

34 percent reservation.. ramadevi as mlc a golden chapter in bc history



Amaravati, August 18: State minister for msme, rural poverty eradication and non-resident andhra society relations kondapalli srinivas on tuesday expressed happiness over the restoration of 34 percent reservation for bcs in local body elections. In a statement, the minister said today will be written in golden letters in the state's bc history. He said the coalition government has decided to restore 34 percent reservation for bcs in local body elections and discussion on the bill in the assembly is welcoming. He said that with the decision to implement 34 percent bc reservation in villages and 33.33 percent in urban areas in local elections, real political empowerment has been given to bcs. The minister thanked chief minister chandrababu naidu, deputy

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Andhra CM Naidu defends Mega DSC recruitment transparency in Assembly

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Mon day clarified that there was no deviation from rules in the Mega DSC for recruitment of teachers and that all details pertaining to the recruitment process had been placed online transparently. Speaking in the Legislative Assembly on the Mega DSC recruitments, he accused the YSR Congress Party leaders of running a false campaign through "hit-and-run" politics. The Chief Minister said that those who ruled between 2019 and 2024 did not recruit even a single teacher but made tall claims about the education sector. Of the 14 DSCs conducted so far, 11 were conducted, and teachers were recruited during TDP



and NDA governments. Not a single person has complained of corruption in these recruitments, he said. The Chief Minister said, "The previous gov-

ernment did not recruit even a single teacher for five years. Immediately after assuming office, with the first signature, we filled

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AP assembly session continues for third day with question hour

The second day of the second session of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly commenced with Question Hour. In the House, the second Deputy Speaker Ayyanna Patrudu replaced the Speaker and called for the attendance of ministers to respond to the questions put forward by members regarding matters pertaining to the state related to their individual constituencies. The minister Narayana answered questions raised by many MLAs on the issue of upgrading the gram panchayats having population above 25,000 to the status of



municipalities. He clarified that the government has no proposal to upgrade such panchayats to municipalities. This reply was in response to MLA Prashanthi Reddy's question. He also stated that the census will go on

till 31st March 2027, and the Union Government has asked to refrain from taking any decision till then. The minister further stated that the issue of upgrading will be taken up afresh after that date.

Nellore Plans rs. 4,000-Crore Credit Outreach



NELLORE: Nellore district is planning a credit outreach programme to extend loans of up to '4,000 crore, with a focus on agriculture, employment, education and business development. Nellore MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy has called upon bankers and officials to prepare a comprehensive plan for the programme on the lines of the recent credit outreach held at Narasaraopet, where loans worth '3,000 crore were reportedly extended. Also Read - NIFT Amaravati Needs 30 Acres, Says Director Advertise-

ment Addressing the District Level Bankers' Committee and District Level Review Committee meetings at the collectorate on Tuesday, Prabhakar Reddy said banks should look beyond a purely business-oriented approach and play a meaningful role in improving people's livelihoods and living standards. District collector Himanshu Shukla, who presided over the meeting, said efforts would be made to mobilise '4,000 crore in loans through the outreach programme with the support of

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YSRCP seeks transparent voter verification process

Guntur: MLC and YSRCP general secretary Lella Appi Reddy has written to the Chief Electoral Officer of AP seeking uniform verification guidelines for eligible voters residing outside the state or abroad and greater transparency in the ongoing electoral roll revision process. Copies of the representations were also sent to the Chief Election Commissioner. In a statement, he said the students pursuing education in other States or abroad and people temporarily residing overseas for

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Andhra CM orders intensified search for 8 missing fishermen

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday directed officials to step up search operations to trace eight fishermen who have been missing since August 3. The search is being conducted in coordination between the Indian Coast Guard, State fisheries department and the BR Ambedkar Konaseema district administration. The eight fishermen, from Odala revu, Dummalapeta and Vasalathippa villages in BR Ambedkar Konaseema district had set out to sea from the Odalarevu Fish Landing Centre jetty at around 10 am on August 3. The families lost touch with the crew



around 11 am on the day of departure. The vessel was expected to return by August 12 but did not arrive, prompting authorities to launch search operations. During a review meeting with the officials, the CM stressed that all available means should be utilised to trace the fishermen. He further said the coast guard, fisheries

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Centuries-old rain and healing ritual observed in Yemmiganur



Kurnool: Kurnool district, widely known for its age-old traditions and peculiar customs, witnessed a bizarre religious ritual at Venkatapuram Colony in Yemmiganur mandal, where devotees ran over people lying on the ground. Held at the Sri Gunti Rangaswamy temple on the eve of the first Monday of the holy Shravan month, the event attracted thousands of worshippers from surrounding

villages. As part of the traditional practice, nearly 1,000 devotees from Venkatapuram Colony embarked on a midnight journey carrying swords, sticks, and agricultural implements. Chanting religious slogans, they undertook a 40-km march on foot to the Tungabhadra River near Gangavaram. After collecting sacred river water, they returned to perform a special

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Flexible work
needs an ergo-
nomic reboot

“We liberated the modern worker from the corporate cubicle, only to enslave them to bad posture, blurry boundaries, and the perpetual glow of the kitchen table.” The remote work revolution was promised as the ultimate liberation. No more soul-crushing commutes, rigid office outfits, or micromanaging supervisors hovering over row upon row of identical desks. Yet, several years into the widespread adoption of hybrid and distributed work models, a quiet crisis is unfolding across living rooms, coffee shops, and home offices worldwide. As flexible work cements its status as a permanent fixture of modern corporate culture, the conversation is shifting from where we work to how we physically and mentally inhabit those spaces. The ergonomics of flexible work—encompassing physical posture, psychological boundaries, and organizational responsibility—has emerged as one of the defining workplace challenges of our decade.

1. Non-traditional spaces and posture hygiene: In the corporate office, facilities teams spent decades fine-tuning the mechanics of the desk: adjustable mesh chairs, dual-monitor arms, footrests, and task lighting. But when work migrated to homes, coffee shops, and transient coworking spots, ergonomics was largely left to chance. Today, millions of knowledge workers spend eight to ten hours a day hunched over laptops at dining tables, sink into soft couches with tablets balanced on their laps, or squint at small screens from kitchen counters. The cumulative physical toll is significant:

“Tech Neck” and Musculoskeletal Strain: Sustained forward head posture drastically increases the effective weight of the head on the cervical spine, leading to chronic neck, shoulder, and lower back pain. Repetitive Strain Injuries (RSIs): Typing on flat laptop keyboards without forearm support strains wrist tendons, accelerating rates of carpal tunnel syndrome. Visual Fatigue: Inadequate lighting and unoptimized screen distances cause severe digital eye strain and chronic headaches.

Core pillars of posture hygiene: Neutral spine — Hips slightly above knees Eye level — Screen top at eye line 90° rule — Elbows and knees bent at 90° Preventative health in a flexible environment requires active “posture hygiene.” This doesn’t demand converting a spare bedroom into an expensive corporate suite; rather, it requires fundamental adjustments: elevating laptops to eye level with external stands, using separate keyboards and mice, and practicing the 20-20-20 rule (every 20 minutes, look at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds).

2. The psychological ergonomics of availability: Ergonomics is not merely physical science; it is a cognitive one. Physical environment and mental well-being are inextricably linked. In a traditional office, the physical commute acted as a psychological airlock-transition zone allowing the brain to switch between professional productivity and domestic rest. In distributed work environments, the airlock has dissolved: The blur of availability: When the dining table is both the workstation and the dinner table, the brain struggles to disengage. The constant proximity of work laptops creates a subtle, persistent cognitive load.

