

Trusted Healthcare Expertise for a Healthier Medchal

Excellence in care,
every step of the way.

Our Specialities

- Emergency & Critical Care
- Accident Care
- Obstetrics & Gynaecology
- Orthopedics
- Joint Replacements
- General Medicine
- General Surgery
- Maxillo Facial Surgery
- Paediatrics & Neonatology
- Neurology & Neurosurgery
- Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
- Pulmonology - Urology
- Dermatology - Psychiatry
- Physiotherapy

Trusted Healthcare | Ethical Practices | Patient First | Expert Clinical Care

All Insurances Cashless Available 24/7 Emergency Services Ambulance Services

+91 85230 89599 +91 86889 09384

www.jaitraahospitals.com • Beside ITI, NH 44, Chandra Nagar, Medchal, Telangana 501401.

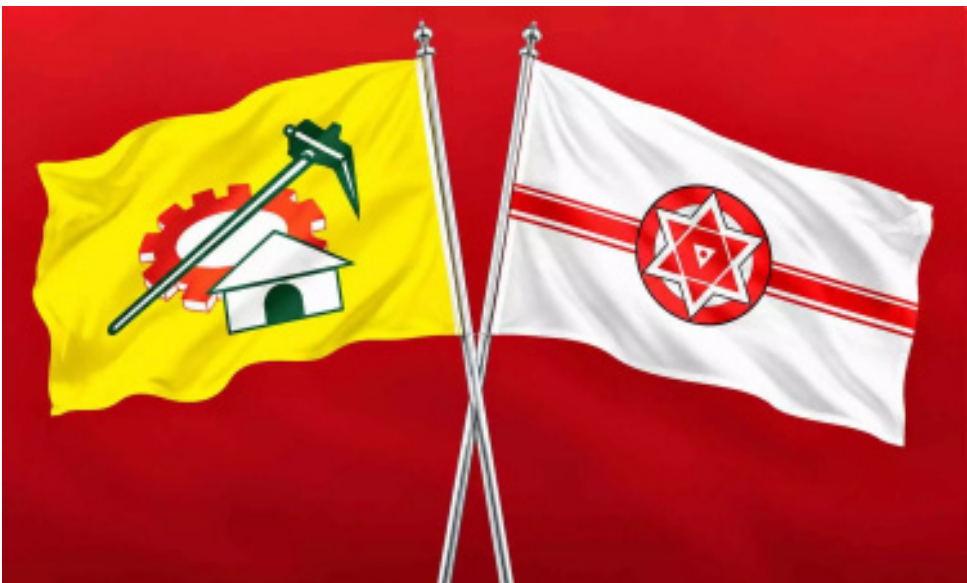
JAITRA

MULTISPECIALITY HOSPITAL



President Droupadi Murmu paid floral tributes to Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, former President of India on his birth anniversary at Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.

TDP-Jana Sena- BJP seat-sharing negotiations: Talks end, outcome unclear



Amaravati: Seat-sharing negotiations between the Telugu Desam Party and the Jana Sena for the Andhra Pradesh local body elections have reached the final stage, though the number of municipal corporations and municipalities each party will contest remains undisclosed as of now. Follow Politics After three days of discussions involving Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Jana Sena leaders and Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan, the alliance partners have decided to contest together, following the model adopted in the 2024 general election. However, the absence of a publicly stated seat-sharing formula has kept the

Vangaveeti Radha joins Jana Sena amid speculation over Vij mayor post



Amaravati: In a significant political development ahead of the local body elections, former MLA Vangaveeti Radhakrishna joined the Jana Sena Party on Wednesday, fuelling speculation that he or a member of his family could be fielded for the Vijayawada mayor's post. Jana Sena president and Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan welcomed Radha into the party at its office in Mangalagiri. Radha's induction comes amid seat-sharing negotiations within the NDA alliance, with the Vijayawada mayoral post emerging as a key point of interest for Jana Sena. The mayoral post has been placed in the unreserved category, and the election is to be held through direct voting. Against this backdrop,

See 2nd page

Villages as employment centers



Saras Mela-2026 as a platform for women power
Women empowerment is foundation for Viksit Bharat
'Swayam AP' brand for rural women products
President Murmu, CM Chandrababu inaugurate Saras Mela in Vijayawada

Photos :- President Droupadi Murmu, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, State Governor Abdul Nazeer, Union Ministers Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Ram Mohan Naidu, Pemmasani Chandrasekhar participated in the National Saras Mela-2026 in Vijayawada. Earlier, at the Saras Mela premises, the Governor, CM, and Union Ministers welcomed the President. Later, the President inaugurated the National Saras

Mela program. On this occasion, the President and CM took a group photo with DWCRA women from various states. President and CM addressed the program. Several ministers and public representatives participated in this program.

Vijayawada, October 15: Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said that Swayam AP brand has been made available to bring national and international recognition to products made by rural women. He clarified that government's aim is to mould women not merely as beneficiaries of welfare schemes but as wealth creators. He announced that in the state in one year one lakh members of self-help groups have grown as women entrepreneurs, and another five lakh will be moulded in that direction. He thanked President Droupadi Murmu for inaugurating National Saras Mela-2026

being held for first time in Vijayawada. Chief Minister said holding National Saras Mela during Dasara Sarannavaratri brought more glory to Vijayawada. He said President Droupadi Murmu's life is inspirational for every girl. He praised that born in remote tribal area and starting journey as a teacher.. overcoming many challenges she ascended to highest constitutional post of country. He said she proved that if women have willpower and courage they can scale great heights. CM said 650 self-help groups are participating in Na-
See 2nd page



IAF training at Suryalanka; beach access restricted

Amaravati: The Indian Air Force (IAF) will conduct operational training for its SAGW units at the Suryalanka Air Force Station in Bapatla district from December 1 to 24. The State government has issued a notification under Section 3A of the Seaward Artillery Practice Act, 1949, declaring specified coastal areas adjacent to the Suryalanka Air Force Station as dangerous zones during the scheduled training hours. The training will be conducted in two phases. The first phase will take place from December 1 to 11, while the second phase will be held from December 12 to 24. Activities during both phases will be conducted from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. As part of the exercise, areas within a 110-degree radial sector extending up to 100 km into the sea from the



firing points, located at latitude 15°50'34" North and longitude 080°29'24" East in Bapatla mandal, have been declared unsafe. Areas within a 200-degree radial sector, extending from ground level to unlimited altitude, have also been identified as unsafe. The authorities concerned have been instructed to issue appropriate warnings and prevent public access to the

designated areas during the training period. Learn Hindi The government has advised people to remain alert, strictly follow safety instructions and cooperate with the authorities. Public access to the specified Suryalanka beach areas will be prohibited during the notified periods to ensure safety during the firing exercises.

KING
DAILY NEWSPAPER

The faculty of vision can cause strange perceptions

The faculties of speech, hearing and sight, so important in one’s younger days, continue to have their value even as old age creeps in and tempers their sharpness. One begins to appreciate that, in more ways than one, many things, at that stage in life, are best unseen, unheard and not responded to! And, as the celebrated English poet John Keats wrote about melodies heard, things seen seem lovely, but those unseen even lovelier! The erosion of the ability of the faculties begins to manifest itself more as a blessing in disguise and selectively experiencing what is left becomes a boon rather than a curse. And, naturally, one begins to look for aids and appliances that can help one see better and hear better, such as spectacles or hearing aids. Which is what I did too, at least for my eyes. As a matter of fact, I use one pair of spectacles for my normal requirements, and another for playing my daily game of billiards. Much like Albert Einstein, who, it is said, had two pairs of spectacles, one for normal use and the other to look for that pair when it was misplaced! Seeking the support of appliances to see better began around the 1st century BCE, when Roman philosopher Seneca used a glass globe filled with water to magnify text. It is believed that spectacles, in their earliest form, were invented in Northern Italy in the 13th century ADE. They comprised two convex glass lenses mounted in rings of wood, leather, horn, or metal, which were joined together at their handles by a central rivet. It was in the 18th century ADE that British optician Edward Scarlett invented the first rigid side arms that hooked over the ears, creating the modern spectacle shape, while Benjamin Franklin pioneered split lenses to combine near and distant vision correction into a single frame. In the 19th century ADE, styles such as the pince-nez or spring nose-clips became popular, and cylindrical lenses were introduced to correct astigmatism, which is a condition that makes vision blurry or distorted at all distances - both near and far. In the 20th century ADE, mass production made glasses affordable, while lightweight plastics replaced heavy glass lenses. Then came, quite literally, the most spectacular development and contact lenses came to be used. They did not appear in one clean stroke though. It took centuries of optics, glasswork, chemistry, and eye care to turn a thought experiment into a device people could wear with comfort. To quench its curiosity for discovering both celestial spectacles of the cosmos of the minutest world of the microcosmos, which earlier defied observation by the unaided eye, humankind invented telescopes and microscopes. Other such appliances which improve the ability to see in difficult conditions include infrared or night, vision glasses, which improve the users night vision through process known as image intensification, snow glasses or snow goggles, specialised for using in polar regions to prevent snow blindness, a painful, temporary condition caused by over exposure to ultraviolet rays and monochromatic glasses that stay the same colour and remain unchanged when one moves between indoor and outdoor places.

