

CM Naidu pushes AP farm produce into global mkts

Amaravati: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Monday called for a shift in Andhra Pradesh's agricultural economy from selling raw produce to processing, value addition, branding and exports, saying this is essential to raise farmers' incomes and create new wealth. At Musunuru in Eluru district, Naidu, along with Vice-President C P Radhakrishnan and Governor S Abdul Nazeer, unveiled non-GMO hybrid popcorn maize seeds and visited the Garma Popcornica facil-

ity, described as the country's largest processing unit for non-GMO, high-expansion popcorn. The Chief Minister said the initiative demonstrated the benefits of integrating quality seeds, mechanisation, cultivation technology, organised procurement and processing. Garma Popcorn is cultivating the non-GMO hybrid maize across 40,000 acres with 17,500 farmers and accounts for about 70 per cent of India's popcorn production, he said. Noting that popcorn grown in the Nuzvid

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Tap AI for govt 1services: CM Naidu

Amaravati: Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to overhaul the delivery of government services by using technologies such as AI assistants, DigiVerify, data lakes and blockchain, with the objective of making government offices virtually unnecessary for citizens. Reviewing the performance of departments at a meeting on Real-Time Governance Society (RTGS) at the Secretariat on Monday, the Chief Minister said online services should be simplified and



redesigned around the principle that people should not have to visit government offices to obtain them. Chandrababu directed officials to streamline the data-entry process for all 1,204 services currently available

through the Mana Mithra WhatsApp governance platform. He stressed that data integration should eliminate the need for citizens to repeatedly upload certificates and other documents already available with government departments. He asked departments to improve their efficiency and focus on delivering faster and higher-quality services through technology-driven systems. The Chief Minister also reviewed the agricultural situation amid El Nino

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Rs 2.70 cr model women's police station opens in Tirupati



Tirupati: In a major initiative aimed at strengthening women's security and offering victim-centric support, the Tirupati district police inaugurated a state-of-the-art model Women's Police Station on Monday. State Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha formally opened the new facility in the presence of Minister for Revenue, Registration, and Stamps Anagani Satyaprasad, District Collector Dr S Venkateswar, and District Su-

perintendent of Police L Subba Rayudu. Built at an expenditure of Rs 2.70 crore, the two-storey model station provides a safe, dignified, and efficient environment for women seeking police assistance. Designed to address both procedural and socio-psychological dimensions of crime, the station features private interview counters, trained women officers, and dedicated duty rooms. A dedicated counselling

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AP woos investors for \$2.4 trillion economy drive



Andhra Pradesh is rapidly emerging as an ideal destination for investments, with the state government committed to supporting industrialists at every stage, from investment and project establishment to production, expansion and exports, industries, commerce and food processing minister T G

Bharath said. Addressing the 'Andhra Pradesh: Where Investments Meet Opportunities' programme organised jointly by the Confederation of Indian Industry and the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board at The Leela Palace here on Monday, the minister invited

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industrialists to explore investment opportunities in the state. He said the government, under the leadership of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, was working towards the Swarna Andhra 2047 vision, with an ambitious goal of transforming Andhra Pradesh into a 2.4 trillion dollar economy by 2047.

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Young innovator Anand Krishna earns IBR achiever recognition

Tirupati: At just 16, Chittoor-based Anand Krishna P V has earned recognition as an 'IBR Achiever' in the India Book of Records for his work in quantum technology. He was recognised for filing a patent for a low-resource two-qubit quantum structural interaction layer and hybrid system designed for deterministic sentence comparison with improved interpretability and efficiency. The patent application was filed with the Intellectual Property Office, Government of India, on July 15, along with three team members. The achievement was subsequently confirmed. Anand Krishna said the guidance of Dr



Y Bhavani Kumar, Prof P Venkata Krishna and Dr M Siva Parvathi played an important role in his learning and research. Their support encouraged him to develop his ideas and pursue his interest in quantum technology through research and

patent filing. He was felicitated by SPMVV Vice Chancellor Prof V Uma, who congratulated him on the achievement and appreciated his initiative in exploring quantum technology at a young age. She said age should not be a barrier to innovation.

BRICS sports ministers adopt joint declaration



Visakhapatnam: The BRICS Sports Ministers adopted the Sports Joint Declaration, highlighting member states' commitment to strengthening sports

through dialogue, mutual respect, and inclusiveness. Organised under India's BRICS Chairship 2026, the meeting

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KING
DAILY NEWSPAPER

Sovereign pre-
rogative or federal
overreach?
The politics of deny-
ing foreign visages

In a true federation, state leadership seeking global investment does not weaken national foreign policy; it strengthens the republic’s economic bedrock— Perspectives on Modern Indian Federalism A routine official overseas itinerary mutated into a fresh flashpoint in India’s ongoing center-state friction on August 21. Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, mid-way through an official overseas tour under the banner of the “Telangana Rising” initiative, was compelled to cancel the United States leg of his mission after the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) withheld “political clearance”. While the United Kingdom leg received the green light—allowing Reddy to engage with institutions like Oxford, Cambridge, and the London School of Economics—the sudden truncation forced him to return to Hyderabad from London. The incident has rekindled a crucial constitutional debate: What is this mechanism of “political clearance,” why does the Union government hold veto power over elected Chief Ministers, and where does the line lie between legitimate national security oversight and political partisan maneuvering? Under guidelines codified through executive orders and managed via the MEA’s dedicated portal (epolclearance.gov.in), all public servants—including Chief Ministers, state cabinet ministers, and senior bureaucrats—must obtain mandatory clearances before undertaking official or private travel abroad:

- MEA political clearance: Issued via the Coordination Division of the Ministry of External Affairs, evaluating whether a visit aligns with India’s foreign policy interests, diplomatic protocol, and the nature of the host institution’s invitation.
- Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) clearance: Issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs to ensure hospitality or funding from foreign hosts complies with federal financial laws.
- Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) clearance: Managed through the Ministry of Finance for delegatory travel involving financial agreements or state borrowings. The MEA evaluates requests based on broad parameters: the level of foreign participation; host country relations; security considerations; and whether the visit serves a direct national interest. Crucially, the term “political angle” remains largely discretionary, granting the Union Government vast latitude to approve or veto foreign engagements.

Precedents-A long line of grounded CMs: Revanth Reddy being denied clearance is far from an isolated event in Indian political history. Union executive control over state leadership’s foreign movements has routinely cut across party lines:

1. Arvind Kejriwal (Delhi, 2019): Denied permission by the MEA to attend the C40 World Mayors Summit in Denmark, with officials citing that a mayor-level conference was unsuitable for a Chief Minister.
2. Bhagwant Mann (Punjab, 2024): Refused political clearance to travel to France to support the Indian contingent at the Paris Olympics due to security protocols.
3. Pinarayi Vijayan (Kerala, 2018): Denied permission to travel across multiple nations to mobilize non-resident Keralite funds for post-flood reconstruction.

Tap AI for govt
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conditions. Officials informed him that crop yields this season could decline by up to 20 per cent from normal levels. They said Godavari water could continue to be diverted to the Krishna Delta through the Pattiseema project until the end of September. Chandrababu directed officials to ensure adequate water for crops already under cultivation and encourage farmers to take up alternative crops instead of paddy in areas where cultivation had not yet begun. He called for timely crop alerts and monitoring of the action taken on those alerts, suggesting the use of APTS analytics in coordination with the Aware platform. The Chief Minister also directed officials to ensure uninterrupted drinking-water supply and identify malaria and dengue hotspots. Officials reported that dengue cases had fallen from 1,361 during the corresponding period last year to 401 this year. Chandrababu further called for a major expansion of renewable energy as part of the state’s goal of becoming carbon neutral. He directed officials to prepare an action plan for large-scale installation of rooftop solar systems.

