momentum witnessed in the first quarter of the current fiscal has continued in July, Titan Managing Director Ajoy Chawla said, adding that the company is on course to deliver the improvement targets after a strong start to this fiscal year. "The growth we have seen in the first quarter, and we are also seeing that July is not bad. I am seeing a certain positivity so far in the last four months," Chawla said, addressing analysts after the company's June quarter earnings. While acknowledging that near-term performance would depend on external factors, he said Titan remains on track to achieve the growth trajectory outlined earlier and could even do better this year. "We think we are on trajectory for delivering the kind of growth that we had promised on the Investor Day, and we hope that we can, in fact, better it in the current year because we have started very well," he said.

On the jewellery business, which contributes around 90 per cent of Titan's topline, Chawla reiterated his commitment to delivering healthy double-digit value growth in the segment, saying it is essential to achieving Titan's FY30 goals. "We

are committed to healthy double-digit growth in value in the jewellery business because that is the only way we will get to our committed FY30 goals that we have said. In a particular quarter or in two quarters, it may be looking like a power play where we have hit the ball out of the park. It is not just us. The market also has done very well," he said. He, however, cautioned against reading too much into short-term performance swings, whether positive or negative.

Earlier this year, Titan Company set a strategic roadmap to double its consolidated revenue and operating profit (EBIT) by FY30 compared to FY26 base levels. The Titan management also pointed to a resurgence in studded jewellery demand, which he said began in the fourth quarter of the previous fiscal and has continued into the first quarter of the current year. "We began seeing a resurgence of studded in the fourth quarter of last year, and we are seeing that continue to play out in quarter one," he said, adding that buyer growth in the studded segment has been rising since Q4 of last year – a trend he described as the "heartening part of the story". On the in-



ternational business, they said the rest of the portfolio, barring UAE-based jewellery brand Damas, continues to post a mid-single-digit EBIT margin of 5-6 per cent, which he expects to sustain.

Damas' contribution to the international business will remain limited, with its performance contingent on the current situation it faces, he pointed out. On buyer growth trends during the quarter, Titan said April and June saw healthy footfalls, while sentiment was somewhat subdued in May. He attributed the fluctuation largely to gold price movements. "If gold rates stay stable, we always see that sentiments are positive and people come back and they don't sit on the fence," he said, adding that volatile or consistently falling gold prices tend to prompt buyers without an urgent need to defer purchases, whereas stable or marginally rising prices support demand.

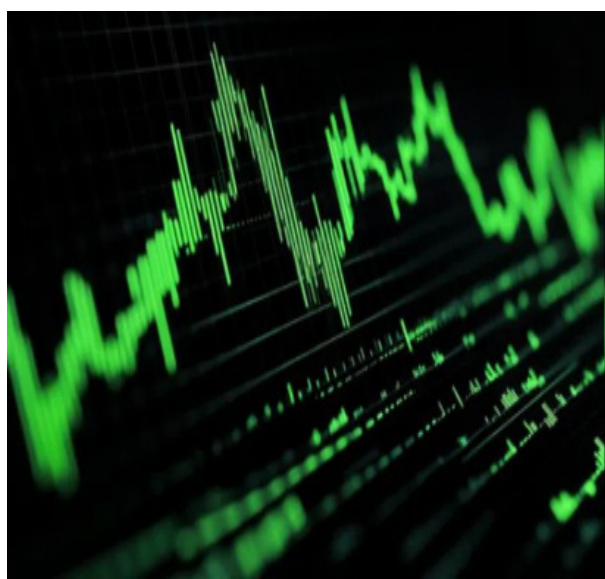
Moreover, as gold prices remain high, Titan is using lightweight jewellery and exchange schemes to provide affordable purchase options. "Accessibility comes from keeping it lightweight, looking at a variety of caratages, looking at an exchange programme that is strong to get them to recycle. All these are different levers that we are using to keep jewellery accessible to a wide set of consumers across the different town classes that we are present in," the company said.

The Titan MD said the headroom for growth remains high across all the company's business segments – jewellery, eyecare, watches, fragrances, bags and sarees – driven by tailwinds of formalisation, the broader India growth story, rising participation from "middle India", and premiumisation trends. Terming the June quarter as "another fantastic quarter", Chawla said this quarter has been even better than the previous quarters. "We have seen all-round growth across all our businesses, all our brands, subsidiaries, and we have also seen a good volume growth and a buyer growth that has come in," he said. Titan Company Ltd on Friday reported a 40.3 per cent growth in revenue for the June quarter of FY27 to Rs 20,787 crore, driven by strong performance in the jewellery business. Its profit also increased 62.87 per cent to Rs 1,777 crore in Q1 FY27. This is the third successive quarter in which the Tata Group-managed firm has reported over 40 per cent revenue growth.

