

Chandrababu Naidu calls for southern states' cooperation, proposes regional bullet train

Chennai: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday outlined a roadmap for the comprehensive development of the southern states at the 31st Southern Zonal Council meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, proposing among others, a regional bullet train corridor. He also called for greater cooperation and coordination between the Centre and the states. Addressing the meeting attended by the Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala, besides the LG of Puducherry, Naidu said the southern states should resolve the inter-state issues through trust and mutual cooperation. "The development of the southern states can be achieved only through cooperation and coordination," he said. The CM proposed a bullet train corridor connecting Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu via Kuppam, alongside a transit network linking Amaravati, Bengaluru and Chennai. Naidu suggested creating a common logistics network, dry ports in the southern states, and full integration of the southern power grid with the national grid to strengthen regional infrastructure and energy security. He also proposed setting up a joint consortium with universities and skilling institutions in the southern states and a mutual aid force to share resources during disasters. The chief minister sought the establishment of a common spiritual tourism circuit connecting Tirupati with northern sites like Kashi, Ayodhya and the Char Dham. According to him, the

See 2nd page



See 2nd page

See 2nd page

See 2nd page

Jagan challenges Chandrababu to order CBI probe into alleged DSC 2025 and Group I exam irregularities

Amaravati: Former Chief Minister and YSRCP President, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, on Thursday challenged Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to order a CBI enquiry into both the alleged irregularities in DSC 2025 and the APPSC Group I examination. Asserting that his party was ready for a probe into Group I examination held during YSRCP rule, he asked whether the TDP-led coalition government was prepared to subject the DSC issue to the same



scrutiny. Addressing a press conference, Jagan Mohan Reddy said, contrary to the allegations levelled by the coalition, APPSC 2018 exams were conducted in a transparent manner and as per Court directives, giving

See 2nd page

Banks and vendors directed to expedite PM Surya Ghar loans



Kurnool: Electricity Department Superintending Engineer (SE) Pradeep Kumar and Lead District Manager (LDM) P Mohan directed commercial banks and solar equipment vendors to work in close coordination and expedite loan processing under the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. Presiding over a review meeting held at Vidyut Bhavan

See 2nd page

AIYF submits memorandum to DRO demanding immediate jobs for youth



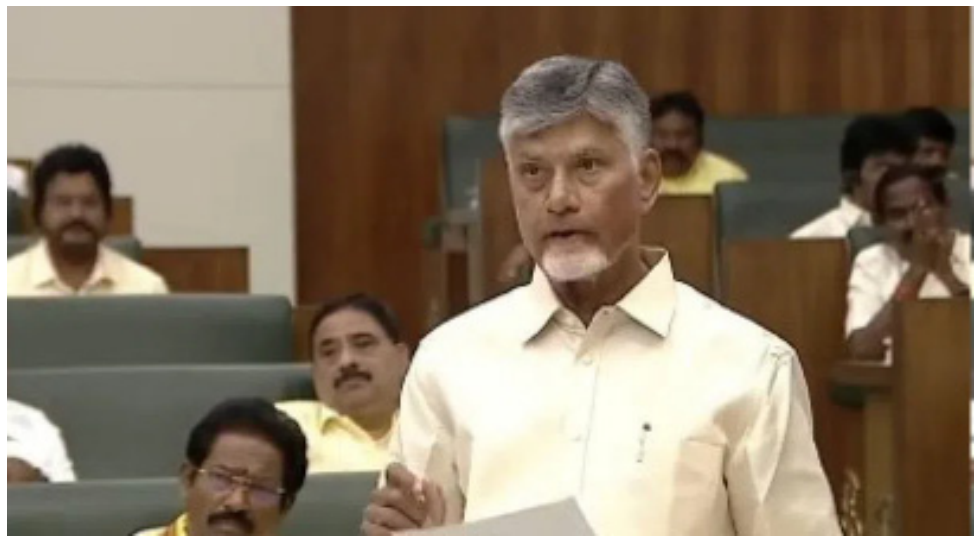
Nandyal: Leaders of the All-India Youth Federation (AIYF) Nandyal district committee submitted a formal memorandum to District Revenue Officer Ram Naik at the Collectorate on Wednesday, demanding immediate steps by the State government to generate employment and livelihood opportunities for

the youth. Speaking to reporters, AIYF District General Secretary Naga Ramudu urged the ruling coalition to fulfill its poll promises and expedite pending recruitment drives. He demanded a High Court inquiry into the alleged 2025 DSC question paper leak, the enactment of

See 2nd page

Naidu alleges irregularities in APPSC Group-1 exams under YSRCP regime

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday alleged that unprecedented irregularities took place in the APPSC Group-1 examinations conducted during the previous government's tenure. Speaking in the State Legislative Assembly, he said there were violations of procedures in the recruitment of Group-1 officers. He claimed that answer scripts were evaluated by plumbers, electricians and security guards. The Chief Minister slammed the previous government for undermining the credibility of Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC), which is a key institution responsible for selecting senior officials for the State. The Chief Minister said the irregularities in the Group-1 examinations would be comprehensively analysed and further action would be taken. He announced that APPSC would be completely overhauled to ensure that such incidents do not



recur, with transparent evaluation procedures and stronger security standards put in place. Naidu said reforms would be undertaken after obtaining suggestions from the public and intellectuals. The system needs to be thoroughly reformed to ensure that such irregularities never recur, he said. He alleged that the person who violated rules while occupying the Chief Minister's chair during the previous government was absent from the Assembly instead of answering the people on the

issue. The Chief Minister said 1.14 lakh candidates had applied for the Group-1 notification issued in 2018, of whom 325 were shortlisted. He said the rules were completely disregarded in conducting an examination for which candidates worked extremely hard to secure government jobs. Naidu said that although the High Court had directed that manual evaluation be undertaken instead of digital evaluation, affidavits were filed in a manner that allegedly misled the court.



Vande Mataram row: Congress defends two-stanza practice, hits back at BJP

New Delhi: As the Vande Mataram row intensifies, the Congress party on Thursday defended its long-standing practice of singing the first two stanzas of the national song at its programmes, invoking the legacy and endorsement of leaders including Mahatma Gandhi, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

and Rabindranath Tagore to assert its historical nationalist credentials amid sharp criticism from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). A couple of Congress leaders argued that the party's position on the rendition of 'Vande Mataram' is rooted in a longstanding organisational de-

See 2nd page



Rajiv Gandhi: The visionary who laid the foundations of India’s future

As India commemorates the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on August 20, it is an occasion not merely to remember the great leader, but to also reflect on a statesman whose vision helped shape the foundations of modern India. Rajiv Gandhi’s contribution to the nation transcended the politics of his era. His emphasis on technology, education, youth empowerment, decentrali sation, democratic reforms and global engagement continues to influence India’s developmental trajectory even decades later. Rajiv Gandhi assumed office under extraordinary circumstances in 1984 following the tragic assassination of prime minister Indira Gandhi. At the age of 40, he became India’s youngest Prime Minister and inherited a nation grappling with uncertainty and grief. In the subsequent general election, the Congress party secured an unprecedented mandate, winning 414 seats in the Lok Sabha. Rather than treating this overwhelming support as a symbol of political dominance, He sought to utilise it as an opportunity to modernise India and prepare the country for the challenges and opportunities of the twenty-first century. At a time when computers were viewed with suspicion and fears of job displacement dominated public discourse, he recognised the transformative potential of information technology. His government encouraged computeris ation and promoted technological innovation within public institutions. The establishment and strengthening of the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) became a milestone in India’s telecommu- nications journey. The expansion of tele- phone connectivity through STD and PCO networks brought communication services closer to ordinary citizens and laid the groundwork for India’s future digital revolution. Today, India stands as a global hub for information technol- ogy, digital innovation, start-ups and artificial intelligence. Mobile connectivity, internet access and digital governance have become integral to everyday life. The foundations for this transformation can be traced to the vision and policy direction initiated during Rajiv Gandhi’s tenure. Rahul Gandhi on Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary Education was another area where Rajiv Gandhi demonstrated remarkable foresight. His government established the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in 1985, expanding access to higher education for millions. The National Policy on Edu- cation of 1986 sought to improve edu- cational quality while promoting greater equity and inclusion. The Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya system was intro- duced to identify and nurture talented students from rural India, ensuring that geographical location did not become a barrier to educational opportunity. Today, these institutions continue to play a vital role in shaping the aspira- tions and achievements of students from diverse backgrounds. Rajiv Gandhi also believed strongly in empowering young people and integrating them into the democratic process. Through the 61st Constitutional Amendment, the voting age was reduced from 21 to 18 years, enabling millions of young Indians to participate directly in shaping the nation’s future.



