

A NEW CHAPTER IN NORTH ANDHRA'S HISTORY

Alluri International Airport At Bhogapuram Begins Operations: Minister Kondapalli Srinivas

Vijayanagaram:“August 17: will be remembered as the day a new history was scripted in North Andhra, said Minister for MSME, Rural Poverty Alleviation & NRI Affairs Sri Kondapalli Srinivas. With flight operations commencing from Alluri International Airport, Bhogapuram on Monday, the decades-long dream of North Andhra people has come true. It is a matter of great pride to witness flights operating from the airport from Monday, he said.Thanks to Farmers“The



Govt Urges Agitating Junior Doctors To Resume Work

The Andhra Pradesh government has urged agitating junior doctors to return to duty, assuring them of a stipend hike while citing the financial burden on the state. Representative image Select Deccan Chronicle Now The Andhra Pradesh government has appealed to the agitating junior doctors to give up their agitation for a 15 per cent hike in stipend and resume duty to ensure proper medical care to patients in state hospitals. The government held several rounds of talks with the junior doctors' association to address the issue. It is examining



issues like existing stipend, previous hikes, stipends being offered in other states and the financial burden upon the state government. It promises a hike in stipend by keeping in mind the state's finances and the welfare of the people. At present, 9,501 junior doctors are pursuing MBBS, BDS, interns, PG

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AP Council rocked by row over alleged Mega DSC-2025 irregularities

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council was on Monday rocked by alleged irregularities in Mega DSC-2025 recruitment for 16,347 teaching posts as opposition YSR Congress Party tried to stall the proceedings, demanding a CBI probe into alleged irregularities in DSC and resignation of Education Minister Nara Lokesh.As soon as the House assembled on the first day of the Monsoon session, the YSRCP moved an adjournment motion, demanding discussion on the alleged



irregularities.Council Chairman K. Moshen Raju rejected the notices given by YSRCP members and took up question hour.The Chairman said a decision on the demand for discussion will be taken in the

Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting.However, the YSRCP members tried to stall the proceedings by raising slogans, insisting that the House suspend listed business to take up the adjournment motion. Leader of Opposition in Council, Botsa Satyanarayana, alleged that three lakh people were betrayed in the name of DSC recruitment. He claimed that the ruling coalition gave teachers' jobs to candidates of

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34% BC quota Bill likely in this Assembly session

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh Legislature is set for a politically charged session from Monday, with the NDA government preparing legislation that could directly shape the forthcoming local-body elections, while the opposition YSR Congress Party is gearing up to use the Legislative Council to challenge the government on recruitment, education, farmers and welfare issues. The session is expected to run for four days, though the final duration and



business will be decided by the Business Advisory Committee. At the centre of the government's legislative agenda is a proposed 34 per cent res-

ervation for Backward Classes in local bodies. The legislation follows the submission of the Rajiv Ranjan Mishra Dedicated Commission report, which ex-

amined the socio-economic and political status of BC communities across the State. The government is expected to scrutinise the report before finalising the Bill, with a ministerial committee examining its recommendations and the Cabinet to consider the issue on August 19. Also Read Andhra Pradesh Assembly to Start from 17 August, key bills to be tabled Advertise-

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Volleyball academy to be set up in Tirupati: Ravi Naidu

TIRUPATI: Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) Chair man A Ravi Naidu has assured that steps will be taken to establish a special volleyball academy in Tirupati to support women volleyball players. He held an interaction with young women volleyball players from Tirupati district at the Srinivasa Sports Complex in Tirupati on Sunday and enquired about their training, challenges, financial conditions, education, family backgrounds



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Jagan Slams Suspension of Teachers Over TET Issue

Vijayawada:Former chief minister and YSRC president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy questioned Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu over what he described as “vindictiveness” against government employees, particularly teachers. In a post on X, Jagan asked why five teachers0 from YSR Kadapa, Anantapur and Sri Sathya Sai districts had been suspended and questioned



what “crime” they had committed. He said more than one lakh senior teachers were facing difficulties as they were being

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CM Naidu Warns of Severe El Nino Impact, Calls for Prudent Water Use

Vijayawada:Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday warned that Andhra Pradesh could face severe drought-like conditions due to the El Nino effect and urged farmers and the public to conserve water, adopt suitable crops and prepare for prolonged shortages. Speaking during a discussion on El Nino in the state assembly, Naidu said the state was expected to receive 867mm rainfall from June to December but was likely to receive only 557mm. Rainfall deficit was 68 per cent in some districts in July and could be 35 per cent each in August and September, 25 per cent in October and 20 per cent in No-



vember. December may record one per cent excess rainfall. He said major reservoirs were drying up, with only 586tmc available. Srisaillam had received just 214tmc against the normal 753tmc. Cotton Barrage had

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Youth urged to carry forward Latchanna's ideals

Machilipatnam: Minister for Mines & Geology and Excise Kollu Ravindra called upon the younger generation to carry forward the ideals of freedom fighter and social reformer Sardar Gouthu Latchanna, who dedicated his life to the uplift of backward and weaker sections. On the occasion of Latchanna's 117th birth anniversary on Sunday, Minister Ravindra and APSRTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana Rao paid floral tributes to his bronze statue opposite the APSRTC bus station in Machilipatnam, Krishna district. Speaking on the occasion, Ravindra said the State government was officially observing Latchanna's birth

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A rare blend of legal wisdom and Sanatana Dharma

After ten years in office under Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (a beacon of philosophical insight), two years under VV Giri, three years under R Venkata raman and five years under Shankar Dayal Sharma, the last Brahmin to hold the post, strangely not a single Brahmin was ever considered for this august office in the last 33 years! Representing the Center for Brahmin Excellence (CBE) along with four other members (Harkara Srinivasa Rao, Cheruvu Rambabu, Sessa RSR Prasada Kondapalli, and Vijay Oddiraju), I had the privilege of spending an enriching 45 minutes on July 27, over a thoughtful interaction, with the distinguished legal luminary and former Supreme Court judge, Justice V Ramasubramanian. The Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) exemplifies the ideal blend of intellect, integrity and public service. Justice Ramasubramanian's humility, sincerity, and measured wisdom left a deep impression on us. As we entered his hotel room, he initiated the conversation, by warmly acknowledging my blog post (Why not the next vice-president be a Brahmin), which insightfully addressed the question of Vice-Presidential candidacy for the Brahmin community in the ensuing election. Geographic Maps The NHRC team while in Hyderabad, conducted a two-day (July 28 and 29) open hearing at Dr MCR HRD Institute, to address cases of human rights violations in Telangana. Justice Ramasubramanian not only shared a couple of heart touching personal anecdotes that included as to how he stood at the financial crossroads immediately after his retirement, but also narrated how he had witnessed the divine miracles of God. He reflected on how he made a conscious decision to live within his own means after retirement. The result of his leaning on faith eventually culminated in his elevation as NHRC Chairperson. He credited this particularly phase to divine grace. All these reflected his deep commitment to self-reliance and simplicity, grounded in the values of dharma. Reflecting on the larger forces at play in human life, he spoke of the power of punya (virtue) accumulated by the ancestors. The virtuous deeds of forebears, he explained, can manifest as blessings to the future generations, bringing strength to the mind, body, and fortune. Justice Ramasubramanian also shared briefly significant parts of his speech at the felicitation function of spiritual teacher Samavedam Shanmukha Sharma, with rare frankness about spiritual matters that weigh heavily on sincere seekers of truth. He explicitly expressed his concern on many of his contemporaries, who had gradually drifted away from the path of dharma-an individual's moral responsibilities or duties. 'The pursuit of material survival had eclipsed the pursuit of spiritual truth. In their preoccupation with worldly obligations and economic anxieties, many had consciously or unconsciously abandoned their dharmic duties and inner disciplines. It was not just a matter of individual choices but a collective forgetting, a civilizational forgetfulness creeping in, even among those who once stood close to the fire of wisdom', he opined. According to Justice Ramasubramanian, it is time to take stock of how the cultural transmission chain has weakened. For instance, he cited that, in the pursuit of modern life, practices such as daily prayers or frequent visits to temples have slipped away.

