



6pg

We Followed Vegetarian Diet
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Gold slips on profit booking; silver extends rally for third straight session

4pg

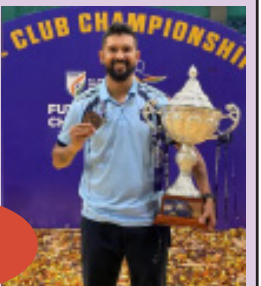


BHASHINI Showcases Multilingual AI Innovations at NCeG 2026; Launches Rajasthan Language Model Training Hackathon

5pg

Joshua Vaz ends silver streak with AIFF Futsal Club Championship title

7pg



Minister Shivraj, CM Naidu, Dy CM Pawan Kalyan Roll Out VB-G Ram G



From Our Staff Reporter Tirupati, July, 2 : The nationwide launch of 'Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Yojana' took place today from Mukkavaripalli village in Tirupati district of Andhra Pradesh. Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Rural Development Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Andhra Pradesh

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Shri Pawan Kalyan, Union Ministers of State Dr. Chandrashekhara Pemmasani and Shri Kamlesh Paswan, along with MPs, MLAs and thousands of people from the public were present. During this programme, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, a new

model was presented for employment guarantee for poor labourers, farmers and villages across the country, along with large financial allocations for village development and a transparent system.

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan began his address with 'Namah Venkateswaraya' and chants of 'Govinda, Govinda', stating that

launching the 'Viksit Bharat G - Ram G Yojana' from this sacred land is like a shower of divine blessings for the poor and labourers. He prayed that no poor labourer in the country should remain without work, and that every hand should get work and every stomach should get food. He thanked Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi from the heart for implementing this resolve on the ground.

Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan reminded that the MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) started during the former UPA government provided a guarantee of only 100 days of employment. He said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's new strategy, the 'Viksit Bharat - G Ram G Yojana' provides a firm guarantee of a full 125 days of work for labourers. He said that this is not just an increase in the number of days but a change in

thinking, with the goal now that no hand should remain empty. He proudly stated that on the very first day of the new scheme's implementation, lakhs of labourers across the country have received work, and MGNREGA has been transformed into the improved form of VB-G Ram G Yojana.

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan spoke in detail about the financial aspects of the scheme and said that in the very first year of the 'Viksit Bharat - G Ram G Yojana', the Centre's share will be more than Rs. 95,000 crore and adding the states' 40 per cent share, the annual expenditure will reach around Rs. 1.51 lakh crore. Shri Shivraj Singh informed that the target is to spend a total of Rs. 7.5 lakh crore under this scheme over the next five years. This money will reach the country's 2.86 lakh panchayats, giving each panchayat an average of more than Rs. 2 crore per

year, which will increase employment in villages and also create permanent assets.

Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that under the 'Viksit Bharat - G Ram G Yojana', labourers' rights have been given legal strength. Upon any labourer demanding work, it will be mandatory to provide employment within 15 days, and if work is not provided within the stipulated time, the concerned labourer will have to be given unemployment allowance. He emphasised that now no one can play with the labourer's sweat. To end the old problem of delay in wage payment, the scheme includes a provision that if wages are delayed, the labourer will be paid the delayed wages along with interest. This is so that the labourer gets the full value of his sweat and the 'Modi Mantra' of considering service to the poor as worship of God is visible



on the ground. Union Minister of Rural Development Shri Shivraj Singh informed that administrative expenditure has been increased from 6 per cent to 9 per cent for effective implementation of the scheme. Under this, more than Rs. 13,000 crore have been kept for the salaries and facilities of Gram Rozgar Sahayaks (contractual workers at Gram Panchayats),

mates and other field-level employees. He said that it is necessary for the employees who handle the work of labourers and development in villages to get their full salary on time so that they do not get distracted and the system remains strong. In this way, this scheme will work to strengthen the administrative structure along with the labourers.

"I Will Never Forget Those Who Walked Alongside Me": Minister Lokesh



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, July, 2 : Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education and Information Technology, Nara Lokesh, stated that he would never forget the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) workers who walked with him during his Yuva Galam padayatra (foot march). On Thursday, Lokesh attended the wedding ceremony of Nadendla Brahman Chowdary, Chairman of the

Kamma Welfare and Development Corporation, in Tirupati and blessed the newlywed couple. During the event, he warmly interacted with members of the Yuva Galam team and recalled memories from the padayatra. Lokesh spent around 15 minutes speaking with party workers and praised the TDP cadre for playing a crucial role in the success of the Yuva Galam initiative. He expressed grati-

tude to every party worker who courageously faced the challenges and alleged suppression during the tenure of YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and helped make the padayatra a success. He emphasized that the TDP is continuously working towards the empowerment of its cadre with the principle that "the party worker is the leader."

Lokesh also stated that the government remains

committed to implementing the promises made during the elections. He said that steps have been initiated to create 2 million jobs in Andhra Pradesh. As part of the recruitment process, the government has moved forward with measures such as releasing a job calendar, filling teaching positions, and recruiting police constables. He noted that creating employment opportunities for youth is one of the primary objectives of the government. On the occasion, Lokesh reiterated that the bond formed through the Yuva Galam padayatra is permanent and that his association with party workers will continue forever. His remarks generated enthusiasm among TDP supporters, who fondly recalled the connections built during the Yuva Galam march.

AP Government's Key Decision: Retirement Age of Employees Increased

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, July, 2 : The Andhra Pradesh government has taken a significant decision regarding the retirement age of employees working in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), corporations, and societies. The government has issued an order increasing the retirement age from the existing 60 years to 62 years.

In line with a resolution previously approved by the State Cabinet, the government issued the orders on Thursday. According to the Government Order (GO), the decision will be implemented retrospectively from January 1, 2022. The government has also provided an opportunity for eligible employees who re-



tired at the age of 60 to be reappointed. However, it clarified that no salary will be paid for the gap period until they rejoin service. The gap period will also not be counted for seniority or promotion purposes. As per court directives, employees who continued to work up to the age of 62 will be granted full service ben-

efits. The order further states that employees who retired at 60 years of age and are not interested in rejoining service will continue to be governed by the earlier retirement rules.

The government has directed all concerned organizations to make the necessary amendments to their service rules to

implement this decision. However, each organization has been advised to take decisions based on its own financial position. The state government has also instructed all departments to immediately communicate these orders to the PSUs, corporations, and societies under their jurisdiction.

"Jagan Cannot Tolerate Seeing Others Prosper" - Minister Kollu Ravindra

From Our Staff Reporter Krishna District: Andhra Pradesh Minister Kollu Ravindra launched a sharp attack on YSRCP president and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. He alleged that while Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is focused on taking Andhra Pradesh forward, Jagan is trying to obstruct the state's development.

The minister said that Chandrababu is working in line with the aspirations of the people for the development of the state, whereas Jagan is making statements with political motives. He remarked that Jagan's comments made on Wednesday were an example of what he described as a "psychological mindset." Ravindra mocked Jagan for allegedly taking contradictory positions, saying that at one moment he claims Amaravati is the capital and

at another says, "No, our stand is Mavigan." Kollu Ravindra urged people to observe what he described as the changing positions of the YSRCP leader. He said that the party had earlier maintained that Amaravati was its stand, but before and after the elections it played politics in the name of the three-capital proposal. He noted that the party went to the elections advocating three capitals and was limited to 11 seats by the voters.

The minister criticized Jagan for now speaking about "Mavigan" and claimed that a person who cannot tolerate others flourishing displays such a mindset. He further mocked Jagan, saying that it is difficult to predict what he will say or do next. Ravindra alleged that Jagan recently sent his supporters to organize programs in the capi-



tal region under the banner of a CRDA Protection Committee. He claimed that local farmers and residents strongly opposed and chased them away.

Questioning Jagan's intentions, the minister asked whether he intended to continue what he described as political dramas and create divisions between regions. He accused the YSRCP leader of attempting to create dif-

ferences among people, castes, and religious communities. Appealing to the people of Andhra Pradesh to closely observe the situation, Ravindra said that Jagan had earlier gone to elections on the promise of three capitals and was reduced to 11 seats. He added that if the YSRCP contests elections with the "Mavigan" agenda, voters would reduce the party to zero seats.

"If They Go to Elections with 'Mavigan', They Will Be Reduced to Zero" : Minister Gottipati's Remarks on Jagan

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, July, 2 : Andhra Pradesh Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar expressed strong criticism of YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. He remarked that the YSRCP had won only 11 seats after going to elections with the promise of three capitals, and if they now go to elections with what he called the "Mavigan" agenda, they would be reduced to zero seats. The minis-

ter participated in a grievance redressal program held at the TDP central office on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, he alleged that Jagan was making statements with the intention of ruining the state. He accused Jagan of not laying even a single brick for the proposed three-capital plan while spending Rs.450 crore to build a palace for himself. Gottipati Ravi Kumar further stated that Jagan was unable

to tolerate the rapid progress of Amaravati's development works and



was therefore making

provocative remarks. He recalled that it was Jagan himself who had once demanded 33,000 acres for Amaravati and had assured people by saying that he had built a house there. The minister said that the people had taught YSRCP a lesson and limited the party to just 11 seats. He also noted that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is working tirelessly to attract investments to Andhra Pradesh.

People should take advantage of the Praja Darbar, which is aimed at public welfare

Madanapalle, July 02(Skyline daily): The Praja Darbar organized at the Madanapalle MLA office received a special response as usual. People from all over the constituency came in large numbers and made requests to solve various problems, and MLA Shahjahan Basha instructed the officials over the phone to work to solve everyone's problems. Later, MLA M Shahjahan Basha, along with local coalition leaders, launched the supply channel development work through the VB-G RAM G department near the Kankara Mission in CTM-1 Panchayat, Madanapalle Mandal. Speaking on this occasion, he said that everyone should take advantage of this 125-day work and that the government has taken it as a responsibility to provide work to everyone. Also, the relevant department was instructed to distribute job cards to everyone and expedite the work. As the drinking water problem is increasing in Madanapalle town, the MLA has instructed the officials to inspect the old boreholes in the vicinity of Bahuda Kalava along with the municipal officials and take steps to restart those boreholes and prepare a plan to end the drinking water problem.

CMRF cheques distributed by the MLA....

In Madanapalle Mandal, CTM Gram Panchayat, MLA Shahjahan Basha personally went to their homes and, along with his party leaders, handed over Chief Minister's



Relief Fund cheques worth one lakh 40 thousand rupees to the beneficiaries. In the review of local alliance leaders, they expressed their joy on this occasion that they will be indebted to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Madanapalle MLA M Shahjahan Basha for the rest of their lives. Alliance leaders and local people participated in the respective programs in large numbers.

Minister Nara Lokesh Offers Prayers at Sri Kalahasteeswara Temple



SriKalahasti- 2 July (Skyline Daily): Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education, IT and Electronics, Sri Nara Lokesh, visited the Sri Kalahasteeswara Swamy Temple on Wednesday and offered special prayers to Lord Sri Kalahasteeswara Swamy and Goddess Gnana Prasunamba, seeking divine blessings. Accompanying him on the occasion were Tirupati Urban Development Authority (TUDA) Chairman Sri Dollar Divakar, Venkatagiri MLA Sri K. Ramakrishna, Gangadhara Nellore MLADr. V.M. Thomas, and Darsi MLA



Sri Damacharla Satya. Local MLA Sri Bojjala Venkata Sudheer Reddy, Temple Executive Officer Sri B.K. Venkatesulu, Temple Chairman Sri K. Sai Prasad, Board Members Sri Gopinath and Sri Gurrappa Shetty, and Market Committee Chairman Sri Rangineni Chenchayya Naidu welcomed the minister with traditional temple honours and supervised the darshan arrangements. Temple officials, staff members, TDP leaders, party workers, and a large number of devotees participated in the programme.

