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There is no deviation in DSC appointments.. If you have the courage, come to the Assembly and discuss: Chandrababu challenges YSRCP

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Amaravati, August 17
Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu clarified that there was not a single deviation in the Mega DSC recruitments and that the process was completed in a very transparent manner based on merit. He challenged the YSRCP to come to the Legislative Assembly and discuss the issue if they have the guts and courage. He was deeply angry that they were spreading misinformation about DSC by staging fake demonstrations with Odisha laborers and 90-year-old Jagan Genji elders.



The CM spoke at length in the debate on Mega DSC recruitments in the Legislative Assembly today. Chandrababu said that the TDP is committed to educational development and that his government believes that if students are provided

with good education and skills, they will become the best human resources. He recalled that during NTR's rule, educational reforms were initiated with the establishment of residential schools and a women's university. He said that when he was the Chief Minister, a primary school was established for every kilometer, a junior college for each mandal and a medical college for each district. He alleged that the rulers, who did not fill a single teaching post in the five years between 2019-24, have ruined the education sector. He explained that out of

the 14 DSCs conducted so far, 11 of them were conducted during the TDP and NDA governments and appointments were made without any scope for corruption. Chandrababu said that they have done transparent appointments in 148 days, which the previous rulers could not do in five years, with their first signature as soon as they came to power. He explained that 15,941 jobs were filled transparently in just 148 days through the Mega DSC. He said that everything from TET and DSC notifications to the horizontal (Contd. on pg.2)

Destroyed ISI-backed Shahzad Bhatti Network ahead of I-Day, arrested 200 operatives: HM Amit Shah

New Delhi, Aug 17 : Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday announced that the Indian security forces dismantled the ISI-backed Shahzad Bhatti Network (SBN) ahead of Independence Day, by thwarting the terror group's plan of carrying out attacks. The Home Minister mentioned that 200 operatives of the Shahzad Bhatti gang were arrested by the security forces. Taking to X, HM Shah said, "Modi govt destroyed the ISI-backed terror group Shahzad Bhatti Network ahead of Independence Day and thwarted its plans for subversive attacks by arresting more than 200 operatives."



Air India de-rosters two pilots after preliminary drug test results



New Delhi, Aug 17 : Two more Air India pilots have failed preliminary drug tests conducted by the airline as part of an expanded screening programme introduced after a recent in-flight incident on a Phuket-Delhi service, according to a report. A report by NDTV -- citing sources -- said that the final test results are still awaited and both pilots have been de-rostered pending confirmation. The Tata-owned carrier

ordered drug testing for all pilots under a new standard operating procedure (SOP) after the pilot-in-command of a Phuket-Delhi flight allegedly failed two urine tests following the aircraft's landing. In addition, marijuana was reportedly detected in his system. Reports suggest more than 300 Air India pilots have undergone the testing process so far. (Contd. on pg.2)

YSRCP tried to stall DSC recruitment process, alleges Nara Lokesh

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Amaravati, August 17
Dismissing the allegations of irregularities in recruitment of teachers through Mega DSC, Andhra Pradesh Education Minister Nara Lokesh alleged in the Assembly that YSR Congress Party leaders deliberately tried to stall the recruitment process by approaching courts. Making a statement in the Assembly on Monday, Nara Lokesh said 141 cases were filed in 148 days, seeking to stop or stall the District Selection Committee (DSC). Nara Lokesh claimed that the government was able to withstand the legal



challenges because the Mega DSC notification was prepared carefully and in compliance with all rules. He said he had instructed the department that he would take serious action if the notification failed at any stage of legal scrutiny. He asserted that the coalition government ultimately completed the Mega DSC recruitment, issued offer letters, trained the selected teachers and deployed them in schools, calling it an achievement of the "people's government". Lokesh also claimed that (Contd. on pg.2)

Botsa Satyanarayana, who served as the Education Minister in the previous government, saying that it is shameful to play with the future of the unemployed and now give morals on DSC in the

Atchennaidu counters Botsa over Mega DSC row in AP Council

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Amaravati, August 17
Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu has strongly criticized the YSRCP, which had raised hopes of giving 'mega DSC' to the unemployed during the last five years of its rule and cheated them without even giving a single notification, and now has no moral right to talk about DSC appointments. He strongly criticized Botsa Satyanarayana, who served as the Education Minister in the previous government, saying that it is shameful to play with the future of the unemployed and now give morals on DSC in the



council. On the first day of the monsoon session of the AP Legislative Assembly that began on Monday, the Legislative Council was in a state of turmoil over the 'mega DSC-2025' issue. The YSRCP moved an adjournment motion and took up the question alleging irregularities in

the filling of 16,347 teacher posts. It demanded a CBI inquiry into this and the resignation of Education Minister Nara Lokesh. However, Council Chairman K. Moshenu Raju rejected the adjournment motion and took up the question (Contd. on pg.2)

Jr Doctors across AP intensify strike to demand hike in stipend

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Amaravati, August 17
Demanding a hike in stipend, junior doctors across Andhra Pradesh on Monday began a total boycott of emergency services, disrupting healthcare delivery in government medical colleges and teaching hospitals. Andhra Pradesh Junior Doctors' Association (APJUDA) had given a call for the boycott of emergency services to press for their demands, including long-pending stipend revision. About 9,000 resident doctors, medical interns, junior residents, super-speciality postgraduates, sen-



ior residents, and doctors deployed under the District Residency Programme (DRP) scheme were staying away from duties, affecting Intensive Care Units, casualty wards, and labour rooms. Junior doctors in all 19 government medical col-

leges in the state are participating in the strike. The phased strike began on August 11 with a time-bound withdrawal of non-emergency services. With no written assurance coming from the government, APJUDA intensified its protest. (Contd. on pg.2)

Proactively identifying issues, correcting them in students interests: NTA

New Delhi, Aug 17 : As the National Testing Agency (NTA) faces public ire over re-examination for UGC-NET papers of three subjects after multiple errors were found in the question papers, the examination conducting body stated that it is proactively identifying issues and correcting them transparently in the interest of students, sources said on Monday. Earlier on Sunday, the NTA announced that it will re-conduct the University Grants Commission-National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET) for English, Sociology and Commerce after several errors were



found in the question papers. This added to the growing criticism over the testing agency's handling of competitive exams. The NTA conducted a series of national examinations between June and July this year. The examinations for which answer keys are being processed together span three major

examinations, UGC-NET, CSIR-NET and ICAR (AIEEA-PG and AICE-PhD), conducted across 184 subjects and papers in all, comprising 24,700 distinct questions. Over 10 lakh candidates registered for the examination, and of these nearly 8 lakh appeared. (Contd. on pg.2)

First commercial flight lands at Bhogapuram airport, passengers welcomed with Etikoppaka toys



By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, August 17 : Commercial flight operations had started at the new Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport in Bhogapuram and had received its first commercial flight when IndiGo flight 6E 6408 from Hyderabad landed at around 6:45 am. The flight touched down in Vizianagaram district where the passengers have been welcomed by the GMR officials, district

authorities and Airport officials. The traditional handicraft Etikoppaka toys was handed over to the passengers as a token of remembrance of their first arrival at the new airport as part of the welcome ceremony. The first flight from Bhogapuram to Hyderabad then took off around 7:30 am. Services between Bhogapuram and both Hyderabad and Bengaluru via IndiGo (Contd. on pg.2)

Naga Babu appointed chairman of AP Green Executive Committee

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Amaravati, August 17
Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's brother Nagendra Rao Konidela, also known as Naga Babu, has been appointed as the chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Green Executive Committee. Naga Babu is a member of the State Legislative Council and one of the key leaders of Jana Sena headed by his brother. Environment and Forest Department on Monday issued a Government Order (G.O) nominating Nagababu as the Chairperson of the Executive Committee of



the 'Andhra Pradesh Society for Greening and Reforestation for Ecological Enrichment (AP Green).' According to the G.O, Nagababu will enjoy Cabinet rank in his capacity as the chairperson of the AP Green Executive Committee.

Pawan Kalyan is also the minister for environment and forests. Nagababu has been appointed as the head of a body which comes under the department headed by Pawan Kalyan. According to an official release, the government (Contd. on pg.2)

Quality should be prioritized.. It should be resolved in a satisfactory manner

District Collector M. Abhishikth Kishore instructed the officials in PGRS

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, August 17 : District Collector M. Abhishikth Kishore has directed the officials to work towards providing quality and permanent solutions to every complaint received through PGRS and to increase the positive opinion of the complainants about government services. He reviewed various issues during the PGRS held at the Collectorate on Monday. He clarified that it is mandatory to ensure that the concerned officer has spoken to the complainant after issuing an endorsement that the problem has been resolved. To examine this issue himself, he called up several complainants from the confer-

ence hall and inquired about the way their problems were resolved. He clarified that endorsement should be given as soon as the problem is resolved and that the complainant should

be spoken to. He said that special attention should be paid to the complaints that are being reopened frequently within the purview of the Urban Development Department. He



suggested that complaints on service-related issues should be registered separately and monitored continuously. The Collector, who reviewed the complaint regarding the allocation of a house on the upper floor to a disabled woman in Tidco houses, ordered to collect comprehensive details to see if there are any other beneficiaries facing similar problems. He suggested that steps be taken to identify the number of such beneficiaries and, after field observation, allocate houses on the lower floors as much as possible. Officials should visit the field level to examine the actual situation on (Contd. on pg.2)

“Freedom in the Mind, Strength in the Heart, Unity in Action. . . “Spirit of Independence” Culminates at Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar



Visakhapatnam, Agust 17: Two-Day Celebration Concludes with 170+ Exhibits, 500 Student Participants and a Spectacular Cultural Presentation by 300 Students

The two-day “Spirit of Independence – One Nation, One Spirit, One Heart” Exhibition-cum-Cultural Programme organised by Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar, Visakhapatnam, concluded on Sunday with a grand and inspiring Valedictory Function at the school campus.