Villages as employment centers

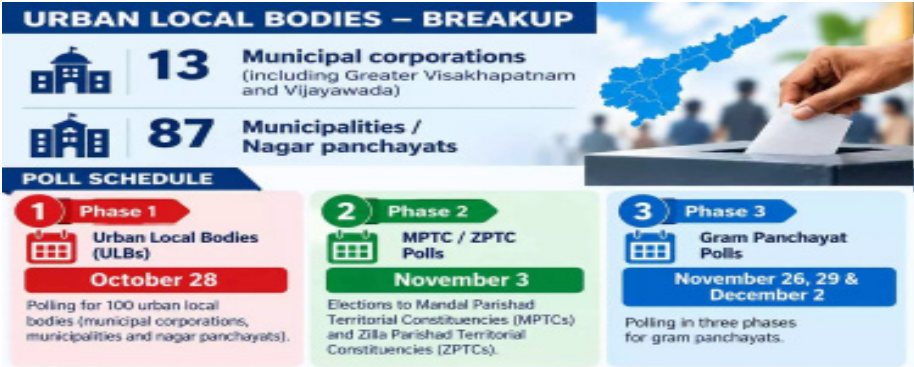
Continu, from1st page

tional Saras Mela. He said this is not just a 14-day exhibition, and called for steps to provide market opportunities throughout year for rural women products. He explained main objective of mela is to increase women income, encourage women entrepreneurs, bring national level recognition to rural products. He suggested women from various regions of country share their experiences as well as know success stories, explore new business opportunities.DWCRA groups with Rs.69 thousand crore turnoverChandrababu said there are 11 lakh self-help groups, 1.10 crore members in Andhra Pradesh. He said through these groups Rs.69 thousand crore turnover is being recorded. He explained self-help group products in state are reaching 3.5 crore people. He recalled that earlier through Velugu program women took steps towards wealth creation. SHGs which till yesterday were savings groups today are growing as business enterprises.. CM wished they should become international brands in future. He called women to grow from seeking jobs to providing jobs. He said products made by rural women will be marketed under name Swayam AP through e-commerce, online shopping platforms. He suggested using social media like WhatsApp, Instagram for business development. He said supply system should be strengthened so that women products reach from rural markets to global markets. He clarified Viksit Bharat goal can be reached only when women's potential is fully utilized. He said respecting women, valuing their ideas, providing opportunities and cooperation needed to realize dreams is responsibility of society.Every village should grow as employment centerChandrababu said while providing assurance to women with welfare schemes, government is taking steps to achieve economic self-reliance. He said we are standing by children's education with Thalliki Vandanam scheme, reducing women's expenses with Deepam scheme. He revealed women have so far made 100 crore trips through Sthree Shakti free bus travel scheme. He said we are providing several benefits including house pattas in women's name. He explained government's policy is to take women forward from welfare to development, economic self-reliance direction. Chief Minister wished every self-help group as a small economic power, every woman as an entrepreneur, every village as employment center. He called to achieve Swarnandhra goal giving priority to women safety, self-respect, empowerment. He suggested encouraging every woman in house, family members should stand by to make their dreams come true. Governor S. Abdul Nazeer, Union Ministers Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Pemmasani Chandrasekhar, Ram Mohan Naidu, Ministers Kondapalli Srinivas, Anita and others attended program.

TDP-Jana Sena-BJP seat-sharing negotiations: Talks end, outcome unclear

Continu, from1st page

focus on how the TDP will accommodate Jana Sena’s demands while addressing the expectations of its own cadre. Meanwhile, the BJP, understood to have sought one municipal corporation, is also awaiting clarity on its demand. Jana Sena had reportedly sought the opportunity to contest in six municipal corporations and 30 to 40 municipalities. The TDP’s reported offer of three corporations and 20 municipalities fell short of those expectations. Also Read Jana Sena leaders meet CM Chandrababu to discuss local poll seats Advertisement Discover more Check Voting Info Follow Politics Get Local Permits Neither party has officially confirmed these figures or disclosed the final allocation. Speaking to the media on Wednesday, Jana Sena leaders Bolisetti Srinivas, Pidugu Hari Prasad, and Vamsi Krishna Yadav sought to dispel speculations about “differences” within the alliance, asserting that the parties had clarity on where each would contest. “We will contest as alliance partners and announce the list of candidates within a couple of days,” they said, adding that a consolidated list for the 17 municipal corporations would be released on behalf of the NDA alliance. A list for municipalities was also being prepared. Bolisetti, however, appeared annoyed when asked to disclose the precise number of seats allocated to each party. He ruled out friendly contests between the TDP and Jana Sena, saying the partners would contest in areas where they were strong. He maintained that there had been no discussion on specific seat percentages or ratios and that the alliance’s objective was to win while respecting the sentiments of party workers. The insistence that cadre concerns would be addressed is significant as the parties move towards candidate selection with the nomination process approaching. Jana Sena leaders said decisions on who would contest from each area had already been discussed “internally” and that candidates would be announced on behalf of the alliance rather than through separate party lists. Vamsi Krishna said Jana Sena would follow Pawan Kalyan’s directions and ensure that the selection process satisfied the party cadre. He reiterated that the party remained committed to the state’s welfare. Although the leaders have declared the seat-sharing discussions concluded and denied any differences, the actual distribution of constituencies—and the BJP’s share—will become clear only when the alliance releases its candidate lists over the next two days.



Local polls in AP from Oct 28 In Short To be held in 3 phasesTake Fun Quizzes K Varaprasada Rao

Amaravati: The State Election Commission (SEC) on Wednesday announced the schedule for the second ordinary elections to urban and rural local bodies, setting October 28 as the polling date for 104 urban local bodies, November 3 for Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituencies (MPTCs) and Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituencies (ZPTCs), and November 26, 29 and December 2 for gram panchayat elections in three phases. State Election Commissioner Anil Chandra Punetha said the Commission had issued notifications for 17 municipal corporations and 87 municipalities and nagar panchayats. Elections to the remaining 23 urban local bodies -- four municipal corporations and 19 municipalities/nagar panchayats - have not been notified at this stage as pre-election activities are still under way. The four notifications cover Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, Vijayawada Municipal Corporation, 11 other municipal corporations and 87 municipalities/nagar panchayats. The 11 corporations are Vizianagaram, Eluru, Machilipatnam, Guntur, Ongole, Nellore, Tirupati, Chittoor, Kadapa, Kurnool, and Anantapuram. For the notified urban local bodies, election notices will be issued on October 16, and nominations can be filed between 11:00 am and 3:00 p.m. The last date for filing nominations is October 18, followed by scrutiny on October 19. Candidates can withdraw their nominations until 3:00 p.m. on October 21, when the final list of contesting candidates will be published after 3:00 p.m. Polling will take place on October 28 from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with a re-poll, if necessary, on October 29. Counting will begin at 8:00 a.m. on October 30. The schedule specifies that there will be no appeals against rejection of nominations in urban local body elections. Order Calendars The MPTC and ZPTC elections will be conducted in a single phase. The SEC notification is scheduled for October 19, election notices for October 21 and the last date for nominations for October 23. Scrutiny will take place on October 24, followed by appeals against rejected nominations on October 25 and disposal of appeals on October 26. The last date for withdrawal and publication of the final list of candidates is October 27. Polling will be held on November 3, re-polling, if required, on November 4. counting and declaration of results will take place on November 5. Gram panchayat elections will be held in three phases. For Phase I, the SEC notification is scheduled for November 13, polling for November 26 and counting as well as declaration of results for the same day. Phase II notifications will be issued on November 16, with polling as well as counting and results on November 29. For Phase III, notifications will be issued on November 19, with polling as well as counting and results on December 2. In each phase, the schedule provides for re-polling on the day after polling. The schedule also lays down dates for indirect elections to leadership positions in local bodies. The special meetings for these elections are scheduled for November 5-6 for urban local bodies, November 11-12 for MPTCs/ZPTCs, November 26-27 for Phase I gram panchayats, November 29-30 for Phase II and December 2-3 for Phase III. Vangaveeti Radha joins Jana Sena amid speculation over Vij mayor post Continu, from1st page Radha’s entry into Jana Sena has assumed significance, particularly as he had continued to be associated with the TDP after the NDA came to power in the state. It remains unclear whether Radha himself will contest the mayoral election or whether his wife will be fielded as the Jana Sena candidate. Party circles expect clarity soon, as the nomination process is scheduled to begin on October 16. The alliance has yet to make an official announcement on its candidate. Radha was elected as an MLA in 2004 and joined the TDP shortly before the 2019 Assembly elections. He remained with the party until his move to Jana Sena on Wednesday. Get Local Permits Meanwhile, the YSRCP has reportedly decided to renominate incumbent Vijayawada mayor B Bhagyala kshmi. However, the decision is said to have caused dissatisfaction among a section of party leaders and cadres, who reportedly fear that she could face a difficult contest if the NDA fields Vangaveeti Radha. The final contest for the Vijayawa da mayoral post will depend on the NDA alliance’s seat-sharing decision and its formal announcement of the candidate.

