

Good News For Self-Help Groups From AP Government

**Relaxation In 10-Member Rule
Repeat Dose Benefit Even With 8 Members
Easy Bank Loans For Savings Groups
Minister Kondapalli Appreciates AP Grameena Bank
Minister Urges Other Banks To Follow Suit**

Amaravati, August 13: State Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Rural Poverty Eradication and NRI Empowerment Relations, Kondapalli Srinivas on Thursday appreciated the historic decision taken by Andhra Pradesh Grameena Bank to resolve the technical problems faced by Self-Help Groups (SHGs). In a statement, the Minister said that earlier, if the number of members in a group fell below 10 due to death of a member or migration in rural areas, SHGs

‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ Celebrations Held Grandly At Government Degree College, Baruva

Baruva, August 13: “As part of the ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ programme, a grand National Flag Rally was organized at the Government Degree College, Baruva. The programme was held under the chairmanship of College Principal Dr. D. Rama Rao. NSS Unit-1 Programme Officer Smt. Snehalatha Palli and Unit-2 Programme Officer Sri Teppala Rajendra Prasad coordinated the event. On this occasion, college teaching staff and students participated enthusiastically in large numbers. Holding National Flags in their hands, they took out a grand rally through the streets of Baruva raising patriotic slogans. As part of the spirit of the Diamond Jubilee of India’s Independence, awareness was created among everyone to hoist the National Flag on their homes. College faculty and students participated in this programme.



were facing severe difficulties in availing the next loan facility, even if

‘Chalo Hyderabad’ Wall Posters Launched For August 23rd

Pebberu, August 12: “Wall posters for the ‘Chalo Hyderabad’ programme scheduled on August 23rd were launched on Thursday at various offices under the aegis of the Telangana State CPS Employees Association, demanding the scrapping of the CPS system and restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). Speaking on the occasion, the leaders said that after dedicating their entire service life to the government, Old Pension Scheme is the only way to ensure financial security at the time of retirement. They called upon CPS employees to participate unitedly in the movement for the sake of their future as well as family security. Tahsildar Satyanarayana Reddy, MPDO Roja, Polytechnic Principal Jayachandra, Model School Principal Dr. Toorpunti Naresh Kumar, High School Headmaster Narasimha Goud, District President Maddileti, General Secretary Rajendra Prasad, Chinna Ramulu, Narasimha Naidu, Dayanand, Durga Prasad, Ravi, Bhaskar Reddy and others participated in the programme.

Naidu, Pawan hail youth as future Bharat force

Amaravati: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday said that his government is committed to building a better future for the youth. The Chief Minister greeted youth on International Youth Day. “You are our energy. You are our strength. You are the hope and promise of tomorrow. On International Youth Day, I reaffirm our commitment to building a future where every young person has the freedom, confidence and opportunity to choose their own path and live the life they aspire to,”

Chandrababu Naidu posted on ‘X’. “Whatever we are doing today is ultimately about building a better future for you tomorrow, a future where you have greater opportunities, the freedom to dream and the support to turn those dreams into reality. I extend my warm greetings to all of you and invite you to join me in shaping this future together,” he added. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan also greeted youth on International Youth Day. “Youth are not just the future of Bharat. They

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AP steps up lithium, gallium exploration in Kadapa basin

Amaravati: The state government has intensified efforts to explore critical mineral resources in the state, with a focus on identifying lithium and gallium deposits in the Vempalle region of the Kadapa basin. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Wednesday between the CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) and the state mines and geology department in the presence of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. Preliminary studies conducted by NGRI in Thummalapalle and surrounding areas have indicated the presence of lithium and gallium deposits. The surveys estimated lithium concentrations of up to 1,000 parts per million (ppm) and gallium levels of up to 250 ppm. The lat-



est agreement aims to carry out detailed investigations to assess the potential of these critical minerals. The exploration project will be funded entirely

by the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET), with an estimated cost of Rs 140 crore. In another development, an

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State sets 95-95-99 HIV goals by Dec 1



Amaravati: Health minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav has called for a united effort from youth and voluntary organisations to build an AIDS-free state. Speaking at an event organised by the AP State AIDS Control Society (APSACS) here on Wednesday on International Youth Day, the minister launched a 60-day special Information, Education and Com-

munication (IEC) campaign. He reiterated the government’s commitment to achieving 100 percent of the targeted ‘95-95-99’ goals by December 1. The minister pointed to the remarkable progress made by the state, reducing new HIV infections by 77 per cent and AIDS-related deaths by 87 per cent. The Central target mandates that

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AP Government eases industrial approvals to cut delays

Amaravati: The state government has eased the approval process for industrial projects, allowing competent authorities to process key statutory clearances on the basis of the Final Allotment Order issued by APIIC, in a move aimed at reducing delays in grounding

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Adani Group plans Rs 16,000-cr titanium plant in Andhra Pradesh

Amaravati: Seeing a huge potential for beach sand minerals and their value addition in North Andhra, Adani Group has envisaged an investment of Rs.16,000 crore in a titanium plant in Srikakulam district. During a meeting with Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu here, Naidu underlined the importance of value addition to beach sand minerals available in Andhra Pradesh. He emphasized the need to prioritize the manufacture of value-added products within the State to reduce dependence on other countries for rare earth miner-



als and called for adoption of advanced technologies in this sector. A delegation led by

Karan Adani, Managing Director of Adani Ports and SEZ Lim-

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Govt must pay attention to issues raised by Panagariya

The Narendra Modi government is not known for taking criticism in a gentle manner. Its critics are often dubbed as anti-national or foreign-funded. However, they cannot accuse Arvind Panagariya, Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission, of being politically or ideologically-motivated. A Professor of Economics at the US-based Columbia University, who was earlier appointed by the Union Government as vice-chairman of Niti Aayog. In a recent interview, he said, “India remains, I think, for the foreigners a very difficult place to do business with. You can see that much of the foreign investment that comes into India comes into private equity. You don’t see foreigners actually setting up companies and enterprises themselves here, unlike, say, in China...” Liberalisation happened, ending the license-raj, “but some of it has been replaced by what I have been calling permission-raj,” he said. He also expressed concern over excessive regulation. On the technological side, there have been overwhelming improvements, resulting in the creation of massive conveniences. “Now, on the other side, there is the regulatory side. There, things have become worse... We have simply put in too many regulations... And departments that should not be involved in regulating become involved...” every businessperson, from the local grocer to the top corporate tycoon, knows these facts. But their voice rarely reaches the high and mighty running the Central and state governments; ever rarer is the action taken in accordance with that. A government run by the supposedly largest party of the world, the Bharatiya Janata Party, with ample support from the grassroots organization, the RSS, must have shown much greater responsiveness to the feedback from the ground. To be fair to the Modi regime, we should also highlight the good work it has done to boost economic growth and development. From introducing fiscal prudence and building infrastructure to GST and the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC), it has carried out important reforms. This has resulted in India becoming the fastest-growing large economy. But more needs to be done. And the government will do itself and the nation a favour if it pays attention to the sagacious words of Panagariya. India has made remarkable progress in digitising public services, formalising the economy, weeding out non-deserving beneficiaries from welfare programmes, and creating a more integrated national market. Yet these achievements will not be enough to sustain rapid growth unless the everyday business environment also becomes substantially easier, more predictable and less burdensome. The Central and state governments (where the BJP mostly rules) need to undertake a serious review of the maze of permissions, licences, inspections, and compliances that businesses face. Regulations that serve no clear public purpose should be removed, while those that are necessary should be made transparent, time-bound and technology-driven. Government departments must also resist the temptation to regulate areas beyond their legitimate responsibilities. A culture of trust, rather than suspicion, can encourage entrepreneurs to invest, expand and create jobs.