Crude oil, West Asia tensions to guide stock market this week

New Delhi: Crude oil prices, geopolitical tensions in West Asia and upcoming inflation data will dictate stock market direction this week, according to analysts. Moreover, developments surrounding the Strait of Hormuz, foreign investor trading activity and domestic quarterly earnings will also remain key monitorables for the Indian stock market, experts added. "Domestically, investors will closely monitor the July CPI inflation print, WPI inflation and the latest foreign exchange reserves data for fresh insights into inflation trends and external sector stability. The Q1 FY27 earnings season will gather further momentum, with several companies, including HAL, Bharat Forge, Grasim Industries and Tata Motors, scheduled to announce their quarterly results," Ajit Mishra – SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said. Globally, market participants will continue to monitor developments surrounding the Strait of Hormuz, movements in crude oil prices and broader geopolitical negotiations involving Iran, he added. "This week is likely to be shaped by two dominant themes: developments in the Middle East and the July US inflation report. Attention will remain firmly focused on the Middle East, where negotiations over the Strait of Hormuz remain fluid," Ponmudi R, CEO – Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said. On the macroeconomic front, the July US inflation report will be the key global event in the week ahead, he said and added that crude oil will remain another key monitorable for Indian markets. History

Meanwhile, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) maintained their buying spree in Indian equities, investing Rs 12,921 crore in the first week of August. Last week, the BSE benchmark Sensex climbed 404.53 points, or 0.51 per cent, and the NSE Nifty went up by 187.05 points, or 0.76 per cent. "Markets ended the week with modest gains despite heightened volatility, as investors navigated the roll-out of the new Closing Auction Session (CAS) framework for F&O stocks, the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy decision and lingering



geopolitical uncertainties," Mishra said. The closing auction session remained the key highlight of the last week, as it was the first week of the new system, Santosh Meena, Head of Research at Swastika Investmart Ltd, said. "The week will also be important from a macroeconomic perspective, with India scheduled to release CPI inflation on August 12 and WPI inflation on August 14. In the US, CPI and PPI (Producer Price Index) data will be released on August 12 and 13, respectively," he added.

4 top-valued firms add Rs 1.43 lakh crore in market cap last week

Mumbai: The combined market valuation of four of India's 10 most valued companies jumped by nearly Rs 1.43 lakh crore last week, led by State Bank of India (SBI), even as six other firms in the top-10 pack witnessed a combined erosion of around Rs 1.23 lakh crore in market capitalisation. The gains came as the benchmark indices ended the week higher despite heightened volatility. The Sensex rose 404.53 points, or 0.51 per cent, while the Nifty gained 187.05 points, or 0.76 per cent during the week. Experts said that markets ended the week with modest gains despite heightened volatility, as investors navigated the roll-out of the new Closing Auction Session (CAS) framework for F&O stocks, the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy decision, and lingering geopolitical uncertainties. Among the top-10 most valued firms, State Bank of India emerged as the biggest gainer, with its market

UPI to stay free for consumers: Centre

New Delhi: The government on Saturday clarified that consumers will not be charged for making payments through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), while any future merchant discount rate (MDR) will be limited to select transactions above a specified threshold. The Finance Ministry said that all person-to-person (P2P) UPI transactions will continue to remain free and there will be no blanket MDR on merchants. "If introduced, MDR charges will apply only to a limited set of merchant transactions above a certain threshold and at a nominal rate," it said. The government further added that such charges would be significantly lower than the MDR applicable to debit or credit card transactions. The clarification comes amid debate over a recent amendment to the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, with concerns being raised about the possibility of charges being imposed on UPI users. In addition, the government said the amendment is an enabling provision aimed at ensuring the long-term sustainability, technological development and resilience of the UPI ecosystem. The proposed changes are part of the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026. Once Parliament passes the Bill, the 'UPI and Services Steering Committee'



— headed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) — will decide on the MDR, if any, the government said. It said UPI's rapidly increasing transaction volumes require continued investment in cybersecurity, fraud prevention and technology infrastructure. The government also said a sustainable revenue model is needed to encourage more companies to expand their operations in the UPI ecosystem and reduce reliance on subsidies. UPI processed 2,366 crore transactions worth Rs 29.9 lakh crore in July 2026 alone, according to the ministry. Moreover, the payment system is currently live in 11 foreign countries, while several other countries have expressed interest in adopting the technology. The government rejected reports suggesting that external influences were driving the policy changes, describing such claims as unfounded and misleading.

capitalisation increasing by Rs 63,922.03 crore to Rs 10,11,721.84 crore.