34 percent reservation..
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chief minister pawan kalyan and minister nara lokesh for fulfilling the promise of increasing reservations.He said bc means telugu desam and telugu desam means bc. He said his government is always committed to the upliftment of bcs. The minister criticized that the previous ysrcp government had reduced bc reservations from 34 to 24 percent. He said bcs lost many posts due to the 10 percent cut in reservations. He said bcs faced suppression not only politically but also in all aspects during the previous ysrcp rule.The minister said nara lokesh, after learning about the injustice done to bcs during the yuva galam padayatra, had promised to rectify it and played a key role in restoring bc reservations to 34 percent today. He said telugu desam is a political factory that has produced many bc political leaders in the last 40 years.The minister said it is a double celebration for bcs as on the same day the government decided to nominate dalavayi ramadevi, a common anganwadi woman from bc community, as mlc along with restoring bc reservations to 34 percent.

Andhra CM Naidu defends
Mega DSC recruitment
transparency in Assembly

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15,941 teacher posts through the Mega DSC. The entire process was completed transparently, and the appointments were made within just 148 days.”He stated that the TET and DSC notifications, along with horizontal and vertical reservation procedures, were implemented in a stringent manner.“We selected 42,000 questions across 13 subjects and conducted the examination using the best available methodology. The examination was conducted through the Computer-Based Test (CBT) mode at 154 centres, and the results were also released transparently. Based entirely on merit, 15,941 candidates were selected and appointed. A zonal-level committee, a State-level committee and an appellate authority were constituted to resolve grievances.CM Naidu claimed that the rules implemented by the Central Government were followed for the sports quota. “Those who secured jobs are highly meritorious individuals who worked extremely hard to earn their appointments. The results were declared strictly under the merit-cum-roster system. The entire selection process was conducted online. An IAS officer who retired from government service and a former minister are making statements according to their whims and fancies. There was not a single deviation from the recruitment process specified in the notification.”He alleged that YSRCP leaders filed hundreds of cases and created obstacles. Even after official clarifications were issued, they continued to create a new conspiracy every day by organising protests on the DSC issue using Odisha labourers and 90-year-old participants, he said.He stated that teachers themselves have now taken to the streets, and a large number of teachers staged protests in Kurnool and in Vijayawada condemning the false campaign on DSC. The Chief Minister said the government was accountable to the people, not to parties and individuals who engage in conspiracies. He challenged them to come to the Assembly and debate the issue if they have the courage.

Andhra CM orders
intensified search for
8 missing fishermen

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department and district administration should continue the search in coordination until the missing boat and fishermen are traced. “Search operations to trace the eight fishermen who have been missing since their fishing boat left Odalarevu jetty on August 3 must be intensified, and all possible measures should be taken to locate them safely,” said Naidu in an official press release.The boat is equipped with a Very High Frequency (VHF) radio set and the fishermen are carrying mobile phones. Officials estimated that the boat may have reached the fishing area at around 6 pm on the same day.The coast guard commandant has alerted nearby patrol vessels and search operations are

underway. Fishing boats operating from Kakinada, Bhairavapalem, Visakha patnam and Paradip were also alerted to assist in information gathering.Naidu directed officials to maintain continuous contact with the families of the missing fishermen, provide regular updates on the search operations and assured them of full government support.

abhishekam to Lord Gunti Rangaswamy. Following the ritual, devotees carrying flower-decorated weapons circled the temple five times while chanting “Govinda, Govinda.” Locals believe the deity accompanies the procession when sacred river water is carried. Meanwhile, people suffering from physical and mental ailments lay down on the ground around the shrine. The devotees carrying water then ran over them, as participants believe the dust raised by their feet helps alleviate diseases. The villagers firmly believe this procession and weapon-carrying ritual invoke the rain God, ensuring timely rainfall and bountiful crop yields. Despite concerns regarding the hazardous nature of such practices, the traditional custom has continued uninterrupted for generations. Thousands of devotees and curious onlookers thronged the village to witness the unusual spectacle, which remains one of the most deeply rooted customs of the region.

Former Minister
Laxma Reddy hits out at
Revanth Reddy
over remarks on BRS rule



H y d e r a b a d : Former Minister C Laxma Reddy found fault with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for making baseless remarks about the 10-year BRS rule while inaugurating Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences (TIMS) at Sanath Nagar. He said Congress had ruled for more than 55 of the past 80 years but had failed to provide even adequate drinking water.He reminded that the TIMS inaugurated by Revanth Reddy was an initiative of former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao and the majority of the works were completed during the BRS regime.Addressing the media at Telangana Bhavan on Tuesday, Laxma Reddy said BRS governed for nine-and-a-half years, including two years of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, he said Telangana witnessed development across sectors during the remaining period under K Chandrashekhar Rao.He said the idea, site selection, land acquisition and resolution of issues related to TIMS were completed during the BRS regime, but the project was delayed after Congress came to power. He alleged the TIMS-Sanath Nagar could have been completed within a year but was delayed to prevent credit going to Chandrashekhar Rao.The former Minister said the number of medical colleges increased from five in Telangana of erstwhile Andhra Pradesh to 34 under BRS, substantially expanding medical education opportunities. Oxygen beds were increased from 1,400 before Covid-19 to 34,000, while ICU, dialysis and diagnostic services were expanded in government hospitals.Laxma Reddy said Basti Dawakhana, 100-bed hospitals in constituencies and the expansion of NIMS to 2,000 beds were among the initiatives taken during the BRS regime. He also cited Mission Bhagiratha, Aarogyasri expansion, KCR Kits and Nutrition Kits as measures that improved healthcare outcomes.He urged the Congress government to stop misinformation against the KCR government and focus on improving healthcare facilities.

YSRCP seeks transparent voter
verification process

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ployment should not lose their legitimate voting rights merely because they are unable to appear personally for verification. He requested that parents or close blood relatives be permitted to submit original supporting documents on behalf of such voters, along with proof of relationship and prescribed authorisation. He also suggested BLO-level verification of family, residence and supporting records. Referring to reports of video-call verification being informally accepted in some places, Appi Reddy requested the Election Commission to prescribe a uniform procedure, if legally permissible, with proper safeguards for identity confirmation and record-keeping.

Nellore Plans rs. 4,000-Crore
Credit Outreach

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the State Level Bankers’ Committee. He urged banks to increase lending to agriculture and allied sectors, particularly for modern farm equipment such as harvesters, tractors, drones and balers. The collector also suggested that each bank adopt a village and build stronger ties with local communities. He asked bankers to prepare for the outreach programme, proposed to be held in December or January, and achieve the targeted lending goals.