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Minister expressed gratitude to all the farmers who gave land for the airport. "In a place where they said even a red bus wouldn't come, now airbuses are operating. The YSRCP leadership cannot bear to see this," he remarked. Completed In Record Time "The coalition government took it up as a prestigious project and GMR Group completed Bhogapuram International Airport in a record time. On Monday, under the leadership of Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, passengers were welcomed as flight operations began, he said. This grand and beautiful Bhogapuram Airport will bring recognition not just to the country but to the world, and will transform North Andhra into Uttam Andhra, he added. Emotional Farewell By Vizag Airport Staff "The Minister said the staff at Vizag Airport bidding farewell with tears in their eyes is a testament to their emotional sacrifice. Leaving an organization where they served for nearly 60 years is heartbreaking. "I myself used to travel from Vizag Airport till recently. The separation from that place and the warmth of the staff causes deep pain," he said. Vizag will always remain a wonderful city and under CM Chandrababu Naidu's leadership, the coalition government's Beach Corridor will make it even more beautiful, Minister Kondapalli Srinivas expressed confidence.

Govt Urges Agitating Junior Doctors To Resume Work

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students and super speciality courses or are doing MDS and DNB. The government is paying them `48.84 crore per month and `586.08 crore per annum in the form of stipend. From January 1, 2024, the government is providing a stipend of `25,906 to the MBBS, BDS and the interns; and `60,823 for PG first year students, `61,528 for PG second year students and `64,767 for PG third year students. For students pursuing super speciality courses, a stipend of `80,500-85,100 is being given. The government promises to enhance stipend from January 1, 2026 and it could be 15 per cent as was the practice for every two years in the last several years. The government maintained that if a 15 per cent hike in stipend is to be given, it would cost an additional expenditure of `87.91 crore.

Youth urged to carry forward Latchanna's ideals

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anniversary with government honours across all districts. A State-level programme was also being organised at Tummalapalli Kshetravaya Kalakshetram in Vijayawada. Born into a humble family, Latchanna participated in the freedom movement at a young age, fought against British rule and underwent imprisonment, Ravindra said. Even after Independence, he continued to raise his voice in the legislatures against social inequalities and for the rights of weaker sections. The programme was attended by BC Welfare Department Officer G Ramesh, Machilipatnam Agricultural Market Committee Chairman Kunche Durgaprasad (Nani), AP State Minorities Finance Corporation Director Haseem Baig, State Brahmin Corporation Director PV Phani Kumar, TDP senior leader Konakalla Jagannath Rao (Bullaiah), and others.

34% BC quota Bill likely in this Assembly session

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News Briefings Andhra Pradesh Tourism Sports News Coverage The proposed quota would cover gram panchayats, mandal parishads, zilla parishads, municipalities, nagar panchayats and municipal corporations. With local-body elections approaching, the measure carries considerable political significance and could determine the scale of BC representation in elected local institutions. Another major legislative move is the proposed repeal of the Disha Act, enacted by the previous YSRCP government. The NDA government has raised questions over its compatibility with central legislation and is preparing an alternative framework aimed at strengthening protection for women and girls. The government is also proposing amendments to municipal laws to restore direct elections of mayors and municipal Chairpersons, replacing the existing system under which elected councilors choose them. The session could also see a sharp political confrontation over recruitment. The TDP-led NDA government is preparing to respond to YSRCP criticism of Mega DSC-2025, while the ruling coalition is likely to raise alleged irregularities in the evaluation of APPSC Group-I examination answer sheets during the previous government. HRD Minister Nara Lokesh is expected to make a statement on the DSC recruitment process. The government has also asked ministers to study the Group-I investigation report. The SIT findings on Group-I evaluation may come up during the first three days of the session. However, the issue is before the High Court, and the government is understood to be seeking legal advice before deciding the extent to which the findings can be discussed on the floor.

CM Naidu Warns of Severe El Nino Impact, Calls for Prudent Water Use

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received 1,071 tmc against an expected 2,557 tmc. Groundwater levels were also falling. Naidu said Krishna basin supplies depended on reservoirs in Karnataka and Maharashtra being filled first, affecting Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar. Though Godavari availability was relatively better, careful management was essential. Efficient management over the past two years had saved nearly 552 tmc, which he described as a major safeguard. The CM said drinking water would get first priority, followed by industrial requirements, and advised farmers to take up horticultural and drought-resistant crops. He cautioned against paddy cultivation in the Krishna basin if Godavari supplies stopped and urged public representatives to sensitise farmers. Tankers would be deployed where necessary to save crops and micro-irrigation promoted. El Nino would affect both agriculture and inflation, he said. Paddy acreage had declined by 1.14 lakh hectares, while maize, groundnut and millets had also fallen. Sweet orange, acid lime and mango in Rayalaseema, banana and chilli in southern Andhra, and cashew and coconut in north coastal Andhra could face stress.

Naidu said Pattiseema had proved crucial, diverting 500 tmc of Godavari water to the Krishna delta and supporting over 13 lakh acres. Another 40 tmc would be diverted. More than 1,000 tmc of Godavari water flowed into the sea annually, and diverting 30-40 tmc to Visakhapatnam would help meet industrial and data-centre needs. The government, he said, has prepared short and long-term plans, including a three-year water-management strategy. An irrigation calendar envisages 36 projects costing Rs 35,555 crore, providing irrigation to 19.16 lakh acres of new ayacut and stabilising over nine lakh acres. The projects would be completed by December 2028.

The chief minister stressed crop insurance, natural farming, market support, pre-monsoon dry sowing and micro-irrigation. Insurance coverage had expanded to 15.17 lakh hectares, with Rs 13,983 crore insured, placing AP fifth nationally. He urged MLAs to ensure enrolment before the August-end deadline. The government, he said, would establish 20,000 Gokulam sheds and ensure fodder availability to protect the dairy sector. Jaladhara would strengthen water conservation, while enforcement and "Rythanna Mee Kosam" committees would support field-level management. "Polavaram was the state's lifeline and its canals would facilitate wider water distribution. Handri-Neeva expansion had been completed within 100 days and Veligonda would soon be inaugurated to benefit drought-hit Markapur," Naidu said and called for collective action to conserve every drop and prepare the state for future El Nino-like conditions.

AP Council rocked by row over alleged Mega DSC-2025 irregularities

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their choice in the name of sports quota. The YSRCP leader said the House should debate the issue. Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar raised an objection to the Chairman allowing the Leader of Opposition to speak. Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu lashed out at the YSRCP, saying it has absolutely no moral right to speak about DSC recruitments now, after having raised hopes among unemployed youth with the promise of a "Mega DSC" during their five-year tenure only to ultimately let them down. In a strong rebuttal to the comments made by Satyanarayana, he remarked that it is shameful for Botsa Satyanarayana, who, as Education Minister, failed to deliver even a single "Mega DSC" for the unemployed, to now preach about alleged irregularities in the DSC process.

He lashed out at the YSRCP for ultimately failing to issue the notification, thereby dashing their hopes and playing with their future. Satyanarayana, who served as the Education Minister in the previous government, must answer for this failure. He questioned whether it was not a case of political double standards for someone to raise questions about the DSC in the Upper House now, after failing to take the necessary action while in power. Atchannaidu said after coming to power, the coalition government issued the DSC notification and initiated steps to provide timely employment to the youth. He alleged that the YSRCP attempted to obstruct the process by filing as many as 300 court cases. Some remarks made by Atchannaidu while referring to Satyanarayana evoked strong protest from the YSRCP. The Chairman adjourned the House amid the din as the YSRCP members continued their protest. After the House re-assembled, Satyanarayana demanded that Atchannaidu withdraw his unparliamentary words. However, the minister insisted that the words used by him were not unparliamentary. He said he was ready to apologise if the Chairman gives a ruling that his remarks were unparliamentary. As the YSRCP members continued their protest, the Chairman adjourned the House.

