

Saturday 22.8.2026	Pages: 4 Price: Rs.2	Volume: 1 Issue: 95	Published from Jagitial Circulated to Telangana	PRGI Regd: TGENG/26/A3325 www.tricolourestate.com
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No clearance for CM Revanth's US visit Center responds



New Delhi, August 21: The Center has not given permission for Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's visit to America. The Ministry of External Affairs has responded to this. On Friday, the Ministry's official spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal gave an explanation in New Delhi. He reminded that the Center has given clearance for CM Revanth Reddy's visit to Britain. However, he explained that the visits of CMs and other dignitaries will be evaluated for political clearance. Jaiswal clarified on this occasion that the proposed program should be in line with the

position and the purpose of the visit. He said that this was not the case with the US visit. In this context, CM Revanth Reddy has been denied clearance for his US visit, said Randhir Jaiswal, a senior official in the Ministry of External Affairs. CM Revanth Reddy left for London for a 10-day foreign tour. He had gone to New Delhi for the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting and left there after midnight on Wednesday and went abroad. As planned, the CM's team will tour Britain and America until August 30. The team will visit vari-

ous universities in these two countries and discuss the development of higher education and sports in Telangana. The CM's team will also visit the Blavatnik School of Government at Oxford University in London. They will participate in a football presentation at the Emirates Stadium there. Later, the CM's team was supposed to leave for the US. But the Center has not given permission for CM Revanth's visit to America. So, he will return to Hyderabad after completing his visit to London. However, it seems that CM Revanth has ordered a team of officials to go on a US tour.

Telangana CM Revanth Reddy's US visit cancelled

Hyderabad, August 21: Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's visit to America has been cancelled. He is currently on a tour of London. He was supposed to go to America from the UK.. but it seems that he will cancel the trip and return to Hyderabad without going there. The CM is scheduled to travel abroad for ten days from the 19th to the 30th of this month. As part of the foreign tour, the Chief Minister is scheduled to visit prominent universities in Britain and America and



study the policies adopted by those countries in terms of education policy and skill development. The schedule has been finalized to visit several international universities. The CM, who is currently in London, is scheduled to visit Oxford University and London

Business School. The CM, who will be visiting London until the 23rd, is scheduled to go to Boston in the US from there. He is scheduled to visit the US until the 29th of this month and return to Hyderabad on the 30th. However, CMO officials applied for permission from the central government while going on foreign tours. It is reported that although permission was granted for the UK tour, CM Revanth's visit was canceled due to the fact that permission was not granted for the US tour.

Leave before you are expelled.. Congress leaders are angry with Konda Surekha

Hyderabad, August 21: The comments made by Minister Konda Surekha's daughter Sushmita against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy are causing a huge stir. It is known that Minister Konda Surekha had given an explanation to the

disciplinary committee that she should not be held responsible for Sushmita's comments, as they were completely her own opinion. Government whips Beerla Ilayya, Vemula Veeresham, MLAs Balu Nayak and Nayini Rajender

Reddy reacted to this and expressed their anger at Konda Surekha. They said that if Surekha had nothing to do with Sushmita's comments, she should condemn them. Surekha should respond to Sushmita's comments: Beerla Ailaiah

Government Whip Beerla Ilaiyah expressed his anger, saying that it is normal for opposition parties to criticize the government. How can it be criticized by their own party? He questioned that Revanth brought the party to power

without lowering the flag he raised. Why criticize him? He demanded that Konda Surekha respond to Sushmita's comments. He was furious, asking if she would rebel against the struggling CM. Ilaiyah said that it is sad that leaders.

Police Department's Tool Fair

Bellampalli (Manchiryal): August 21 The government has given sweet news to the unemployed who are waiting for police jobs. The notification was released recently and the online application process has started. As the government has given notification for thousands of vacancies, new hopes have sprung up among the unemployed. The buzz has started as many people are going to coaching centers. There are hundreds of police posts

vacant in the Commissionerate. Every year a large number of candidates compete for police jobs in the district. Officials have announced that the relevant departments have already sent the details of the vacancies according to locality (local cadre) to the Police Recruitment Board. With this, the distribution of posts based on local cadre is expected to bring significant posts to the district as well, the unemployed feel. Thousands of people compete for police



jobs in every recruitment in the district. vvv.jpg In the Ramagundam Commissionerate, out of a total of 1875 police personnel, 1334 are on duty. 541 posts are vacant. Out of 1325 posts of civil constables, only 819 are on duty. 506 posts are vacant. Similarly, out of 563 AR constables, 485 are on duty. 78 posts are vacant.