ASST. ENGINEER, TGSPDCL, MADANNAPET SECTION, SANTOSH NAGAR SUB DIVISION, HYDERABAD IS IN ACB NET

AMEER HUSSAIN CRIME BEURO CHIEF : the (AO) Sri Pandala Sandhaya Rakesh, Assistant Engineer, TGSPDCL, Madannapet Section, Santosh Nagar Sub Division, Hyderabad was caught red handed by the ACB Officials, City Range-II when he demanded and accepted the bribe amount of Rs.1,20,000/- from the complainant for doing official favour, i.e., "for sanctioning six (6) new electricity meters in place of the old missing meters by approving the Complainant's online applications. The tainted bribe amount of Rs.1,20,000/- was recovered from the possession of the AO at his instance. Thus, the AO performed his duty improperly and dishonestly to obtain undue advantage. Therefore, the AO is being produced before the Hon'ble Principal Special Judge for SPE & ACB cases, Nampally for judicial remand. The case is under investigation. The details of complainant are withheld for security reasons.

CELL PHONE NUMBER-1064 (TOLL FREE NUMBER): In case of a demand for a bribe by any Public Ser-



vant, the public is requested to contact the ACB Toll Free Number, i.e., 1064, to take action as per Law. ACB Telangana can also be contacted through social media platforms WhatsApp (9440446106), Facebook (Telangana ACB), and X (X/ formerly twitter (@Telangana ACB). The QR Code of ACB is also displayed in all Government Offices and prominent public places to contact ACB, Telangana. The name and details of the victim/complainant will be kept secret.

naer P.R.O. Anti-Corruption Bureau, T.G., Hyderabad.

Strict implementation of election Model Code of Conduct

Steps for impartial, transparent implementation
District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha

Vijayawada, October 15: District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said that in view of the 2nd general elections of rural and urban local bodies, the Model Code of Conduct will be strictly implemented in NTR district from the 14th of this month till the end of election process. To this extent orders have been issued to officials to implement the code of conduct impartially and transparently. She suggested that all details of ministers, political leaders or political parties existing in government official websites should be removed or covered.. similarly political leaders, political parties photos, names, symbols, messages in hoardings, advertisements set up with government funds should be removed. She clarified that statues of political leaders should be completely covered, and during the period election code is in force, electricity, water bills issued should be seen that there



are no photos, messages related to political propaganda. Collector Lakshmisha clarified that all guidelines related to MCC should be followed without fail.. and no negligence should be shown in implementation of rules. She said special teams related to this should be alert.

In service of devotees.. Collector's continuous monitoring

Whirlwind inspections at field level along with
Command Control Center

Vijayawada, October 15: On the 5th day of Dussehra festivities as Jagannmata is appearing as Sri Lalitha Tripura Sundari Devi, rush of devotees continues on Indrakeeladri. Devotees are moving in all queue lines and having darshan of Goddess. On the other hand, not only from all corners of state but also devotees coming from various states, all departments are working in coordination so that there is no difficulty anywhere. District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha is inspecting queue lines at field level from time to time as well as knowing situations from Integrated Command Control Center (ICCC) at foot of hill. Giving directions to coordinating departments officials. Crowd control, VVIP, VIP vehicle movements, crowd management, maintenance of law and order.. like this in every matter CCC is key in management of festivals. Con-



tinuously monitoring CCTVs, drone visuals set up in various areas of city, CCC staff are working for success of festivities without any difficulty anywhere. Analyzing modern camera data from time to time, closely monitoring vehicle entry, exit, ensuring no traffic jam on ghat road, no violations of rules.

Administration in service of devotees

Elaborate arrangements to ensure no obstruction for
Goddess darshan on Moola Nakshatra
No hassle even if up to three lakh devotees come
Hon'ble Chief Minister to Indrakeeladri between
4-4.30 pm in the evening

Continuous monitoring with 450 CCTV cameras
Distribution of drinking water, buttermilk, biscuits,
anna prasadam to devotees

Alternative arrangements for darshan of Goddess even if
it rainsContinuous surveillance on hill rocks..
monitoring by special technical team



Vijayawada, October 15: District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha, CP SV Rajasekhara Babu, Endowments Commissioner K. Ramachandra Mohan District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said that elaborate arrangements have been made on Vijayawada Indrakeeladri on the occasion of Moola Nakshatra so that no difficulties will arise even if up to three lakh devotees come. She said that the goal is to provide comfortable and safe darshan of Goddess to devotees, district machinery, police, temple officials are working in coordination. She explained that darshan arrangements have been made giving priority to ordinary devotees. On Moola Nakshatra day, District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha, CP SV Rajasekhara Babu, Endowments Commissioner K. Ramachandra Mohan, Temple EO VK Seena Naik and others met at the Command Control Center in the Irrigation Model Guest House at the foot of the hill on Thursday regarding the plan to be followed. Discussed in presence of Sthanacharyulu Vishnubhatla Siva Prasad Sharma. Later Collector Lakshmisha speaking to media said we have installed 450 CCTV cameras to monitor devotee rush from time to time, and situation is being continuously reviewed through state-of-the-art command control center. She said drinking water, buttermilk, biscuits, anna prasadam are being distributed to devotees at holding points as well as queue lines. She said even if it rains on Moola Nakshatra day, alternative arrangements for darshan through Mahamandapam have been made ready so that devotees do not face difficulties. She said special technical team has been set up to continuously monitor hill rocks condition, and utmost priority is being given to safety of devotees. She appealed to devotees to be patient without rushing and visit Goddess in orderly man-

ner following instructions of officials. She said Hon'ble Chief Minister will offer silk clothes to Goddess between 4 pm to 4.30 pm in the evening. Said suitable arrangements have been made for this. She said arrangements have been made taking into consideration suggestions of Hon'ble Chief Minister as well as Hon'ble Ministers, state-level senior officials. Police Commissioner SV Rajasekhara Babu speaking said currently 3,500 police personnel are on duty.. and additional 900 have been assigned duties on the occasion of Moola Nakshatra day. He said bulletin will be released hour by hour through command control room regarding how much time Goddess darshan will be available as well as various aspects. He revealed information will be provided from time to time through digital screens set up in various areas. He said through data analytics we are trying to inform with accuracy how much time Goddess darshan will take. He said on Moola Nakshatra day priority will be given to ordinary devotees.. VIP passes have been cancelled. He requested people to follow suggestions made by police as well as administration and cooperate. Endowments Commissioner K. Ramachandra Mohan speaking said compared to last year this time number of devotees visiting Goddess daily is increasing. He said this time on Moola Nakshatra day there is possibility of 2,50,000 to three lakh devotees coming. He explained steps are being taken with help of state-of-the-art technology to immediately respond and solve whenever, wherever, whoever has any problem. He said good results are coming through QR code feedback system. Ramachandra Mohan said arrangements have been made to provide satisfactory Goddess darshan to devotees after discussing with Vedic Committee members as well.

YTPS Stage I chief engineer suspended over negligence, supervisory lapses

Hyderabad: The Yadadri Thermal Power Station (YTPS) – Stage I Chief Engineer B Suresh has been placed under suspension for negligence of duty and lapses in supervision, pending a departmental enquiry. TGGENCO Chairman and Managing Director S Harish issued orders to this effect on Wednesday. During the last

15 days, the Special Chief Secretary, Energy department, has been monitoring the power generation of YTPS – I, Damacherla. However, the Chief Engineer B Suresh has been found negligent in discharging his duties and was responsible for supervisory lapses, the order said. The suspension takes immediate effect.