BJP National and State Leaders Offer Prayers at Sri Kalahasteeswara Temple



SriKalahasti - 2 July (Skyline Daily): BJP National Co-Organisation General Secretary Sri Shiv Prakash Ji, Andhra Pradesh BJP State President Sri P.V.N. Madhav, and BJP State Organisation Secretary Sri Madhukar Ji visited the Sri Kalahasteeswara Swamy Temple in SriKalahasti on Wednesday. During the visit, Sri Shiv Prakash Ji participated in the sacred Rahu-Ketu Pooja and later offered prayers to Lord Sri Kalahasteeswara Swamy and Goddess Gnana Prasunamba, seeking divine blessings. Temple Executive Officer Sri B.K. Venkatesulu,



BJP State Vice-President Sri K. Anand Kumar, Special Invitee Smt. Shailaja, BJP leaders Chandrappa and Kandriga Uma, and Protocol AEO Sri Lokesh Babu welcomed the dignitaries with traditional temple honours and supervised the darshan arrangements. The programme was attended by Temple AEO Sri Vidyasagar Reddy, Temple Supervisor Sri C. Nagabhushanam, Temple Inspector Sri M. Hari Yadav, APRO Sri Ravi, other temple officials, BJP leaders, party workers, and devotees.

Kadapa Clinch South Zone U-16 Title in Thrilling Contest

- Centuries by Sarik and Taneeswar Go in Vain as Chittoor Finish Runners-up
(By Skyline Staff Reporter)

Vayalpad, July 2: Kadapa district emerged as champions of the Andhra Cricket Association (ACA) South Zone Under-16 Multi-Day Tournament after defeating Chittoor in a thrilling final-like encounter held at the CDCA-GVSCS Ground-1 in Vayalpad. The match remained evenly poised until the final innings, with Chittoor putting up a spirited fight before falling just short and settling for the runners-up trophy. After winning the toss, Kadapa elected to bat first and were bowled out for 279 runs in 71.5 overs. K. Lokesh scored 67, S.K. Umar Siddiq made 59, while P. Hitesh Sai remained unbeaten on 65. For Chittoor, right-arm pacer Jayaprakash produced an outstanding spell, claiming 5 wickets for 93 runs, while Tejesh and Dinesh picked up two wickets each. In reply, Chittoor were dismissed for 107 runs in 35 overs in their first innings. V.J. Noel was the lone bright spot with 45 runs. Kadapa bowlers M. Varshith Kumar and P. Hitesh Sai starred with four wickets apiece, giving their team a commanding 172-run first-innings lead. Batting again, Kadapa were bowled out for 222 runs in 64.3 overs in their second innings. K. Lokesh scored 50, P. Askan Khan contributed 46, Y.V. Shiva Charan added 37, and A. Sai Abhinivash made 31. Chittoor bowlers Dinesh (4/48) and Jayaprakash (3/58) once again impressed with the ball. Set a daunting target of 394 runs, Chittoor produced a remarkable fightback through magnificent centu-



ries by Mohammed Sarik Akhtar (131) and Taneeswar Tendulkar (111). Their crucial partnership brought Chittoor within touching distance of victory, but the lower order failed to provide the required support, and the team eventually fell short in a nail-biting finish. For Kadapa, P. Hitesh Sai claimed three wickets, M. Varshith Kumar took two, while B. Muni Gnaneshwar and B. Sai Krishna Chaitanya picked up one wicket each to seal the championship. The prize distribution ceremony was attended by CDCA President Srinivasa Murthy, Vice-President Sridhar Kumar, Secretary Satish Yadav, Chittoor District Head Coach Sunil Kumar, Kadapa Joint Secretary Srikanth Reddy, coaches Siddiq, Shoaib, and Anjaneyulu, selectors Reddy Girish, Jawahar Basha, Harish, and Vijay Kumar, and senior cricketers Bharath and Vishnu, who presented the trophies and congratulated the players on their outstanding performances.

Work-Study Dual Model: A Bridge to Fill Academics & Industry Gap

Sri City, Tirupati District, 2 July - Sricity International University (SIU) was formally launched today at its Interim Campus by the Hon'ble Minister Shri Lokesh Nara - Minister for HRD, IT E&C and RTG, Government of Andhra Pradesh, in the presence of SIU's Global Advisory Council, Governing Board, and Industry Partners.

SIU is pioneering a new education system of Work-Study Dual Model in India - designed from the ground up to ensure that every graduating student is employable with industry relevant skills.

The launch comes at a defining moment for Indian higher education. India produces more than nine million graduates every year, yet only about 42.6% are assessed as employable; more than half of those who do find work are in roles below their qualification, and over 80% of employers report serious skill gaps. SIU calls this the Bharat Employability and Jobs Challenge - and has been established to solve it.

In the Work-Study Dual Model, students spend roughly a third of their time learning on campus and the remainder working as interns with industry partners. While interning at Industry Partners, students are paid a minimum stipend of ₹10,000 monthly from the very first year. The Industry Partners are expected to increase the stipend amount as the student productivity improves with experience. At SIU, a four-year degree student graduates with about 2+ years of real work experience.

The curriculum is co-designed with industry partners and updated annually to keep pace with the rapidly evolving AI-driven industrial landscape, ensuring that students acquire the knowledge, skills, and competencies demanded by the future of work.

To promote Entrepreneurship, SIU has already set up an Incubation Center (Station-S) at its campus. Around 10 startups have commenced operations with the support of Station-S & Gnan Circle Ventures, a Cat-I Venture Capital Fund.

Andhra Pradesh leading the way on Employability Skills "Our young people have the ability and the ambition; what they need is an education that connects directly to work... Andhra Pradesh is proud to lead the nation in solving this challenge."- Shri Nara Lokesh

Hon'ble Minister for HRD, IT, E&C, and RTG, Government of Andhra Pradesh

An ecosystem that makes the model possible What makes this model possible is the extraordinary ecosystem of Sri City, where more than 200+ companies from over 30 countries operate across a wide range of industries. Few places in the country - or the world - bring industry and education together so closely. Students at SIU will learn and work alongside leading global companies right where they study, and Andhra Pradesh is proud to be home to an institution that turns this advantage into real opportunity for our young people.



- Shri Nara Lokesh
Hon'ble Minister for HRD, IT, E&C, and RTG, Government of Andhra Pradesh
Employable from day one

A four year degree student graduates with 2+ years of real work experience, earned through paid internships from the very first year - and combined with a curriculum designed together with the industry, that makes our students highly employable. Beyond industry aligned skills, we focus on building strong life skills and an entrepreneurial mindset, giving every student a firm foundation to build a career - or to create jobs for others.

- Srini Raju
Chairman, Sricity Education Foundation & SIU Governing Board

Programmes and admissions
SIU is offering four undergraduate programmes for the 2026-27 academic year:

- B.Tech in Computer Science & Engineering - School of Technology & AI
- B.Tech in Advanced Manufacturing - School of Advanced Manufacturing
- BBA in Finance & Accounts - School of Business
- BBA in Digital Media & Communications - School of Nova Media

Admissions for 2026-27 are now open. Students can apply online at www.thesiu.org. Admissions enquiries: +91 8977763331 / +91 8977763332

Email: admissions@thesiu.org
About Sricity International University

Sricity International University (SIU) is a philanthropic initiative, established by a distinguished group of technocrats, entrepreneurs, and philanthropists with a shared mission to create a new academic system in higher education. SIU is established under AP State Private Universities Act by Sricity Education Foundation, a not-for-profit Section 8 company.

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MLA Amaranath Reddy's birthday celebrations

- Banners and cut-outs displayed in villages

affection by setting up banners and cut-outs in every vil-



(By our Skyline staff reporter)

Palamaneru, July 2: The Telugu Desam Party leaders and activists of Palamaneru constituency celebrated the birthday of MLA Amaranath Reddy on Thursday. On this occasion, a festive atmosphere prevailed in all the mandals of the constituency. Leaders and activists displayed their

age. Similarly, huge cakes were cut and firecrackers were burst in the villages and celebrated. Later, food distribution Programme was organized for the poor and milk and fruits were distributed to pregnant women at the government hospital. Sapling planting programme was organized in Madanapalle Road under the auspices of Palamaneru town leaders. Market Committee Chairman Rajanna participated in the birthday celebrations along with the laborers. Speaking on the occasion, the leaders praised the development of Palamaneru constituency in all sectors under the leadership of MLA Amarnath Reddy. He said that he has been recognized as a leader who is ac-

cessible to the people and continues his service programmes continuously. Wishing him the opportunity to rise to higher positions in the future and serve the people more. TDP leaders, activists and a large number of people participated in this programme.

Former Cricketer Srikanth Offers Prayers at SriKalahasteeswara Temple



SriKalahasti - 1 July (Skyline Daily): Former Indian cricketer Krishnamachari Srikanth visited the famous Sri Kalahasteeswara Swamy Temple along with his family members on Wednesday and offered special prayers to the presiding deities. Temple officials extended a warm welcome to Srikanth and arranged a special darshan for the family. Later, Vedic scholars blessed them near the Mrityunjaya Swamy Temple and presented them with portraits of Lord SriKalahasteeswara and Goddess Gnana Prasunambika. Devotees at the temple enthusiastically took selfies with the former cricketer, who cheerfully interacted with everyone and posed for photographs with a smile. Former YSRCP board member Munna Royal, Jaishyam, Manoj, YSRCP Town Youth President Mallembakam Muni Krishna Reddy, Deva Surya, Satish, and others participated in the visit.

MITs Deemed to be University gets national recognition in India Today-MDR Best Colleges Rankings 2026



Madanapalle, July 02(Skyline daily): MITs Deemed to be University near Madanapalle has achieved another prestigious achievement. MITs has secured a distinguished position in the India Today Best Colleges 2026, a ranking of the country's leading educational institutions, said Dr C Yuvaraj, Vice Chancellor of the university. In the rankings conducted for all government and private engineering colleges, MITs has secured 187th rank in the country, while it has secured 155th rank in the country in the private engineering college category, he said. Speaking on the occasion, he said that this national level recognition is a testament to the quality education offered at MITs, state-of-the-art laboratories, emphasis on research, industry-linked teaching, talented faculty and excellent placement opportunities. He said that admissions are currently ongoing for B Tech, M Tech, BBA, BCA, MBA, MCA and PhD courses for the academic year 2026-27. He called on students to utilize this opportunity and build their future with MITs.