KTR backs polytechnic students' agitation, seeks withdrawal of GO 97

Hyderabad: August 21: BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Thursday extended his party's support to the statewide agitation by polytechnic students against GO MS No 97 and demanded that the Congress government withdraw the order immediately. He also criticised the alleged police action against



students during peaceful protests at some places,

urging the government not to violate their rights. In a statement, Rama Rao said the decision had left the future of thousands of polytechnic students uncertain. "Do not play with the lives of polytechnic students," he said, insisting that the government reconsider the decision and withdraw GO

97. He said BRS student wing leaders and party leaders had already participated in several protests and extended solidarity to the students. The party would continue to support their agitation in every possible manner, he added. South Asians & Diaspora

Pressure mounts on Konda Surekha as Congress MLAs demand strict action

Hyderabad: August 21: Pressure appears to be mounting on Forest Minister Konda Surekha, with a section of Congress MLAs demanding strict action against her, including her removal from the Cabinet. City & Local Guides The MLAs also sought action against Munugode MLA Komati Reddy Rajgopal Reddy and State Planning Board Vice Chairman G Chinna Reddy. Around 20 Congress MLAs addressed a press conference here on Friday and condemned the conduct of the three leaders. They said their comments against Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and the Congress government were damaging the party's image. The demand for action against Konda Surekha follows remarks by her daughter,

Sushmita, against the Chief Minister. Sushmita had alleged that Revanth Reddy allotted prime land to his brother's company at a throwaway price. The issue has triggered a strong reaction from a section of Congress MLAs. Meanwhile, Medipally police have registered a case against Surekha's former OSD Sumanth over an alleged physical assault. A complaint was lodged by an individual in connection with an incident reported on July 30. Government Khanapur MLA Vedma Bhojju said the party leadership should take action against Surekha, Rajgopal Reddy or Chinna Reddy. "It could be Konda

Surekha or Rajgopal Reddy or Chinna Reddy. Action has to be taken. Whether they should be suspended from the party or face any other action, the leadership should decide," he said. Nakkal MLA V Veeresham also favoured action against the leaders. "People who question and oppose the Chief Minister's decisions do not have the moral right to continue in the party," he said. Veeresham also questioned Surekha's position on her daughter's remarks. If the Forest Minister claimed that she was not associated with her daughter's com-

ments, he asked why she did not condemn them. Referring to earlier instances and criticising the conduct of the Konda family, MLA Nayini Rajender Reddy said they should quit the party before the leadership suspended them. Senior leaders maintain silence. Rajgopal Reddy and Chinna Reddy have also been under scrutiny within the party over their critical comments against the Congress government and its functioning. Interestingly, the majority of the senior MLAs, Ministers and leaders are maintaining a strategic silence on these issues. They have not responded to the charges levelled by the trio, and their stance is triggering debate in the political circles and within the Gandhi Bhavan.



Senior actress Shawukaru Janaki passes away



Internet Desk: August 21: A tragedy has struck the Telugu film industry. Veteran actress Shawukaru Janaki has passed away. She died on Friday due to old age-related health prob-

lems. Shawukaru Janaki had been seriously ill recently. Family members rushed her to Kauvery Hospital in Chennai. She breathed her last at the age of 94 on Friday around 2 pm while undergoing treatment at the hospital. Nadigar Sangam President Nassar has issued an official statement on the death of Shawkar Janaki. He said that Shawkar Janaki's body will be kept at Cenotaph Road in Teynampet from 5 pm on Friday for fans, friends and members of the film industry to pay their respects.