Rs 2.70 cr model women’s
police station opens in Tirupati
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center will resolve non-violent marital and family disputes through mediation, while professional psychiatrist services will be available two days a week. For visitors accompanied by young children, the station houses a child-friendly play corner and nursing facilities. Furthermore, a 24/7 cyber help desk will swiftly respond to online harassment and digital crimes. Addressing the gathering, Home Minister Anitha reiterated the government’s commitment to women’s safety, adding that permanent stations in newly formed districts are being fast-tracked alongside proposals for a Police Commissionerate in Tirupati. SP L Subba Rayudu noted that recorded crimes against women in the district declined from 94 last year to 58 this year, crediting intensified policing and community outreach. He assured women that complaints would be handled with complete sensitivity and confidentiality.

AP woos investors for \$2.4 trillion economy drive
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said the government was reforming its systems to ensure that investors do not have to run from office to office for approvals. Timely clearances, quality infrastructure and continuous government support would be provided to facilitate investments, he assured. Highlighting Andhra Pradesh’s advantages, the minister said its 1,053-km coastline, ports, industrial corridors, road and rail connectivity, energy resources, availability of land and skilled manpower offered a strong foundation for industrial growth. The state is promoting investments in electric vehicles, electronics, advanced manufacturing, life sciences, food processing, renewable energy, green hydrogen and green ammonia. The government is targeting 160 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030, he added. Inviting industrialists to the Partnership Summit scheduled in Visakhapatnam on November 12 and 13, TG Bharat said the government aimed to convert discussions into decisions and agreements into operational projects, boosting production, exports and employment opportunities for the youth. He later interacted with industry representatives and addressed their queries on investment opportunities and government policies.

BRICS sports ministers
adopt joint declaration
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saw BRICS member states discuss cooperation priorities and sports development. Addressing the delegates and ministers, Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya called for building a BRICS Sporting Partnership that translates the shared vision of member states into sporting collaborations. “We should build a BRICS Sporting Partnership that moves beyond declarations and creates effective platforms for sports collaborations,” Mandaviya emphasised, underlining how India is transforming its sporting ecosystem and creating opportunities from playgrounds to podiums under the able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Union Minister highlighted India’s key role in strengthening sports goods manufacturing and said that the scheme for promotion of sports goods manufacturing clusters will invite investments and promote indigenous manufacturing for global markets. “We invite global manufacturers and technology companies to Make in India, Play in India, and Grow with India,” he stressed. Marking the occasion, three priority initiatives were rolled out to deepen cooperation in sports. The working group will strengthen BRICS cooperation in sports cooperation science, athlete performance, governance, AI, and innovation, contributing experts across key sporting domains. India’s proposal for a BRICS Sports Manufacturing Conclave received support, with Udaipur and Rajasthan proposing to host its edition in November.

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region is supplied across India and exported abroad, Chandrababu said India had previously imported substantial quantities, including from Brazil. Also Read Farmer ID to be mandatory for govt procurement Advertisement Discover more Newspaper Subscription Sports News Coverage News The objective now, he said, should be to retain that value domestically and take Andhra Popcorn to global markets. He proposed dedicated railway station counters for Andhra Popcorn and Araku Coffee and called for indigenous products such as Kondapalli wooden toys to be developed into global brands. Naidu said only 10 per cent of agricultural produce is currently processed in the State, leaving considerable scope for value creation. He urged farmers to think like entrepreneurs and encouraged youth to enter food processing. Turmeric, chillies, maize, aquaculture and horticultural produce, he said, should be processed, branded and exported rather than sold merely as raw commodities. He also called for crop patterns to evolve with changing dietary habits and markets, pointing to the expansion of oil palm, cocoa and aquaculture around Nuzvid. Linking agricultural growth with water security, the Chief Minister said Rayalaseema is being developed as a horticulture hub through Rs 1 lakh crore in public and private investment, while 36 irrigation projects costing Rs 35,000 crore are being prioritised. Despite El Nino-related rainfall deficits, crops were protected by diverting Godavari water to the Krishna Delta, he said. Completion of the Chintalapudi project would transform the region, while the Veligonda project, scheduled for inauguration by month-end, would supply water to Markapuram, Prakasam, Nellore and Kadapa districts. The CM urged farmers to consider alternative crops such as pulses amid water-scarcity risks and reiterated the NDA government’s proposal to interlink the Godavari, Krishna, Tungabhadra, Penna and Cauvery rivers to strengthen irrigation and drinking-water security across four States. Further linking the Ganga, Mahanadi and Godavari, he said, could enable India to utilise thousands of TMCs of water and strengthen long-term national water security.

After a few hours
of pause Hydraa
begin demolition
activity at
Anjaiah Nagar



Hyderabad: The DRF teams of Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (Hydraa) began demolition activity at Anjaiah Nagar in Gachibowli on Monday, after a few hours of pause. Hydraa and CMC officials took a decision after a joint inspection of the adjacent apartments. They noticed another seven-storeyed apartment had also been impacted and partially damaged after an illegal apartment collapsed on it, and decided to demolish it on Sunday itself. However, keeping in view the poor night visibility and the disturbance to residents of neighbouring apartments, the demolition was postponed to Monday. Hydraa deployed a high-reach hydraulic machine ‘Bahubali, to demolish the high-rise structure in an effort to avoid damage to adjacent structures. The heavy-duty, advanced machinery, popularly nicknamed the ‘Bahubali machine, was used by Hydraa in several times during the demolition of high-rise structures. But rain which was continued on Monday, hampered demolition of the structure. In an official statement, the Hydraa stated to avoid disturbing the sleep of residents in the Anjaiah Nagar surrounding areas, the Hydra halted demolition work during the night. The operations resumed under the joint supervision of CMC and Hydraa on Monday. Demolition activities were back underway using the ‘Bahubali’ high-reach machine, it added.

Four arrested for attempting to sell leopard skin and claws in Kothagudem

Kothagudem: Burgampad and task force police have arrested four persons, including three tribals from Andhra Pradesh, for attempting to illegally sell leopard hide and claws in the district. Speaking to the media, Superintendent of Police B Rohith Raju informed that a police team led by Burgampad SI E Naga Biksham and task force personnel, acting on a tip-

off, took four suspects into custody at Tallagommuru village of Burgampad mandal on Monday. During interrogation, three of the accused confessed to having killed a leopard last summer in a forest area near Gammalakota village of Chintoor mandal in Andhra Pradesh, when the animal had fallen into a pit and was unable to escape. They removed the hide and claws,

dried and preserved them. Later, while attempting to sell the leopard hide and claws, they came in contact with a resident of Sarapaka, Challa Anil Kumar, who offered to assist with the sale by contacting potential buyers. The three accused brought the hide and claws to hand over to Anil Kumar at his residence. Along with Anil Kumar, the accused Kunja Bhadraiah, Kunja Gangaraju and Madavi Kannaiah, all residents of Gammalakota village of Chintoor mandal in Polavaram district, were arrested.



Dried skin of the leopard along with 17 claws was seized, the SP said. Paloncha DSP R Satish Kumar, SB Inspector Srinivas, Paloncha CI Satish, task force CI Ramakanth, SIs Naga Biksham, Praveen and Suman were present.

Harish Rao questions delay in job notifications over 121 liquor brands notification

Hyderabad: Former Minister T Harish Rao criticised the Revanth Reddy government over the notification issued for 121 liquor brands, questioning its delay in releasing job notifications for unemployed youth. He stated that lakhs of job seekers were waiting for employment opportunities while the government was moving swiftly on liquor-related notifications. "Why is there such urgency for the liquor business when there is none for job notifications?" he asked. Harish Rao said educated youth were completing degrees and post-graduation programmes while waiting for government jobs, but the government was instead expanding liquor outlets and brands



to increase revenue. He also accused the government of failing to fulfil its promise of two lakh government jobs and alleged that fee reimbursement and Rajiv Yuva Vikasam had failed to deliver. "Job notifications nil, liquor notifications full—is this the Praja Palana promised by Revanth Reddy?" he asked.