**Karnataka sting Op row:
Kumaraswamy dares CM
Shivakumar, Priyank
Kharge to arrest him**

Bengaluru: The political row over the alleged sting operation has intensified in Karnataka, with Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel and JD(S) state president H.D. Kumaraswamy daring Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Home Minister Priyank Kharge to arrest him, while accusing them of misusing the police and state machinery to target him. Addressing a press conference on Thursday, Kumaraswamy demanded a probe headed by a retired judge into the alleged sting operation and challenged the state government to conduct a fair investigation. He said a CBI probe was not necessary, and insisted that the inquiry be conducted under the supervision of a sitting judge. “Mr Shivakumar and Priyank Kharge, if you have the courage, conduct a probe under a retired judge. I am speaking bravely and am not a coward like you. Do you think I will get scared? You have said that I would be taken into custody if there was an element of suspicion. Dare to touch me. The agitation will begin, and I will see who all you can touch,” he said. Kumaraswamy said he would cooperate with the investigation if his party workers had committed any wrongdoing. He added that he was even prepared to visit the Bengaluru Police Commissioner's office and ask the police to arrest him if there was evidence against him. “I will support you if they have made mistakes. I will come forward myself. But you cannot misuse your power and the police to play political games. You do not deserve respect. Do you have a conscience?” he asked. Apologising to the public for his language, Kumaraswamy said he had never stooped to such a level while addressing a press conference, but maintained that the state's interests were at stake. He also warned the police against arresting innocent party workers, particularly as courts would remain closed for five to six days from Friday. He urged police officers not to protect those allegedly issuing threats and demanded that any action against his party workers be based on evidence. Kumaraswamy alleged that he had received information two days earlier that the person believed to be the original source of the sting operation had met Shivakumar to discuss implicating him in the case by obtaining a statement under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

**Kalam’s birth anniversary: Union
ministers, CMs hail Missile Man of
India’s legacy on birth anniversary**

New Delhi: Union ministers and chief ministers on Thursday paid tribute to former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam on his birth anniversary, remembering his contributions to India’s scientific advancement, defence capabilities and national development. They said Kalam’s vision, dedication and commitment to public service would continue to motivate young people to pursue knowledge, innovation and nation-building. Union Home Minister Amit Shah remembered Kalam as the ‘People’s President’ and highlighted his contribution to strengthening India’s strategic capabilities while upholding democratic values. Amit Shah took to social media ‘X’ and said, “Tributes to the People’s President, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Ji, on his Jayanti. Kalam Ji dedicated his rare scientific genius to making India a significant strategic power and upheld the highest democratic values as the President of India. The Missile Man of India will remain an ideal who will continue to inspire the younger generation to put their heart and soul into serving the nation.” External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar said, “Pay my tribute to Bharat Ratna Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam on his birth anniversary today. His vision, commitment & dedication for the nation continue to inspire.” Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy described Kalam as a distinguished scientist, visionary leader, and widely respected President who dedicated his life to strengthening India’s scientific capabilities and encouraging young people to pursue their ambitions. “Paying heartfelt tributes to former President and Bharat Ratna Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Ji on his Janma Jayanti. A pioneering scientist, visionary leader and revered People’s President, Dr. Kalam dedicated his life in advancing India’s scientific capabilities and nurturing the aspirations of its youth. His unwavering faith in the power of knowledge, innovation and education continues to inspire generations to dream big and contribute towards a strong, progressive and self-reliant Bharat,” he said. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath recalled Kalam’s role in enhancing the country’s strategic strength and defence preparedness. “On the birth anniversary of Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the visionary of ‘Strong India’, former President of India, ‘Missile Man’, ‘Bharat Ratna,’ a humble tribute. With your extraordinary knowledge, you bestowed new heights upon India’s strategic strength and made a vital contribution to rendering the nation’s defence system impregnable. Your ideal life will forever continue to inspire the people of the country,” he wrote on X in Hindi. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis honoured Kalam’s legacy and highlighted the importance of reading and education in shaping young minds. “Honouring the former President and ‘Missile



Man of India’, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam ji, on his Birth Anniversary! Maharashtra celebrates this day as Vachan Prerna Divas to encourage the habit of reading and gaining knowledge,” CM Fadnavis said. Kalam’s birth anniversary is also observed as World Students’ Day, celebrating his enduring association with education, learning and the aspirations of young people. The former President consistently encouraged students to develop a scientific temper, think independently and contribute to the country’s progress. Born on October 15, 1931, in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam rose from a modest background to become one of India’s most celebrated scientists and public figures. He served as the country’s 11th President from 2002 to 2007 and earned widespread affection for his simple lifestyle, accessibility and engagement with students. Kalam began his career at the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in 1960 before joining the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in 1969. At ISRO, he led the Satellite Launch Vehicle-III (SLV-III) project, which helped establish India’s capability to launch satellites using an indigenously developed launch vehicle. He subsequently played a prominent role in India’s missile development efforts through the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme. The initiative contributed to the development of missile systems, including Agni and Prithvi, earning him the popular title ‘Missile Man of India’. Kalam also played a key scientific and organisational role in the 1998 Pokhran-II nuclear tests while serving as scientific adviser to the Defence Minister. In recognition of his contributions, he received the Padma Bhushan in 1981, the Padma Vibhushan in 1990 and the Bharat Ratna, India’s highest civilian honour, in 1997. Beyond his scientific achievements and presidential tenure, Kalam remains remembered for his emphasis on education, innovation and empowering young Indians to help shape the country’s future.

**Internet shutdown during October
10 CJP protest was necessary: Centre to SC**

New Delhi: The Central government has filed a counter-affidavit before the Supreme Court defending its decision to suspend mobile internet services in parts of central Delhi during the October 10 protest against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, organised by the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP), and denied that it had wilfully disobeyed the court’s directions. In its affidavit, filed on Wednesday, the Centre maintained that the temporary suspension of internet services was necessary to prevent a disturbance of public order and constituted a proportionate response to the prevailing circumstances. It also urged the Supreme Court to discharge the contempt notice issued to Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan in connection with the restrictions imposed during the protest. The Centre has further sought a modification of the Supreme Court’s order to permit the suspension of internet services in situations where such a measure becomes necessary, provided that the decision is taken in strict compliance with the law and the applicable statutory safeguards. The dispute arose amid extensive security restrictions imposed across the national capital ahead of the October 10 demonstration called by the CJP. The party had planned to protest against the Election Commission of India (ECI) and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The Delhi Police had denied permission for the proposed gathering, citing the short notice given by the organisers.

On October 9, the Supreme Court intervened in the matter of restrictions placed on public transport ahead of the protest. The court directed the authorities to ensure that there was no complete prohibition on the movement of Delhi Metro trains and other trains entering the national capital, while allowing the regulation of services wherever necessary to maintain public order. The Supreme Court also emphasised that security arrangements should not cause undue hardship to members of the public. It directed the authorities to ensure that decisions relating to the operation of transport services were communicated widely so that commuters could make the necessary arrangements. Subsequently, a contempt petition was filed alleging non-compliance with the court’s directions. During a special hearing on October 11, the Supreme Court issued notices to the Centre, Delhi Police Commissioner Anurag Kumar and Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) chairperson D. Thara, seeking their responses to the allegations. In its counter-affidavit, the Centre said the decision to suspend mobile internet services was taken following a request from the Delhi Police, which had apprehended a possible law-and-order situation during the proposed demonstration. The Centre argued that the internet was suspended only from 10 p.m. on October 9 to 10 p.m. on October 10. The internet suspension was limited to a 4 km radius around Raisina Hill. According to the government, the police had raised concerns about the potential consequences of the gathering, particularly after the organisers



announced their intention to proceed despite being denied permission. It maintained that the decision was not a wilful violation of the Supreme Court’s directions and sought relief from the contempt proceedings initiated against the Union Home Secretary. The affidavit also referred to the Delhi Police’s experience during a similar episode on July 20, 2026, citing it as part of the justification for imposing preventive restrictions ahead of the October 10 protest.

Why Rohit Sharma called Yuvraj Singh a ‘headmaster’ and Rishabh Pant a ‘babysitter’



Mumbai: Former India captain Rohit Sharma recently offered a glimpse into the lighter side of the Indian cricket team’s dressing room on the show ‘Family Full House with Rohit Sharma’.He recalled how former cricketer Yuvraj Singh would scold young players when they joined the team, while also showing them affection. Rohit also revealed how Rishabh Pant loved spending time with children during long international tours.Star comedian Krushna Abhishek asked Rohit to imagine what some of his fellow cricketers might have become had they not pursued cricket, based on their personalities.The conversation led Rohit to assign amusing job titles to Jasprit Bumrah, Yuvraj Singh and Rishabh Pant. When asked about Jasprit Bumrah, Rohit called him a doctor, comparing the pacer’s role in rescuing the team in pressure situations, particularly during the death overs, to that of a medical professional. “Bumrah, I think, hote doctor, kyunki poore desh ko aage aake bachate hain yaar. Last-last mein aake ball daalte hain, team ko bachate hain. Matlab, bahut kam log karte hain. Isliye hum cricket mein bhi bolte hain, death overs mein doctors log hi death se bachate hain.”(I think Bumrah would have been a doctor because he steps up and saves the entire country. He comes in to bowl towards the end and saves the team. Very few people can do that. That is why, in cricket, we say that doctors are the ones who save us from death in the death overs.)Moving on to former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh, Rohit called him a ‘headmaster’, recalling how the senior cricketer would discipline younger players when they were new to the team. He also acknowledged the affection Yuvraj showed them. “Yuvraj Singh ko main bolunga headmaster, kyunki unki ye aadat thi. Abhi nahi hai, lekin jab hum nayi-nayi team mein aaye the, 2006 ya 2007 mein, toh woh bahut daantte the young bachchon ko. Bahut pyaar bhi karte the.” (I would call Yuvraj Singh a headmaster because he had that habit. He may not be like that now, but when we had just joined the team in 2006 or 2007, he used to scold the young players a lot. He also showed them a lot of affection.) Rohit further recalled how Yuvraj helped him feel comfortable in the Indian team during his early days, when playing alongside senior cricketers could be intimidating for a newcomer. “Jaise mere pehle-doesre tour ke baad, mujhe unhone bahut comfortable kiya tha, kyunki, you know, kabhi-kabhi hota hai ki aap itne bade senior ke saath khel rahe ho, toh hamesha se thoda sa darr rehta hai, initially. Toh us darr ko actually inhone thoda-thoda kam kiya. Time laga, lekin kam hua.” (After my first or second tour, he made me feel very comfortable. Sometimes, when you are playing alongside such senior players, you naturally feel a