Centuries-old rain and healing ritual observed in Yemmiganur

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Anti-drug awareness rally held in vijayawada by r and b department



Vijayawada, August 18: As part of the central ministry of social justice and empowerment's 'nasha mukt bharat abhiyan' (nmba), the state roads and buildings (r and b) department organized a massive awareness rally in vijayawada on tuesday.R and b engineer-in-chief v. Ramachandra flagged off the rally at the indira gandhi municipal stadium.Speaking on the occasion, he said the government has decided to create awareness among people across the country and state about drugs. He said if the drug menace affect-



ing the youth is not curbed at the initial stage, it will cause irreparable damage to society. He called upon everyone from children to elders to understand the ill effects of drugs and act responsibly. He said the rally was organized to create awareness among people in their surroundings as well. He urged everyone to take responsibility to eradicate drug usage and illegal trafficking, which have be-

come a major threat to society. He stressed the need for wide awareness with the goal of building a drug-free society, especially to prevent youth and students from falling prey to drugs.R and b chief engineer k. Naveen said everyone should come forward to eliminate drug usage and illegal trafficking. He advised youth to build



a healthy and bright future by staying away from bad habits and drugs. He said the main objective of the programme is to create awareness among the public and youth about the ill effects of narcotics.The rally started from indira gandhi municipal stadium and passed through benz circle before culminating at the r and b department hod building.Superintending engineer g.v. Bhaskar rao, ee ravi shankar, dee y. Sasibhushan and more than 100 officials and employees of the department participated in the rally holding placards and raising slogans to create awareness among the public.

Mandatory aadhaar bio-metric update for children



Vijayawada, August 18:District collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha has advised parents not to neglect the mandatory biometric update of children's aadhaar and to complete it on time. She said failure to update biometric details at the prescribed age may cause difficulties in availing aadhaar-based services in future.The collector chaired the district-level aadhaar monitoring committee meeting at avs reddy meeting hall in vijayawada collectorate on tuesday. The meeting reviewed aadhaar enrolment and updation process, pending mandatory biometric updates and functioning of aadhaar centres in the district.Speaking on the occasion, the collector said updating children's biometric details in aadhaar as they grow is very important. She said mandatory biometric update for children in the age group of 5-7 years and 15-17 years will be done free of cost till september 30, 2026. She asked parents to make use of this opportunity and update their children's aadhaar biometric details within the deadline.Officials informed the collector about the pendency of mandatory biometric update (mbu) in the district. They said biometric update is pending for 31,184 children in the 5-7 years age group and 37,470 children in the 15-17 years age group. The collector said a total of 68,654 children's biometric updates need to be completed with special focus.The collector said 206 aadhaar enrolment centres are currently available in the district. She informed that 28,821 cards related to aadhaar enrolment and updation were completed in the district in the last one month.She directed officials to continuously monitor the functioning of centres

to ensure aadhaar services reach people easily and quickly. She ordered officials to set up a permanent aadhaar enrolment centre in vijayawada district collectorate. She also instructed the district aadhaar nodal officer to take necessary steps to set up permanent aadhaar centres in rdo offices and tahsildar offices in the district. She asked to create wide awareness so that people can make use of the aadhaar centres near them.The collector said officials from education, icds and intermediate education departments should take special interest to speed up children's aadhaar biometric update process. She said awareness should be created about the importance of aadhaar biometric update for children and parents at school, anganwadi centre and junior college levels. She directed officials to identify children with pending updates and take co-ordinated steps to complete their aadhaar update within the deadline.The collector said all related departments should work in coordination to make aadhaar enrolment and updation services more accessible and easier for the public. She advised people to check their details in advance and complete required updates to avoid problems when aadhaar is needed.Dro m. Lakshminarasimham, district swarna gramam and swarna ward officer and district aadhaar nodal officer k.y.s.r. Ravikumar, hyderabad uidai regional office assistant manager a. Satyakala, vmc deputy commissioner shakuntala, dsp satyanarayana, deo satyakala, dio prabhakar, drda pd nanchararao, dmho, dwama and postal department officials participated in the meeting.

Telangana SIR: Hyderabad district draft electoral rolls published with 27.95 lakh voters

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad District Election Officer, RV Karnan, on Monday said the Hyderabad district electoral draft rolls were published with a total of 27,95,225 draft voters as part of the 'Special Intensive Revision' of the electoral rolls 2026.In an all-party meeting held in Hyderabad on Monday, Karnan said that the draft photo electoral rolls of 15 Assembly constituencies of Hyderabad district were published on Monday in the manner prescribed in Form-5, in accordance with the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.Out of 27,95,225 electors, male electors were 13,86,536, female electors were 14,08,513, third-gender electors were 176, total polling stations were 4,094 and total polling station locations were 1,710 in Hyderabad district.

Karnan urged electors to verify their names in the draft electoral rolls available at the ERO office or on the ECI website <https://voters.eci.gov.in> or on the CEO's website www.ceotelan.gana.nic.in or by downloading the Voters Helpline App.Any claim for the inclusion of a name in the roll, objection to the inclusion of a name or objection to particulars in any entry should be lodged on or before September 16, in Form-6, 7 or 8 along with the Declaration Form (only for Form-6 and



8), he said.DEO Karnan said that out of 47,36,669 electors, 19,41,444 electors were found to have uncollectable enumeration forms and anomalies were noticed in 6,72,700 enumeration forms.

Final SIR Digitization in Hyderabad district

Total Electors: 47,36,669
Total EF distributed: 47,36,669 (100%)
Total EF Digitized: 27,95,225 (59.01%)
Self digitized: 79,85,47 (28.57%)
Progeny: 14,14,461 (50.60%)
ASD/Uncollectable
Electors: 19,41,444 (40.99%)
Death: 1,56,392 (8.06%)
Absent: 2,99,850 (15.44%)
Shifted: 13,45,333 (69.30%)
Duplicate: 99,264 (5.11%)
Other: 40,605 (2.09%).

We cordially invite you to attend

WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY DAY - 2026

(August 19, 2026)

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY TO WINNERS OF DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST - 2026

VENUE

Sri Pingali Venkayya Meeting Hall, Dist. Collectorate, Vijayawada, NTR District

DATE

19-08-2026 (Wednesday)

TIME

8:30 AM

CHIEF GUEST

Dr. G. Lakshmisha, IAS
Collector & District Magistrate
NTR District

GUESTS OF HONOUR & JURY MEMBERS

Sri M. Lakshminarasimham
District Revenue Officer, NTR District

Sri Vennela Srinu
Revenue Divisional Officer, Vijayawada

Sri P. Thimmappa
RJD Zone-II, I&PR

Sri T. S. Reddy, FRPS
Jury Member

Sri Ch. Vijayabhaskara Rao, ARPS
Retd., Photo Journalist & Jury Member

Sri S. Ramarao (Flash)
Senior Photographer & Jury Member

Sri K. Ravikumar
President, VPPWA & Jury Member

Sri T. Nageswara Rao
DIPRO, NTR District & Jury Member

Dr. Razia Shabeena
PRO, VMC & Jury Member

Capturing Moments... Creating Memories...

Warm Regards
K. Ravi
Divisional PRO

Warm Regards
K. V. Ramanarao
DIPRO, I&PR, NTR District

Note: Breakfast follows at 8 AM

Andhra Pradesh police launch hunt for shooting coach after family suicide



Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh police have launched a massive hunt for the coach of a shooting academy allegedly responsible for the suicide of a government employee, his wife and daughter.Ten teams of Rajamahendravaram and

Kakinada police were on the lookout for Sadikh Khan, founder and coach of the shooting academy in Kakinada.K. Nooka Raju, working as an Assistant Engineer at the Panchayat Raj Department in Pithapuram mandal of Kakinada district,

along with his wife, daughter and 10-year-old grandson Karthikya Reddy, jumped into the Godavari from the Road-cum-Rail bridge in Rajamahendravaram city on Sunday night.The boy was rescued by the fisherfolk as he was lying unconscious on an island in the river.The body of 61-year-old Nooka Raju was retrieved on Monday evening while the search was on for his wife Meena, 58, and daughter Sowjanya, 38.Personnel of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), with the help of expert divers, were continuing the search operation on Tuesday.A suicide note, believed to have been left by Raju in the car, alleged that Sadhik Khan, who runs the Pro Shooting Academy, had been harassing his daughter after the demise of her husband Jagdish Reddy recently.In the suicide note addressed to the Kakinada District Collector and Superintendent of Police, Raju wrote that Sadhik had been behind his daughter, promising to take care of her. He had allegedly threatened to eliminate Raju and his grandson when they rejected his proposal. He had allegedly taken their valuables.