Strict action will be taken against officers who are negligent in resolving pgrs petitions

District collector k. Vetriselvi receives petitions from differently-abled persons



Eluru:“District collector k. Vetriselvi warned that strict action will be taken against officials who show negligence in resolving petitions received through the public grievance redressal system - pgrs.The weekly "for you" - praja fariyadula parishkara vyavastha program was held on monday at the godavari meeting hall in the district collectorate under the chairmanship of district collector k. Vetriselvi along with district-level officers.Along with the collector, district joint collector dr. M.j. Abhishek gowda, assistant collector c.h. Sravan kumar reddy, vigilance special deputy collector l. Devaki devi, rdo k. Lakshmi prasanna, and sc corporation ed m. Mukkanti received petitions from the public.Speaking on the occasion, the district collector said:“Officials should not show negligence in resolving applications. Some officers are sending people to lower-level staff. Some are saying "it is not under my jurisdiction". This is an unforgivable offense.Officials must go to the field, meet the petitioner in a friendly manner, thoroughly study their problems, and resolve them within the stipulated time. If even a single complaint comes from a petitioner regarding delay in resolving applications, departmental action will be taken against the concerned officers, she

said.Some of the petitions received today: Amrutala goyamma from sagipadu - veerampalem, kamaverapukota mandal: she is a differently-abled person receiving rs. 6,000 pension. Both parents have passed away. She has no house to live in and requested employment opportunities.Varikooti marthamma from kothapalli - vegavaram, denduluru mandal: she owns 50 cents of land. Her husband has passed away. She requested to get the land transferred to her name online.Regalla pullayya from tirumaladevipeta, t. Narasapuram mandal: he said his sons and daughters-in-law are not even giving him food. He requested to transfer back the property he had gifted to them in his name.Jampana venkatanarayana from malkapuram, eluru mandal: he owns 1 acre of land and has a pattadar passbook. But online it is showing only 5 cents. He requested justice.Badavathu parvathi from kommugudem, polavaram mandal: she has been working in an itdA hostel for 18 years. She is being forced to do night duties and is facing many difficulties. She has differently-abled children and requested justice.Various department officials, tahsildars, deputy tahsildars, mandal surveyors and others participated in the program.

Vijayawada children shine in skating

District collector dr. G. Lakshmisha praises blesson anand and ghanatha anand



Vijayawada:“District collector dr. G. Lakshmisha on monday praised young skaters nadikatla blesson anand from under-11 boys category and nadikatla ghanatha anand from under-14 girls category for bringing laurels to the district with their performance in zonal and regional level skating competitions.The father of the children, nadikatla daniel anand, met the district collector at the pgrs meeting hall and explained about the achievements of his children.Achievements in zonal level competitions held on june 6 at ravulapalem under cisCe board:Nadikatla blesson anand - under-11 boys: won one gold medal in road race.Nadikatla ghanatha anand - under-14 girls: won one gold medal in road race and one gold medal in rink race.Achievements in regional level competitions held on august 6 at ravulapalem:Nadikatla blesson anand - under-11 boys: won one silver medal in road race.Nadikatla ghanatha anand - under-14 girls: won one silver medal in road race and one gold medal in rink race.State level selection“Ghanatha anand, who won the gold medal in under-14 girls category

in regional level competitions, has been selected for the state level competitions to be held in october this year.Collector's appreciation“Speaking on the occasion, district collector dr. G. Lakshmisha congratulated ghanatha anand and blesson anand for their excellent performance and winning medals. She said it is commendable that at such a young age they are showing interest in sports and achieving medals with discipline and practice. There is a need to encourage students with talent in sports. With continuous practice and discipline they should achieve greater successes in future, the collector said. She advised the players to bring good name to the district and the state. The achievements of ghanatha anand and blesson anand in under-14 category will be an inspiration to other students. With proper encouragement, they have the opportunity to excel at national and international levels in future, she added.Nadikatla daniel anand, father of the children, and coach s.k. Pawan kumar participated in the program.

Swaminarayan Gurukul Campus To Come Up In Amaravati



VIJAYAWADA: The proposed Shri Swaminarayan Gurukul campus in Amaravati moved a step closer to reality on Monday with the completion of land registration for the educational institution. The AP capital region development authority, on behalf of the state government, registered 4.235 acres at Nekkallu in favour of the Shri Swaminarayan Gurukul Trust. The campus is expected to add strength to Amaravati's emerging education ecosystem by combining modern academic infrastructure with value-based and holistic education. The trust thanked chief minister Chandrababu Naidu, municipal administration minister P Narayana and APCRDA officials for facilitating the project. Also Read - Newborn Boy Abandoned Near Hostel In Srikalahasti Advertisement Founded in 1948 by Shastriji

Maharaj Shri Dharmajivandasji Swami, the trust has over 77 years of experience and operates more than 65 campuses in India and abroad. It has provided education to over 1.25 lakh students. Its educational model integrates modern education (Vidya), value-based learning (Sadvidya) and spiritual knowledge (Brahmavidya). The Amaravati campus, planned from pre-primary to Class XII, will feature smart classrooms, science and AI laboratories, STEM learning, sports facilities and sustainable infrastructure. It is expected to generate over 300 direct jobs besides indirect employment. Trust representative Sadhu Shukvallabh Das said the Phase-I construction would begin shortly after municipal layout approvals are secured.

Volleyball academy to be set up in Tirupati: Ravi Naidu

Continu, from1st page and future goals. The players sought better nutrition, a synthetic volleyball court, modern sports equipment and improved training facilities to help them compete at national and international levels. Responding to their requests, Ravi Naidu said plans would be prepared to provide quality

coaching, modern equipment, better training facilities and nutritious food through the proposed academy. He said SAAP would continue to support women volleyball players and help them develop their skills and bring recognition to the State and the country at national and international competitions.

Jagan Slams Suspension of Teachers Over TET Issue

Continu, from1st page asked to write the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) again after several years of service, even though such a test did not exist when they joined government service. He asked whether it was a crime for the teachers to seek exemption from the requirement and submit a representation to the Union government with the support of MPs. Alleging that “Red Book-driven jungle raj” was not sparing even government teachers, Jagan said Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu should have urged

the Centre to exempt senior teachers from the TET requirement. He alleged that the Chief Minister had ignored the problems of senior teachers and that when they attempted to bring the issue to the notice of the Union government, they were branded as having political connections and suspended. Jagan demanded the revocation of the suspension orders against the five teachers and asked the Chief Minister to apologise to them and rectify what he termed a mistake. He cautioned that the YSRCP would take up the issue seriously.

Panchayat Raj engineer, wife and daughter die by suicide in Rajahmundry

Rajahmundry (Andhra Pradesh): A Panchayat Raj assistant engineer, his wife and daughter allegedly died by suicide after jumping into the Godavari near the Road-cum-Rail Bridge here, while local fishermen rescued their son, police said on Monday. The deceased was identified as Gollapudi Nukaraju, an assistant engineer in the Panchayat Raj department in Pithapuram in Kakinada district, East Godavari district, South Zone Deputy Superintendent of Police A Shivapriya said. Nukaraju's wife and daughter, Sowjanya, died in the incident. "Three members of a family died by suicide after jumping into the Godavari, while their son, a Class 5 student, was rescued by fishermen," Shivapriya told PTI. The DSP said Nukaraju, his wife, daughter Sowjanya and their son were travelling towards Rajahmundry on Sunday evening with a driver. After reaching Kovvur, the family paid the driver and asked him to leave. They then continued towards Rajahmundry in their car, with Sowjanya driving, she said. At around 11.45 pm, near the Road-cum-Rail Bridge, Nukaraju's wife allegedly jumped into the

river, followed by Nukaraju, Sowjanya and their son. The boy, a swimmer who has participated in All-India-level competitions, initially held on to his mother's hand and shouted for help. He later stopped shouting and eventually let go of her hand, the DSP said. On receiving information about the incident, police sought the help of local fishermen. Boatmen from a nearby island reached the spot and rescued the boy after he shouted for help. He was rescued during the night and was safe, Shivapriya said.