Continuous medical services with- out any inconvenience to patients

Vijayawada, August 20: District collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha conducted a surprise inspection of new ggh on thursday night. The collector inspected emergency treatment department in the hospital and examined medical services being provided to patients, availability of staff and facilities for patients. She directed doctors, nursing staff and other staff to work in coordination to ensure immediate medical treatment to patients coming to hospital in emergency situations. The collector examined whether necessary facilities are being properly provided to patients and their attendants in hospital. She enquired officials about seating arrangements and other facilities especially in waiting areas for patients and their relatives. She suggested making additional seating arrangements wherever necessary and taking steps to ensure no inconvenience to patients. The collector examined steps taken by hospital administration to ensure no adverse impact on medical services in backdrop of junior doctors strike. Collector made it clear that it is prime responsibility of officials to provide necessary medical treatment to every patient coming to hospital on time. Collector lakshmisha said patients should not face difficulties under any circumstances. Hospital superintendent Dr. Raghunandan, Dr. Ntr vaidya seva district coordinator Dr. J. Suman and others were with collector.

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Continu, from1st page

southern states contribute 31 per cent of the country’s GDP and could achieve a USD 10 trillion economy by 2047 through strategic cooperation. The text of his speech was released in Amaravati by the Andhra government .On Andhra Pradesh’s pending bifurcation-related issues, he said institutions listed under Schedules 9 and 10 of the bifurcation Act have not been divided even after 12 years and urged the Centre to take speedy action to resolve them. He thanked the Centre for Polavaram projects, the South Coast Railway Zone and Amaravati. Naidu sought the resolution of the state’s resource deficit and issues related to Section 56 of the bifurcation Act, besides urging the Centre to expedite clearances for the Dugarajapatnam port and refinery proposals. He also requested approval for the Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada metro rail projects and the Kadapa JSW railway link. On water management, Naidu advocated diverting more than 500 TMC of water through the Godavari-Cauvery river-linking project, saying it would provide a permanent solution to Tamil Nadu’s water problem. He further said Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu should coordinate on river waters and called for a long-term national plan to link the Ganga and Cauvery rivers, along with time-bound Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) and clear- ances for river-linking projects.

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Continu, from1st page

on Wednesday, officials evaluated application scrutiny, loan disbursements, and technical challenges on the scheme’s digital portal. Highlighting the environmental and economic ben- efits of the initiative, SE Pradeep Kumar stated that widespread adoption of rooftop solar systems is essential for promoting green energy, reducing household electricity expenditure, and lowering carbon emissions. He urged financial institutions and vendors to extend full operational support to applicants to ensure seamless onboarding. Setting a clear benchmark for the district, LDM P Mohan instructed banks and solar vendors to jointly source and process 10,000 applications under the Surya Ghar scheme in Kurnool district during the current financial year. Addressing the forum, solar vendors brought key opera- tional hurdles to light, including credit score (CIBIL) issues, applicant name mismatches on the web portal, and procedural delays at local bank branches. Bank representatives assured the meeting that applications submitted by eligible beneficiaries would be verified and cleared promptly to ensure early loan disbursements.

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Continu, from1st page

no room for any misappropriation. “On the other hand, the conduct of DSC has been shady right from setting of question paper to the recruitment,” he said. The YSRCP chief claimed that both Chandrababu Naidu and his son and Education Min- ister Nara Lokesh admitted irregularities in the Assembly but did not allow the topic to come up in the Council. The YSRCP has been boycotting Assembly over denial of Leader of Op- position status to its leader while the party has been participat- ing in the proceedings of the Council. Giving a detailed ac- count of the alleged irregularities in DSC, he said the setting of question paper and conduct of DSC was given to the same institution which opened the floodgates for corruption and pa- per leakage. This is how the outsourcing employee Naveen had access to the question paper and had topped the marks list. Once the issue came into the open, his name was deleted in the second merit list and he moved court stating his details were deleted, he said.

“In the sports quota, the government has issued two GOs exempting the job aspirants from writing the DSC exam. After the favoured people were taken in, the gates were closed by issuing two more GOs negating the earlier ones. In the pro- cess, 372 people got jobs and the government has put up a meek defence by stating that as we have given a job to PV Sindhu, the same norms apply to others in sports quota,” he said. The former Chief Minister stated that none of the 372 people recruited have played international tournaments and the one who won a gold medal in Archery in the National Games was denied job. “There are audio clippings which went viral on the job trading but no action was taken. This is why the DSC needs to be probed by CBI and the Education Minister should resign,” he said. The YSRCP chief alleged that to save the skin of Lokesh, the ruling coalition raked up APPSC issue “But the fact remains that it was conducted in the most transparent man- ner. The preliminary exams were held when Chandrababu was the Chief Minister. What we have done is the conduct of final exams to those who passed the preliminary exam. With the coalition raising the Group I issue, the future of 163 high-rank- ing officials is put in jeopardy,” he said. He explained that due to Covid the government had planned to go for digital evalua- tion but on court direction manual evaluation was done. He claimed that it was done in the glare of CCTVs in the APPSC office and in educational institutions. The evaluation was done in a jumbling method and bar code was used and there is no scope of the evaluator knowing the aspirant. “We have brought in reforms in the exam system and the allegation of tampering with the marks does not arise and it is done only to underplay the seriousness of DSC scam from leakage to appointments which deserve CBI enquiry and the resignation of Education Minister. Increase the scope of the CBI enquiry and bring the Group I exams under its purview as well,” he added.

AIYF submits memorandum to DRO demanding immediate jobs for youth

Continu, from1st page

a dedicated Youth Employment Guarantee Act, bringing the NEET exam under State administration, and raising the upper age limit for police recruitment to 38 years. Expressing concern over growing social issues, Naga Ramudu stated that severe unemployment is pushing youngsters onto the streets, with many falling prey to substance abuse and crime. He called for the immediate release of government corporation loans to fa- cilitate self-employment ventures for youth, alongside filling all SC and ST backlog vacancies. The federation further demanded an end to public sector privatization, scrapping the Public- Private Partnership (PPP) model in government medical col- leges, protecting the AP volunteer system, and securing em- ployment for AP Beverages staff. To ensure long-term job se- curity, the AIYF advocated setting up heavy industries in back- ward regions and developing Amaravati into a primary em- ployment hub. Warning that AIYF would launch state-wide agitations if these demands remain unaddressed, Naga Ramudu led the delegation comprising leaders Uday, Bunny Lokesh, Srikanth, and others. Official state notices can be tracked via the Andhra Pradesh State Portal.

