

"Participate in the 'Ane Nenu' Campaign"

Prepare for Independence Day celebrations Youth should move forward with patriotism Minister Kondapalli Srinivas

Vizianagaram, August 12: "State Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Rural Poverty Alleviation, and NRI Empowerment & Relations, Kondapalli Srinivas, called upon everyone to participate in the government's prestigious "Ane Nenu" (I, Myself) program. He urged the youth to prepare for the 80th Independence Day celebrations, emphasizing that everyone must align with the Central Government's "Vision 2047" and the State Government's



"Swarnandhra 2047" vision for the country's development. To demonstrate patriotism across the district as per government directives, he requested participants to create a 60-second
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Jagan to strategise with YSRCP legislators

Amaravati: With the state government preparing to convene the monsoon session of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council from August 17, YSRCP president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy will meet the party MLAs and MLCs at the YSRCP Central Office in Tadepalli on Wednesday. The meeting assumes significance as the party prepares its strategy for the upcoming session. Jagan is expected to discuss the issues to be taken up in the Legislature, the prevailing political situation and the party's forthcoming programmes and politics.
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Nellore Officials Alert As District's Second Paddy Crop Reaches Critical Stage



NELLORE: With the second paddy crop entering the crucial grain-formation stage, Nellore district administration has stepped up its water management efforts. Addressing a meeting of the Irrigation Advisory Board (IAB) at the Nellore collectorate on Wednesday, Endowments minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy said the next 30 days would be critical.

He directed irrigation officials to ensure that water reaches tail-end fields without wastage. The administration is targeting to irrigate 3.22 lakh acres of the second crop using water from the Somasila project. Officials have reviewed storage levels in the Somasila and Kandaluru reservoirs, requirement of water and supply to delta and non-delta
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SIPB Approves 25 Projects Worth Rs 2.08 Lakh Crore in AP

Vijayawada: The 20th meeting of the state investment promotion board chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu here on Wednesday approved proposals for 25 projects worth Rs 2,08,406 crore in sectors like industries, energy, IT, electronics and food processing. These projects have a potential to generate 21,627 jobs, it is officially stated. The Chief Minister directed officials to assess the extent of incentives that could be provided to promote industrial units, and to initiate steps



to remit industrial incentives into escrow accounts from December. He also called for steps to promote setting up of industrial units in rural areas. In the 20 SIPB meetings held so far, approvals have been given for 363 proposals to set up industrial units at an estimated investment

of Rs 13.78 lakh crore, with a potential to create 10.86 lakh jobs in the state. Naidu called for a study on the sectors wherein industrial units could be promoted and directed officials to focus on sectors such as green ammonia, lithium battery
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AP Steps into a New Era of Industrial Growth

Inflow of Investments in Chennai & Coimbatore Meets Strong interest from industrialists to invest in Andhra Pradesh Positive response ahead of CII Partnership Summit 2026 Minister Kondapalli Srinivas



Amaravati, August 12: "State Minister for MSME, Rural Poverty Alleviation, and NRI Empowerment & Relations, Kondapalli Srinivas, announced that the two-day Investment Promotion Roadshow held in Chennai and Coimbatore on Tuesday and Wednesday was a massive success. Organized by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in association with the Confed-

eration of Indian Industry (CII) and APEDB, the event showcased

GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg assures measures to prevent drinking water shortage

GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg visited the town service reservoir that caters to the drinking water needs of the people living within the jurisdiction of GVMC in Visakhapatnam and said that the authorities are taking all possible steps to prevent drinking water shortage. He said that the water in Mudasarlova reservoir and other reservoirs has decreased and that they would be supplying water to these reservoirs from the Yeleru canal. He said that the water supply problem is very severe in six areas, which include Arilova, KRM Colony and Pothina Mallayyapalem. He said they have been getting continuous supply of water for two days and that they have increased the time



from 30 to 45 minutes. The commissioner also said that free water tankers would be arranged for the problem areas.

Rayalaseema Temperatures Soar, El Nino Worsens Crop Stress

Kurnool: Rayalaseema has been experiencing unusually high temperatures for nearly two weeks, with daytime temperatures averaging around 38°C and conditions resembling a peak summer despite this being August. The high temperatures coupled with inadequate rainfall have raised concern among farmers, particularly those growing vegetables and raising horticultural crops. Normally, temperatures in



Rayalaseema during August and September remain below 35°C, with occasional showers providing significant relief. The absence of adequate rainfall this
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A garden of forgotten graves-Modern civilization has forgotten its heritage

The architectural craftsmanship of the cemetery is equally remarkable. The stonework, floral motifs, use of mosaic tiles, and marble decorations reflect the construction skills and artistic sensibilities of the period. A closer examination reveals that they are valuable records of a bygone way of life, administrative system, social structure, artistic traditions, and colonial history. It deserves to be recognized as a historical heritage site and scientifically conserved for future generations. “Whose wealth is the body, that we nourish it again and again? Whose is life, that we take pride in it? Whose is wealth, that we claim it as our own? Righteousness alone is truly ours— Listen, O Viswadabhirama,” says Vemana No matter how much wealth a person accumulates or how many magnificent buildings one constructs, ultimately, nothing can be taken along at the end of life. The human body is not permanent, and no one knows when the final breath will cease. Yet, compared with the attention we devote to building our present, we often show remarkable neglect toward preserving our past, history, and the memories of those who came before us. A society that fails to preserve its history cannot build a strong foundation for its future. Generally, graves are constructed at the place where the deceased has been buried in a cemetery. The graves of family members, prominent personalities, and historical figures preserve their memories for generations. They are not merely memorials to the dead; they are living evidence of the social, political, cultural, and architectural history of a particular era. Among the places that preserve such rare historical heritage is the Christian Cemetery near Gooty Fort. Located on the left side of the main road leading to the fort, this cemetery has a long history. It contains graves of people ranging from infants to prominent officials, military officers, collectors, railway officials, and members of their families associated with the British period. Standing among these graves, one cannot help but recall the famous song sung by M S Rama Rao: “In this vast, peaceful and solitary mansion, sleep, O Emperor...” Though centuries have passed, the names and designations engraved on the stones, along with the architectural styles of the graves, continue to bring the past vividly before our eyes.

The legacy of historical figures such as Sir Thomas Munro, who served as collector of the ceded districts, is closely associated with this region. He occupies a significant place in the history of the area for his efforts in famine relief, establishment of gruel centres, construction of rest houses for travellers, and restoration of tanks. The graves of Captain Archibald Macleod, Peter Bruce, William Robertson and several other officials can also be found here. Many officials associated with the administration of the erstwhile Bellary district served in this region. Their graves stand as silent witnesses to the administrative system and regional history of that period. The graves exhibit a variety of architectural forms. Some are covered with large stone slabs, while others are constructed with stone plates and distinctive structural designs. Stone pillars and cross-shaped structures can be found around some graves. The names and official designations engraved in English on the memorial stones continue to introduce visitors to the history of the period.

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selfie video addressing two questions:““What should India look like in your vision?““What do you want to do for the nation's development?““Participation Details:““Tag Page: AP Official News““Hashtags to Use:““ #PartnersIn NationBuilding““ #MyIndiaMyVision““ #IndependenceDay2026““#AneNenu““Minister Srinivas noted that even a small idea shared by the youth could become a big leap for the nation's future. He appealed to everyone to celebrate the hard-won freedom achieved through the sacrifices of freedom fighters by flying the national tricolor flag at every home and actively participating in the celebrations.