A suicide note allegedly written by Nukaraju was later circulated in the Panchayat Raj department. In the note, Nukaraju accused Shaik Sadiq Khan of harassing his family, creating disputes at their house and attempting to gain control of their bank accounts, the DSP said. He alleged that Khan had threatened to kill the family if they disclosed the matter to anyone. More details about Khan are yet to be established. Police have registered a case under Section 108 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for alleged abetment of suicide and launched an investigation.

Commercial flight operation begins at Bhogapuram airport



Vizianagaram: Commercial flight operations commenced at Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram here on Monday, with the first flight operated by IndiGo arriving from Hyderabad. Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu flagged off the first commercial flight services at the airport and handed over boarding passes to passengers, marking the beginning of operations at the new international airport. "The commencement of commercial flight operations at Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport is a matter of great happiness and pride. This marks the beginning of a new chapter for North Andhra and will open new opportunities for the region," Naidu said in a message. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the airport on August 1. The first IndiGo flight arrived from Hyderabad, followed by an Air India Express flight from Bengaluru. According to the union minister, passengers who arrived at the airport praised its infrastructure, architecture and facilities. The airport has been built not merely as a building but as a symbol of our history, heritage and culture, he said. The minister thanked farmers who gave up their land for the project and GMR authorities for their role in developing the airport, saying their cooperation and commitment helped create the infrastructure for the development of North Andhra. He said the airport was expected to give a new impetus to North Andhra, which had earlier been described as a backward region, and create an en-



vironment conducive to investments, tourism, employment and economic activity. Referring to Visakhapatnam Airport, the union minister said he understood the emotions of people who were saddened by the closure of its scheduled commercial operations. He said the infrastructure at Visakhapatnam Airport was now being utilised under general aviation for private flights. He said infrastructure development and connectivity to Bhogapuram airport were also being strengthened, with several roads widened and seven major road projects taken up, including the Sontyam road connecting from the Simhachalam side. Naidu said the Beach Corridor had also been sanctioned and works would begin soon, providing another route between Visakhapatnam and the airport along the coast. He said some initial inconvenience was expected at the new airport, but expressed confidence that people would feel proud after visiting and experiencing its facilities. Scheduled commercial operations at Visakhapatnam Airport ceased on August 16, following the departure of the last flight, IndiGo 6E 2018 to Delhi, at 10:45 pm.

Venkaiah Swamy Aradhana Mahotsavams To Begin at Golagamudi



Nellore: The annual Aradhana Mahotsavams of Bhagawan Sri Venkaiah Swamy will be held at Golagamudi in Venkatachalam mandal from August 18 to 24, with the ashram committee appointed by the Andhra Pradesh High Court making elaborate arrangements to accommodate an expected three lakh devotees. The week-long festivities at the Bhagawan Sri Venkaiah Swamy Ashram will feature special religious programmes, cultural events and traditional performances. To cater to the large gathering, the ashram has made arrangements for 275 rooms and four dormitories spread over 50,000 sq ft. Drinking water facilities have been provided at all key locations, while annadanam will be served to devotees during designated afternoon and night hours. Special queue arrangements have been made for devotees visiting the Samadhi Mandir to ensure smooth and hassle-free

darshan. The Swamy's vahana seva will be conducted every day at 10 am and 9 pm during the celebrations. Bhajans and Kolatam performances during the vahana seva will be organised by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams. Cultural programmes organised by the Nellore-based Kaladeepti organisation will be held every day from August 18 to 22 at 7.30 p.m. Mythological plays by state-level artistes will be staged at 9 p.m. on August 18, 23 and 24. The concluding day on August 24 will feature a series of major events. Sarvepalli MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy and his wife will offer silk clothes to Sri Venkaiah Swamy at 9 a.m., followed by the grand Rathotsavam at 10 a.m. The celebrations will conclude with the Teppotsavam at 8 p.m. The ashram committee has appealed to devotees to cooperate with the arrangements and follow the designated queues and timings during the festivities.

AP builds 1.08 lakh-strong certified AI talent base

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh is emerging as a national leader in Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Analytics skilling, with the state recording the highest number of candidates completing or obtaining certification under the Centre's FutureSkills PRIME programme. According to data provided by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in the Lok Sabha on August 12, as many as 1,08,895 candidates in Andhra Pradesh have completed or received certification in AI and Big Data Analytics. The figure is the highest among all states, highlighting the state's growing pool of future-ready technology talent. Over the last three years, 1,53,783 candidates in Andhra Pradesh were enrolled or trained in AI and Big Data Analytics, of whom more than 1.08 lakh have obtained certification. The numbers underline the shift from mere enrolment to the creation of a substantial base of trained professionals in technologies expected to drive the next phase of the digital economy. The AI and Big Data Analytics figures are part of a much larger FutureSkills PRIME footprint in Andhra Pradesh. More than 4.34 lakh candidates have been enrolled or trained across various emerging technology domains under the programme.

FutureSkills PRIME, a MeitY initiative implemented in partnership with NASSCOM, focuses on skilling, reskilling, and upskilling youth in emerging technologies, including AI, Big Data Analytics, Internet of Things, Cyber Security, Blockchain, and Augmented and Virtual Reality through industry-aligned courses.



At the national level, the programme has recorded more than 34 lakh registrations, 23 lakh enrolled or trained candidates and 13 lakh completed or certified candidates. Significantly, around 86 per cent of the candidates are from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, reflecting the programme's role in widening access to advanced technology skills. For Andhra Pradesh, the growing certified talent pool could provide a strong foundation for attracting high-value technology investments and supporting emerging sectors such as AI and quantum technologies. Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has consistently positioned technology and innovation as key drivers of economic growth, while IT Minister Nara Lokesh has been promoting emerging technologies, investment, and high-value employment opportunities. The state's plans to develop Visakhapatnam as a technology and AI hub and build Amaravati as a modern, technology-driven capital further enhance the significance of its expanding skilled workforce.

Instagram refreshes wordmark after a decade, users joke it reads ‘Instagzam’

Hyderabad: Instagram has refreshed its wordmark for the first time in a decade, giving its familiar cursive lettering a sharper and more contemporary appearance. While the update is meant to modernise the platform’s identity, some users have already found a rather unexpected detail, the new design appears to read “Instagzam” to them. “The wordmark at the top of the app hasn’t changed in 10 years, so it was time for a refresh. Cleaner and more modern, with references to the original and the simplicity and craft that’s always made it Instagram,” said Adam Mosseri, head of Instagram. The redesign came after Instagram’s design team experimented with hundreds of possibilities, including different lettering styles and handwritten options. The final version retains a flowing script style, but gives it a bolder and simpler appearance. “Script reflects indi-

viduality, so referencing that felt right. The new wordmark is bolder and simpler, with touches of unexpectedness,” said Jasmine Probst, Instagram’s director of product design in a news release. The changes extend beyond the wordmark. Instagram is also introducing an updated version of its Instagram Sans typeface, along with Instagram Pen, a hand-drawn font, and Instagram Mono. While some users have welcomed the cleaner look, others have questioned the readability of the new lettering. The unusual appearance of the “r” has particularly caught attention, with several people joking that the platform now looks like it says “Instagzam”. The redesign has therefore sparked a mix of appreciation, criticism and humour online, proving that even a small change to a familiar brand can get people talking.