EDITORIAL

'Sir'ji Namo Namah

In a democracy, people elect leaders who are qualified to govern them for a fixed period by voting. We boast that our country is the largest democracy in the world. Recently, this system seems to be reversing. Instead of people electing their rulers by exercising their right to vote, it seems that the rulers are choosing the voters who elect them. A year ago, on June 24, the Central Election Commission started a program called Special Intensive Revision (SIR). It started with the state of Bihar. This program started on the 24th of this month and completed a year. The official figures of the Central Election Commission make it clear that a total of six crore votes were deleted during this year. Making amendments in the voter lists is nothing new. It is not wrong either. From 1952 to 2004, the necessary surveys were conducted to correct the voter lists about 13 times. What is the real purpose of these amendments? For what reasons should the revision of votes be done? If someone dies between elections, their names should be removed from the list. If someone who has a vote in one place moves to another place, their vote should be removed there. Even if there is a vote in more than one place, the decision on where to remove the vote and where to keep the vote should be made with the consent of that voter. Those who are not eligible to vote, i.e. those who have entered the country illegally and are residing there, if they have the right to vote, should be ruthlessly removed. These are the main issues to be considered. Now, aren't the above-mentioned factors being considered by the Central Election Commission since last year? If so, why are all the political parties except the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and the NDA alliance parties at the Centre expressing strong objection to this program?. It is reported that after this program was launched in Bihar, 50 lakh votes were lost in that state. Similarly, it is reported that two crore 89 lakh votes were lost in Uttar Pradesh and more than 20 lakh votes were lost in West Bengal. Now this program is going on in about 19 other states. There is no need for anyone to have a second opinion on the fact that preventing electoral irregularities is very important to protect democracy. However, due to the serious distrust among the people, various political parties and intellectuals in the system currently conducting elections across the country, this program has become a major controversy. This program is currently causing great concern in the Telangana state, where assembly elections are due in two and a half years. It is known that the BJP has been eagerly waiting to seize power in the South, including Telangana, for some time. Of the five southern states, the Bharatiya Janata Party is currently in power as a partner only in Andhra Pradesh and the Union Territory of Puducherry. The fact that the Congress has won three states - Kerala, Karnataka and Telangana - and the recent formation of a government with a Congress partner in Tamil Nadu after almost two decades is not a matter of concern to the BJP leaders. Therefore, it seems that the BJP wants to use Telangana as a laboratory for its victory in the South. There is a campaign going on that the BJP hopes to gain some benefit through this controversial program currently underway in Telangana. Critics are citing the elections in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal as examples. The Bharatiya Janata Party is a national party. If there is public support anywhere in the country, there is no need for anyone to object to coming to power. However, the question of whether the BJP has enough public support in Telangana to contest alone and seize power, as well as some other factors, should be taken into account here. Whether in the united Andhra Pradesh or in Telangana after bifurcation, the Bharatiya Janata Party has never enjoyed such great popularity in the Assembly elections or Lok Sabha elections in the past. One can try to show the results of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation elections held five years ago and the results of the Lok Sabha elections held later in 2024 and say that the Bharatiya Janata Party has a lot of popularity in Telangana. Winning a few corporator seats in urban Hyderabad in the GHMC elections does not reflect the public opinion of the entire Telangana. As for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, if one of the 17 Lok Sabha seats in Telangana goes to the Majlis, eight will go to Congress and eight to BJP. Half of the BJP's victory in Telangana is not because of public support, but because the Bharat Rashtra Samithi, which fought for the achievement of Telangana statehood for almost ten years after its formation and was defeated in 2023, for whatever reason, threw the yoke in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The BJP knows very well what the reasons were that led to the Bharat Rashtra Samithi being thrown under the yoke in the Lok Sabha elections. And where did Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah get the belief that they will fight alone and come to power in Telangana? The parties that are mainly working in Telangana, that is, the parties that have enjoyed power or have the potential to come to power, are the Congress and TRS, followed by the BJP. How can the BJP improve its current situation in the state in these two and a half years by the next elections? Because even after two years of winning half the seats in the Lok Sabha elections and appointing two of them as Union Ministers, the people of Telangana do not seem to have increased their support for the BJP. Here is one thing, Jana Sena President Pawan Kalyan, who is constantly trying to prove that he is a true Hindu and that even the Bharatiya Janata Party is not a competitor to him in this regard, does the BJP have any idea that they will do anything to come to power in Telangana? Because as we saw in Tamil Nadu, it has been understood that the party will not win in the name of the party and Annamalai, an Indian Police Service officer, who has become very popular in a short time and is very loyal to the BJP, has left the BJP and formed a regional party. It seems that the BJP will follow a strategy in the south. In the meantime, Annamalai went to Delhi and met Union Home Minister Amit Shah, rejected the Rajya Sabha membership offered to him by the party, said that he was leaving the party and was going to form a regional party, and thanked him. There is also another campaign. Annamalai formed a regional party with the blessings of the BJP, which is why he met Amit Shah. How true is this, but if it is really the BJP's decision, then it must be coming to Tamil Nadu by another route. It is noteworthy that in Tamil Nadu, where Dravidian politics is very strong, the BJP, which contested together with the AIADMK, won only one assembly seat. The fact that a film actor without any political background, Vijay, won the most seats, made it clear that the BJP was not in a position to cook pulses in Tamil Nadu. That is why the campaign was that Annamalai was introduced there in the form of a regional party.

Pranit More To Everyone Else, How Comedy And Its Scandals Continue To Fool Us

Every few months, minus special occasions, India finds itself in the middle of a national emergency, involving a comedian. A statement will be made somewhere in a comedy show, or by a comedian. The clip goes viral, and boom goes the dynamite! Social media erupts with all kinds of opinions from across the spectrum. Primetime debates decide the length and breadth of what should be an acceptable speech. Politicians suddenly discover morality. Everyone has an opinion.

A recent controversy involved an audience member at comedian Pranit More's show, who suggested that because he had spent Rs 370 on a biryani date, he expected sexual access in return. The remark was widely criticised as reflecting entitlement and a disregard for consent. More himself later apologised, admitting he should have challenged the comment instead of laughing along. The man who made the comment, a 22-year-old Himanshu Jangra, also rendered an apology after his comment invited backlash and he was fired from his company. However, the lore only got bigger. A second clip from the same crowdwork became viral. A doctor in the audience, Dr Sejal, spoke about medical students joking about the private parts of male cadavers during anatomy and post-mortem work, triggering a second wave of criticism, and eventually an apology. The trolling of Dr Sejal started out as many defended Himanshu's comments in a 'tit-for-tat' attitude, but soon it became a larger conversation on ethics of medical professionals. Many (again, rightfully) criticised her stand and her training in general, including her place of profession, which raised concerns.

But the 'ideological' battle

remained. Some people have condemned the remarks as vulgar and offensive. Others have defended it in the name of freedom of expression. Such controversies rise and fall in their due time. The country will move on and find something new to outrage over. That is not the point I am trying to make here. This particular controversy has shed light on comedian Pranit More and how he should have behaved during the remarks. The internet has dubbed Pranit More's response at the time of the '370' statement as encouragement. More deserves his fair share of criticism, and many creators have rightfully called him out for choosing to benefit from it first and being apologetic about it later.

But the voice of reason seemed to have a tiny asterisk mark. The morality clause found itself attached to the same ecosystem that once preached that accountability itself was a 'threat' to comedy. A quick archaeological excavation through stand-up routines from back in the day reveal a graveyard of jokes involving women, minorities, sexuality, religion, body image, stereotypes and every other subject that contemporary sensibilities would regard as problematic. Casual sexism, sexual humour, stereotypes about communities, body-shaming and shock value have been staples of the stand-up routine, even in India. The industry's collective memory appears remarkably short. And the difference is not moral. It is timing. Lost in the shouting matches is an inconvenient truth: almost every major comedian, given a long enough timeline, has said something they would rather not have clipped and circulated today. This is often described as personal growth. Sometimes it genuinely is. But it is also difficult to ignore how

frequently these moral awakenings coincide with changing audience preferences.

And this is where we as the audience must understand, that comedy, despite its lofty self-image, is one of the most market-sensitive professions in existence. For years, shock humour relied on violating social norms. The joke may not be necessarily clever; it was simply unexpected. In moderation, such humour has always existed and occasionally served a purpose. Satire often requires discomfort. The problem begins when discomfort becomes the entire product. Today, there are jokes that seem to exist solely because somebody, somewhere, will find them offensive. Their primary function is not humour but circulation. They are designed less for audiences in the room and more for clips on social media. I will even go as far as to argue that the most successful comedians are often those who understand that ideology itself has become content. Political correctness is content. Political incorrectness is content. Being offended is content. Being offended by the offended is content.

In today's day and age, the internet rewards all of it. However, today, many of the loudest critics of shock comedy belong to a generation of comics who built their own careers on material that would struggle to survive contemporary scrutiny. This is not unique, or even a singularly Indian experience. This is how the 'routine' works across the world. Stand-up comedy is one of the few professions where success depends almost entirely on understanding what a crowd wants to hear. Comedians must be experts in reading rooms for a living. They must identify the preferences, the areas of



anxiety. They will succeed when they learn where applause lives.

This is why contemporary comedy sometimes resembles a political campaign of sorts. Different performers target different constituencies - while some cater to audiences that enjoy provocation and irreverence, others cater to audiences that enjoy societal validation. As audience, we have often heard the phrase - "why did you even go to watch X if you knew his type of comedy?" While often comedy is seen as a medium to challenge authority - the use of satire to challenge the status quo - on usual days, the comedian is just running a business. And business does not care what's right or wrong, only what works. This explains why public debates about comedy often feel strangely performative. We speak as though there are clear heroes and villains, as though one side is motivated by principle while the other is motivated by opportunism. Most comedians are neither

fearless revolutionaries nor sinister propagandists. They are simply professionals navigating incentives. The audience, meanwhile, participates enthusiastically in the illusion. We assume that comedians we agree with are brave truth-tellers while comedians we dislike are cynical attention-seekers. Rarely do we consider that both groups might be responding to exactly the same economic logic. Which brings me back to the latest controversy. The joke may have been tasteless. The outrage may be justified. The criticism may be deserved. But none of these facts change the larger reality. We are witnessing an industry behaving exactly as the internet has trained it to behave. The comedian produces content. The audience produces outrage. The media produces coverage. The platforms produce engagement. Everyone receives what they came for. The only thing that occasionally gets lost in the process is truth.

Bandhan Bank increases FCNR (B) deposit offerings

- 7.1% interest rate on FCNR (B) deposits of USD 1 million and above
- 7% for FCNR (B) deposits up to USD 1 million
- Deposit tenures ranging from 3 to 5 years

Chennai: Bandhan Bank today announced an attractive FCNR (B) deposit offering for its NRI customers, providing a compelling opportunity to invest in USD-linked deposits over a medium to long-term horizon. The Bank is offering 7.1% interest rate on USD 1 million and above FCNR (B) deposits for tenures ranging from 3 to 5 years. Interest rate for up to USD 1million has been increased to 7%. This initiative is expected to help NRI customers secure stable and competitive returns over a longer tenure, while also mitigating exposure to potential exchange rate fluctuations, particularly in the event of rupee depreciation. Commenting on the offer, Rajinder Kumar Babbar, Executive Director & Chief Business Officer, Bandhan Bank, said, "We are pleased to introduce this attractive FCNR (B) deposit offering for our NRI customers at a time when they are seeking stability and value in their overseas investments. This offering allows them to lock in competitive returns for a longer duration while effectively mitigating currency-related risks. At Bandhan Bank, we remain committed to delivering tailored solutions that meet the evolving financial needs of our global customer base." The offering follows the Reserve Bank of India's introduction of a US Dollar-Ruppee Forex Swap Facility for banks on fresh FCNR (B) deposits mobilised for a minimum tenor of three years and up to five years. This regulatory measure is aimed at encouraging foreign currency inflows into the banking system. Bandhan Bank, with a network of nearly 2000 bank branches across the country, is extending this limited-period offer to NRIs, inviting them to open non-resident accounts at any of its branches and benefit from the current favourable deposit rates.

About Bandhan Bank:

Started as a universal bank on August 23, 2015, Bandhan Bank is one of India's fastest-growing private sector banks. Bandhan Bank has always been committed to financial inclusion and aims to serve the underserved. Guided by the principle of 'Aapka Bhalai, Sabki Bhalai,' the Bank is dedicated not only to serving its customers but also to making a positive difference in people's lives. The Bank actively aims to bridge the gap for those who may not have had easy access to conventional banking services. Its focus is on providing a variety of world-class banking products and a comprehensive 360-degree service proposition, including loans, deposit accounts, internet and mobile banking and a host of products across India, primarily to semi-urban and rural customers. In the last few years of operations, Bandhan Bank has spread its presence to 35 of the 36 states and union territories in India with more than 6,350 banking outlets. With the trust of nearly 3.2 crore customers. Bandhan Bank has a deposit base of Rs.1.66 lakh crores as of March 31, 2026. Bandhan Bank has achieved consistent growth and its advances stood at over Rs.1.54 lakh crore as of March 31, 2026.