The valedictory programme was honoured by the gracious presence of Dr. Jitendra Sharma, Managing Director and Founder CEO, Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone (AMTZ), Visakhapatnam, as the Guest of Honour. Dr. Sharma keenly observed the exhibits and appreciat-

ed the excellent, innovative and thought-provoking work of the students. He lauded their creativity, dedication, hard work and understanding of the theme, and his words of appreciation served as a great source of encouragement and inspiration to the young participants.

Addressing the students, Dr. Jitender Sharma urged them to think beyond “What do I want to become?” and ask themselves, “Why do I want to become that?”

He praised Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar, Visakhapatnam, for imparting education rooted in ethics and values, and appreciated the Principal and teachers for their dedication to shaping the students’ futures. He urged the students to never forget their teachers as they progress in life and said they are

truly blessed to study in such a value-based institution.

Sri Tribhuvan Sachdeva, Convenor, Sri Sathya Sai National Council for Schools, who participated in the two-day event as the Special Guest, also lauded the entire school management and staff for their dedicated efforts and commitment to value-based education. He particularly appreciated the students’ remarkable creativity, enthusiasm, discipline and wholehearted participation in bringing the “Spirit of Independence” alive.

The two-day celebration, organised as part of the Centenary Celebrations of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and Independence Day celebrations, under the guidance of the Sri Sathya Sai National Council for Schools, brought together patriotism, creativity, edu-

cation, culture and human values in a vibrant celebration of the deeper meaning of independence.

170+ Exhibits | 500 Students | One Inspiring Spirit

The exhibition emerged as a major attraction, featuring more than 170 innovative exhibits created and presented by 500 students. The exhibits explored diverse dimensions of independence—from India’s glorious freedom struggle and the contributions of freedom fighters to intellectual awakening, value-based education, spiritual freedom and inner transformation.

The sincerity, creativity and dedication of the students, reflected in their models, charts, handcrafted exhibits and thematic presentations, mesmerised visitors and drew widespread appreciation.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

There is no deviation in DSC appointments.. If you have the courage,

and vertical reservation process was carried out strictly. He said that 42 thousand questions were selected for 13 subjects, tests were conducted in 154 centers through the computer-based (CBT) system and the results were also released transparently. He questioned that 15,941 people were selected based on their full merit through the merit cum roster system, and that all the details of the recruitment process are online, and where can there be more transparency than this. He said that zonal and state level committees as well as an appellate authority have been set up to resolve complaints. The CM flagged that the YCP is making baseless allegations against the YCP’s fake agitations and conspiracies against the DSC. "The axe party leaders are holding fake dharnas with Odisha laborers and 90-year-old Jagan's genji people. An IAS officer who has worked in the government and retired, and a former minister are talking as they please," he criticized. He reminded that the teachers who got jobs in the DSC, unable to tolerate the YCP's allegations, are themselves coming out on the roads, and they held massive agitations in Kumool the other day and Vijayawada yesterday. Chandrababu Naidu brought to the attention of the assembly the slogan, "We will teach lessons to children.. If our talent is belittled, we will also teach them a lesson."

How about Pubji instead of coming to the assembly?

Chandrababu Naidu said that his government is accountable to the people and not to the parties that are conspiring. "If you have the courage, you should come to the Assembly and discuss. They are not coming to the House for fear of being caught. The shameless party members are playing pubg outside instead of coming to the Assembly. They have been taking salaries and privileges without coming to the House for two and a half years. I have never seen such a party in my life," he said in a sharp tone. The CM reiterated that he has full responsibility towards the people, that no conspiracies work in the state, and that teacher appointments have been made with utmost accountability.

YSRCP tried to stall DSC recruitment process, alleges Nara Lokesh

recruitment under sports quota was conducted transparently, with the objective to encourage athletes.

He clarified that the objective was not to subject sportspersons to regular tests, but to encourage and promote sporting talent by providing appointments through the sports quota. He added that, under the leadership of the minister concerned and in accordance with the Centre’s recommendations, the number of recognised sports disciplines was expanded from 29 to 65. Lokesh announced that the State government will conduct the DSC every year as a firm commitment to the youth, saying there would be “no second thought” and that the government would not go back on its promise.

He said the government had already filled 3,000 teacher posts through DSC this year as part of the Mega Job Calendar. He told the House the government has so far filled around 10,060 posts through the Mega Job Calendar, covering Group-1, Group-2 and DSC recruitments, while the TET examinations were also completed recently.

Lokesh challenged former Chief Minister and YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to come to the House and debate the allegations of irregularities in the Mega DSC programme. Minister Lokesh further asserted that the government was ready to answer every allegation and urged Jagan to debate the issue in the Assembly instead of holding lengthy press conferences.

He also questioned the timing of Jagan’s agitation, asking why an agitation was launched after an entire year when the programme and teacher training had already been completed. He also slammed Jagan over what he called the latter’s opposition to the reservation process alleging, “Jagan’s opposition is not to me or to the CM; he is questioning Ambedkar Ji”, who brought the reservation policy into the Constitution.

Lokesh said the government is committed to implementing vertical and horizontal reservations transparently and challenged Jagan to debate the issue anywhere—inside the House or outside it.

Atchennaidu counters Botsa over Mega DSC row in AP Council

and answer session. He said that a decision on this issue would be taken in the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting. YCP members who did not agree with the chairman's decision disrupted the proceedings of the House by raising slogans. On this occasion, the Leader of Opposition in the Council, Botsa Satyanarayana, alleged that the government had cheated three lakh unemployed people in the name of DSC and had given jobs to those they liked under the sports quota. He insisted that a discussion be held in the House on this.

Atchannaidu reacted strongly to Botsa's allegations. "Are you now talking about not giving a single DSC in the last five years? Isn't it political double standards to ask questions in the Council after not being able to do so when you were in power and now you are in the opposition?" he said. He said that as soon as they came to power, they issued DSC notifications and

took steps to provide employment to the unemployed in a timely manner. However, Atchannaidu alleged that the YCP had filed 300 court cases to prevent this.

In this context, some comments made by Atchannaidu towards Botsa Satyanarayana led to a major uproar. YCP members expressed strong objection to this and protested. Amidst the chaos, the Chairman adjourned the House. After the House resumed, Botsa demanded that Atchannaidu withdraw his unparliamentary comments. Responding to this, the Minister clarified that the words he used were not unparliamentary and that he was ready to apologize if the Chairman gave a ruling. However, as the YCP members continued to protest, the Chairman adjourned the House for the second time.

Jr Doctors across AP intensify strike to demand hike in stipend

Non-emergency healthcare services remained fully suspended across all government teaching hospitals, superspeciality units, and peripheral medical colleges.

The government said it has made arrangements to ensure that patients do not face difficulties due to the junior doctors' strike. The department of health is continuously reviewing the situation with District Collectors, medical college principals, and hospital superintendents.

Additional doctors are being kept on standby wherever needed. Special arrangements are being made to ensure the uninterrupted functioning of emergency departments, ICUs, maternity services, operation theatres, NICU, PICU, dialysis units, and trauma services, it said.

Measures are being taken to ensure the availability of medicines, oxygen, blood, and essential medical supplies, said an official release.

According to APJUDA, the stipend hike has been pending since January 1. As per an order issued by the Health, Medical and Family Welfare Department in 2009, there will be a biennial revision of junior doctors’ stipends by about 15 per cent. APJUDA leaders said despite repeated appeals, the authorities failed to give a clear assurance on a stipend hike, forcing them to go on strike in a phased manner.

While APJUDA demanded a 15 per cent hike in stipend, the government has offered a 3 per cent hike for postgraduate junior doctors and a 5 per cent hike for house surgeons and interns.

APJUDA is also demanding implementation of National Medical Commission norms in recruiting MSc and PhD holders to clinical faculty posts. It is also opposing a proposed increase in the retirement age of doctors from 62 to 65 years. The government said during the talks APJUDA was informed that although the Finance Department is not favourably inclined towards a 15 per cent hike given the current financial situation, there is a proposal to implement a specific percentage increase annually for interns and PG students.

It assured them that this annual increment process would be maintained. The government urged the junior doctors to accept the proposed hike, taking into account the state's financial condition and the implementation of public welfare schemes.

According to an official release, the government spends approximately Rs 586.08 crore annually on stipends for 9,501 junior doctors.

If the demand for a 15 per cent hike in stipend is accepted, the government will incur an additional annual expenditure of approximately Rs 87.91 crore.

Proactively identifying issues, correcting them in students interests:

Sources stated that each of these questions has to be set, moderated, translated, typeset, administered and evaluated to a common standard. They further stated that given the sheer breadth of subjects and the volume of unique questions, one can grasp the sense of the scale and complexity of the process. According to the sources, across this very large and varied body of work, no issue was found in the vast majority of subjects. Notably, for 84 UGC-NET subjects, all 5 CSIR-NET and 92 ICAR subjects -- which comprise 181 subjects of the total 184 -- the papers were found to be in order, and their answer keys were published on Sunday. However, issues were identified in three of the 87 UGC-NET subjects -- English, Sociology and Commerce -- and the answer keys for the same were held back as the testing agency is focussing on corrective measures.