Avika Gor apologises to Farrhana Bhatt for misbehaving with her on Khatron Ke Khiladi 15

Mumbai: Actress Avika Gor has apologised to Farrhana Bhatt after a tense moment between the two on the stunt-based reality show Khatron Ke Khiladi 15. The actress admitted that she did not like her own behaviour and had wrongly taken out her frustration on her co-contestant. The incident unfolded after Avika joined Farrhana’s team. Farrhana was seen congratulating her and wishing her luck, but Avika, who appeared upset, responded in a visibly curt manner, telling her, “Aap, aap toh chahti nahi thi main aaon” (You didn’t want me to come to the team) Now after all the shoot is over, and the cast is back to India, Avika took to her social media account to acknowledge her behaviour and apologise to Farrhana. Sharing a video of the incident, she wrote: “I honestly didn’t like my behavior @farrhana_bhatt I’m sorry. Team par upset hokar aap par reaction nikalna galat tha. Lots of love” In another comment, Avika wrote: “I didn’t really like what I did. Sorry @farrhana_bhatt I think I was just upset aur woh aap ki taraf nikla. Not cool. Sorry sweetheart.” Talking about the show, Khatron Ke Khiladi’, the show now in its 15th season, features a mix of fresh faces and many familiar



contestants. The lineup includes Gaurav Khanna, Avinash Mishra, Farrhana Bhatt, Shagun Sharma, Avika Gor, Orhan Awatramani aka Orry, Harsh Gujral, Jasmin Bhasin, Rubina Dilaik, Karan Wahi, Rithvik Dhanjani, Ruhaanika Dhawan and Vishal Aditya Singh. The season has particularly stood out for bringing back former contestants, including Avika Gor, Jasmin Bhasin, Karan Wahi, Rithvik Dhanjani, Rubina Dilaik and Vishal Aditya Singh, giving the competition a mix of returning experience and new energy.

Johnny Depp in negotiations for ‘Pirates of the Caribbean 6’

Los Angeles: Hollywood actor Johnny Depp is in talks to feature in “Pirates of the Caribbean 6”. There has been no official announcement of the film, however, producer Jerry Bruckheimer recently spoke about the film at the D23 event and said the script is in development. He said he is also in negotiations with the actor. “We’re talking with Johnny (Depp), we’re working on a screenplay, and trying to get this done,” he said at the event, according to the entertainment news outlet Deadline. The actor has featured in five “Pirates of the Caribbean films in the role of Captain Jack Sparrow. The first film, “The Curse of the Black Pearl”, released in 2003, followed by “Dead Man’s Chest” in 2006, “At World’s End” in 2007, “On Stranger Tides” in 2011 and “Dead Men Tell No Tales”, which released in 2017. Depp’s role in the film series remains amongst the most notable roles of the actor and even earned him an Academy Award nomination. The films revolve around the misadventures of the eccentric pirate Captain Jack Sparrow. The sto-



ries mix historical pirate lore with supernatural elements, featuring treasures, sea monsters, undead villains, and battles across the seas. The films have collectively earned over USD 4.5 billion globally. “Dead Man’s Chest” and “On Stranger Tides” have crossed the mark of USD 1 billion at the global box office.

Kashmera Shah says she feels ‘delusional’ as ‘marriages break, people cheat’ amid Govinda-Sunita spat

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Kashmera Shah has expressed disillusionment over marriages and infidelity, questioning whether “true love” still exists. The post has come amid the on-going public spat between her husband Krushna Abhishek’s superstar uncle Govinda and his wife Sunita Ahuja. Kashmera took to her social media account on the early morning of Monday, and shared a picture of a heart-shaped trail in the sky, alongside a candid note questioning the existence of lasting love. “So is this what true love looks like? Does it exist? Does anyone love someone so much that they will pay for this and make their person feel special? Where is this kind of love and who is this person? Feeling so disillusioned by marriages breaking and people cheating. I feel I need a reality check #love #kashmerashah,” she wrote. Her post comes at a time when Govinda and Sunita Ahuja’s marriage has once again become the subject of intense public discussion. For the uninitiated, the couple has been making contrasting and pointing remarks about their relationship and washing dirty linen in public. Sunita has spoken openly about alleged infidelity in her marriage, including claims that Govinda has had affairs. A few days ago, Sunita while talking to the paparazzi, called Govinda a ‘sugar daddy’ of his



new heroine with whom, according to Sunita, is having an affair. Sunita’s shocking claims have raised a lot many eyebrows. To this, Govinda posted a video where he was seen subtly yet strongly lashing out at Sunita for trying to malign his image. He asked her to mainly stop abusing and have some control over her swear words. He also stated that just because he was paired opposite a much younger actress did not mean that he was having an affair and also added that in the history of Bollywood many big stars have work with actresses of a very young age compared to them. He said that Sunita was not letting a single chance go to put him down in the eyes of his fans. For the uninitiated, a few months ago Kashmera and Sunita had ended their almost decade-old feud. The two who were, once upon a time, at loggerheads and did not talk to each other for years, were seen burying the hatchet and getting along like a house on fire.

AICWA mourns actress Ananya Raj’s untimely demise at 27

Mumbai: The All Indian Cine Workers Association (AICWA) has paid a tribute to actress Ananya Raj after she passed away on Sunday at the age of 27. The body took to their X, formerly Twitter, and penned a long note for the actress. They wrote, “With profound grief and a heavy heart, the All Indian Cine Workers Association (AICWA) mourns the untimely demise of actress Ananya Raj, who passed away at the young age of just 27 on 15 July 2026. Her family has now made the news of her passing public, nearly a month after her demise. According to the family, Ananya had been battling health issues for the past year, during which she went through immense physical and mental challenges. Despite these difficult circumstances, her family remembered her as a strong-spirited girl who lived like a Queen”. They further mentioned, “Ananya Raj was a part of several Bollywood films, including 7 Hours to Go (2016), The Final Exit (2017), and Ghost (2019). Her untimely passing has sent shockwaves across Bollywood and the entire Indian film industry. The loss of a young artist is not just a loss for her family, it is a loss for the entire film fraternity. A member of our extended film-industry family has left us far too soon. Her work, her presence and her memories will always remain a part of the Indian film industry”. The actress had been dealing with physical and mental health issues for over a year and passed away peacefully in her sleep on July 15. “The All Indian Cine Workers Association (AICWA) expresses its deepest condolences to the bereaved family and loved ones. We pray that the departed soul finds eternal peace and that her family receives the strength and courage to bear this irreparable loss. Ananya Raj will always be remembered. Her journey may have ended, but her memories will live on forever. All Indian Cine Workers Association (AICWA)”, they added.



IOA backs Indian men’s and women’s hockey teams at 2026 World Cup

New Delhi: The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) congratulated the Indian men’s and women’s national hockey teams on participation at the prestigious FIH Hockey World Cup 2026, being held in Belgium and the Netherlands from August 15-30. India is the only South Asian nation to have both its men’s and women’s teams competing at this year’s FIH Hockey World Cup, reflecting the growing competitiveness of Indian hockey at the highest level of international sport. “The IOA and Hockey India stand united with millions of hockey fans across the country in extending their full support and best wishes to the Indian teams as they compete on the global stage,” IOA said in a release. The World Cup provides both teams with an important opportunity to compete against the world’s best and further strengthen their high-performance pathways as India prepares for a significant sequence of international competitions, including the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games and, subsequently, the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games. P.T. Usha, president of the Indian Olympic Association, said: “I extend my heartfelt congratulations to both our men’s and women’s teams on qualifying for the FIH Hockey World Cup. I wish our athletes, coaches and the entire support staff the very best for the tournament. “Competing against the world’s best teams at a tournament of this stature is an important part of an athlete’s high-performance journey. The experience gained here will be extremely valuable as we look ahead to the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games and, ultimately, the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.” The Asian Games will be an especially important milestone in the international calendar for Indian hockey. The experience of competing at the World Cup will provide both squads with valuable exposure to high-pressure