Good News For Self-Help Groups From AP Government

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they were functioning well. In this context, he hailed AP Grameena Bank for announcing special relaxations through its Internal Order No. 152. As per the new guidelines, Repeat Dose Loans will be sanctioned to groups with a minimum of 8 active members. However, the Minister clarified that the reduction in members should be only due to migration or death, and the group should have no irregularities and no pending dues with regular repayments. Eligible groups will have to submit a Special Resolution and Liability Document. The Minister also stated that groups availing the loan relaxation must increase their membership back to a minimum of 10 within 6 months. The Minister said that loans given to women are not just financial assistance, but a symbol of their livelihood, self-employment and economic empowerment. He added that the government’s main objective is to further strengthen women’s groups in the state and make an entrepreneur in every household. The Minister Kondapalli also called upon the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) and other banks in the state to come forward and relax the 10-member rule for SHGs with a good track record, and provide easy loan renewal assistance.

AP steps up lithium, gallium exploration in Kadapa basin

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MoU was signed between IIT (ISM) Dhanbad’s TEXMiN and the mines department to promote research, technology development and skill enhancement in the mining sector in Andhra Pradesh. Under the agreement, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad will establish a Centre of Excellence for mining-related activities in the state, aimed at strengthening research capabilities and introducing advanced technologies in the sector.

AP Government eases industrial approvals to cut delays

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projects. The decision, issued under the State’s Compliance Reduction and Deregulation Phase-II initiative, covers permissions including Building Plan Approval, Fire NOC, Consent for Establishment (CFE), Consent for Operation (CFO) and Occupancy Certificates, wherever permitted under the applicable laws. The move follows an APIIC assessment that industrial projects face significant delays because land allotment, possession and statutory approvals are generally processed sequentially. Entrepreneurs must first complete the allotment process, execute agreements and obtain possession before approaching different departments for approvals. This often delays project implementation and can force investors to seek extensions of time and pay additional fees.

State sets 95-95-99 HIV goals by Dec 1

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95 per cent of estimated people living with HIV know their status, 95 per cent of those diagnosed receive continuous Anti-Retroviral Therapy, and 99 per cent of those on treatment achieve viral suppression. Currently, AP stands at 88–87–96.2 per cent across these metrics. The minister directed officials to identify local gaps, monitor progress at the district level and leverage social media to actively engage youth. To streamline monitoring, he unveiled the ‘Suraksha Dashboard’, a digital tool designed to track district-wise performance and accelerate interventions where needed.

Naidu, Pawan hail youth as future Bharat force

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are the energy, courage and imagination shaping its present. On International Youth Day, I salute the young minds who dare to dream beyond the ordinary, question what seems impossible and turn ideas into action,” he said. “A young person with knowledge in the mind, courage in the heart and character in action can transform a family, a community and ultimately a Nation. Every innovation, every new idea, every act of courage and every step taken with purpose brings us closer to the Bharat we dream of building,” the Jana Sena leader said. “To the youth of our Nation, I say: Dream boldly. Learn continuously. Create fearlessly. Stand firmly for what is right. Your talent is your strength. Your ideas are your power. Your determination is the force that will shape the Bharat of tomorrow. Let us build a generation that does not wait for change, but becomes the change. My heartfelt wishes to the youth of Bharat on International Youth Day.”

GSB Charitable Trust Preparatory Meeting Today- Residential Facility For Children With Special Needs



Kamavarapukota, August 13: “GSB Charitable Trust Chairman Engineer Gooduru V.S.R. Prasad announced that a preparatory meeting of the GSB Charitable Trust will be held on Friday at Ratnagiri Nagar, outskirts of Tadikalapudi Panchayat in the mandal. He said that for the first time in Andhra Pradesh, a residential facility for children with special needs will be established under the aegis of the Trust. Trust members from Gooduru Charitable Trust and Kakatiya Charitable Trust will participate in Friday’s meeting, Prasad said. The meeting will discuss the design and details of the proposed Charitable Trust building in Ratnagiri Nagar, accommodation facilities, assurance for children, and other matters. He stated that the Trust is being set up primarily to provide services to children with intellectual disabilities and differently-abled persons. Trust members including Babji and others participated in the programme.

Vacant physical director posts hit sports activities in Telangana govt colleges



Hyderabad: All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. The proverb aptly describes the situation of students in government colleges. While the Telangana Congress government has been making tall claims of promoting sports to produce international-level athletes, the ground reality is different. From government polytechnics and government junior colleges to government degree colleges, all the institutions are facing a severe shortage of physical directors. Of the 45 physical director posts sanctioned in government polytechnics, only three are working, leaving 42 vacant. Similarly, one out of three physical director posts is vacant. The situation is worst in government junior colleges. Only 10 out of the total 332 sanctioned physical director posts are currently filled. As for government degree colleges, only 21 physical directors are working against the total sanctioned strength of 132 posts. Despite such a large number of vacancies, the State government has not initiated any steps to fill them through direct recruitment.

This lack of physical directors is hitting the students. The Telangana Board of Intermediate Education had earlier directed all colleges to mandatorily implement sports, Yoga, and meditation classes regularly, and integrate them into their official timetable, with at least one class per week. However, the government junior colleges hardly have physical directors to conduct any physical activity among students. K Suresh, general secretary, Telangana Gazetted Junior Lecturers Association_475, says they have made several representations to the government seeking recruitment of physical directors, but there is no headway. “Due to a shortage of physical directors, we junior lecturers have been conducting physical activity sessions once every Saturday. But to nurture sports talent from a young age, the colleges need physical directors,” he adds.

Adani Group plans Rs 16,000-cr titanium plant in Andhra Pradesh

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ited, called on Naidu and briefed him on the proposed titanium plant, beach sand mining, products that can be manufactured from these minerals, their applications across various sectors and market demand. The Adani Group representatives explained that ilmenite available in beach sand can be value-added to produce titanium slag, titanium dioxide (TiO2) and titanium sponge. They said TiO2 has applications in paints, coatings, cosmetics, plastics and polymers, UV-protection products and several other industries.

Anganwadi Centers Should Provide A Good Future For Children- Special Attention Should Be Paid To Children

*To Prevent Nutritional Deficiency
Continuous Monitoring Needed For Underweight Children
Awareness On Nutrition Should Be Created Among Parents*

District Collector Dr. G. LakshmishaJaggayyapeta, August 13:“District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha suggested that Anganwadi Centers should function as a foundation for the overall developm2ent of children and work towards providing them a good future. She directed that special attention should be paid to prevent nutritional deficiency among children and that underweight children should be identified and their health condition should be continuously monitored. On Thursday, the District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha made a surprise visit to the Saksham Anganwadi Center at Dharmavarappupadu Thanda, Jaggayyapeta Mandal. On this occasion, she inspected the facilities available for children at the Anganwadi Center, implementation of nutrition programmes, education, and conduct of play activities. The Collector inspected the TV, RO Plant,

paintings, play equipment and other items provided to the Anganwadi Center. She enquired with the staff whether they were being utilized properly as per the needs of the children. She gathered details about the programmes being conducted at the center and the services being provided to children. The Collector checked the details of underweight children in the relevant app. In accordance with the details registered in the app, she personally got the children weighed for a cross-check. She suggested that there should be no negligence in the growth and weight of children and that they should be monitored regularly. The District Collector spent some time interacting cheerfully with the children at the Anganwadi Center. She made the children sing the songs they had learned and encouraged them. She suggested that Anganwadi staff should pay special attention to develop interest and



self-confidence in children through play and songs. Speaking on this occasion, District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said that play and songs have great importance in the childhood stage. She stated that if play, songs and education are provided in coordination at this age, children will develop mentally and physically healthy. She suggested that Anganwadi Centers should function as centers that foster creativity, learning interest and social skills in children. The Collector directed that special focus should be given to underweight children. She said such children should be identified and their health condition should be monitored from time to time, and their parents should also be

made aware about the nutritious food and balanced diet to be given to children. She directed the concerned officials to monitor the quality, quantity and distribution of nutritious food being provided to children, and to check whether Balamrutham is being distributed properly. As part of the Har Ghar Tiranga programme, District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha planted a sapling in the premises of the Anganwadi Center. She suggested promoting such programmes to create awareness among children about environmental protection. Nandigama RDO G. Anil Kumar, Deputy Tahsildar P. Manohar, MPDO, CDPO G. Satyavati and others participated in this programme.

‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ Programmes Should Be Organized To Foster Patriotic Spirit- Sacrifices Of Great Leaders Who Laid Down Their Lives For The Nation Should Be Told To Future Generations National Unity And Love For The Country Should Be Instilled In Students District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha Participates In ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ Programme With Chillakallu ZP School Students

Jaggayyapeta, August 13:“District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said that ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ programmes should be organized enthusiastically to remember the sacrifices of freedom fighters and to instill national unity, patriotism and love for the country in future generations. As part of the 80th Independence Day celebrations, the Collector participated in the ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ programme held on Thursday at Chillakallu ZP School, Jaggayyapeta Mandal, and encouraged the students. On the occasion of Independence Day celebrations, a Tiranga Rally was organized very enthusiastically and grandly by Chillakallu ZP School. Under the leadership of the school Headmaster

and teachers, students holding National Flags took out a rally through the main streets. Students, youth and officials participated in large numbers and showcased patriotism. The participation of students in the rally with discipline, holding National Flags, was a special attraction. Patriotic songs sung by students and slogans like “Bharat Mata Ki Jai” and “Vande Mataram” reverberated the surrounding areas during the rally. Speaking on this occasion, District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said that everyone should remember the services and sacrifices of the great leaders who sacrificed even their lives for India’s independence. She stated that it is the responsibility of everyone to



pass on their spirit of sacrifice to future generations. She said that programmes like Har Ghar Tiranga will further enhance national unity, patriotism, love for the country and responsible citizenship among students. The Collector suggested that students should learn about the country’s history, the sacrifices of freedom fighters and the significance of the National Flag from a young age. She said that Independence Day celebrations should not be limited to schools and government offices alone, but should be organized in such a way that patriotic spirit is instilled in every household. She called upon the pub-

lic, students and youth to participate enthusiastically in the Har Ghar Tiranga programme and show respect for the National Flag. The District Collector appreciated the students who participated enthusiastically in the rally. She praised the students and teachers for making the programme a success by singing patriotic songs and raising national slogans. She said that such programmes will help in fostering spirit, discipline and a sense of unity among students. Nandigama RDO G. Anil Kumar, Deputy Tahsildar P. Manohar, MPDO, School Headmaster, Teachers, Students and others participated in this programme.

Let Us Collectively Tackle The Impact Of El Nino- Agriculture Officials Should Give Special Focus To Ensure 100% Crop Insurance Coverage Crop Insurance Registration Deadline Ends On August 15 Farmers Should Utilize Fertilizer Distribution Through AP-AIMS App District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha

Jaggayyapeta, August 13:“District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said that we should collectively face the impact of El Nino and provide necessary suggestions and advice to farmers. She suggested that farmers should take adequate precautions in crop cultivation keeping weather conditions in mind, and that agriculture officials should

pay special attention to provide assurance to farmers through crop insurance. The Collector participated in the ‘Rythanna Meekosam’ programme organized by Jaggayyapeta Agriculture Department officials on Thursday at Jenda Chettu, Dharmavarappadu Thanda. “On this occasion, she sat under the tree and inter-

acted with farmers. She enquired about farmers’ cultivation status, water availability, crop cultivation and fertilizer availability. She explained to farmers about the impact of El Nino prevailing across the country on the agriculture sector. Keeping water availability in mind, the Collector suggested farmers give priority to dry land crops that can be cultivated with less water. She said that available water should be used economically and carefully. She advised farmers to follow crop diversification. She created awareness among farmers that by cultivating horticulture crops considering water availability, soil nature and market conditions, there is a possibility of earning better income. She directed agriculture officials to provide necessary field-level advice to farmers on crop selection, cultivation methods and water usage. The Collector requested that all farmers should utilize the opportunity

as the deadline for PM Fasal Bima Yojana insurance registration is ending on August 15. She specifically suggested that all farmers cultivating paddy, chilli, green gram and maize should get crop insurance. She said that insurance provides financial assurance to farmers in case of unexpected crop loss. “The Collector directed agriculture officials to give special focus to ensure crop insurance for all eligible farmers in the district.



Job Opportunities For Unemployed Youth- Company Specific Drive To Be Held In Vijayawada On August 14

Opportunity For Youth Aged 18 To 29 Years With Intermediate, Degree Qualification Salary From Rs.15,000 To Rs.25,000 Per Month District Employment and Skill Officer C. Madhu Bhushan Rao, District Skill Development Officer S. Srinivasa Rao

Vijayawada, August 13:“Officials informed that a Company Specific Drive will be organized on Friday, August 14, 2026, to provide job opportunities to unemployed youth in the district under the aegis of Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC). District Employment and Skill Officer C. Madhu Bhushan Rao and District Skill Development Officer S. Srinivasa Rao stated that the Company Specific Drive will be held at 9:00 AM on August 14 at Aadhya Store, Old SBI Branch, Opposite Judeo Stores, Ghantasala Vari Street, Gayatri Nagar, Vijayawada. They said that interviews will be conducted for eligible candidates attending the drive by company representatives and candidates will be selected for jobs.Officials said that youth with Intermediate or Degree qualification and aged between 18 to 29 years are eligible for these job opportunities. They informed that selected candidates will be offered a salary ranging from Rs.

15,000 to Rs. 25,000 per month depending on the job, along with other facilities. Officials suggested that interested and eligible candidates must register on the APSSDC Skill Portal before attending the Company Specific Drive. Candidates can use the following link to register with complete details:“<https://naipunyam.ap.gov.in/user-registration>Candidates attending the Company Specific Drive should bring the following xerox copies along with their Resume or Bio-data:“Copy of Aadhaar Card, Phone Number linked to Aadhaar, Copy of PAN Card, Xerox copies of Educational Certificates, Resume or Bio-data.District Employment and Skill Officers requested the unemployed youth in the district to make use of this job opportunity. They suggested that candidates should attend the interviews conducted as part of the selection process on time with the required documents. For more details, officials said candidates can contact 81259 73743, 99857 59304, 93477 79032.

Blankets Distributed To Social Welfare Hostel Students



Chintalapudi, August 13:“The Government has arranged kits containing Blankets, Towels, Sweaters and Night Dresses for students at the Social Welfare SC Girls Hostel in Chintalapudi, Eluru District. Local MLA Roshan Kumar attended the programme as the chief guest and distributed the kits to the students.Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said that the government is committed to the welfare and education of students. He stated that the government is providing all kinds of facilities required by students. He ex-

pressed hope that students should utilize these facilities, pursue good education and reach the highest peaks in future.Later, the MLA participated in the Tiranga Rally organized at the Zilla Parishad Girls High School. “School Headmaster Chakradhar Rao informed that the Tiranga Rally was organized as part of the 80th Independence Day celebrations. DYE0 P.S. Sudhakar, School Staff, Coalition Leaders and Students participated in the programme.