Telangana Auto Drivers Call Off Strike After Government Assures Welfare Board, Fare Hike

Auto-rickshaw drivers in Telangana have agreed to withdraw their strike after the Telangana government assured them it would take action on their key demands, such as a welfare board, and hike in fares. The decision was made after talks with government representatives on their demands and concerns on their livelihoods with the representatives of the auto drivers. The drivers had initiated the strike in order to ask for actions to enhance their working conditions and give them financial security. One of their primary demands was to have a welfare board for the auto-rickshaw drivers, which they believed would work to address social security and welfare issues. They also demanded for the revision of the auto-rickshaw fares due to increased operating expenses and constraint in living with the existing fares. After assurances from the Government, a strike by



the drivers was called off and the drivers called off the strike, making the auto-rickshaw services to return to normal. The drivers have been seeking a fare revision, citing rising fuel, maintenance and other operating costs. The government has pledged to look at the drivers' call for a fare hike. The proposed welfare measures are also likely to offer more support to the drivers and their families. The strike has been withdrawn, and the auto-rickshaw services are likely to resume to their normal routines across all over Telangana.

Gachibowli building collapse: HYDRAA orders safety drive

Hyderabad: Following the collapse of a seven-storeyed building incident killing two workers, Hydreaa Commissioner A V Ranganath said unsafe buildings in Anjaiah Nagar at Gachibowli would be identified and demolished to prevent any loss of life. On Monday, Ranganath, along with Kukatpally Zonal Commissioner Mayank Singh, visited the site and reviewed the ongoing demolition of unsafe buildings. In a press statement, he said, "We are in a situation where it is impossible to predict when a building might collapse. Measures must be taken to prevent any loss of life in future." Local residents complained to officials that several nearby buildings were similarly unsafe. Regarding collapsed illegal apartment, the Hydreaa official said the structural integrity of these buildings was compromised because seven- and eight-



storey structures were constructed on 50-square-yard plots after partially encroaching on a stormwater drain. He also said permissions were obtained only for two floors on such small plots, with pillars and foundations designed accordingly, but the buildings were later extended up to seven floors, beyond their load-bearing capacity.

Two-year-old undergoes epilepsy surgery at Yashoda Hospitals



Hyderabad: A two-year-old baby, Vagdevi from Bhongir, who had been suffering from severe seizures almost every day since the age of six months, has become seizure-free following advanced epilepsy surgery at Yashoda Hospitals, Secunderabad. According to a press release, the child had been experiencing seizures despite being treated with multiple anti-seizure medications for nearly a year and also developed delays in speech, physical and cognitive development. Scans revealed a small lesion in the left temporal region, close to the amygdala and hippocampus, which was identified

as the likely cause of the seizures. A specialised paediatric neuro team jointly managed the case. Dr N Varsha Monica Reddy, Senior Paediatric Neurologist, Yashoda Hospitals, Secunderabad, said, "If seizures are not controlled with medications, parents should not delay in consulting epilepsy specialists." Dr R Ayya durai, Senior Neurosurgeon, Yashoda Hospitals, Secunderabad, said, "An anterior temporal lobectomy was performed along with successful removal of the lesion, an area of abnormal tissue responsible for the seizures."

Smart Solutions... Experts prescribe pills to cure Hyderabad's traffic ills



The urban transport experts wanted the government to focus on last mile connectivity, which will be the only solution to the ever-increasing traffic problem. The experts opined that diverting people to public transport is important to discourage them from using individual vehicle. Citizens for Better transport convener S Jeevan Kumar said that no one wants to use their individual vehicles when there is proper transport facility. The RTC should increase the frequency of services and should maintain time discipline at least during the office hours. Another important aspect is providing last mile connectivity. "While the major areas are connected, it is the lack of proper transport facilities from their residences, which discourage them from opting for public transport," said Jeevan Kumar. For a long time, there is a talk to provide last mile connectivity but it has not been materialised. After the arrival of Metro Rail, the TGSRTC seems to have taken a back seat and playing second fiddle to the Metro. The experts suggested encouraging both the Metro and also RTC. The experts said that even in the developing countries, people use public transport. If this model can be followed half of the

traffic woes will end in the city. India Epaper Subscription Another expert, former faculty in CESS (Centre for Economics and Social Studies) C Ramachandraiah said that the governments are promoting big money projects ignoring existing public transport. He said that the Metro is preferred by the long distance travellers but not the short distance travellers who travel five to six km. They don't bother how the passengers could reach the last mile destination after getting down from Metro. Simply they go for big contract big money. By the end of the day what happens is, they spend so much money, the intended benefits will not be there, he said. Ramachandraiah said that when RTC is carrying 30 lakh people per day and if we would have spent another Rs 1,000 crore and giving priority to the RTC, it might have been carrying another 5 lakh people every day. As per the service level benchmark of Government of India, Hyderabad should be having over 6,000 RTC buses. As per the benchmark there should be 60 buses for a lakh population for a city like Hyderabad. However, the city fleet which used to be 2,500 has now decreased to almost half, the expert opined.

Tata group-owned IHCL announces Oriental Hotels merger

New Delhi: Tata Group-owned Indian Hotels Company Ltd (IHCL) on Monday said Oriental Hotels Ltd will be merged with IHCL through an all-stock transaction. The Boards of Oriental Hotels and IHCL have approved a Scheme of Arrangement to this effect. The Scheme of Arrangement proposes a share swap ratio of 25 IHCL shares for every 117 OHL shares, and aims to complete the transaction in the second half of FY2028. “In line with our Accelerate 2030 strategy of creating value, simplifying the group’s holding structure and unlocking the full potential of OHL portfolio including iconic assets like Taj Coromandel, Chennai, Taj Fisherman’s Cove Resort & Spa, Chennai and Taj Malabar Resort & Spa, Cochin, the Boards of IHCL and OHL have today approved this merger,” Puneet Chhatwal, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, IHCL said. Oriental Hotels is an associate company of IHCL. The company has a portfolio of seven hotels with 825 rooms. This includes freehold assets: Taj Coromandel – Chennai, Taj Fisherman’s Cove Resort & Spa – Chennai and Gateway Coonoor, and long-tenure leasehold assets: Taj Malabar Resort & Spa – Cochin, Vivanta Coimbatore, Vivanta Mangalore and Gateway Madurai. Additionally, OHL has strategic investments in several IHCL group hotel companies in India and internationally, including St. James Court, TAL Hotels and Resorts Ltd, Lanka Island Resorts Ltd, Taj Madurai Ltd and Taj Karnataka Hotels and Resorts



Ltd. “The Scheme of Arrangement proposes a share exchange ratio of 25 IHCL shares for every 117 OHL shares and is an all-stock transaction, with completion targeted in the second half of FY2028 and Appointed Date of April 1, 2027,” Ankur Dalwani, Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer, IHCL said. The Scheme is subject to statutory approvals and clearances. “The merger will further simplify the group’s holding structure by increasing IHCL’s direct ownership across several entities, resulting in two new operating subsidiaries. This will streamline governance, optimise overheads, enhance operational efficiency, and support our Accelerate 2030 objectives,” Dalwani said. Pramod Ranjan, Managing Director & CEO, Oriental Hotels Ltd, said the merger of OHL with IHCL will create significant value for OHL shareholders, enabling them to now participate directly in IHCL’s growth journey.