AP Steps into a New Era of Industrial Growth

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Andhra Pradesh’s vast investment opportunities to international trade representatives and major investors. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Minister Srinivas highlighted AP's abundant natural resources, skilled workforce, strategic ports, industrial corridors, "Good Governance," and "Speed of Doing Business." Representatives from top companies like Isuzu Motors, Hero MotoCorp, and Coromandel International shared their positive experiences operating in the state. ““Key Discussions & Strategic Meetings:““Chennai Meet (Tuesday): Held talks with Michael Hasper (Consul General of Germany), S. Padmanabhan (President, Indo-Japan Chamber of Commerce & Industry), Stephen Hsu (Director General, TECC Chennai), and Jung Woong Kang (POSCO Chennai Plant Operations Head). Discussions focused on semiconductors, electronics, renewable energy, technology, skill development, and MSMEs.““Coimbatore Meet (Wednesday): Met K. Srinivasan (MD, Emerald Jewellery) regarding gold refinery and MSME scope; Devanand (CEO, Leap Green) on green hydrogen projects; Karthikeyan Palaniswamy (CEO, Zeon Charging); Rajeev Parthasarathy (Director, L.G. Balakrishnan & Bros); N. Thirukkumaran (General Secretary, Tiruppur Exporters Association); and Radhakrishnan (MD, Seeger Group).““Minister Srinivas expressed happiness over the enthusiastic response ahead of the CII Partnership Summit 2026, scheduled to take place in Visakhapatnam on November 12 and 13. He assured investors of single-window approvals and continuous support from the state government. Prominent figures including CII AP Vice Chairman Dr. G. Sambasiva Rao and AP MSME Development Corporation CEO Vishwa Manohar were also present.

SIPB Approves 25 Projects Worth Rs 2.08 Lakh Crore in AP

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ies and robotics. Officials, he said, must create awareness among people about industrial projects and counter misinformation on social media regarding possible environmental pollution from some projects. Referring to the proposed data centres in north Andhra, he said 3.5tmc-ft of water could suffice for them. Naidu said Godavari water could be taken by gravity through the Polavaram left main canal to meet the industrial requirements in Visakhapatnam. He asked officials to assess how upcoming industrial units would contribute to developing an industrial ecosystem in the state. He called for special efforts to construct hotels to attract tourists and promote the hospitality sector in Andhra Pradesh. The Chief Minister directed officials to develop 175 MSME parks and make them accessible by September, with one park in each Assembly constituency, and ensure the setting up of industrial estates. He said several defence sector projects coming up in the state were a matter of pride for the nation and called for the start of defence projects near Puttaparthi and aerospace projects near Hindupur. He also stressed the need to complete construction of the Mulapeta port so that it could be inaugurated in December. Naidu directed officials to link logistics, modern warehousing and cold chain projects and improve road, rail and port connectivity to facilitate the transport of horticultural produce from Rayalaseema to international markets. He also pleaded for promoting the ‘One Family-One Entrepreneur’ programme in the state.

Nellore Officials Alert As District’s Second Paddy Crop Reaches Critical Stage

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areas. The minister called for coordination between the agriculture and irrigation departments to ensure the required water is supplied to the crop by September 30. He directed formation of special teams comprising irrigation, revenue, agriculture, horticulture and police personnel, along with project and water-user committees, apart from local MLAs, to continuously monitor canals and field channels and address bottlenecks. Officials have been asked to take corrective measures at the siphon damaged at the 12-km point of the Kavali canal, which has affected the water flow, to protect crops in the areas concerned. Collector Himanshu Shukla said the coming 30 days would be cru-

Char Dham Yatra crosses 47 lakh pilgrims in 114 days



Dehradun: Despite monsoon challenges, the Char Dham Yatra in Uttarakhand is set to create a new record this year. In just 114 days, more than 47 lakh devotees have undertaken the pilgrimage, exceeding last year’s corresponding figure by over 4.68 lakh.As of Monday, August 10, a total of 47,02,703 pilgrims had visited the four sacred shrines. During the same period last year, the number stood at 42,34,147, marking an increase of 4,68,556 devotees.Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has directed officials to prioritise the safety of pilgrims above all else. The state government is regulating the flow of devotees and temporarily pausing operations whenever weather conditions demand caution.The Char Dham Yatra began this year on April 19 with the opening of the portals of Gangotri and Yamunotri.So far, Badrinath has received the highest number of visitors at 16,12,112, followed by Kedarnath with 14,50,116, Gangotri with 7,37,629 and Yamunotri with 6,62,347. Additionally, 2,40,499 devotees have paid obeisance at Hemkund Sahib.On Monday alone, 15,376 pilgrims visited the four shrines despite inclement weather and administrative alerts. Badrinath recorded the highest single-day footfall with 9,559 devotees, while Kedarnath saw 4,170, Gangotri 1,204 and Yamunotri 443 visitors.

Jagan to strategise with YSRCP legislators

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cal action plan. The YSRCP is expected not to attend the entire Assembly session, though it may participate in the inaugural sitting and use the opportunity to raise key issues concerning the public. The Mega DSC teacher recruitment issue is likely to be among the matters the party seeks to highlight. Jagan will review the issues affecting people with the party’s legislators and give them directions on the course of action to be adopted during and after the session. The meeting is also expected to focus on coordinating the party’s response to the government’s policies and strengthening its political engagement on public issues. The YSRCP president will further guide MLAs and MLCs on forthcoming party programmes and political activities and stress the need to take people’s concerns effectively to the government and the public. The meeting will also assess the party’s grassroots engagement and its approach to the latest political developments in the state.

Rayalaseema Temperatures Soar, El Nino Worsens Crop Stress

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year, attributed largely to the El Nino effect, has intensified the heat and humidity. While nights have turned relatively cooler, the lack of cloud cover and declining soil moisture are aggravating the impact of the high daytime temperatures. “Soil moisture has declined drastically, and this is intensifying the impact of high temperatures. The absence of clouds due to the El Nino effect and the continuous depletion of moisture from the soil are affecting not only temperatures but also crop growth,” said K. Ashok Kumar, scientist at the Regional Agricultural Research Station (RARS).

cial, with the next 15 days being particularly important. He directed agriculture officials to provide precise crop maturity details canal-wise. He asked Irrigation officials to clearly report existing bottlenecks and proposed solutions. MLAs Kakarla Suresh, Dagumati Venkata Krishna Reddy, Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy and Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy highlighted the local irrigation issues and stressed on water reaching the tail-end farmers. Somireddy said El Nino-related water stress could worsen the situation and asked authorities to prevent water wastage. Prashanthi Reddy said judicious use of water has enabled irrigation reach the tail-end areas in Kovur. She called for continuous monitoring until the crop is harvested.

Crop Insurance for Every Farmer Who Sows Seeds

100% Enrollment Under PMFBY for Financial Security
Bring every farmer under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)
District Collector Dr. G. Laxmisha



Vijayawada, August 12, 2026:“NTR District Collector Dr. G. Laxmisha held a video conference from the Vijayawada Collectorate with district officials, RDOs, Tahsildars, MPDOs, and field-level officers to review agricultural and developmental activities. Key Highlights: 100% Crop Insurance Coverage: As the deadline for PMFBY enrollment ends on August 15, a special action plan must be implemented to achieve 100% enrollment across the district for all farmers who have sown seeds. Fertilizer Availability & Helpline: Currently, 6,800 MT of Urea is available in the district to prevent shortages. Fertilizer shops must prominently display the Collectorate Unified Call Center Helpline Number: 91549 70454. Seed Pelleting Technology & Training: Due to delayed rains, officials were instructed to



introduce Seed Pelleting technology to farmers to improve germination rates during low-rainfall conditions. Water Conservation & Farm Ponds: To boost groundwater levels, the administration aims to complete 65,000 new farm ponds by next year out of the total target of 1.30 lakh ponds. Schools & Anganwadi Infrastructure: Speed up drinking water, toilet, and RO plant installations in Anganwadi centers. MPDOs and Panchayats must provide an undertaking that all Anganwadis and schools have functional tap connections. “Other Directives: “Undertake extensive plantation drives under the 'Net Zero' target. Ensure chlorination and drinking water tests to prevent seasonal diseases, and expedite the resolution of 22A land applications.