70 years of film career.. Tekumalla Janaki was born on December 12, 1931 in Rajahmundry, East Godavari district. She entered the film industry with the 1949 film 'Raksha Rekha'. After the success of Vijayavari's film 'Shaavukaru', Janaki became popular. Janaki acted in nearly 400 films in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi languages. She acted in hit movies like Kevantamari, Kanyasulkam, Jayam Manade, Panduranga

Mahatmayam, Doctor Chakravarthy, Akkachelletu, Badi Pantulu, Tayaramma Bangaraiah, and Samsaram Ok Chadarangam. Shawukaru Janaki, who acted in 11 movies in 1955, received a National Award for the movie 'Yedhi Niyam'. She was last seen in the movie 'Anni Manchi Shakunamule' which came out in 2023. Shawukaru Janaki's own younger sister Krishnakumari gained a good reputation in Telugu as the heroine. Also read these

Amit Shah accuses Mamata Banerjee of delaying land for India-Bangladesh border fencing in Bengal

Siliguri: August 21: Asserting that neither West Bengal nor India will be safe until its frontiers are secured, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday accused former chief minister Mamata Banerjee of failing to provide land required to complete fencing along the India-Bangladesh border in the state despite repeated requests. History On the second day of his north Bengal tour, Shah hit out at Banerjee while attending a programme organised at the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) frontier headquarters here for the groundbreaking and foundation stone laying

ceremonies of various SSB projects. "My desperate and repeated pleas to Mamata Banerjee for land to set up border fences by the BSF fell on deaf ears. I had been asking for 1,129 acres of land to strengthen border security since 2014. We received the land parcel only after the Adhikari government was formed in the state," Shah said. Executive Branch

Stating that no previous CMs of the state ever attended programmes of the SSB or the BSF, Shah congratulated Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, who flanked the union home minister on the dais, for breaking the glass ceiling. "Former CMs of Bengal never participated in SSB

celebrations despite sending them invitations. The SSB is not a political organisation. The force is beyond such considerations," the union home minister said, indicating that such indifference towards the protectors of the nation's frontiers gave out wrong signals. Shah, who arrived at Bagdogra on Thursday evening following the completion of 100 days of the Adhikari-led BJP regime in the state, lauded the chief minister for his prompt responses to security-related requirements of the Centre. "Ever since Adhikari came to power,



Case filed over pellet guns incident Rahul holds dharna with Priyanka



Delhi, August 21: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, party general secretary

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other Congress leaders staged a sit-in protest at

Parliament Street police station over allegations of pellet guns being used on students. Rahul demanded that a case be registered immediately against those who fired pellet guns at students and action be taken against those responsible. Rahul Gandhi went to the police station with Sahil Lochav, a student who was injured due to pellet guns. He in-

sisted that a complaint be filed with the police regarding the firing incident and a case be registered against those responsible. He demanded that the government and the police give a clear answer on the use of force on students. The situation became tense after Rahul Gandhi sat down and protested at the police station. Along with Rahul,

EDITORIAL

Competitive Exams: Is Merit Under Threat?

For millions of Indian students, competitive examinations represent a simple promise: work hard, perform well and earn your place. But that promise is losing its credibility. Repeated paper-leak controversies, faulty question papers, cancellations and administrative failures have transformed examinations from tests of knowledge into tests of patience and endurance. The latest developments surrounding the National Testing Agency (NTA) make the concern impossible to ignore. The agency has ordered a re-examination of three UGC-NET papers after serious factual, language and translation errors were detected. More than 50 staff members have reportedly been removed as part of an organisational overhaul. The Supreme Court has now stressed that NTA reforms must be institutionalised and that technological changes are necessary. It has sought concrete steps on examination security and reforms rather than temporary, ad-hoc solutions. But the crisis goes beyond NTA. The fundamental issue is institutional credibility. When an examination is cancelled or a question paper is found defective, the immediate burden falls on students. They must revise their schedules, spend more money on preparation, face additional psychological pressure and once again compete for the same limited opportunities. The institutions responsible for conducting the examination rarely bear a comparable cost. A competitive examination can claim to measure merit only when every candidate receives an equal opportunity. A leaked paper, an erroneous question, technical failure or compromised evaluation violates that basic principle. Merit cannot survive where the examination process itself is unreliable.