"The position on these three, including their re-conduct, has been notified separately," sources said, adding that the Sociology paper will be held on September 10, while the English and Commerce tests will be re-conducted on September 9.

The task of an examination-conducting agency is not only to conduct error-free examinations, but also to act promptly and honestly whenever an anomaly is found, sources said, adding that in the case of these three subjects, the "NTA examined the papers, took the opinion of subject-matter experts, and decided to re-conduct those three papers rather than allow papers with defects to stand".

In doing so, sources said that the NTA has taken the "responsibility of acknowledging that something had gone wrong in these papers and of taking corrective action, at cost to itself, rather than papering over the problem".

People familiar with the matter said that re-conducting a paper is "undoubtedly hard on the candidates" of the affected subjects, and the NTA is conscious of that. Therefore, the NTA has announced that the re-test will be held at no additional fee, and

the number of qualifying candidates and the subject-wise allocations for those subjects will not be reduced.

"More fundamentally, the correction is in the larger interest of the honest, hard-working candidate. When a paper carries errors, or repeats a large number of questions from an earlier cycle, it is the candidate who prepared sincerely on merit who is placed at a disadvantage relative to one who happened to have seen the earlier paper. Setting the paper right protects exactly those candidates who did the work," the NTA sources said.

They further stated that the corrective measures taken go beyond the three papers, as the NTA is using this experience to further strengthen its internal processes and protocols at the stages of setting, moderating, translating and composing question papers, so that such errors can be prevented at source, and to fix responsibility for the lapses that have occurred.

"The willingness to identify problems proactively, to admit them, and to act, even where action is difficult, is itself the foundation of a more accountable examination system. An agency that conducts examinations at this scale will occasionally encounter problems; what defines its credibility is that it finds them, owns them, and corrects them in the interest of candidates," sources stated.

In sum, sources stated that the NTA conducted examinations across 184 subjects and 24,700 questions, found that several people have sound issues in the examination of English, Sociology and Commerce. They added that the testing agency proactively identified issues and is committed to correcting them transparently, in the interest of the candidates, to ensure that a "fair, accurate and error-free examination system" is established.

"This combination of scale, vigilance and accountability is the case for confidence in the process, not against it," they added.

Destroyed ISI-backed Shahzad Bhatti Network ahead of I-Day, arrested

grenades bearing Pakistan Ordnance Factory markings, pistols, live cartridges, and CCTV cameras used for espionage.

"The network was involved in several terrorist activities," he added.

This comes against the backdrop of recent arrests made in the Shahzad Bhatti case.

In late July, the West Bengal Special Task Force (STF) initially arrested two primary suspects in this specific Pakistan-linked terror and espionage module: suspected Jaish-e-Mohammed operative Mohammad Hamim Mondal and his associate/girlfriend Arpita Sarkar.

According to officials, the SBN targeted the family members of at least six current members of the West Bengal Cabinet through Arpita Sarkar. The SBN handlers used to maintain regular contact with Arpita Sarkar through encrypted messages on different social media platforms.

The STF has continued widening its net into connected surveillance and espionage networks across the region, examining seized digital devices and international communication links. Further details are awaited.

Air India de-rosters two pilots after preliminary drug test results

However, final drug test results typically take between 24 and 48 hours to be processed.

A cabin crew member on the Phuket-Delhi flight is believed to have lodged a complaint alleging that the pilot had previously smoked marijuana.

The airline's decision to intensify testing followed an incident involving an Airbus A320neo operating the Phuket-Delhi route.

The aircraft reportedly experienced a sudden loss of control over key flight control surfaces and descended approximately 300 feet. Initial reports had attributed the event to turbulence, but subsequent analysis of aircraft system data pointed to multiple hydraulic system failures.

The aircraft's elevators, ailerons and spoilers were affected for several seconds following failures across the jet's hydraulic systems, according to the reports. These systems are essential for controlling the aircraft's pitch, roll and descent.

According to the letter addressed to pilots, from August 13, the airline firm began conducting mandatory screening of all pilots across the group for substances or medications prohibited under aviation regulations as part of a measure aimed at reinforcing safety standards and public confidence.

First commercial flight lands at Bhogapuram airport, passengers welcomed with

were to be run and a Bengaluru flight was also due to land at the airport. In order to enhance the connectivity of airport and city, 20 electric buses have been arranged to run between the airport and the city of Visakhapatnam.

Opening of Bhogapuram Airport also represents a significant paradigm change in commercial aviation services in the region. Civil operations at Visakhapatnam airport have ended with the opening of the new airport.

The Bhogapuram airport will play a key role in boosting air connectivity in the region, and is likely to be the new commercial aviation hub of the city and its surrounding areas.

Naga Babu appointed chairman of AP Green Executive Committee

has set a primary objective for AP Green to increase the combined forest cover and greenery in Andhra Pradesh to 50 per cent of the state's total geographical area. AP Green will work towards achieving this goal by 2047.

To ensure the effective implementation of this programme across the state, the government announced the establishment of district-level governing bodies alongside the AP Green Governing Board and Executive Committee.

As the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, Nagababu will shoulder key responsibilities such as coordinating between various departments and district-level agencies, accelerating the implementation of programmes, and monitoring their progress.

Nagababu was elected to the Legislative Council in March 2025 as the candidate of Jana Sena.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced in December 2024 that Naga Babu would be inducted into the Cabinet. He, however, later changed his decision, reportedly on the advice of Pawan Kalyan.

The Cabinet already has three ministers from Jana Sena, and two of them, including Pawan Kalyan, are from the Kapu community. The ruling coalition did not want to disturb the caste equation by appointing another Kapu representative as a minister.

Nagababu, also an actor and producer, is the General Secretary of Jana Sena. He actively campaigned in last year's elections. He has been working with Pawan Kalyan ever since the latter floated Jana Sena in 2014.

Both had earlier actively worked for Praja Rajyam Party (PRP) floated by their eldest brother and superstar Chiranjeevi in 2008. However, the party came a cropper in the 2009 polls, and two years later Chiranjeevi had merged it with the Congress party.

Quality should be prioritized.. It should be resolved in a satisfactory manner

complex issues.

He said that the complaints received especially regarding medical services should be analyzed in depth and the medical staff and the concerned officials should work more responsibly. He said that steps should be taken to ensure that quality medical services are provided to the people. He ordered that services should be provided smoothly and to the satisfaction of the people within the scope of the registration department. Since PGRS is of utmost importance at the government level, the officials should also give the same priority and work. He said that each departmental officer should review the PGRS complaint resolution system within their jurisdiction and rectify the shortcomings. The Collector ordered that the performance should be improved so that all departments are at the first position in the PGRS rankings and steps should be taken to ensure that they are at least in the top-5.

291 requests in PGRS

A total of 291 petitions were registered in the PGRS held on Monday. Out of these, 22 were related to the Revenue Department, 64 to the GVMC, 20 to the Police Department, and 185 to other departments.

TRUHOME FINANCE LIMITED (Formerly Known As Shriram Housing Finance Limited)	
	Reg.Off.: Srinivasa Tower, 1st Floor, Door No. 5, Old No.11, 2nd Lane, Cenatopha Road, Alwarpet, Teynampet, Chennai-600018 Head Office: Level 3, Wockhardt Towers, East Wing C-2, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai-400051 Website: http://www.truhomefinance.in
SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE	
Whereas, The undersigned being the authorised officer of Truhome Finance Limited (Formerly Shriram Housing Finance Limited) under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (said Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (said Rules) issued demand notices to the Borrowers details of which are mentioned in the table below to the amount mentioned in the said demand notices.	
The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned being the Authorised officer Truhome Finance Limited (Formerly Shriram Housing Finance Limited) has taken SYMBOLIC POSSESSION of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules on 13/08/2026.	
The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Truhome Finance Limited (Formerly Shriram Housing Finance Limited) for an amount as mentioned herein below with interest thereon.	
The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.	
Borrower's Name and Address	
MR.KORAPU KONDALRAO S/O MR.KOPPARAPU SIVAIAH MRS.KORAPU CHANDRAKALA W/O KORAPU KONDALRAO DOOR H NO.10-106 3/A TEACHERS COLONY NEAR APGB BANK PRODDATUR CUDDAPAH ANDHRA PRADESH INDIA 516360	
Amount due as per Demand Notice	
Demand Notice Date –13.05.2026 Demand notice Amount of Rs.4856204/-Forty Eight Lakhs Fifty Six Thousand Two Hundred and Forty Only as on 31-05-2026 under reference of Loan Account No. SLH1HPT0000723	
Description of Mortgaged Property	
Newly Constructed D.No. not yet allotted Residential building situated in Y.S.R Kadapa District, Proddatur Sub District, Proddatur, Kothapalli Panchayathi, Ward No.10 Jamespetta Street, Madamachipalli Village, Plot No.7 R.C.C. Mahadi Midda House Survey No. 215 and 216/B following boundaries: East : 20 feet vide Rashtra West : Plot No.9 site South : Plot No. 8 Site North : 20 feet vide Joint Rashtra	
Schedule (As per Registered sale Deed date 12.04.2021) Measurement	
Place: Proddatur Date : 13-08-2026	Sd/- Authorised Officer- Truhome Finance Limited (Earlier Known as Shriram Housing Finance Limited)

72-Year-Old Lingam Ravindra Rao Scales 5,642-Metre Mount Elbrus with 17-Year-Old Grandson, Sets Sights on Seven Summits

At 72, Ravindra Rao scaled Mount Elbrus alongside his 17-year-old grandson Anuraag Pokuri, turning the climb into a remarkable grandfather-grandson adventure



Vijayawada, 17 August 2026: At an age when many people begin to slow down, Lingam Ravindra Rao from Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, continues to push his physical limits. At 72 years, one month and 13 days, Ravindra Rao scaled the 5,642-metre Mount Elbrus West Peak, the highest peak in Europe, on August 14.