Recognition For Party Service.. Aili Prasad Gets Mandal President Post Again

Manthani, August 13:“Aili Prasad has been appointed for the second time as Manthani Mandal Congress Party President. As per the directions of Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu and Congress Party State General Secretary Duddilla Srinu Babu, the Mandal President responsibilities have been entrusted to him once again.Party leaders stated that during the time when Congress was in the opposition, Aili Prasad played a key role by leading party programmes and coordinating leaders and workers. Even after the party came to power, he has been accessible to workers and has been working to take party programmes forward while striving to strengthen Congress in Manthani Mandal.They said that the party high command, recognizing Aili Prasad’s service to the party, has given him the opportunity as Mandal President once again.On this occasion, Aili Prasad thanked Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu and State General Secretary Duddilla Srinu Babu. He said he would live up to the trust placed in him and work tirelessly for the strengthening of the party.Congress leaders and workers expressed happiness and congratulated Aili Prasad on being given the Mandal President responsibilities for the second time.



Inauguration Of Additional Classrooms Built At A Cost Of Rs. 12 Lakhs At New Samvli School

Providing Better Facilities Is The Government’s Objective: Mudhol MLA Pawar Ramarao Patel Assures Construction Of School Compound Wall



Kubeer, August 13:“Mudhol Constituency MLA Pawar Ramarao Patel on Thursday inaugurated the newly constructed additional classrooms at the Primary School in New Samvli Village, Kubeer Mandal, built at a cost of Rs. 12 Lakhs. After cutting the ribbon and inspecting the new classrooms, the MLA addressed a meeting organized on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said that the Central and State Governments are working jointly with the objective of providing quality education along with better educational facilities to students. He stated that providing such infrastructure will greatly help in creating a comfortable educational environment for rural students.On this occasion, villagers brought to the MLA’s notice the need for a compound

wall around the school in view of student safety, as the school currently does not have one. Responding positively, MLA Ramarao Patel assured that he would get the school compound wall construction sanctioned.

The MLA made it clear that priority will be given continuously for the overall development of New Samvli village. He assured that the VVO building, warehouse for storage of agricultural produce, internal CC roads, drains and other basic amenities in the village will be completed in a phased manner.Local public representatives, Sarpanches from various villages, political leaders, government officials, School Headmaster, Teachers, Students and Villagers participated in this programme.

Dharna Held In Marikal Demanding Release Of Koilsagar Water



Marikal, August 13:“BRS leaders organized a dharna at the crossroads in Marikal Mandal Centre on Thursday, alleging that farmers are facing severe distress as water is not being released into canals despite sufficient water being available in the Koilsagar Project.Speaking on the occasion, BRS Mandal President Lambadi Tirupathaiah demanded that water be released immediately from Koilsagar into the Right and Left Canals and irrigation water be provided to crops under the command area. He said farmers are already facing difficulties due to deficient rainfall conditions, and that the

government has a responsibility to respond immediately and save the crops. He warned that if the government shows negligence in the matter of irrigation water, they will take up larger-scale agitations along with farmers.“He demanded that Koilsagar water be released immediately without any delay, keeping in view the interests of farmers.BRS Marikal Mandal Senior Leaders Veera Basant, Karli Krishnaiah, Krishna Reddy, Raja Reddy, Goopa Narsimhalu, BRS Sarpanches, Ward Members, Former Public Representatives, Youth and others participated in this programme.

Teppala Devender Reddy Appointed As Kataram Mandal Congress President

Kataram, August 13:“TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud issued orders appointing Mandal Congress Party Presidents in the Kataram Division of Jayashankar Bhupalpalli District.Accordingly, Teppala Devender Reddy has been appointed as Kataram Mandal Congress Party President. Other appointments include:“- Jada Rajayya as Mahamutharam Mandal Congress Party President“- Katakam Ashok as Mahadevapur Mandal Congress Party President“- Dandera Rajender as Palimela Mandal President“- Jangidi Srinivasulu as Malhar Mandal Congress Party President Congress party cadres expressed happiness over these appointments.



Sara Ali Khan Turns 31: Get a Glimpse of her Stunning Car Collection

Sara Ali Khan, Pataudi Princess celebrated her birthday yesterday; she turned 31. Family members and her friends wished her good luck and success on her birthday. Special mention, Kareena wished, May your plate be always full. Sara Ali Khan is a foodie; she earlier loved to have large-sized pizza, but to enter into films, she underwent a wonderful transformation by mindful eating and exercise. She shed almost half of her weight with her strong determination and resilience. The actor boasts of her strong social media presence, with about 44.8 million followers on Instagram alone. The Bollywood actor charges around Rs. 1 crore for endorsements and nearing to Rs 3. crore per film. Sara Ali Khan has good collection of cars, which include luxurious, stylish, and economy cars as well. Mercedes-Benz G Class 350 : The above Vehicle is



known to have old-school ruggedness and extreme luxury put together. It has got major power update this year, thus marking the return of a diesel engine to the lineup alongside the mild-hybrid V8, which is performance monster. Price ranges between Rs 2.90 crore and Rs 4.30 crore. Nation's ultra rich, celebrities, elite, even hardcore off-roaders. This vehicle portrays the ultimate status symbol.

Amitabh Bachchan says Bollywood's history will be referred to as 'Before & after Dilip Kumar'

Mumbai: Bollywood stalwart Amitabh Bachchan has always been vocal about his admiration for the legend Dilip Kumar. During the latest episode of the reality game show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati Season 18', host Big B once again chose to shed light on the unparalleled contribution of Dilip Kumar to Hindi cinema. Amitabh was talking to one of the contestants on the show, Manjeet Singh, about the Hindi film industry. As the two were discussing the remarkable personalities who have played significant roles in shaping the history of Bollywood, Big B expressed his admiration for Dilip Saab's legacy. He said, "Agar jab bhi Hindi cinema ka itihaas likha jaayega, toh hamesha yeh hoga 'Before Dilip Kumar ji' and 'After Dilip Kumar ji. (Whenever the history of Hindi cinema will be written, it will always be 'Before Dilip Kumar ji' and 'After Dilip Kumar ji. Contestant Manjeet also used the opportunity to express his admiration for Amitabh and said, "Sir, after Dilip Kumar ji it will be Amitabh Bachchan." This remark received loud applause from the audience. However, Amitabh once again stressed Dilip



Kumar's unmatched position in the history of Hindi cinema, saying, "Aree nahi Sir, Before Dilip Kumar ji and After Dilip Kumar ji. (Oh no-no Sir, Before Dilip Kumar ji and After Dilip Kumar ji)." Big B also went on to describe Dilip Kumar as an irreplaceable pillar of Hindi cinema. He said, "Vo ek stambh hai, aur vo stambh jo hai, usse koi nahi hara sakta. (He is a pillar, and that pillar, no one can defeat.)" 'Kaun Banega Crorepati Season 18' airs Monday to Friday, at 9:00 PM, only on Sony Entertainment Television and Sony LIV. It must also be noted that Amitabh shared the screen with Dilip Kumar in the 1982 movie 'Shakti', made under the direction of Ramesh Sippy.