Technology can certainly help. Secure digital question-paper systems, biometric authentication, cybersecurity audits, artificial intelligence-based anomaly detection and computer-based testing can reduce several vulnerabilities. But technology cannot substitute for accountability. Every stage—from question-setting and printing to transportation, examination and evaluation—needs independent auditing and clearly defined responsibility. There is also a deeper problem. India has created an enormous high-stakes examination ecosystem in which one test can determine the future of a young person. For students preparing for NEET, JEE, UGC-NET and other national examinations, years of preparation can depend on a few hours. When the system fails, the consequences are disproportionately severe. The government must therefore go beyond crisis management. Examination agencies need professional leadership, transparent recruitment, independent oversight and legally enforceable accountability. Students must have fast grievance-redressal mechanisms and timely compensation when institutional failures disrupt examinations. Merit is not merely a student's responsibility; it is an institutional responsibility. If India wants its competitive examinations to remain credible, it must guarantee that the person who works hardest has a genuine chance to succeed.

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A large advertisement for Tricolour Estate. The top half features the headline "WANTED REPORTERS" in large, bold, dark red letters. Above it, the "TRICOLOUR ESTATE" logo is displayed in a serif font, with the tagline "THE NEWS THAT MATTERS" in a smaller sans-serif font below it, flanked by orange and green horizontal lines. To the right of the headline is a detailed pencil sketch of a hand writing on a spiral notebook. The bottom half of the ad has a background image of a newspaper with the "TRICOLOUR ESTATE" masthead and a city skyline. Overlaid on this is a dark red banner with the text "WE WANT YOU!" in white. Below the banner are three circular icons: a pencil for "COVER LOCAL STORIES THAT MAKE AN IMPACT", a magnifying glass for "REPORT WITH ACCURACY & INTEGRITY", and a group of people for "BE THE VOICE OF YOUR COMMUNITY". At the bottom, a white box contains the text "If you're ready to make news that matters, we'd love to hear from you." To the right of this box is a contact section with the heading "FOR MORE DETAILS:" followed by a phone icon and the number "+91 9440455811", and an email icon and the address "contact@tricolourestate.com".

Sanjay & Sundeeep Kishan’s Sigma To Clash With AK 47

Venkatesh and Trivikram Srinivas most awaited film, *Aadarsha Kutumbam – AK 47*, is slated for October 2, 2026 release, coinciding with *Gandhi Jayanti*. The team is busy with *Clashing with AK47* is Sundeeep Kishan and Jason Vijay’s *Sigma*. Sundeeep Kishan’s *Sigma* has caught all the attention as the film marks the directorial debut of Jason Vijay, son of Tamil Nadu CM and actor and TVK chief Vijay Joseph. This is going to have a big release in Tamil and Telugu. Given this, October 2nd will witness the clash of Trivikram Srinivas and new-age filmmaker Jason who is set for his debut. *Sigma*’s shoot was officially wrapped up in December 2025. Following post-production, the action-heist film produced by Lyca Productions is scheduled for a worldwide theatrical



cal release on October 2, 2026. Besides Sundeeep, *Sigma* features Faria Abdullah, Sampath Raj and Raju Sundaram in prominent roles. Thaman has scored music for *Sigma*. On the other hand, Venkatesh Daggubati and Trivikram’s *Adarsha Kutumbam* has an ensemble cast including Srinidhi Shetty, Nara Rohit, Nivetha Pethuraj, Rao Ramesh, and Vennela Kishore. Thaman is scoring the music and the film is bankrolled by Chinna Babu under Haarika and Hassine Creations banner.

#Mega158: Sankranthi Release Confirmed!

Megastar Chiranjeevi and director Bobby Kolli’s *Mega158* is moving ahead at a fast pace. The team has already completed around 40 days of shooting and has also wrapped up the first half along with its editing. The makers are reportedly confident about the output. A big fight sequence has been shot for the interval, which is expected to be one of the major highlights of the film. The movie is being made on a massive scale with Venkat K Narayana producing it under KVN Productions. With Chiranjeevi’s mass image and Bobby Kolli’s style of presenting action, expectations are already high. The makers are planning a special announcement on August 22, on the occasion of Chiranjeevi’s birthday. The film is also being lined up for a Sankranthi release, making the birthday update even more special for Mega fans.