India’s monsoon improves, eases risks for Kharif crop: Report



New Delhi: India’s monsoon situation has improved significantly in recent months and eased concerns over widespread disruption to Kharif crop, although rainfall distribution remains a major factor to watch, according to a report. A report by global brokerage Macquarie said that the cumulative rainfall deficit had narrowed sharply to 12.6 per cent as of Aug 19 from 35 per cent in June. “The situation is recovering, albeit not fully recovered,” it added. The improvement has also been reflected in Kharif sowing, which has recovered considerably after a weak start to the season. As of Aug 14, total Kharif sowing was 2 per cent below last year’s level, compared with a 21 per cent shortfall in late June, according to the brokerage. In addition, rice acreage was 3.7 per cent below last year, while maize acreage was down 4 per cent. In contrast, acreage under pulses, oilseeds, sugarcane and cotton was within around 1 per cent of year-ago levels. Macquarie said the remaining weakness in sowing was largely concentrated in a few crops rather than being broad-based. Moreover, healthy reservoir levels are also providing a buffer against the rainfall deficit. Reservoir storage remains at or above the 10-year average in Maharashtra and Gujarat, while key agricultural states including Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab have storage levels at around 80-100 per

cent of their respective averages. However, Bihar and parts of southern India warrant close monitoring. The improving monsoon, limited shortfall in overall sowing and adequate irrigation reserves have collectively reduced downside risks to Kharif output, the report said. It further noted that the development is also positive from an inflation perspective, with food-supply and inflation risks moderating from June levels.

TN tiger attack case: Political parties, traders give two-day strike call in Gudalur

Nilgiris: Political parties, traders and transport operators have called for a two-day general strike in Tamil Nadu’s Gudalur Assembly constituency on August 27 and 28, demanding that the Forest Department take measures to prevent wild animal attacks. The call follows the deaths of two men in suspected tiger attacks at Lauriston in O-Valley Town Panchayat, alarming residents. Representatives of the BJP, Congress, VCK, CPI, CPI(M), NTK, DMDK and SDPI decided to organise the shutdown at a meeting held at the DMK MLA’s office in Gudalur on Sunday. They sought the support of traders, auto-rickshaw and taxi operators and plantation workers. The meeting also adopted a resolution seeking the release of VCK and DYFI functionaries arrested following a protest on

Bengal’s new industrial policy likely to make landowners stakeholders in new units

Kolkata: As the new West Bengal government is gearing up to announce its new industrial policy by the middle of September this year, the proposed policy is likely to have a separate section to encourage investors to make persons from whom land is taken for setting up industries the stakeholders in those industrial units. This proposal was included in the new industrial policy to eliminate possible complications in land procurement for setting up industries, which were witnessed during the Late Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee-led Left Front regime. Major agitations broke out in the state over land procurement for industries first over a small car project in Singur in Hooghly district and then over a chemical hub project at Nandigram in East Midnapore district during the Left Front rule. A state government official involved in preparing the new industrial policy said as part of broader proposals to make landowners the stakeholders in the industrial units concerned, there could be two options for achieving that goal. “The first option is to provide employment to one member of the land-owning family in the proposed industrial unit. The second option is enabling the land-owners to set up ‘indirect support’ entrepreneurship catering to the main industrial unit,” the state gov-



ernment official said. According to him, generally big industrial units, both in the manufacturing and services sectors, have a scope for support industries, which may be both “direct” and “indirect” entrepreneurship. “The ‘direct support’ entrepreneurs are those who supply technically specialised equipment for the main industries, and hence there will not be any scope for landowners to be stakeholders in this sector. However, big industries also come with a huge scope for ‘indirect support’ entrepreneurship through which the landowners can be made stakeholders,” the state government official said. According to him, a local tailoring unit run on a cooperative basis by landowners supplying uniforms for factory workers or a canteen run similarly on a cooperative basis supplying lunch-boxes for factory staff are typical examples of such “indirect support” entrepreneurs.

Punjab man shot dead in New York while delivering pizza; Indian mission assures assistance

New York: After a man from Punjab was shot dead by an unidentified assailant in the United States while he was out delivering pizza, the Indian mission in New York expressed grief over the incident and assured all possible assistance to the family of the victim. Gurdeep Singh, a 28-year-old native of Punjab’s Kapurthala, residing in the United States, was shot dead while delivering a pizza in New York City on August 21 (local time). According to an NDTV report, Singh went to the US 13 years ago after taking a loan, hoping to earn a livelihood and secure a better future for his parents back in India. According to local media reports, the attack was suspected to be the result of a robbery bid. The officials said that the suspect fled the scene after the shooting. When the police arrived at the scene, they found a man shot in the chest. According to CBS News, paramedics rushed the victim to a hospital. However, doctors pronounced him dead. No arrests have been made so far, according to the officials. The Indian Consulate General in New York expressed sadness over the incident



and said that the officials are in touch with the victim’s family. “We are deeply saddened to learn about the untimely demise of Mr Gurdeep Singh, an Indian national, who tragically lost his life in a shooting incident in Brooklyn, New York,” the Indian Consulate General said in a post on X. “Our thoughts and heartfelt condolences are with his family during this difficult time. The Consulate is in touch with the family and is extending all possible assistance,” it added. Meanwhile, officials are scanning the CCTV footage from the neighbourhood to identify the suspect. They said that an investigation into the case is underway. Further details are awaited.



Timely action could have prevented Ravikumar’s death, he said, demanding that the animal be eliminated because the attacks occurred close to residential areas. Seven people were arrested after bottles were allegedly thrown during the August 21 protest, injuring two police personnel. Political representatives claimed that the police had detained public functionaries instead of identifying those directly involved.

Raj Kundra praises Shilpa Shetty for ‘mastering the art of balancing everything’



Mumbai: Businessman-turned-actor Raj Kundra asserted that his wife, actress Shilpa Shetty, has “mastered the art of balancing everything,” as he spoke about her ability to seamlessly manage her professional commitments, family responsibilities, and personal life. The ‘Hungama 2’ took to Instagram to share a video of herself performing Bahu Vasisthasana, a challenging yoga posture that requires strength, stability, and balance. Sharing the video, Shilpa wrote, “Balance looking easy? Let’s put that to the test. Your turn to find your centre and hold it.”The ‘Dhadkan’ actress also explained the benefits of the asana, saying it strengthens the core, shoulders, arms, wrists, legs and spine while improving balance, stability, and focus. She added that the posture helps build lateral core and oblique strength, contributing to better overall body control and stability. Posting her video, Shilpa wrote, “Balance looking easy? Let’s put that to the test. Your turn to find your centre and hold it. Benefits:

Lisa Ray opens up about marriage, menopause and ‘unofficial husband’s guide’

Mumbai: Actress Lisa Ray has opened up about her experience of entering marriage while navigating the aftermath of menopause. In her recent post on Instagram, she reflected on how a lack of understanding about the changes in her body affected the early years of her relationship. Lisa revealed that she underwent chemo-induced menopause at the age of 37. She later met and married her husband at 40, a phase she described as challenging as she was still experiencing the effects of menopause. The ‘Four More Shots Please!’ actress said that if she had better understood what was happening in her body at the time, she might have been able to navigate the early years of her marriage differently. Lisa went on to share an “unofficial husband’s guide” to loving and supporting a woman through perimenopause and menopause. She wrote, “A very unofficial husband’s guide to loving a woman through perimenopause and menopause. I went into chemo-induced menopause at 37. I met and married my husband at 40. Entering marriage while experiencing the aftermath of menopause was...interesting. No wonder those first few years were volatile. Had I understood what was happening in my body, I might have thrown my husband a life raft.”“Gold star, baby. But jokes aside, I wish more men understood this: we are not broken and we don’t need fixing. Perimenopause can be long, exhausting and disorienting. Our resilience can be lower than usual, and sometimes the smallest things can feel like the last straw. So, guys, here’s a little guide to not just surviving it, shutting down or gaslighting your partner, but learning to walk beside her through it.” Lisa added, “1.? ?Understand that rage may be part of the package. Not every reaction is about you. Sometimes the hor-