The strong increase pushed SBI further up the ranking of India's most valuable companies. Reliance Industries added Rs 32,816.4 crore to its valuation, taking its market capitalisation to Rs 18,01,925.19 crore. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) saw its valuation rise by Rs 31,875.35 crore to Rs 8,87,770.13 crore. The market capitalisation of Larsen & Toubro also increased by Rs 14,637.76 crore to Rs 5,56,482.45 crore. On the other hand, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) recorded the biggest decline among the laggards, with its market valuation falling by Rs 40,543.23 crore to Rs 4,96,891.82 crore. Bajaj Finance saw its market capitalisation decline by Rs 37,168.96 crore to Rs 6,73,648.55 crore, while HDFC Bank lost Rs 24,183.16 crore from its valuation, which stood at Rs 11,27,967.47 crore. The market



capitalisation of ICICI Bank declined by Rs 9,507.67 crore to Rs 10,20,370.63 crore, while Bharti Airtel witnessed an erosion of Rs 7,581.65 crore, taking its valuation to Rs 12,22,423.98 crore. Hindustan Unilever was another laggard, with its market capitalisation declining by Rs 4,793.16 crore to Rs 4,88,808.97 crore.

RETIRED LIC OFFICER NEMANI SIMHADRI JOINS YSRCP IN PADERU

YSRCP District President & MLA Matsyarasa Visweswara Raju Welcomes New Member



PADERU / KOYYURU: Inflow into the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) is steadily increasing in the Paderu Assembly constituency, particularly among retired government officials drawn by the party's principles and welfare initiatives. On Saturday, Nemani Simhadri, a retired LIC High-Grade Assistant hailing from Chittempadu village in Koyyuru Mandal, formally joined the party. At a ceremony held at the MLA Camp Office in Paderu, YSRCP District President and Paderu MLA Matsyarasa Visweswara Raju welcomed Simhadri into the party fold by offering him the party scarf.

Key Highlights of the Event: Joining Motives: Nemani Simhadri expressed that he joined YSRCP trusting its commitment to the upliftment of marginalized sections

and welfare development.

Family Legacy: He noted his father's previous service as Sarpanch and Deputy Sarpanch, pledging to follow in his footsteps to serve the public and strengthen the party in the region.

Leadership Response: MLA Visweswara Raju welcomed the trend of respected, experienced retired officials joining YSRCP, stating that Simhadri's inclusion will significantly strengthen the party structure across Koyyuru Mandal.

Attendees: Key Koyyuru Mandal party leaders, including Vara Nookaraju, Depuri Raju, Potla Simhachalam, Sampari Ramana, Chittari Kalyanam, and Gudali Balaraju, attended and congratulated the newly joined leader.

VELPULA KUMARASWAMY ELECTED AS GURUKUL PAR- ENTS' COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Elections Conducted Via Secret Ballot at Telangana Social Welfare Gurukula School/College

MANTHANI: Velpula Kumaraswamy has been elected as the new Chairman of the Parents' Committee for the Telangana Social Welfare Gurukula School and College (Boys) in Manthani. The Parents' Committee meeting was conducted on Sunday under the chairmanship of Peddapalli District DCO & Principal Srinath and Vice-Principal Naveen.

“The election for the chairmanship saw a contest between Velpula Kumaraswamy and P. Shekhar, conducted via a secret ballot system in which 62 parents participated.



Election Results & Voting Breakup: Velpula Kumaraswamy (Elected Chairman): Secured 35 votes. P. Shekhar: Received 25 votes. Invalid Votes: 2 votes.

Newly Elected Committee Executive Members (Unanimous Selections):

Vice-Chairman: Velpula Mogili

General Secretary: Sadula Srinivas

Treasurer: Janjarla Srinivas

Assistant Secretary: Nalli Satheesh

Executive Committee Members: Kanuru Sadayya, Venkataswamy, Swamy, Dandru Bhoomesh, Gaddala Mahesh, Kasipeta Sarayya, B. Srinivas, N.