Balayya Eyes Early Return For NBK 111 Despite Injury

Nandamuri Balakrishna is a true fighter and wears a devil-may-care attitude. Balayya, who severely injured his leg while shooting for *NBK 111*, underwent major knee surgery in July end. Even as Balayya is yet to recover from the injury completely, he informed the team *NBK 111* and director Gopichand Malineni that he would join the film’s shoot next month and asked the team to make the preparations accordingly. The makers are planning to wrap up Balakrishna’s shooting portions in early September as soon as he returns to the shoot and thus kickstart the post-production works and the film’s promotions accordingly. Balakrishna is said to be committed to release *NBK 111* for December this year, ahead of the Sankranti 2027 race. Meanwhile, Sankranthi has a very huge pipeline. Chiranjeevi’s *Mega 158*, Venkatesh and Anil Ravipudi’s *Film*, Nagarjuna’s *King 100*, Ravi Teja’s film with Vishnu and Hashit Goli, Sharwanand-Sreenu Vaitla’s films are aiming for Pongal.



Hero’s Directorial Debut Turns Into A Box-Office Nightmare

Vishal’s directorial debut *Makutam* (Magudam in Tamil) has turned into a major box-office debacle. For Vishal, who took the additional responsibility of directing the film after Ravi Arasu’s exit, this is a huge setback both as a debut director and the lead actor. The film was rejected by critics and audiences right from its release. The biggest problem is its outdated storytelling, routine treatment and overuse of familiar cliches. Instead of offering anything fresh, the film follows a formulaic and tiring template that frontally disconnects audience. The poor response was visible from the opening itself. The film opened to negative reviews and very low numbers. The weak word of mouth has made the situation even worse.

With the film struggling to attract audience *Makutam* is



heading towards a box-office disaster. If the reports are to be believed, the film’s opening weekend gross is below the Rs 2 crore mark, it means the film would not even be enough to recover the basic theatrical release expenses.

Raashi Khanna Turns A Shawl Into Style



*Raashi Khanna, who never fails to amaze with her stunning looks, has once again nailed it with her latest photoshoot. The actress was seen draped in a cozy red shawl that added a touch of elegance and warmth to her otherwise minimal outfit. In the first look, she paired the oversized red shawl with a plunging neckline, letting it fall off one shoulder for a sultry yet sophisticated vibe. Her tousled waves and soft smokey eyes complemented the fuss-free glam, while a nude-toned lip tied the whole look together. In the second click, Raashi got creative with the same shawl, wrapping it snugly around herself like a stole and pairing it with a checkered mini skirt. The fringe detailing on the shawl added texture and movement to the frame, while the contrast between the bold red and the monochrome check print made for a striking style statement. The actress’s ability to turn a single piece of clothing into two distinct looks, one glamorous and one playful, is proof of her effortless fashion sense. On the work front, Raashi Khanna has an interesting lineup ahead. She has *Dharman* in the pipeline, a Tamil film currently in the filming stage. She also has *Rowdy and Co*, where she plays Bindhu, which is currently filming as well. Her Hindi project *Bridge* is in production too. Meanwhile, *Talaakhon Mein Ek* has been delayed, and she is also part of the untitled Anees Bazmee film, which is currently filming.*

Ram Charan’s Irumudi Cameo? Director Shiva Nirvana Clarifies

Director Shiva Nirvana, known for emotionally driven films such as *Ninnu Kori*, *Majili* and *Kushi*, is coming up with a different subject with his upcoming film *Irumudi*. Starring Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja and Priya Bhavani Shankar, the Mythri Movie Makers production is set to hit theatres on August 21. With the film having an Ayyappa Mala backdrop, there has been some curiosity about whether Ram Charan could make a cameo in *Irumudi*. Ram Charan is known to be an Ayyappa devotee, which led to speculation among fans. However, Shiva Nirvana has clearly said that Ram Charan is not part of the film. “Ram Charan is an Ayyappa devotee, so perhaps fans wanted to see him in this film. But he does not appear in *Irumudi*. I hope he likes the movie,” the director said. While the film has an Ayyappa Mala backdrop, Shiva Nirvana insists that it is primarily a family emotional drama mixed with a crime story. He said his inten-



tion has always been to tell stories with intensity and make films that stay with audiences. According to the director, the Ayyappa Mala backdrop gave him a strong emotional foundation. He said the discipline and devotion followed during the Mala Deeksha helped him build the characters and screenplay. The filmmaker also praised Ravi Teja’s attitude on set, saying that the actor gives complete freedom to the director once he agrees to a story. Shiva Nirvana also revealed

that he personally wore the Mala, attended Padipoojas, met Guruswamis and visited Sabarimala to understand the traditions better and bring authenticity to the film. He also spoke about the use of Mallepoola Pallaki in the film and bringing back original singer Dappu Srinu to record the song. Shiva explained that the title *Irumudi* represents three important connections in the story involving the father and daughter, the Ayyappa devotee and the Mala, and the crime angle.