Vande Mataram row: Congress defends two-stanza practice, hits back at BJP

Continu, from1st page

cision dating back to the freedom struggle and was not a re- cent political development. They also alleged that Congress workers continued singing the national song despite facing per- secution and British action during the freedom movement, while accusing members associated with the Jan Sangh and RSS of informing the British about the freedom fighters who sang the song. This came a day after the Congress Working Committee (CWC) resolved to continue following the tradition established through a 1937 CWC decision, under which only the first two stanzas of ‘Vande Mataram’ are recited during Congress events.

Penumaka farmers voluntarily donate 7.10 acres



Amaravati : Eight farmers from Penumaka village have voluntarily contributed a total of 7.10 acres of land under the Land Pooling Scheme (LPS) for the development of Amaravati as the capital city. The farmers handed over their consent letters to APCRDA additional commissioner Kollabattula Karthik at the APCRDA headquarters in Rayapudi on Wednesday. Penumaka special deputy collector K Sudharani also participated in the programme. The farmers expressed their happiness at contributing to Amaravati’s development and appealed to fellow residents of the capital villages to cooperate with APCRDA authorities in the ongoing land pooling process. They said their contribution would help accelerate infra-

structure and other development works in the capital region. Of the 7.10 acres pooled on Wednesday, 0.54 acres falls within LPS zones being developed for capital farmers, 3.07 acres is required for the proposed trunk road network, and 2.12 acres falls under flood management projects. The land pooling is expected to facilitate the implementation of these projects. The farmers who contributed land are Kamatam Rambabu (0.30 acres), Singamshetty Rambabu (0.30 acres), Repalle Nageswara Rao (0.85 acres), Arumalla Lokesh Reddy (0.28 acres), Arumalla Umamaheswara Reddy (0.28 acres), Kallam Sakuntala Devi (4.10 acres), Meka Shivashankar Reddy (0.52 acres), and Meka Srinivasa Reddy (0.47 acres).

548 patients receiving free Vasti Karma entered in book of World Records



Anakapalli: As a remarkable milestone in Ayurveda, 548 patients receiving Vasti Karma free of cost during a three-day mega Panchakarma therapy camp entered the Book of World Records. Organised as part of the Charaka Jayanti celebrations at Arogyadhatri Ayurveda Research Institute, Koduru village, Anakapalli district, the programme was organised by Vishwa Ayurveda Parishad, Andhra Pradesh, and Varamu Charitable Trust, with the objective of taking the traditional knowledge and therapeutic practices of Ayurveda to the community through free medical service. The camp primarily focused on patients suffering from Vata-related conditions, including chronic back, neck and knee pain, joint disorders, frozen shoulder and other musculoskeletal and neurological conditions. The achievement has now received formal recognition from the Book of World Records, making it a significant moment for Ayurveda and for the organisations and medical professionals involved in the initiative. Yatish Shukla, chief adjudicator – India of The Book of World Records, personally monitored the programme and the verification process. Speaking on the occasion, he stated that his team had undertaken an in-depth assessment of the initiative, including the work of the organisations involved and the scale and execution of the programme. After personally witnessing the proceedings, Sri Yatish Shukla appreciated the team for the extraordinary effort involved in providing Vasti Karma free of cost to 548 people. He presented the World Record Certificate, a trophy and a medal to T Sundara Raj Perumall, director, Arogyadhatri Ayurveda Research Institute, founder and president, Varamu Charitable

Trust, and Prabhari, Anusandhana Prakosht, Vishwa Ayurveda Parishad. The recognition was considered an honour not only for the institution but also for the entire Ayurveda medical fraternity and the large team of doctors, therapists, volunteers and supporters who worked continuously for the success of the camp. The three-day programme combined clinical service with the celebration of the legacy of Acharya Charaka. It also included traditional and academic programmes such as Dhanvantari Havanam, Charaka Parayanam and Tadvidya Sambhasha, along with Ayurveda-based community health activities. More than 200 patients participated in specialised procedures including Viddha Karma, while Agnikarma treatments were also conducted during the programme. The Vasti Karma beneficiaries underwent the prescribed course of treatment under the supervision of trained Ayurveda physicians and medical personnel. The camp followed a structured registration, screening, treatment and documentation process. The mega Vasti Karma camp was personally mentored by N Anjaneya Murthy, known as ‘South Indian Charaka’, and serving as the chief technical advisor to the mega Vasti Karma camp. Anjaneya Murthy provided guidance to the medical team regarding the therapeutic principles, administration and aftercare associated with Vasti Karma. His extensive experience and close involvement provided important technical guidance throughout the programme. Sundar Raj Perumall and the medical team also provided guidance to beneficiaries regarding appropriate diet, lifestyle and post-treatment care as part of the overall Ayurvedic approach.

Sanskrit can guide us towards developed india, says Union Minister Meghwal

Tirupati: Union Minister for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal inaugurated Utkarsh Mahotsav 2026, a two-day event being organised by National Sanskrit University (NSU) in Tirupati on Wednesday. Speaking at the inaugural programme, Meghwal said Sanskrit could play an important role in guiding the country towards a developed India. People should study and understand the knowledge available in Sanskrit and use it for the benefit of society. The Union Minister said the Central government was taking several steps to promote Sanskrit through various projects under Central Sanskrit Universities. He said research combining the knowledge, science and technology found in Sanskrit with modern subjects could produce useful results. During the programme, Advaita Vedanta student Varadarajan, who cleared Maha Pariksha, was honoured with Vedanta Vidvanmani title and a cash award. His teacher and Professor in Department of Advaita Vedanta, Srihari Shivaram Dayagude, was



honoured with Shastra Vidvanmani title. KVSS Avadhani and Sri Venkateswara University former professor Pratap were presented Prachya Vidyabhushana awards by the university. More than 25 books published by the university were also released on the occasion. NSU Vice-Chancellor Prof GSR Krishna Murthy thanked the Union Minister for attending the programme. Prof Murali Manohar Pathak, Vice-Chancellor of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri National Sanskrit University, New Delhi, called for wider study of Sanskrit as a language of people and encouraged students to gain a deeper understanding of Sanskrit knowledge.

House clears Speed of Doing Business Bill



Amaravati: Assembly on Wednesday passed the Andhra Pradesh Omnibus (Speed of Doing Business) Bill, 2026, introducing a set of reforms aimed at reducing regulatory delays and easing the compliance burden on businesses and citizens. Law and minority welfare minister N M D Farooq, who introduced the Bill on the third day of the Assembly session, said the government wanted to build a more trust-based regulatory system and make both business operations and public services faster. The Bill incorporates several reforms suggested by the Centre to simplify regulations and reduce compliance requirements. One of the key provisions is an auto-appeal mechanism under the Andhra Pradesh Public Services Delivery Guarantee Act, 2017. Applicants will no longer have to separately file an appeal if a notified public service is rejected or is not delivered within the prescribed time. The appeal will be treated as automatically filed, and the appellate authority must dispose of it within 21 days. The authority can not only order delivery of the pending service but also direct payment of compensation where applicable. The measure is aimed at mak-

ing government departments more accountable for delays and reducing the burden on citizens seeking essential services. The Bill also proposes changes to the Andhra Pradesh Fire Service Act, 1999. Fire-safety regulations will be aligned with international standards and guidelines. References to the National Building Code will be removed under the proposed framework. A system of third-party fire audit agencies will be introduced for renewal of fire safety certificates. The Bill lays down provisions covering their empanelment, qualifications, standards, duties, supervision and disciplinary action. The government has also proposed a two-tier institutional mechanism under the Andhra Pradesh Industrial Single Window Clearance Act, 2002. State- and district-level committees will monitor industrial clearances and track pending cases. The system will include defined powers and a mandatory escalation mechanism to prevent applications from getting stuck at lower levels. MLA Ramanjaneyulu supported the Bill and urged the Assembly to approve it. Speaker Ch Ayyanna Patrudu announced its passage after the House approved the proposals.