Sammayya, M. Srinivas, and S. Sarayya.

Chairman's Address: Expressing his gratitude to the parents for their trust, newly elected Chairman Velpula Kumaraswamy promised to bring student issues to the Principal's attention promptly for quick resolution. He highlighted his past struggles for hostel development and basic infrastructure, committing to work alongside school authorities, teachers, and parents to improve overall student welfare, education quality, and campus hygiene.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT MUST EX- CEED GOVERNMENT TARGETS: MIN- ISTER KONDAPALLI SRINIVAS

Rs.53 Lakh Mandal Education Resource Centre Inaugurated in Gajapathinagaram

GAJAPATHINAGARAM: State Minister for MSME, SERP, and NRI Empowerment Kondapalli Srinivas inaugurated the newly constructed Mandal Education Resource Centre (MRC) built at a cost of ₹53 lakh on Sunday evening. Speaking at the event, Minister Srinivas called upon education department officials to actively work toward surpassing the government's

benchmarks for educational development. Highlighting the vision of Minister Nara Lokesh, he stated that the government is committed to delivering quality education to underprivileged students, enabling public schools to compete with private institutions in both standards and academic results.

Strategic Planning: Education officials must adopt forward-

PATRIOTIC FERVOR MARKS CHILDREN'S ART COMPETITION AT BAPU MUSEUM

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha Inaugurates Event Ahead of 80th Independence Day



VIJAYAWADA: To commemorate India's upcoming 80th Independence Day, Bright Minds Organization and the Lions Club Commercial Division jointly organized a grand drawing competition for children on Sunday at the Bapu Museum in Vijayawada. NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha attended as the chief guest to inaugurate the event. He interacted with the young participants and took a keen interest in reviewing their artwork.

Key Highlights of the Event:

Focus: Arts and drawing play a crucial role in fostering patriotism, national spirit, and creativity in students. Dr. Lakshmisha emphasized that expressing patriotic feelings through art

strengthens national identity. Participation: Around 250 children enthusiastically participated, showcasing their talent and creativity across themes of the tricolor flag, national leaders, and freedom struggle.

Competition Structure: The competition was organized into four groups based on age and talent.

Award Ceremony: Prominent doctors and officials presented prizes, certificates, and mementos to meritorious students from various schools including Sharmok School, St. John's School, NSM School, NextGen School, St. Theresa, and RCM School.

Recognition: All student participants received participation certificates.

SPECIAL QR CODE LAUNCHED FOR PUB- LIC FEEDBACK ON PGRS SERVICES

Grievance Redressal Program Scheduled for August 10 Across District Offices

ప్రజా సమస్యల పరిష్కార వేదిక(PGRS)-మికోసం



VIJAYAWADA: To accelerate the resolution of public grievances in a user-friendly manner, the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) will accept petitions from the public on Monday, August 10. NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha announced that the grievance reception will be held at the Sri Pingali Venkayya Meeting Hall inside the Vijayawada Collectorate. To improve accessibility, local officials will also receive petitions simultaneously at division, municipal, and mandal headquarters across the district.

Key Highlights & Facilities:

QR Code Feedback: A unique QR code system has been introduced to ensure transpar-

ency and enhance service quality. Citizens can scan the code with their mobile phones after submitting their grievances to share their feedback, suggestions, and overall experience.

Online Petitions: Beyond physical submissions, citizens can register grievances online at Meekosam.ap.gov.in.

Toll-Free Helpline: Petitioners can track the status and resolution process of their applications by calling the toll-free number 1100.

Objective: Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha emphasized that PGRS aims to deliver fast, efficient, and transparent governance, urging citizens to make full use of the platform.



thinking strategies to help students stay focused on learning and improve overall educational outcomes.

Role of Teachers: Teaching is the most critical profes-

sion among all public services, as educators hold the primary responsibility for shaping future citizens and preparing professionals across all sectors.

Collective Commitment: Teachers and department staff were urged to dedicate themselves to achieving the state's educational goals.

Prominent Attendees: The inauguration saw participation from TDP Politburo Member Gantyada Sridevi, AMC Chairman P.V.V. Gopala Raju, along with TDP leaders Makkuva Sreedhar, Pradeep, and local officials.