Four UTT National Ranking TT titles decided in Kanpur



Kanpur: The next generation of Indian table tennis produced four contrasting finals at the UTT National Ranking Table Tennis Championships at the Sportz Hub in Kanpur.

The Under-11 Girls final was the closest contest of the day, and all four age-group champions displayed the competitive edge that could shape the future of Indian table tennis.

In the Youth Girls Under-11 final, Kritika Saibo of West Bengal overcame a stirring chal-

lenge from Haryana's Phalgun Gupta, winning 3-2 in a seesaw battle. Gupta twice took the lead, but Kritika held her nerve in the deciding stages, winning the fourth and fifth games to claim a hard-earned title and lift the glittering trophy. The Under-11 Boys final was another test of recovery and composure. West Bengal's Debanshu Chakraborty lost the opening game 7-11 to Maharashtra's Rajvardhan Tiwari and was pushed to 10-10 in the second before turning the match around. Debanshu then won the next three games to complete a 3-1 victory. In the Youth Boys Under-13 final, West Bengal's Ariv Dutta defeated compatriot Gem Mahalanabish 3-1. Gem fought back to level the match, but Ariv regained control in the third game and closed out the final in four games. The Girls' final saw Assam's Ishani Gogoi maintain control against Delhi's Khyati

Pande, winning 13-11, 11-7, 12-10—she was down 2-8 before closing out the third game. Although the final was decided in straight games, the opening and closing games were closely fought, with Ishani showing composure to edge both at critical moments. The semifinals of both events featured several closely fought matches, with the U-11 Boys and U-13 Girls categories delivering the most drama. In the U-11 Boys, Debanshu survived a thrilling five-game battle against Haryana's Granth Duklan, winning 3-2. The Haryana boy appeared to have the match under control after taking a 2-1 lead, but Debanshu mounted a strong comeback to level the match and edge the tense deciding game 12-10.

Results:
Youth Boys Under-11: Final: Debanshu Chakraborty (WB) bt Rajvardhan Tiwari (Mah) 7-11, 12-10, 11-4, 11-4.

Semifinals: Rajvardhan bt Arjun Sen (WB) 11-2, 11-8, 11-2; Debanshu bt Granth Duklan (Har) 8-11, 11-8, 11-13, 11-2, 12-10.

Youth Girls Under-11: Final: Kritika Saibo (WB) bt Phalgun Gupta (Har) 9-11, 11-9, 9-11, 11-6, 11-9.

Semifinals: Kritika bt Varenja Sarkar (WB) 11-8, 11-6, 11-4; Phalgun bt Inaaya (Pun) 11-3, 12-10, 11-8.

Youth Boys Under-13: Final: Ariv Dutta (WB) bt Gem Mahalanabish (WB) 11-6, 7-11, 11-4, 11-9.

Semifinals: Ariv bt Rajdeep Biswas (WB) 11-5, 11-7, 8-11, 12-10; Gem bt Arunim Agarwal (Del) 11-9, 11-7, 11-9.

Youth Girls Under-13: Final: Ishani Gogoi (Asm) bt Khyati Pande (Del) 13-11, 11-7, 12-10.

Semifinals: Ishani bt Divija Paul (Asm) 13-11, 9-11, 11-9, 11-8; Khyati bt Mahika Susvirkar (Mah) 12-14, 11-3, 4-11, 13-11, 11-8.

India Junior International Series 2026 underway in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMBL) announced the launch of India Junior International Series 2026, a Badminton World Federation (BWF)-sanctioned junior tournament. This tournament is being hosted at the Kotak Pulela Gopichand Badminton Academy till August 23.

The tournament forms part of Kotak Mahindra Bank's long-term commitment to nurturing sporting talent in India.