Boy in sishu griha legally adopted



Vijayawada, August 20, 2026A boy under care at sishu griha, special adoption agency run under ntr district women development and child welfare department, was legally adopted on thursday under the supervision of district collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha.As part of adoption process, details related to boy's identity, aadhaar cards of adoptive parents, relevant certificates, newspaper advertisement and other required records were verified. District collector enquired officials about steps taken to ensure legal provisions and prescribed procedures are followed in adoption process. She also enquired about boy's present health condition, medical tests conducted so far and health records. She suggested informing adoptive parents about all details related to boy's health.District collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha interacted with adoptive parents and advised them to raise the boy with love and responsibility. She said all precautions should be taken for boy's health, nutrition, education, safety, wel-

fare and overall development. She advised adoptive parents to provide safe and loving family environment to the boy and provide opportunities needed for his future.Officials informed that after adoption, boy will have all rights, responsibilities and family facilities equal to biological child. They said adoption process was completed as per relevant legal provisions and guidelines. They said government gives top priority to child care, protection and welfare. They said safety, health, nutrition, education and future welfare of children being cared at sishu griha are being continuously monitored. They said concerned departments are working in coordination to provide safe family environment and better future to children through legal adoption process.Icds project director shaik ruksana sultana begum, adoption officer johnson, legal officer kiran, sishu griha manager deepika, social worker aruna and others participated in the programme.

57 seasonal hostels sanctioned for district

Vijayawada, August 20: Ntr district has been sanctioned 57 seasonal hostels and applications are being invited from tribal, bc and social welfare departments as well as self help groups and registered voluntary service organizations for their management, said samagra shiksha district additional project coordinator (apc) R. Ramesh babu in a statement on thursday. He suggested to apply by 5 pm on august 24.He said these hostels have been sanctioned to provide education and food accommodation for children of migrated parents in a.konduru, chandralapadu, gampalagudem, jaggayyapet, kanch

ikacherla, nandigama, penuganc hipr olu, vatsavai, veerullapadu and vijayawada rural mandals.He said voluntary organizations should be recognized through society registration act and have three years experience to apply. Similarly, self help groups should apply with permission of drda pd and affiliated departments should send written applications through e-mail or letter.He asked to submit proposals by august 24 at samagra shiksha office in vijayawada. Apc ramesh babu suggested to contact als coordinator (8712655816) for complete details.

Overcome stress.. excel in duties



Vijayawada, August 20: District collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said employees who are constantly available to public and providing various services need to give priority to mental health and special awareness programmes are being organized to reduce stress among employees and promote positive work environment.An awareness programme on stress management was held for 50 employees from swarna ward offices and pgrs department at collector camp office meeting hall in city on thursday under aegis of akarsha foundation. Psychologist nanduri venkata subbarao gave suggestions on stress management in daily professional life.Speaking as chief guest, collector lakshmisha said it is very important to identify work stress, control it, develop positive thinking and manage time effec-

tively. She said employees can reduce mental stress by allocating some time in daily life to pleasant activities like yoga and meditation. She said mutual cooperation, friendly environment and positive attitude at workplace further improve performance of employees.Collector lakshmisha said efforts and partnership of akarsha foundation in strengthening mental health of employees as part of efforts being made by district administration is commendable. Psychologist Dr. Ts rao, programme nodal officer G. Jyothi and others participated in the programme.

Strict action if irregularities in ntr medical services



Vijayawada, August 20: District collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha warned that strict action will be taken against network hospitals indulging in irregularities, negligence and illegal collections in free medical services provided to poor under ntr vaidya seva scheme.At a review meeting on ntr vaidya seva held at sri pingali venkayya meeting hall in district collectorate on thursday, 90 allegation cases related to the scheme were enquired in presence of representatives of concerned private network hospitals. As allegations were found true in case of five hospitals during enquiry, penalty was imposed on their managements. Hospitals penalized include ibrahimpatnam nimra hospital, tiruvuru sri bhavani hospital, tiruvuru sri vaishnavi hospital, vijayawada mvs accident hospital and vijayawada smile hospital.Speaking on the occasion, collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said state government is spending crores of rupees for protection of poor people's health and providing free medical treatment for many diseases through ntr vaidya seva. She said

collecting money from patients for services to be provided free under scheme, causing additional expenses and negligence in medical services are heinous acts.The collector made it clear that there will be no leniency towards network hospitals acting against objective of ntr vaidya seva scheme and continuous enquiry will be conducted on allegations and complaints and strict action will be taken as per rules if mistakes are proved. She directed private network hospitals to provide quality and transparent medical services with humanitarian approach and respect towards poor patients. She said main objective of ntr vaidya seva is to support poor families so that they do not become economically ruined due to ill health.Ntr vaidya seva district coordinator Dr. J. Suman, district government hospital superintendent raghunandan, dm and ho Dr. Sravan babu, dchs O. Madhavi devi, private network hospital representatives, medical health department staff and family members of treated patients participated in the meeting.

All network hospitals must provide medical aid to accident victims under pm rahat



Vijayawada, August 20: District collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha made it clear that it is responsibility of network hospitals to provide cashless emergency medical services to road accident victims under pm rahat scheme and treatment should not be denied under any circumstances.Collector participated in awareness and training programme on pm rahat scheme held for representatives of 51 network hospitals in the district at sri pingali venkayya meeting hall in district collectorate on thursday.Speaking on the occasion, collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said central government introduced pm rahat scheme on february 13, 2026 to provide treatment to road accident victims without need to pay cash immediately. She said under this scheme, every accident victim has opportunity to get cashless treatment up to maximum Rs.1.50 lakh for maximum seven days from date of accident.She said main objective of scheme is to provide emergency medical services to accident victims immediately and situation of delay in treatment or threat to lives due to lack of money should not arise. She directed

network hospitals to provide medical services to accident victims with full responsibility as per scheme norms. She made it clear that cash should not be demanded from victims for treatment covered under scheme or services should not be denied.She suggested that both representatives of hospitals as well as public should be aware of scheme implementation. She requested public to cooperate in shifting accident victims to nearest eligible network hospital as soon as possible and ensure immediate medical assistance. Collector suggested network hospitals should implement pm rahat scheme effectively with humanitarian approach as saving lives of accident victims is its main objective.Dmho Dr. Sravan babu, dchs Dr. O. Madhavi devi, vijayawada government hospital superintendent Dr. Raghunandan, ntr vaidya seva district coordinator Dr. J. Suman, officials and staff of concerned departments, representatives and medical staff of 51 network hospitals and others participated in the meeting.

