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Three-Decade Wait Ends: Veligonda water finally within reach of drought-hit Andhra

Amaravati: After nearly three decades of waiting, the Veligonda Project is set to deliver its most tangible promise to the drought-prone regions of Andhra Pradesh, with Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu announcing August 31 as the date for inauguration of the first phase and release of water. The announcement marks a significant milestone for Markapuram, Prakasam, Nellore and Kadapa districts, where the project has long been seen as a potential answer to chronic irrigation and drinking-water shortages. The first phase is expected to provide irrigation to 1.19 lakh acres and drinking water to nearly four lakh people. Naidu made the announcement while handing over Rs 250 crore in rehabilita-

tion and resettlement compensation to families displaced by the project. With this third instalment, the government said it has paid Rs 768 crore to 6,206 displaced families in just 48 days. The first phase of compensation covered 2,557 fami-

lies with Rs 318 crore, the second 1,622 families with Rs 200 crore, and the latest phase 2,027 families with Rs 250 crore. Another Rs 132 crore remains to complete the compensation process. Recalling his associa-

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National best teacher awardee felicitated proud that district got recogni- tion: Minister kondapalli srinivas

Vizianagaram, August 23: State minister for MSME, rural poverty eradication and NRI empowerment relations kondapalli srinivas said it is a matter of pride that national best teacher award was bagged and recognition was brought to the

district. At the minister's camp office on sunday, kouluri rajesh, working as secondary grade teacher at nellimarla chinna mallupeta MPP school, was felicitated with a shawl by minister kondapalli srinivas on being

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Chandrababu Naidu directs officials to resolve Kakinada nursing college clash

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to resolve the issue between students from the state and the Northeastern region at a nursing college in Kakinada city. One student was injured in a clash that erupted between students from the state and the Northeastern region in S.K. College of Nursing on Saturday. The Chief Minister reviewed the incident and immediately directed senior officials to resolve the issue. According to the Chief

Minister's Office, Kakinada District Collector and Superintendent of Police ensured the

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Andhra Kesari Tanguturi life is inspiring: Minister Kondapalli Srinivas

Vizianagaram, August 23: State minister for MSME, rural poverty eradication and NRI empowerment relations Kondapalli Srinivas said life of first chief

minister of erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh, Andhra Kesari Tanguturi Prakasam pantulu is inspiring. On the occasion of Tanguturi jayanti at minister's

camp office, he garlanded the portrait of Tanguturi and paid tributes. Speaking on the occasion, minister Kondapalli

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Andhra Pradesh launches road projects to connect 100 pilgrimage sites

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh government has initiated steps to provide road connectivity to over 100 major pilgrimage sites. The Panchayat Raj Department undertook the work to connect over 100 major pilgrimage sites with a

road network spanning 205 kilometres at a cost of Rs 120 crore. According to an official release on Sunday, across the state, many rural temples lack adequate road connectivity. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan took note of the fact that

while the number of devotees visiting pilgrimage sites like Vadapalli is steadily increasing, the necessary road infrastructure has not kept pace. He encountered many such temples during his field visits, and the

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AP Home Minister Anitha calls for vigilance amid rain alert in the State

Andhra Pradesh Home and Disaster Management minister Vangalapudi Anitha has said that rains are expected in the North Andhra region as a low pressure area has formed in the Bay of Bengal. She asked the administration of the districts to be on alert as rains are likely to

occur in the region. Minister Anitha said that strong winds are also expected along the coastal areas which are likely to blow at a speed of 40-50 kmph and asked people to be careful. Home minister Anitha has said that the situation at sea is also likely to be rough and asked the

fishermen to take care and not venture into the sea until the weather clears up. Also, she has advised the authorities to keep a close watch on the coastal areas and the low-lying plains. Anitha has asked the Police, Revenue, Fisheries, and Disas-

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Cricket was more gentlemanly in the good old days

Today’s cricket is technology-driven. Decisions are no longer left entirely to the naked eye of umpires. There is DRS (Decision Review System), ultra-edge, ball-tracking, slow-motion replays, spider-cam, LED stumps, and instant third-umpire irrevocable verdicts, flashing on giant screens. Every no-ball is checked frame by frame. Every appeal is dissected precisely. The game has become faster, louder, commercially vibrant, from five-day Test matches to One-Day Internationals (ODIs) to T20s. The cricket of the 1960s, when I played and watched cricket it was pure, patient, and played in what was proudly called as the ‘Sportsman spirit.’ In the absence of television sets, we listened to every word of radio commentators like Vizzy (Maharaj Kumar of Vizianagaram) and Chakrapani. Cricket lovers imagined every stroke and every wicket. For instance, in January 1964, the England team, then officially known as the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the historic London-based club that governed English cricket for decades, toured India. Under the captaincy of MJK Smith, MCC played five Test matches and two first-class (county) matches.

The match between South Zone and MCC was played at Fateh Maidan (LB Stadium) in Hyderabad from January 7–9, 1964. South Zone was defeated by an innings and 27 runs. Out of our love for the game, some of us who were studying at Khammam College came to Hyderabad for the first time to watch that match. All five Test matches ended in draws. Tiger Pataudi won the toss in all five matches. In the first match at Madras, Farokh Engineer was replaced at the last moment by Buddhi Kunderan due to injury. After Kunderan scored 192 runs, he was retained as the opener-wicketkeeper for the remaining four matches. In the final Test at Kanpur, despite winning the toss, Pataudi surprisingly chose to put England in to bat first. England scored a massive 559 runs for the loss of 8 wickets, throwing a big challenge before India, since it was forced to follow on as feared. India were all out for just 266 runs in their first innings. Since Bapu Nadkarni, who had come in at the end as a bowler in the first innings, played well and remained not out, Pataudi asked him to open the batting in the second innings. Nadkarni responded magnificently with a century and remained unbeaten, saving India from defeat. It bore the tactical brilliance of Pataudi and the extraordinary character of Nadkarni.

One unforgettable reminiscence was the legendary bowling of Nadkarni. In one famous spell (Madras Test against MCC), he bowled an astonishing 32 consecutive overs, with 27 maidens, including 21 consecutive or 131 dot balls in a row, conceding just five runs. Today, with aggressive batting, fielding restrictions, and powerplays, such an achievement of sustained accuracy is unimaginable, and would be nearly impossible. Each player had distinct stylish mannerisms that won many hearts. . I recall that there was an instance during the series when several MCC players fell ill. At one stage, they did not have eleven fully fit players on the field. Indian players stepped into the field for them. It was all in the true ‘sportsman spirit’ unlike today. There was no talk of ‘match fixing.’