Through its partnership with the Pulela Gopichand Badminton Foundation, Kotak has supported the establishment of the Kotak Pulela Gopichand Badminton Academy, a world-class institution focused on identifying and developing young badminton talent through expert coaching, high-performance infrastructure and competitive exposure.

Through sustained investments in sports infrastructure, athlete development and competitive opportunities, Kotak aims to support promising athletes, strengthen India's badminton ecosystem and advance its broader CSR vision



of fostering inclusive growth and nation-building through sport.

Himanshu Nivsarkar – Head, CSR & ESG, Kotak Mahindra Bank, said, "The Kotak Pulela Gopichand Badminton Academy has played an important role in nurturing young badminton talent over the years. We are proud to support initiatives that help aspiring athletes learn, grow and realise their

potential. The India Junior International Series gives young players an opportunity to compete at an international level and gain valuable experience early in their sporting journey."

Pulela Gopichand, chief national coach of the Indian badminton team and Founder, Pulela Gopichand Badminton Foundation, said, "International competition at the junior level plays an important role in

an athlete's development. It allows young players to test their skills against different playing styles, build confidence and understand the demands of competing at a higher level.

This year's tournament will bring together over 225 junior players from England, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, USA, UAE and India, competing across singles and doubles categories.

Dhruv Kapila-Tanisha Crasto advance to BWF World Championships third round



New Delhi: The Indian mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto had a winning start to their BWF World Championships campaign after defeating Leong Iok Chong and Ng Weng Chi of Macao in the round of 32. The 15th-seeded Indians, who had received a bye in the opening round, registered a 21-11, 21-11 here at the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex.

Dhruv and Tanisha are India's remaining representatives in the mixed doubles event after Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde fought hard against Canada's Jonathan Bing Tsan Lai and Crystal Lai before losing 22-20, 19-21, 17-21. Ashith Surya and Amrutha Pramuthesh also went out after a close contest against Turkey's Emre Sonmez and Yasemen Bektas, losing

21-16, 29-30, 22-24. Dhruv and Tanisha, playing their second BWF World Championships, will now carry India's mixed doubles hopes into the third round. The duo, who had a quarterfinal exit at the 2025 BWF World Championships in Paris, will next take on the sixth-seed Chinese pair of Guo Xin Wa and Chen Fang Hui. Tanisha and Dhruv have previously won the 2023 Odisha

Masters Gold and bagged silver at the 2024 Syed Modi International. They also ranked World No. 15 in May 2025, their highest ranking as a mixed doubles pair. Later in the day, In the women's singles, former champion Pv Sindhu will play Wen Yu Zhang of Canada, while Unnati Hooda will face one of the more experienced players in the women's singles draw the 13th seed Michelle Li of Canada. Lakshya Sen will look to build on his opening-round victory when he takes on USA's Garret Tan in the men's singles round of 32. Ayush Shetty, who caused the major upset by eliminating the defending champion Shi Yu Qi in the opening round, will take on Dumindu Abeywickrama of Sri Lanka. The men's doubles pair M.R. Arjun and Hariharan Amsakarun will face 15th seeds Kang Min Hyuk and Ki Dong Ju of Korea. Earlier, India's top women's doubles combination of Gayatri Gopichand and Treasa Jolly upset 16th seeds Allison Lee and Lauren Lam with yet another solid performance on Day 2.

2026 Cincinnati Open: Sabalenka, Andreeva and Gauff advance to fourth round



Cincinnati: Aryna Sabalenka needed just 54 minutes to see off Wang Xinyu 6-1, 6-3 to ease into the fourth round of the Cincinnati Open. With a win, Sabalenka has now reached the Round of 16 or better at 45 WTA 1000 events in her career. Her effort in Cincinnati pulls her ahead of Karolina Pliskova for most among active players. She now owns 50 career wins at WTA 1000 events as World No. 1. Sabalenka is one of three players to do that since the format's introduction in 2009, along with Serena Williams (104) and Iga Swiatek (58). Meanwhile, No. 5 seed Mirra