Man Dies as Bike Loses Control

Narwa, August 12 (Deep Pulse): According to information provided by the Narwa Sub-Inspector, a young man passed away after losing control of his bike while heading toward Peddakadumur village. Key Highlights: Deceased: Kavali Govardhan (24), a resident of Makthal village. Incident Details: On the night of August 11, at around 8:30 PM, Govardhan informed his family and left home on his bike (TS 06EY0921). “Around 11:10 PM, near the bridge on the outskirts of Peddakadumur village, he accidentally lost control and fell while trying to avoid potholes on the road, sustaining severe injuries. Rescue & Medical Response: A passerby, Komati Vinay Kumar, noticed Govardhan lying severely injured on the road and immediately alerted 'Dial 100' and notified the family. “Govardhan was rushed



to the Makthal Government Hospital for treatment. However, he succumbed to his injuries while receiving care due to severe head trauma and heavy blood loss. “Police Action: Narwa SI Pabbathi Ramesh stated that a case has been registered based on the complaint filed by the victim's elder brother, Kavali Ramu (33), and an investigation is underway.

Applications Open for Cheyutha Social Security Pensions

Manthani, August 12 (Deep Pulse):“Manthani Municipal Chairperson Odnala Srinivas and the Municipal Commissioner announced that applications are currently being accepted for Cheyutha Social Security Pensions for eligible individuals within the Manthani Municipality limits. “Key Highlights: “Eligible Categories: Widows, persons with disabilities (differently-abled), single women, toddy tappers, handloom weavers, and individuals suffering from filaria or undergoing dialysis. “Application Deadline: Eligible applicants must submit their applications on or before August 30, 2026. “Application Process: Applicants are advised not to wait until the deadline and should visit the Manthani Municipal Office with all required documents to complete the process with the designated staff. “Selection: Officials stated that submitted applications will be thoroughly verified according to rules before final beneficiary selection. Anyone eligible who has not yet received the pension is urged



to make use of this opportunity before August 30.

The presence of a massive crocodile in Mahabupal Samudram lake has triggered widespread fear among local residents



Pebbair, August 12 (Deep Pulse):Key Highlights: Incident Details: Locals spotted a large crocodile, estimated to be around 8 to 10 feet long, resting on a small patch of grassy land inside the lake. Concerns of Villagers: Local farmers who take their cattle near the lake surroundings every day are deeply concerned

about potential attacks, noting that cattle have been killed by crocodiles in lake areas in past incidents elsewhere. “Public Demand: Villagers are urging forest department officials to intervene immediately, capture the crocodile safely, and relocate it deep into the forest to prevent any danger to human life or livestock.

3 Months of Ration Distributed at Once: Chaos in Pebbair



Pebbair, August 12 (Deep Pulse):“The government's decision to distribute three months' worth of ration supplies at once led to massive crowds and chaos at local ration shops in Pebbair town. “Key Highlights: “Massive Crowds: Cardholders began gathering in large numbers from early morning, leading to hundreds of people queueing up outside each ration shop. “Hardships Faced by Pub-

lic: Elderly individuals, pregnant women, and mothers carrying young children suffered significantly after standing in long queues for hours. “Distribution Chaos: The sudden influx of people disrupted the distribution system. Beneficiaries expressed anger over the slow distribution process, stating that distributing three months' worth of ration simultaneously caused the unnecessary chaos.

Grand 134th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan



Jayashankar Bhupalpally District Library Association Chairman Kota Rajababu attends as Chief Guest Bhupalpally, August 12 (Deep Pulse): The 134th birth anniversary of Dr. S.R. Ranganathan, known as the Father of Library Science in India, was grandly celebrated on Wednesday at the district headquarters of Jayashankar Bhupalpally. “Key Highlights: Tribute Paid: District Library Association Chairman Kota Rajababu offered rich floral tributes to the portrait of Dr. S.R.

Ranganathan. Legacy Highlighted: Speaking at the event, Rajababu emphasized that S.R. Ranganathan dedicated his entire life to the development and advancement of libraries. He noted that Ranganathan's fundamental laws of library science and classification systems continue to serve as invaluable pillars for the field. Key Attendees: The event was attended by Library Association Secretary D. Rajendra Prasad, librarians Krishna and Rani, alongside library staff and daily readers.

Pocharam laments lack of coordination again

Nizamabad: Banswada MLA Pocharam Srinivas Reddy once again pointed to a lack of coordination between Ministers and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. He said the Ministers were hardly following the Chief Minister’s instructions. The Banswada MLA, who is facing charges of defecting to the Congress, visited the Manjeera check dam at Birkur on Tuesday. Later, he addressed his followers at the venue and spoke about the difficulties he had faced under the Congress government. Recalling his meetings with the Chief Minister to seek funds for development works, including hospital and irrigation projects, Srinivas Reddy said the Ministers were not acting on Revanth Reddy’s instructions. The Chief Minister had asked Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy to release funds for various works and approve projects. However, the instructions were not followed, the Banswada MLA said. “Neither Bhatti nor Ponguleti even answer my phone calls. When I raised the issue with Revanth Reddy, he directed Vem Narender Reddy to ensure the funds were released.



KTR questions alleged land allotment to firm linked to Revanth Reddy’s brother

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao stepped up his attack on the Congress government over the alleged allotment of government land to Tesseract Advanced Systems Pvt Ltd, linked to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy’s brother Anumula Kondal Reddy. He demanded answers from the government on the company, its ownership and the land allotment. In a post on X, Rama Rao said while the previous BRS government built T-Hub to ensure that real startups thrive, Revanth Reddy was busy devising “Anumula Hubs”, calling it a family-run, family-driven, zero-innovation, and zero-employee scam scheme. He said the members of the Anumula family were being given government land at dirt-cheap rates, without asking any questions. He took a dig at Kondal Reddy proposing him as the “innovator of the century” for allegedly setting up Tesseract Advanced Systems with Rs 1 lakh in paid-up capital and no employees, while making at least Rs 200 crore profit overnight. Rama



Rao urged Revanth Reddy and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu to educate millions of youth of Telangana on how to get hundreds of crores worth of government land without investment, employees and work. “Why restrict this magic trick only to the Anumula family?” he asked, urging them to provide an opportunity of “Anumula Hubs” to Telangana youth.

Police constable allegedly dies by suicide at LB Nagar station

Hyderabad: A police constable allegedly died by suicide at the LB Nagar Police Station on Wednesday, leaving fellow personnel and his family members shocked. The victim was identified as Sai Kumar, who was attached to the police station. According to information available, Sai Kumar had reported for night duty and was performing his duties at the station on Tuesday. On Wednesday morning, other staff members found him hanging, following which they alerted senior officials. LB Nagar Inspector Vinod visited the police station and inspected the spot. The reason for the suicide is yet to

be known. The body was shifted to Osmania General Hospital for autopsy. Meanwhile, Sai Kumar’s family members have reportedly raised questions over the circumstances surrounding his death. The family is said to be demanding that his mobile phone be handed over to them, suspecting that it may contain information relevant to the incident. The family members have also reportedly expressed their displeasure over the body being shifted for autopsy without informing them first. They have sought clarity from the police regarding the circumstances that led to Sai Kumar’s death.