Bahu Vasisthasana strengthens the core, shoulders, arms, wrists, legs and spine, while improving balance, stability and focus. The posture also builds lateral core and oblique strength, helping improve overall body control and stability. Avoid if: You’re suffering from cervical issues, a slipped disc, knee pain or tennis elbow. #MondayMotivation #SwasthRaho MastRaho #YogaSeHiHoga #FitIndia.” Notably, Raj Kundra’s husband was quick to take note of the actress’ post and commented, “You really have mastered the art of balancing everything my Queen.” Shilpa, who has long been associated with fitness and yoga, frequently shares workout and wellness-related content with her fan base. Through her posts, the actress continues to promote an active and healthy lifestyle. Every Monday, the 51-year-old actress shares fitness inspiration with her followers, often dishing out workout and yoga goals through her social media posts.



mones have entered the chat before she has. 2.? ?Don’t immediately try to fix it! Sometimes she needs a solution. Sometimes she needs you to listen. And occasionally, she needs everyone within a 10-foot radius to simply disappear. 3.? ?Give her space without making it abandonment. “Take your time. I’m here when you’re ready” can go a very long way. Try it? 4.? ?Notice the exhaustion. Sleep disruption is real. Brain fog is real. The woman who forgot why she walked into the room is not losing her mind. She may just be very, very tired. 5.? ?Don’t take every mood personally and equally, don’t use menopause as a convenient excuse to dismiss her feelings. Both things can be true. 6.? ?DO NOT say “calm down.” This is not a survival strategy. Mostly, though, stay curious. Her body is changing. Her relationship with herself may be changing too.”“It’s the ones closest to us that get the unedited version because they are home. That doesn’t mean they should become punching bags. It means we have to learn a new way of being with each other. To the men navigating this alongside us: thank you for staying in the room. Even when you may occasionally need a helmet. Here’s to us meno-survivors and to the men who love us.”Actress and cancer survivor Lisa Ray entered early menopause at 37 after undergoing high-dose chemotherapy as part of her treatment for multiple myeloma.

Anubhav Singh Bassi to bring new stand-up show ‘Kisi Ko Mat Batana’ to Hyderabad

Hyderabad: After the success of his previous show, Bas Kar Bassi, comedian Anubhav Singh Bassi is returning to the stage with his new stand-up show, Kisi Ko Mat Batana. The show promises a fresh set of funny stories, jokes and relatable observations. Bassi will perform in Hyderabad on September 20, with two shows scheduled at 3 pm and 7 pm at Shilpakala Vedika. The performance will run for approximately two hours. Tickets are priced at Rs 999 for Balcony Phase-1, Rs 1,499 for Silver, Rs 1,999 for Gold and Rs 2,499 for Platinum. The early-bird tickets have already sold out. Tickets for the Hyderabad shows can be booked on BookMyShow.



Zoe Saldana shares a glimpse of herself with a ‘bunch of girls having fun’

Mumbai: Actress Zoe Saldana gave a peek into the fun and camaraderie on the sets as she shared a string of clips featuring her “bunch of girls having fun.” From dancing and playing around with the crew between shoots to squeezing in workouts, enjoying a sumptuous post-shoot meal and getting her hair done, the actress took to Instagram to offer a glimpse of the lighter moments that kept the busy schedule entertaining. “Just a bunch of gurls having fun,” Zoe wrote as the caption. Saldana is one of the highest-grossing lead actors in history. She has been feted with an Academy Award, a BAFTA Award, two Critics Choice Awards, a Golden Globe Award, a SAG Award, and a Cannes Film Festival Award. The actress began her acting career in 1999 with a guest role in Law & Order. Her first film role was in Center Stage, in which she played a ballet dancer. She received early recognition for her work opposite Britney Spears in the road movie Crossroads and for her role in Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl. Saldana’s breakthrough came in the Star Trek reboot film series and James Cameron’s Avatar film series. She gained further recognition for portraying Gamora in five Marvel Cin-



ematic Universe films, beginning with Guardians of the Galaxy. In addition to franchise work, Saldana has also starred in films such as the comedy Death at a Funeral, the action thriller Colombiana, the crime drama Out of the Furnace, the animated comedy Missing Link, and the science fiction film The Adam Project. On television, she starred in the romantic drama miniseries From Scratch and the spy series Lioness. The second season premiered in 2024. Lioness follows the leader of a CIA team that enlists female operatives, who are known as Lionesses, to go undercover in the war on terror.

When Karan Johar revealed about Kajol’s massive crush on Akshay Kumar

Mumbai: Bollywood multi-hyphenate Karan Johar once revealed that his friend Kajol had a massive crush on Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar. An old video of the actress and KJo from one of Kapil Sharma’s shows has resurfaced on the Internet. It shows the director recollecting how his friendship with the actress started. In the video, Kapil asked the actress, “Ma’am, when you met Karan sir for the first time... did you like him for the first time?” The answer came as a loud “No” collectively from Kajol and Karan. Karan said, “She was laughing like crazy”. To which, Kapil asked, “Why were you laughing, ma’am?” Kajol said,



“Actually, I had gone to a filmy party. And I reached there and.. It was in a discotheque, it was like a bar and all that. And cut to Karan Johar coming in a three-piece suit, wearing a tie inside, and standing straight. At the bar, I just started laughing. I laughed so much. Looking at him.. Oh my God! I mean, a 21-year-old boy”.

Taapsee Pannu responds with cryptic ‘Hence proved’ post after Kangana Ranaut’s ‘sasti copy’ remark



Mumbai: Actress Taapsee Pannu shared a cryptic post on her social media handle on Sunday after actress and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut called her a ‘sasti copy’. On Saturday, Kangana had accused Taapsee of questioning her upbringing. While Kangana did not take any names, she shared on her IG, “One Sasti copy is out and about with her upcoming B grade film but as usual only headline point with the media is Kangana Ranaut, but today she crossed all limits shamelessly ridiculing my upbringing /parents, I think all parents do their best and I never bring any parents in to any argument, but today I also want to ask her parents why they couldn’t birth someone original like my parents did? Why a cheap Sasti copy? Feel sorry for your efforts.

Pant, Jurel hit fifties as India take control against Sri Lanka



Colombo: Wicketkeeper-batters Rishabh Pant and Dhruv Jurel hit rollicking half-centuries in an unbroken 112-run stand to help India cross the 400-run mark and wrest control back from Sri Lanka on day two of the second Test at the Sinhalese Sports Club. At lunch, India reached 419/6 in 112 overs, with Pant unbeaten on 63 off 88 balls alongside Jurel, who is on 59 not out off 107 balls. The duo left Sri Lanka searching for answers after a sweltering opening session. The highlight of the session was Pant, who retired hurt on three after copping a blow on left wrist, coming back and batting in his usual style to take the game forward alongside a rock-solid Jurel. In the morning, Sri Lanka made an early breakthrough with the second new ball when fast bowler Asitha Fernando surprised debutant Saransh Jain with a sharp bouncer from round the wicket and the leading edge was safely taken by gully. The early wicket brought Pant to the crease, who was immediately targeted with a barrage of short-pitched bowling by the Sri Lankan seamers. A short ball down leg from Lahiru Kumara was pulled

by Pant over the stadium roof and even damaged a solar panel, as a replacement ball was sought. With Jurel pristine in his drives and flicks, Pant was tested thoroughly by Lahiru Kumara and Fernando, and took two painful hits to his right shoulder that required medical treatment. Though Sri Lanka turned to the spin duo of Prabath Jayasuriya and Keshara Nuwantha, Jurel relied on the pull to send them to the boundary rope. Pant, on the other hand, used paddle sweep and decisive footwork, apart from edges rolling along the ground, to keep the scoreboard moving. Subsequently, both batters got their fifties easily – Pant thumped a pull to square leg to get his 21st fifty, while Jurel pulled through mid-wicket to bring up his third half-century. As Sri Lanka persisted with spin from both ends ahead of the lunch break, but didn't get consistency, Pant and Jurel raised a 100-run partnership for the seventh wicket and put India in the driver's seat of the match. Brief Scores: India 419/6 in 112 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 117, Rishabh Pant 63 not out; Asitha Fernando 4-60, Lahiru Kumara 1-61) against Sri Lanka