Rasika Dugal celebrates best actor win for ‘Delhi Crime Season 3’



Mumbai: Actress Rasika Dugal took to social media to share the news of her Best Actor (Series) win for “Delhi Crime Season 3” at the International Film Festival of Melbourne. Reflecting on the honor, the actress expressed her gratitude to the festival and the entire “Delhi Crime” team. Rasika wrote, “Won Best Actor (series) for #DelhiCrimeSeason3 in Melbourne. Thank you @iffmelbourne for the honour and for a very memorable night. To our lovely Delhi Crime team, thank you for making the moments on screen memorable with your incredible talent and making everything off screen lighter with the completely crazy, funny, wonderful people you are. Eight years, three seasons, and so many memories. I love being Neeti Singh #BestActorSeries #NeetiSingh.” The actress posted a video from the award ceremony, where she can be seen accepting the honour and delivering a heartfelt speech. She also shared pictures from the memorable evening, including moments where she posed with

the award, along with stills from “Delhi Crime Season 3.” “In some of the pictures, she is seen posing alongside Saiyami Kher. Rasika Dugal portrayed IPS officer Neeti Singh in the acclaimed Netflix crime drama series “Delhi Crime.” Her character was introduced as a trainee officer in the first season and gradually evolved into an ACP. The series also featured Shefali Shah and Rajesh Tailang in key roles. She reprised her role as Neeti Singh in the third season of “Delhi Crime”, continuing her association with the acclaimed crime drama. The 17th Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM 2026) commenced on August 13, 2026, with a grand opening night and star-studded red carpet awards ceremony at the Palais Theatre in St Kilda, Melbourne. The evening saw several prominent names from the Indian film industry, including Rani Mukerji, Rishab Shetty, Dulquer Salmaan, Rekha, Kirti Kulhari, Vijay Varma, and Rasika Dugal, being recognized with top honours.

Rashmika teases Vijay over ‘afternoon nap’ photo credit



Mumbai: Actress Rashmika Mandanna had a playful request for her husband and actor Vijay Deverakonda after he shared a candid picture from a relaxing afternoon at home. Vijay had taken to his social media account on Wednesday night to share a picture of himself lying between his parents, Govardhan Rao and Madhavi Deverakonda, as they appeared to enjoy a laid-back afternoon nap together. Sharing the picture, Vijay wrote, “Rains Canceled shoots – You get an afternoon nap in your favourite spot as a kid” and added, “Recovery – 1000%,” further giving picture credit to Rashmika. Rashmika, who is married to Vijay, was quick to leave a comment on the post. Referring to the picture, she wrote, “Did you give me the credit just because you didn’t want to see my puppy eyes back home?” She added, “Also now while we are at it.. can you give me credit for all the other photos that I’ve taken over the years also.?,” she wrote. The actress con-

tinued her playful banter, adding, “I should show my loves how amazing my photography skills really are nooo!! just saying! (sic)” Vijay and Rashmika are touted as one of the very adorable couples of the entertainment industry. The couple who has worked together in Geetha Govindam and Dear Comrade, got married on February 26, 2026, in an intimate ceremony in Udaipur. The couple had announced their wedding date through a joint wedding invitation. Their relationship had become a subject of public interest for quite a few years before they got engaged in October 2025. On the work front, Rashmika has been juggling many projects. She was last seen in Shahid Kapoor, Kriti Sanon starrer Cocktail 2. The actress is also part of Allu Arjun and director Atlee’s upcoming film Raaka. She is also set to reunite with Vijay on screen in Ranabaali, which marks their first film together after their marriage.

Vikrant Massey shares glimpse of son’s obsession with Mumbai auto-rickshaws even while vacationing in Norway

Mumbai: Actor Vikrant Massey offered a glimpse into a cute father-son moment as he shared a picture of his son enjoying a ride on a train. The actor also further revealed the little one’s fascination with Mumbai’s iconic auto-rickshaws, even while on an international holiday. The actor is currently vacationing in Norway with wife Sheetal Thakur and son. In the picture, Vikrant can be seen sitting with his son, who appears engrossed in his toy auto-rickshaw in his hand. Sharing the picture on his social media account, Vikrant captioned it as, “His obsession with auto-rickshaws.” The actor also added the iconic song, ‘I Love My India’ from the movie Pardes to the post. Vikrant has often spoken about the joy of being a father to his little boy. In an exclusive conversation with IANS, Vikrant who won the National award for his movie 12th Fail, credited his son for bringing good fortune into his life. Vikrant said he firmly believes that every child arrives with their own destiny and blessings. He said, “I completely believe in it. I completely be-



lieve in it. Because in our family, it is said that every child brings his fate. And I also believe in that. A lot of things have changed since he came. And I couldn’t have asked for anything more. I am really, really grateful.” For the uninitiated, Vikrant and his wife Sheetal Thakur welcomed their first child, a baby boy named Vardaan, in February 2024. The actor was last seen in “Musafir Cafe”, for which he received great reviews.

Anupam Kher reacts to Ladakh video of woman allegedly disrespecting Army personnel

Mumbai: Veteran actor Anupam Kher has reacted to a video from Ladakh that he said left him deeply disturbed. The ‘Special 26’ actor recalled watching a video of a woman who identified herself as Gen Z and, according to him, spoke disrespectfully to Army personnel. Sharing his thoughts on Instagram, Anupam said the incident prompted him to share a song from his film “Tanvi The Great,” which he revealed has been receiving appreciation from defence personnel and Army officers. The 71-year-old actor said he had been receiving the song as a forward from several defense personnel and Army officers, accompanied by the message, “A great Gen Z song for the real Gen Z of Bharat.” Kher further explained that after watching the Ladakh video, he felt compelled to share the song with a different perspective on what being Gen Z can represent. “May the Indian Army be victorious! I have been receiving this video as a forward of the song from our film #TanviTheGreat from so many defence personnel and Army officers, with the message: “A great Gen Z song for the real Gen Z of Bharat.” History The ‘A Wednesday’ actor added, “Yesterday, I saw a video of lady in Ladakh, calling herself Gen Z, speaking very disrespectfully to our Army personnel. It disturbed me deeply. And then I thought of sharing this song from Tanvi The Great—



a song that our Army officers themselves are loving and forwarding. Because real Gen Z is not only about attitude. It is also about courage, discipline, service and respect! Here it is— “May the Indian Army be victorious! Jai Hind!” The actor shared a video featuring Shubhangi Dutt singing and dancing to the patriotic track “Sena Ki Jai” from Anupam Kher’s directorial film “Tanvi The Great.” For the unversed, a video circulating on social media reportedly shows a woman confronting security personnel after allegedly being stopped at a barricade in Minamarg. In the clip, she questions the restrictions imposed on tourists and compares them with the situation faced by people in Kashmir. The woman also refers to herself as part of Gen Z and is heard saying, “We are Gen Z, we’ll not tolerate this nonsense.” The video has since gone viral, drawing mixed reactions from social media users.

Deepika Bags Another Big Role

Right now, Deepika Padukone is facing both rejections and blockbuster opportunities at the same time. After bagging a massive hit with the Kalki movie, she was supposed to be part of the sequel too. But Deepika tried to balance her motherhood and career at the same time. This made her lose Kalki 2 and Sandeep Reddy Vanga’s Spirit movies. As per sources, she tried to convince the makers for an 8-hour shift to give equal importance to her family as a new mother. But this didn’t work out and thus she had to move away from these most-awaited movies. Anyway, she bagged another major opportunity with Allu Arjun and Atlee’s Raaka. Although there are four other heroines in this movie, Deepika plays the lead role and reportedly, she has reportedly completed her portions as she is expecting her second baby anytime soon! But now, another golden opportunity is on the way. If the sources are to



be believed, she will be part of Ranbir Kapoor and Ayan Mukerji’s Brahmastra 2. As of now, Ranbir is busy with Ramayan part 2 shooting. If everything goes according to plan, he will wrap it up by January 2027. So, Ayan is planning begin the shooting by April, 2027. Till then, Deepika will also deliver her second baby and will have enough time to prepare for the role. It is all known that Ranbir will be seen as both Shiva and Dev in the sequel. So, Alia Bhatt as Isha is already introduced as Shiva’s love interest and now Deepika will be seen as Shiva’s mother.