competition and an opportunity to further develop the tactical, physical and mental attributes required to perform consistently at the highest level. “The Asian Games will be an important opportunity for our hockey teams to test themselves in a major multi-sport environment and to continue building towards our Olympic ambitions. We have immense confidence in both our teams, and I am certain that our players will represent India with the pride, determination and excellence that have always defined Indian hockey,” she added. Dilip Kumar Tirkey, President of Hockey India, said, “The participation of both our men’s and women’s teams at the FIH Hockey World Cup is a testament to the hard work, discipline and ambition of our athletes, coaches and support teams. “Our preparations have been meticulous, and both squads are entering the tournament with a strong tactical approach and the determination to compete against the very best in the world. A World Cup is always a demanding challenge, but it is also an important opportunity for our players to test themselves at the highest level. “With the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games also on the horizon, this tournament assumes even greater importance as part of our preparation and competitive journey. We are confident in the ability of both teams and know that our players will give everything on the field and make the country proud.” The IOA said it remains committed to supporting Indian athletes and teams as they prepare for these major international competitions and to strengthening India’s pursuit of excellence across the Olympic Movement.

Prasidh Krishna stresses ball maintenance for reverse swing in humid Galle

Galle: India pacer Prasidh Krishna said maintaining the shine and dryness of the ball will be vital for fast bowlers seeking reverse swing in humid Sri Lankan conditions in the ongoing first Test at the Galle International Stadium, adding that the team is relying on simple, disciplined lengths to make an impact. India will need extra effort required from both bowlers and fielders to keep the ball in condition for movement off the deck after being bowled out for 462 in their first innings. “It is definitely tough. I think that’s where the fielders and everybody comes in to keep the ball dry, help the bowlers. Touch the ball the least when they’re running in, only hold it and then run it. “But I think that’s the skill as well. As bowlers, you need to find a way, maybe some wristbands, some towels behind your back all the time. So something like that is going to work,” Prasidh said in a chat with the broadcasters. He also quashed talk of the surface deteriorating rapidly, noting that the visitors are closely observing how the hosts bowling attack operated during their spells. “There hasn’t been a talk about it breaking up. We’ve been looking at the pitch as well. It doesn’t really look like it’s broken yet. But we’re looking at the areas that the Sri Lankan bowlers bowled. They did a good job at different sessions, so we’re just trying to learn from them.” On the tactical adjustments needed on subcon-



tinental tracks, the Bengaluru-based fast bowler stated that executing basic line and length remains the primary weapon. “That is the most important thing. I think length determines a lot. Even the lines, honestly, in this wicket, if you can bowl a good line and length, which everybody, every coach tells you, but that’s the simplest thing that we can do right here.” Beyond technical execution, Prasidh highlighted the responsibility of the pace unit to maintain team morale and energy during long, taxing stints in the field. “It’s about bringing in a good attitude as fast bowlers. I know we bring in a lot of energy and happiness among the group when you come in and bowl those hard yards and do whatever you do on the field. So I think that’s what we’re looking to do.” With crucial points up for grabs in the World Test Championship cycle, Prasidh insisted the India team is keeping its focus locked on immediate sessions rather than getting ahead of itself. “Definitely. I think all the games coming up, you’re just trying to be very intent in what we’re going to do, be intense when we’re on the ground.

India spinners rip through Sri Lanka top order, reduce hosts to 99/5

Galle: India’s spinners ripped through Sri Lanka’s top order with a devastating display of spin bowling as the visitors reduced the hosts to 99/5 in 28 overs at lunch on day three of the first Test at the Galle International Stadium on Monday. It was a



session where six wickets fell – five of which were of Sri Lanka. Every move made by India went in their favour. Left-arm spinner Manav Suthar underlined his promise by trapping Sri Lankan batters in a trap of turn and bounce while hitting the right length to pick 2-17. Kuldeep Yadav made a bright start by picking a scalp, while Ravindra Jadeja showed his effectiveness on a turning track by getting a wicket, and Mohammed Siraj struck in the very first over. Sri Lanka, still trailing by 363 runs, have reached the lunch interval with Niroshan Dickwella unbeaten on eight alongside Sonal Dinusha, who’s not out on 13. But they still face a steep climb to avoid the follow-on. Having seen their own first innings wrapped up inside four balls for 462 earlier in the morning, after Asitha Fernando took out Prasidh Krishna, India’s bowlers immediately went to work and needed just two deliveries to break Sri Lanka’s opening stand. Siraj struck with a classic outswinger and induced an edge from Nishan Madushka to have him caught at first slip and send the opener back for a duck. After that, the Indian spin troika of Suthar, Kuldeep and Jadeja took complete control on a pitch offering sharp turn and bounce.

Suthar made an instant impact by striking with his very first delivery – drawing Dinesh Chandimal forward with an

immaculate piece of drift and spin and catch the glove edge, with Rishabh Pant completing a sharp catch behind the stumps. Suthar continued to press and built pressure with relentless accuracy and dismissed Lahiru Udara for 27, after he mistimed a cut off a bouncing and turning delivery to give a simple catch to backward point. At 53/3, Sri Lanka needed a partnership to stabilise their innings, but Indian captain Shubman Gill produced a moment of brilliance in the field to dent the hosts further. Diving full length to his left at short extra cover, Gill plucked a stunning one-handed catch inches above the turf to dismiss Kamindu Mendis for 14 on Kuldeep’s bowling. Jadeja then joined in to complete a dominant display in the first session just three minutes before the lunch break. Operating with a tight stump-to-stump line, Jadeja extracted sharp turn to catch the outside edge of Sri Lanka captain Dhananjaya de Silva (21), with KL Rahul diving low at first slip to complete the catch and get another session in India’s favour. Brief Scores: India 462 in 116.4 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 167, KL Rahul 82; Prabath Jayasuriya 4-109, Keshara Nuwantha 3-175) lead Sri Lanka 99/5 in 28 overs (Lahiru Udara 27, Dhananjaya de Silva 21; Manav Suthar 2-17, Ravindra Jadeja 1-6) by 363 runs

Sri Lanka dismisses India for 462 in four balls on day three



Galle: Sri Lanka needed just four deliveries on day three to wrap up India’s first innings for 462, as pacer Asitha Fernando swiftly removed tailender Prasidh Krishna in the opening over at the Galle International Stadium on Monday. India, resuming on their overnight score of 460/9, opted against using the heavy roller before the start of play, hoping to allow the pitch to deteriorate further while their last pair batted on. The decision, however, backfired, as their innings lasted less than three minutes, as Sri Lanka managed to wrap up their innings quickly. Fernando began by dropping a back-of-a-length delivery into Krishna’s body, who managed to fend it towards square leg to get off the mark and hand the strike to Kuldeep Yadav. Kuldeep then pulled a short ball outside off-stump just over the leaping infielder toward deep mid-wicket for a single to put Krishna back on strike. Fernando immediately ramped up the pressure, coming around the wicket

to crash a short delivery straight into Krishna’s ribs as the batter struggled to get out of the way. The pacer maintained his short-pitched assault on the next ball as Krishna attempted a pull shot to counter it but succeeded only in gloving behind to wicketkeeper Niroshan Dickwella, who completed a simple catch to end India’s innings. Krishna departed for two off seven balls, leaving Kuldeep unbeaten on 13 at the other end. Prior to the start of day’s play, which began 15 minutes earlier due to loss of overs on days one and two, thanks to persistent rain, the match officials announced a late change in the umpiring setup. TV umpire Ahsan Raza would take the on-field umpiring duties to replace Rod Tucker, who remains sidelined due to illness, while reserve umpire Raveendra Wimalasiri has stepped into the third umpire’s chair. Brief Scores: India 462 in 116.4 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 167, KL Rahul 82; Prabath Jayasuriya 4-109, Keshara Nuwantha 3-175) against Sri Lanka