Three-Decade Wait Ends: Veligonda water finally within reach of drought-hit Andhra

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tion with Veligonda since 1995, Naidu said the government had spent Rs 2,250 crore in two years to complete the first phase and bring it to the point of releasing water. He described the completion of projects conceived and initiated during the tenure of former Chief Minister N T Rama Rao as a matter of personal satisfaction. The timing, he said, was particularly challenging. Andhra Pradesh is facing a significant rainfall deficit amid El Nino conditions, while inflows into the Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar reservoirs have remained inadequate. “Despite these difficulties, we resolved to complete Veligonda and provide water to the people,” Naidu said, while stressing that available water must be used economically. Naidu linked the project to a broader strategy for securing Andhra Pradesh's water future. He said the government was pursuing Polavaram to strengthen water availability to the Krishna delta and conserve water in Srisailem for Prakasam, Nellore, Kadapa and Rayalaseema.Ganga-Godavari-Cauvery river interlinking, saying the linking of five rivers could address water shortages across four States and strengthen the country's long-term water security. For families who surrendered agricultural land for Veligonda, however, the project's completion has a more personal meaning. Bogem Srinivasulu, a displaced farmer, said it was deeply satisfying to see the project, for which Naidu had laid the foundation stone, finally becoming a reality. For Ushamma, a displaced woman, the compensation and rehabilitation facilities have provided reassurance. “We have received the compensation in full, and the facilities in the rehabilitation colonies are good,” she said. Naidu said the government would provide tap water to every household in Markapuram district under the Jal Jeevan Mission and announced that the foundation for a horticulture hub would be laid in September. The government is thus positioning Veligonda not merely as an irrigation project, but as part of a larger development chain-water security, agriculture, horticulture, drinking water and market access- for a region that has waited for decades to see its promise translated into reality. Water resources minister Nimmala Ramanaidu, MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy, MLAs Kandula Narayana Reddy, Ashok Reddy and Ugra Narasimha Reddy, and R&R commissioner Prashanthi were present.

Chandrababu Naidu directs officials to resolve Kakinada nursing college clash

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safety and security of the students, provided the necessary accommodation and prevented any further escalation.The issue was resolved amicably, and students from the northeastern states expressed satisfaction with the response of the authorities, the CMO said. There was tension in the college hostel after students from the Northeast lodged a complaint with Sarpavaram police stating that one of the students’ mobile phones was stolen by someone.A clash broke out between the two groups after the Andhra Pradesh students learnt about the police complaint. A girl was injured in the clash. She received injuries on her head and was treated in Government General Hospital in Kakinada.Some students from Manipur have reportedly complained to Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand about the prevailing environment on the college campus and raised alarm on their safety.The Government of Manipur took up the issue with the Andhra Pradesh government. Following directions from Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Kakinada District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad and SP G. Bindu Madhav deployed a team of officials to maintain peace on the campus on Saturday.The District Collector said the clash erupted between groups of Telugu students and those from Manipur and Nagaland over theft of a phone of a Manipur student. The campus returned to normalcy after talks with the two groups. The district authorities provided separate accommodation to 31 students from Manipur and Nagaland to guarantee them safety on campus.The top officials are scheduled to hold talks with the students on Sunday to maintain peace and harmony on the college campus.

Zaheerabad police busted massive gold, silver investment scheme

Sangareddy: The Zaheerabad police busted a massive gold and silver investment scheme. The Hyderabad-based investment company had allegedly cheated some 22 persons from Zaheerabad town to the tune of Rs 19 crore. However, the victims alleged that there were over 100 victims in and around Zaheerabad alone.The police arrested Sashivardhan Reddy, Ravindar Babu, Jagadish and Sushmitha. The accused have been sent to remand after they were produced before a court in Zaheerabad. According to victims, the accused accepted the investments between June and December 2026.

National best teacher awardee felicitated

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selected for national best teacher award.Speaking on the occasion, the minister said it is appreciable that young teacher rajesh moved forward with a commitment to provide quality education to students as per government orders. He called upon teachers working in government schools to take rajesh as a role model and work responsibly to provide golden future to students from poor and weaker sections.Rajesh explained to the minister the reasons behind getting the award. He said effective integration of technology in teaching and achieving remarkable results at field level is the main reason for receiving the award. He said FLN goals were successfully achieved in 2,200 schools with the help of AI, and through whatsapp automation training, 22,000 students were enabled to secure seats in various competitive examinations.

As a textbook author and NCERT, CIET national resource person, the teaching methodologies designed by him reached nearly 25 lakh teachers worldwide, he said with happiness. The minister said it is a proud moment for the region that these educational innovations were recognised and published by british council, american council and MHRD, and these services rendered by rajesh to education sector made him eligible for the national award.

Andhra Kesari Tanguturi life is inspiring: Minister Kondapalli Srinivas

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Srinivas said today's youth should take the services of great personality Tanguturi Prakasam pantulu who made British rulers tremble as ideal.He said Tanguturi is a braveheart who stood against British guns in Indian independence struggle, and when a youth died in firing by British police, when Prakasam pantulu went to see the dead body, police obstructed him and aimed guns saying they will shoot if he comes forward, without fearing at all, Prakasam opened his coat buttons and showed his chest saying shoot and see, such a courageous person, and even British soldiers stepped back seeing his courage. He said due to courage shown by Tanguturi, he got the title Andhra Kesari.He said Prakasam barrage in Vijayawada, which is pride of Amaravati and Andhra state today named after Tanguturi, instills self-confidence among Telugu people. Minister Kondapalli Srinivas suggested that Tanguturi's courage is inspiring to all Telugu people and every Telugu person should work for achievement of his ideals. Telugu Desam party leaders participated in the programme.

Andhra Pradesh launches road projects to connect 100 pilgrimage sites

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public also submitted representations highlighting the poor condition of some of these shrines. Determined to alleviate the difficulties faced by devotees due to the lack of access roads to temples, he initiated this through the Panchayat Raj Department.Initiatives are being advanced with high priority on constructing access roads to schools, temples, hospitals, and agricultural fields, utilising funds from schemes such as the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), VB G Ram G, and SASKI.On the centenary celebrations of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Rs 30 crore has been allocated for the construction of roads connecting to Puttaparthi.According to the release, Pawan Kalyan is providing continuous guidance to ensure the rapid completion of the ‘Gudi Bata’ (Temple Access Road) projects, which are being undertaken with special attention by the government.Of the road projects currently underway at a total cost of Rs 120 crore, 26 have been completed and are ready for inauguration. Work on another 40 per cent of the roads has reached the 50 per cent completion mark.Completed projects include access roads to the renowned Sri Lakshmi Narasimha shrines at Antarvedi and Ahobilam; the Sri Gattu Venkataramana Swamy temple in Madanapalle constituency; remote temples such as Devaraya Nallagangamma; the ghat road to the Pudiyaigiri Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy shrine at Marripudi; routes in Satyavedu constituency covering Singirikona, Someswaram, and Talupulammalova; and the I.S. Jagannathapuram ghat roads.Pawan Kalyan directed officials to ensure high-quality standards for roads leading to pilgrimage sites. He emphasised that roads constructed by the Panchayat Raj Department should serve devotees effectively for the long term.The Deputy CM informed officials that he would personally inspect the quality of completed temple roads during field visits before making them accessible to devotees.

AP Home Minister Anitha calls for vigilance amid rain alert in the State

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ter Management department to be in constant alert and said that the safety and security of the people and their property is the main agenda. Minister Anitha has also asked for arranging relief teams to keep them on standby and to monitor the situation closely.