Arjun Bijlani reflects on the sacrifices behind India's freedom: 'We must value it'

Mumbai: Actor Arjun Bijlani opened up about the significance of Independence Day, reflecting on the immense sacrifices that made the country's freedom possible. In an exclusive quote shared with IANS, the host-actor said that Independence Day is not just a time to celebrate, but also an opportunity to remember and honour those who made great sacrifices for the nation. Speaking about the significance of Independence Day, Bijlani emphasized that Independence Day is not merely a day of celebration but also an opportunity to remember and honour the countless sacrifices made by those who fought for the nation. Arjun Bijlani shared, "I think patriotism is much more than posting a flag or sharing a patriotic song for one day. It's about respecting our country, following our responsibilities, being kind to people around us and contributing positively to society." When asked about the freedom fighter who has left the deepest impression on him, Arjun said, "Bhagat Singh has always left a deep impression on me. His courage, conviction and willingness to sacrifice everything for the country at such a young age is incredibly inspiring." "What stands out



for me is that he didn't just dream of freedom—he was ready to stand up and fight for what he believed in," added the 'Naagin' actor. Ahead of Independence Day, Arjun also shared a heartfelt message about patriotism and the spirit of freedom. "My message would simply be to never take our freedom for granted. Let's respect the people who fought for it and do our bit to make our country better. Be responsible, be kind, respect each other and always remember that every small positive action counts." India will celebrate its 80th Independence Day on, August 15, 2026, marking 79 years since the country gained independence from British rule in 1947.

Jackie Shroff wishes Vyjayanthimala on 93rd and Yogita Bali on 74th birthday with heartfelt posts

Mumbai: Actor Jackie Shroff marked veteran actress and classical dancer Vyjayanthimala's 93rd birthday with a heartwarming gesture. The actor shared a video on his social media account in which he was seen meeting the legendary actress and touching her feet to seek her blessings.

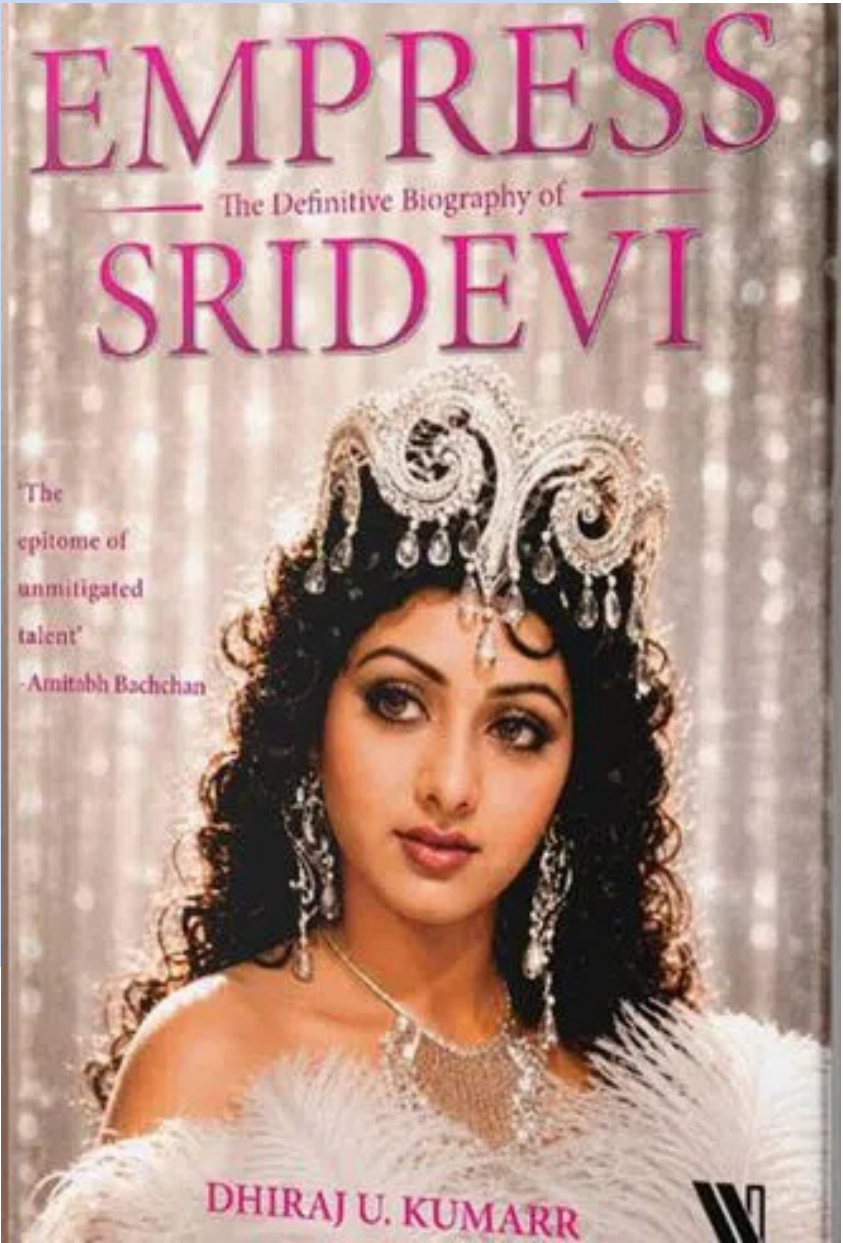


In the video, Jackie is seen dressed casually in a blue shirt and black vest as he approaches Vyjayanthimala. The veteran actress, who turned 93 on Thursday, was seen in a green traditional ensemble and blesses the actor. Vyjayanthimala, visibly delighted by the gesture, smiles and interacts with him. Jackie shared the video on his social media account with Lata Mangeshkar's classic song "Ghadi Ghadi Meraa Dil Dhadake" playing in the background. Jackie also remembered another veteran actress on the occasion. In a separate social media post, he wished actress Yogita Bali, who turned 74 on August 13. He shared a throwback picture of the actress from her younger days,

with Kishore Kumar's song "Simti Si Sharmai Si" playing in the background. Talking about Vyjayanthimala, she was born on August 13, 1933, and is regarded as one of the pioneering female superstars of Indian cinema. She began her acting journey with the Tamil film "Vaazhkai" in 1949 and later made her Hindi debut with "Bahar" in 1951. She went on to star in celebrated classics, including "Nagin", "Devdas", "Naya Daur", "Sadhna", "Madhumati", "Gunga Jumna", "Sangam", "Amrapali", "Jewel Thief" and "Sungursh". Her performance as Chandramukhi in Bimal Roy's "Devdas" and her collaborations with Dilip Kumar remain particularly remembered. Talking about Yogita Bali, the actress was born on August 13, 1952, and began her Hindi film career in the early 1970s. She appeared in films including "Parwana", "Buniyaad", "Nagin", "Jaani Dushman", "Biwi-O-Biwi", "Khwaab", "Jaanwar" and "Laila", among others.

Priyanka Chopra shares an update on Sridevi's upcoming biography on her birth anniversary

Mumbai: On the occasion of legendary actress Sridevi's birth anniversary, Priyanka Chopra shared an update on the much-awaited biography being made on the late actor's life and legacy. Sridevi, who remains one of the most celebrated actresses in Indian cinema, continues to be remembered for her remarkable body of work and immense contribution to the film industry. Priyanka took to her Instagram stories to offer a glimpse into its progress while remembering Sridevi on her special day. The upcoming biography is expected to shed light on Sridevi's illustrious career, personal journey, and the legacy she left behind. The 'Baywatch' actress shared a cover of the book that read, 'Empress- The Definitive biography of Sridevi .. "The epitome of unmitigated talent"—Amitabh Bachchan, Dhiraj U. Kumarr.' For the caption, she wrote, "The one and only. You are so missed. Happy heavenly birthday #Sridevi #Empress....coming soon." Boney Kapoor reshared Priyanka's post on his Instagram stories. In 2023, Westland Books announced the publication of an official biography on Sridevi. Titled "Sridevi: The Life of a Legend", the book will explore the life and career of the superstar, who dominated commercial Indian cinema during the 1980s and 1990s. Written by debut author Dhiraj Kumar, the biography is expected to offer a detailed look at Sridevi's journey, both on and off screen.