Raju wrote that their family decided to end their lives as they were unable to face the atrocities against his daughter.

Based on a statement by Raju’s grandson and the suicide letter, a case was registered against Sadhik on the charges of ‘Abetment of suicide’ under Section 108 of the BNS.The case took a new turn on Tuesday when Soujanya’s father-in-law Bhaskar Reddy lodged a police complaint, alleging involvement of Sadhik in his son Jagdish Reddy’s death.Bhaskar Reddy claimed that his son died after a poisonous substance was injected into him on July 2. He suspects involvement of Sadhik and another person in the alleged murder.Bhaskar Reddy said new facts in the case came to light after he spoke to his grandson Karthikya Reddy, who was learning rifle shooting at Sadhik’s academy.

After Jagdish Reddy’s death, Sadhik had started coming to his house and tried to get closer to Soujanya.On Bhaskar Reddy’s complaint, a case was registered at Sarpavaram police station in Kakinada.During the investigation into the suicide case, police found a few letters from Soujanya’s car.Earlier, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan spoke to Kakinada SP G. Bindu Madhav and East Godavari SP D. Narasimha Kishore and asked them to speed up the investigation.

Eight Andhra fishermen missing in Bay of Bengal



Amaravati: Eight fishermen from Andhra Pradesh’s B. R. Ambedkar Konaseema district went missing at sea, officials said on Tuesday. The fishermen, who had set out on a boat in the Bay of Bengal for fishing on August 3, were scheduled to return on August 12. The families of the fishermen were anxious as there had been no communication from them since the time they ventured into the sea. Andhra Pradesh officials have alerted the Indian Coast Guard, and the search was on for the missing fishermen. Meanwhile, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu held a review meeting with officials regarding the incident in which a boat carrying fishermen from Odalarevu, Dummalapeta, and Vasalatippa villages in Allavaram Mandal of B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district went missing at sea. The Chief Minister inquired about the ongoing search operations to locate the eight fishermen on board. He directed officials to intensify the search efforts until the missing boat and fishermen are found. Officials informed the Chief Minister that the fishermen's boat had set out to sea for fishing from the Odalarevu jetty at 10 a.m. on August 3. They stated that while contact with family members was maintained via phone until 11 a.m., no further information was received thereafter. Also Read Meteorological department issues rain warnings in AP, Telangana Advertisement Discover more India News Portal Regional News Updates Andhra Pradesh Tourism Officials noted that the fishermen were carrying mobile phones in addition to a VHF set on the boat. They estimated that the boat likely reached the fishing grounds around 6 p.m. that same day. Officials mentioned that although the

boat was scheduled to return by August 12, it failed to do so, prompting the immediate launch of a special search operation. They further reported that the Coast Guard Commandant had been alerted and that Coast Guard vessels were actively conducting the search. Fishing boats from Kakinada, Bhairavapalem, Visakhapatnam, and Paradip have been alerted, and efforts were underway to gather information regarding the missing boat, they said.

The Chief Minister directed officials to maintain constant communication with the families of the missing fishermen and keep them updated on the search operations. He emphasised the need to utilise all available avenues to locate the fishermen safely and to coordinate all necessary actions. He made it clear that the search operation must continue through the coordinated efforts of the Coast Guard, the Fisheries Department, and the district administration until the boat is found. Chief Minister Chandrababu assured the affected families that the government stands firmly behind them. Last month, six fishermen died after the boat carrying them capsized just 10 nautical miles off the Gangavaram coast in Visakhapatnam.

A mechanised fishing vessel, carrying seven fisherfolk, had set off for fishing on July 1. The boat capsized while they were returning to the coast on July 4. One of them was rescued by the crew of a merchant vessel, and he was brought to the coast on July 6. The fishermen remained untraced after a four-day-long search and rescue operation by the Indian Navy and Coast Guard. The search operation was called off on July 8.

3-yr-old skater Dakshith completes 79-km non-stop marathon

Tirupati: A three-year-old skater from Madanapalle, Dakshith, successfully completed a 79-km non-stop skating marathon from Madanapalle to Kadi as a tribute to the brave soldiers of Indian armed forces. He completed the entire distance on skates without a break, displaying his determination, sporting spirit and discipline at a very young age. Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) chairman A Ravi Naidu congratulated Dakshith and felicitated him for his achievement. Speaking on the occasion, Ravi Naidu said it was commendable for a child of such a young age to successfully take up and complete such a challenging event. He said the marathon organised in honour of the soldiers reflected Dakshith’s patriotism, determination, discipline and interest in sports. Ravi Naidu also presented Rs 25,000 financial assistance to Dakshith to encourage his sporting talent and support his future activities. He said SAAP was working to promote sports in the State by identifying talented sportspersons and providing them with encouragement, financial assistance, guidance and other necessary support. He said young athletes with dedication and talent should be encouraged to pursue their sporting goals.



Engage With Youth, BJP Chief Nitin Nabin Tells Party Workers

VISAKHAPATNAM: In the backdrop of youth agitation across the country that cost union Education minister Dharmendra Pradhan his post, BJP national president Nitin Nabin on Tuesday called upon party leaders and workers to actively engage with young people and deal with their aspirations. Addressing the BJP state executive meeting in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday, Nabin said the country's future rests with its youth. BJP cadres must build stronger connections with them. He asked party workers to understand aspirations and ideas of the younger generation and provide them with opportunities to contribute to nation-building. "BJP leaders and workers must connect with the youth, encourage their ideas and inspire them to participate in building a Viksit Bharat and a Viksit Andhra Pradesh," the BJP party chief underlined. He asserted that the BJP, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is committed to empowering young people through development, employment opportunities, and good governance. He urged party workers to take the central government's development initiatives to the grassroots and ensure that the benefits of welfare and infrastructure projects reach every section of the society. BJP is the world's largest political party. He asked workers to draw inspiration from former Indian Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu's journey from a grassroots activist to a national leader. He maintained that the party works to spread its ideology rather than electoral gains. He thanked the people of Andhra Pradesh for supporting the NDA alliance and expressed confidence that the coalition government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan would continue to accelerate the state's development. The BJP chief criticised the Congress, alleging that the opposition's approach is irresponsible and is disrupting the country's progress. Earlier, state



Isha Koppikar says ‘call me Andhbbhakt’: ‘My devotion is not for any political party, but for my country’