Seven died in two separate accidents in Sangareddy district

Sangareddy: Seven persons died and several others were injured in two separate accidents in Zaheerabad area on Tuesday night. In the first incident, a speeding tanker hit a passenger auto carrying daily wagers while the auto was taking a ‘U’ turn near Satwar village of Mogudmpally mandal. The auto was carrying around 12 daily wagers, 11 of them women, from Rajagiri area in Bidar district of neighbouring Karnataka State. While five of them died on the spot, the remaining sustained serious injuries. The deceased were Rekha, Sridevi, Kavitha, Reshma and auto driver Devadas. These women would travel to Zaheerabad in search of livelihood every day.

The police, who rushed to the spot, shifted the injured to various hospitals. The condition of several injured is also



said to be critical. The death toll may go up by Wednesday. In another incident, reckless driving cost the lives of two persons and left many injured as a car hit the road median and rammed into oncoming vehicles on the other side of the road on NH-65 at Kaveli in Kohir mandal on Tuesday night. While two persons died, several others sustained injuries in the mishap. At least four vehicles were damaged.

Assam to verify funds raised by 72 YouTubers for flood relief, says Himanta Sarma

Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday said the state government will verify funds raised by 72 YouTubers, both from Assam and outside the state, for flood relief and ascertain whether the money has reached the state and how it has been utilised. CM Sarma said the government appreciates individuals and content creators who have mobilised resources for people affected by the floods, but stressed that proper accounting of the funds was necessary to ensure transparency and prevent duplication of relief efforts. “Seventy-two YouTubers have raised funds from outside the state. We are looking into whether the funds have reached the state or not,” the Chief Minister said. He added that the government would seek details from those who collected donations about the manner and locations in which the money was spent. “Many have started contributing, but we will ask where they have utilised the funds. We will ask where it has been utilised so that there is no repetition,” CM Sarma said. The Chief Minister also praised Assam-based YouTuber and grassroots relief worker Samay Gogoi for his efforts to assist flood-hit communities. “Samay Gogoi has done a good job,” CM Sarma said, while noting that several other individuals had also come forward to support relief operations. According to the Chief Minister, the government intends to



recognise the contributions made by YouTubers and other individuals involved in flood relief and honour them with traditional Assamese gamosas. However, he said the utilisation of the funds would first be verified. CM Sarma also said the Assam Police Cyber Cell was monitoring accounts associated with fundraising activities. Gogoi has emerged as a prominent grassroots relief worker during the floods, using personal savings and mobilising resources to provide food, drinking water and medicines to residents of isolated and affected villages. He has also participated in rescuing stranded animals and rebuilding damaged houses through his initiative, Project Golden Assam. The state government’s move comes amid a surge in private fundraising and volunteer-led relief operations as severe floods continue to affect parts of Assam. The verification process is aimed at improving coordination between government and private relief initiatives and ensuring that donations reach affected people without duplication or gaps.

Pakistan under pressure at home, India on alert for LoC provocation

New Delhi: Indian intelligence agencies have warned of a possible major provocation by Pakistan aimed at diverting attention from the mounting internal challenges confronting Islamabad. With protests in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) continuing and unrest in Balochistan intensifying, Islamabad is reportedly weighing a major operation against India as a diversionary tactic to shift focus away from its domestic troubles. An Intelligence Bureau official said India must remain on high alert as Pakistan could be planning a major provocation. “The level of desperation is so high that neither Islamabad nor India should rule out the possibility of a provocation along the Line of Control (LoC),” the IB official said. Pakistan could attempt a misadventure along the Line of Control (LoC) while simultaneously stepping up its operations in Jammu and Kashmir. The two recent back-to-back attacks in the region are being viewed as a sign that Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) is seeking to revive terror activities in the Valley. Recently, Pakistan had deployed around 250 Chinese-made SH-15 155mm truck-mounted self-propelled howitzers across several sectors facing the Indian border. They included the locations near Sialkot, Gujranwala and Jalalpur Jatan. The mobile truck-mounted configuration enables rapid shoot-and-scoot operations with a range of around 30-40 km. India has been closely watching these developments, and the Ministry of External Affairs stated that security agencies remained fully prepared to safeguard national security and counter any potential misadventure. An official said Pakistan is in urgent need of a diversion as growing questions are being raised within the country over alleged atrocities against people in PoK and Balochistan. The mounting unrest in both regions has added to the pressure on Islamabad, prompting concerns that it could seek to shift public attention through external ten-



sions. “Moreover, a quick diversion is also needed before the international community starts raising their voices on these issues,” the official also said. Another official said Islamabad may also be seeking a diversionary move to provide a face-saving opportunity for Pakistan’s army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, amid growing internal pressures. “His role in ordering the atrocities and telling his forces and the government to not give into the demands of these people has come under question. As of now, Munir’s strategy in both regions has failed. Many within the establishment have started questioning his strategy where these regions are concerned,” the official said.

Munir is also under immense pressure over the Imran Khan issue. To top all of that, there was Operation Sindoor in which the Indian armed forces exposed the Pakistani establishment badly, the official added. Further, the ISI is also trying to activate its existing modules in India. The existing sleeper cells in India are reportedly being called on to execute attacks in various parts of the country. In recent weeks, the agencies have busted multiple modules that were linked to the Jaish-e-Mohammed. The Pakistani spy agency has also asked its propaganda wing to drum up fake narratives against the Indian state. All these are attention-diverting tactics, an official explained. Pakistan has faced recurring unrest in PoK and Balochistan in the past. However, the situation this time has escalated significantly, with Islamabad struggling to contain the unrest and no immediate solution appearing to be in sight.

Urvashi Dholakia shares London holiday pictures with her ‘right tribe’

Mumbai: Actress Urvashi Dholakia shared a string of pictures from her London holiday featuring her friends, whom she tagged as her “right tribe”. Urvashi shared a string of pictures from her recent getaway in Oxford with TV Czarina Ekta Kapoor and Bollywood actress Nargis Fakhri to name a few. For the caption, she wrote: “Like attracts like. The right tribe just feels like home.” Talking about Urvashi, she made her acting debut at 6 for a commercial ad with Revathi. As a child she appeared as Rajlaxmi in the Doordarshan TV series Shrikant. Her first TV role as an adult was in Doordarshan’s Dekh Bhai Dekh followed by Waqt Ki Raftar. Later in the 2000s, she was seen in Ghar Ek Mandir, Kabhii Sautan Kabhii Saheli, Kasautii Zindagii Kay and Kahiin To Hoga. The actress had also participated in the sixth season of the controversial reality show “Bigg Boss” in 2012, where she emerged as the winner of the season and then was seen in historical fantasy series Chandrakanta as Queen Iravati. In 2022, Urvashi made a comeback to the fiction genre in Naagin 6. The actress is



currently seen in the reality show Maa Hai Na, a reality cooking series premiering on ZEE5. It is hosted by Bollywood star Shilpa Shetty.

Urvashi was recently seen in “Maa Hai Na”, a reality cooking series hosted by Shilpa Shetty and produced by Preeti Simoes and Neeti Simoes. In the show, celebrity contestants compete in pairs, each pairing a public figure with a parent or adult child, in cooking challenges and comedy segments. Each episode pairs a celebrity with a parent or adult child to compete in cooking tasks and team challenges. The show was announced on Mother’s Day 2026; filming had already begun by that date.