Ravindra Rao is the oldest Indian to have climbed Mount Elbrus as of the date of his ascent. His achievement has drawn attention not only because of the height of the mountain but also because of the age at which he took on the demanding climb. For Ravindra, however, the journey towards Mount Elbrus did not begin in his seventies. His

interest in physical challenges goes back to his student days. In 1972, at the age of 18, while studying at IIT Kharagpur, he undertook a remarkable cycling journey with his friends from Kharagpur to Darjeeling. The group covered around 1,700 kilometres in just 10 days. Although his professional career and business responsibilities later took priority, Ravindra never completely gave up his focus on fitness. He continued playing sports and maintaining an active lifestyle, eventually returning to adventure activities and taking on high-altitude mountaineering. His recent achievements include climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in 2024 and Mount Labouche. Mount Elbrus now becomes another major milestone in his journey towards an even bigger goal-the Seven Summits, the highest peaks across the world's seven continents. A family expedition Ravindra's Mount Elbrus

climb also became a special achievement as he was joined by his 17-year-old grandson, Anuraag Pokuri, from Hyderabad, Telangana. While Ravindra completed the West Peak ascent, Anuraag climbed both the West and East Peaks back-to-back in 3 hours and 44 minutes. According to the information provided, Anuraag is the youngest citizen of Indian origin, as of the date of the achievement, to have summited both peaks back-to-back. The expedition thus brought together two generations of the same family, with Ravindra Rao's decades-long interest in fitness meeting his grandson's growing passion for mountaineering. For Ravindra, the significance of sport extends far beyond personal achievement. He believes India has abundant sporting talent, but that talent must be identified and nurtured from an early age. He says, "India has abundant talent in sports, but that talent needs to be

identified and nurtured from a very young age. Sports should become an integral part of the school curriculum, with every student encouraged to choose a sport and receive proper guidance from coaches." He wants schools to play a greater role in developing sporting potential, with sports becoming an integral and compulsory part of the curriculum, allowing every student to choose a sport with the guidance of trained coaches. His own journey, from a 1,700-kilometre cycling expedition at 18 to scaling a 5,642-metre peak at 72, reflects the message he wants to convey: fitness and sporting ambition should remain part of life at every age. Now, with Mount Elbrus behind him, Ravindra Rao's next ambition remains clear-to continue the pursuit of the Seven Summits, alongside his grandson, and demonstrate that the desire to challenge oneself does not have an age limit.

Kuchipudi: India's Gift to the World of Dance

(By Skyline Staff Reporter)

Machilipatnam Aug 17 : Kuchipudi, one of India's most celebrated classical dance forms, has earned global recognition and remains a proud cultural contribution of the country, said Lankishetti Balaji, president of Machilipatnam Sahiti Mitralu.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the 40th anniversary celebrations of Sri Bala Tripura Sundari Nritya Niketan, held at the Kala Vedika of the Prasanna Anjaneya Temple in E d e p a l l i , Machilipatnam. The event featured cultural programmes and performances by students of the dance institution. Balaji said Indians should take pride in the fact that India gave the world the rich tradition of Kuchipudi. He noted that the classical dance form has gained international recognition and has emerged as one of the leading Indian dance traditions. He appreciated the State government for giving due importance to Kuchipudi and encouraging its development. He also recalled the collective efforts of Telugu people in establishing a Kuchipudi performance record in the Guinness World



Records, describing it as a memorable achievement. He said Kuchipudi had received great patronage from ancient times through the eras of kings and continued to occupy a prominent place in India's cultural heritage. Balaji said the 40-year journey of Bala Tripura Sundari Nritya Niketan in Machilipatnam was a matter of pride for the city. Over the decades, thousands of students have received training in Kuchipudi through the institution and have gone on to perform in various parts of India and abroad. He urged parents to encourage children to remain connected with traditional arts and cultural activities. He stressed the importance of preserving Indian traditions and providing children with opportunities to learn classical arts. At the programme, Bhavishya, president of Bhava Tarangini, presided over

the gathering. Vemula Suri Babu, president of the Town Stage Artists' Association; Peteti Satyanarayana, a district revenue employees' leader; Chennuru Srinivasa Rao of the Police Department; Rukmini Rajyalakshmi; and Nritya Niketan president Eleswarapu Purnachandra Rao also addressed the gathering. The organisation felicitated renowned dance teacher and artiste Dr. Sivalenka Ushakiran, mridangam exponent Chintla Surya Prakash and music exponent Tarakuturi Srinivasa Rao. N a t y a c h a r y a Purnachandra Rao and his wife Nagalakshmi were also honoured by the dance artistes. The event concluded with captivating Kuchipudi performances by students of the Nritya Niketan, who impressed the audience with their skill and graceful presentation.

VNG School recognition cancellation demanded over alleged Sexual assault case

Nellore, August 17: Members of the Dalit Rights United Forum submitted a petition to the District Collector on Sunday, demanding strict action in connection with an alleged sexual assault case involving a minor student at VNG School in Santapet. The delegation, led by Dalit Rights United Forum president Chappidi Vengala Rao, raised the issue during a special Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) meeting conducted specifically to address the problems and grievances of SC and ST communities. The representatives demanded that the recognition of VNG School be cancelled in view of the allegations against PET teacher Moraboyina Subbarao, who is accused of sexually assaulting a minor student. They also urged the District Educational Officer (DEO) and Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) to personally visit the victim's family, enquire into their grievances and ensure that justice is delivered. The delegation further demanded that an SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act case be registered against the school management if the allegations and circumstances



warrant such action. Speaking on the occasion, the representatives stressed the need for authorities to take stringent measures to ensure the safety and protection of students, particularly children from vulnerable communities. They appealed to the district administration to conduct a thorough inquiry and take action against those found responsible. The petitioners urged the Collector to intervene personally and ensure that the victim and the family receive appropriate support and justice. They also called for necessary measures to prevent similar incidents from occurring in educational institutions in the future.

Yarlagadda Accuses YSRCP Leaders of Politicising Irrigation Issue

(By Skyline Staff Reporter)

Gannavaram, August 17 Government Whip and Gannavaram MLA Yarlagadda Venkata Rao said the drought-like conditions prevailing in the Krishna Delta were also affecting farmers in the Gannavaram constituency. He criticised YSRCP leaders for allegedly politicising the irrigation issue at a time when efforts should be focused on resolving farmers' problems. Speaking in the Assembly on Monday, Yarlagadda said Pattiseema water currently has to pass through Gannavaram to reach Vijayawada and then return to the Gannavaram region through the Eluru Canal. He alleged that after the elections, a defeated YSRCP leader had removed the motors that had earlier been installed to facilitate water supply.

Yarlagadda said he had spent around Rs. 2 crore from his own funds to install motors so that farmers would not face difficulties in getting irrigation water. He accused the opposition leaders of attempting to turn the serious drought situation into a political issue. He said the government was taking steps to address farmers' irrigation problems and that he had brought the matter to the attention of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. Yarlagadda said that soon after being elected as MLA, he had requested that the Eluru Canal be connected at the 137.6-kilometre point from Polavaram. The government had sanctioned Rs. 38 crore for the work, he said. The project would help stabilise irrigation facilities for nearly 80,000 acres



under the Eluru Canal system and benefit farmers in the Eluru and Denduluru areas. He further said another Rs. 36 crore had been sanctioned for construction of a UT at Enikepadu. With a total of Rs. 74 crore sanctioned for the two projects, he thanked Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for supporting the irrigation works.

At present, the system has the capacity to transport around 5,000 cusecs of water, which could potentially be increased to 25,000 cusecs in the future, Yarlagadda said. This would help stabilise irrigation for nearly 80,000 acres. He urged the government to issue clear guidelines on the cultivation of dry crops in the coming days.

Gannavaram is not entirely dependent on dryland crops, he said, urging the Irrigation and Agriculture departments to coordinate closely while considering the difficulties faced by farmers. He also requested the government to examine suitable provisions under the crop insurance scheme to provide relief to farmers affected by the prevailing water shortage.