Mumbai: Actress Isha Koppikar has responded to the ‘andhbbhakt’ label, saying she is proud to embrace it if loving and believing in India is considered ‘andhbbhakti.’ In a video shared on Instagram, the ‘Kaante’ actress spoke about patriotism, nationalism, and the importance of contributing to the country. Isha clarified that her devotion is not directed towards any political party but towards her country. “If loving your country, believing in India, and wanting its progress is devotion, then yes, I am proud to be a devotee, a blind devotee. But my devotion is not for any political party, but for my country, for my India. Nation first. Wherever you may live, learn to love that place, respect that place, and contribute to it,” she said. Isha further emphasized that patriotism should go beyond simply expressing love for one’s country. According to the actress, people should respect the place they call home and contribute towards making it better. “Be proud of the home you choose. Because patriotism is not just saying, I love my country. It is doing something that makes your country better.” She went on to add, “See, there are two types of children. One, who counts all their life what their parents have not given and what they have given. And the second, whatever they get, they make it not only their own,



but also their parents’ life.” “The difference is not just in circumstances, but in thinking. So why don’t we also change our thinking? Instead of asking what the country has given us all the time, why don’t we think about what we can give the country, what we can do for the country. Because India is chang

ing, my friend. Now is the time for our thinking to change and we become a part of making a new India. So, call me a devotee, call me a blind devotee, call me a nationalist. She concluded her message by reiterating her pride in being Indian. “I love my India. I believe in my India. Not blindly, but proudly, passionately, and unapologetically. Jai Hind. For the caption, Isha Koppikar wrote, “If loving India is “andhbbhakti,” then I’ll proudly wear the label. Because I can question what feels wrong, appreciate what feels right, and still put my nation above everything.” Previously, in July, Isha Koppikar had responded to criticism and trolling over her remarks on democracy. The actress asserted that her love for the country was something she took pride in. Isha shared a strong message for those questioning her stance. She had written, “If loving my country makes me a label, so be it. I’d rather be proud than apologetic.” Isha further added, “Yes, I’m an Andh Bhakt. I’m a Bharat Bhakti.”

Samantha Ruth Prabhu calls compression socks ‘new’ fashion

Mumbai: Samantha Ruth Prabhu recently revealed that “compression socks” are what she now calls fashion, offering a candid glimpse into her current style priorities. Taking to her Instagram Stories, the ‘Kushi’ actress shared a picture in which her legs and feet could be seen wrapped in compression socks. For the caption she simply wrote, “What I call fashion now: compression socks.” Going by the picture, it appears that Samantha’s feet are swollen, prompting her to turn to compression socks for comfort. To note, Samantha is expecting her first child, and compression socks are commonly used during pregnancy to help with swelling and improve circulation. For the unversed, the actress officially confirmed her pregnancy in June 2026, revealing that she and her husband, filmmaker Raj Nidimoru, are expecting their first child. The ‘Yashoda’ actress shared the news at the success meet of her film “Maa Inti Bangaaram” and also announced that she would be taking a temporary maternity break. Speaking to media, Samantha said, “After Maa Inti Bangaaram, I will have to take a small break, given my condition. I’ll have to take maternity leave. After that I’ll be back with another film for my fans.” Samantha and Raj Nidimoru tied the knot in an intimate ceremony on December 1, attended by just 30 guests. Samantha first met the filmmaker when she joined his Amazon Prime Video series “The Family Man 2. Reportedly, their initial interactions were strictly professional, with Samantha playing the fierce antagonist Raji in the critically acclaimed second season of the series, created by Raj and DK. Following the success of ‘The Family Man 2,’ Samantha and Raj Nidimoru teamed up

once again for “Citadel: Honey Bunny,” the Indian installment of the global Citadel franchise. While the series received mixed responses, reports claimed that the two grew closer during their time working together on the project.



“Tum bahut lambe ho...”: Big B shares struggles of early acting days



Mumbai: Megastar Amitabh Bachchan recalled facing rejection and harsh criticism during his struggling days in the Hindi film industry. The actor, while in a conversation with Commonwealth Games 2026 gold medallists Lovlina Borgohain, Jhandu Kumar, Sharmila Dhankar and Asmita Dey in a special episode celebrating India’s sporting achievement, revealed the harshness he faced during his initial days. The actor recalled being told that he was too tall to become an actor and being asked to leave a film set after he arrived late for a shoot. During the episode, Asmita asked Bachchan whether, like athletes are often scolded by their coaches for making mistakes during training, do actors also face the ire of directors on film sets. Big B laughed as he recalled how much he was criticised when he was trying to establish himself in the film industry. “Humko badi daant padti hain, shuru-shuru mein toh bahut padi thi. ‘Tumko kuch aata nahi hai, acting-wacting, tum bahut lambe ho, jaake ghar jao.’” (I used to get scolded a lot. In the beginning, I was scolded immensely. They would tell me, ‘You don’t know anything about acting, you are too tall, go back home’) He then recalled that even after he finally got work, the criticism did not stop. “Phir jab kaam mil gaya, ‘accha chalo theek hai, udhar khade ho jao, aur dialogue bolo. Aise koi dialogue bolne ka tareeka hai?’ Aise daant deke, aise bhale karo, dheere-dheere phir usko...” (Then when I finally got work, they would say, ‘Okay, fine, stand over there and say the dialogue.’ They would ask, ‘Is this any way to deliver a dialogue?’ They would scold and correct me, and slowly, I improved) Bachchan also shared an incident from his early days when he arrived late for a shoot and was asked to leave the

set. “Aam taur par hum chahte hain ki hum samay se pahunche shooting ke liye. Ek baar der ho gayi. Director jo hai, woh bahar khada hua, set ke. Aur hum gaadi lekar, kisi aur ki gaadi thi, tab hamare paas nahi thi, lekar pahunche toh usne dekha, shooting pack up ho gayi hai. ‘Get out from here,’ aur usne mujhe nikaal diya.” (Usually, I try to reach the shoot on time. Once, I was late. The director was standing outside the set. I arrived in a car that belonged to someone else because I did not have a car at the time. When I reached, the director saw me and said the shooting had been packed up. He told me, ‘Get out from here,’ and asked me to leave) For the uninitiated, Amitabh Bachchan who has been a part of the entertainment industry for over five decades, first association with cinema began as a voice-over artist before venturing into acting. In 1969, he had lent his distinctive baritone to Mrinal Sen’s ‘Bhuvan Shome’, a low-budget film that became a landmark of India’s parallel cinema movement. Around the same time, Amitabh Bachchan had auditioned for a newsreader’s position at All India Radio (AIR) but was rejected, with his deep voice reportedly considered unsuitable for the job. He then went on to make his acting debut the same year with ‘Saath Hindustani’, which unfortunately did not click with the audience. The megastar’s breakthrough came with films such as Zanjeer, which established him as the ‘angry young man’ of Hindi cinema. He subsequently delivered a string of major hits including Deewaar, Sholay, Don, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar, Trishul, Kaala Patthar and Agneepath amongst many others. Over the decades, Bachchan has worked across genres and generations, with films such as Mohabbatein, Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham, Black, Paa, Piku, Pink, 102 Not Out and Jhund adding to his extensive filmography.

Ram Pothineni shoots for 24 hours at a stretch for RaPo23!