Mallika Sherawat claims Tom Cruise has a crush on her, says he texts her

Mumbai: Actress Mallika Sherawat has made a bold claim, and it involves Hollywood royalty Tom Cruise in her DMs. The actress, who can be seen in the reality show ‘The Traitors’, has claimed that the Hollywood superstar regularly texts. She even went to the length of claiming that Tom has a crush on her. During the latest episode of the show, stand-up comedian, Aditya Kulshrestha asked her, “Have you ever had a crush on anyone? No. Or everyone has had a crush on you?”. Responding to the same, the actress said, “Everyone has had a crush on me. Tom Cruise has had a crush on me recently. I’m not lying. If I had a phone, I would’ve shown you his videos”. When asked about the kind of videos he is sending, the actress said, “No, when we were partying together and all. He’s fabulous”. It’s not like the actress doesn’t have access to the direct line to the USA. Earlier, the actress had shared her excitement after receiving an invitation to the White House Christmas dinner. Describing the experience as “completely surreal”, she expressed her gratitude for the honor, marking a special moment in her illustrious career.



reer. The actress took to Instagram to share a series of photos from the White House Christmas dinner. In the pictures, Mallika could be seen posing amid the festive décor, with sparkling lights and beautifully adorned Christmas trees. She also posted a video capturing US President Donald Trump delivering his Christmas and New Year wishes to the audience, with Mallika visible in the crowd. Additionally, she shared a glimpse of the lavish Christmas meal served at the White House. She wrote in the caption, “Being invited to the White House Christmas dinner feels completely surreal – Grateful #whitehouse #xmasdinner”. The Christmas reception was held at the White House on December 18, 2025.

Vikram Phadnis gets emotional as he remembers late father on his death anniversary

Mumbai: Filmmaker and fashion designer Vikram Phadnis remembered seems to have become extremely emotional on account of his late father's first death anniversary on August 12. He shared an emotional note about losing him and revealing that his father’s biggest wish was to see him make his first Hindi film. Phadnis shared a set of pictures on his social media account, and recalled the evening when his father went to hospital and never returned home. He said that although a year had passed and he had continued working and celebrating professional milestones, a part of him still felt incomplete and he misses his ‘daddy’. He wrote, “12th August.... One year ago today, I lost my father. He went to the hospital that evening... and somehow, never came back home. I still remember that evening. I remember the anxiety, the fear, the feeling that something was terribly wrong.” He added, “And sometimes I wonder... was I anxious because I was losing my father, or because somewhere deep in-



side, a part of me already knew that after that night, life would never feel the same again? A year has passed. Also Read Big B speaks about Sunny Deol’s famous angry act on sets of ‘Darr’ on ‘KBC’ Advertisement Discover more Adopting AI Tools Breaking News Alerts Sports News Coverage I’ve grown older. I’ve celebrated milestones in 2025 worked harder, kept going... but there is still a part of me that feels incomplete.” He further wrote,, “My father had only one wish ... to see me make my first Hindi film. He believed in this dream before I even knew how to make it happen. And life took him away before he could see it.”

Ananya Panday seeks blessings at Bhimashankar Jyotirlinga

Mumbai: On the auspicious occasion of Sawan Shivratni, actress Ananya Panday took blessings at the Bhimashankar Jyotirlinga on Tuesday. Ananya took to her official Instagram handle and uploaded a string of photos of herself offering prayers at the Jyotirlinga. For the caption, she penned, “Om Namah Parvati Pataye, Har Har Mahadev!, (Red heart, folded hands, trishul and evil eye emoji) Bhimashankar Jyotirlinga (Red heart emoji) (sic).” Ananya’s mother, Bhavana Pandey, commented on her post saying, “Om namah shivay”, followed by a folded hand emoticon. Bhimashankar Jyotirlinga is one of the twelve sacred Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva. Located in the Sahyadri hills of Pune, it acts as both a major pilgrimage site and a wildlife sanctuary. The ‘CTRL’ actress opted for a simple yellow ethnic attire with minimal makeup for her religious visit. Her hair was also tied in a bun. Ananya is one of the celebs who keep netizens constantly updated with both her personal and professional life. On Friendship Day this year, the ‘Kesari: Chapter 2’ actress spent some time with her fur buddies. Taking to her official Instagram account, she posted a photo collage in which she was seen enjoying some downtime with her pets – Honey, Lemon, and



Riot. “Friendship Day Goalzzz (sic)”. She went on to add, “Just need somebody to lean onnnn,” read the caption on the post. Before this, Ananya even celebrated Holi with her four-legged friends. She posted a few glimpses of her Holi celebrations on social media with the caption, “Bura Naa Naano Holi Hai (sic),” along with multiple coloured heart emoticons. Ananya even treated her Insta Fam with a gamut of photographs where she was seen making the most of the festival of color with her loved ones. Sitting on the floor with her two dogs, she planted a kissy face as she held them close. Ananya was also spotted with streaks of gulaal on her cheeks and forehead in these vibrant pictures.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu talks about manifestation, hard work in latest post

Mumbai: Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who is gearing up to welcome her first child with husband Raj Nidimoru, talked about the power of manifestation in her latest post on social media. Posting a glimpse of her diary on her official Instagram handle, Samantha wrote that she practises writing details of the life she wishes to live in the future, and then watches them come true with hard work and dedication. Samantha went on to confess that at times, she has ended up writing things that were too big for her to even imagine. The ‘Yashoda’ actress shared a note on social media that went, “Day 484 of a 1,000-day promise I made to myself. There is something powerful about writing down a life that doesn’t exist yet. Some of the things on my list were so big, I almost felt stupid writing them down. I wrote them anyway. And now I can look back and see how many of those impossible things became my life. (sic).” Samantha further added that it is not enough to simply write down one’s aspirations but also to constantly keep working towards them.



“Give the dream a timeline.? Drown the noise.? Put your head down.? Do the work. And keep going long after the excitement of the dream has worn off”, she went on to add. The ‘Majili’ actress further shared that “the best part about keeping these pages is being able to go back to the beginning.” She added that by revisiting these pages, one can meet the version of themselves who wished for something so badly but still did not allow themselves to believe that they could have it. However, they are later filled with joy as they realize that they were finally able to achieve what they wanted. “Believe bigger than what your life looks like today. Believe.? Believe.? Believe. Especially when it looks foolish to everyone else,” concluded the post.

Jr. NTR set to undergo shoulder surgery, fans wish him well

Tollywood actor Junior NTR is set to undergo a minor shoulder surgery following an injury sustained recently. Acting on medical advice, the procedure will be performed today at KIMS Hospitals, Hyderabad. The actor's office issued a statement confirming the surgery and assured that a team of doctors is providing treatment to ensure his full recovery. They added that updates on his health will be shared periodically. Currently working on a project directed by Prashanth, Jr. NTR’s fans have expressed their wishes for his speedy recovery. The actor’s health status will be monitored closely during his recovery process. The fans of ‘Janata Garage’ star are praying for the successful surgery of the latter.



Babar Azam back in Test top 10; Shafique climbs 25 places in ICC rankings

Chennai: The makers of director Balaji Tharaneetharan’s upcoming film, featuring popular Tamil star Vijay Sethupathi in the lead, on Wednesday announced the title of the film as ‘Baththa’ and said that it would hit screens worldwide on October 1 this year. The film, presented by Star Studio18 and well known director Atlee, and jointly produced by A for Apple Studios and Cine1 Studios Production, marks the third collaboration between Vijay Sethupathi and director Balaji Tharaneetharan. Their previous films together — ‘Naduvula Konjam Pakkatha Kaanom’ and ‘Seethakathi’ — were both critically acclaimed with ‘Naduvula Konjam Pakkatha Kaanom’ going on to emerge a superhit. Needless to say, the fact that the two have once again come together for ‘Baththa’ has raised the expectations of fans and film buffs from the film. ‘Baththa’ will also mark the reunion of Vijay Sethupathi with director Atlee. It may be recalled that director Atlee and Vijay Sethupathi had earlier worked together in the immensely popular pan Indian blockbuster ‘Jawan’. While Atlee had directed Vijay Sethupathi in Jawan, he has produced ‘Baththa’. Also, while



Vijay Sethupathi had played a pivotal role in ‘Jawan’, he has now played the lead in ‘Baththa’, which is being presented by Atlee. Lijomol Jose, who played a pivotal role in ‘Jai Bhim’, is playing the female lead in this film, which has music being scored by Sai Abhyankkar, one of the most promising young composers. Cinematography for the film is by Selvakumar SK while R. Kalaivanan has served as the film’s editor. T. Muthuraj is the Production Designer, and Ashwin Murugan has worked as the film’s co-producer. ‘Baththa’ has been produced by Murad Khetani, Priya Atlee, Alok Jain, and Ajit Andhare. Bringing together leading actor Vijay Sethupathi, director Balaji Tharaneetharan, and some of Indian cinema’s prominent production houses, Baththa is set to release in theatres worldwide on October 1.