Sahithi Varshini secures second WGM norm at Kanizsa Open

Hyderabad: International Master Sahithi Varshini has moved a step closer to achieving the prestigious Woman Grandmaster (WGM) title by securing her second WGM norm at the Kanizsa Open 2026 in Hungary. Sahithi scored five points from nine rounds, producing an impressive 2429 performance rating and gaining 37 FIDE rating points. Her live classical rating has now risen to 2313, taking her above the 2300 Elo mark. The Visakhapatnam player delivered an impressive performance defeating GM Yeshaayahu Tzidkiya (2492) and IM Sahib Singh (2354). Her final-round victory against Sahib Singh was particularly memorable, as she showed tremendous fighting spirit and excellent technique in a long queen-versus-rook endgame. With two WGM norms now secured, Sahithi needs just one more WGM norm with a 2400-plus performance to complete the requirements for the Woman Grandmaster title. The achievement follows another strong international performance in France. At the Jurafllore International Chess Tournament in Les Rousses, Sahithi was adjudged the 'Best Woman Player' scoring 5/9 in a strong field and gaining 30 rating points. Sahithi is the first woman player from Visakhapatnam to earn the International Master title. She has represented India at the Chess Olympiad and has won nine international medals, including Asian Championship titles in the Under-10 and Under-12 categories and a Commonwealth Championship gold medal in Under-10. Sahithi's remarkable chess journey has been guided by her father and coach, M. Lokeswara Rao, who has trained her since her early



years. With her live rating at 2313 and only one WGM norm remaining, Sahithi is now firmly on the path towards becoming a Woman Grandmaster, with her sights set on achieving even greater heights in international chess.

BS Chess Academy to conduct tournament in Hyderabad on August 26

Hyderabad: B.S. Chess Academy will conduct a chess tournament on August 26 at Puchalapalli Sundarayya Leela Bhavan, here, according to Academy Coach and Organizing Secretary Bollam Sampath. The tournament will be conducted in Open, Under-9 and Under-15 categories. In the Open Category, cash prizes will be awarded to the top 15 players. In the Under-9 and Under-15 categories, cash prizes will be given to the top five players. In addition, 10 boys and 10 girls in each category will receive special prizes. For registration and details call 90665 67567.

2nd Test: Jurel's unbeaten 95 takes India to 475/8 before rain stops play

Colombo: Dhruv Jurel produced a flawless display of risk-free batting to reach 95 not out before heavy rain brought an early end to the second session on day two's play against Sri Lanka at the SSC Ground on Monday. By the time early tea was taken, India reached 475/8 in 131.2 overs. High winds and darkening skies forced the umpires to halt play, leading to an early tea break. Rain intensified shortly after, prompting the groundstaff to bring the entire playing area under heavy covers. Jurel remains five runs shy of a well-deserved second Test century – his first ton in Sri Lanka, while Mohammed Siraj is yet to open his account after facing 17 deliveries. After lunch break, Sri Lanka struck on the very first ball when Rishabh Pant hit Keshara Nuwantha straight to long-off. Though Pant fell for an entertaining 63 off 89 balls and the 112-run stand off 152 balls came to a halt, Jurel quickly seized control of the innings alongside Manav Suthar. Suthar proved to be an able partner as the surface began to offer noticeable assistance to the spinners. He handled the home side's short-ball tactics with composure, and even stepped down the pitch to loft Nuwantha over the mid-off boundary. The pair added 39 runs and took India past the 450-run mark before Prabath Jayasuriya finally broke through after a 35-over toil. Jayasuriya drew Suthar into pushing outside off-stump and extracted a thin edge that was caught behind by Niroshan Dickwella to send him back for 18. With



Mohammed Siraj content to defend at the other end, Jurel smartly farmed the strike while continuing to score at a steady rhythm. The wicketkeeper-batter exhibited excellent footwork against the turning ball, including deploying a fine reverse sweep off Sonal Dinusha to move into the 80s. As dark clouds gathered ominously over the ground, Sri Lanka brought back pacer Asitha Fernando, who was searching for his fifth wicket. But Jurel countered him by flicking a juicy full toss on his pads through mid-wicket for a boundary, taking his tally to 95 off 155 balls and pushing the Indian total towards 500 before rain arrived to halt the visitors march. Brief Scores: India 475/8 in 131.2 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 117, Dhruv Jurel 95 not out; Asitha Fernando 4-78, Keshara Nuwantha 2-154) against Sri Lanka

Rishabh Pant scripts history, breaks Dhoni's away Test runs record



Colombo: India star batter Rishabh Pant shattered MS Dhoni's record for most Test runs scored by an Indian wicket keeper away from home. The swashbuckling batter Pant went past Dhoni's feat during Day 2 of the second Test match against Sri Lanka at the Sinhalese Sports Club here on Monday. Pant scored a stroke-filled 63 in the first innings of the Test to go past the former skipper. Coming into the Test, the 28-year-old Roorkee man had scored 2471 runs in Tests away from home and at neutral venues. He needed to score 26 runs to get past the 2011 World Cup-winning captain, and he did so in style when he hit off-spinner Keshara Nuwantha for back-to-back fours in the 97th over of the first innings in the opening session on Day 2. Pant went on to complete his 21st Test half-century and a successive one after he had hit one in the second

innings of the first Test in Galle. The Southpaw's impressive stay came to an end on the first ball of the second session when he drilled one straight to deep mid-off off Nuwantha. Also Read 2nd Test: Pant, Jurel smash rollicking fifties, propel India to 419/6 against Sri Lanka Advertisement Discover more City & Local Guides Machine Learning & Artificial Intelligence News However, he has now scored 2534 runs as wicketkeeper away from home in Test cricket, with Dhoni now pushed back to second. Former cricketer Farokh Engineer had 1209 runs in away Tests as wicketkeeper, while Syed Kirmani made 1109 runs as wicketkeeper. In the process, Pant has also surpassed former South African wicketkeeper Mark Boucher in the same record list and has the third-most runs away from home by wicketkeepers overall. The list is led by former Pakistan captain Sarfaraz Ahmed, who made 2696 runs away from home in 52 Tests. Australia legend Adam Gilchrist is second with 2634 runs in 41 Tests away from home or at neutral venues. Pant's knock also saw him close in on 3000 World Test Championship runs as he aims to become the first Indian to get there. Following his 63, the Southpaw now has 2948 runs in 42 Tests in WTC history as he stands 52 shy of the 3000-run margin.

Bank strikes in September to disrupt services across India

Kolkata: Banking services across India are likely to be affected in September as the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), an umbrella body of nine bank employees' and officers' associations, has called for a nationwide strike in two separate spells. The first strike is scheduled for September 11, followed by a three-day strike from September 28 to 30. The protests are expected to significantly disrupt banking operations, particularly in public sector banks. The disruption will be more pronounced towards the end of September, with bank branches already scheduled to remain closed on September 26, the fourth Saturday, and September 27, Sunday. The three-day strike on September 28, 29 and 30 will extend the disruption for five consecutive days. Banking services will also be affected from September 11 to 13, with the one-day strike on September 11 followed by the weekend holidays on September 12 and 13. The UFBU has also warned of an indefinite strike from October 26 if its demands are not addressed. According to a statement issued by the UFBU on Monday, the four-day strike has been called primarily to press for the introduction of a five-day working week in the banking sector and withdrawal of the performance-linked incentive (PLI) system. Under the five-day working week demand, all Saturdays and Sundays would be declared holidays for bank employees. At present, banks generally re-



main closed on Sundays and the second and fourth Saturdays. The UFBU has termed the PLI system discriminatory and contrary to the understanding reached between bank employees' unions and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA). The unions have also raised concerns over several unresolved issues related to the next wage revision. These include updating and improving pension benefits, introducing a uniform dearness allowance formula for all pensioners and settling other pending demands. The UFBU said its meeting on Sunday unanimously decided to launch protest actions to press the demands. While bank branches will be closed on strike days, ATM and digital banking services may continue to operate depending on the bank and availability of cash and technical services. Customers have therefore been advised to plan essential branch-based transactions accordingly.