little intimidated initially. He gradually helped reduce that fear. It took time, but it did happen.) Rohit had another amusing observation when Krushna asked him about Rishabh Pant. The former India captain described the wicketkeeper-batter as a ‘babysitter’, explaining that Pant enjoyed spending time with the children of fellow cricketers during lengthy overseas tours. “Babysitter, kyunki unko bachchon ke saath khelna kaafi pasand hai. Kyunki hum aksar lambe tour pe jaate the, do-do dhaidhai mahine ke tour hote the. Toh main hamesha dekhta tha, hamari practice ke baad Rishabh aa jaate hain, bachchon ke saath khelte hain, kyunki hum saare logon ki families aur bachche saath mein travel karte the.” (A babysitter, because he really likes playing with children. We often went on long tours, sometimes lasting two to two-and-a-half months. I would always see Rishabh coming over to play with the children after our practice because our families and kids travelled with us.) Adding to the anecdote, Rohit revealed that Pant would sometimes eat from the children’s plates, much to their annoyance. He also explained how the nickname ‘babysitter’ became associated with Pant during India’s tour of Australia.

Chennai: National Award-winning actor, director and producer Dhanush, who watched the first-day, first-show of Superstar Rajinikanth’s eagerly awaited action entertainer ‘Jailer 2’, has described the film as a “must, must, must-watch”. Taking to X to share his thoughts on the film soon after watching it, Dhanush wrote, “JAILER 2 is a MUST MUST MUST watch. BLOCKBUSTER (followed by fire emojis). A FEAST for every Thalaivar fan.” Apart from Dhanush, several other prominent stars from the South also made a beeline for theatres to catch the first-day, first-show of the film, which has opened strongly, with positive reviews pouring in from various quarters.Among those spotted watching the film on its opening day were actors Vishnu Vishal and Soori, director Karthik Subbaraj and producer Naga Vamsi, all of whom expressed their enthusiasm for the film. Director Karthik Subbaraj wrote on X, “Thalaivar sets the screen on Wild Wild Fire. Can’t take my eyes off him.... Love you Thalaivaaaa. Goosebumps Overloaded Mass Blast.... #Jailer2.@Nelsondilkumar writing and execution (excellent symbol).@anirudhofficial breathes high octane energy in every frame. Whattey wonderful moment to see

Makers reveal Sai Durgha Tej’s role upcoming pan-India film ‘Sambarala Yeti Gattu’

Hyderabad: The makers of director Rohith KP’s eagerly awaited pan Indian film, ‘Sambarala Yeti Gattu’, featuring Telugu star Sai Durgha Tej in the lead, on Thursday revealed the character the actor plays in the film, much to the delight of fans and film buffs.The character was revealed as part of the birthday celebrations of the actor, who celebrated his birthday on Thursday.Primeshow Entertainment, the production house producing the film, took to its social media timelines to wish the actor a happy birthday. It wrote, “HE HUNTER. THE WARRIOR. THE BEAST. Wishing our Mega Supreme Hero @IamSaiDharamTej a BLOCKBUSTER BIRTHDAY from Team #SambaralaYetiGattu. The world is about to witness a whole new dimension of him as ‘BALI’ on the big screens this Sankranthi. #HBDSaiDurghaTej.”The makers also released a poster of the actor from the film on the occasion that showed him carrying a sword and a shield and standing in front of what appeared to be a goods train.It may be recalled that the makers had announced only last month that the team had begun dubbing for the film.It released a video clip showing the unit holding a pooja before beginning the dubbing work of the film.Sharing the video clip, the production house wrote, “#SambaralaYetiGattu Dubbing Begins with a divine pooja. Post-production works progressing at full speed to bring an ambitious and spectacular theatrical experience on JANUARY 12th 2027. #SambaralaSankranthi.”For the unaware, the film is slated to hit screens worldwide on January 12 next year.The unit of the film had, only in June this year, wrapped up its Mumbai schedule. Sources close to the unit had told IANS that the Mumbai schedule involved a prominent Bollywood actor. The inclusion of the national-level talent was expected to enhance the film’s reach while strengthening its appeal across audiences nationwide.The upcoming film has triggered huge interest among fans and film buffs for a number of reasons. Directed by Rohith KP and pro-



duced by K Niranjan Reddy and Chaitanya Reddy under Primeshow Entertainment, the film is being mounted on a grand scale with a budget of ?125 crore, making it the biggest project in Sai Durgha Tej’s career.The unit had shot a spectacular action sequence choreographed by National Award winning stunt choreographer Peter Hein in September last year.Sources had then claimed that Sai Durgha Tej would face off against a Bollywood superstar, who would be seen in a powerful antagonist’s role. Extensive CGI work is also progressing rapidly to elevate the cinematic experience. Actress Aishwarya Lekshmi will be seen playing the female lead in this film, which will also feature a huge star cast including actors Jagapathi Babu, Srikanth, Saikumar, Ananya Nagalla and Ravi Krishna.Sources claim Sai Durgha Tej has been working for the past two years on Sambarala Yeti Gattu, preparing for this transformative and emotionally intense role.The film is to release in Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Kannada, and Malayalam. Sources claim Sambarala Yeti Gattu will be a landmark Pan-India action drama.On the technical front, the film has cinematography by Vetri Palanisamy and music by Ajaneesh Loknath. Editing for the film is by Naveen Vijaya Krishna and costumes are by Ayesha Mariam.

Dhanush hails Rajinikanth’s ‘Jailer 2’ as a feast for Thalaivar fans



@mithunda_off sir, @Mohanlal sir @NimmaShivanna sir @bindasbhidu sir @vidya balan madam @iHrithik sir @iam_SJSuryah sir all in one film. Entertainment max. Thank you @sunpictures and whole cast n crew for giving us Blockbuster feast in Theatres.” Vishnu Vishal, for his part, wrote, “#Jailer2 – WHAT A BLAST! The most I whistled for a Tamil film in recent times.. Total feast from Thalaivar... The mass scenes were a scream and laughed out loud for the

comedy too..50 varshama.. One Sun One Moon Only One Superstar!!! Congrats @sunpictures@Nelsondilkumar on a big blockbuster. @anirudhofficial you were amazing as always!!!”Telugu film producer Naga Vamsi wrote, “When it comes to SUPERSTAR cinema, there’s NO ROOM for 1st Half vs 2nd Half comparisons! This Dasara, the box-office is set for an absolute BLAST with the arrival of MVP. #Jailer2 is packed with PEAK MASS SAMBAVAM moments from start to finish! Every action block is an absolute feast, making it a full-on Mass Entertainer for families and audiences.”He went on to add, “The way @Nelsondilkumar presents SUPERSTAR @rajinikanth SIR, the story, writing, emotions and fun... Everything is on Point! An absolute winner! And my dearest ROCKSTAR @anirudhofficial... What a Beast! When RAJINI SIR lights up the screen, he went ALL OUT with his songs and BGM, turning every moment into Pure Fireworks! He delivers big, every single time.” For the uninitiated, director Nelson Dilipkumar’s eagerly awaited action entertainer ‘Jailer 2’, starring Superstar Rajinikanth in the lead role, hit theatres on Thursday.

Hope, Paul power Windies to victory in fourth T20I

Hyderabad: After Shai Hope’s blistering century, 102 off just fifty balls (4 x 4, 9 x 6), the West Indies bowlers stuck to a disciplined line to choke the Indian batsmen and level the T20I series 2-2 after Samson’s quickfire 50 in just 19 balls at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium here on Wednesday. But for the initial 10 overs, the Indians never looked like they would cross the rope and lost by 24 runs. Keemo Paul with 5/ 40 was the chief wrecker.For the nearly 35,000 fans who turned up for the match, it was disappointing to see India fold up without a fight. Chasing 247, Sanju Samson was in rollicking form as he raced to 50 in just 19 balls (5×4, 4×6) and took the bulk of the strike, with Abhishek facing just 1 ball in four overs. His blistering knock came to an end when Hetmyer took a well- judged catch on the square leg boundary. Ishan Kishan didn’t bother the scorers much as he was out on the third ball after striking a straight six. India were 69/2 at that stage.After the end of the powerplay, India were 80/2. Things calmed down in the 7th over with the advent of Roston Chase, who gave away only four runs, and Springer brought the West Indies back into the game after he removed Indian captain Shreyas Iyer (16 off 11 balls). India reached 100 in 8.4 overs. With the fall of two quick wickets, Abhishek was rather subdued and