Sports boost enthusiasm of employees

Health and confidence possible only through sports
Better performance in duties with team spirit



Ibrahimpatnam, August 23: The mega cricket tournament of Andhra Pradesh government employees (employees premier league) organized under the aegis of United Telugu Journalist Association - Andhra Pradesh branch was held enthusiastically on August 21, 22 and 23 at Andhra Cricket Association stadium in Mulapadu, Ibrahimpatnam mandal. District collector Dr G Lakshmisha and AP NGO state president A Vidyasagar presented prizes on Sunday to the winners who excelled in the tournament. Ten teams participated in the Employees Premier League - Irrigation-1, Irrigation-2, Education, Revenue, Secretariat-1, Panchayat Raj, AP NGO-1, AP NGO-2, Municipal and Secretariat-2. In the final match, AP NGO and School Education teams clashed and AP NGO team clinched the title. AP NGO association team scored 149 runs for loss of 8 wickets in stipulated 16 overs. Education department team chasing 150 runs target stopped at 149 runs for loss of five wickets, leading to a super over. AP NGO association team achieved a grand victory in the super over. Speaking on the occasion, collector Lakshmisha said sports develop physical strength as well as mental cheerfulness among employees. He said sports provide good break to employees who undergo stress in continuous duty, besides reducing stress and increasing concentration. He said team games like cricket develop qualities like teamwork, leader-

ship, coordination, mutual cooperation and decision making. He said sports also strengthen collective working atmosphere in offices. He suggested employees should give importance to sports along with duties and adopt healthy lifestyle. He appreciated the organizers who conducted the league successfully and employees who participated. Unity among employees with sports spirit - AP NGO state president A Vidyasagar AP NGO state president A Vidyasagar said sports play a key role in developing friendship, unity and affection among employees. He said sports help employees overcome stress faced in daily duties and work enthusiastically. He said sports teach values like determination to achieve victory, mindset to accept defeat, discipline, punctuality and trust in colleagues. He said AP NGO association always gives priority to health and welfare of employees and will further encourage such sports programmes. He congratulated all teams who participated enthusiastically in Employees Premier League and extended wishes to winners. He thanked the organizers. Vysya corporation chairman Dundi Rakesh, UTJA association organizers P Ramesh Babu, Saikrishna, Chinni, Ajay, AP NGO leaders Rajneesh Babu, M Rajyalakshmi, P Janaki, D Satya Narayana Reddy, P Ramesh, VV Prasad, G Ramakrishna, K Sivaleela, Sridevi, employees and cricket players participated in the programme.

Special QR code for feedback on PGRS Grievances to be received through public grievance redressal platform on 24th- District collector Dr G Lakshmisha



NTR district / Vijayawada, August 23: District collector Dr G Lakshmisha in a statement said that grievances will be received from public on Monday, August 24th at collectorate through public friendly public grievance redressal system (Meekosam) programme and a special QR code has been made available for applicants to give their feedback. He said immediately after availing PGRS services, public can scan QR code through their mobile phone and give their opinions. As part of public friendly PGRS programme, concerned officials will be available to



public and receive applications at division, municipal and mandal headquarters along with Sri Pingali Venkaiah meeting hall at collectorate. Collector requested public to make best use of this opportunity. Similarly, applicants can register their applications on Meekosam.ap.gov.in website and to know status of registered applications and related information, they can directly call 1100, collector suggested.

Harish Rao warns of Assembly disruption, siege Secretariat over 22A list

Hyderabad: BRS deputy floor leader T Harish Rao on Sunday warned that the party would stall the Assembly and lay siege to the Secretariat if the government failed to immediately withdraw private properties from the 22A prohibited list. He questioned the indifference of Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi to the suffering of Telangana people, as Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy pursued real estate interests. He vowed that the BRS would raise the issue during the upcoming Assembly session and stall it, if the government fails to remove genuine private properties from the 22A list. "If necessary, we will lay siege to the Secretariat. The BRS is ready for any form of struggle," he declared. Addressing a meeting organised by the BRS in support of residents of Tirumala Meadows, Lakshmi Ganapathi and Hemanagar colonies in Boduppal on Sunday, Harish Rao said registered houses and patta lands were being included in the prohibited list to facilitate collection of 30 per cent commissions. He said middle-class families had borrowed money and saved for years to build houses, but were now unable to sell or mortgage them. Citing a resident's account, he said a woman had been denied a bank loan to fund her children's higher education because her house was entered in the 22A list. The



BRS deputy leader stated that the government was reviving provisions of the Urban Land Ceiling Act that had been repealed in 1998 and 2008 and using them to place patta lands under the prohibited category. Referring to the Revenue Minister's apology, he demanded that the government remove the affected properties from the list without insisting on applications and take complete responsibility instead of blaming officials. Harish Rao also alleged that the government had placed around 40 lakh acres across Telangana under the prohibited list, citing claims about large tracts in Yadadri Bhongir district and properties in Hyderabad. He questioned why people should approach government offices or submit applications to rectify an error committed by the government. He questioned why the government was not initiating inquiries against officials responsible for such a disastrous decision, while ordering CID and vigilance probes into smaller issues involving opposition leaders.

Prakasam pantulu is symbol of simplicity, courage and determination District collector Dr G Lakshmisha

NTR district / Vijayawada, August 23: District collector Dr G Lakshmisha said Tanguturi Prakasam pantulu is a symbol of simplicity, honesty, determination, discipline and courage. On the occasion of Andhra Kesari Tanguturi Prakasam pantulu jayanti, collector Lakshmisha garlanded his portrait and paid tributes at a programme held at collector camp office on Sunday. Speaking on this occasion, collector said Prakasam pantulu is a great personality who worked for people throughout his life considering public welfare as ultimate goal. He said Prakasam pantulu, who stood fearlessly before British rulers during freedom movement and showed his bravery, stood as a symbol of courage and valour of Telugu people. He said his struggle for country's independence, people's rights and social



justice is memorable. Collector Lakshmisha said his life which gave importance to public interests rather than personal interests is ideal for everyone.

School assistant Marrapu services are invaluable Minister Kondapalli Srinivas



Gajapathinagaram, August 23: State minister for MSME, rural poverty eradication and NRI empowerment relations Kondapalli Srinivas said school assistant Marrapu Tirupathi Rao services are invaluable. On Sunday in Vijayaramapuram village of Datirajeru mandal, minister Kondapalli Srinivas felicitated Marrapu Tirupathi Rao who is working as MPP

school assistant with a shawl on the occasion of his retirement. Speaking on this occasion, minister Kondapalli Srinivas said retirement is inevitable in job duties, wishing him to spend the rest of his life happily with family, and suggested Marrapu to give advice and suggestions in free time to students who create golden future for future generations.

Police vehicle accident is unfortunate Sad that Ramana died in accident Minister consoles injured at Medcover hospital



Vizianagaram, August 23: State minister for MSME, rural poverty eradication and NRI empowerment relations Kondapalli Srinivas said it is highly unfortunate that police vehicle met with accident while going for case investigation within city limits. Immediately after knowing that police vehicle overturned on Gajularega hill, he enquired about accident details over phone with SP Damodar. Minister immediately reached Medcover hospital where injured are undergoing treatment. He enquired about SI Ashok and constable Rajar Rao who are undergoing treatment in ICU with severe injuries. Later, minister Kondapalli Srinivas spoke to family members of accident victims. He said police system and government will stand by police friends who were injured in unexpected accident and requested everyone to be brave. Minister consoled the family members of victims. Minister enquired about treatment being given from SP Damodar and other police officers. He said accident details were explained to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha.