Sensex, Nifty open lower as US-Iran war uncertainty keeps crude prices elevated

Mumbai: Domestic equity markets opened marginally lower on Monday as the lack of progress towards ending the US-Iran war kept crude oil prices elevated. Nifty 50 opened at 24,343.45, down 22.55 points or 0.09 per cent, while Sensex declined more than 100 points or 0.15 per cent to 77,892.92. Among sectoral indices, Nifty MidSmall Financial Services was the biggest laggard, declining 0.98 per cent, followed by Nifty PSU Bank and Nifty FMCG which slumped up to 0.9 per cent in early trade. Other sectors — realty, cement, IT, energy and private Bank — also traded lower. On the other hand, Nifty Chemicals rose 0.48 per cent and Nifty MidSmall Healthcare gained 0.45 per cent. According to market experts, Nifty is likely to remain range-bound between 24,000 and 24,600 in the near term until fresh triggers emerge. Crude trading at \$89, without any prospects for an immediate resolution to the crisis is likely to cap any uptrend that may emerge, they said adding that the index was also being weighed down by weak performance of IT majors and large banking stocks. Analysts noted that investors could look



beyond the Nifty 50 for short-term opportunities with stock-specific activity likely to remain strong in the midcap and smallcap segments. The broader market's outperformance during the first-quarter earnings season is expected to continue, while a recovery in corporate earnings could provide resilience to equities despite external headwinds such as elevated crude prices. Technically, analysts said the 24,329-24,240 zone had repeatedly arrested declines last week, but momentum remained weak. In addition, near-term upside attempts could face resistance around 24,540-24,666, while a break below 24,170 could expose the index to 23,575. Crude oil prices remained largely stable on Monday, holding last week's gains amid continued concerns over US-Iran tensions.

CEA Calls For E10 Petrol Option For Older Vehicles Amid E20 Debate

Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran has suggested bringing back E10 petrol for older two-wheelers as the debate over the country's E20 fuel policy continues. Nageswaran and Department of Economic Affairs consultant Akash Poojari also urged for a comprehensive analysis on the impact of expanding ethanol blending beyond 20% in a column in The Indian Express. They added that policymakers should take into account the potential consequences on feed supplies, animal feed, agricultural land, and water resources before taking steps towards the use of greater blends like E27 and E30. The authors believe that approximately 75 million to 80 million pre-BS-IV and carburettor-powered two-wheelers are still on the road in India. They say that these vehicles have unique problems at higher ethanol blends. The reason behind was stated that the carburettor-based engines are not capable of adjusting the fuel-air mixture to compensate for the extra oxygen in ethanol, engine performance may be affected, resulting in a leaner mixture and higher running temperatures. It's possible this sort of vehicles could later be retrofitted with ethanol-ready parts, but the process could take a long time if it has to be done for tens of millions of vehicles. Nageswaran and Poojari therefore propose making E10 petrol available alongside E20 for the older fleet during the transition. They argue that this would give owners of older vehicles a lower-ethanol alternative while reducing the amount of ethanol required overall. The CEA's argument goes beyond the immediate concerns of older vehicle owners. The authors have urged policymakers to examine the consequences of increasing ethanol blending beyond the existing 20% target. India produces ethanol from several agricultural sources, including sugarcane, maize, rice and other grains. As demand for ethanol increases, these crops face competing demand from fuel producers and the food and livestock sectors. Maize is particularly significant because it is also widely used as animal feed. Greater diversion of maize towards ethanol could affect its availability and prices for poultry and livestock producers unless agri-



cultural production rises sufficiently. Also Read World Biofuel Day 2026: Why India is Betting Big on Cleaner Fuels Discover more Government Top News Summaries South Asians & Diaspora The authors warn that moving towards blends such as E27 or E30 could intensify this competition between fuel and food. The authors argue that the water footprint of ethanol production should not be assessed only by examining the water used inside distilleries. The water required to grow the crops used as ethanol feedstock also needs to be considered. This is particularly relevant for water-intensive crops such as sugarcane. Increased demand for ethanol could influence cropping patterns and encourage farmers to allocate more land and water towards fuel-producing crops. According to the authors, once agricultural land, water resources and industrial infrastructure become tied to fuel production, reversing those decisions could be difficult. The government has defended E20 petrol, citing benefits such as reduced crude oil imports, foreign-exchange savings and increased demand for agricultural products. It has also maintained that extensive testing has not found evidence of widespread engine damage from E20. At present, E20 remains government policy, and there is no decision to move beyond the 20% blend. The government has also resisted calls for a nationwide choice between different petrol blends, citing the additional logistical and distribution challenges involved. The proposal from Nageswaran and Poojari does not reject the broader benefits of ethanol blending. Instead, it calls for policymakers to weigh those benefits against the land, water, food and feed requirements associated with producing more ethanol. For older vehicles, their immediate recommendation is to restore E10 as an alternative.

Lalithaa Jewellery's promoters received SEBI summons, Rs 58.66 crore involved in legal cases: DRHP In Short According to the DRHP

New Delhi: Lalithaa Jewellery Mart's Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) showed that the company, its subsidiaries, promoters, directors and key managerial personnel are involved in certain legal and regulatory proceedings pending before various tribunals, quasi-judicial authorities and appellate forums. According to the DRHP filed with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the company has disclosed one criminal proceeding and two tax proceedings against its promoters, while the aggregate amount involved in the disclosed proceedings is stated at Rs 586.59 million, or about Rs 58.66 crore. The DRHP also details summons issued by SEBI to the company's promoters, M. Kiran Kumar Jain and Hemaa Kiran Kumar Jain, in February 2022 in connection with an investigation into the scrip of Krishana Fabrics Ltd, a company in which one of the promoters holds a majority shareholding. SEBI had alleged in its summons that there were reasonable grounds to believe that transactions in the securities of Krishana Fabrics were being conducted in a manner detrimental to investors and the securities market. The summons also referred to alleged violations of the SEBI Act, 1992 and the SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015. Also Read Sebi mulls settlement overhaul; plans fast-track route for cases up to Rs 10Lakhs Advertisement Discover more Breaking News Alerts News News Subscription Service The regulator had sought several documents and details from the promoters, including trade details, income-tax returns, disclo-



sures made to Krishana Fabrics and stock exchanges, bank account details and sources of funds. The promoters responded to the SEBI summons through letters dated February 16, 2022. Later, on August 10, 2024, M. Kiran Kumar Jain and Hemaa Kiran Kumar Jain again wrote to SEBI, stating that they had already responded to the summons in February 2022 and had not received any further communication from the regulator. As of the date of the DRHP, no proceedings or action had been initiated by SEBI against the promoters in connection with the matter, according to the document. The company cautioned that adverse developments in the disclosed legal proceedings could result in additional liabilities and expenses. It also said that such proceedings could divert management time and resources and potentially affect its profitability, reputation, financial condition and results of operations.