In a statement, Boney Kapoor spoke about author Dhiraj Kumar, who Sridevi considered a part of her family. Describing Kumar as a researcher, writer, and columnist, he expressed his happiness that Kumar is writing a book that captures Sridevi's extraordinary life and legacy. For the unversed, Sridevi passed away on February 24, 2018, at the age of 54 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The celebrated actress, known for her role in films like "Mr. India," "Chandni," and "Himmatwala," died after suffering a cardiac arrest. She was in Dubai to attend the wedding of actor and relative Mohit Marwah when the tragic incident took place. According to reports at the time, Sridevi collapsed in her hotel room. A medical team tried to revive her, but she could not be saved. She was later declared dead after being taken to a hospital.

T20 leagues have already pushed international cricket to the backseat, says Harbhajan



spectacle featuring some of the biggest names in world cricket. The growing dominance of T20 cricket has left one-day internationals and Tests fighting for relevance. Harbhajan said the packed stadiums in franchise-based league games are enough evidence to understand the shift in fan preferences. "...you see The Hundred, the grounds are packed, BBL the grounds are full. In IPL, you can't find tickets. Already that culture has developed that two months of IPL is a festival...a carnival," he said. "So that shift has happened in which international cricket has taken a backseat." With leagues becoming increasingly powerful commercially too, Harbhajan does not expect international cricket to simply reclaim the position it once enjoyed. The former bowler said it was a natural progression for a product which offered fans a mix of sports and entertainment. "It would be difficult to (for international cricket to get) back to its former stature because the leagues have become so big. In the league, the fans get to see a mixture of everything, competing with each other, so that's a different spectacle." "I would want international cricket to get more attention because it (deserves it). But this two-month window (of IPL), a lot of people's interest is in that." He also acknowledged that the emergence of T20 cricket has fundamentally altered the mindset of players as well as the expectations of spectators. The cash-strapped West Indies Cricket Board has often stated the problems it has faced in retaining quality players for national duty as an increasing number opts for freelancing in T20 leagues. In New Zealand too, high-profile players such as Kane Williamson and Devon Conway declined central contracts to pursue T20 opportunities globally.

No curfew for England players ahead of Pakistan Tests: Joe Root



London: In his second spell as England's Test captain, Joe Root has done away with the midnight curfew imposed on his side and has urged players to behave like 'grown adults' as they prepare for the upcoming series against Pakistan, starting at Headingley on August 19. The decision marks a clear departure from the ECB's player behaviour guidelines introduced in July following a string of off-field alcohol-related incidents — like former captain Ben Stokes and Gus Atkinson were out past a midnight curfew after England won the first Test against New Zealand at Lord's. "There's not going to be a curfew. I don't think this needs to be a big deal, to be honest. My view on the curfew is that the players are doing their work, and if you want guys to take responsibility on the field, they've got to feel like they can be grown adults and make good, strong decisions off it." "That's for us as a team to manage well, and police well for me and (new head coach) Stephen Fleming. We should be known for how we play cricket and what we do on the field. We should be on the back page of papers," Root said in the latest episode of the Sky Sports Cricket Podcast. Underlining the need for a healthy team culture, Root added, "Be adults, look after yourselves, look after each other. (We need to) create a good, strong culture where you know when the right time is to celebrate and enjoy a win or to have a sensible beer, but remember — you've got to play for England." "I don't want people to feel like they can't enjoy winning a Test match because they want to have a beer or, at the right time, let their hair down, and then that's absolutely fine. We're human beings at the end of the day. You know what your responsibilities are, you know how you need to prepare for a Test match and what it takes, and the effects that these things can have on you. So be smart, be sensible, and just be an adult." Addressing his relationship with the coaching setup, Root admitted he was disappointed by the departure of former Test coach Brendon McCullum, while expressing

enthusiasm for working alongside incoming head coach Stephen Fleming. "I'll be honest with you. I was gutted when I found out Brendon was no longer going to be the Test coach. He's someone that I feel has really got the best out of me personally. I love the way he sees the game, and the way that he's opened my eyes up to looking at it slightly differently. I feel like he's a brilliant coach." "I'm very glad that we still get to work together in the white-ball stuff. He's someone that I owe a huge amount to, and that I've become pretty close with. I think they're doing brilliant stuff in white-ball teams. And I wish him all the very best in that. Welcoming Fleming to the Test fold, Root said, "(Fleming and I) have crossed paths a bit over the last few years when he's coached different teams around the world. I have someone that I've always admired. "He's someone that I really did admire as a player. The way that he's always held himself as a captain first and foremost. His record as a coach has been exceptional, albeit in T20 cricket. There's so much that I'm looking forward to in that respect." Reflecting on his first term in charge, Root acknowledged past tactical errors, especially regarding the insane workload of speedster Jofra Archer, and vowed to handle the fast bowler with greater care this time.

BWF World C'ships in India reinforces our commitment to Olympic Movement: IOA

India's sporting journey. We are delighted to welcome the world's leading badminton players, officials and fans to New Delhi. India has consistently demonstrated its ability to host major international sporting events to the highest standards, and these championships further reinforce our commitment to the Olympic Movement and the development of sport." Through sustained investments in sports infrastructure, athlete development, high-performance programmes and international event hosting, India has significantly enhanced its standing on the world sporting stage. As India continues its sporting transformation, hosting events of this calibre not only showcases the country's organisational excellence but also inspires young people to embrace sport, creates opportunities for athletes and officials to gain international exposure, and leaves a lasting legacy for future generations. "Every major international event hosted in India creates a lasting legacy. It strengthens our sporting ecosystem, inspires young people to pursue excellence, and provides invaluable opportunities for our athletes, coaches, technical officials and sports administrators to learn from and engage with the very best in the world. We are confident that everyone visiting India will experience our warmth, hospitality, professionalism and

passion for sport," she added. The Badminton Association of India, in partnership with the Badminton World Federation, the Government of India, the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi and other stakeholders, has worked extensively to ensure world-class competition and an exceptional experience for athletes, officials,



media and spectators throughout the Championships. The Indian Olympic Association remains committed to working closely with the Government of India, National Sports Federations, State Olympic Associations and international sporting organisations to bring more world-class sporting events to India. These events create lasting opportunities for athletes, technical officials, administrators, volunteers and the next generation of sporting talent while strengthening India's capacity to deliver international competitions at the highest level. Hopes are high for the home contingent, led by one of India's most accomplished athletes, P. V. Sindhu. The two-time Olympic medallist and former World Champion will spearhead a strong Indian challenge as the host nation looks to excel before passionate home supporters. The Championships

will celebrate sporting excellence while further strengthening India's reputation as a preferred host for major international sporting events. Beyond the competition itself, they will provide invaluable exposure for Indian athletes, coaches, technical officials, event managers and volunteers, helping build the expertise and experience required as India continues to expand its global sporting footprint. As India continues its remarkable sporting transformation, the successful hosting of the Championships further reinforces the country's credentials to stage the world's biggest sporting events. The Indian Olympic Association remains committed to working with its partners to ensure that sport continues to inspire excellence, foster international friendship and contribute to India's vision of becoming one of the world's foremost sporting nations.