Speaking with heavy heart at later held media conference, minister Kondapalli Srinivas expressed grief, while SP Damodar turned tearful. He said accident took place due to brake failure of vehicle when SI V Ashok Kumar, head constable G Nagendra Prasad, constable cum driver K Rajababu, constable CH Venkata Ramana were going for case investigation.

Minister Kondapalli expressed anguish that despite best efforts of doctors, constable S Venkata Ramana who works efficiently in discharge of duties died in this accident which is painful. He explained Rajababu required operation at waist and operation is being done, and driver acted alertly and major accident was averted. He said doctors informed that SI Ashok Kumar suffered left leg fracture and G Nagendra Prasad suffered left hand fracture. He said occurrence of such incident is unfortunate and requested family members and police staff to be brave. He directed Medcover medical team to provide better medical treatment to police staff.

Sundays on Cycle event held in Visakhapatnam, state and central ministers participate



The 'Sundays on Cycle' event was held with great enthusiasm this morning (Sunday) at Visakhapatnam's RK Beach, coinciding with the BRICS summit. Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya, along with sports ministers and officials from BRICS nations, participated in the cycling event. A large number of city residents also joined in, arriving at the beach on bicycles to take part in the program. Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya mentioned that he cycled with the sports ministers at RK Beach as part of the BRICS summit proceedings. He stated that the event was organized under the 'Fit India' initiative. The Union Minister noted that 'Sundays on Cycle' programs are being conducted across the country following Prime Minister Modi's directives. He disclosed that millions of people are turning up for the event in nearly 1,800 cities across the country. He said that bicycling is good for health and also good in cutting pollution. The minister called upon the people to adopt bicycling as a way of life. TDP state presi-

dent Palla Srinivasa Rao, MLC Chiranjeevi Rao, officials of the Andhra Pradesh Sports Department, and other functionaries also joined the event. The event saw ministers, officials, and people from the general public riding bicycles with great enthusiasm along with the Beach Road.

Autorickshaw unions call off strike as Telangana govt agrees to fare hike

Hyderabad: The autorickshaw unions called off their strike following the State Government's assurance to increase the fares. A decision to this effect was taken after transport Minister Ponnamparthi Prabhakar along with senior officials held talks with autorickshaw union leaders on Sunday night. As autorickshaw fares have not been increased since 2012, it was agreed to increase the fares. However, the decision on new fares will be taken after seeking a report from the stakeholders, the Minister said. "On its behalf, the Government will introduce an aggregator app on the lines of Ola and Uber. It will initiate measures to launch the app in association with the IT department," Prabhakar said. During the meeting, the Minister said the State Government was positive towards their demands. The government would make yellow plates mandatory for two-wheelers transporting passengers through Rapido, Ola, Uber and others, he said.

AP CM Chandrababu makes first journey from Bhogapuram airport



The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu took his first ever flight as Chief Minister from the new airport here in Bhogapuram. The chief minister reached Gannavaram airport in Vijayawada from the new Alluri Sitarama Raju international Airport in Bhogapuram following the BRICS meet held in Visakhapatnam. He had boarded a special plane from the new airport along with several officials. The government regards the new Bhogapuram International Airport as a vital project for the region. They claim

that the new airport will help decongest the Visakhapatnam airport and provide excellent alternate aviation connectivity to the people in the North Andhra region. The new airport will benefit the people of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, and Visakhapatnam district and also the neighbouring areas.

The government is optimistic that apart from serving the local needs the new airport along with the increase in international flights will boost tourism, trade, investment, and employment in the state.

Mansukh Mandaviya highlights Fit India Movement at BRICS Friendship Cycling event in Visakhapatnam

Visakhapatnam: On the occasion of the BRICS Summit, Union Minister Mansukh L. Mandaviya highlighted the importance of fitness and the growing reach of the Fit India Movement during the BRICS Friendship Sunday on Cycling event held in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Speaking at the event, Mandaviya said, "Today in Visakhapatnam, on the occasion of the BRICS Summit, the BRICS Friendship Sunday on Cycling event was organised. The Fit India Movement, led by our Prime Minister, is moving forward. Today, young people across more than 18,000 locations in the country are spreading the message of fitness through Sunday on Cycling..." "Cycling is one of the best forms of exercise. It is also a solution to pollution and helps save fuel. We should all stay fit to build a Viksit Bharat. If every individual is fit, society as a whole will be fit," he added. The event was organised as part of the BRICS Sports Ministers' Meeting being held on Sunday, bringing together Sports Ministers and Heads of Delegation from the 11 BRICS member countries. The meeting is aimed at reaffirming the shared commitment of BRICS nations towards strengthening cooperation in sports.

India's BRICS Chairship 2026 is guided by the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability", reflecting a people-centric and humanity-first approach. "The ministerial engagements will build on the meetings and discussions held during India's



BRICS Chairship and provide an important platform for advancing cooperation among BRICS member countries," the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports said. "The meeting is expected to culminate in the adoption of the BRICS Youth Ministerial Joint Declaration and the BRICS Youth Cooperation Framework," it added. According to the official press release, the Sports Track under India's BRICS Chairship has focused on areas, including traditional and indigenous sports, sports technology, sports manufacturing and the finalisation of the Joint Declaration. The Sports Ministers' meeting will conclude with the adoption of the BRICS Sports Joint Declaration. "The Sports Ministers' Meeting will include statements by Heads of Delegation from Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates, followed by the adoption of the Joint Declaration." The BRICS Friendship Cycling Event also highlighted the broader objective of promoting fitness and healthy lifestyles while bringing together participants from member countries. The event was held alongside the wider BRICS sports engagements in Visakhapatnam. Meanwhile, in Delhi, the Sunday on Cycle event was flagged off at Major Dyan Chand National Stadium, with people participating in the cycling activity as part of the nationwide Fit India initiative. Speaking on the Fit India Sunday on Cycle event, former Indian Handball team captain and coach Naveen Punia said, "It's a matter of great pride. We have been connected with fitness from the very beginning, but today, it is great to see such a movement taking place across the country. We can certainly take some time out for fitness for at least one day."

Manish Malhotra reveals his creative journey behind Kiara Advani’s Toxic costumes

Mumbai: Fashion designer Manish Malhotra has opened up about his experience designing Kiara Advani’s looks and costumes for her character Nadia in the upcoming film “Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups.”Sharing a glimpse of Kiara in a classic black velvet lace saree, the designer described his association with the film as a “fabulous journey. Manish also opened up about his journey of creating Kiara’s looks and costumes for Nadia. He revealed that the association with the film began from its first schedule in Bengaluru and continued through Mumbai. The celebrity designer wrote, “Beautiful always @kiaraaliaadvani Ravishing in Our velvet lace classic black saree .. #mymmsaree #kiaraadvani styling @lakshmlehr. It’s been a fabulous journey of designing Kiara’s look and costumes for the character Nadia that she plays in @thenameisyash director @geetu mohandas #TOXIC from the first schedule in Bangalore to mumbai .. working on this film is a going to be a memory that we all will look back with a smile .. @manishmalhotraworld.”In the images, the ‘Kabir Singh’ actress exuded grace and elegance as she posed in a classic black saree, paired with statement earrings. She completed the look with her hair styled in a sleek high bun and subtle makeup, keeping the overall appearance



sophisticated and understated. Kiara Advani also shared a glimpse of her visit to Hyderabad as part of the promotional activities for her upcoming film “Toxic: A Fairy” Tale for Grown-Ups. Along with pictures and moments from the city, the actress also expressed her gratitude to fashion

designer Manish Malhotra for creating her stunning saree look. Sharing a video from her Hyderabad visit, the ‘Shershaah’ actress reflected on the warm response she received while promoting the film. She thanked the city for making the promotional journey special and praised the energy and love surrounding Toxic. “Hyderabad, you were Everything! Thank you for celebrating Toxic with us and making our promotions so special. The love, energy and madness will stay with me! A special thank you to my dearest @manishmalhotra05 for creating this beautiful saree for me, and for bringing his magic to Toxic through Nadia’s costumes. And to my Toxic family.. what a ride! Here’s to the madness, the memories and everything we’ve created together,” write Kiara. On a related note, “Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups” directed by Geetu Mohandas, stars Yash in a dual role, alongside Kiara Advani, Nayanthara, Huma Qureshi, Tara Sutaria, and Rukmini Vasanth. The action thriller is slated to hit theatres on 26 August 2026.