Discovery brings together India's top Military and National Security Leadership for the First Time with declassified: Operation Sindoor

~ The two-part series features first-hand accounts from the leaders who oversaw India's 88-hour response ~

~ Following its exclusive premiere on Discovery on August 15, 2026, Declassified: Operation Sindoor is now streaming on discovery.+~

Vijayawada, 17 August 2026: This Independence Day, Discovery brought unparalleled access to India's senior military and national security leadership, operational commanders and frontline personnel in Declassified: Operation Sindoor. Building on the brand's legacy of taking audiences deeper into pivotal real-world stories, the docuseries reveals how key moments in the operation took shape and unfolded through those who led it. Following its premiere on Discovery on August 15, 2026, the two-part docuseries is available to stream on discovery.. In his first interview since Operation Sindoor, Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor of India, says in the docuseries, "We had decided the objective of the operation was destruction of the enemy camps particularly those who had been responsible for the Pahalgam attack." "Our message to the world is very clear - India's gen-

erosity or India being tolerant should not be mistaken for its weakness. India can take risks and hit hard, irrespective of the consequences," he added. Beginning in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, Part 1 traces how the armed forces and intelligence teams moved into action, gathering intelligence, carrying out surveillance and preparing for the operation. From identifying targets, to conducting mock drills and planning for multiple scenarios, teams worked towards a precise operation designed to minimise civilian and military casualties. Part 2 moves from planning to execution, taking viewers inside the operation as it unfolded. Drawing on first-hand accounts from those involved, it captures the tense moments before the strikes, the coordination across the three services - Army, Navy and Air Force, and the decisions made in real time. As the strikes began, the

docuseries follows the operation finally leading to the confirmation coming in that the mission was complete. The series also offers a view into the military thinking that followed once the objective had been set, including the assessment of targets, decisions taken as the situation developed and the responsibility placed on those carrying out the mission. Anil Chauhan, former Chief of Defence Staff said, "All of us, as citizens of this country, were deeply affected by the sheer brutality of this attack. It was, I believe, one of the most barbaric attacks we had witnessed. It was decided that India would not bow down to such kinds of threats. At a strategic level, I think that knowing when to stop a conflict is equally important. It is easy to start a war; it is very difficult to stop it." Speaking on Army's Women officers addressing the press briefing, former Chief of Defence Staff said, "From

the armed forces, we were represented by two women officers, and it conveyed two important messages: that the women of India will not be deterred by these cowardly attacks, and that the social and emotional fabric of India will remain unaffected even by such kinds of challenges." At the heart of the docuseries are the voices of those closely associated with the operation, recounting the events, choices and considerations that shaped its course. Together with inputs from defence experts and the wider national security context, they take audiences deeper into the story behind Operation Sindoor like never-seen-before. Declassified: Operation Sindoor also opens a new chapter for factual storytelling in India for Warner Bros. Discovery. Speaking on this, Arjun Nohwar, SVP & Managing Director, India & South Asia, Warner Bros. Discovery, said,

"For decades, Discovery has earned the trust of audiences by telling real stories which are not only riveting but also authentic and credible. With Declassified: Operation Sindoor, our endeavour is to bring audiences closer to one of the most significant chapters in India's recent military history through the voices of those who led and lived it." He added, "Launching the Declassified franchise reflects our ambition to spotlight the defining events that have shaped history. It has been a privilege for us to present this docuseries, and we hope it leaves audiences with a deeper understanding of the preparation and leadership behind this operation." The docuseries is co-directed by Prabhu Asgaonkar and Manika Berry, who bring together these different voices to tell a cohesive story of the operation. Speaking on their experience, they shared, "From the very beginning, our objective was to document this



operation with honesty, depth and responsibility. The extraordinary access we were given allowed us to move beyond the headlines and tell this story through the voices of those who lived it. Every interview and every detail was approached with care to create an authentic record that honours the service and national

resolve, while bringing audiences closer to the human stories behind the operation." Declassified: Operation Sindoor was supported by a 360-degree, multi-platform campaign spanning outdoor, television, cinema, digital and social media. The campaign included large-scale projections at landmark loca-

tions such as Mumbai's Sea Link and WeWork BKC. Inspired by the symbolism of sindoor, the projections illuminated these landmarks in striking crimson red, bringing the content's visual identity to life at scale. Declassified: Operation Sindoor is now streaming exclusively on discovery+.

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Next Act

NChandrasekaran’s decision not to seek another term as chairman of Tata Sons is being presented as a succession question. It is more consequential than that. It marks the first major test of who controls the group after Ratan Tata, and what the conglomerate should become without the man who held its competing interests together. Chandrasekaran has not been abruptly removed. He will complete his present term ~ until February 2027. But his explanation is revealing: a proposal to extend his tenure failed to secure unanimous board support in February and remained unresolved six months later. For the chairman of a group built as much on consensus as on corporate hierarchy, that deadlock was itself the message. The disagreement matters because Tata Sons is not an ordinary holding company. Tata trusts control about two-thirds of it, while Tata Sons in turn exercises decisive influence over the sprawling commercial empire.

Ratan Tata could reconcile the interests of trustees, professional managers and shareholders because his personal authority was greater than the institutional tensions between them. His death removed that balancing force. Noel Tata, who became chairman of Tata Trusts after his half-brother’s death, now occupies a pivotal position, reporting on the dispute points to disagreements over capital allocation, loss-making ventures, governance and the future of Tata Sons itself.

The question of a possible listing is particularly important. So is the position of the Shapoorji Pallonji Group, which holds a substantial minority stake and has long sought an exit. These are not technical disagreements. They concern the purpose of the Tata Group. Chandrasekaran’s Tata has pursued an ambitious transformation: Air India, electronics and semiconductor manufacturing, batteries, digital businesses and other new ventures require enormous capital before they can deliver returns. That strategy may eventually strengthen the group, but it also increases the risks borne by Tata Sons. Geographic Reference

Air India’s continuing losses and other pressures make the argument over capital allocation harder to avoid. The alternative is not simply greater caution. It could mean a Tata Group more focused on businesses that already generate dependable returns, with tighter scrutiny of investments and less willingness to pursue grand industrial bets. That makes the choice of Chandrasekaran’s successor unusually important. Tata Trusts has already begun the process of selecting the next Tata Sons chairman. She or he will therefore inherit not merely a portfolio of companies but an unresolved argument about strategy, governance and ownership. There is an irony here.

Tata’s distinctive structure was designed to protect the group from the short-term demands of ordinary corporate ownership. Yet after Ratan Tata’s death, that same structure has become the arena for a struggle over strategic authority. The real succession battle, therefore, is not over who occupies the chairman’s office. It is over which Tata Group comes after Ratan Tata: one that continues Chandrasekaran’s expensive transformation, or one that consolidates and exercises greater control over its ambitions. Chandrasekaran’s departure does not settle that question. It makes it unavoidable.

India must adapt to cash in on youth dividend

For nearly two decades, India’s demographic dividend has occupied a central place in the country’s economic narrative. Policymakers, economists and investors have repeatedly argued that India’s greatest competitive advantage lies in its youthful population. While advanced economies such as Japan, Germany and Italy contend with ageing societies and shrinking workforces, India remains home to the world’s largest working-age population.

According to the United Nations Population Fund’s State of World Population Report 2023, nearly 68 per cent of Indians are between the ages of 15 and 64, giving the country a demographic profile unmatched by most major economies. But demographics are not destiny. They are an opportunity whose value depends entirely on the economic environment in which they operate. Artificial intelligence is now transforming that environment. The assumption that a large labour force will automatically translate into economic growth is becoming increasingly fragile as intelligent machines perform a growing range of cognitive and routine tasks. South Asians & Diaspora

India therefore faces a defining policy challenge: how to convert its demographic dividend into an AI dividend before technological disruption erodes one of its greatest strategic advantages. The debate around artificial intelligence in India is often dominated by fears of job losses. Those concerns are understandable but incomplete. AI will undoubtedly automate certain occupations, particularly repetitive white-collar work such as document processing, customer support, routine coding and administrative functions.

Goldman Sachs estimated in 2023 that generative AI could affect around 300 million full-time jobs globally, although many of these jobs are expected to evolve rather than disappear. The World Economic Forum’s Future of Jobs Report 2025 similarly projects that while AI and automation will displace millions of roles, they will also create new occupations requiring advanced digital, ana-

lytical and creative capabilities. The real risk for India is not unemployment alone; it is employability.

Every year, millions of young Indians enter the labour market. Yet several surveys continue to highlight a troubling mismatch between educational qualifications and workplace readiness. Reports by employability assessment firms have repeatedly shown that a significant proportion of graduates lack industry-ready skills despite holding formal degrees. This gap becomes even more consequential in an AI-driven economy, where adaptability matters more than routine expertise. Previous technological revolutions largely complemented India’s development model.

Globalisation created demand for software engineers and business-process outsourcing professionals. The digital economy generated opportunities in e-commerce, fintech and telecommunications. AI, however, is different because it increasingly automates precisely those middle-skill cognitive tasks that fuelled India’s services boom. That does not imply India’s demographic advantage has disappeared. It means its nature has changed. Countries that succeed in the AI economy will not necessarily possess the largest workforces. They will possess the most skilled, adaptable and technologically empowered ones. South Asians & Diaspora

Human capital, rather than population size, is becoming the decisive determinant of competitiveness. This is where India’s policy choices become critical. The country already possesses several structural advantages. It has one of the world’s largest digital public infrastructures. Platforms such as Aadhaar, the Unified Payments Interface and DigiLocker have demonstrated that digital systems can operate at population scale while supporting innovation across sectors. India also hosts the world’s third-largest startup ecosystem, with a rapidly expanding AI entrepreneurship landscape.

According to Stanford University’s AI Index Report 2025, India ranks among the leading countries globally in AI skill



penetration and contributes significantly to the global AI talent pool. Yet there remains a striking paradox. Indian engineers help build many of the world’s most sophisticated AI systems, but much of the intellectual property, frontier research and commercial value continue to be created elsewhere. India exports talent while importing advanced AI platforms. Bridging this gap requires rethinking education before rethinking technology. The National Education Policy 2020 rightly emphasises multidisciplinary learning, critical thinking and digital literacy. However, implementation must accelerate. AI is reducing the premium on memorisation while increasing the value of reasoning, creativity and complex problem-solving. Universities should integrate AI across disciplines instead of treating it as a specialised engineering subject. Medical colleges should teach AI-assisted diagnostics, law schools should explore algorithmic governance, business schools should incorporate data-driven decision-making, and agricultural institutions should prepare students for precision farming. Equally important is lifelong learning.