New Delhi: The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) welcomes the global badminton community to New Delhi for the BWF World Championships 2026, to be held from August 17–23 at the iconic Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, stating that the upcoming world championships further "reinforce India's commitment to the Olympic Movement" and the "development of sport." Bringing together the world's leading badminton players, the Championships represent one of the sport's most prestigious competitions and mark another significant milestone in India's emergence as a trusted destination for hosting major international sporting events. The successful hosting of the Championships reflects the continued support of the Government of India, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in strengthening India's sporting ecosystem and positioning the country as a leading global sporting nation. The Championships also form part of India's broader vision of becoming a preferred destination for continental and world championships across multiple sports in the years ahead. P. T. Usha, president of the Indian Olympic Association, said, "The BWF World Championships 2026 represent another important milestone in

Surprise credit after overseas purchase: Tariff refunds now flowing through shippers

New York: If you bought something from an overseas vendor last year, it might be time to check your bank account. Shippers including FedEx and UPS that acted as customs brokers for imported packages and received tariff refunds from the US government have started to pass on those refunds to the customers that originally paid the tariffs. The refunds to consumers are the last step in a monthslong process that kicked off in February when the Supreme Court struck down sweeping tariffs implemented by President Donald Trump in March 2025 under the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act on goods from almost every country. The court ordered the government to return the tariffs it collected. Geographic Refer-

ence
So far, about USD 100 billion in tariffs have been refunded to companies who paid them under a system set up by US Customs and Border Protection. That doesn't mean Americans will get anywhere close to what they paid in tariffs, since most were paid indirectly. In 2025, the Trump tariffs amounted to an average tax increase of USD 1,000 per US household, according to the Tax Foundation, a Washington, D.C., group that studies taxes. But some consumers are getting some of what they paid directly back from shippers including UPS, DHL and FedEx. The refunds are being rolled out in phases based on what date they were paid. Shippers have said they'll re-

turn the refunds on a rolling basis as they receive them.

Tariff refunds from shippers will be directly refunded to credit cards or bank accounts:

FedEx said it has begun the process of issuing USD 800 million in tariff refunds it received from the government back to the customers that paid them. Customers don't need to apply to receive their refund, but they can enter tracking numbers for purchased items into a portal on the FedEx website to see whether or not they are due a refund. UPS said in April it had paid USD 5 billion in tariffs on behalf of clients and would begin the process of applying to the government for refunds. In the first phase, it applied for USD 500 million in refunds and said customers should get refunds one to three months after it receives reimbursement from the Treasury.

DHL similarly said that it has filed claims for almost all eligible shipments where it served as the importer of record and is returning the refunds it has received. "The volume and pace of refunds continue to depend on CBP's processing of claims," DHL said in a statement.

Major retailers say they could give back some refunds but mostly will use them to lower prices

Unlike shippers who collected tariffs directly from customers, most big retailers passed on tariffs in indirect ways, changing their product lineups or partly absorbing higher costs, making a consumer re-



fund unlikely. Amazon executives said last week the company received USD 600 million in tariff refunds in the second quarter.

In a call with investors, Amazon CFO Brian Olsavsky said the company isn't the importer of record on most of the goods it sells and that it has absorbed some tariff costs. But he said the company has "identified a limited set of circumstances where we can trace that we pass specific import charges on to customers." In those circumstances, he added, "we will proactively contact affected customers and automatically issue refunds to them." Otherwise, he said, Amazon will use tariff refunds to lower prices for customers. That echoes what other large retailers have said. In May, Cori Barrie, outgoing CEO of Best Buy, the nation's largest consumer electronics chain, said the retailer is an importer of record of only about 2 to 3 per cent of what it sells and that the company would use any refund it gets to "deliver value back to our customers." And Costco CEO Ron Vachris said the company planned to return "in some form" the tariffs that were passed on to consumers. "How much we return and when depends on a variety of factors,

including how much refund money we receive and when it arrives as well as developments in the lawsuit filed against the company regarding the return process," he said in a quarterly earnings call in May. **Dozens of class-action lawsuits have been filed**

Some shoppers are suing to get the tariffs they paid in the form of higher prices back from companies. More than 80 class-action lawsuits have been filed by customers across the country against retailers including Costco, Nike, Amazon, Walmart and others. The lawsuits will face difficulty because plaintiffs will have to prove they paid for price increases that were specifically tied to the tariffs, according to Lori Leskin, partner and co-chair of law firm Arnold & Porter's Consumer Products Practice Group. None of the lawsuits have yet been certified as class action, which would mean they apply to all customers. "It's going to be very hard for anyone to establish that the price increase they paid was due to tariffs and not some other market force," she said. "Most of them are just talking about price increases, and to be able to trace a price increase due to a single factor is going to be really difficult given the multifactorial approach that most companies take."

India Inc revenue growth accelerates to 22 pc in Q1



New Delhi: India Inc's aggregate revenues grew 22 per cent year-on-year (YoY) in the June quarter of FY27, accelerating from 13 per cent growth in the previous quarter (Q4 FY26), driven by commodity price inflation, strong consumption and sustained demand in sectors such as automobiles, a report said on Thursday. According to an ICRA report, the sharp improvement was driven by higher commodity and bullion prices, continued demand support from last year's GST rate cuts that benefited the automobile sector, and resilient consumer spending despite concerns related to tensions in West Asia and the impact of El Nino. Despite robust revenue growth, profitability came under pressure. Aggregate operating profit margins (OPM) contracted by more than 200 basis points year-on-year during the quarter, while net profit growth remained largely flat. The weakness was mainly attributed to the oil refining sector, where elevated crude oil prices and losses on LPG and petroleum product sales weighed on earnings. Operating margins remained stable at around 19 per cent, while net profits increased by more than 20 per cent year-on-year. ICRA

noted that consumption-linked sectors emerged as key growth drivers during the quarter. Automobile original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) recorded the strongest revenue growth, while fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG), consumer durables, apparel and grocery retail, jewellery retail and quick-service restaurant chains also reported healthy performance. Commenting on the trends, Jitin Makkar, Senior Vice President and Group Head-Corporate Ratings at ICRA, said concerns about a potential demand and cost shock at the start of the quarter eventually had only a limited impact on business performance. "Though concerns over a demand-and-cost shock weighed on sentiments at the beginning of the quarter, the eventual impact was limited. Consumption-led sectors were among the key growth drivers," he stated. "While automobile original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) recorded the strongest revenue growth, several other consumer-oriented sectors including FMCG, consumer durables, apparel and grocery retail, jewellery retail and quick-service restaurants also reported healthy performance," Makkar mentioned.

India's payments sector attracts \$5.8 billion funding since 2021: Report

New Delhi: India's payments sector has attracted nearly \$5.8 billion in funding across 371 disclosed equity rounds since 2021, underscoring the transformative impact of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) on the country's digital payments ecosystem, a report said on Thursday. The report by market intelligence platform Tracxn, titled "The India Payments Landscape: How UPI Made India Self-Reliant in Payments", highlights how a public digital payments infrastructure has fostered a thriving private-sector ecosystem encompassing consumer payment apps, business payment platforms and financial technology infrastructure providers. According to the study, consumer-focused payment platforms accounted for the largest share of investments, attracting around 53 per cent of total funding, or approximately \$3.1 billion. Business payments firms received about 38 per cent, while payment infrastructure and API-based enablers accounted for the remaining 9 per cent, equivalent to roughly \$526 million.

"Payments companies have raised \$5.8 billion across 371 disclosed equity rounds since January 2021, produced eight IPOs and 25 acquisitions, and begun consolidating around a handful of well-funded companies," the report said. "The report's central finding is that a



public rail that charges merchants nothing has helped seed and scale a private industry above it, even as a new law reopens the question of how the rail itself should be funded," it added. Funding activity peaked during the technology investment boom of 2021 before slowing amid the broader funding downturn between 2022 and 2024. The report also points to increasing maturity in the sector, with companies beginning to generate exits and recycle capital. Since 2021, India's payments industry has witnessed eight initial public offerings and 25 acquisitions, the report stated. The report further highlighted UPI's growing international footprint. Cross-border UPI transactions increased more than twenty-fold from around 37,000 in FY24 to over 7.5 lakh in FY25, while the payments network is now operational in more than a dozen countries. NPCI International has expanded UPI globally through multiple models, including linking existing payment systems, building payment rails for partner countries and sharing technology standards.

‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ Rally Held Grandly In Vijayawada With Patriotic Spirit-

Vijayawada District Headquarters
Adorned With Tricolor Flags
Bandar Road Resonated With ‘Bharat Mata Ki
Jai’ And ‘Vande Mataram’ Slogans
Huge Turnout Of Students, Youth, Sportspersons,
Officials And Public

Vijayawada, August 13:“As part of Independence Day celebrations, a massive ‘Tiranga Rally’ was organized grandly in Vijayawada District Headquarters on Thursday under the ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ programme to showcase patriotism, national unity and love for the country. Under the guidance of the District Administration and as per the instructions of District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha, the rally commenced from the local Collectorate and concluded at Indira Gandhi Stadium, proceeding in a vibrant and patriotic atmosphere. Students, youth, sportspersons, officials from various departments, police personnel and the public participated in large numbers holding the National Flag. As a result, the main roads of Vijayawada city were beautifully decorated with tricolor flags. “While the rally proceeded on Bandar Road, the district headquarters reverberated with slogans of “Bharat Mata Ki Jai” and “Vande Mataram”. Every participant displayed patriotic spirit with renewed enthusiasm, showing respect for the National Flag and their responsibility towards the nation. The Tiranga Rally, which started from the Collectorate, continued through the main roads in a jubilant atmosphere and reached Indira Gandhi Stadium. Students, youth, sportspersons, officials, police and the

public participated in large numbers with National Flags in their hands and patriotism in their hearts. The patriotic slogans raised during the rally filled the youth and students with national spirit. “Officials participating in the programme stated that the National Flag is not just a flag, but a symbol of the country’s independence, sacrifice, unity and pride, and every citizen should recognize it. This Tiranga Rally, held ahead of Independence Day, further enhanced the patriotic atmosphere in Vijayawada District Headquarters. The programme was aimed at strengthening values such as national unity, patriotism and responsible citizenship among the people. On this occasion, District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha conveyed Independence Day greetings to all the people of the district on the occasion of the 80th Independence Day celebrations. She said that every citizen has the responsibility to remember the sacrifices made by great leaders to achieve independence and to carry forward their ideals. She stated that programmes are being conducted under the ‘Partners In Nation Building’ initiative with the objective of involving people from all sections in nation building. She called upon everyone to set goals from now itself on how their village, town, city, state and country should



be in the next 21 years, and to strive for achieving those goals. She urged people to showcase national spirit with slogans like “Vande Mataram – Vande Bharatam, We Are For India, We Are For AP, We Are For NTR District”.

The Collector said the main objective of the Tiranga Rally is to further enhance patriotism and national spirit among the people, and to recall the values and spirit enshrined in the Indian Constitution. She said every citizen should recognize and fulfill their duties towards the country as responsible citizens. She added that it is the responsibility of everyone to pass on the spirit of the great leaders who sacrificed even their lives for independence to future generations. She called upon every citizen to become a partner in the country’s development and social progress. Commissioner of Police S.V. Rajashekhar Babu said that the Tiranga Rally organized as part of Independence Day celebrations would further strengthen patriotism and national unity among the people. He called upon everyone to work collectively for achieving the Swarna Andhra 2047 goals. He stated that every citizen should fulfill their responsibility for build-

ing a good society. He said that development is possible only when we move forward with a sense of responsibility towards the country and duty towards society. He added that all necessary arrangements were made by the Police Department for the peaceful and disciplined conduct of the Tiranga Rally. Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner H.M. Dyan Chandra said it was commendable that people participated in large numbers to take the spirit of ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ to every home and every family. He stated that the programme is being conducted enthusiastically in NTR District under VMC limits. He emphasized the need to create awareness among children, especially about the history behind Independence Day, the sacrifices of freedom fighters and the significance of the National Flag. He expressed hope that respect for the National Flag, responsibility towards the country and the spirit of national unity would be further strengthened in every citizen. District Officials from various departments, Police Officials, Police Personnel, sportspersons, students, youth and the public participated in large numbers in this programme.

Speed Up Voter Registration Process District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha

Vijayawada, August 13:“Chief Electoral Officer of Andhra Pradesh, Vivek Yadav on Thursday conducted a video conference with Collectors of all districts from the 5th Block Conference Hall, Velagapudi Secretariat, and reviewed Polling Stations, Voter Registration, and Forms-6, 7, and 8. From Vijayawada District Collectorate, District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha, DRO M. Lakshmi Narasimham, Election Cell Supervisors and concerned officials participated. The Chief Electoral Officer directed that special camps should be organized in colleges and educational institutions to ensure youth between 18-20 years enroll as voters. He also suggested creating wide publicity through social media to encourage submission of Form-6. “He instructed that EROs and AEROs should resolve issues at their level itself, and women, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and people from hilly areas should not be called to distant offices for minor corrections. He said that as per ECI rules and Supreme Court orders, an inquiry should be conducted for correction of spelling mistakes in voters’ names and parents’ names. He also directed that BLO call non-response cases pending for more than 48 hours and NGPS complaints should be resolved quickly. He added that special attention should be paid to the security of ECI Net User Names, Passwords, and OTPs. Speaking on the occasion, District



Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha stated that handover of Draft Rolls Publication has been completed. Minutes of BLO and BLS meetings have been uploaded and notices have been generated. She said that 57% of notice delivery has been completed. She informed that around 9,000 Form-6 and 6,000 Form-8 applications pending beyond SLAs are being examined and disposed of expeditiously. She said that special awareness campaigns on voter registration will be conducted on August 22, 23, 29 and 30 this month. She added that out of 29 cases pending for more than 48 hours, some have already been resolved. Under NGPS, only four proposals pertaining to amounts above Rs. 3,000 are pending. “The Collector requested the Chief Electoral Officer to provide a technical solution as the speed of work is slowing down due to a large number of Aadhaar linking requests piling up at one place in the ERO Login.

Special Grievance Programme To Be Held Tomorrow At Vatsavai

People Of Jaggayyapeta Constituency Should Bring Their Problems To
The Notice Of Officials“- : District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha

Vijayawada, August 13:“As part of the “One Month - One Village - Four Visits” programme, District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha informed that a special Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) programme will be organized at the Jaggayyapeta Constituency level on Friday, August 14, 2026. She stated that the special grievance programme will be held from 10:00 AM onwards at Sri Vasavi Kalyana Mandapam, Vatsavai. Officials will receive petitions from the public under the Jaggayyapeta Constituency. The Collector said that district-level officials will participate in this programme, receive petitions related to public problems, and take necessary steps for their resolution. District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha requested the



people of Jaggayyapeta Constituency to utilize this special grievance programme and bring their problems to the notice of officials.

Invitation For The 12-Year Mahakumbhabhishekam Of Sri Sri Sri Muthyalamma Temple

Nellore, August 13:“The Mahakumbha bhishe kam of Sri Sri Sri Muthyalamma Ammavari Temple, which occurs once in 12 years, will be celebrated grandly on 24th, 25th and 26th at the temple located in East Kanupuru Village, Chillakur Mandal, Nellore District. The Temple Chairman has requested all devotees to participate in this programme and receive Ammavari Theertha Prasadams. All devotees are invited to attend and make the event a grand success.