was on 24 off 19 balls at the end of the 10th over. After the 10-over break, Tilak Verma struck Shepherd for a six and a four. However, the West Indies once again put pressure on the Indian batsmen, with Motie taking out Abhishek, who holed up trying to score some quick runs as the required run rate climbed. Naman, who joined Tilak, didn’t last long as he was stumped the very first ball he faced for a duck. The third umpire took a while to declare him out as it was a close call. At 132/5, it was all but over. Nitish joined Tilak, and both stitched a 50-run partnership to bring the equation to 53 runs off 23 balls. Just when things were looking good for India, with Nitish and Tilak giving a ray of hope, Shepherd struck to remove Tilak Verma for a well -made 43 (25b 2×4 3×6). Nitish tried to make a match out of it, but Paul had him caught by Powell when he tried another big one after hitting the previous one for a six. With Nitish’s fall, it was a mere formality for the West Indies, who won by 24 runs after Arshdeep Singh retired hurt.Earlier, after being put into bat, Shai Hope took the Indian bowling to the cleaners with a solid 102 off just fifty balls (4 x 4, 9 x 6) and helped the Windies post an imposing 247 for the loss of three wickets.Hope, who carried his bat through, was in rollicking form as he gave no hope for the Indian bowlers. His cen-



tury was studded with four boundaries and nine sixes. Right from the start, he was in good touch. Having put in to bat after India won the toss, the West Indies began their innings on a right note. Mayank opened the Indian bowling attack.The second over from Arshdeep saw Andrew hoisting his second ball for a six, and the Windies collected 17 runs from his over. Hope too opened up in the fourth over, carting Prince for a straight six followed by a boundary. The West Indies reached 51 by the end of 3.3 overs, and the openers collected 50 runs in 22 balls.The introduction of Axar saw India draw the first blood with Andrew falling lbw (21 in 16 balls, 2×4 1×6) while trying to reverse sweep. The opening wicket added 54 runs. Though the batsman took a review, he was declared out. His exit saw Hetmyer join Hope. Arshdeep couldn’t stick to a line. Hetmyer capitalised and hit him for a 4 and a six off the last ball, and the West Indies reached 79 for 1 after the end of the powerplay. The lefty targeted Axar and hit him for two fours in his second

over, taking the Windies to 90for 1 at the end of seven overs. A healthy 12.86 run rate was maintained from the start. Naman was welcomed with a six by Hope, and the 100 came up in 7.4 overs with 13 extras. The change of ends for Prince Yadav saw Hetmyer depart for 33 runs (4 boundaries and 2 sixes). The ball rushed on him, and he gave a simple return catch to Prince.It was a welcome breakthrough for India as Hetmyer was looking to get into his groove.Meanwhile, Shai Hope carried on from where he left off. He was in good touch and reached his 50 in 28 balls (2×4, 5×6). His second fifty in this series. Axar Patel went for 45 runs in 4 overs. Arshdeep, who came back in the 13th over, was lucky to scalp the wicket of Rovman Powell (24, 17 balls,2 fours, and a six), who slashed at a delivery outside the off stump and was caught by Sanju Samson. The third wicket fell at 156.After 10 overs, West Indies were 118/ 2, scoring at a run rate of 11.8 and reached 206 in the 17th over. In the 17th over, Rutherford came to the party, and Mayank’s last over cost him 22 runs. However, he got a reprieve at 40 when Mayank could not hold on to an easy chance from Prince’s bowling.Prince was the most economical, conceding 36 runs in his four overs. Arshdeep’s four overs cost him 52 runs, and he took one wicket. Nitish, who was tasked with bowling the last over, was greeted with a four on his first ball by Rutherford. Hope struck two sixes off his last two balls to reach a well-deserved hundred. In the last five overs, the Windies scored 70 runs.

Hamstring injury rules Pathum Nissanka out of Sri Lanka’s Pakistan campaign



New Delhi: In a setback for Sri Lanka, opening batter Pathum Nissanka has been ruled out of the ODI tri-series in Pakistan, which also features England. Nissanka has been dealing with injury issues in recent weeks. He was named in the squad for the tri-series subject to fitness clearance following a hamstring injury sustained after Sri Lanka’s white-ball tour of England last month.According to Daily Mirror, the batter is yet to receive medical clearance to return to action, and his recovery has not progressed sufficiently for him to resume playing. He will therefore miss the tri-series, which begins on Sunday in Rawalpindi. The report added that Lahiru Udara has been named as Nissanka’s replacement. Nissanka was earlier ruled out of the T20I series against Pakistan. He was expected to travel with the squad for the ODIs if declared fit but has now been ruled out of the tri-series as well.Nissanka has also been named in Sri Lanka’s squad for the Test series against Pakistan, with a return to red-ball cricket under consideration. However, his selection for the two-match Test series is also subject to fitness clearance.The Sri Lankan opener has struggled with injuries this year. His longstanding wrist problem flared up

during Sri Lanka’s tour of the West Indies in June. He underwent surgery for the issue in the UK and missed the Lanka Premier League.He rejoined the Sri Lankan side for the white-ball series in England and played all six matches — three T20Is and three ODIs — but suffered a hamstring injury during the ODI leg. He played the third match despite discomfort and struggled in the final ODI.Sri Lanka have also dropped former captain Charith Asalanka from the squad for the Pakistan tri-series. Asalanka, who served as vice-captain during the white-ball series against England, scored 1, 11 and 7 in the three ODIs and has been left out.Meanwhile, Avishka Fernando and all-rounder Sahan Arachchige have been recalled to the squad. They replace Asalanka and the injured Wanindu Hasaranga, who is sidelined with a hamstring injury sustained during the England tour.Sri Lanka squad for the ODI tri-series: Kusal Mendis (captain), Pathum Nissanka, Avishka Fernando, Kamil Mishara, Pavan Rathnayake, Sahan Arachchige, Kamindu Mendis, Janith Liyanage, Dasun Shanaka, Dunith Wellalage, Maheesh Theekshana, Sachindu Colombage, Dushmantha Chameera, Asitha Fernando, Dilshan Madushanka and Eshan Malinga.

India women face Zimbabwe as Mandhana begins new captaincy chapter

Raipur: A new chapter in Indian women’s cricket will begin on Friday when Smriti Mandhana leads the side as full-time captain for the first time in the opening T20I against Zimbabwe, who are still searching for their first win in the format this year. Friday’s clash will mark the start of Zimbabwe’s first-ever bilateral series against India, and the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium will host a women’s international match for the first time.Smriti, who takes over from Harmanpreet Kaur after serving as vice-captain for almost 10 years, inherits a side brimming with confidence after winning the Asia Cup and the Asian Games gold medal. Captaincy is hardly unfamiliar territory for Smriti, who has led Maharashtra in domestic cricket and guided Royal Challengers Bengaluru to two Women’s Premier League (WPL) titles.She has also captained India in 18 T20Is, winning 11 and losing six, with her first stint coming seven years ago against England in Guwahati when Harmanpreet was injured. Her elevation to captaincy comes when Smriti is at the peak of her batting powers. The left-handed opener has struck two centuries and 15 fifties in T20Is over the last three years and has raised her strike rate to a career-best 148.25 in 2026.While Harmanpreet remains a key figure in the dressing room, being relieved of leadership duties could allow her to be even more destructive with the bat. The main selection puzzle for India is the No. 3 slot, left vacant by Jemimah Rodrigues, who is recovering from a right hamstring tear. G Kamalini has batted at No. 3 twice, but Anushka Sharma and Niki Prasad strengthened their cases with impressive performances against Australia A. Prema Rawat could come into the side, with Shreyanka Patil not included in the squad for the series. India will also hope that vice-captain Shafali Verma and left-arm spinner N Sree Charani continue their sparkling form.Zimbabwe, led by



Josephine Nkomo, have lost all their T20Is this year and last won in the format against Namibia in September 2025. They will, however, draw confidence from their maiden ODI win over the West Indies at home in September. Opener Kelis Ndhlovu, the only Zimbabwean to score a T20I fifty this year, will be a key figure with the bat.The three T20Is will be followed by three ODIs in Vadodara from October 23 to 28. **When: October 16, 2026, at 7 pm** **Where:** Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium, Raipur **Where to watch:** The match will be telecast live on Star Sports Network channels and streamed on the JioHotstar app and website. **Squads** **India:** Smriti Mandhana (captain), Shafali Verma (vice-captain), Niki Prasad, Harmanpreet Kaur, Anushka Sharma, Richa Ghosh (wicketkeeper), G Kamalini (wicketkeeper), Deepti Sharma, Prema Rawat, Sree Charani, Nandni Sharma, Kranti Gaud, Arundhati Reddy, Jintimani Kalita and Minnu Mani. **Zimbabwe:** Josephine Nkomo (captain), Beloved Biza, Chipo Mugeru-Tiripano, Kelis Ndhlovu, Michelle Mavunga, Francisca Chipare, Olinder Chare, Kudzai Chigora, Nyasha Gwanzura, Nomvelo Sibanda, Loryn Phiri, Chiyedza Dhururu, Modester Mupachikwa, Tendai Makusha and Sharne Mayers.