Telangana skater makes history with Winter Games qualification

Hyderabad: Nayana Sri Talluri of Telangana qualified for the Winter Games short track ice speed skating Junior World Cup in 2026 held in Bormio, Italy and Kazakhstan 2027. Nayana is the first Indian Girl to participate in this sports Asian Open Short track speed skating event held in Dehradun early this week where 14 countries participated in this event.



‘The crowd was carrying us’: Treesa-Gayatri embrace home support as World C’ships medal beckons

New Delhi: Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand are refusing to let the prospect of a World Championships medal alter their approach after the Indian women’s doubles pair reached the quarter-finals on Thursday, with the duo crediting the home crowd for helping them overcome seventh seeds Rin Iwanaga and Kie Nakanishi of Japan at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium. The 21-16, 21-12 victory moved the 39th-ranked Indians to within one win of a guaranteed medal. But for Gayatri, the pressure of playing a seeded opponent in front of a packed home crowd is one she would rather embrace than avoid. “I think getting on court, definitely there’s a little pressure, but it’s the kind of pressure you enjoy because you’re playing in Delhi. So I think yeah, even in the first set we were down 13-16, but then we got some tips from our coaches, and I think after that we’ve implemented it pretty well, so yeah, I think I’m super happy. Even in the second game there were a few, it was pretty tricky, neck-to-neck, but then yeah, I’m glad we could stay calm and pull the game off,” Gayatri told reporters after the win. Also Read BWF World Championships: Sen rallies into 2nd round, Treesa-Gayatri through Advertisement Discover more Daily News Briefings Applying For Government Grants Technology News Hub The support from the stands became particularly important when the Indians found themselves under pressure. Gayatri felt the crowd’s energy helped them stay in the contest and eventually take control.



“At one point we were under pressure; the crowd was carrying us, so I just want to thank them, and I just want them to keep believing in us, and I hope to give them more reasons to celebrate,” Gayatri added. Treesa echoed her partner’s sentiment, saying the atmosphere inside the stadium gave the pair an additional lift even when the scoreboard was against them. “The crowd is so amazing; I think even when we are in the first game, when we are down also, the crowd really carried us, and I think when it’s happening at home, we just need to show our powerful matches and everything that they can see,” Treesa said. The Indians’ next challenge is expected to be another stern examination. They know the quarter-final stage leaves little room for lapses, but Treesa wants the pair to concentrate on the contest rather than its significance.

PET Simhadri Ramesh bags three gold medals



Guntur: Simhadri Ramesh, a senior Physical Education Teacher (PET) at Koneru Basavaiah Chowdary (KBC) Zilla Parishad High School in Patamata, Vijayawada, brought laurels to his school by winning three gold medals and one silver medal at the 7th State-level Masters Swimming Championship. The event took place on August 15 at the SS&N College swimming pool in Narasaraopet. Ramesh won gold medals in the 50-metre breaststroke, 100-

metre backstroke and 100-metre breaststroke events, besides securing a silver medal in the 50-metre backstroke. The gold medal winners at the championship have qualified to participate in the Asian Swimming Championship, which is scheduled to be held in Bengaluru from October 4 to 10. Ramesh will represent the country at the international-level championship. A felicitation programme was organised at the school to honour Ramesh for his achievement on Wednesday. In-

Deepak Yadav, Vamsi Reddy, Ashwith hit centuries in HCA C-Division league



Hyderabad: K Deepak Yadav (121) for Southend Raymonds, M. Vamsi Reddy (107) for Dhruv XI, P. Ashwith (104) for Natraj, Mohammad Kamran (130) for Boys Town and D. Tanish Reddy (110) for Lal Bahadur Playground were some of the highlights of the HCA C-Division one-day league cricket championship here on Wednesday. The scores: A-Division two-day league: Qualifier: Sporting XI 452/7 in 90 overs (Shaik Sohail 56 no, Ashish Srivastav 3/78) bt Deccan Wanderers 198 in 63 overs (R Sai Sharan 56, Divesh Singh 69, Tanay Thyagrajann 4/47, Md Umar 3/25). C-Division one-day league: HCA District-6 97 in 20 overs (N Nikhil 39, M Srohan Reddy 3/9, Mirza Kaleem Baig 4/19) lost to Southern Stars 98/2 in 15.3 overs (M Nagendra Reddy 48 no, Zafarullah Khan Mohd 37 no). Southend Raymonds 292/7 in 48 overs (Krish Tibrewal 50, K. Deepak Yadav 121, Rudra Bansal 38 no) bt Raju CA 91 in 28.4 overs (Mahesh B 3/25, Rudra Bansal 3/11). Rushiraj 221/5 in 46 overs (B Amarnadh Reddy 64, S Siddharth Murthy 42, Samuel A J Ganta 49) bt SN Group 166/8 in 42 overs (K Sai Charan 99 no, J Jagathveer Raj 3/15) – revised target 210 in 42 overs. Universal 225 in 35.1 overs (N Hrisheek 62, Pranshuk Reddy 3/37, Suhas 3/41) lost to Royal 228/6 in 35.1 overs (M Saketh Reddy 57, Mohd Musaib 49, Samuel Rusheel 41 no, G Hemanth Kumar 5/51). Chums’ XI 189 in 47 overs (V Venkata Arush 53, T Manideep 34, P Vedaansh 45, Jada Kanishk 3/30) lost to ML Jaisimha 190/4 in 41.1 overs (M Sai Krishn Krithik 35, M Ishan Reddy 42, Arya Teja Goud 35 no). International 171 in 46.1 overs (Kushant Neil Varma 68, Bisista Das 3/10, R Rishi Rathod 4/43) bt Heeraadhi 147 in 46.5 overs (Aarush 3/29). HCA District-2 98 in 26.3 overs (R Nikhilendra 30) lost to Young Citizen 99/4 in 17 overs. Dhruv XI 212 in 45.1 overs (M Vamshi Reddy 107, G Satya Sai Raghu Ram 4/48) bt Youth 140 in 24.3 overs (V Ganesh 4/32, M Pavan 4/64). Safilguda 249/9 in 40 overs (Tanush Reddy 57, Shantanu Maheshwaram 31, Virat Ravula 54, K Isaiah Charles 4/47) bt Vijayanand 199/10 in 33.2 overs (I Charles Kanaparthi 31, Basheer Ahmed 108, Vaibhava Teja 46, R Sriman 5/23, G. Karan 3/31). Sec’bad Union 289/8 in 45.3 overs (Dilawar M Riyan Syed 60, Vanshraj