Chennai: If sources in the industry are to be believed, Telugu star Ram Pothineni, who seems to be leaving no stone unturned for his ambitious directorial debut, RaPo23, has shot for 24 hours at a stretch on the outskirts of Pondicherry for the film. What makes the effort commendable is that Ram Pothineni is not just directing the film but is also playing the lead in it. For the unaware, a massive setup was mounted in Pondicherry for the schedule, which continued for nearly nine days. Sources say that Ram has been pushing himself vigorously as an actor while simultaneously overseeing every aspect of the film as its director. Unexpected rains have now disrupted the Pondicherry schedule, forcing the unit to temporarily halt filming and return to Hyderabad. The team is expected to head back to Pondicherry soon to complete the remaining portions on the same mas-



sive setup. The film is being produced by Krishna Pothineni under the Rapo Cinematics banner on a lavish scale. Sources have disclosed that the team plans to shoot a visually appealing song choreographed by popular dance master Brinda during this Pondicherry schedule. The unit

will also look to shoot several high-voltage action episodes designed by well-known stunt choreographer Vikram Mor, whose impressive filmography includes blockbusters like ‘KGF: Chapter 1’, ‘Kantara’, and ‘Karuppu’3, during this schedule. Conceived by Ram himself, #RAPO23 is touted to be a unique psychological action thriller set in a gripping neo-noir world. The film, which was formally announced on the occasion of the actor’s birthday, will have Ram Pothineni playing a character called Veera in it. The film is backed by a strong technical crew. National Award-winning cinematographer Thirunavukarasu (Thirru) is behind the camera while the action department features the combined expertise of Vikram Mor and acclaimed stunt choreographer Peter Hein. A S Prakash has taken on the responsibilities of Production design for this film.

I was a huge fan of Harbhajan, says Ashwin



“Under Dinesh Karthik’s captaincy, I played Under-19 cricket for the first time. Back then, I used to bat a bit, and didn’t bowl as much. So, whenever I bowled, I used to bowl with Bhajju Pa’s bowling action because I was genuinely a fan,” former India all-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin said. In a chat with JioStar, Ashwin recalled how he was a huge fan of former India off-spinner Harbhajan Singh. When Bhajju Pa came onto the scene, every day I used to copy his action while playing gully cricket. And actually, his dismissal of Ricky Ponting, and the dismissal of Matthew Hayden while bowling from over the stumps, during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, I watched all those matches very closely,” Ashwin recalled. “But I never thought I’d become an off-spinner. In my mind, it was always batting. But when he used to bowl, there was something about him, his character, his ability to stand up to everyone and take the fight. So, I really liked that generation. I was genuinely a fan of him, and from there, I never imagined I would come this far,” he said. On how constructive criticism served as fuel for him to get better: Ashwin said: “After my first Australia tour, Sanjay Manjrekar wrote a long article. When I was returning, I read the whole thing, and after reading it, I got really angry. I actually felt bad. Anger was just a reaction, but I felt really bad. But after that, I slept

on the flight and let it go.” “Back then, I didn’t talk to Sanjay much. Then, after coming back home, I worked really hard for the next four years. I wasn’t a gifted athlete. I worked very hard, and in 2015, he wrote another article saying that I was bowling so well now and that he wanted me to keep performing like that,” he said. “Then I asked for his number and messaged him that I had felt bad back then, but his article came to me like a guru and changed my life. Because there was substance in what he said. So, if I ever get criticised, I just think about whether there’s something to learn from it. If I feel there’s something to learn, I take it,” Ashwin said. On James Anderson’s remark after Virat Kohli’s double hundred during England’s tour of India in 2016, Ashwin said: “Jimmy Anderson is a great bowler and bowled really well throughout his career, with unbelievable skills! They batted first and made 450-odd in the first innings in Mumbai. After that, we were 330 for six at one point before Virat smashed a magnificent double hundred. He completely took control and helped us overhaul their score, and we got to 630-odd. “We were about to inflict an innings defeat on them, and that very day, Anderson came for the press conference and said, ‘This is India, let him come to England.’ Man, how hard is it for you to give someone credit? So, I felt it was below the line.

Divya, Tejaswin, Gayatri Gopichand named for Arjuna Awards



New Delhi: World Cup winning chess player Divya Deshmukh, decathlete and high jumper Tejaswin Shankar and shuttler Gayatri Gopichand were among the 17 sportspersons named for the prestigious Arjuna Award on Tuesday. The Sports Ministry, however, did not name any athlete for the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award this year. Also on the Arjuna Award nomination list are Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi, Gayatri Gopichand’s women’s doubles partner Treesa Jolly, Glasgow Commonwealth

Games silver-medallist boxer Narendra, and young deaf rifle shooter Dhanush Srikanth. 1962 Asian Games gold medalist footballer I Arumainayagam was conferred the Arjuna Award for ‘Lifetime Achievement’. Divya, India’s fourth female chess Grandmaster, earned the title after winning the FIDE Women’s World Cup 2025 in Batumi, Georgia. Tejaswin Shankar recently won a historic decathlon bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games, becoming the first Indian to do so in the quadrennial event.

Serena and Venus Williams return to doubles and lose close match in Cincinnati

Mason: Serena and Venus Williams played their first doubles match together since the 2022 U.S. Open and lost a thriller, 2-6, 6-1 (10-8) to Marta Kostyuk and Peyton Stearns on Monday night at the Cincinnati Open. The sisters nearly recovered from a 6-0



deficit in the match tiebreaker before a double-fault by Venus Williams ended their first doubles appearance in a non-Grand Slam event since the Italian Open in 2016. “I thought it was fun,” Serena said. “I thought it was special. We kicked off a little rust in the middle of the match and just, you know (were) starting to feel it. I didn’t come out here to win this tournament. Winning is obviously great. But in this position just, you know, having fun. It was really cool to be able to do this again.” Serena had been off the tour since 2022 before returning this summer at age 44. The sisters planned to play together at Wimbledon but had to withdraw after Serena injured her knee while losing her singles match. They entered Cincinnati as a wild card. “Eventually we would find our way to each other,” the 46-year-old Venus said about the decision to play doubles again. “It’s our first time playing together in forever. It was great for us to get out there and do it.” Kostyuk and Stearns, both 24, are playing in their first tournament together. Kostyuk is from Ukraine. Stearns grew up in the Cincinnati suburb of Mason, where the tournament is played every year. “I kind of expected it but it stung a little bit that this is my hometown,” Stearns said about the pro-Williams sisters crowd. “I won’t hold it against anyone. The crowd was going

for them but we used it to our advantage and flipped the script.” After dropping the first set, the Williams sisters rolled in the second to force a match tiebreak. Kostyuk and Stearns went ahead 6-0, but consecutive double-faults by Kostyuk helped the Williamses get within 8-7. It was 9-8 after Serena powerfully put away an overhead before Venus double-faulted. “The crowd got the show,” Kostyuk said. “They probably couldn’t ask for anything better. At the end a tiebreak is a lottery. You never know which way it’s going to go.” Venus and Serena have won 14 Grand Slam doubles titles and 22 total. Serena won one with Alexandra Stevenson in 2002 at Leipzig. All of Venus’ doubles titles have been with her sister. They also have won three Olympic gold medals together. Serena has won 23 singles Grand Slam titles.

Venus has won seven. In other results Monday, defending Cincinnati champion Iga Swiatek rallied from a set down to win her eighth consecutive match, beating Maria Sakkari, 4-6, 6-1, 6-1. No. 2 seed Elena Rybakina beat Magdal ena Frech, 6-4, 7-6. Third-ranked Jessica Pegula beat fellow American Emma Navarro, 7-5, 6-2. World No. 3 and top seed Alexander Zverev won his ATP-tour leading 46th match this season, outlasting Terence Atmane, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (6).