India-US trade talks reach final stage, with tariff discussions continuing

New Delhi: India and the United States are nearing the conclusion of a bilateral trade agreement, with most major issues resolved and only limited negotiations on the remaining details continuing, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor said on Thursday. Speaking at the Bloomberg New Economy Forum here, Gor said the broad framework of the proposed agreement had been finalised and expressed confidence that both sides would soon conclude the negotiations. “The big picture, the big framework, the big items are done,” he said. He described the negotiations as one of the fastest-moving trade discussions involving two large economies. Gor said talks had progressed to product-specific and tariff-level discussions involving senior officials, including US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal. While acknowledging the complexity of negotiations between two large economies, he said both countries were very close to finalising the pact. Highlighting the broader bilateral ties, the ambassador described India as a trusted strategic partner of the United States. He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government with advancing emerging technology initiatives and noted India’s inclusion among the first countries invited to key international technology partnerships. Gor said expanding cooperation in artificial intelligence, technology development, clean energy and civil nuclear power would create new opportunities for both countries. He also pointed to growing investments by major US technology firms, including Google, Microsoft, Adobe and Micron, in India, describing the partner-



ship as a win-win that supports job creation in both countries. On defence ties, he said India conducts more military exercises with the United States than with any other country. He cited recent joint drills and the participation of F-35 fighter aircraft in exercises in India as evidence of deepening strategic trust. Gor also announced that US Secretary of State Marco Rubio would visit India soon, with engagements planned in Mumbai and Jamnagar. The visit is expected to focus on trade, investment and commercial partnerships amid expanding bilateral economic relations. Addressing concerns over proposed US sanctions linked to Russia, Gor said the measures were aimed at ending the conflict and were not targeted at any specific country. He added that discussions on the issue were ongoing and that the US administration would take decisions in the coming days.

Indian rupee gains 32 paise to 94.85 against US dollar in early trade



New Delhi: The Indian rupee strengthened by 32 paise to 94.85 against the US dollar in early trade on Thursday, extending its recent gains amid continued support from the Reserve Bank of India’s forex management measures and a softer greenback. The domestic currency opened at 94.91 against the US dollar. The rupee has benefited from the RBI’s structural interventions in the foreign exchange market, liquidity-tightening steps and the unwinding of long-dollar positions by traders. Earlier in October, the Reserve Bank tightened rules governing forex derivatives trades to curtail speculative bets against the rupee and asked banks to create a 20 per cent reserve for dollar purchases exceeding \$2 million. In another set of measures announced earlier on the derivatives front, the RBI said authorised dealers should not permit users to rebook any foreign exchange derivative contract involving the Indian rupee, whether deliverable or non-deliverable, once it has been cancelled. The rupee had settled 19 paise higher at 95.16 against the dollar in the previous

session. According to experts, the local currency has moved decisively out of the 95.50–95.00 trading band, with the next key level seen around 94.80. A sustained move below this level could create room for further appreciation, aided by lower direct dollar demand from oil marketing companies and improved market sentiment. Support for the rupee also came from favourable global cues. Currency analysts expect the Indian currency to trade in the 95.60–97.50-per-dollar range by the end of 2026, with most projections clustering around the 96–97-per-dollar mark. The dollar index, which measures the greenback against a basket of major currencies, declined to 101.99. Additionally, the international oil benchmark Brent crude declined nearly 2 per cent to \$104.30 per barrel. Domestic equities also traded higher, with the benchmark Sensex and Nifty rising more than 1 per cent each. The Sensex was at 73,836.71, up more than 1,000 points, or 1.45 per cent, while the Nifty was trading at 22,929.55, up 300 points, or 1.36 per cent.

CCEA approves 60.72pc stake sale in IDBI Bank for Rs 52,878 crore



New Delhi: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday approved strategic restructuring of the IDBI Bank, deciding that an aggregate 60.72 per cent of the equity stake in bank to be sold to Canada Inc. whose parent company is Fairfax Financial Holdings for Rs 52,878 crore. Of the total equity stake, the government’s share would be 30.48 per cent, and the LIC share would be 30.24 per cent, leaving a residual shareholding of 15 per cent with the government and 19 per cent with the LIC. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman described the transaction as a “strategic restructuring” rather than strategic disinvestment, clarifying that the government and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) will continue to hold stakes in the bank. Due to its poor financial health, the bank required repeated infusion of capital, initially provided by the Government of India and later by the LIC. The decision of the CCEA was implemented through a two-stage, competitive bidding process supported by a multi-layered, collective decision-making mechanism consisting of the Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG), the Core Group of Secretaries on Disinvestment (CGD) and the Alternative Mechanism (AM) consisting of an empowered Group of Cabinet Ministers, according to an official statement. Of the five parties who initially submitted their

expression of interest, four parties qualified as per the eligibility criteria and disqualification conditions prescribed therein, of which, two finally submitted their techno-financial bids and became Qualified Bidders (QBs) for this transaction. After comprehensive evaluation by the CGD and after considering the recommendations of the Alternative Mechanism, the CCEA approved Canada Inc. (parent entity Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd.) as the strategic buyer for this transaction “for a purchase consideration of Rs 52,878.0806181 crore for the acquisition of 60.72 per cent stake in the IDBI Bank Ltd, comprising 30.48 per cent equity shareholding held by the GoI and 30.24 per cent equity shareholding held by the LIC.” The stock market price of the narrowly traded IDBI stock continued to be volatile and fluctuated both above and below the bid discovered price with a high-low range of Rs 118.38 to Rs 61.01 per share over the valuation period. “The successful bidder will be required to present its credentials to the Reserve Bank of India in accordance with the Fit and Proper Assessment conducted at the EoI stage and submit its roadmap for the compliance of regulatory conditions prescribed therein. Once completed, this will be the largest FDI in the financial sector of our economy so far,” said the statement.

Sensex falls 252 points, Nifty slips 99 as pharma, healthcare stocks drag

Mumbai: Benchmark equity indices ended lower on Wednesday, weighed down by losses in pharma and healthcare stocks, even as gains in information technology shares limited the decline. The Sensex declined 251.89 points, or



0.34 per cent, to close at 72,781.89, while the Nifty fell 99.25 points, or 0.44 per cent, to settle at 22,622.70. Among the 30 Sensex constituents, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, Hindustan Unilever and NTPC were the key gainers. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that Nifty closed lower after failing to sustain an early move above the 22,700 zone. “Profit booking dragged the index toward 22,550, where some buying interest emerged, limiting further losses. On the upside, 22,800 remains the key resistance. A sustained breakout above this level could extend the recovery toward the 23,000 mark,” analysts stated. “On the downside, 22,600–22,500 remains the immediate support zone,” they added. On the other hand, Bajaj Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bajaj Finserv, Eternal and ICICI Bank were among the major stocks that weighed on the benchmark index. Among the Nifty constituents, Shriram Finance, HDFC Life Insurance Company and Bajaj Finance emerged as the top los-

ers, dragging the benchmark index lower. The broader market also ended weak, with the Nifty MidCap 100 index slipping 0.08 per cent and the Nifty SmallCap index falling 0.32 per cent. Sectorally, pharma and healthcare stocks were the biggest laggards during the session. The Nifty Pharma and Nifty Healthcare indices registered the sharpest declines among sectoral gauges. In contrast, information technology shares provided support to the market, with the Nifty IT index ending as the top sectoral gainer. “Indian equities witnessed a volatile session as profit booking emerged after recent gains, with investors turning cautious ahead of key U.S. inflation data. Sentiment found some support from easing intraday crude oil prices, rupee appreciation following the RBI’s forex measures, and expectations of a potential review of LTCG tax and STT,” market watchers stated. Meanwhile, Rupee traded positively, gaining around 10 paise to 95.14, despite a stronger dollar, as RBI restrictions on dollar buying continued to support the currency.