‘Work has always been a privilege’: Raashii Khanna reflects on 13-year journey in films

Mumbai: Actress Raashii Khanna, who was last seen in a special appearance in ‘120 Baha dur’, has completed 13 years in the Indian film industry. The actress said that since her debut with ‘Madras Cafe’, she has felt time has just flown because she looks at work as a privilege. The film was released in 2013, and set the stage for her to work across four industries and into some of the most closely followed titles in the country. Looking back at her journey, the actress said, “Thirteen years is a long time, and it has gone quickly because the work has never stopped feeling like a privilege. Looking back at Madras Cafe reminds me why I started. It gave me the chance to tell stories that matter to me, and I am grateful to every collaborator who has backed me along the way.” Since her debut, the actress has built a body of work across Hindi, Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam cinema, one of the few actors of her generation to hold ground in all four. The range has been deliberate rather than accidental, and it is what has taken her from a promising first outing to a pan-



India presence. The actress is currently filming the second season of Raj & DK’s ‘Farzi’, in which she is set to return as RBI officer Megha Vyas alongside Shahid Kapoor and Vijay Sethupathi. The series is produced and directed by Raj & DK. Farzi is a crime thriller built around a disillusioned artist who turns to counterfeiting to escape his financial situation. The actress will also be seen opposite Rajinikanth in the Tamil action thriller ‘Dharman’, and opposite Akshay Kumar in Anees Bazmee’s next comedy drama.

Anupam Kher shares rare 55-year-old family photograph from Shimla

Mumbai: Veteran actor Anupam Kher took a trip down memory lane as he shared a rare, decades-old family photograph from Shimla. He reflected on the importance of family, togetherness, and cherished memories. Sharing the nearly 55-year-old photograph on Instagram, the ‘Special 26’ actor recalled a time when taking a family picture was a special occasion. He noted that there were no multiple clicks, retakes or filters, and that people would dress in their best clothes before gathering for a photograph. Anupam wrote, “Old pics and their magic! There was a time when taking a family photograph was an occasion. There were no hundreds of clicks, no retakes, and no filters. Film was precious—and so was that one photograph. Everybody dressed in their best clothes, combed their hair carefully, and stood together. And somehow, along with our faces, the camera also captured the love between us.” “This is one such photograph of my family from many, many years ago in Shimla. My father, my mother, my brother, my father’s brothers Pt. Brijnath Kher and Pearey Lal Kher, and me. Someone in the family has lovingly added colour to this old black-and-white photograph. But its real colour was always there! The colour of family. And yes... there is another historical importance to this photograph: my brother and I both had hair!” The 71-year-old actor added, “Almost 55 years have passed. Faces have changed, hair has disap-



peared, people have grown older... but thankfully, the love in our family has remained the same. Sometimes when we open an old family album, we are not really looking at photographs. We are looking at a time when being together was enough.” “I wish every family could preserve, through all the years and all the differences, the same love that we can still see so clearly in those old photographs. The song from the film #Madhumati was one of my father’s favourite songs. Photographs may grow old, but the love in relationships should never grow old.” #MemoriesForLife,” concluded the actor. The rare black-and-white photograph featured a young Anupam Kher posing alongside his parents, father Pushkar Nath Kher and mother Dulari Kher, his brother Raju Kher, and his father’s brothers, Pt. Brijnath Kher and Pearey Lal Kher. The family was dressed in formal attire and posed together for the memorable photograph. For the unversed, Anupam Kher’s father, Pushkar Nath Kher, passed away at the age of 84 on February 10, 2012, in Mumbai after a brief illness.

Sonakshi Sinha shares glimpse of quiet Sunday and Bhutan family holiday

Mumbai: Actress Sonakshi Sinha took to her Instagram handle to share a glimpse of her “happy Sunday” morning, giving a peek into how she spent the relaxing day. Taking to her Instagram Stories, the ‘Akira’ actress shared a blurry glimpse of herself enjoying a cup of coffee while soaking in the beautiful Mumbai sea view. The actress appeared to be enjoying a quiet and relaxing morning from her balcony, taking in the scenic view with her coffee. The text on the picture read, “Happy Sunday.” Sonakshi also gave a glimpse into her memorable family holiday in Bhutan through a vlog shared on social media. The ‘Dabangg’ actress documented the journey, from the breathtaking flight into Paro and the stunning views of Mount Kanchenjunga to exploring Bhutan’s rich culture, traditional architecture and scenic landscapes. The trip also saw Sonakshi spending quality time with her family as they explored the picturesque town of Paro. She also shared glimpses of their visit to Tungkar Jong, the Royal Academy and other cultural landmarks. One of the major highlights of the trip was the family’s trek to the iconic Tiger’s Nest monastery. Sonakshi described the challenging climb as an unforgettable experience and shared her excitement after successfully completing the



trek. In the video, she said, “Before reaching Bhutan, we got a very special welcome from the plane. We were seeing clouds below and then suddenly, we saw the snow-covered peak of Mount Kanchenjunga in the middle of them. Our captain told us this. It was such a beautiful sight and at that moment, the excitement increased even more because now we had almost reached Bhutan.” “One thing that I really liked about Bhutan was that Bollywood is really popular here. You won’t believe it, but this man, he’s a Bhutanese singer, and he stole my song, Chori Kiya Re Jiya, from Dabangg. He sang it so fluently and so beautifully that I can’t even tell you. I can’t sing it for you here because there will be a copyright claim. But you can understand, because I was really into it. During the trip, I met so many people who watch Hindi films, know Bollywood music, and were surprisingly so familiar with my work.” Sonakshi added, “I kept meeting people at different places who talked a lot about my films, songs, and characters.