Symbiotec Pharmalab IPO: DRHP shows Rs 1,507.92 million legal claims against company



New Delhi: The Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) of Symbiotec Pharma lab showed that the company is facing multiple legal proceedings, including six tax proceedings and one material civil litigation, with the aggregate amount involved against the company standing at Rs 1,507.92 million. Symbiotec Pharma lab's Rs 1,757 crore initial public offering opened for subscription on Monday and will remain open until August 27. The pharmaceutical and biotechnology company has fixed the price band at Rs 938-988 per share. According to the DRHP, there is one criminal proceeding by the company and six tax proceedings against the company. It also faces one material civil litigation, with the aggregate amount involved in proceedings against the company disclosed at Rs 1,507.92 million. The company said its outstanding legal proceedings are pending before various courts and authorities. It cautioned that an unfavourable decision in such proceedings, individually or in aggregate, could adversely affect its reputation, continuity of management, business, results of operations, financial condition and cash flows. Also Read Sensex, Nifty open higher as crude oil prices slip up to 2 pc Advertisement Discover more Telangana Travel Guide Video News Content Entertainment News The DRHP also highlights legal proceedings involving the

company's directors, subsidiaries and promoters. Directors, excluding promoters, face two criminal proceedings and 11 tax proceedings, with the aggregate amount involved disclosed at Rs 4.12 million. The company's subsidiaries are also involved in legal proceedings. One criminal proceeding is reported against the subsidiaries, with an aggregate amount of Rs 3.67 million involved. The DRHP also discloses one material civil litigation by the subsidiaries. Among promoters, one criminal proceeding, one tax proceeding and one material civil litigation are disclosed against them. One of the subsidiaries, Knovea Pharmaceutical Private Limited, is involved in a material civil litigation before the High Court of Madhya Pradesh. The subsidiary had filed a writ petition challenging the validity of the Draft Pitampura Master Plan, 2035 and related notifications concerning land acquired for a research and development centre and a manufacturing facility. The High Court, in its orders dated April 6, 2023 and August 22, 2023, stayed the operation of the relevant notification and issued notices, with the matter remaining pending, according to the DRHP. The company has classified the disclosed proceedings in accordance with its materiality policy and noted that the amounts stated are to the extent ascertainable and quantifiable.

Lahore residents in face problems due to power tripping, load shedding amid humid weather

Islamabad: Residents in Lahore in Pakistan's Punjab province have been facing difficulties due to power tripping, scheduled and unscheduled load shedding, local media reported on Monday. A resident complained that they have been facing the worst power tripping and unscheduled load shedding for the past couple of days, particularly during the evening and night hours. However, the resident said that the electricity distribution firm has not been paying attention to the complaints of the consumers despite hot and humid weather, Pakistan-based daily Dawn reported. "Besides, scheduled load shedding for a couple of hours and power shutdowns for over six hours, on the pretext of 'maintenance' on every Sunday, are also being observed. Previously, such shutdowns used to be observed on any working day," the resident said, criticising the Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) administration for taking the "least interest in resolving the issues being faced by the consumers." Another resident termed the consumer service of LESCO "pathetic and said that power outages have been continuing for the past few days, causing damage to electric home appliances, leading Pakistani daily Dawn reported. Also Read Govt schemes accelerate India's manufacturing growth, attract global supply-chain shifts: Report Advertisement Discover more India News Portal Machine Learning & Artificial Intelligence Video News Content Load shedding, tripping and the electricity-related issues have been reported in various parts of Lahore, including Old Anarkali, Rehmanpura, Gulberg, Multan Road, Thokar Niaz Baig, Johar Town and Ichhra, Chuburji. In July, official work, online systems and public services at education offices in Pakistan's Sindh province faced disruption due to prolonged power outages for



nearly three weeks, despite officials claiming that all electricity bills have been paid and repeated complaints have been made to K-Electric, local media reported. The power outages had impacted the offices of the Directorate General Colleges Sindh, Regional Directorate Government Colleges Sindh, Directorate General Private Institutions Sindh and Regional Directorate Private Schools Karachi, where routine work was disrupted due to hours-long load-shedding during office timings, Pakistan-based another daily, The Express Tribune, reported. Officials said the power outages had disrupted computer-related work, internet connectivity and printing facilities, impacting online registration of private schools, issuance of computerised certifications, complaint handling and issues about admissions in government colleges.

The most affected office is the Directorate of Inspection and Registration of Private Institutions on Burns Road, where employees faced difficulties in continuing daily operations amid repeated power outages. Deputy Director Inspections said the power outages had affected modern online office systems, as computer, internet and printing facilities did not work during power cuts, preventing officials from carrying out daily government work. He further said that all electricity bills have been paid and complaints have been made with K-Electric. However, he said that no effective measures have been taken so far.

Sensex, Nifty open higher as crude oil prices slip up to 2 pc

Mumbai: Domestic equity markets opened higher on Monday after two straight weekly losses amid decline in crude oil prices, though investors awaited clarity on potential US sanctions on Iran later in the session amid elevated geopolitical tensions. Nifty opened at 24,285.05, up 33.05 points or 0.14 per cent, while Sensex started at 77,629.56, higher by 88.73 points or 0.11 per cent. Metal stocks led sectoral gains with Nifty Metal index rising nearly 1 per cent. Nifty Media gained 0.72 per cent and Nifty Oil & Gas rose 0.59 per cent, while Nifty IT advanced 0.4 per cent. Auto, private banks and financial services indices also were trading positively in early trade. Meanwhile, Nifty Healthcare fell 0.5 per cent, while Nifty Pharma declined 0.5 per cent. Similarly, consumer durables, realty and FMCG shares were also in negative territory. Analysts said Nifty could remain range-bound between 24,200 and 24,600 in the near term. While a resilient domestic economy and improving earnings growth provide fundamental support for a rally, elevated crude oil prices and geopolitical risks could cap gains. "With Brent around \$93 and escalating geopolitical tensions associated with the West Asian crisis and the Russia-Ukraine war, any rally is likely to be met with increased selling at higher levels," they said. However, the broader continues to see strong investor activity, particularly in companies reporting robust results and offering favourable forward guidance. Segments such as CDMO, healthcare, precision engineering and power infrastructure are attracting buy-



ing interest, although investors have been cautioned against chasing stocks at elevated valuations, the market experts said. Technically, analysts said a weekly hammer candle on the Nifty reinforced key support levels and kept the reversal setup intact. The headline index could move towards 24,317-24,380 and subsequently 24,400-24,545, provided the 24,060-24,000 support zone holds. Volatility could rise ahead of Tuesday's F&O expiry. In the previous session on August 21, domestic institutional investors extended their buying streak to nine consecutive sessions and purchased equities worth Rs 2,124 crore. Foreign institutional investors remained net sellers for a second straight session and offloaded shares worth Rs 543 crore. Additionally, Asian equities fell on Monday ahead of key events this week, including Nvidia's earnings announcement and the Federal Reserve's annual symposium. In addition, crude oil prices declined up to 2 per cent as investors awaited details of fresh US sanctions on Iran. Tehran has played down the prospect of tighter economic measures. Brent crude was trading around \$92 a barrel, down more than 2 per cent, while US WTI slipped below \$85 a barrel.