Three Indian nationals die in house fire in Germany’s Bochum

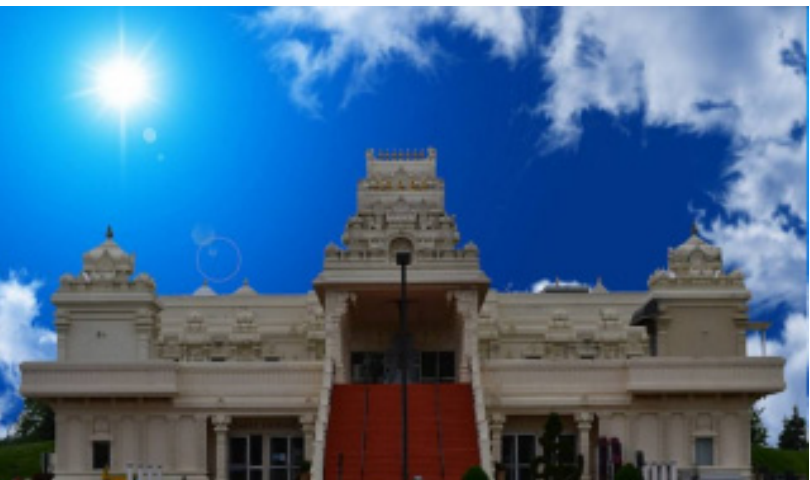
Berlin: As many as three Indian nationals have been killed in a fire incident in Bochum in Germany’s North Rhine-Westphalia, the Indian Embassy in Germany said on Thursday. The Indian Embassy said that all three Indian nationals were studying in Germany. The Embassy said it is in contact with local authorities and the victims’ families and is providing all necessary assistance. German authorities have launched a probe into the incident. “Three Indian nationals (two women and one man) have tragically lost their lives in a fire incident in Bochum, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. All 3 were studying in Germany. Embassy of India in Berlin and Consulate General of India in Frankfurt are in contact with local authorities and the bereaved families, and are extending all necessary assistance,” the Indian Embassy in Germany posted on X. “The incident is under investigation by German authorities. We extend our deepest condolences to the bereaved families in this hour of grief,” it added. According to local media reports, police have identified the deceased as three Indian nationals — two women aged 25 years and 27 years and a 26-year-old man. The fire erupted in the house in Bochum on Tuesday morning (local time). Emergency responders found the three bodies on the second floor of the building, Germany-based WDR reported. The operation was difficult as the flames had spread upwards through the stairwell, preventing firefighters from using the stairs to reach the upper floors. A 41-year-old resident of the house in Bochum is under initial suspicion of murder, WDR reported, citing a Bochum police spokesperson. The man has been arrested and has already been questioned by officers from the homicide squad. Fire investigators have examined the house and ruled out the possibility of a technical defect as the cause of the fire and are probing the possibility of arson, as per the report. The police are investigating whether it was a deliberate act or an accidental fire.

Rifle jam thwarts mass shooting at Hindu temple in Aurora: US authorities

New York: A mass shooting targeting a Hindu temple in the US failed when the alleged assailant’s rifle jammed, according to authorities, who arrested him after a tip from a co-worker. The 19-year-old man, who described himself as a “white supremacist Neo Nazi” and poured venom in a document against Indians and Hindus, was produced in court on Wednesday (local time) and charged with making a terrorist threat and unlawful possession of weapons. According to authorities, he had, by his admission to the co-worker, gone to a Hindu temple in Aurora, about 70 kilometres from Chicago, on Saturday, and tried to open fire, but his gun jammed, preventing a mass shooting. There are three temples in Aurora, and police have notified temples in the area about the threat. Alexandros Paporakis was arrested outside his home in Palatine, about 60 kilometres from Chicago, on Sunday after a tip from the person who worked with him at a fast-food restaurant. When he was produced in the county court in Rolling Meadows and charged, the judge remanded him to custody till October 30, when he is scheduled to appear in court next. Palatine Police Chief William Nord said a search of Paporakis’s house found a rifle, loaded magazines, hundreds of rounds of ammunition and body armour. According to police, the body armour had white supremacist extremist designs. “The seriousness of this alleged threat cannot be overstated,” Nord said. On Sunday, Paporakis asked his co-worker in a text message to call him, prosecutors said. During their call, he told the co-worker that he had tried to carry out the mass shooting, but the rifle didn’t fire when he pulled the trigger, and he fled “superfast”, according to prosecutors. The co-worker, who has not been identified, contacted the police in Mount Prospect, who passed on the tip to Palatine authorities. Paporakis sent the co-worker a photo of himself in a tactical vest and a copy of an eight-page “manifesto” titled, “Why I Fought: A.K.A.: (Aurora Shooter’s Manifesto)”.

Hindu groups in US condemn foiled temple shooting plot, call for vigilance

New York: Hindu and Indian organisations have condemned the mass-shooting plot against a temple in the midst of the Navaratri celebrations and warned against rising Hinduphobia. Soon after the arrest of the alleged plotter was announced by authorities on Wednesday (local time), two Hindu organisations called for vigilance by temples, especially now during the days of sacred observances. Hindu Mandir Empowerment Council (HMEC) asked the temples and devotees to “remain vigilant and promptly report any suspicious activity”. “As we come together in prayer, celebration, and service, let us stand united against hate and reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that every devotee can worship freely, peacefully, and without fear in our sacred spaces,” the organisation said. Authorities arrested a self-described “white supremacist Neo Nazi” in Illinois on Wednesday after a tip from his co-worker about the mass-shooting attempt that failed on Saturday when his rifle jammed, and he fled. The target was a Hindu temple in Aurora, about 70 kilometres from Chicago, according to authorities. Police said they were tipped off about the plot by a co-worker of the man. Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies (FIIDS) said, “This incident is a stark reminder that anti-India and anti-Hindu hatred is not merely online and political rhetoric — it can translate into real-world threats against our community and places of worship.” According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the reported anti-Hindu hate crimes rose to 32 last year from 25 in 2024. The failed plot comes after an attack on Shree Swaminarayan Vadtal Dham in Ohio’s Richmond Heights on October 3. Bricks were thrown at the temple while priests and devotees gathered inside for a prayer service. Coalition of Hindus of North America (CoHNA) appealed to authorities to protect temples. “We urge



elected officials and law enforcement agencies to take the growing threats against Hindu places of worship seriously, strengthen protections, and unequivocally condemn Hinduphobia,” the organisation said. “We also call on temples and community organisations to review their security measures, remain vigilant, and promptly report suspicious activity,” it added. The 19-year-old Alexandros Paporakis told his co-worker at a fast food restaurant that he had gone to a temple in Aurora on Saturday to carry out the mass shooting but fled when his rifle jammed, according to authorities. The co-worker tipped off police, who arrested the man at his home in Palatine, about 60 kilometres from Chicago, and said they seized a rifle, hundreds of rounds of ammunition and a tactical vest with white supremacist symbols. The man was produced in court on Wednesday and was remanded to custody till October 30, when he is due in court again. Officials said in court documents that he had been plotting the mass shooting for two years, and they found his “manifesto” filled with hatred of Indians and Hindus. He wrote that he wanted to die after killing a large number of people, according to authorities.

Landslide triggering Budhi Gandaki River floods in Nepal unleashed energy equivalent to 3.5-magnitude quake: Report

Kathamandu: A massive landslide in the high Himalayas of Nepal’s Gorkha district on October 11, which triggered devastating floods in the Budhi Gandaki River, generated energy equivalent to that of a 3.5-magnitude earthquake, according to a preliminary assessment by the Department of Mines and Geology. The landslide occurred in the upper reaches of the Ungdilung Khola, a tributary of the Budhi Gandaki River, triggering destructive flood surges after a large volume of debris blocked and subsequently released river flows, the technical report said. The report provides an initial explanation of how the high-altitude landslide and the repeated blockage and release of river flows contributed to the flooding downstream. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) said in a social media post, citing the department’s report, that the Budhi Gandaki River experienced repeated flood surges in a single day following the massive landslide involving snow, water and glacial debris in the high Himalayas. The latest disaster left at least five people missing and destroyed several hydropower projects, roads and bridges, according to the NDRRMA. The October 11 flooding was the second major flooding disaster, which occurred around one and a half months after devastating floods struck the Bhote Koshi and Trishuli rivers on August 26, which killed nearly 1,500 people and left more than 5,000 missing while devastating communities, houses, hydropower plants, roads and bridges along the affected rivers, the authority said. Citing the department’s technical report, the NDRRMA said the largest of the repeated flood surges reached an estimated height of 20 to 25 metres. The incident occurred at around 4:20 a.m. in the upper reaches of the Ungdilung Khola, between Chamar Himal and Syerangi Himal, in Chumnuhari Rural Municipality, which borders China. According to the report, an avalanche originated at an altitude of approximately 6,000 metres in the Tibetan Tethys Himalaya, an area characterised by relatively weak rock formations, and a landslide occurred at around 5,500 metres. “The massive landslide, comprising a mixture of snow, water and debris, flowed southward along the Ungdilung Khola, depositing a large volume of debris at the narrow confluence of the Ungdilung Khola and Syar Khola, another tributary of the Budhi Gandaki River, at an altitude of around 2,000 metres,” the authority said in its social media post.



The debris repeatedly blocked and released the flow of the Syar Khola, potentially generating successive flood surges. A similar process may also have occurred at the confluence of the Syar Khola and the Budhi Gandaki River, contributing to repeated flooding downstream, it said. However, the report suggests that the enormous volume of debris carried by the Ungdilung Khola played a more significant role in generating the largest flood surge than the water accumulated behind the blockage of the Syar Khola. The first mud-laden flood reached the Salleri area at around 4:30 a.m., where a camp for the 341-MW Budhi Gandaki Hydroelectric Project was located. “The largest surge arrived at the hydropower camp in Salleri at around 6:30 a.m., reaching an estimated height of 20 to 25 metres before sweeping away the camp,” the report said. The powerful surge caused major damage downstream, particularly in the Jagat area along the Budhi Gandaki River, where several buildings were affected. Permanent bridges over the Soti Khola and the Budhi Gandaki River were also among the damaged structures, the report said.