Youth Should Enter Politics Grounded in Values and Propriety

- Dr. Atul Malikram (Political Strategist)

India is currently one of the youngest nations in the world. A significant portion of the country's population falls within the 18-to-35 age group. This demographic not only embodies the nation's energy and potential but also constitutes the most crucial social group for shaping the future. Given this, the question naturally arises: should the youth enter politics? It is my firm belief that young people should indeed enter politics; however, a positive mindset, democratic values, and exemplary conduct must be the prerequisites for doing so. Politics is not merely a means to acquire office or power; it is the most effective platform for nation-building and societal development. Unfortunately, the image of politics projected to the youth in recent years has deterred many talented young individuals from this field. Rising bitterness in public life, personal recriminations, questions regarding character, and instances of unnecessary confrontation breed skepticism about politics in the minds of the youth. Yet, it remains true that the entry of good people into a system is essential for its improvement. Today, issues such as education, employment, healthcare, technology, the environment, and entrepreneurship directly impact the lives of young people. The greater the youth participation in forums where policies regarding these issues are formulated, the more relevant and effective the decisions will be. Therefore, the active presence of youth in politics is not just a necessity but is vital for strengthening democracy. Young people bring fresh thoughts, new energy, and a capacity for innovation. They view change as an opportunity and offer novel perspectives to solve problems. This is why political participation by the youth is being encouraged in many democratic nations across the globe. In India, too, the need of the hour is for the youth not to remain mere voters but to play an active role in the policy-making process. However, it is crucial for young people entering politics to understand that the foundation of success in public life is credibility, not merely popularity. A leader's true identity is defined by their character, conduct, and commitment to the public. Only those who walk the path of respect, dialogue, and service can sustain the public's trust over the long term. Great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar guided society through their ideas, actions, and ethical leadership. They demonstrated that enduring leadership is built not on displays of power, but on principles and public service. This should serve as the greatest inspiration for today's youth. Young people entering politics should first work at the grassroots level. Understanding local issues, engaging in dialogue with the public, and participating in initiatives for the social good constitute the first school of leadership. Public trust is earned not through speeches, but through consistent work and sensitivity. Alongside this, education and awareness are crucial. A young leader should develop an understanding of the Constitution, administration, law, the economy, and current trends. Only leadership grounded in knowledge is capable of making visionary decisions. In the digital age, social media is a powerful medium, but it must be used responsibly and authentically. Furthermore, transparency and honesty hold special significance in politics. Today's public is more aware than ever and expects accountability from its representatives; therefore, young leaders must maintain clarity in their actions and decisions. Trust is the greatest asset of leadership. Discipline, dialogue, and respect are also essential qualities of leadership. Differences of opinion are a natural part of democracy, but turning disagreement into hostility is detrimental to democratic culture. A mature leader is one who maintains a respectful attitude toward both supporters and opponents. India's future will be shaped not merely by new technologies or policies, but by a young leadership that makes ethics, service, and responsibility the foundation of its public life. If politics is to become a vehicle for nation-building, the youth must step forward and prove that leadership means not just holding power, but also dedicating oneself to society. Today, there is a need for young people who carve out an identity for themselves through impactful personalities, positive thinking, and acts of public service. When the youth enter politics upholding values, decorum, and exemplary conduct, democracy will be further strengthened, and India's development will gain new momentum. This is the path that leads the youth towards successful, respected, and popular leadership.



India, Japan launch defence co-development pact and economic roadmap

New Delhi: India and Japan on Thursday unveiled a raft of initiatives, including an economic partnership framework and a defence pact to co-develop military hardware following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Sanae Takaichi. The two sides also rolled out measures to solidify their cooperation in key sectors such as energy and critical technology. “The economies of India and Japan are complementary. From cultural values to modern technology, there is similarity in our thinking and approach as well,” PM Modi said in his media statement. “And above all, the foundation of our rela-



tions rests on unbreakable mutual trust,” he said, reflecting the growing con-

gruence in ties between the two countries. Modi said the two sides have pre-

pared a joint roadmap for economic security. “Through this, we will strengthen supply chain resilience in strategic areas such as semiconductors, quantum, and advanced materials,” he said. The prime minister said India and Japan have also taken several important decisions in the field of energy security. “Through the India-Japan bio-gas initiative, we will set up one thousand bio-gas and organic fertiliser plants in India. This will give new strength to sustainability, prosperity, and rural livelihoods in India’s villages,” he said. The Japanese prime minister is on a three-day visit to India. There has been an upswing in India-Japan ties. The relationship was elevated to a Special Strategic and Global Partnership in 2014. As the two countries approach the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2027, cooperation continues to deepen across a wide range of sectors, including trade and investment, economic security, defence and security, science and technology, culture, and people-to-people ties. The bilateral framework now comprises over 70 dialogue mechanisms. PM Modi visited Japan for the 15th Annual Summit in Tokyo in August last year. The annual summit remains the flagship platform driving the strategic agenda of the partnership.

Goyal highlights growing India-Japan investment and trade ties

New Delhi: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that investments have been a big driver of India’s partnership with Japan, and these are set to strengthen. In a conversation at ‘The Indo-Japan Strategic Dialogue’, Goyal said Japan’s engagement with India has largely focused on investments. The discussion came against the backdrop of Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi’s arrival in Delhi for the 16th India-Japan Summit. “Maruti Suzuki came to India nearly 40 years ago and brought modern, affordable, technology-driven automobiles, which ultimately set India on track to become a global power in the auto sector,” Goyal said.

Gold slips on profit booking; silver extends rally for third straight session



Mumbai: Gold and silver traded mixed in session, with gold edging lower on profit booking and silver extending gains for a third straight session amid expectations that the US Federal Reserve may not rush to raise interest rates. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures (August) opened at Rs 1,43,882 per 10 grams, down Rs 548 or 0.37 per cent from the previous close of Rs 1,44,430. At around 10:40 am, the yellow metal was trading at Rs 1,43,797, down Rs 633 or 0.44 per cent. During the session so far, gold touched an intraday low of Rs 1,43,771, down 0.45 per cent or Rs 659, and a high

of Rs 1,44,448. Meanwhile, silver futures (September) outperformed gold, jumping as much as 0.84 per cent or nearly Rs 2,000 to Rs 2,32,339 per kg, its intraday high so far. The white metal was trading at Rs 2,30,790, up Rs 406 or 0.18 per cent. It touched an intraday low of Rs 2,30,513. Earlier in the day, silver opened at Rs 2,31,196, up Rs 812 or 0.35 per cent from the previous close of Rs 2,30,384. In the international market, gold was down 0.14 per cent at \$4,076 per ounce, while silver edged up 0.14 per cent to \$60.59 per ounce. According to market experts, gold witnessed profit booking after COMEX gold cor-

rected from the previous session’s peak of \$4,115 per ounce, with investors awaiting the US non-farm payrolls report for fresh cues on the Federal Reserve’s interest rate trajectory. However, softer-than-expected US jobs data and lower crude oil prices helped limit losses in the yellow metal. Silver, meanwhile, is likely to maintain its positive momentum after rising for a third consecutive session, supported by easing US inflation expectations. Experts said comments from the US Federal Reserve Chairman suggesting there is no urgency to raise interest rates have boosted sentiment for the white metal.

Rupee erases early gains, ends 18 paise lower against dollar



Mumbai: The rupee pared initial gains and settled for the day on a negative note, lower by 18 paise at 95.34 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, as the support from easing crude oil prices was negated by robust dollar demand from importers and corporate hedgers. Forex traders said the Indian rupee opened higher on an overnight decline in the US dollar following less hawkish comments from Fed Chair Kevin Warsh and a fall in crude oil prices. However, the rupee lost its initial gains on FII outflows and dollar demand from hedgers. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 94.95 against the American currency and traded in

a range of 94.90-95.40 during the session. The rupee finally closed at 95.34 (provisional), registering a decline of 18 paise from its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee depreciated 60 paise to close at 95.16 against the US dollar.

“We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on uncertainty over the US and Iran deal despite positive comments from US President Donald Trump. However, any softening of the US dollar on less hawkish comments from the Fed may support the rupee at lower levels. “Declining crude oil prices may also support the rupee at lower levels. Traders may take cues from weekly employment claims and the non-

farm payrolls report from the US. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 95.00 to 95.60,” said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Mirae Asset ShareKhan.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 101.00, lower by 0.38 per cent. Meanwhile, Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading lower by 1.43 per cent at USD 70.55 per barrel in futures trade. While a decline in global crude oil prices and RBI interventions propped up the local unit, the rupee is likely to stay under pressure amid continued geopolitical uncertainty and significant foreign fund outflows.

Rupee rises 26 paise to 94.90 against US dollar in early trade



Mumbai: The rupee appreciated 26 paise to 94.90 against US dollar in early trade, supported by easing crude oil prices. Forex traders said the rupee opened on a positive note as crude oil prices have fallen back to levels seen before the West Asia conflict. Even global risk sentiment has stabilised compared to the panic witnessed a few weeks ago. Foreign investors poured nearly USD 5.3 billion into Indian bond markets during June, marking the first month of positive inflows after

three consecutive months of outflows, they said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 94.95, then touched 94.90 against the US dollar, registering a gain of 26 paise from its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee depreciated 60 paise to close at 95.16 against the US dollar. “... As fresh foreign capital starts entering India, markets believe the RBI may continue absorbing a significant portion of these inflows rather than allowing them to fully strengthen the rupee,”

CR Forex Advisors MD Amit Pabari said. Pabari further said that despite positive FII inflows and lower crude oil prices the rupee weakened sharply. If the rupee cannot strengthen on good news, any negative development could easily push USDINR towards the 95.80-96.00 zone. “For now, the bias remains on the upside, while 94.80 is likely to act as an important support level,” he said. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 101.38, lower by 0.01 per cent. Meanwhile, Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading lower by 1.13 per cent at USD 70.76 per barrel in futures trade. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex climbed 377.40 points to 77,269.54 early trade, while the Nifty rallied 106.70 points to 24,113.25.

Fuel retailers lost Rs 74,781 Crore selling petrol, diesel below cost: Puri



New Delhi: Oil marketing companies suffered Rs 74,781-crore losses for selling petrol, diesel and LPG below cost for the period up to June 30 when global crude oil prices spiked in the wake of the West Asia conflict, Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Thursday.

International crude oil prices have come down but companies are still processing crude they bought at the height of the West Asia crisis, Puri told reporters.

Oil companies typically buy crude oil — the raw

material for producing fuel — at least two months in advance. So, crude oil that is being processed now is essentially what was bought in April or early May when international prices were very high. On whether there would be a cut in prices of petrol and diesel, Puri said this would be a legitimate question if oil prices stayed low for the next few weeks. Crude oil prices started coming down only in the second half of June after the US and Iran reached an agreement to end the conflict.

OXMIQ Labs raises 35 million dollars in Series A funding



Hyderabad: OxMIQ Labs Inc., a unified GPU and AI architecture company founded by Raja Koduri, closed its 35 million dollar Series A financing, bringing the company’s total capital raised to 60 million dollars. The funding will help scale OxCore, OxMIQ’s licensable GPU architecture that allows semiconductor companies and AI system builders to build custom AI silicon without a full chip programme. The round was co-led by Fundomo and Samsung Catalyst Fund, with participation from MediaTek, AM Intelligence Labs, Pegatron Venture Capital, CDIB-TEN, Darwin Ventures and Morgan Creek Digital, among other financial and strategic investors. Token demand is outpacing the world’s ability to build infrastructure to support it. OxMIQ was founded to re-

architect the GPU stack from Atoms to Agents by building the silicon IP, configurable systems and software platform that enable semiconductor companies and AI infrastructure builders to reduce the cost of intelligence at every layer of the stack. At the centre of the architecture is OxCore, a scalable, licensable GPU core that integrates three distinct compute engines: a CUDA-compatible GPU engine, a tensor processing engine and an orchestration engine (CPU) responsible for coordinating workloads and agents across the system. OxCore tightly integrates compute functions that are typically split across three chips and was purpose-built for near-memory computing, minimising data movement to improve the compute and energy efficiency of AI workloads.

Sensex rises over 375 points, Nifty tops 24,100 in early trade as crude oil prices ease



Mumbai: Market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rallied in early deals on Thursday amid softening crude oil prices following positive development on the geopolitical front and buying in blue-chip IT stocks. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 377.40 points to 77,269.54 early trade. The 50-share Nifty Sensex rallied 106.70 points to 24,113.25. “Qatar has stated that the latest round of indirect US\$-Iran talks has made ‘positive progress’, keeping hopes of a broader diplomatic resolution alive,” Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth-tech firm, said.