The traditional assumption that education ends in one’s early twenties is increasingly obsolete. Workers will need continuous reskilling as AI reshapes industries at an unprecedented pace. Countries such as Singapore have already institutionalised lifelong

learning through programmes like SkillsFuture, enabling citizens to update their competencies throughout their careers. India will require a similar national commitment if it hopes to preserve labour-market resilience. Skill development alone, however, is insufficient. India must also strengthen its AI ecosystem. The IndiaAI Mission is an encouraging beginning, particularly its emphasis on computing infrastructure, datasets and startup support. But becoming an AI leader demands sustained investment in research universities, semiconductor capabilities, high-performance computing and indigenous foundation models capable of understanding India’s linguistic and cultural diversity. Public-private partnerships will be essential, but so will long-term public investment in frontier science. South Asians & Diaspora

There is another reason why an AI dividend matters. Artificial intelligence is no longer simply an economic technology. It is becoming a strategic capability. AI increasingly influences defence planning, cybersecurity, healthcare, governance and industrial competitiveness. Countries that merely consume foreign AI systems risk technological dependence in areas central to national security and economic sovereignty. India cannot afford such dependence. Strategic autonomy in the 21st century will depend as much on computational capability and research ecosystems as it once

depended on energy security or military strength.

The demographic dividend has always been described as a once-in-a-generation opportunity because favourable age structures eventually disappear. India’s working-age population is expected to peak in the coming decades before the country too begins ageing. That leaves only a limited window to transform demographic potential into sustainable productivity. Artificial intelligence has therefore raised the stakes rather than diminished them. A youthful population without advanced skills may struggle in an automated economy.

A youthful population equipped with AI capabilities, digital literacy and adaptive education could become the foundation of India’s next growth story. The real question is not whether AI will replace India’s demographic dividend. It is whether India can use AI to amplify it. If policymakers invest with urgency in education, research, innovation and lifelong skills, India could become the first major economy to convert demographic strength into technological leadership. If those investments are delayed, the country risks discovering that the world’s largest workforce is no guarantee of prosperity in an economy where intelligence – both human and artificial, has become the defining source of national power.

4,800 Indians removed, 51,000 ICE arrests: What’s hapening in Trump’s America?

Last week, Venkata Vasamsetty, a long-term US green card holder, was arrested by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), three months after a judge dismissed efforts to remove her from the country. Vasamsetty, who’s been a lawful permanent resident in the US since 2013, hasn’t committed any crime, as is the case with most victims of ICE. The agency wants to remove her because she stayed in India for a few months in 2022 to visit her ailing father, and later contracted Covid. ICE accuses her of abandoning her permanent residency, a charge she denies. Two weeks earlier, the agency arrested another US resident, Pritesh Walia, a jazz musician. He has now been released on bond. Vasamsetty is also hoping to be freed on bond. But this is not the end of their troubles. The threat of deportation remains.

Vasamsetty and Walia are among the growing number of Indians affected by ICE’s operations, part of US President Donald Trump’s immigration crackdown. The US has deported more than 4,800 Indian nationals since Trump took office. As many as 1,273 have been deported already in the first half of this year, and 3,567 were sent back last year, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). Last year’s figures were the highest in 16 years, but this year’s total could be even more. Nationally, ICE arrested 51,000 people in July, a new monthly record. Trump has set a record of 2,000 arrests a day. According to Markwayne Mullin, Secretary of US Homeland Security, ICE made an average of 4,200 arrests in the first week of August. So, many more Indians could be arrested and deported in the rest of this year.

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Indians Are The Most Targeted Group

Although the largest number of arrests and deportations by the US involve nationals of Latin American and Caribbean countries, Indians now top such lists among Asians, according to Stop AAPI Hate, an American NGO that tracks and analyses data on Asian and Pacific Island nations and campaigns against ICE. Between January 2025 and March 2026, almost 28% of

the 14,402 Asians arrested were Indians. During the same period, 6,218 Asians were deported; Indians again occupied the top spot, with a 28% share of removals. Stop AAPI Hate told this author that in their analysis of the latest data, which they have not yet released, they found that "Indian people remain the most targeted by ICE, with the highest number of arrests, detentions, and deportations out of all A/PIs (Asian and Pacific Islanders)".

Indians are the third-largest foreign-born group in the United States, after Mexicans and Chinese, and there have been numerous cases of immigration and ID fraud involving them. Earlier this month, US authorities filed a case to revoke the American citizenship of India-born Harinder Singh after it was found that he had used a false identity and concealed his earlier immigration history. However, the growing targeting of Indians by US immigration officials is not due to a surge in such cases. "A broader trend we also see is that the growth of the Indian population in the US, as well as the growing prominence of Indian leaders in politics, business, etc., has spurred a hateful backlash that is being further fuelled by bigoted policies and rhetoric under the Trump administration," says Stop AAPI Hate.

How ICE Became Trump’s Most Feared Arm

ICE was formed as part of the US Homeland Security Act of 2002, a response to the 9/11 attacks in 2001. But the agency has never been as controversial as it has been since Trump began his second term as president 18 months ago. Mass deportation was Trump’s main election promise, and his administration has granted ICE unprecedented powers and near-impunity to carry out immigration crackdowns and deportations. ICE agents can stop, detain, and arrest people they suspect of being in the US illegally, which is a civil offence. But since last year, they have frequently been accused of overstepping their powers and acting as if they were pursuing hardened criminals.

ICE officers have kidnapped people, broken into cars to arrest suspects, and deported people even in violation of court orders. They have also used tear gas, pepper spray, and live bullets on non-violent protesters. At least six people, including three US citizens,



have been shot dead by immigration officers since Trump came to office. Fifty-seven people have died in ICE custody since then, according to the NGO National Immigration Project. Thirty-three died last year, the highest in over two decades. This year, 24 deaths have already been reported, and the total for the year is expected to be even worse.

In January, protests against ICE spread nationwide after a 37-year-old US citizen, Renee Nicole Good, was shot dead by its officers in Minneapolis. A day after her killing, Vice President JD Vance declared that the agent who shot Good "is protected by absolute immunity". Later that month, another US citizen, Alex Pretti, was killed by Border Patrol, an immigration agency that works alongside ICE. The authorities have not arrested or charged anyone for the killings, despite national outrage.

Electric Shock Gloves

Last week, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said it planned to purchase special gloves for ICE officers that can deliver electric shocks. Produced by the US firm Compliant Technologies, the gloves haven’t even been adopted properly by police forces in the country. They deliver low-voltage electric shocks on contact. The company says the technology in the gloves can inhibit "the subject from performing coordinated muscle movement". The news has alarmed human rights activists and some former officials of the US Immigration and Customs

Enforcement department.

But the Trump administration is happy to proceed with such measures in an attempt to meet its goal of reducing immigration to a bare minimum and deporting all those it deems illegal. Trump’s deportation target has been one million each year. However, ICE’s own figures show only 4 lakh people were deported in 2025. This has made many hard-core Trump supporters unhappy, but officials claim many more have left the US voluntarily. The DHS told The Atlantic in a statement that "more than 3 million illegal aliens have left the US because of the Trump administration’s crackdown on illegal migration, including an estimated 2.2 million self-deportations". These are staggering numbers, if true.

Trump-Loving Courts

Last September, the US Supreme Court’s Republican-appointed majority allowed ICE agents to stop people and question them about their immigration status based solely on race and ethnicity, or even on whether they speak English with an accent. This means ICE agents can decide who to stop and detain for questioning, a practice that lower-court judges had earlier found unconstitutional. This alarmed human rights groups and activists in the country. But most Federal judges are not following the Trump administration’s line, which is a ray of hope for the victims. Many have come to immigrants’ aid, ordering their release from ICE’s custody after hearing their habeas

petitions, a growing trend. In the past year, these judges have ruled against ICE’s detention tactics more than 17,300 times, according to a Politico investigation. The flood of cases has stretched the judiciary to a breaking point across the country. One District Judge, Fred Biery, told the magazine that his courthouse typically handles about 1,500 lawsuits a year but had already reached roughly 4,000 cases by May this year.

A Self-Goal For America

For decades, Indian students have been drawn to US educational institutions, producing some of the country’s top business leaders and scientists. Thanks to Trump’s policies, that is changing. Another recent report by ICEF Monitor, an education market agency, said that 59% of US higher education institutions received fewer inter-national applications this year, and 63% expect a decline in 2026-27. "The most pronounced decreases are reported for India, with only 39% of institutions indicating stable or increased application numbers," the ICEF report said. Nearly all respondents (92%) cited visa issues, such as processing delays or rising rejection rates, as the most significant factor affecting this year’s enrolment outlook, the report added. This suggests Indian students are considering other options. The question is, does Trump care?