How Saransh Jain chose red-ball cricket over IPL stint before Test debut

Colombo: Saransh Jain’s journey to becoming India’s Test cap No. 320 on Sunday is a touching story of never-dying belief in himself and diligent work to improve his skills in red-ball format, for which he was even ready to let go a chance to earn an IPL contract. Chandrakant Pandit, Jain’s coach at Madhya Pradesh, clearly remembers that open conversation with his ward, which left him an immensely impressed man. “He did mention to me, especially last season, that he wants to focus on his red ball game. He was very clear about it. It’s not that he is not averse or keen to bowl with a white ball but he wanted to work on his red-ball bowling,” Pandit told PTI. But that particular chat between Pandit and Jain, who handed his Test debut against Sri Lanka here at the SSC, took place during IPL 2024 when the off-spinner approached him with a rather unusual demand. Jain, who was with Kolkata Knight Riders as a net bowler, did not want to continue that stint. “The reason he said then was that rather than spending time with the white ball as a net bowler, he preferred to work on the red ball game and eventually he became a state player,” Pandit, who took over MP’s coaching in 2020, added. However, Pandit does not have any doubt over

Jain’s ability to excel in white-ball format as well. “He is good enough to play both the formats, he has necessary skills. I am sure if some franchise picks him up in the IPL next season, he will do well there also. “But he doesn’t want to spend two months bowling with white ball as a net bowler. I really appreciated that he kept on working on his red ball game. He does bowl well, even white ball, when he plays for our state. So, this might just be the beginning for him,” he said. But when Pandit took over as MP’s coach six years back, Jain was not a regular, often suffering from bouts of self-doubts. “First season when I came in he was struggling to establish himself. The lack of game time had affected his confidence and I had to talk to him and give him that comfort, telling him to play freely without worrying about other things like selection.” But what made Pandit zeroed in on a non-regular player like Jain? “After the time of Harbhajan and Ashwin, we don’t have a proper off-spinner now, and Jain struck me as someone who can play at the highest level, and he needed that backing. So, it made me talk to him, understand his mindset and take him into my confidence,” he noted. Another thing that piqued Pandit’s interest was Jain’s ability to bowl from



around the wicket, something off-spinners tend not to do at any level. “Saransh is the only bowler, that I have ever seen, bowling round the wicket. I mean, there are no off-spinners I have seen who start the first delivery with a round the wicket. I mean, everybody has a different method of bowling and he has his. “But Saransh is the only unique bowler that I have found in terms of bowling around the wicket. Recently, I have seen many state level spinners, who have been copying his style,” Pandit detailed. The former India wicketkeeper batter also offered an insight into why the tribe of off-spinners is dwindling in domestic cricket after the era of Harbhajan and Ashwin. “Basically, you can see that after Ashwin and Harbhajan, the multi-format cricketers, probably the spinners, have been lacking in that kind of skills. They keep on playing the white ball cricket more and then the trajectory

has been changed and that is one of the reasons, “If you see Harbhajan and Ashwin and now Saransh, they offer flight, look for turn. So, I feel he is the typical Test match bowler. He always likes to use his variations, and not just push the ball flatter,” he said. Pandit said Jain has also developed his batting skills over the last couple of seasons, as he felt that it was a prerequisite for an India selection. “He has been a good batter as he has made runs in local tournaments. Later on, in the first couple of years, I found that he was not putting so much attention to his batting. So, I made him think that he has to develop batting if he wants to play for India. “He needs to contribute in batting whenever he gets selected for India, which he probably realised. He has taken a lot of initiative in practising his batting as well. His contribution has always helped Madhya Pradesh,” he said.

Gill and Padikkal steady India after early blows in second Test against Sri Lanka



Colombo: Captain Shubman Gill and Devdutt Padikkal hit contrasting half-centuries to put India in command before Sri Lanka fast bowler Asitha Fernando struck late by dismissing the former to leave the second Test delicately poised at tea on day one’s play at the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) Ground on Sunday. At tea break, India reached 187/3 in 52 overs, and dominated the second session until Gill’s dismissal for 50 broke a flourishing 120-run partnership off 209 balls for the third wicket. Padikkal remained unbeaten on 63 alongside Rishabh Pant, who’s yet to get off the mark and survived a loud lbw appeal off the final ball before the tea break arrived. Resuming after lunch on a pitch offering assistance to the bowlers, Gill and Padikkal built steadily against an increasingly frustrated Sri Lankan attack. Padikkal, who was dropped on zero and survived an early short-pitched bowling test, settled down and brought out the drive, pull and cuts to reach his fifty off 90 balls by crunching a boundary through the covers off Prabath Jayasuriya. The pair brought up their century stand off 168 deliveries as Sri Lanka resorted to negative tactics, with spinners Jayasuriya and Keshara Nuwantha firing deliveries down

the leg stump to test the batters patience. It meant multiple wides were called to force the spinners back onto a competitive line. Gill, who managed just 16 and eight in the series opener in Galle, was fluent in his front-foot play to reach his ninth Test half-century and first in Sri Lanka off 99 balls by flicking through fine leg for a single. Just as India looked set to complete a wicketless session in the Colombo heat, Fernando produced a breakthrough against the run of play. Pitching one on back on a length and wide of off stump, Fernando induced a loose slash from Gill, and had him edging behind to wicketkeeper Niroshan Dickwella, who clung on to the catch on the second attempt. Fernando almost got his second wicket when he struck Pant low on the pad with a full, inswinging delivery. But the umpire turned down the vociferous appeal, with replays suggesting the angle would have carried the ball past leg stump. With Padikkal looking solid in his knock laced with seven boundaries and Pant expected to come good, India will aim to solidify their strong position in the match. Brief Scores: India 187/3 in 52 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 63 not out, Shubman Gill 50; Asitha Fernando 2-34, Lahiru Kumara 1-33) against Sri Lanka

Shikhar Dhawan lauds Treesa Jolly, Gayatri Gopichand after historic World Championships bronze



New Delhi: Former India opener Shikhar Dhawan on Sunday lauded shuttlers Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand for their historic bronze medal triumph at the ongoing BWF World Championships, adding that their remarkable campaign has been an inspiring journey to follow. The unseeded Indian pair, ranked 39 in the world and bronze medal winners at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, put up a valiant fight before bowing out 21-18, 13-21, 8-21 against top seeds and reigning world champions Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning of China in a gripping women’s doubles semi-final contest spanning an hour and 11 minutes here at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium on Saturday. Commending their effort, Dhawan took to micro-blogging site ‘X’ to celebrate the duo’s achievement. “From being unseeded to beating three seeded pairs and making the World Championships semifinals... what a journey! Take a bow, Treesa & Gayatri!” the former cricketer wrote on Sunday. Treesa and Gayatri, the daughter of legendary

shuttler Pullela Gopichand, had etched their names in the record books a day earlier after pulling off a gritty fightback win over fourth-seeded Chinese pair Jia Yi Fan and Zhang Shu Xian. The victory ensured the duo became the first Indian women’s doubles pair to secure a World Championships medal since Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa claimed bronze medal in London in 2011. Their breakthrough performance also ensured that India’s remarkable streak of winning at least one medal at every edition of the World Championships since 2011 remained intact – a run spanning 15 years. The streak started with Jwala and Ashwini ending a 28-year medal drought in 2011, after Prakash Padukone’s historic 1983 bronze. Over the years, two-time Olympic medallist P.V. Sindhu headlined the run with five medals, including her landmark 2019 gold medal win. Treesa and Gayatri will also be seen in action in the 2026 Asian Games, which will start in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan next month.