India's prime office market rents surge up to 10 pc In Short

Delhi: India's leading office markets continued to record healthy occupier demand in Q2 2026, with Bengaluru, Mumbai and Delhi-NCR collectively leasing 9.8 million square feet of office space, a report said on Monday. The report from Knight Frank said leasing moderated from the exceptionally high levels seen in 2025, but remained robust, supported by stable vacancy levels despite over 7 million square feet of new completions. Bengaluru recorded the strongest rental growth among Indian cities at 10.7 per cent YoY, followed by Delhi-NCR at 7.6 per cent and Mumbai at 4 per cent. Prime office rents in Bengaluru reached Rs 163 per sq ft per month. Prime rents of Bengaluru's office market grew 7.9 per cent YoY to Rs 148 per sq ft per month in Q2 2025. Global Capability Centres (GCCs) continued to anchor occupier demand across India's gateway office markets. Further, flex space operators accounted for over 30 per cent of leasing volumes across Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR and Mumbai, overtaking financial services as one of the largest occupier groups. The increasing adoption of flexible workplace strategies by large occupiers reflects a structural shift in portfolio planning as organisations seek greater agility while navigating evolving workplace requirements. Across the Asia-Pacific region,



prime office rents increased 0.6 per cent QoQ during Q2 2026, with 19 of the 24 tracked cities recording stable or increasing rental levels. Bengaluru, Hong Kong SAR and Tokyo led annual rental growth across the region, while technology and AI-related occupier companies continued to generate demand for premium office space. "India's office market continues to demonstrate remarkable depth and resilience. Demand remains healthy despite the elevated leasing base established last year, reflecting the country's enduring appeal as a global business destination," said Shishir Bajjal, International Partner, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India. Bajjal said that stable vacancy levels alongside rental growth indicates a market that continues to absorb new supply efficiently. "While organisations continue to adapt to AI adoption and evolving macroeconomic conditions, India's talent advantage, business ecosystem and strategic role in global corporate operations continue to underpin long-term office demand," he added.

AIM IS TO PROVE MY METTLE AT THE OLYMPICS

Young Athlete Peddinti Ram Charan Aspires To Bring Glory To Kamaravapukota Mandal



Kamaravapukota:“My goal is to participate in the Olympics and prove my mettle," said young athlete Peddinti Ram Charan from East Yaduvelli village of Kamaravapukota mandal.He stated that he is moving forward with the determination to not only secure a place in the Olympics but also to set a record.First Attempt Begins“On Sunday night at 1:30 AM, Ram Charan started his first long-distance run from Kamaravapukota Checkpost. “Route: Borampalem Cross Road ? Devulapalli ? Jangareddygudem ? Vegavaram ? Taduvai ? Jeelugumilli ? Aswaraopeta Ring“Distance: 60 kilometers“Time: He completed the distance in 4 hours 22 minutes.Sports Background“In 2022, he represented the state in the 600-meter race and showcased his talent at competitions held in



Uttar Pradesh. Currently, he is undergoing continuous training at a sports ground to improve his fitness. He said Borra Rajesh from Unagatla is guiding him online on running techniques.Goal“His aim is to represent Andhra Pradesh in the upcoming Olympics and win a medal for the country. He said his objective is to bring pride to his parents, his native village, district, state, and the nation.Acknowledgments“Ram Charan expressed gratitude to his parents Peddinti Venkata Durga Rao and Venkata Lakshmi, and friends Narayana, Dhanush, Raghu, and Srinivas for their support. He requested the government to recognize and encourage him.Let us all support Ram Charan as he moves forward with determination to achieve his goal.

EVERYONE MUST STRIVE TO FULFILL SARDAR GAUTU LACHANNA'S IDEALS: District Collector K. Vetriselvi

Eluru, August 16, 2026: District Collector K. Vetriselvi called upon everyone to strive for the fulfillment of the ideals of social revolutionary and reformer Sardar Gautu Lachanna.The Sardar Gautu Lachanna Jayanti celebrations were held grandly at the local Collectorate on Sunday. Collector Vetriselvi garlanded the portrait of Sardar Gautu Lachanna and paid rich tributes.Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that Sardar Gautu Lachanna's fight to drive out the British during the freedom struggle is an inspiration to today's youth.She said he was a great social reformer who fought relentlessly against untouchability and worked for the upliftment of marginalized sections and rural communities, and for their rights.Sardar Gautu Lachanna was a pro-farmer and pro-worker leader who



brought in many reforms for the welfare of the downtrodden and weaker sections, she added.Collectorate staff and dignitaries participated in the programme.

Hostel Student Drowns In Pond

Visakhapatnam: An 11-year-old BC Hostel student drowned in a pond nearby Kurudu BC Hostel in the Srikakulam district on Sunday evening. The deceased has been identified as M Durga Prasad (11), a sixth-grade student at Kurudu BC Hostel in Kotabommali, Srikakulam district. According to the reports, on Sunday evening, Durga Prasad left the hostel premises after playing cricket. The hostel warden stated that the student was irregular in attending the hostel and often visited his grandmother's house. They initially assumed he had gone there. When the family was contacted, their phone line was not reachable, the warden added. On Monday morning, confirmation was received from the family

that Durga Prasad never visited his grandmother's house. A search was then conducted in the nearby areas. During the search, slippers were found near a pond beside the hostel. When searched in the pond, his body was discovered in the pond on Monday morning. Responding to the incident, the state BC, EWS welfare minister S. Savitha expressed deep shock over the death and directed district BC welfare officials to submit a detailed report on the incident and assured that the government would stand by the bereaved family. The minister also spoke to district BC welfare officials over the phone on the incident and instructed them to submit a report.

Minister kondapalli srinivas expresses shock over the death of student arun tej due to wall collapse

Vijayanagaram:“State minister for msme, rural poverty alleviation and nri affairs kondapalli srinivas expressed grief over the death of a 10th class student in the collapse of the compound wall of government high school in salur, parvathipuram manyam district.He said he was deeply saddened by the death of 10th class student arun tej. On this issue, education minister nara lokesh immediately responded and issued orders to provide rs. 5 lakh ex-gratia to the family of the deceased student from the government and to provide better medical treatment to the injured student, minister kondapalli said.He also said that local



minister gummadi sandhya rani has ordered an inquiry into the accident.The minister said that education department officials should be alert at all times regarding students and should ensure that such accidents do not occur.

Third phase admissions process begins in government and private itis under ntr district for the academic year 2026-27/28

Vijayanagaram, August 17, 2026“M. Kanakarao, principal of government iti vijayawada and district convener, informed in a statement that the third phase admissions process has begun in government and private itis under ntr district for the academic year 2026-27/28.Key dates and instructions:Online registration: Interested candidates should complete online registration by 4:00 pm on 19th of this month.Certificate verification: The same day by 5:00 pm candidates must get their certificates verified.Admission counselling: Will be conducted on 20th of this month at gov-

ernment iti vijayawada. Candidates should attend the counselling directly with original certificates as per their merit number.Fee details:Candidates from sc, st and other categories joining government itis should pay a caution deposit of rs. 60/- .Candidates joining private itis should pay the prescribed fee as per government rules.For more details:“Candidates can contact the vijayawada government iti help desk or call 0866-2475575, 94906 39639, 77804 29468 for merit number and other complete details, principal m. Kanakarao clarified in the statement.

Quality resolution for every petition

District should be at the forefront in satisfaction levels 176 petitions received at district level pgrs District collector dr. G. Lakshmisha



Vijayawada:“District collector dr. G. Lakshmisha said that officials should strive to provide quality and satisfactory resolution to every petition received from the public. She directed officials to thoroughly examine public grievances, resolve them within the stipulated time as per rules, and also inform the petitioners about the resolution details.On monday, district collector dr. G. Lakshmisha along with officials received petitions from people of various parts of the district at the sri pingali venkayya meeting hall in the collectorate. A total of 176 petitions were received in this people-friendly public grievance redressal system - pgrs program. Department-wise details of petitions received: Revenue: 52Municipal and urban devel-

opment: 32 Police department: 24Panchayat raj: 17Medical and health: 6Swarnagramam - swarnaward: 6Electricity, employment generation, registration and stamps: 4 eachDrda, intermediate education: 3 eachAgriculture, differently abled welfare, national highways: 2 eachArchaeology and museums, public transport, excise, fire, fisheries, icds, irrigation, labour, marketing, mines and geology: 1 eachThe collector directed district-level officials to thoroughly examine these petitions and work for quick resolution. She also said that by coordinating with field-level officials, the district should be placed at the forefront in terms of quality and satisfaction levels in resolving petitions.Various department district-level officials participated in the program.