Zohran Mamdani skips NYC’s main India Day Parade, breaks decades-old mayoral tradition

New Delhi, Aug 17 : The political spotlight at New York’s biggest India Day celebration shifted away from City Hall on Sunday after Mayor Zohran Mamdani stayed away from the Manhattan parade routinely attended by his predecessors. Mamdani had been invited to the 44th India Day Parade by the Federation of Indian Associations, according to a source familiar with the matter. His absence ended a long-standing mayoral presence at the event that dates back to the inaugural parade in 1981. Former New York mayors Eric Adams, Bill de Blasio, Michael Bloomberg, and Rudy Giuliani had attended the Manhattan celebration. The tradition began under Mayor Ed Koch. Access Premium News

Zohran Mamdani skips Manhattan India Day Parade

Mamdani was elsewhere in the city on Sunday. He attended a family day programme organised by an association of public housing residents in Brooklyn. His absence from Manhattan came a day after he joined a smaller India Independence Day



celebration in Floral Park in Queens. After Saturday’s event, Mamdani referred to his own history-making election in a post on X. He wrote that he had attended the celebration as “the first Indian American mayor of New York City”. Mamdani also invoked former Mayor David Dinkins’ description of New York as a “gorgeous mosaic”. Stream History Documentaries

“Mayor David Dinkins once described our city as a gorgeous mosaic. Today, I saw that mosaic in the Hindus and Christians, Muslims and Jains, Buddhists and Sikhs across the Indian diaspora

who have helped make our city what it is,” he wrote. Mamdani is the son of filmmaker Mira Nair and Ugandan academic Mahmood Mamdani, who is of Indian origin. Kathy Hochul leads political turnout at India Day Parade With Mamdani missing from the Manhattan event, New York Governor Kathy Hochul became its most prominent political attendee. Hochul joined members of the Indian-American community as they celebrated India’s 80th Independence Day. She said she was honoured to participate with New York’s “vibrant community” of Indian

Americans. Also marching were Republican candidate for New York attorney general Saritha Komatireddy, New York State Senator Jeremy Cooney and Congressman Shri Thanedar. Indian Tricolour lights up New York landmarks

The parade was part of wider Independence Day celebrations across New York. The Consulate General of India in New York said its parade float showcased India’s strengths in trade, technology, and development along with the country’s cultural heritage and tourism. It thanked the Federation of Indian Associations for organising the celebration of India and the India-US partnership. Several prominent sites were also illuminated in the colours of the Indian Tricolour. They included the Empire State Building, Grand Central Terminal, Niagara Falls, and Bloomberg’s New York headquarters, according to the Consulate General. The Consulate described the illuminations as a tribute to India’s 80th Independence Day and the ties between India and the United States.

Russian missile strike hits Lakshmi Mittal’s Ukraine steel plant; 2 killed, production disrupted

Masco, Aug 17 : A Russian missile strike has forced a partial halt to production at ArcelorMittal Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine’s largest steel plant, after two people were killed and 14 others were reported injured in the attack. The strike hit the sprawling industrial facility in Kryvyi Rih, the hometown of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Power-generation and blast-furnace facilities suffered damage, according to the steelmaker. ArcelorMittal Kryvyi Rih said some of its production processes had been stopped following the attack. Subscribing To “As a result of the attack, key production facilities in the power generation and blast furnace sectors have been damaged, and the plant’s production processes have been partially halted,” the company said. ArcelorMittal Kryvyi Rih production hit after Russian missile strike

The plant is part of global steelmaker ArcelorMittal. Indian businessman Lakshmi N Mittal is the company’s Executive Chairman, while Aditya Mittal serves as Chief Executive Officer. The attack puts one of Ukraine’s major industrial facilities directly in the latest wave of long-range strikes exchanged between Russia and Ukraine. Both countries have intensified drone attacks, with energy, industrial, and military infrastructure among the targets cited during the latest exchanges. Zelenskyy says Russia fired over 1,550 drones in a week. Zelenskyy said Russia had launched more than 1,550 attack drones, nearly 1,560 guided aerial bombs, and 62 missiles against Ukrainian cities and communities over the previous week. Most of the missiles were ballistic missiles of different types,



according to the Ukrainian President. His figures came as the latest attacks struck Kryvyi Rih and other parts of Ukraine. Russia, meanwhile, said Ukrainian forces had mounted a major drone assault of their own. Russia says ArcelorMittal plant was among targets. Russia’s Defence Ministry said the metallurgical complex in Kryvyi Rih was among facilities targeted in its latest attacks. It also said defence-related production facilities in Kyiv

were struck. Moscow separately claimed that its forces had intercepted hundreds of Ukrainian drones during the latest wave of attacks. Reports citing the Russian Defence Ministry put the figure at 822. The latest strike has left ArcelorMittal Kryvyi Rih assessing damage to facilities central to its steelmaking operations. The attack comes more than four years after Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Iran puts \$30,000 bounty on US troops; women offered double for killing or capturing them



Tehran, Aug 17 : Iran’s Army chief Amir Hatami has put a \$30,000 reward on the killing or capture of US military personnel, with women promised twice the amount for carrying out such an act. The announcement comes as Tehran and Washington remain locked in a confrontation that has continued despite a ceasefire and subsequent efforts to establish a framework for negotiations. Hatami said the Iranian Army would pay the

reward following what he described as a “large number of requests” from people seeking to participate. He did not specify where or when US personnel might be targeted. Iran Army chief announces \$30,000 reward for US soldiers

“Anyone who kills or captures and hands over an invading American military personnel will receive a reward equivalent to USD 30,000 or 5 billion tomans from the Islamic Republic of Iran’s Army,” Hatami said.

He referred to the reward in tomans, an informal Iranian monetary unit equivalent to 10,000 rials. “Courageous Iranian women who carry out such an action will receive double the reward,” Hatami said. There is no known deployment of US ground forces inside Iran during the conflict. The exception was an April rescue operation after an F-15 went down. Around 200 US personnel and more than 170 aircraft were involved in the mission to recover the aircraft’s weapons systems officer. Hatami also renewed Tehran’s demand that American forces leave the region. “They no longer have permission to enter the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, or the Strait of Hormuz,” he said. His remarks put fresh focus on the Strait of Hormuz and surrounding waters, where Iran and the US have exchanged sporadic fire since the collapse of diplomatic

efforts. US-Iran fighting followed February 28 strikes. The current hostilities began on February 28 after the United States and Israel launched strikes against Iran. An April ceasefire stopped the fighting before an attempt was made in June to establish a framework for peace negotiations. That effort later collapsed. Since then, exchanges of fire have continued intermittently, particularly around southern Iran and the Strait of Hormuz. Communication between the two sides has continued indirectly through mediators, but the talks have not produced a major diplomatic breakthrough. ANI reported that 17 US military personnel have been killed since the conflict began, with the latest casualties recorded in July. None of those deaths occurred inside Iran, according to the report. US personnel were among those killed in Jordan and Iraq.

‘Too late to cancel’: Trump scales back major US-South Korea drills, calls them ‘hostile’ to North Korea

Washington Aug 17: US President Donald Trump has ordered a substantial reduction in joint military exercises with South Korea, calling the drills costly and a “totally inappropriate and hostile” signal to North Korea. His intervention comes as the annual Ulchi Freedom Shield exercise is scheduled to run from August 17 to 27. Trump said cancelling the drills was no longer possible but directed Secretary of War Pete Hegseth to scale them back. Trump cites relationship with Kim Jong Un over military drills

Trump linked his decision to his relationship with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. News “Based on my very good relationship with Kim Jong Un, of North Korea, I am not happy with the fact that the United States has, long ago, agreed to participate in Joint Military Exercises with South Korea,” Trump wrote on Truth Social. He also objected to the



cost of the exercises and the message he believes they send to Pyongyang. “These exercises are not only costly, with much of these costs paid for by the United States of America (as usual!), but send a signal that is totally inappropriate and hostile, to a Country that, as long as Donald J. Trump has been President, has been unthreatening and respectful,” he said. Trump then issued his instruction to Hegseth. “Therefore, and based on the fact that it is too late to cancel, I have instructed

Secretary of War, Pete Hegseth, to substantially reduce the Joint Military Exercises!” he wrote. North Korea has repeatedly criticised joint US-South Korea military exercises and described them as provocations and rehearsals for war. About 18,000 South Korean military personnel are expected to participate in this year’s Ulchi Freedom Shield exercise. The drills are expected to include training against drones, GPS disruption, and cyberattacks as the two sides prepare for

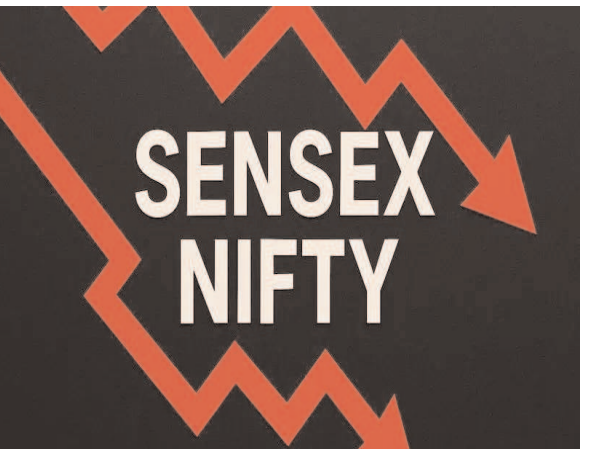
North Korea’s evolving military capabilities. Trump’s order comes as the exercise gets underway and directly changes the US approach to an annual military engagement that has repeatedly drawn objections from Pyongyang. Trump says South Korea declined Iran proposal

In the same social media post, Trump raised a separate conversation with South Korean President Lee Jae Myung concerning Iran. Trump claimed he recently asked Lee whether South Korea wanted to join the United States in what he called the “Denuclearization of the Islamic Republic of Iran”. “While somewhat unrelated, I recently asked the President of South Korea if they would like to join us in the Denuclearization of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and they said, ‘No thanks!’” Trump wrote. He offered no further details about the exchange.