Govt mandates disclosure of sterilisation facility licence number on medical device labels



New Delhi: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has mandated medical device manufacturers that outsource sterilisation to disclose the licence number of the facility carrying out the process on the labels of their devices, in a move aimed at strengthening traceability and accountability in the medical device sector. The ministry has amended Rule 44 of the Medical Devices Rules, 2017, through a gazette notification to make the disclosure mandatory where a manufacturer outsources sterilisation to another facility holding a valid licence to undertake the sterilisation of medical devices. The amended provision states that in cases where a medical device manufacturer outsources sterilisation to a licensed facility, the licence number of the sterilisation site must be mentioned on the label of the device. Sterilisation involves eliminating or reducing microbial contamination to a level that ensures medical devices are safe for use in healthcare settings. The government’s move is aimed at improving the traceability of devices and identifying the facility responsible for the critical sterilisation process. However, domestic medical device manufacturers have raised concerns over the new requirement, arguing that it could add to their compliance burden without addressing their broader concerns around

outsourced sterilisation. Rajiv Nath, forum coordinator of the Association of Indian Medical Device Industry (AiMeD), said the requirement could create particular difficulties for export shipments by limiting manufacturers’ ability to shift production between approved sterilisation facilities based on turnaround time and available capacity. “Depending on cobalt strength and backlog, shipments could be delayed by two to three weeks, instead of being dispatched within a week,” Nath said. AiMeD argued that quality and traceability are generally placed on manufacturers in global regulatory frameworks, with documentation maintained by companies providing batch-level accountability. The industry body claimed that no other jurisdiction requires subcontractor details to be printed on medical device packaging. According to AiMeD, the requirement could therefore put Indian medical device manufacturers at a competitive disadvantage in international markets. The latest amendment comes nearly a year after the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) informed drug authorities across states and Union Territories that a loan licence may not be required for medical technology companies outsourcing sterilisation to another facility that holds a valid licence for the process.

Piyush Goyal leads 200-member Indian business delegation to Japan

New Delhi: Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, will visit Japan from 24 to 27 August 2026, travelling to Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka, leading India’s largest-ever business delegation to Japan, comprising more than 200 business representatives and spanning sectors ranging from manufacturing, semiconductors, clean energy and steel to automotive, financial services, healthcare and start-ups, according to an official statement issued on Sunday. The visit reflects the scale of ambition both nations bring to their Special Strategic and Global Partnership, and comes at a time when India and Japan are looking to significantly deepen trade and investment ties, the statement said. In Tokyo, the Minister will hold a series of meetings with the top leadership of major Japanese conglomerates and industrial houses that have long been partners in India’s growth, alongside a round-table with Keidanren (Japan Business Federation), the apex body representing over 1,500 leading Japanese companies. Dedicated sessions are planned on semiconductors and artificial intelligence, start-ups, and engagement with foreign institutional investors, reflecting India’s growing pull as an investment and innovation destination. The Minister will also hold bilateral talks with his counterpart Japanese counterpart Akazawa Ryosei, Minister of Economy,



Trade and Industry (METI), and call on senior members of the Japan’s Government and Parliament, besides interacting with the Indian community in Japan. In Nagoya, the industrial heartland of Central Japan, the Minister will lead a roadshow with Chukeiren (Central Japan Economic Federation) and the Nagoya Chamber of Commerce & Industry, and engage with the Aichi Prefecture leadership and major manufacturing investors in the automotive and steel sectors. The visit will conclude in Osaka with an Investors and Business Road show, along with meetings with leading Japanese companies across electronics, industrial and consumer sectors, aimed at showcasing opportunities across India’s manufacturing, clean energy and consumer markets. Japan has consistently been among India’s most trusted partners in investment, technology and industrial collaboration, with Japanese enterprises playing a defining role across India’s automotive, steel, electronics, financial services and infrastructure landscape.

Sensex needs to cross 77,720-78,000 for recovery, Nifty eyes 24,400-24,600: Analysts



Mumbai: The near-term outlook for the Indian stock market remains sideways to cautious, with analysts identifying 77,000-77,380 as an immediate support zone for the Sensex and 77,720-78,000 as a key resistance area, while the Nifty faces resistance at 24,400-24,600. Analysts said a sustained move above the Sensex resistance zone could improve the short-term market outlook, while holding above the 77,000-77,380 support range would keep the ongoing consolidation structure intact. "From a technical perspective, the index continues to trade around its 50-Day EMA but remains below the crucial 200-Day EMA, keeping the broader trend cautious. RSI at 49.00 indicates subdued momentum, with no clear directional strength at present," a market expert stated. "Immediate support is placed at 77,000–77,380, while 77,720–78,000 remains the key resistance zone," the analyst added. For the Nifty, analysts have placed immediate support in the 24,000-23,800 zone, followed by stronger support near 23,650. "Sustaining above 24,000 and the lower triangle trendline would indicate continued buying interest on declines and help preserve the current technical structure," an analyst stated. Also Read Four of top-10 firms lose Rs 87,960 crore in market value last week Advertisement Discover more Newspa-

per Advertising Space Regional News Updates India News Portal "On the upside, a decisive move above 24,600 could strengthen recovery momentum and attract fresh buying, while a break below 23,900 may increase selling pressure and weaken the near-term setup," a market expert noted. The benchmark indices ended the week on a cautious note, extending their recent corrective trend amid elevated crude oil prices, rising global bond yields and persistent geopolitical tensions, which continued to weigh on investor sentiment. Trading remained volatile through the week, with the benchmark indices witnessing intermittent recovery attempts before ending Friday largely unchanged as investors assessed the evolving global risk environment. On a weekly basis, the Nifty declined around 0.47 per cent to close at 24,252, while the Sensex fell nearly 0.60 per cent to settle at 77,540.83. The decline marked the second consecutive week of losses for both benchmark indices. The broader market, however, showed relative resilience. The SmallCap index gained around 1.2 per cent during the week, while the MidCap index ended marginally lower. On Friday, the Sensex edged up just three points to close at 77,540.83, while the Nifty 50 gained 20 points, or 0.08 per cent, to settle at 24,252.

Four of top-10 firms lose Rs 87,960 crore in market value last week

Mumbai : Four of the top-10 most valued companies in India collectively saw their market capitalisation erode by Rs 87,960.29 crore last week. The Sensex declined 468.42 points, or 0.60 per cent, during the week, while the Nifty fell 114 points, or 0.46 per cent. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that for the coming week, 24,000-23,900 will remain the crucial support zone, while 24,500-24,600 is the immediate resistance area. "Sustaining above 24,000 and the lower triangle trendline would indicate continued buying interest on declines and help preserve the current technical structure," an analyst stated. "On the upside, a decisive move above 24,600 could strengthen recovery momentum and attract fresh buying, while a break below 23,900 may increase selling pressure and weaken the near-term setup," a market expert noted. Bharti Airtel's market valuation declined by Rs 28,052.96 crore to Rs 12,14,963.15 crore, marking the steepest erosion among the country's top-10 most valued firms. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) also witnessed a significant decline in valuation, with its market capitalisation falling by Rs 22,070.34 crore to Rs 8,31,436.51 crore. The market valuation of State Bank of India declined by Rs 20,861.20 crore to Rs 9,64,968.76 crore, while Hindustan Unilever's mcap fell by Rs 16,975.79 crore to Rs 4,73,912.56 crore. On the other hand, six companies among the top 10 recorded



gains in their market valuation during the week. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) added Rs 12,650 crore to its market capitalisation, taking it to Rs 5,35,980.31 crore. Reliance Industries gained Rs 8,119.53 crore, with its valuation rising to Rs 17,78,175.59 crore. Larsen & Toubro's market capitalisation increased by Rs 3,487.83 crore to Rs 5,62,460.94 crore, while Bajaj Finance added Rs 3,424.28 crore to reach Rs 6,80,621.62 crore. ICICI Bank's valuation edged up by Rs 752.47 crore to Rs 10,18,330.45 crore, while HDFC Bank gained Rs 356.95 crore, taking its market capitalisation to Rs 11,21,159.05 crore. Reliance Industries retained its position as the country's most valued firm by market capitalisation, followed by Bharti Airtel, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and State Bank of India. TCS, Bajaj Finance, Larsen & Toubro, LIC and Hindustan Unilever completed the top-10 list.