Gupta 42, M Amartya Reddy 45) bt Noble 85 in 26.1 overs (Darsh Mehta 3/19). XI Masters 193/9 in 42 overs (Varun Mishra 87, L Sai Harshith 33) bt Gunrock 99 in 30.4 overs (Malim Shaffan 5/21). Golconda 210 in 41.3 overs (Advait Vinjamur 39, L Srinivas Ashutosh 52, E Hemanth 35, B Laxmi Vikas 3/42) bt Adnan 194 in 36.1 overs (B Laxmi Vikas 64, C Pranav Sai 3/41). HCA District-4 212/7 in 39 overs (P Ram Kumar Chary 97, P Krishna Sameeth Varma 4/48) bt Victory 190 in 35.1 overs (A Omkareshwar 93, D Abhinav 3/44). Acrylic 100 in 25 overs (T Mukesh Kumar 4/34) lost to HCA District-3 102/2 in 12.5 overs (Shaik Amer 71). Vijay 237/4 in 46 overs (S Charan Manyam Goud 30, T Saisuchit Reddy 37, A Akshith Goud 66, Bhadrinath Kompally 60) bt Roshanara 177 in 37.5 overs (Suranjeeth Pattanayak 38, CG Rupeshwar Singh 48, CH Tarun 3/57). Natraj 230/5 in 48 overs (Itty Reddy 33, Pitla Ashwith 104, V Sathwik Reddy 51) bt AB Colony 218 in 44.4 overs (Rahmatullah Pathan 93, B Varun 43, K Ritvik 4/35). Walker Town 302/8 in 50 overs (P Rayudu Nayak 80, K Jeevan 47, M Dhanush 53, A Gokul Karthikeya Goud 3/54) bt Sutton 34/2 in 21 overs – won by VJD Method by 69 runs. Boys Town 290/9 in 45 overs (Mohammad Kamran 130, Md Zohair Nawab Khan 40, Md Akbar Khan 37) bt Lal Bahadur CC 160/9 in 30 overs (R Akshit 46, M Vignan 32, P Susheel Kumar 40, A Abhinav Mudhiraj 3/18). Saint Sai 292/9 in 50 overs (G Yuwan Srikanth Raju 52, B Chandahas Nayak 64, Krishna Matur 40, U Shashi Karan 66, T Saharsh Krishnapur 3/44, Saketh Kumar M 3/25) bt Shalimar CC 114 in 32.2 overs (Pavan Dharmik 38, Rithin Hari Sai 5/25). HCA District-1 102 in 25.5 overs (R Jashwanth Kumar 4/23) bt Sungrace 94/10 in 34.1 overs (E Shailesh 4/26). Starlets 182/6 in 35 overs (C Raju Saraswathi 49, Ruthwik Jangle 74) lost to Lal Bahadur PG 183/0 in 23.3 overs (D Tanish Reddy 110, Ayan Mohammad 55 no). Amberpet 153 in 43 overs (Nara Sunder 35, Sri Varshith Goud 4/40) lost to HCA District-5 156/7 in 36.1 overs (P Rishwanth 40, S Himakesh 34).

charge Headmaster R Ramarao, School Management Committee (SMC) chairman MD Faizunnisa, physical education teachers L Durgarao and T Chandrakala, along with teaching and non-teaching staff, congratulated him and wished him success at the upcoming Asian Championship. School Development Committee chairman Yalamanchili Ravi, committee member Koneru Rajesh and officials of the Samagra Shiksha office also congratulated Ramesh on his achievement and wished him further success at the international championship.

L&T-MHI consortium bags large order for driverless mass transit system at Dubai Airport

New Delhi: Infrastructure major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Thursday said its transportation infrastructure vertical, in consortium with Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI), has secured a 'large' order to design and build a fully driverless, grade-separated mass transit system for Phase 1 of Al Maktoum International Airport in Dubai. According to the company, the valuation of a large order ranges between Rs 2,500 crore and Rs 5,000 crore. In a regulatory filing, L&T said, "The transportation infrastructure business vertical of L&T, in consortium with Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI), has secured a large order to design and build the Automated People Mover (APM) System for Phase 1 of Al Maktoum International Airport in Dubai." The scope of work includes delivery of a fully integrated system, encompassing design, construction, supply, testing, commissioning and operational readiness of all associated infrastructure and



systems. "Under the design-and-build contract, L&T will undertake the design, procurement, delivery and integration of critical APM infrastructure and systems, including guideways, DC traction substations, power distribution, signalling and telecommunications, onboard communication systems for vehicles, platform screen doors and depot equipment," it said. Once fully developed, Al Maktoum International Airport will become the world's largest airport, with a capacity of 260 million passengers and 12 million tonnes of freight annually.

LIC gets nod to raise HDFC Bank holding to 9.99 pc

New Delhi: Shares of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) — the country's largest insurer — traded 1 per cent higher on Thursday after receiving approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to increase its stake in HDFC Bank to up to 9.99 per cent. In its regulatory filing, HDFC Bank said the RBI has approved LIC's application to acquire up to 9.99 per cent of the bank's paid-up share capital or voting rights.



stake will have to be undertaken in accordance with the conditions laid down by the RBI and other applicable regulatory norms. LIC is one of India's largest institutional investors, while HDFC Bank is among the country's leading private sector lenders. Shares of LIC traded around 1 per cent higher at Rs 417.40 on the BSE in early trade on Thursday. The PSU stock has touched a 52-week high of Rs 468.30 and a 52-week low of Rs 361, according to the exchange. Similarly, HDFC Bank stock also traded higher, jumping 1.09 per cent to Rs 728 on the aforesaid exchange. The banking stock recorded a 52-week high of Rs 1,020.35 and a 52-week low of Rs 715.05.

India competitive on battery costs, must scale manufacturing: Report

New Delhi: India's battery manufacturing is competitively positioned globally but remains structurally dependent on imports and must rapidly scale cell manufacturing to meet demand, a report said on Thursday. The report from Wood Mackenzie said India offers a 154 per cent cost advantage over Japan and a 9 per cent advantage over South Korea, placing it second only to China among major manufacturing destinations. However, locally manufactured cells are expected to cost 25–40 per cent more than imported ones in the near term because of limited scale, higher financing costs and an underdeveloped supplier ecosystem. "Cell manufacturing is expected to develop progressively with imported inputs over the next two to five years, while full refining capabilities will take more than ten years to establish," the report forecasted. India's domestic cell manufacturing currently accounts for less than 1 per cent of its approximately 260 GWh demand pipeline from competitive tenders in 2026, the report added. The shortfall in supply leaves the country structurally dependent on imports even as policy ambition accelerates. Despite more than 226 GWh of cell manufacturing capacity



announced for construction through 2035, execution delays, financial viability challenges and deep technology dependence on Chinese and Korean licensors mean India remains 10 to 15 years from a globally competitive, self-sufficient cell industry. India has just 2 GWh of commissioned cell manufacturing capacity as of 2026, against China's cumulative capacity of 2,695 GWh. China controls between 85 per cent and 98 per cent of global capacity across every major supply chain component, from cathode to anode, separator and electrolyte. Bridging that gap will require India to fundamentally restructure its manufacturing ecosystem, the report noted. "India's battery storage ambitions are credible, but the gap between policy intent and operational capacity is wide," said Ankita Chauhan, director, Wood Mackenzie.

Hyundai Motor India to hike vehicle prices by up to 1 pc from September



New Delhi: South Korean auto major Hyundai Motor India Limited on Wednesday announced that it will increase vehicle prices by up to 1 per cent across its portfolio, effective September 2026, citing rising input and commodity costs, higher operational expenses and continuing geopolitical and macroeconomic uncertainties. According to a stock exchange filing, the quantum of the price increase will vary depending on the model and variant. "The company has planned to increase the prices of its vehicles by up to 1 per cent across its portfolio, effective September 2026. The quantum of increase will vary depending on the model and variant," it said. The company said it has been making efforts to optimise costs and absorb rising cost pressures to minimise the impact on customers. However, persistent increases in costs have necessitated passing on a portion of the higher expenses to buyers through the marginal price revision. "The price revision has been necessitated by a combination of rising input and commodity costs, higher operational expenses and continuing geopolitical and macroeconomic uncertainties, among other factors," it stated.

endeavor to optimise costs and absorb cost escalations to minimise the impact on customers. However, the persistence of these cost pressures has necessitated passing on a part of the increased costs to customers through this marginal price revision," it added. The announcement comes a day after India's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki raised prices across its Arena and Nexa line-up from August 2026. The company's latest increase, ranging from Rs 2,500 to Rs 30,000 depending on the model and variant, marked its second price hike of the year following a similar revision in June. Hyundai Motor India's price hike also comes amid pressure on its profitability. The company's consolidated profit after tax (PAT) declined sharply to Rs 888.6 crore in the first quarter of financial year 2027, compared with Rs 1,369.2 crore in the corresponding quarter last year.