Paul Pogba faces Monaco exit after fresh injury setback

New Delhi: Ligue 1 club AS Monaco is expected to terminate Paul Pogba’s contract after the French midfielder suffered another injury setback. Pogba joined AS Monaco on a free transfer last year, after his contract with Juventus was terminated and following an 18-month doping ban. The 32-year-old French midfielder signed a two-year deal, which was due to run until the end of the forthcoming season. Pogba’s first season at Monaco was disrupted by injury, but there was hope this season would see the France international play regularly. But a BBC report claimed that discussions over an early exit are under way and are expected to be concluded soon. Pogba was out of competitive fixtures since September 2023, when he was hit with a ban for failing a dope test after featuring for Juventus in their opening game of the 2023-24 season against Udinese on August 20. He had tested positive for DHEA, a banned substance that boosts endogenous testosterone. However, Pogba’s management team challenged the decision in the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS), which upheld the four-year suspension, and the ban was reduced to 18 months, which ended in March last year,



making him clear to resume his professional career. And in June 2025, he was signed by Monaco. But barely a year into his Monaco spell, he could be searching for another club once again. Pogba made his professional debut in 2011 with Manchester United. It was at Juventus, which he joined in 2012, that Pogba truly emerged at the highest level. With the Bianconeri, he won four consecutive Serie A titles (from 2013 to 2016). In 2016, he returned to Manchester United, where he played for six seasons. He made 233 appearances, scored 39 goals, and provided 51 assists. With the Red Devils, he won the UEFA Europa League and the English League Cup in 2017.

India to host Afghanistan for three-match T20I series in Delhi

Mumbai: Delhi is set to become the stage for another chapter in the growing India-Afghanistan cricket relationship, with the two boards confirming a three-match T20I series at the Arun Jaitley Cricket Stadium in September. Afghanistan will be the host, despite all three matches being played in India. The arrangement continues Afghanistan’s recent practice of staging home fixtures outside the country, with India serving as one of its principal venues. The opening T20I will be played on September 13, followed by matches on September 15 and 17. All three encounters will be held at the same venue. For Afghanistan, the series represents another opportunity to test itself against one of the leading sides in world cricket while further strengthening its association with the BCCI. The fixtures form part of Afghanistan’s Future Tours

Program. “The BCCI remains committed to supporting the growth of cricket in Afghanistan and providing its players with opportunities to compete at the highest level. Bilateral cricket is an important part of this, as it allows teams to play regularly against quality opposition and gain valuable experience. We welcome the Afghanistan Cricket Board to India for this series and look forward to working closely with them to make it a successful one. We believe there is scope to do more together and will continue to support Afghanistan cricket while strengthening the relationship between the two cricketing nations,” BCCI President Mithun Manhas. The series will also complete a three-format cycle between the teams in 2026. India and Afghanistan met in a Test and ODI series in June, following their previous three-match T20I contest in January 2024. BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia said, “The India-Af-

TCA questions HCA over alleged constitutional violations

Hyderabad: The Telangana Cricket Association (TCA) questioned the ongoing illegal, corrupt, and unconstitutional acts executed by the Apex Council management and Single Member Committee (SMC) of the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA). In a desperate rush to establish a fait accompli before the upcoming critical hearing before the BCCI Ethics Officer and Ombudsman on August 17 (this month), on the complaint filed by Cricketers Gourav Sharma of Nizamabad District and Marignari Navarasan of the Warangal District, the HCA has committed a series of flagrant statutory breaches and conflict-of-interest violations to mislead judicial and administrative authorities. “The tendentious attempts at defrauding and mocking the judiciary, the side effects of mocked judicial oversight, and the overall impersonation of unauthorized authority will all culminate in an inevitable doomsday for HCA the upcoming next week, TCA general secretary D. Guruvu Reddy said in a statement on Wednesday. “The HCA is in a hurry to try and show some fake compliance before this hearing on August 17,” he said. “The HCA’s unilateral trials and district maneuvers are a direct assault on the authority of the BCCI and the Supreme Court-mandated Constitution,” he said. “The HCA is bypassing the parent body, the BCCI, its framework and judicial directives (including the landmark July 11, 2021 framework) which explicitly demarcate boundaries which restrict HCA



strictly to the Hyderabad city limits,” the TCA official said. “By running unauthorized trials and setting up parallel district committees without consensus, the HCA is staging an open rebellion against its own parent body, behaving as though the writ of Indian cricket governance stops at its office gates,” he said. “True democratic governance requires mandate and consensus from the elected General Body and stakeholders. Instead, the current management operates like an isolated autocracy, bypassing its own institutional roots to push arbitrary, backdoor selections and land-grabs,” he said. “The HCA is attempting to bypass an active, sub-judicial process. As per the Bombay High Court directives following the BCCI mandate of July 11, 2021 (Writ Petition No. 3678 of 2023), the HCA’s jurisdiction is strictly limited to the Hyderabad city limits. Cricket development across the remaining districts of Telangana falls outside HCA’s unilateral mandate and requires a collaborative conciliation framework with the TCA,” Mr. Guruvu Reddy said.

HCA to promote cricket across all 33 Telangana districts

Hyderabad: Hyderabad Cricket Association will soon come out with a comprehensive road map to give a fresh fillip to cricket across all the 33 districts of Telangana, according to Mr. T. Seshnarayan, Chairman, Constitution of the District Cricket Infrastructure Development Committee (Hyderabad Cricket Association). Mr. Seshnarayan, who briefed media on Wednesday in the presence of some of the existing District Cricket Associations’ secretaries affiliated to the HCA, said that the process of forming District units in the entire State would take some time but in the meantime, the CDCIDC would coordinate in setting up offices in all the districts with a provision for accommodation for support staff, ground staff and former cricketers who would be asked to conduct workshops as part of the efforts to promote the game in a big way. “Yes, we have informed the district



officials to identify suitable grounds and offices over the next couple of weeks. First priority would be given to the affiliated units like Mahabubnagar, Karimnagar which have their own infrastructure,” Mr. Seshnarayan said. “Rayudu (former India cricket Ambati Rayudu who is now the Head of Cricket Operations, HCA) has already charted out a plan of action to take the game into the interiors of the districts by setting up zonal academies,” the former HCA Secretary said.



ghanistan cricketing rivalry has produced some thrilling encounters over the years, with both teams boasting quality cricketers. Afghanistan’s players are also quite popular among fans in India, which is a reflection of the strong bond that has developed between the two cricketing nations. India hosting Afghanistan for their historic first Test in 2018 was another significant milestone in this journey, and since then, we have continued to see regular bilateral engagements between the two

teams. “We recently hosted Afghanistan for a Test and ODI series in June, and this T20I series will mean the two teams have now competed against each other across all three formats. We look forward to welcoming the Afghanistan team to Delhi and are confident that this will be an exciting and memorable series.” For Afghanistan Cricket Board chairman Mirwais Ashraf, the series carries significance beyond the cricket itself.