From the Sensex pack, Infosys, HCL Tech, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, Eternal and InterGlobe Aviation were among the major winners. NTPC, Bajaj Finance, Larsen & Toubro and Bharat Electronics were among

the laggards. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 1 per cent lower at USD 70.79 per barrel. “There are some positive trends that are providing near-term support and strength to the market. One, crude continues to fall with Brent below USD 71 now. This will further strengthen India’s macros and help in achieving higher growth while keeping inflation in check. “Two, the auto sales numbers in June was strong. This indicates that the demand momentum in the economy continues to be strong,” VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

He further said that the AI trade in South Korea is weakening as indicated by the 11.5 per cent correction in Kospi last month. This is positive for non-AI markets like India, Vijayakumar noted. “Fourth, the FII selling

is tapering off giving an upper hand to the DIIs (Domestic Institutional Investors),” he added. Passenger vehicle sales in the country are estimated to have grown nearly 25 per cent in June to about 4 lakh units, led by the likes of Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors PV and Mahindra & Mahindra. In Asian markets, South Korea’s Kospi traded over 4 per cent lower, Japan’s Nikkei 225 index declined more than 1 per cent and Shanghai’s SSE Composite index quoted 0.90 per cent down. Hong Kong’s Hang Seng index quoted more than 1 per cent higher. US markets ended lower on Wednesday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,140.50 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data. On Wednesday, the Sensex climbed 443.97 points, or 0.58 per cent, to settle at 76,922.64. The Nifty rallied 140.10 points, or 0.59 per cent, to end at 24,005.85.

BHASHINI Showcases Multilingual AI Innovations at NCeG 2026; Launches Rajasthan Language Model Training Hackathon



New Delhi, July, 2 (PIB): The Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD) marked a strong presence at the National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) 2026, organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India, in collaboration with the Government of Rajasthan. Through live demonstrations, multilingual AI solutions, and interactive experiences, BHASHINI showcased how Language AI is making digital governance more inclusive, accessible, and citizen-centric. At the BHASHINI exhibition stall, delegates explored the platform's core AI capabilities through live demonstrations of speech and text translation, voice-based AI services, Shrutlekh, BhashaDaan, and Suno Sutra, India's first handheld

multilingual edge AI device. Visitors also experienced real-world governance use cases powered by BHASHINI, including CPGRAMS, Nyaya Setu, Arogya Vani, SabhaSaar, and Yuva Saarthi, demonstrating how multilingual AI is enabling seamless access to public services across languages. The stall also witnessed enthusiastic participation in BhashaDaan, BHASHINI's

national crowdsourcing initiative for language data. Visitors contributed and validated language datasets across Indian languages and received Digital Participation Certificates in recognition of their contributions towards strengthening India's multilingual AI ecosystem. During the conference, BHASHINI also launched the Rajasthan Language Model Training Hackathon, an initiative aimed at strengthening AI models for Rajasthan's regional languages through the creation of high quality language datasets for Marwari, Mewari, Dhundhari, Hadoti, Mewati, and Bagri. Another key highlight was the deployment of ShrutLekh, BHASHINI's AI-powered real-time speech-to-text solution, across multiple plenary and breakout sessions throughout the conference. Shrutlekh enabled live transcription and translation during several technical sessions showcasing how AI-powered language technologies can enhance accessibility at large public events. The BHASHINI stall was visited by the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma, Shri Rajyavardhan Rathore, Minister for Information Technology and Communication (DoIT&C),

Government of Rajasthan, along with senior government officials and distinguished delegates from across the country, who experienced BHASHINI's multilingual AI solutions and appreciated their potential to transform citizen service delivery. On the sidelines of the conference, Shri Amitabh Nag, CEO, Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD), also participated in the Investors' Meet and held discussions with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan on advancing multilingual AI and language technologies for the state, with a focus on strengthening inclusive digital governance through language-first innovation. Amitabh Nag, Chief Executive Officer, Digital India BHASHINI Division said: "For AI to truly serve every citizen, it must understand the languages people speak in their daily lives. Every language contribution, every validated dataset, and every new use case brings us closer to building AI that is more inclusive, more representative, and more accessible for all."

BHASHINI's participation at NCeG 2026 reinforced its commitment to advancing Multilingual Digital Public Infrastructure by enabling governments and institutions to deliver services in citizens' preferred languages. Through innovative AI solutions, community driven dataset creation, and scalable language technologies, BHASHINI continues to strengthen the vision of a Digital India where language is never a barrier to governance. **About Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD):** The Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD), under Digital India Corporation (DIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), is India's national initiative for AI-driven multilingual digital inclusion and language technology. Through the National Hub for Language Technology (NHLT), BHASHINI enables scalable speech and text-based AI services across Indian languages for governance, public digital platforms, and institutions. Today, BHASHINI powers over 800 government websites, processes more than 20 million AI inferences every day, and has enabled over 8 billion cumulative AI inferences. The platform supports 36 Indian text languages, 23 Indian voice languages, and 35 international languages, while offering more than 20 specialised NLP services, driving multilingual AI innovation and strengthening India's Digital Public Infrastructure.

NRAA-Funded Wild Rice Conservation Project Secures Major Milestone in Assam

- Borjuli Site in Sonitpur Notified as Biodiversity Heritage Site

New Delhi, July, 2 (PIB): The National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA), under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, has achieved a significant milestone in the conservation of India's wild rice genetic resources through its funded project titled "In-situ Conservation and Management of Wild Rice (*Oryza rufipogon*) in Sonitpur District of Assam." The project has been implemented since 2022 by the ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBPGR), New Delhi, in collaboration with the Assam State Biodiversity Board. A team of scientists from ICAR-NBPGR called on Dr. Chandra Shekhar Kumar, IAS, Chief Executive Officer, NRAA, and briefed him on the project's achievements in the exploration, conservation and characterization of wild rice germplasm. The team informed that the Borjuli site in Sonitpur district of Assam, identified under the project, has been notified as a Biodiversity Heritage Site by the National Biodiversity Authority. The recognition marks a major step towards conserving India's rich wild rice diversity and strengthening climate-resilient agriculture. Commending the efforts of the research team, Dr. Chandra Shekhar Kumar said that wild rice species are an invaluable source of genes for developing climate-resilient, high-yielding and nutritionally superior rice varieties. He emphasized the need to replicate similar conservation initiatives for other crop wild relatives across the country to enhance the resilience, sustainability and long-term food security of Indian agriculture. The meeting was facilitated by Dr. Pankaj Kumar Shah, Director (Agriculture & Horticulture), NRAA, and Dr. Anil Kumar Mishra, Technical Expert (Watershed Management), NRAA.

Coal Imports Decline by Nearly 13% in April 2026, Reflecting Steady Progress Towards Import Substitution

New Delhi, July, 2 (PIB): India's coal import basket has registered a significant decline in April 2026, with total coal imports falling to 21.13 Million Tonnes (MT) from 24.27 MT in April 2025 - a reduction of 3.14 MT (about 12.95%). The decline reflects the sustained impact of the Ministry of Coal's continuing push for import substitution and enhanced domestic coal availability, particularly for the power sector.

Key Highlights
Power Sector Imports Down Sharply: Coal imports by power plants fell by 24.89%, from 4.67 MT in April 2025 to 3.51 MT in April 2026, driven by improved domestic linkage supplies and reduced dependence on imported coal for blending Imported Coal-Based (ICB) Plants: Imports for plants designed to run on imported coal declined by 27.45%, from 3.97 MT to 2.88 MT, the steepest reduction among all categories tracked. Domestic Coal-Based (DCB) Plants for Blending Imported Coal: Coal imported for blending purposes by domestic plants fell by 11.26%, from 0.71 MT to 0.63 MT, underscoring the success of efforts to ramp up assured domestic supply and reduce reliance on the blending mandate. Overall Import Dependence Narrows: Coal imports as a share of total coal consumption fell from 21.69% in April 2025 to 19.68% in April 2026, a decline of over 2 percentage points. Coking Coal Imports Remain Steady: Coking coal imports, which cater primarily to the steel sector where domestic coking coal reserves remain limited, rose marginally by 1.34% (5.93 MT to 6.01 MT), consistent with continued growth in domestic steel production and reflecting that this category is driven by resource-specific requirements rather than availability gaps. The consistent decline across ICB, DCB and overall import categories reflects the Ministry of Coal's sustained focus on ramping up domestic coal production and offtake, strengthening First Mile Connectivity, close monitoring of thermal power plant stock positions, and coordinated efforts with Ministry of Railways, Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries to ensure assured supply to power utilities. These measures have progressively reduced the need for imported coal, including for blending purposes, while maintaining healthy stock levels at thermal power plants across the country. The Ministry of Coal remains committed to further strengthening domestic coal production, evacuation infrastructure and quality-based grading to sustain this trend of reduced import dependence in the coming months.

TRAI Assesses Mobile Network Quality Across Karimnagar City and Highway under AP LSA

New Delhi (PIB): The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released findings of Independent Drive Test (IDT) conducted across Karimnagar City and Highway under AP LSA, during the month of May 2026, for information of general telecom consumers. The purpose of this drive test is to assess and verify real time quality of mobile network services (both voice & data) provided by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs). During the IDT, TRAI captures performance of TSPs for key Quality of Service (QoS) parameters like Coverage, Call Drop Rate (CDR), Call Setup Success Rate (CSSR), data Download (DL) and Upload (UL) throughput etc., which are then published to inform Consumers and encourage TSPs to improve their services. These IDTs have been designed to capture on ground mobile network performance of all TSPs across diverse usages environment like cities, hotspots, public transport hubs, etc. In this type of drive testing, live data and voice sessions are established using SIM cards from all TSPs over 2G, 3G, 4G, and 5G networks. Multiple advanced test handsets are used, and the sessions are monitored and analysed in real-time using advanced Software Systems. TRAI, through its appointed agency, conducted drive tests across City drive – 136.3 Kms, Hotspot locations - 3, Highway – 217.2 Kms in Karimnagar and surrounding towns and Karimnagar-Vemulawada-Siricilla and Karimnagar-Bejjanki-Husnabad- Mulkanoor-Elkatirthy-Huzurabad-Karimnagar - Highway during 11th May 2026 to 12th May 2026 in Andhra Pradesh LSA. These tests were conducted under the supervision of the TRAI Regional Office Hyderabad. The observations presented in drive test reports represent the performance of the TSPs on the area/route under test on the day/ time of conducting the drive test.

Today's Horoscope



Aries

Your positive outlook will impress those around you. Today, you can get into a fight with someone close, and things can escalate to the court. Because of this, your hard-earned money will be spent. You will make new friends if you get involved in group activities. Romance on the card but sensual feelings may erupt which would spoil your relationship. Get involved in jobs which are of creative nature. Time is precious, and you need to fully utilize it to attain desired results. However, flexibility in life and spending time with your family is an important aspect as well, which you need to understand. Your spouse might push you to go out when you are in no mood or vice versa, which will eventually make you feel irritated. Remedy :- Deepen your love bond with lover by keeping 1 black and 10 golden fish in an aquarium at home.



Taurus

You need to sit back and relax today- and get involved in hobbies and things that you enjoy doing the most. Together with your spouse, you can discuss finances and plan your wealth for your future. In a happy-energetic-loving mood-your jovial nature brings joy and happiness to those around you. Exciting day of romance- Plan something special for the evening and try to make it as romantic as possible. Your internal strength will equally support you in making the day awesome at work. Tours and travel would bring pleasure and would be highly educating. With just little efforts, the day might become the best day of your married life. Remedy :- Mars is called Bhoomi-Putra (meaning Son of Earth).



Gemini

Some unavoidable circumstances can give you some uneasiness. But you must try to keep your poise and should not react immediately to tackle the situation. Do not take any step or act in such a manner which can cause financial loss today without the advice of an experienced person. Family front doesn't seem to be happy and smooth. Your love partner will surprise you with something really beautiful today. Things seem nice at work. Your mood will stay good throughout the day. If you live away from home due to your studies or job, then utilize your free time today by talking to your family members. Remedy :- Feed seven types of whole grains to birds and attain excellent health.