Jagan asks Chandrababu to hold talks with striking junior doctors

Amaravati: Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Monday urged Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to resolve the demands of striking junior doctors and ensure that poor patients do not face inconvenience at government hospitals. Jagan urged the Chief Minister to immediately invite representatives of the junior doctors for talks, increase their stipends and take steps to end the strike. Taking to X, the YSRCP chief questioned the government over the continuing protest by junior doctors. “Will you force junior doctors, who save lives, onto the streets and put the lives of poor patients at risk?” he asked. Nearly 9,000 interns, postgraduate doctors, super-speciality doctors and senior residents from 19 government medical colleges across the State have been protesting for the past two weeks. Jagan questioned why the government had not responded to their demands and why it had withheld the revision of stipends that, according to him, was due from January 1. He referred to GO No. 287, which provides for a 15 per cent increase in the stipend of junior doctors every two years. Jagan claimed that the previous YSRCP government had increased the stipend by 42.4 per cent. He said the previous government had also recognised those pursuing super-speciality courses as senior residents and increased their stipends, resulting in an overall increase of 77 per cent. He further claimed that the stipends of AYUSH junior doctors were increased on par with those of allopathic junior doctors. Jagan said the junior doctors were seeking a hike of more than 15 per cent in view of rising prices, inflation and the increased cost of living. He alleged that the government’s proposal to increase stipends by only 3 to 5 per cent was unfair. “Government teaching hospitals depend heavily on the hard work of junior doctors to provide medical services. Now, due to the strike, even emergency services such as casualty, ICUs and



labour rooms are being affected, causing serious hardship to poor patients,” he said. Jagan alleged that the government’s “stubborn attitude” was responsible for the situation. He also claimed that the Aarogyasri network hospitals were struggling due to pending dues and that the government healthcare system had been weakened. The YSRCP president said the previous government had taken up 17 new government medical colleges simultaneously, completed five and started classes there. Another medical college was also made ready for classes, taking the total number of operational colleges to six, he claimed. Instead of completing the remaining colleges, the government was allegedly trying to sell them off, he said. Jagan also alleged that Nadu-Nedu works in government teaching and other hospitals had been stopped and that government hospitals were facing shortages of medicines meeting WHO/GMP standards. He further alleged that the government had abandoned the zero-vacancy policy and was gradually reducing nearly 50,000 healthcare personnel appointed during the previous government. Jagan also accused the government of weakening the Family Doctor programme, removing specialist doctors from Community Health Centres and rendering Village and Urban Clinics ineffective. He alleged that the Aarogyasri scheme had been weakened and dues had accumulated to more than Rs 3,000 crore. “Chandrababu garu, at least now, give up this arrogance,” Jagan said, urging the Chief Minister to resolve the junior doctors’ concerns and protect healthcare services for poor patients.

India transforming sporting ecosystem: Dr Mandaviya

Visakhapatnam: The BRICS Sports Ministers’ Meeting 2026 concluded here on Sunday, adopting a consensus of the BRICS Sports Joint Declaration, reaffirming the commitment of member states to strengthen cooperation in sport through dialogue, mutual respect and inclusiveness. Held under India’s 2026 BRICS Chairmanship, the meeting brought together ministers and senior sports representatives from BRICS Member States to discuss priorities for cooperation and sports development. Making his opening statement, Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Dr Mansukh Mandaviya called for building a BRICS Sporting Partnership that translates the shared vision of member states into tangible sporting collaborations. “We should build a BRICS Sporting Partnership that moves beyond declarations and creates real platforms for sports collaborations, whether it is athlete and coach exchanges, joint competitions or sports science knowledge sharing,” Dr Mandaviya said. Emphasising the role of sport in nation-building, Dr Mandaviya said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is transforming its sporting



ecosystem and creating opportunities from the playground to the podium. The Union Minister highlighted India’s efforts to strengthen sports goods manufacturing, noting that the soon-to-be-launched scheme to promote sports goods manufacturing clusters will facilitate investment and promote domestic manufacturing for global markets. “We invite global manufacturers, technology companies and investors to Make in India, Play in India and Grow with India,” he said. Dr Mandaviya also underlined India’s commitment to making sport more inclusive through para-sport promotion initiatives and new pathways for greater participation of women in sport. The three key initiatives under India’s BRICS Chairship have been advanced to deepen cooperation in sports.

Suzlon lines up Rs 10k-cr investments in AP



Amaravati: Wind energy major Suzlon is set to expand its manufacturing operations in Andhra Pradesh with the inauguration of new S144 wind turbine blade production lines at Hulikera village in Kanekallu mandal of Rayadurgam constituency on Tuesday. Minister for IT and HRD Nara Lokesh will inaugurate the new production lines. In a post on X on Monday, Lokesh said the expansion marked a significant step in Suzlon’s partnership with Andhra Pradesh and would strengthen the state’s position in the renewable energy sector. Lokesh said Suzlon, described as India’s leading wind turbine manufacturer, has more than 22 GW of installed capacity globally, and termed it a matter of pride that the company’s wind turbine blades are being manufactured in Anantapur dis-

trict. “I’m delighted to be in Rayadurgam on Tuesday as Suzlon takes its partnership with Andhra Pradesh to the next level, with over Rs 10,000 crore worth of projects breaking ground,” he said. The company is stepping up its operations in Andhra Pradesh through major investments in Anantapur, additional manufacturing capacity and new employment opportunities, according to the Minister. The expansion is also expected to support Suzlon’s broader renewable-energy plans in the state, while strengthening its long-term manufacturing and business presence in Andhra Pradesh. The development assumes significance for Anantapur district, which has emerged as an important location for renewable-energy and industrial investments.

YSRCP seeks statewide SIR data on unmapped voters, discrepancies

Amaravati: YSR Congress Party has urged the Chief Electoral Officer of Andhra Pradesh to ensure that Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026 data is provided to Booth Level Agents of the party across the State. YSRCP State General Secretary and MLC Lella Appi Reddy on Monday requested Chief Electoral Officer Vivek Yadav to intervene immediately as the party’s authorised Booth Level Agents (BLAs) are not receiving important SIR-2026 data in several constituencies. He sought statewide booth-wise details on unmapped voters, logical discrepancies and notices, and requested clear directions to election officials at every level to provide the information to YSRCP BLA-1s and BLA-2s. In a representation to the CEO, Appi Reddy said YSRCP BLA-1s and BLA-2s have been repeatedly seeking information related to the ongoing SIR-2026 exercise at the district, Assembly constituency and booth levels. However, the required information is either not being provided or is not being made available completely and on time in several places. He said Pulivendula, Punganur and Uravakonda Assembly constituencies are among the glaring examples where YSRCP representatives have faced difficulties in obtaining the requested data. Similar problems are also being reported at the booth level, where BLA-2s are not receiving the required information from BLOs in several instances. Appi Reddy said the YSRCP SIR Organisational Team personally visited the RDO office in Kadiri and sought booth-wise details of No Mapping/Unmapped voters and Logical Discrepancies/Anomalies. The RDO informed the team that the office did not have the required login or access to provide such booth-wise information. However, the YSRCP submitted to the



CEO a document containing the same category of booth-wise data pertaining to Chittoor Assembly Constituency. Appi Reddy said this shows that such information is available within the election machinery and underlines the need for clear and uniform instructions across the State. The YSRCP requested the CEO to provide the party’s Central Office with statewide Assembly constituency-wise and booth-wise details of unmapped voters, logical discrepancies, notices issued and served so far, and notices yet to be issued or served. Appi Reddy also requested the CEO to direct all District Collectors/DEOs, RDOs/EROs, AEROs and BLOs to provide the relevant SIR-2026 information to authorised YSRCP BLA-1s and BLA-2s at their respective levels. He said access to the data is necessary for authorised political party representatives to properly verify the electoral rolls, identify genuine omissions or discrepancies and bring them promptly to the notice of election authorities. Uniform sharing of the information would also ensure transparency and consistency in the SIR-2026 process across Andhra Pradesh.