Revenue from operations slipped 0.5 per cent year on year to Rs 16,334.6 crore from Rs 16,412.9 crore. EBITDA fell 31 per cent to Rs 1,511 crore from Rs 2,186 crore, while the EBITDA margin contracted to 9.3 per cent from 13.3 per cent in the year-ago quarter.

Stock markets rebound in early trade: Sensex jumps over 500 points

Mumbai: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded in early trade on Thursday, tracking a recovery in world markets as easing US Treasury yields improved global risk sentiment. Fresh foreign fund inflows also added to the markets' optimism during the initial trading. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 504.32 points to 77,416.16 in early trade after four days of decline. The 50-share NSE Nifty also bounced back after seven days of losses. It climbed 118.85 points to 24,198.55. "Indian equity markets are expected to trade with a firmer undertone, supported by an overnight rebound on Wall Street and gains across Asian markets after easing US Treasury yields improved global risk sentiment.



"While the recovery in overseas equities offers a constructive backdrop, persistent geopolitical uncertainty in the Middle East is likely to keep investors cautious," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth-tech firm, said. All the 30-Sensex firms were trading in positive territory during the early deals. Eternal, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, Tata Consultancy Services and HCL Tech were among the biggest winners. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 407.99 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi rebounded 5.74 per cent. Japan's Nikkei 225, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang

Seng index were also quoting higher. "US indices halted a three-day losing streak after the US Treasury announced plans to more than double long-dated debt buybacks, pulling the 10-year Treasury yield down to 4.65 per cent. The S&P 500 gained 0.21 per cent, the Nasdaq Composite rose 0.16 per cent, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average added 120 points," Rajesh Palviya, Head of Research at Axis Direct, said. US markets ended in positive territory on Wednesday. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 0.20 per cent higher at USD 91.87 per barrel. "The decline in US bond yields indicates a positive potential construct for equity markets, globally," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said. On Wednesday, the Sensex was down 325.78 points, or 0.42 per cent, to settle at 76,909.68, registering its fourth day of decline. Extending its losses to the seventh day, the Nifty declined 76.60 points, or 0.32 per cent, to end at 24,078.30.

Elaborate arrangements for upsc civil mains



Vijayawada, August 20: District collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said elaborate arrangements have been made for union public service commission (upsc) civil services main examinations to be held from august 21 to 30. The collector along with upsc inspection officer N. Rajeswara Rao held a special coordination meeting at collectorate Sri Avs Reddy hall on thursday. Custodian and liaison officers along with venue supervisors and officials from revenue, medical health, postal, public transport and electricity departments participated in the meeting. The collector gave directions on precautions to be taken to conduct examinations successfully. Speaking on the occasion, the collector said arrangements have been made for 124 candidates to write exams at SRR and CVR government junior college in the city. She said exams will be held on august 21 for paper-1 essay, august 22 for GS-1 and GS-2, august 23 for GS-3 and GS-4, august 29 for indian

language and english, and august 30 for optional subjects from 9 am to 12 pm and from 2.30 pm to 5.30 pm. She said all arrangements have been made for candidates to write exams peacefully at the exam centre. She directed officials from respective departments to take all measures regarding security, drinking water, uninterrupted power supply and medical camp. She said upsc guidelines should be followed strictly. She said to be careful regarding face-based identification process of candidates through mobile application. She directed public transport department officials to take steps to run buses from various places to exam centre so that candidates reach exam centres on time. The collector said a control room has been set up with number 91549 70454 for exam related information. Dro M. Lakshminarasimham, Vijayawada Rdo Vennela Srinu and officials from coordination departments participated in the meeting.

Special measures for development of parks, tourism spots in vijayawada city



Vijayawada, August 20: District collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha has directed officials to take necessary steps to develop parks and tourist spots in vijayawada city comprehensively and turn them into revenue sources while providing pleasant environment to public. A tourism council meeting was held at avs reddy meeting hall in vijayawada collectorate on thursday under the chairmanship of district collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha. The meeting discussed opportunities for tourism development in the district, development of tourism spots in the city, creation of infrastructure in parks and organizing entertainment programmes for public. The collector suggested developing parks in vijayawada city with modern facilities to provide pleasant experience to people. She directed officials to improve basic amenities in parks and prepare plans to effectively utilize them and turn them into revenue sources. The collector directed to organize special programmes every saturday and sunday to attract people at tourism spots like beram park, bhavani island and ferry ghat. She suggested taking steps to attract city people as well as tourists to these places by organizing local arts, cultural and entertainment programmes. The collector suggested taking up special publicity campaigns to make tourists visit historically and culturally important places like museum in

vijayawada city and caves in mogalrajapuram. She directed officials to make available information about the importance of those places and provide necessary facilities to tourists. The collector directed to take necessary steps to bring sibir disneyland spread over about five acres in singhnagar into use. She suggested preparing an action plan to make use of available resources and develop it into a place providing entertainment and pleasure to city people. The collector said tourism and entertainment places should be developed so that vijayawada city people can spend their leisure time happily with family members. She directed officials to prepare a comprehensive development plan connecting tourism places in the city and take steps to increase number of tourists. She said tourism department, district administration, concerned departments and tourism council members should work in coordination to make vijayawada city a more attractive tourism destination. She directed officials to take up proposed development works on priority basis and review their progress from time to time. Tourism department regional director prasanna lakshmi, district tourism officer kolleti ramesh, tourism council members and others participated in the meeting.

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The collector suggested taking up special publicity campaigns to make tourists visit historically and culturally important places like museum in vijayawada city and caves in mogalrajapuram. She directed officials to make available information about the importance of those places and provide necessary facilities to tourists. The collector directed to take necessary steps to bring sibir disneyland spread over about five acres in singhnagar into use. She suggested preparing an action plan to make use of available resources and develop it into a place providing entertainment and pleasure to city people. The collector said tourism and entertainment places should be developed so that vijayawada city people can spend their leisure time happily with family members. She directed officials to prepare a comprehensive development plan connecting tourism places in the city and take steps to increase number of tourists. She said tourism department, district administration, concerned departments and tourism council members should work in coordination to make vijayawada city a more attractive tourism destination. She directed officials to take up proposed development works on priority basis and review their progress from time to time.

Four days special campaign for sir

Vijayawada, August 20: District collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said draft list was published on july 31 as part of special intensive revision (sir) of electoral rolls and in view of receiving claims and objections till august 30, august 22, 23, 29 and 30 will be conducted as special campaign days. She advised officials and blocs at field level to take steps for successful conduct of this special campaign and work in coordination to provide services to voters. State chief electoral officer (ceo) vivek yadav held a video conference with collectors of all districts from secretariat on thursday on sir. District collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha and district officials attended the vc. Vivek yadav suggested completing all works as per schedule as final list is to be published on october 3 and gave directions on precautions to be taken during this period. After the vc, collector lakshmisha said special focus should be given to



issues like issuance of notices, verification of certificates, enquiry and issuance of final orders to ensure smooth completion of the process. She said steps should be taken for disposal of form-6, form-7 and form-8. She said blocs should be available at polling stations from 10 am to 5 pm on special campaign days to provide services. Collector lakshmisha directed to keep draft list along with asdd list, details of persons to whom notices have been issued readily available and receive applications as well as clear doubts. Dro M. Lakshminarasimham, election section officials and staff participated in the meeting.