Cancer

Start your day with a little exercise- It's time you start feeling good about yourself- Make it a regular feature everyday and try to stick to it. Today, you are likely to attain benefits from the help of your brother or sister. Family members will hold a special place in your life. Your eyes are so bright that they can light up a dark night of your lover. Fresh problems will surface for you at workplace- especially if you don't handle things diplomatically. Excessive use of TV or Mobile can result in wastage of time. Your spouse will make you realize today that heaven is on earth. Remedy :- Mars is called Bhoomi-Putra (meaning Son of Earth). Every morning, before touching the ground with your feet, pay obeisance to Mother Earth. This will help your work life/ business



Leo

Maintain your mental health- which is prerequisite for spiritual life. Mind is the gateway of life because everything whether it is good/ bad comes through mind. It helps in solving life problems and endows one with requisite light. Any of your chronic diseases may bother you today, due to which you may have to go to the hospital and spend a lot of money. Children might seek your help to complete school projects. Sharing food with beloved in candlelight. Your confidence will make an impact in your professional life. It will enable you to convince others your point of view and take their assistance. Remedy :- To make financial life stronger, use alum to clean your teeth.



Virgo

Blessings of a saintly person will give peace of mind. Due to the placement of the Moon, your money can be spent on unnecessary things. If you wish to accumulate wealth, then talk to your spouse or parents about it. Visiting guests occupy your evenings. Somebody may come between your love today. All the hard work that you had been putting at work will pay you today. You may suddenly have to go on an unwanted journey today, due to which your plan to spend time with family may get spoiled. A person might take too much interest in your spouse today, but you will realize at the end of the day that there is nothing wrong going on. Remedy :- For maintaining good economic condition, apply a paste of saffron or turmeric on forehead, before venturing out for any work.



Libra

Too much worry and stress could cause hypertension. New sources of income will generate through people you know. Guests crowd your house for a pleasant and wonderful evening. You will meet a caring and understanding friend. If you feel that you can handle important jobs without the assistance of others then you are highly mistaken. Today, you will have ample time to spend with your spouse. Your lover will feel overwhelmed at the attention and love s/he will get. Your spouse will make you realize today that heaven is on earth. Remedy :- Wear Silver in any form to achieve healthy lifestyle.



Scorpio

Pleasure trips and social get-togethers will keep you relaxed and happy. New contracts might look lucrative but will not bring gains as desired- Do not make hasty decisions when it comes to investing money. You are going to learn some lessons from your children. They have very pure auras and can transform those around them by their innocence joyfulness and absence of negativity. Likely to face disappointment as date program may fail. Today, you might get to know at work that the one you considered as your enemy is actually your wellwisher. You can spend time with an elder of the family today to understand the intricacies of life. Remedy :- Offer alms at Hanuman temple, bring half of these back home and keep inside your locker for more auspiciousness in your financial life.



Sagittarius

Outings-parties and pleasure jaunts will keep you in good mood today. Money can be required anytime, so plan your finances and start saving now as much as possible. Let family tension not divert your attention. Bad times give us much more. You will be in a loving mood- so be sure to make special plans for you and your beloved. New assignments undertaken would fall short of expectations. Travel and educational pursuits will enhance your awareness. Those who say that marriage is all about sex, they lie. Because today, you will know what true love is. Remedy :- For enhanced career/work life/business, brush your teeth with herbal-based toothpaste such as neem and babool.



Capricorn

Your frank and fearless views could hurt the vanity of your friend. It's another high-energy day and unexpected gains are foreseen. You will upset your spouse if you spend money on things that you don't immediately require. Beloved will be in a romantic mood. Daydreaming will bring your downfall- Do not count on others to do your work. You need to remember that god helps those who help themselves. Today, you will fall in love with your spouse again. Remedy :- Maintain harmony and balance in the family by switching on a white-light zero watt bulb in the Northwest direction.



Aquarius

Health will be perfect today. If you were about to take a loan and had been engaged in this work for a long time, then today is your lucky day. Domestic work keeps you busy most of the time. Love will show positive vibes Good day for businessmen. A sudden trip undertaken for business purpose will yield positive results. Today, you can think of spending your free time carrying out religious work. During this time, do not get into unnecessary conflicts. Today, you will forget all the hardships of your life with the love of your spouse. Remedy :- For enhancing positive experiences in the family, offer 28 drops of mustard oil near Peepal or banyan tree or in a pot filled with mud at home.



Pisces

Cheer up as good time ahead and you will have additional energy. You may get into a fight with your spouse today over money-related matters. However, you will fix everything with your calm attitude. A wonderful day to enjoy the company of guests. Plan something special with your relatives. They would also appreciate it. A good communication or a message from your beloved or spouse will enhance your morale today. Added knowledge that you acquire today would give you an edge when dealing with peers. Amidst your busy life, you will get enough time for yourself today and be able to do your favorite things. Marriage had never been so wonderful before than today. Remedy :- Accept rice and silver from your mother and keep it in your home to improve your financial condition.

RT's Irumudi Kattu: Experience Devotional Poonakaalu!



The musical campaign of Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja's Irumudi has begun on an extraordinary note with the release of Irumudi Kattu, a devotional anthem that perfectly reflects the film's spiritual core. Helmed by Shiva Nirvana and bankrolled by Mythri Movie Makers, the film has been generating strong buzz ever since its first glimpse, and the first single has now taken the excitement several notches higher. GV Prakash Kumar once again

proves why he is enjoying one of the finest phases of his career. His composition blends traditional devotional elements with rich orchestration, creating a spiritually charged number that evokes reverence and delivers devotional poonakaalu throughout its runtime. The lyrics, jointly written by Shiva Nirvana and Kalyan Chakravarthy, beautifully portray the life-changing experience of an Ayyappa devotee. From embracing the sacred Mandala

Deeksha to carrying the Irumudi and finally embarking on the holy trek to Sabarimala, every emotion is expressed with remarkable genuineness. Ananthu's passionate rendition elevates the composition further, making the song spiritually fulfilling. Ravi Teja undergoes a striking transformation. Shedding his usual mass image, he convincingly steps into the role of a devoted Ayyappa follower, bringing remarkable sincerity

and restraint to his performance. Baba Baskar complements this portrayal with graceful choreography inspired by traditional devotional practices. The song also offers glimpses into the protagonist's family life, introducing Priya Bhavani Shankar as his wife and Baby Nakshatra as his daughter. As the first single, Irumudi Kattu sets the perfect tone for the album and is sure to echo through Ayyappa Poojas everywhere.

We Followed Vegetarian Diet For Nagabandham: Nabha



Virat Karma and Abhishek Nama's much-awaited flick Nagabandham will be hitting the screens on July 3rd. Nabha Natesh plays a pivotal character in the movie. Sharing her excitement, Nabha revealed that Parvathi is unlike any role she has attempted. "She is deeply rooted in tradition yet possesses immense courage. Every important development in the film is shaped by her choices. This is undoubtedly

the strongest character I've portrayed." The actress believes the film will stand out for its extraordinary visual scale. "Nagabandham is a complete visual wonder. Every set, every sequence, and every frame has been designed with exceptional care. It's an experience that deserves to be watched in theatres." Among the film's biggest attractions is an extravagant song sequence fea-

turing nearly 5,000 dancers under the choreography of Ganesh Acharya. "The choreography combines grandeur with devotion. It isn't merely about dance; it celebrates spirituality through breathtaking visuals." She fondly recalled filming inside the massive replica of the Anantha Padmanabhaswamy Temple. "The detailing was astonishing. It felt sacred the moment we entered the set, and I believe

audiences will experience that same emotion while watching the film." Nabha credited director Abhishek Nama for transforming an ambitious concept into reality. "His preparation was extraordinary. Every shot had already been visualized through detailed storyboards. That level of planning made even such a massive production feel incredibly organized." The actress also revealed the discipline maintained during filming. "Since we were shooting inside a temple set, everyone respected the spiritual atmosphere. Daily rituals were performed before the shoot, and we even followed a vegetarian diet throughout that schedule." While romance exists in her character's journey, Nabha emphasized that Parvathi is far more than a conventional heroine. "She carries enormous emotional weight in the narrative. There are twists connected to her character that audiences won't see coming." Speaking about Virat Karma, she admired his commitment. "He approached every scene with remarkable sincerity. Watching his dedication throughout the shoot was inspiring." She calls Nagabandham as one of the most enriching experiences of her career.

NTR and Trivikram's God of War set for grand launch

After months of speculation and delays, NTR and Trivikram's ambitious mythological film "God of War" is finally moving forward. The project, which had been in development for a long time, was pushed back due to NTR's prior commitments. With those schedules nearing completion, the film is now ready to take off. Director Trivikram has almost wrapped up the shooting of "Aadarsha Kutumbam" starring Venkatesh, which is slated for release on October 2. Once the film hits theatres, he will immediately begin full-fledged pre-production work on "God of War." The biggest update is that NTR himself is expected to officially announce the project later today, putting an end to months of speculation. The mythological spectacle will feature NTR as Lord Kartikeya, widely revered as the God of War. Backed by Haarika Hassine Creations, the film marks a significant departure for Trivikram, who is best known for family entertainers and commercial dramas. The project is being envisioned as a grand pan-Indian spectacle with large-scale visual effects, massive sets, and a mythology-driven narrative.



Will Bollywood's Cult Sequel Work This Time?

The teaser of Awarapan 2 was unveiled today, bringing back Emraan Hashmi as the iconic Shivam Pandit nearly two decades after the original film's release. Directed by Nitin Kakkar, the sequel promises intense action, powerful emotions, and a strong dose of nostalgia, with the teaser even hinting at the return of the musical soul that made the first film memorable. What makes this sequel particularly interesting is the journey of the original Awarapan. Released in 2007, the film failed to make a mark at the box office despite receiving appreciation for its music and Emraan's performance. Over the years, however, it achieved cult status and became one of the most loved films in Emraan Hashmi's career. Now, Awarapan 2 arrives with far greater awareness and anticipation. The teaser has already generated strong buzz among fans eager to revisit Shivam's world. The film also stars Disha Patani and Shabana Azmi in key roles and is scheduled for release on August 14, 2026. The big question, however, remains the same: will cult



popularity translate into box office success? Nostalgia can create strong openings, but sustained collections will depend on the film's content and emotional impact. One thing is

certain, Awarapan 2 begins its journey with far more excitement than its predecessor ever had. Whether it becomes a commercial winner now remains to be seen.

Suriya, Sai, TG Gnanavel & Hombale's Deadly Collaboration



One of the most exciting collaborations in Indian cinema is officially back. Following the blockbuster success of Veerabhadru, Suriya has reunited with visionary filmmaker TG Gnanavel, whose Jai Bhim won nationwide acclaim. This time, the duo is set to present a

film mounted on an even grander scale. Hombale Films, the production house behind several Pan-India blockbusters, is backing the ambitious venture with lavish production values and a massive cinematic vision. Kayadu Lohar joins the project as the female lead, while Sai Abhyankkar reunites

with Suriya for the second time as music director. SR Kathir handles cinematography, K Kathir takes charge of production design, and Philomin Raj oversees editing. The film was officially launched at a grand ceremony in Chennai, with more updates expected soon.

Why NTR's Event Films Relying Too Much On AI?

The highly anticipated mythological project reuniting pan-India actor NTR and ace Telugu director Trivikram Srinivas, which has been the subject of intense speculation for nearly a year, was finally made official earlier today in a grand manner. While the massive announcement sent waves of excitement among fans and industry circles, the high anticipation got dampened to some extent as the poster unveiled by the makers didn't match the scale and hype. Even though it is just an announcement poster, the team could have come up with a better plan to augment the buzz to the next level. Much to the dismay of fans and cinephiles alike, the announcement poster appeared to have been reliant on AI-enhanced imagery, sparking a wave of online criticism regarding its quality and lack of creative depth. The overall design and the background setting in the poster didn't excite the viewers much apart for the hype on the combination.



For a project that is going to be mounted on an astonishing budget with larger-than-life canvas, the stakes are undeniably high. A film of this scale and ambition deserves a grand, meticulously crafted introduction to the world, rather than an announcement poster that feels rushed or artificial. Instead of relying on high end technology, the team could have taken their own time to give a more genuine and immersive experience to the

viewers by shooting the first look in real time location. As soon as the poster came out, many extravagant fan-made edits with better output started making rounds on social media platforms. Unfortunately, this is the second time in two months that NTR's film has sparked a similar discussion. His other highly anticipated big-ticket venture, Dragon, faced remarkably similar backlash just last month when the first teaser was unveiled.