Sensex falls 188 points, Nifty slips 36 points as oil prices weigh on markets

Mumbai: The benchmark equity indices, the Sensex and the Nifty, ended lower for the second consecutive session on Wednesday as elevated crude oil prices and uncertainty surrounding a potential deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz kept investors cautious. The Sensex fell 187.90 points, or 0.24 per cent, to close at 77,966.35, while the Nifty shed 35.75 points, or 0.15 per cent, to settle at 24,435.95. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the index continues to fall after slipping below 24,400, leading to a decline towards 24,250. "On the lower end, it found support around the 200-hour SMA before staging a recovery. On the daily timeframe, the index has managed to close above the 20EMA," an analyst stated. "A sustained fall below 24,400 on Thursday might again drag the index towards 24,180. On the higher end, 24,500 is likely to act as a crucial resistance, and a sustained move above this level might improve the trend," as per the expert. Investor sentiment remained subdued as concerns over global energy supplies supported crude oil prices, prompting caution across equity markets. Rising oil prices are generally viewed negatively for India, a major importer of crude, as they can increase inflationary pressures and widen the country's trade deficit. Among the Nifty



constituents, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Max Healthcare Institute and Apollo Hospitals Enterprise emerged as the top losers, dragging the benchmark index lower. The broader market performance was mixed. The Nifty MidCap index managed to outperform the front-line gauges, rising 0.28 per cent, while the Nifty SmallCap index slipped 0.18 per cent. Sectoral trends were also divergent. The Nifty IT index was the worst-performing sectoral gauge of the day, declining 1.54 per cent as technology stocks came under selling pressure. In contrast, the Nifty PSU Bank index gained 2 per cent, emerging as the top sectoral performer and helping limit losses in the broader market. "The U.S. inflation report remains the key event on investors' radar, with the outcome expected to influence expectations for the Federal Reserve's policy direction and, in turn, shape sentiment across global financial markets," a market expert stated.

Tata stocks tumble after Chandrasekaran opts out of Tata Sons reappointment

Mumbai: Tata Group-backed companies' stocks witnessed heavy selling pressure on Wednesday, plunging up to 5.95 per cent and losing about Rs 46,000 crore in market value after N. Chandrasekaran said he would not offer himself for reappointment as chairman of Tata Sons when his current term expires in February 2027. Shares of several Tata Group-backed companies witnessed selling pressure as the chairman's decision raised uncertainty over succession at India's largest conglomerate. Tata Consultancy Services shares declined as much as 5.95 per cent to hit an intraday low of Rs 2,300.10 on the NSE, while Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles shares fell about 4 per cent. Similarly, Tata Steel shares also fell by more than 2 per cent to Rs 183.60. Moreover, the sell-off by investors also weighed on other group companies. Shares of Tata Elxsi, Tata Communications, Tata Technologies, Tata Power and Trent also traded up to 2 per cent per cent. The sell-off followed Chandrasekaran's announcement that he would not seek another term as chairman of Tata Sons, ending months of uncertainty over his future at the group holding company. In a statement, Chandrasekaran said his current tenure as chairman will end on Feb 2027. He said the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and Sir Ratan Tata Trust had unani-



mously recommended extending his term by another five years and that the recommendation had also been recorded by the Tata Sons Nomination and Remuneration Committee and the board. However, he said the proposal was not carried forward because one board member did not support it. "I chose to defer the matter then because I felt strongly that such an important decision should not proceed without unanimous support," Chandrasekaran said. "It has been 6 months since that Board meeting, and no resolution has been reached till date." Chandrasekaran said he had now decided not to offer himself for reappointment when his present term ends, citing the need for leadership clarity as Tata Sons executes several strategic projects. Chandrasekaran — who became chairman of Tata Sons in 2017 after leading Tata Consultancy Services — has overseen major investments and acquisitions across the group.

BRICS economies are major engines of global growth: FM Sitharaman

Jaipur: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Wednesday that while BRICS economies represent major growth engines of the global economy, they also face common structural constraints in mobilising private capital at scale. The challenge is not merely the availability of capital, but the creation of confidence, stability, predictability, and credible long-term frameworks which are

essential to unlock sustained private participation across member countries, the Finance Minister said in her keynote address at the seminar on "The Role of the New Development Bank in Mobilising Private Capital in Member Countries". She highlighted the critical role that the multilateral development banks play in de-risking investments, enhancing project bankability, and strengthening investor

Godrej Consumer Products shares plunge 10 pc to 52-week low after CEO Sudhir Sitapati resigns

New Delhi: Godrej Consumer Products Limited (GCPL) shares plunged 10 per cent to hit a 52-week low and the lower circuit on Wednesday in the morning session trade after the company announced the immediate resignation of Sudhir Sitapati as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO). The FMCG company's stock fell as much as 10 per cent to Rs 916.20, touching a 52-week low and lower circuit. From the 52-week high of Rs 1,308.40, the stock has tumbled about 30 per cent. At around 10:30 am, GCPL shares were trading at 929.55, down more than 8.69 per cent on the BSE. However, around 2.9 million GCPL equity shares changed hands across the NSE and BSE during the first three minutes of trading, indicating heightened investor activity following the leadership change. On Tuesday after market hours, the company announced that Sitapati was stepping down from his position with immediate effect. Additionally, the board has appointed Aasif Malbari — currently Global Chief Financial Officer and President of Godrej Africa — as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, also with immediate effect. Malbari will succeed Sitapati, who



had been leading GCPL as its MD & CEO. According to the company, Malbari has around three decades of experience across the fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) and automobile sectors, having worked with GCPL, Tata Motors and Hindustan Unilever. As Global CFO at GCPL, Malbari has been responsible for business strategy and has worked closely with leadership teams across geographies to drive growth and strengthen performance, the company said. Moreover, GCPL stock has witnessed selling pressure across different horizons, declining about 22 per cent in the last one year, 9 per cent in the past three years and 6 per cent over the past five-year period. In shorter periods, the FMCG stock slipped 15 per cent in one month, nearly 23 per cent in the last three months.

Indian NBFC fintech loan book grows 21.2 pc in June as higher-ticket lending gains traction: Report



New Delhi: Indian non-banking financial company fintechs saw their portfolio outstanding expand 21.2 per cent year-on-year as of June 2026, driven by stronger underwriting and a shift toward higher-ticket credit, a report said on Wednesday. NBFC Fintechs entered a maturing phase marked by calibrated lending and they now account for about 9 per cent of total NBFC portfolio outstanding, the report from CRIF High Mark and the Unified Fintech Forum (UFF) said. "While personal loans continue to anchor the segment, unsecured business lending is emerging as a significant opportunity, particularly in the Rs 1 lakh– Rs 5 lakh range," the report said. Meanwhile, fintech lenders are expanding their reach beyond the largest urban centres, indicating a broader role in extending formal credit access across emerging markets. Originations in Q1 FY27 reached Rs 79.9 thou-

sand crore, up 53 per cent in value and 21 per cent in volume YoY, driven largely by personal loans above Rs 1 lakh. The share of new-to-credit borrowers of NBFC Fintech has moderated from 14.2 per cent in June 2024 to 11.4 per cent in June 2026, indicating a more selective and calibrated lending approach. The share of loans above Rs 1 lakh in portfolio outstanding rose from 21.6 per cent in June 2024 to 26.3 per cent in June 2026. Personal loan originations from BT100 cities increased from 32.1 per cent to 34.5 per cent in value between Q1 FY25 and Q1 FY27, and that of unsecured business loans rose from 23.3 per cent to 30 per cent. Borrowers aged 26–35 years account for 43.5 per cent of the NBFC Fintech borrower base as of June 2026, while the 36–50 age group grew 31.7 per cent YoY, signalling a gradual shift towards more mature borrowers.

confidence so that private capital can be mobilised at scale. The seminar was held on the sidelines of the BRICS Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors Meeting, being hosted here under India's chairship. The Finance Minister emphasised that the future of development finance lies in partnership, multilateral institutions, national governments, and the private sector each bringing distinct strengths.