Andreev advanced to the fourth round of the Cincinnati Open in two contrasting sets, converting her fourth match point to quell a stern challenge from No. 32 seed Janice Tjen 6-1, 7-6(5) in 1 hour and 42 minutes. Andreeva, a quarterfinalist in Cincinnati in her only previous appearance at the tournament in 2024, has now won consecutive matches for the first time since capturing her first Grand Slam title at Roland Garros in June. She'll next face No. 10 seed Marta Kostyuk for the fourth time this year. Kostyuk leads their head-to-head 2-1, though Andreeva

won their most recent meeting in the Roland Garros semifinals. Elsewhere, No. 4 seed and 2023 champion Coco Gauff also secured her spot in the fourth round of the 2026 Cincinnati Open, courtesy of a 6-1, 7-6(3) win over fellow American Ann Li. Gauff is now into her 36th career WTA 1000 fourth round, including six this season. Only Aryna Sabalenka (44), Karolina Pliskova (44), Elina Svitolina (43), Iga Swiatek (38) and Jessica Pegula (38) have more among active players competing in Cincinnati singles. She will next face Marie Bouzkova, who beats Iva Jovic.

Global Chess League Season 4 tickets go on sale for Bengaluru matches



Hyderabad: The Global Chess League (GCL), a joint initiative between Tech Mahindra and FIDE, has opened ticket sales for Season 4 on BookMyShow, with Bengaluru set to host six global franchises from September 5 to 13. Icons, established champions, elite superstars, and the next generation of chess talent will converge on the city for another season of rapid, team-based action, with one place at the board still waiting to be claimed: the fans. Defending champions Alpine APL Pipers return with Magnus Carlsen leading their title defence, while PBG Alaskan Knights bring together Indian chess great Viswanathan Anand and Arjun Erigaisi. Ganges Grandmasters pair Ian Nepomniachtchi with returning

star Levon Aronian, while Fyers American Gambits are led by 2026 Candidates winner Javokhir Sindarov and Season 2 MVP Nihal Sarin. With the stars ready to make their moves, GCL is inviting fans to make theirs and take their place alongside the action. Early Bird tickets start at Rs 349, giving fans access to one match and the Festival Arena, while the Rs 2,999 Premium ticket covers all four matches of the day, along with access to the Festival Arena and Premium Lounge. With GCL's "Most Important Seat Is Empty" message putting the focus on the fan, the live experience will extend beyond the boards, with the Festival Arena offering live screenings, commentary, fan experiences, and food on a first-come, first-served basis. Gourav

Rakshit, Commissioner, Global Chess League, said: "GCL is built to be experienced live, and Bengaluru will give fans a chance to get much closer to the action. From the rapid intensity on the boards to the Festival Arena, we want fans to feel part of every move, every shift in momentum, and every big moment of the league." Anil Makhija, COO – Live Entertainment & Venues, BookMyShow: "Global Chess League brings together some of the biggest names in chess in a format built for a live audience. Over the last decade, India has firmly established itself as a global chess powerhouse, building on Viswanathan Anand's legacy and the rise of a new generation led by Gukesh Dommaraju."

PV Sindhu reveals Virat Kohli advice that changed her perspective during tough phase

New Delhi: PV Sindhu has revealed how Virat Kohli's simple advice during one of the toughest phases of her career helped change her perspective, with the Indian badminton star saying the Indian cricketer reminded her of the importance of simply turning up and trusting her preparation. Sindhu, who is currently competing at the BWF World Championships in New Delhi, recalled her conversation with Kohli while speaking on the RCB podcast. The two-time Olympic medalist said she had approached Kohli at a time when she felt that "nothing is happening", but his response was straightforward. "He is like my brother, I must say, because I remember when I was at my lowest. I think I met him and I said, you know, nothing is happening. He just said, Just show up, it is okay, just go out there and just show



up," Sindhu said. The advice struck a chord with Sindhu, who said Kohli encouraged her to focus on competing, rather than being consumed by the results. "He asked me to show up, anywhere and for anything, and just play my game. What would happen? You are not going to lose anything; you know what you are, how you have trained, and show the world who you are. So I think it hit me, and I think that

conversation completely changed my perspective," she added. The 31-year-old also revealed that she remains in touch with Kohli and shares her achievements with him. "Whenever I win, I just share my happiness, saying that you know I have won this or that, and recently I met him, so it is always so good to meet, you know, a person who has achieved so much and to get a few of those inputs from him," Sindhu said.