Joshua Vaz ends silver streak with AIFF Futsal Club Championship title



Hyderabad: Last Sunday, Tlangnuam Futsal Club won the AIFF Futsal Club Championship in their maiden appearance at the tournament. The club from the neighbourhood of Tlangnuam in the city of Aizawl wrote history by becoming the first side from Mizoram, a hotbed of futsal in India, and the Northeast to emerge as champions. At the full-time whistle, as the players trooped out in a delightful mood, all eyes were on one man, head coach Joshua Vaz, who had tears streaming down his face in happiness and glory. This triumph was also the first major honour for the hard-working coach. Before Sunday, he only had silver in his destiny. Earlier this year, Vaz guided the Indian women's futsal team to the silver medal at the first-ever SAFF Futsal Women's Championship. He also had to settle for silver for four years in a row in the AIFF Futsal Club Championship. He was a

player-cum-coach for Mohammedian Sporting Club, which lost to Delhi FC in 2021-22 and then to Minerva Academy FC in 2022-23. He was on the sidelines, taking Golazo FC to the final in 2023-24, but they lost to Corbett FC. Last year, he was part of Bhawanipore FC, but the title once again eluded him as Goal Hunterz FC defeated his side in the final.

Vaz is the only Indian to have achieved a Level 2 and Level 3 AFC Futsal Coaching Certificate. In a chat with the-aiff.com, the 35-year-old spelt out his views on futsal in the country.

Q. How did you get into futsal and futsal coaching?

Joshua Vaz: I played a lot of football and then futsal. In fact, I was a player-cum-coach for Mohammedan Sporting when we lost both finals.

The sport runs in the family. My dad, Socorro Vaz, was the first futsal coach in the country. He opened a coaching academy in Kerala. I was also a part of

the academy, and from then on, I got into serious coaching. We had a futsal coaching course and had a coach from Iran come in. He impressed me a lot, and he was also happy about my serious involvement. He suggested that I become a futsal instructor. That's how I did my course and began my coaching journey in futsal.

Q. How confident were you about winning the title with Tlangnuam at the start of the AIFF Futsal Club Championship, and how much does this success mean to you?

JV: More than me, the team and the players wanted to win it for me. They were determined to win the first title for me. I also had a very good squad, which trained and worked hard to succeed.

This success means a lot to me. A very big burden is off my back. This was long overdue, and I am happy the players helped me achieve this.

Q. Will it bring about major changes in futsal culture in Mizoram as well as the Northeast? JV: Yes, indeed. You should have seen the large number of people who had come to receive the team and join in the celebrations in Aizawl. The entire community had come. Officials of the Mizoram Football Association were there. I have not seen something like this anywhere else in the country. This achievement will have a huge bearing on the future of futsal in Mizoram and in the entire Northeast. Players here are very talented, and this tournament proved it. So, it will be a shot in the arm for futsal all over.

Q. How would you describe your coaching philosophy?

JV: I don't have anything particular like that. A lot depends on the opposition. But

I mostly try to have a lot of variations in our play so that the opposition is not able to read what we are doing. The changes in the style of play keep them guessing. I adopt the modern trends of play as best as I can. It is often my intention to rotate the style of play in the match to confuse the opponent.

Q. Almost the entire Indian men's national team were part of the two clubs in the final. Which of the players impressed you the most?

JV: Well, there are some talented players in many teams. I was especially impressed by our own 'pivot' Kiran Chhetri. He has a lot of potential and can go far. Some players in South Castle United are also good.

Q. How does the Indian men's team stand in futsal in South Asia and Asia?

JV: We have some very good players, but we still have a long way to go compared to top teams like, let's say, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, etc. We need to make the most of the FIFA windows, schedule more friendly matches, enter international tournaments and ensure we have enough game time before the Asian Cup qualifiers.

Q. What areas do you think need improvement in India?

JV: Well, I was fortunate to meet Mr Kalyan Chaubey, the AIFF President, on the flight back home. He also asked me the same question. I told him that at present, only Mizoram has a proper futsal league. Other states conduct only futsal tournaments. Most states must have a proper league apart from any tournament they conduct. If you have 10 teams and each team plays nine matches, players will have much more scope for improvement. This will be a very good way to develop futsal throughout the country.

India name 22-member junior hockey squad for Belgium tour



Hyderabad: Hockey India announced the 22-member Indian Junior (Under-21) men's team for the upcoming exposure tour of Belgium, scheduled from July 5 to 18. The tour will be the team's first assignment under newly appointed coach Frederic Soyeze and will serve as a key preparatory phase ahead of the FIH Hockey Men's Junior Asia Cup later this year. The young Indian side will face some of Europe's strongest hockey nations during the tour, playing two matches each against Austria and Belgium, and one match each against Germany and the Netherlands. The exposure tour is expected to provide valuable international match experience while helping the team test its combinations and playing style ahead of the continental tournament. Defender Anmol Ekka has been entrusted

with the captaincy for the upcoming exposure tour. The goalkeeping unit comprises Vivek Lakra and Kunal Tewatia. The defensive line features captain Anmol Ekka, Rohit Kullu, Chirag, Ravinder, Prasant Barla, Sanjit Tirkey and V Manimaran.

The midfield will be occupied by Adrohit Ekka, Harpal, Jeetpal, Mukesh Toppo, Mannu Malik and Ritik Lakra. The forward line consists of Ajeet Yadav, Prabhdeep Singh, Arjun Hargude, Aryan Xess, Lovenoor Singh, Mohd Konain Dad and Gurusewak Singh.

Notably, four members of the squad, Anmol Ekka, Adrohit Ekka, Ajeet Yadav and Rohit Kullu, were also part of the Indian team that secured the bronze medal at the FIH Men's Junior World Cup Tamil Nadu 2025. Their international experience is expected to add valu-

able depth to the squad during the tour. Speaking on the squad announcement, coach Soyeze said, "I expect this tour to help us progress on several levels. First, in terms of our game, by improving our connections, our tactical discipline and our efficiency in key moments. Then on the human side, by strengthening unity and confidence within the group. Finally, I hope this tour will give the players a better understanding of the demands of top-level international hockey and of what we need to put in place to perform consistently over time." India will begin their campaign against Austria on July 7 and 8. The team will then take on the hosts, Belgium, on July 10, Germany on July 13, Belgium again on July 14 and conclude the tour against the Netherlands on July 17.

Hyderabad's Pranav Madav wins three gold medals in national ice skating

Hyderabad: Hyderabad's ice speed skater S Pranav Madav continued his golden run at the 21st National Ice Skating Championship in Dehradun by winning three gold medals in commanding fashion. On the final day of the 21st National Ice Skating Championship, Pranav Madav fulfilled his hat-trick dream by winning his third gold medal in the 1,000m event with a remarkable timing of 1 minute and 33 seconds.

Earlier, Pranav emerged victorious in the 500-metre event with an outstanding timing of 44.70 seconds, displaying explosive speed and flawless technique. He followed it up with another dominant performance in the 1,500-metre race to secure his second gold medal and establish himself as one of the standout performers of the championship.

Pranav began his sporting journey under the mentorship of coach Abdul Qadeer, who laid the foundation of his career. Through his guidance, Pranav developed the discipline, work ethic and passion that every successful athlete needs. Those early years built the confidence and determination that continue to drive him today.

Pranav advanced to profes-



sional-level training under coach Abbas Iqbal Lasaniya. With expert coaching, structured training programmes and continuous support, coach Abbas helped transform Pranav into a professional athlete with an emphasis on technical excellence, physical conditioning and mental strength.

Currently, Pranav is train-

ing under renowned Canadian coach Andrew Frederick, who is preparing him for the ultimate goal, the 2030 Winter Olympics.

Under Andrew's international-level guidance, Pranav is refining his skills, enhancing his performance and working relentlessly to meet the demanding standards of Olympic competition.

Jannik Sinner survives scare to beat Miomir Kecmanovic in Wimbledon opener

London: World No. 1 and 2025 winner Jannik Sinner overcame a scary fall and a resilient opponent to launch his Wimbledon title defence with a hard-fought victory, getting past his opponent in five sets in the opening round of men's singles at the All-England Club in London. Playing his first match since his shock second-round exit at the Roland Garros, Sinner returned to winning ways by battling past Miomir Kecmanovic 4-6, 6-3, 6-7(6), 6-2, 6-3, despite spraying 52 unforced errors and briefly raising hopes of a huge upset. The Italian, however, dug deep to outlast the resilient Kecmanovic in three hours, 30 minutes, starting the proceedings at the Centre Court on the opening day.

"It's such a huge honour to start the tournament," Sinner said in his on-court interview. "I was a little tight in the beginning. I didn't play my very best, but I tried to get into it. It was my first official match on grass. I'm happy that I turned it around. The third set was a very

tough one to swallow."

Kecmanovic produced an inspired display in the third set that featured an early contender for point of the tournament. Trailing 5/6 in the tie-break, the Serbian stretched Sinner from corner to corner before charging the net, forcing the Italian to dive to the turf and bringing the Centre Court crowd to its feet. It was the second time in the set that Sinner had ended up on the grass. At 2-2, the 24-year-old suffered a worrying slip, landing awkwardly with his knees bent inwards. The fall drew gasps from the packed stands, but Sinner avoided the need for a medical timeout and quickly resumed play.

Having cut down on his unforced errors to force a deciding set, Sinner seized control of the match and raced to victory, bringing a convincing finish to a contest that had been anything but straightforward through the opening three sets.

After surviving a stern opening test, with David Beckham among those watching from the



Royal Box, Sinner booked a second-round meeting with Portugal's Nuno Borges.

The No. 1 player in the PIF ATP Rankings, Sinner has now won 94 matches at major tournaments, equalling Nicola Pietrangeli's record for the most among Italians. Sinner was avoiding becoming just the third defending men's cham-

pion to lose in the first round at Wimbledon, but he fought back with a business-like performance that drew parallels with Carlos Alcaraz's opening match last year. The Spaniard overcame Fabio Fognini in a nervy five-set clash to get his title defence underway before surging to the final, where he was stopped by Sinner.

complete a 100 per cent podium finish across all eight weight divisions contested on the day.

In the finals, Patil registered a commanding 10-0 win by technical superiority over Japan's Daichi Matsumi, while Chauhan delivered a clinical performance to blank another

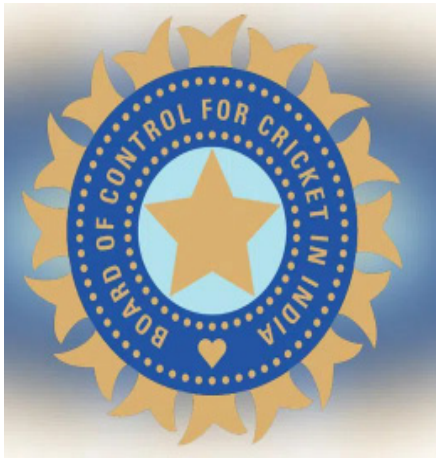
Japanese wrestler, Taisei Suzuki, 5-0. Naitik edged past Uzbekistan's Ismoiljon Nazirjonov 8-6 in a closely fought contest, while Chemte held his nerve in a high-scoring thriller to defeat Kazakhstan's Yersultan Suleiman 11-10.

Indian boys win four gold medals at Asian Under-15 wrestling championships

Hyderabad: Indian boys delivered a dominant performance on the third day of the Under-15 Asian Wrestling Championships, winning four gold medals as the country secured a total of eight medals in the men's freestyle competition.

Prathamesh S. Patil (52kg),

Naitik (62kg), Keshav Harshad Chemte (75kg) and Vivek Chauhan (85kg) won gold medals in their respective weight categories to headline a stellar day for the Indian contingent. Apart from the four gold medals, India also secured one silver and three bronze medals to



New Executive Committee of Lions Club of Piler Assumes Office

- Chintala Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy Takes Charge as President

Piler, July 2: The newly elected Executive Committee of the Lions Club of Piler officially assumed office on July 1 for a one-year term. The new leadership announced its



commitment to expanding community service activities and reaching a wider section of society through meaningful social welfare initiatives.