Vignesh Vermula and Saranya Devi win Asian Junior Blitz titles for India

Mumbai: Vignesh Vermula won the title in the Open section, while Saranya Devi clinched the Girls title as host nation India made a strong start in the Blitz category on the opening day of the Asian Junior Chess Championship 2026 at the ITC Maratha Sheraton in Mumbai on Monday. The championship was formally inaugurated by Jayraj Pathak (IAS), former BMC Commissioner, and the hosts started on a bright note by bagging the top spots in the Open and Girls Blitz Championship, respectively. The biggest surprise of the tournament came from Vignesh Vermula, who started the event as the 23rd seed but produced a remarkable performance to emerge as the Asian Junior Open Blitz Champion 2026.



Displaying exceptional speed, tactical alertness and consistency throughout the competition, Vignesh finished tied on points with compatriots Sharnarthi Viresh and Nandish V. S., but secured the title on superior tie-break scores. It was a day for the underdog in the girls’ section as well, with Saranya, seeded 9th, impressed with her quick thinking and tactical precision to win the title. The top seed,

Shohradova Lala of Turkmenistan, claimed the silver medal, while India’s Sannidhi Bhat finished third. Viresh claimed the silver medal in the Open section, while Nandish completed an all-India podium by securing the bronze medal. India’s dominance was further underlined by the performances of Akshay Borganokar and Madhavendra Pratap Sharma, who finished fourth and fifth respectively. Among the overseas participants, Akhibay Imangali of Kazakhstan emerged as the highest-ranked foreign player, securing sixth place, while Shagdldi Kurbandurdyev of Turkmenistan finished ninth. The tournament proved disappointing for the top seed, International Master Mayank Chakraborty of India, who was unable to find his rhythm and eventually finished in 13th place.

Stock markets decline in early trade as crude oil jumps to US\$ 91 per barrel

Mumbai: Market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined in early trade on Tuesday as elevated crude oil prices and rising tensions in West Asia weighed heavily on investors' sentiment. The 30-share BSE Sensex was down 278.32 points to 77,450.64 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty edged lower by 57.65 points to 24,230.45. From the Sensex pack, Bharti Airtel, Asian Paints, Inter Globe Aviation, Infosys, HCL Tech, and Tech Mahindra were among the major laggards. Reliance Industries, Sun Pharma, Maruti, and Axis Bank were among the winners. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 0.63 per cent higher at USD 91.46 per barrel.

“Two developments during the last several hours are likely to impact the market today, at least in the early hours of trading. One, Brent crude has again spiked above USD 91 on escalation of tensions between Iran and the US. Two, the US 10-year bond yield has increased to 4.73 per cent and this is negative for FII inflows which had turned positive in July and August so far,” V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Ltd, said. The tailwind for the market is the resilient Indian economy and clear indications of a turnaround in earnings growth, he added. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225, Shanghai's SSE Composite index, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index traded lower. US markets ended in negative territory on Monday. “Elevated crude, with Brent near USD 91 on unresolved Iran tensions, kept sentiment guarded. Wall Street mirrored the caution,” Rajesh Palviya, Head of Research at Axis Direct, said. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs

Maruti Suzuki's 'FRONX' becomes fastest Indian SUV to hit 2 lakh exports



New Delhi: Leading automobile firm Maruti Suzuki India Limited on Tuesday said that its popular SUV — FRONX — has crossed the milestone of 2 lakh exports in under 38 months, becoming the fastest SUV from India to achieve this feat. Exports of the Made-in-India FRONX began in June 2023 and the model achieved its first lakh exports in under 25 months before adding the second lakh in about 13 months, the company said in a statement. Manufactured at Maruti Suzuki's Hansalpur facility in Gujarat, FRONX is being exported to nearly 90 countries, including Japan, the statement added. “Every vehicle exported by Maruti Suzuki carries the hard work and pride of our people. These vehicles take a piece of Indian manufacturing to nearly 120 countries. FRONX has been a key contributor to Maruti Suzuki's success in exports. Since FY 24-25, it has been India's No. 1 exported passenger vehicle,” Hisashi Takeuchi, Managing Director & CEO, Maruti Suzuki India



2,535.10 crore on Monday, according to exchange data. On Monday, the Sensex declined 281.09 points, or 0.36 per cent, to settle at 77,728.16. The Nifty was down 78.35 points, or 0.32 per cent, to end at 24,287.65, taking the losses to the fifth day.

Rain disrupts coal production at SCCL mines

Khammam: Rain disrupted coal production at SCCL's opencast mines at Sathupalli in the district. Sathupalli and surrounding areas received moderate rainfall on Monday night. A rainfall of 11 mm was recorded at JVR OC and 15 mm rainfall at Kishtaram OC. As a result, production of 20,000 tonnes of coal and the excavation of 80,000 cubic meters of overburden at JVR OC were disrupted. Similarly, the production of 6,000 tonnes of coal and the excavation of 35,000 cubic meters of overburden were disrupted at Kishtaram OC. The production resumed on Tuesday.

Razorpay introduces Vulcan to boost reliability of digital transactions

New Delhi: Fintech major Razorpay has launched an AI-powered payments foundation model — Razorpay Vulcan — built with NVIDIA and AWS technology aimed at making digital transactions more reliable, secure and predictable as India's digital economy continues to expand, the company said on Tuesday. The company described it as India's first transformer-based AI foundation model built specifically for payments. Developed using technology from NVIDIA and Amazon Web Services (AWS), the model is designed to address payment failures, fraud, transaction routing and checkout-related friction across India's diverse digital payments ecosystem. Razorpay said the model was developed after an internal study involving 1.5 million shoppers and more than 51,000 businesses, which found that payment-related friction affected consumers across both metropolitan and smaller markets. In addition, early components of the model have already been deployed across around 3 trillion data points on its payments network to test routing, fraud and risk decisions on live transactions, according to the company. It further noted that the technology has helped improve payment success rates by up to 10 per cent and detect and prevent eight times more international card fraud. It has also identified five times more fraudulent or disputed transactions without increasing the number of alerts. The company said 40 per cent more shoppers were able to see their preferred UPI application on its Magic Checkout platform, helping facilitate an additional 1-2



lakh purchases every month. Razorpay CEO and Co-founder Harshil Mathur said the initiative was aimed at making digital payments more dependable for consumers who were still deciding whether to trust digital transactions over cash. Pahal Patangia, Head of Global Industry Business Development and Payments, NVIDIA said that India's rapidly evolving digital economy is creating an opportunity to make payments more intelligent, reliable, and secure. Geographic Reference “Razorpay is reimagining payments intelligence at India scale with an AI Foundation Model – built on Amazon SageMaker – that consolidates billions of transaction insights into a single, continuously learning intelligence layer, replacing fragmented ML models with unified AI that delivers higher payment success rates, rapid iteration, and enterprise-grade security for mission-critical payment flows,” says Kiran Jagannath, Head of FSI and Conglomerates, AWS India and South Asia. India's payments ecosystem involves multiple payment modes, including UPI, cards, net banking, wallets and cash on delivery, with transactions routed through hundreds of banks and gateways. Razorpay said its model is designed to assess payment routes in real time and select the most suitable route before a transaction is attempted. The new model would eventually be expanded to power payment decisions across authentication, routing, fraud detection and lending as India's digital commerce market grows, the company said.