Kolusu dares YSRCP to prove even a single Mega DSC irregularity

Amaravati: Information and public relations minister Kolusu Parthasarathy on Saturday challenged the YSRCP to produce even a single piece of evidence establishing irregularities in the Mega DSC recruitment, accusing the opposition party of launching a political campaign to divert attention from the alleged lapses in the APPSC examinations conducted during its tenure. Addressing the media at TDP headquarters in Mangalagiri, Parthasarathy said the YSRCP had filed numerous cases questioning the Mega DSC process but had failed to substantiate its allegations before the courts. He claimed that the High Court had also questioned the basis of the litigation. Drawing a sharp contrast between the two recruitment processes, the minister alleged that Mega DSC was conducted transparently under the coalition government, whereas serious questions had emerged over the handling of APPSC Group-1 answer sheets during the previous government. He alleged that, unlike examination answer sheets normally kept under tight security in strongrooms, APPSC answer sheets under the previous regime were taken to a private resort without adequate security and were allegedly evaluated by unqualified persons. He further claimed that the Group-1 process was undertaken without the approval of the APPSC chairman or the Commission. Government Travel Guides India Health Lifestyle Articles Parthasarathy invoked Rule 17, Clause 19, which he said re-



quires the APPSC chairman's approval for processes undertaken by the Commission, and questioned former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy over the decision to introduce digital evaluation. He alleged that no proper Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) had been prepared for digital evaluation and that answer sheets were subsequently altered using whitener in violation of APPSC rules. He also questioned the creation of duplicate OMR sheets. The minister said the High Court-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) had been tasked with examining the alleged irregularities and challenged YSRCP leaders to participate in an open debate on its report. Parthasarathy said the coalition government was committed to providing employment opportunities to youth through an annual job calendar. He stressed that APPSC examinations are particularly important because the candidates selected through them occupy key positions in the State administration.

AP government's AI-powered GST model draws wide attention



Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh has successfully showcased its pioneering GST administration model, based on artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML), at the sixth National Coordination Meeting held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on Friday. The tech-driven model, appreciated widely, now has potential to emerge as a benchmark and replicable model for GST administration across the country. The meeting, chaired by the Union revenue secretary, was attended by the GST Council Secretariat, CBIC and senior tax officials from States and Union Territories. Andhra Pradesh's presentation, titled "Use of AI/ML and Automation in GST Tax Administration — From Case Selection to Litigation," was included as a dedicated agenda item. The Commercial Taxes Department explained how AI-based systems are being used for case selection and allocation, return scrutiny under Section 61, audit under Section 65, inspection under Section 67 and litigation before the First Appellate Authority, GST Appellate Tribunal and High Court. The system integrates data from four sources and uses 19 analytical reports and a 35-parameter risk matrix to identify and classify cases before they reach officers. High-value cases are routed for additional scrutiny through

statutory mechanisms. The department also demonstrated its Legal-AI Officer Assistant, trained on GST laws and about 22,000 judgments from courts and tribunals. It has been extended across three litigation forums and is assisting officers with drafting instructions, para-wise remarks, and replies for more than 13,700 cases. The department presented data comparing AI-assisted operations with the earlier manual system. During six months of AI-driven return scrutiny, revenue detection reached Rs 743.43 crore, compared with Rs 365.75 crore during the comparable legacy period. Detection per case also rose sharply to Rs 27.63 lakh, against Rs 3.08 lakh under the earlier process. The department stressed that AI does not replace statutory decision-making. It generates drafts and analytical inputs, while officers take decisions and digitally sign notices and orders, ensuring traceability. The presentation received strong interest from participating States. Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Assam and Meghalaya have sought details of the system and are planning visits to Andhra Pradesh to study its architecture and workflow. The Revenue Secretary commended AP's initiative as a model that other States could consider adopting.

Sridhar Varma assumes charge as SVBC Chairman



B Sridhar Varma took charge as the new chairman of Sri Venkateswara Bhakti Channel (SVBC) in the presence of TTD JEO Dr A Sarath at a ceremony held at the SVBC office in Tirupati on Saturday. Before assuming office, he performed special prayers and received Vedic blessings from priests. Former CM Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao's sons Nandamuri Ramakrishna and Nandamuri Mohana Krishna, along with their family members, public representatives, leaders, officials and prominent persons from Nellore, Tirupati, Chittoor and

Annamayya districts, attended the event and congratulated him. He has been serving as the Telugu Desam Party's media coordinator, thanked Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Minister Nara Lokesh and the Nandamuri family for entrusting him with the responsibility. He also thanked Palamaner MLA N Amarnath Reddy for his support. Varma said he would work to spread the values of Sanatana Dharma and spiritual messages through SVBC and provide better spiritual programmes for devotees.

Embrace change, stay adaptable : Shubhanshu Shukla tells IIT graduates



Tirupati: Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla AC urged graduating students of IIT Tirupati to embrace change, step out of their comfort zones and stay prepared for uncertainty as they begin their careers. Congratulating the students at the Institute's 8th convocation on Saturday, he said they were entering an exciting phase, with IIT Tirupati itself expanding and reaching new heights. Drawing on his experiences in astronaut training and space exploration, he encouraged the graduates to keep learning, adapt to changing circumstances and identify the right opportunities. Change and uncertainty, he said, would be a part of their professional journeys, making it important to develop a broader perspective and remain adaptable while pursuing their goals. Chairman of the IIT Tirupati Board of Governors and JSW Group head Sajjan Jindal, who joined the convocation virtually, urged the graduates to use their knowledge, technical skills and experience to address challenges and contribute to India's development. He said the country's transformation would require engineering excellence, entrepreneurship, innovation and the ability to develop solutions at scale. IIT Tirupati Director Prof KN Satyanarayana

highlighted the Institute's focus on excellence in education, research and innovation, while preparing students to become responsible professionals. The Institute follows a people-centric approach that combines science and technology with social responsibility and regional values. Prof Satyanarayana stressed the importance of shaping students through knowledge, guidance and experience so they can contribute meaningfully to society. He urged the graduates to uphold ethical standards and use their knowledge for human welfare and sustainable development. A total of 457 degrees were awarded across various programmes, including 220 BTech, 125 MTech, 43 MSc, 15 Master of Public Policy, eight MS (Research) and 37 PhD degrees, besides dual degrees, diplomas and BSc programmes. Eighteen students received medals and prizes for academic and extracurricular achievements. T Mokshith Reddy of the Computer Science department received the President's prize for the best academic performance among the 2026 BTech graduates. Subham Mohanty received the Governor's prize for all-round excellence in academics and extracurricular activities.