Citing India's experience, Sitharaman said that the Indian government has strengthened its infrastructure ecosystem through sustained public capital expenditure and complementary structural re-



forms. Public investment has expanded significantly compared to a decade ago, reflecting a deliberate strategy to create productive national assets across highways, railways, ports, logistics systems, digital infrastructure, and energy networks.

Youth Must Be Aware of Laws

International Youth Day awareness seminar held at Kamavarapukota Junior College
Joint West Godavari District Legal Services Authority Secretary N. Srilakshmi attended as the Chief Guest



Kamavarapukota: On the occasion of International Youth Day, an awareness seminar on anti-ragging, anti-drugs, and cybercrime was conducted for students at Sri Venkateswara Junior College in Kamavarapukota. Joint West Godavari District Legal Services Authority Secretary N. Srilakshmi highlighted that youth must possess awareness regarding laws and legal protections.

Key Highlights of the Event: Chief Guest N. Srilakshmi's Address: Advised youth not to succumb to social media distractions or superficial attractions, urging them to focus on education and set clear future goals. "Emphasized staying clear of criminal cases, drugs, and ragging to protect their eligibility for government jobs. Encouraged female students to understand "good touch and bad touch" and boldly report any harassment to parents or the police. Explained that while court verdicts leave one winner, resolving disputes through Lok Adalat ensures a win-win outcome for both parties.

Tadikalapudi Sub-Inspector Valli Padma's Advice: Urged students to stay away from bad influences, addiction to harmful online content, cybercrime, and drugs.

Shared critical emergency helpline numbers:Ganja/Drug Transport: 1976
Financial Cybercrime: 1930
Police Helpline: 112""**Child Helpline:** 1098

Senior Advocate P. Ratnaraju's Remarks: Stated that hard work and knowledge acquisition create the best opportunities.

Shared the Lok Adalat Legal Advice Helpline: 15100.

Dignitaries Present:"Deputy Tahsildar Ramakrishna, VRO Ahmad, College Principal Ch. Venugopal, S. Uttam Gopal, Chintalapudi Bar Association Vice President Tammisetti Nagendra Phanideep, PLVs Veeramalla Madhu, Nijapurapu Durga Prasad, and others participated in the event.

NTR District Aiming to Become Cannabis-Free

Crackdown on Cultivation, Transport, and Usage
Rewards for providing information on cannabis details kept completely confidential
Share information on 1972 as part of the 'Eagle Challenge'
Call to put an end to Vijayawada's negative stereotype as a hub for "Blade Batches and Ganja Batches"
Avoid linking any incident to cannabis without scientific verification

Vijayawada, August 12, 2026:"NTR District Collector Dr. G. Laxmisha and Vijayawada Police Commissioner S.V. Rajasekhar Babu announced that continuous, coordinated efforts by the district administration, police department, government agencies, and NGOs have yielded significant results in making NTR District cannabis-free.

Key Highlights: Public Collaboration & **Eagle Helpline:** Citizens are urged to report any info on cannabis cultivation, smuggling, sale, or consumption to helpline 1972 under the 'Eagle Challenge'. Informants' identities will be kept strictly confidential, and verified information will be eligible for suitable rewards.

Anti-Drug Initiatives: Following the "Drugs Pai Dandayatra 1.1 & 2.0" campaigns, the third phase has been launched under the name "Eagle 1972". The 'Say No to Drugs' poster was released, and participants took the 'Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat' pledge.

Fact-Checking & Clarifications: Authorities clarified that many road accidents and fights are caused by alcohol, not cannabis. Unverified claims linking every incident to cannabis must be avoided until confirmed via scientific tests. Over 9,000 acres of cannabis cultivation in the AP-Odisha border region have been completely neutralized using drone technology, bringing active culti-



vation down to zero acres. Strict legal action under the NDPS Act will be taken against anyone confirmed to be using or dealing drugs.

Here is the English translation and summary of the news article Chowdeshwari Devi Jayanti Celebrated with Devotion in Pebbair

Pebbair, August 12 (Deep Pulse): The Jayanti (birth anniversary) celebrations of Goddess Sri Chowdeshwari Devi were held with great fervor at the local temple on Wednesday under the auspices of Sri Krishna Yadava Sangham and Youth Associations. "Key Highlights: Religious Rituals: Under the chanting of Vedic mantras by temple priest Chandraiah and priest Gopi, special abhishekam, kumkumarchana, and Maha Mangalaharati were offered to the deity. "Grand Decorations: The temple premises were beautifully decorated with

Let's Overcome AIDS Through Awareness

Everyone Must Strive to Build a Healthy Society
Regular medication is key to controlling HIV
District Collector Dr. G. Laxmisha



Vijayawada, August 12, 2026:"District Collector Dr. G. Laxmisha urged officials to create widespread awareness among the public regarding HIV/AIDS and encourage people to make full use of government-provided medical services to control the disease. He emphasized that HIV can be effectively managed through awareness, alertness, timely testing, and regular medication.

Key Highlights:**Awareness Rally:** Organized by the District Medical and Health Department, an awareness rally was flagged off by Collector Dr. G. Laxmisha from the Vijayawada Old Government Hospital. Students, medical staff, and NGO representatives participated, holding placards and shouting slogans about HIV prevention, treatment, and government health services.

Collector Dr. G. Laxmisha's Address: Dispelling myths about HIV with scientific information is essential. Those diagnosed with HIV should not panic; regular medication as prescribed by doctors ensures the condition remains well under control. Anyone experiencing doubts or high-risk exposure should undergo timely medical testing. AP AIDS Control Society Project Director B. Smarana Raj's Call: Urged society to support people living with HIV with empathy and strictly avoid discrimination. Highlighted that educating the youth is crucial for fostering responsibility toward public health.

Key Officials Present:"DM&HO Dr. Sravan Babu, Additional DM&HO Bhanu Nayak, IEC Joint Director Manjula, nursing students, health staff, and NGO members were present.

Coordinated Action Needed to Control Seasonal Diseases During Monsoon Significant Drop in Dengue and Malaria Cases in NTR District in 2026 District Collector Dr. G. Laxmisha



Vijayawada, August 12, 2026:"NTR District Collector Dr. G. Laxmisha conducted a review meeting via Zoom from the Vijayawada Collectorate on controlling seasonal diseases during the monsoon season.

Key Highlights: Comparison of Cases

(2025 vs 2026): Dengue: Dropped significantly from 23 cases in 2025 to just 2 cases in 2026 so far. Malaria: Decreased from 41 cases in 2025 to 3 cases in 2026 so far. Precautionary & Action Directives: Special surveillance, anti-larval operations, and fever testing must be intensified in high-risk, densely populated, and low-lying areas like Jakkampudi Colony, Ramavarappadu, Prasadampadu, Yanamalakuduru, and NTR Lanka. Strengthen the weekly "Dry Day" campaign every Friday with doorstep inspections to eliminate stagnant water and mosquito breeding spots. Mandatory blood tests for every reported fever case; private hospitals and laboratories must report all Dengue cases to the District Disease Surveillance System in a timely manner. Deploy lab technicians on a rotational basis and use digital platforms to monitor mosquito breeding sites and field operations effectively. " Key Officials Present:"DRO M. Laxmi Narasimham, DM&HO Sravan Kumar, District Malaria Officer D. Raju Naik, and other departmental officers participated in the conference.