Rupee falls 19 paise to 95.61 against US dollar

Mumbai: The rupee depreciated 19 paise to close at 95.61 against the US dollar on Monday, amid weak domestic equity markets and a surge in crude oil prices. Forex traders said the USD/INR pair is likely to trade with a slight negative bias, pressured by the delay in the deal between the US and Iran, rising crude oil prices and broader dollar support. Moreover, investors' sentiment turned cautious after the Reserve Bank of India on August 14 said that its swap facility for FCNR (B) deposits will be available only for deposits mobilised till August 31. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 95.50 against the greenback and traded in a range of 95.49-95.68 during the session. It eventually settled at 95.61, lower by 19 paise from its previous close. On Friday, the rupee appreciated 3 paise to close at 95.42 against the US dollar. Earlier, the cut-off date for Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) or FCNR (B) deposits was September 30. Under the FCNR (B) scheme, banks offer attractive interest rates to mobilise foreign currency deposits. The Reserve Bank on Friday said its concessional swap facility, introduced to encourage foreign currency inflows, has attracted USD 56.84 billion till August 13. The Indian rupee declined on weak domestic markets and a surge in crude oil prices.



However, a soft dollar cushioned the downside, Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Mirae Asset ShareKhan said, adding, “we expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on delay in the deal between the US and Iran and rising crude oil prices.” Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 99.40, down 0.26 per cent. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading higher by 0.99 per cent at USD 89.40 per barrel in futures trade. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex dropped 281.09 points to settle at 77,728.16, while the Nifty closed lower by 78.35 points at 24,287.65. Foreign institutional investors offloaded equities worth Rs 2,535.10 crore on a net basis on Monday, according to exchange data. Meanwhile, India's forex reserves jumped USD 14.136 billion to USD 707.002 billion during the week ended August 7, the Reserve Bank said on Friday. The overall kitty had jumped by USD 10.512 billion to USD 692.866 billion in the previous reporting week ended July 31.

PM Rahat Scheme: Free Treatment Up To Rs.1.5 Lakh For Road Accident Victims



Vijayawada, Aug 18, 2026: District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha on Tuesday directed officials to create widespread awareness among the public about the Central Government's PM Rahat Scheme, which provides cashless treatment to road accident victims. Chairing the District Road Safety Committee meeting at the Pingali Venkaiah Conference Hall, the Collector said the scheme, launched by the Centre on February 13, 2026, ensures immediate medical care to victims without waiting for payment.

Key Highlights of PM Rahat Scheme:

Cashless Treatment: Every accident victim is eligible for cashless treatment

up to a maximum of ₹1.50 lakh for up to 7 days from the date of accident.

‘Good Samaritan’ Incentive: Persons who help an accident victim and shift them to hospital within 1 hour of the accident will be recognized as 'Good Samaritans' and are eligible for an incentive of ₹25,000.

No Legal Hassles: The Collector clarified that Good Samaritans will not face any unnecessary legal trouble. After shifting the victim to hospital and providing necessary information, they can leave.

Road Accidents Down 13.5%: “The Collector informed that 583 road acci-



dents were reported in the district between January and July 2026, a 13.5% decrease compared to the same period last year. She stressed the need to identify 'black spots' and take immediate preventive measures including road engineering, lighting, signaling and speed control. Most accidents occur between 9 AM to 12 PM and 3 PM to 6 PM, she added. Police Commissioner Calls For Responsible Behaviour “Commissioner of Police S.V. Rajasekhar Babu said pedestrians, two-wheeler riders and senior citizens are most vulnerable to accidents. He noted that 34 people died in accidents in the Ibrahimpatnam area alone. He also informed that 17 junctions in the

city currently have signal lights and work is underway at 25 more locations. All major junctions will have signals in place by Dasara. Between 2022 and August 2026, 344 hit-and-run cases were registered in the district. Compensation of ₹2.32 crores was paid to victims' families in 273 cases, while 40 cases are pending. Deputy Transport Commissioner M. Purendra said road safety is a collective responsibility and all departments are working in coordination. The meeting was attended by NHA PD M. Vidyasagar, Road Safety Organization District President Erramshetti Anjibabu, and officials from Police, Transport, Health, and VMC departments.

COLLECTOR INSPECTS ANGANWADI CENTRE, REVIEWS CHILDREN'S EDUCATION AND NUTRITION



District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha on Tuesday made a surprise inspection of the Anganwadi Centre at Morusumilli village in Mylavaram Mandal. During the visit, the Collector reviewed the services being provided to children, pre-primary education, nutritional meals, and basic facilities at the centre. She interacted warmly with the children and enquired about their names, studies, and what they were learning at the Anganwadi Centre. She also observed the children's responses to various questions. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Lakshmisha in-

structed the staff to ensure the provision of quality nutritious food to children. She emphasized the need to effectively implement educational programs that support the physical and mental development of children. The Collector directed officials to give special attention to children's health, nutrition, and pre-primary education. She said government services through Anganwadi Centres must reach every eligible child in full. She also stressed the importance of maintaining a pleasant and safe environment in and around the centre premises.

Ap aims app ensures transparent fertilizer services



Ntr district / mylavaram, August 18, 2026: District collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said the Ap aims app is helping in bringing transparency and efficiency in fertilizer supply to farmers. She added that sufficient fertilizer stocks have been kept ready in the district to ensure there is no shortage for farmers. The collector on Tuesday inspected the Paces fertilizer supply centre at Morusumilli village in Mylavaram mandal. She checked the stocks of various fertilizers available at the centre and reviewed records of supply made so far. She also took feedback from farmers on the Ap aims app. Speaking on the occasion, the collector said that 2,532 metric

tonnes of urea is available with Paces and 4,148 metric tonnes with private fertilizer dealers in the district. In case of Dap, 591 metric tonnes is available with Paces and 586 metric tonnes with private dealers. She said farmers can contact the command and control room at phone number 9154970454 for any complaints or issues regarding fertilizer sales. The collector stated that the government is working to manage the fertilizer supply system in a transparent and effective manner with farmers' welfare as the main objective. She added that continuous monitoring of fertilizer stocks, supply and distribution will be carried out till the end of the agricultural season.

Give priority to rabi crops: collector

Ntr district / mylavaram, August 18: District collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha has advised farmers to give priority to rabi crops in view of the current weather conditions. She said farmers should plan crop cultivation in advance to effectively deal with el nino conditions. The collector participated in the "polam pilusthondi" programme held at Morusumilli village in Mylavaram mandal on Tuesday. She explained about the crops currently being cultivated, precautions to be taken and the plan to tackle el nino conditions. The collector said crop insurance is very important to provide financial security to farmers when crops are damaged due to natural calamities and climate change. She asked farmers to prioritize rabi crops and make effective use of available water resources considering the present weather conditions. She said cultivation of pm ds crops will reduce soil temperature and retain moisture for a longer period, thereby increasing crop stability. She also suggested focusing on horticulture crops that give higher income along with animal husbandry. The collector stated that



natural farming is a boon for farmers. By reducing the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and promoting natural farming methods, cultivation costs can be reduced and soil fertility can be protected. She said the government is creating wide awareness among farmers on natural farming and encouraging them on a large scale. The collector added that farmers' welfare is the main objective of the government. She said technical advice and suggestions are being provided to farmers from time to time in view of climate change and farmers should make good use of them and adopt effective crop cultivation practices. The collector along with officials also visited a pm ds crop field. District agriculture officer Ch. Tirumaladevi, agriculture ad M. Srinivasa Rao, mandal agriculture officer K. Sandhyarani, and officials from agriculture and allied departments participated in the programme. This fits well for Page 6 - Agriculture / Rural News Want me to also make a 4-point highlight box for this story like: Priority to rabi crops Pm ds for crop stability Natural farming promoted Crop insurance stressed.