The new Executive Committee comprises Chintala Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy, Chairman of CNR Educational Institutions, as President; Chichili Surendra Reddy, a Government Teacher, as General Secretary; and P.V. Ramana, a retired Deputy Collector from Guntur district, as Treasurer. Members of the club warmly welcomed the newly elected office-bearers and extended their heartfelt congratulations. Speaking on the occasion, the newly elected President Chintala Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy stated that the club would implement its service activities in a more systematic and people-centric manner. He said that while continuing the successful initiatives undertaken by previous committees, the new team would also introduce innovative programmes based on the evolving needs of society.

Emphasizing the importance of youth and student development, he announced that the club would organize educational awareness programmes, personality development workshops, career guidance seminars, and skill development camps in both government and private educa-

tional institutions. Inspirational programmes aimed at nurturing social responsibility among students and youth will also be conducted. In the healthcare sector, the Lions Club plans to organize free medical camps, eye screening camps, support for cataract surgeries, blood donation drives, and public health awareness programmes on a regular basis. He said special efforts would be made to extend medical assistance to economically weaker and middle-class families.

As part of its commitment to environmental conservation, the club will undertake large-scale tree plantation drives, ensure the maintenance of planted saplings, conduct awareness campaigns on reducing plastic usage, and organize cleanliness drives. The club also intends to involve students, youth, and voluntary organizations in promoting environmental awareness. Mr. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy further stated that providing better healthcare services to the people of Piler would be one of the committee's foremost priorities. In particular, the Lions Club will focus on supporting underprivileged patients suffering from kidney diseases by facilitating dialysis treatment, medical consultations, and financial assistance wherever possible.

He affirmed that the new Executive Committee is dedicated to strengthening the Lions Club's spirit of service by implementing programmes that benefit all sections of society. He emphasized that every member of the club would work with dedication and commitment, upholding the principle of "Service Above Self." On the occasion, members of the Lions Club congratulated President Chintala Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy, General Secretary Chichili Surendra Reddy, Treasurer P.V. Ramana, and the entire newly elected Executive Committee. They expressed confidence that under the new leadership, the Lions Club of Piler would successfully organize many more public welfare programmes and elevate its tradition of community service to greater heights.

Let's follow three methods - let's fight dengue



Madanapalle, July 02(Skyline daily): Let's follow three methods - let's fight dengue, said Annamayya District Medical and Health Officer Dr Lakshminarasayya and District Malaria Officer Ramachandra Reddy jointly called. On the occasion of anti-dengue mass movement, a huge rally was flagged off from the DMHO office in Madanapalle, the district headquarters. Speaking on this occasion, DMHO and DMO said that the theme of this year's anti-dengue mass movement is "Let's follow three methods (check, clean, put covers) - let's fight dengue" and that the government has called for it. Dengue fever is currently a public health problem and mosquito control is possible only with awareness and awareness among the people, he said. District Malaria Officer Ramachandra Reddy said that ev-

ery Friday should be observed as a dry day, the surroundings of the house should be inspected, water should be cleaned without any accumulations and lids should be kept on the water storage tanks. He called for this kind of awareness to come to every house and for the health staff to create awareness in every possible way. After a huge rally was organized, Deputy Health Education Officer Mohammed Rafi administered a pledge against dengue mass mobilization. District TB Officer Dr Radhika, Administrative Officer Dr Madhusudhan Reddy, RBSK District Program Officer Dr Vishnuvardhan Reddy, SO Obul Reddy, Sub Unit Officer Khalilullah Khan, LT Siva, ST S Prabhakar, Health Assistant Kiran, Urban Health Center ANMs, ASHA workers, office staff and the public participated in the program.

The central government is insulting Mahatma Gandhi for its own interests

Madanapalle, July 02(Skyline daily): Senior Congress leader S Reddy Saheb has strongly accused the government of removing Mahatma Gandhi's name and changing the name of the employment guarantee scheme to hide his importance. He described the new "VB-G RAM G" (Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission) launched by the central government in Mukkavaripalli, Railway Kodur constituency, Tirupati district of Andhra Pradesh, by deleting the name of Mahatma Gandhi (MG - NREGA) and not mentioning Mahatma Gandhi's name, at the hands of Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, CM Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan. He was incensed at the press conference organized at the Madanapalle Congress party office on Thursday and criticized the attitude of the central and state governments. He expressed their concern that by removing Gandhi's name, the central government is trying to erase his principles from the hearts of the people of the country, especially in rural areas. He described the removal of Gandhi's name from the revolutionary employment law introduced during the UPA government as an insult to the father of the nation. He criticized that the name of the scheme was changed to "VB-G RAM G" with political malice. He questioned what happened to the employed laborers who had repealed the old law and increased the working days from 100 to just 125 days and brought in the new law. He said



that in South India, laborers have different types of laborers in each state. It is especially unfortunate that the NDA government in partnership in Andhra Pradesh has the lowest daily wage, he said. He criticized that the TDP and Jana Sena parties, which are in power in partnership with the central government, have failed to bring more wages. He ridiculed Jana Sena and TDP for being in a position where they cannot question the central government. He suggested that the central and state governments should stand by the employed laborers at least for now.

Innovative solution to the tomato market traffic problem with Annamayya district SP's orders



Madanapalle, July 02(Skyline daily): An innovative solution to the tomato market traffic problem has been found with the orders of Annamayya district SP, said Gurnath, Madanapalle Circle Inspector of Police (Traffic). Speaking on this occasion, he said that in the wake of people, traders and shopkeepers facing severe difficulties due to the parking of tractors and other goods vehicles coming to Madanapalle tomato market on the main road, a special parking lot has been arranged at Tipu Sultan Ground after discussing with MLA Shahjahan Basha, Market Committee Chairman Jangala Sivaram and market officials. He said that by implementing the token system, steps have been taken to park all the vehicles coming to the tomato market at Tipu Sultan Ground itself. With this, the parking of tractors on the main road has been completely avoided, as a result of which traffic congestion has reduced significantly, and people, traders and shopkeepers are expressing joy. He said that he sincerely thanks all the market committee officials, public representatives, and the public who contributed to the success of this program.

VB-G RAM G to Ensure Comprehensive Development of Villages: Valigatla Venkataramana

(By Skyline Staff Reporter)

Valmikipuram, July 2: A grand national-level launch of the Central Government's new flagship initiative, 'Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission Grameen (VB-G RAM G)', aimed at promoting rural development, employment generation, and livelihood opportunities, was held on Thursday at Mukkavaripalli in the Railway Koduru Assembly Constituency of Tirupati district.

The programme was jointly inaugurated by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and Union Minister for Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

The live telecast of the inaugural programme was viewed at the Swarna Grama Secretariat in Jarravaripalli village of Valmikipuram Mandal under the leadership of State Kuruba Corporation Director Valigatla Venkataramana. Party leaders, workers, and local residents participated in the event. Among those present were Valigatla Ramakrishna, TDP Unit In-charge, AMC Director Jana Sena Prabhakar, Booth Committee Convener B.V. Ramana, TDP leaders Jakkala Prasad, Muni Venkata, Veerabhadra, Battala Shiva, Venkatesh, Mejari Hari, and several others.

Speaking on the occasion, State Kuruba Corporation Director Valigatla Venkataramana said that the VB-G RAM G scheme introduced by the Central Government would serve as a milestone in promoting rural welfare, self-employment, and economic self-reliance. He stated that the programme aims to generate employment opportunities for rural youth, strengthen women's Self-Help Groups, and expand livelihood opportunities for farmers, agricultural

labourers, small entrepreneurs, and rural artisans.

He further said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Central Government has been giving special emphasis to rural development through



several welfare and development initiatives. He expressed confidence that the new scheme would provide fresh momentum to rural economic growth, create more employment opportunities for unemployed youth, and contribute significantly to the overall development of villages.

Venkataramana also stated that the Andhra Pradesh Government is working in close coordination with the Central Government to accelerate rural development. He urged public representatives and party leaders to ensure that every eligible beneficiary receives the benefits of government welfare schemes. Later, the leaders congratulated the organisers for successfully conducting the programme and appealed to the rural public to make full use of the welfare schemes introduced by both the Central and State Governments.

District Collector Nishant Kumar Attends the "Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar" Programme at Chintaparthi

- Reviews SIR Progress at the Village Secretariat

(By Skyline Staff Reporter)

Valmikipuram, July 2: The Government of India on Thursday launched the "VB-G RAM (Grameen) - Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Livelihood Mission" across the country as an alternative to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). At the state-level launch event held at Mukkavaripalli in Obulavaripalle Mandal of Tirupati district, the programme was inaugurated by the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister. The live telecast of the event was viewed at the Farmers' Service Centre in Chintaparthi, where Annamayya District Collector Nishant Kumar participated. Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector said that the rural employment guarantee programme had played a crucial role in rural development over the past two decades. He stated that the new scheme increases the number of guaranteed workdays from 100 to 125 days, providing additional income to rural households. He further noted that, besides generating employment, the scheme would prioritize the development of rural infrastructure such as roads, Anganwadi centres, and community buildings. Later, the District Collector inspected the Village Secretariat and held a review meeting with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to assess the progress of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. He directed officials to improve the rate of SIR digitization and ensure that at least 50 percent progress is achieved by taking special measures. Officials informed the Collector that some records were unavailable while conducting verification based on the 2002 electoral rolls. In response, the



Collector stated that the issue would be documented and brought to the notice of the Election Commission of India (ECI). The Collector also instructed officials to significantly reduce the number of "No Mapping" cases and other anomalies. He emphasized the need to identify every voter and expedite the process of correcting the relevant details. Reviewing the reasons for the low SIR mapping percentage in the past, he observed that although progress had improved, the work should be completed at a faster pace.

During the visit, the Collector also enquired about the availability of land belonging to APIIC (Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation). Officials explained the details of the available land using a site sketch. The programme was attended by DLDO LakshmiPATHI, Tahsildar Pamilleti, Booth Level Officers, officials from various departments, public representatives, villagers, farmers, and MGNREGS workers.

Grand Celebration of the Second Dwadasha Varsha Maha Kumbhabhishekam



Srikalahasti- 2 July (Skyline Daily): The Second Dwadasha Varsha Maha Kumbhabhishekam Mahotsavam was celebrated with great religious fervour and grandeur at the Sri Vasavi Kanyakaparameswari Temple, located in Bazaar Street, Srikalahasti town. The three-day religious festivities have been taking place with the participation of a large number of devotees. As part of the celebrations, special homams and rituals were performed with devotion from the early hours on Thursday. Following the Vedic ceremonies, the Maha

Kumbhabhishekam was conducted on the temple tower (Vimanam), after which the sacred Kumbhabhishekam and Abhishekam were performed for the presiding deity, Goddess Sri Vasavi Kanyakaparameswari. Hundreds of devotees witnessed the holy rituals and later received teertha prasadam. The programme was organized under the leadership of Sri Vasavi Kanyakaparameswari Temple Governing Body President Julaganti Murali Mohan Gupta and members of the temple management committee.

Special digitalization camps to be held on July 4th and 5th

Madanapalle, July 02(Skyline daily): To further improve the progress of digitization of enumeration forms in the district, special digitalization camps will be held on July 4th (Saturday) and July 5th (Sunday), District Collector and District Election Officer Nishant Kumar said in a statement on Thursday. He said that this special program is being carried out in drive mode as per the directions of the Election Commission of India and the State Chief Electoral Officer. As part of this, the process of digitization of enumeration forms should be expedited as part of the Special Voter List Amendment (SIR-2026) program. He said that special camps should be set up at suitable places in all the assembly constituencies of the district and Booth Level Officers (BLOs) should participate fully and expedite the digitization of enumeration forms. He advised that the progress of each day

should be continuously monitored by the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs). The



pending digitization should be completed with utmost priority and steps should be taken to ensure that the necessary internet facilities, computer systems and other infrastructure are available at the camps. He instructed the officers to continuously review the progress of the special camps and report to the district office. He warned that any negligence in the implementation of the

special digitization program will be taken seriously. He called on the officers and BLOs to work in coordination and complete the digitization targets in the district within the stipulated time frame.