Sensex, Nifty end lower as IT stocks drag markets

Mumbai, Aug 17 : The benchmark indices ended lower on Monday, weighed down by selling pressure in IT and FMCG stocks. The Sensex declined 281.09 points, or 0.36 per cent, to close at 77,728.16, while the Nifty fell 78.35 points, or 0.32 per cent, to settle at 24,287.65. Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that the 24,400 zone remains the immediate resistance area. “A sustained breakout above 24,400 would be required to improve the near-term structure and support a recovery towards the 24,500–24,600 region,” an analyst said. “On the downside, the 24,300–24,200 zone now remains an important support. A decisive break

below 24,250 could intensify selling pressure and drag the index towards the 24,000 psychological mark,” as per the market expert. The experts further added that overall, the bias is likely to remain volatile. The broader market remained relatively resilient, with the Nifty MidCap index gaining 0.05 per cent and the Nifty SmallCap index rising 0.36 per cent. Among the major Nifty constituents, Infosys, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries and HCL Technologies were among the biggest laggards, dragging the headline indices lower. Sectoral performance was mixed, with the Nifty IT index emerging as the worst performer after declining nearly 2 per cent. In contrast, the Nifty Metal and Nifty Realty



indices recorded the strongest gains during the session. Experts said that the market remained subdued as investors adopted a cautious approach, with weakness in key IT stocks offsetting gains in select metal and realty shares. “On the domestic front, bond yields moved higher following elevated crude

price and the RBI’s decision to advance the closure of the FCNR(B) deposit window,” a market expert stated. “Globally, a weaker U.S. dollar and softer consumer data have eased concerns over near-term monetary tightening, improving long-term risk appetite,” the analyst added.

India world’s 2nd-largest fish producer, contributes 8 pc to global output

New Delhi, Aug 17 : India is the world’s second-largest fish producer, contributing 8 per cent to global output, ranks second in aquaculture production, leads in shrimp production and export, and is one of the largest producers in capture fisheries, the government said on Monday. Since 2015, the government has made cumulative investments of Rs 39,272 crore through key initiatives such as the Blue Revolution Scheme, Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF), Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), and its sub-scheme, Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah - Yojana (PMMKSSY), to drive sustainable growth and development in the sector. The fisheries and aquacul-



ture sector plays a critical role in India’s economy, providing livelihoods to approximately 3 crore fishers and fish farmers while generating significant employment opportunities across the value chain, according to Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying. The ministry further said that youth, fishers and fish farmers are central to the future of fisheries sector, bringing enterprise, innovation and dynamism across the fisheries value chain from modern aqua-

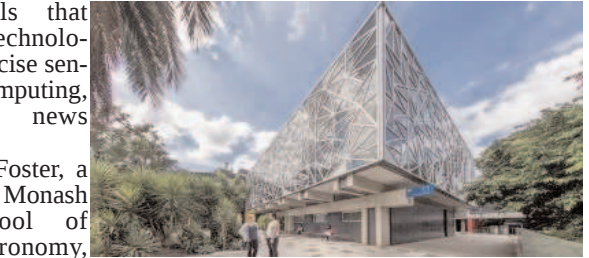
culture practices, digital traceability and cold-chain management to value addition, branding, marketing and exports. Their active participation is expected to further strengthen fisheries as a key pillar of India’s Blue Economy. Notably, the Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah - Yojana (PM-MKSSY), a Central Sector Sub-scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), on 8th February 2024 for a peri-

od of four years from FY 2023-24 to FY 2026-27. PM-MKSSY will be implemented in all the States and Union Territories with an estimated outlay of Rs 6,000 crore. It aims to address the inherent weaknesses of the sector through identified financial and technological intervention for bringing in institutional reforms to support the transformation of the fisheries sector in the long-term. Following the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort, the Department of Fisheries organised an interaction programme with beneficiaries under PM-MKSSY and their spouses to recognise their contributions and highlight the impact of government initiatives in the fisheries sector.

Researchers in Australia predict new form of quantum matter

Melbourne, Aug 17 : Researchers in Australia have predicted a new type of quantum matter, challenging decades of thinking about how ultracold particles behave. The study shows that under the right conditions, mixtures of two fundamentally different types of quantum particles -- bosons and fermions -- can form stable, self-bound “quantum droplets,” according to a statement released Monday by Australia’s Monash University. Until now, scientists believed these exotic droplets were unlikely to exist in strongly interacting Bose-Fermi systems, according to the study, published in Physical Review Letters with collaborators from Heidelberg University in Germany. Researchers said the discovery provides a new theoretical roadmap for experiments around the world and could deepen understanding of

quantum materials that underpin future technologies, from ultra-precise sensors to quantum computing, reports Xinhua news agency. Lead author Sam Foster, a PhD candidate at Monash University’s School of Physics and Astronomy, said the findings open the way to exploring new quantum states and address a long-standing theoretical challenge. “These two very different types of particles could balance each other perfectly to create a stable droplet that effectively holds itself together,” Foster said, adding that previous theories could describe such systems only when particles interacted relatively weakly, while the new approach allows researchers to explore stronger interactions where



more complex physics emerges. The study found that unlike an ordinary liquid droplet, a quantum droplet exists because of the strange rules of quantum mechanics. In this case, an attractive force between the particles is exactly balanced by the pressure generated by the fermions, preventing the system from collapsing. The team found the predicted droplets should be achievable using existing ultracold atom experiments, making experimental confirmation a realistic next step.

DC Is Too Cool...

Lokesh Kanagraj... Well, he is always introduced as an ace filmmaker, right... But now, he is also an actor. The magic in Lokesh's films is always experienced in the best possible way. And coming to the movie, DC in which he essayed the lead role thoroughly impressed all and sundry. Within 10 days of its release, DC crossed Rs 50 crore mark and is now slowly marching towards a bigger milestone.

Thus, this film carries additional significance to Lokesh as it is his debut film as an actor! Thus, now he is an ace actor and an ace director too. Thus, Lokesh's DC is now witnessing a strong box-office run. Additionally, it is also holding the social media buzz as Tollywood's prominent faces Mahesh Babu and Allu Arjun heaped praises on the movie through social media... Mahesh Babu dropped his review on social media stating the movie as an outstanding one... "#DC... what an original and outstanding



film. Just too cool... Loved every bit of it!! Congrats to the entire team..." Lokesh showed off his gratitude by dropping a thank you note in the comments section while director Arun also dropped a sweet reply thanking Mahesh Babu, "Thank you so much, sir! This truly means a lot to me. Seeing you watch and appreciate

#DC is incredibly special. Really grateful for your love and kind words." On the other hands, even Allu Arjun also watched this movie and stated it as a Tamil classic... "Watched #DC ! It's a Tamil classic. Every film lover must watch it. It's poetry for those who get it. Congratulations to the entire #DC team. Highest

respect to Director @ArunMatheswaran garu. @anirudhofficial absolute master booster! Technically brilliant. All the artists are fabbb, especially #WamiqaGabbu garu, and of course the hero! And my director @Dir_Lokesh garu, the biggest pillar of support." Director Arun thanked Allu Arjun for his review and expressed his happiness... "Thank you so much, sir, for watching #DC and embracing the film with so much love. It means a lot to the entire team. As a filmmaker, your words and appreciation make this even more special for us."

This movie also holds an ensemble cast of Wamiqa Gabbu, Sanjana Krishnamoorthy, Aadukalam Naren, Thalaivasal Vijay and Kasthuri Raja. While the movie highlights the story of Devadas, whose family becomes a victim of police brutality! Thus, DC stands as an action, survival and redemption thriller!



My first choice is Ravi Teja.. I wrote a story just for him: Director Buchibabu

Buchibabu Sana, who became a star director after getting a sensational success with 'Uppena' and then a huge hit with Ram Charan like 'Peddhi', made interesting comments on mass Maharaja Ravi Teja. The pre-release ceremony of 'Irumudi', directed by Shiva Nirvana, starring Ravi Teja as the hero, was held in Hyderabad. Buchibabu, who attended the event as the chief guest, attracted everyone's attention by openly revealing his desire to do a film with Ravi Teja. Speaking on the occasion, Buchibabu said, "Before I came to the industry, when I started my journey as a writer, the first story I wrote was for Ravi Teja garu. I prepared the script keeping in mind his energy and attitude. I still have that story. I will definitely tell him the full story in the future. It has been my lifelong desire to do a film



with Ravi Teja garu." The fans of the mass maharaja present erupted in cheers and applause at Buchibabu's words. Buchibabu, who gained national recognition with his first film 'Uppena' as a disciple of Sukumar, gave Ram Charan a milestone success in his career with his second film 'Peddhi'. With this, he became the most wanted director in Tollywood. Even top heroes are showing interest in working under his direction. There is already a rumor that Buchibabu has pitched a story to

Megastar Chiranjeevi and the project is almost finalized. At such a time, Buchibabu's announcement that he wants to do a film with his beloved Ravi Teja has gained significance. Analysts are predicting that if Buchibabu's mark film comes out with a solid mass content and reminiscent of vintage Ravi Teja, it will surely set new records at the box office. And it remains to be seen when this crazy combination will materialize.

The suspense thriller, The Red Bag is all set to release worldwide on 21st August,

The movie is produced by Harikrishna Somisetty under the Memory Makers banner, while Ravi Kumar Seerapu is the writer and director of the film. The star cast includes Kabir Singh, Prasad Behara, Raadhya, Monika, Sneha Singh, Akanksha, Eshan Shankar, Avinash Badal, Bhargavi, and Raasi. The makers have now unveiled the release date of the film as the PVR INOX Pictures has come on board for the theatrical release of the movie. Moreover, the film has managed to create quite an impression with the release of the poster of the movie.



The poster displays three-armed women, a red bag, cityscape,

and some action, suggesting that the film will have more

than one twist and turn in the story. They have also released the teaser of the film which has received an overwhelming response from the audience. The Red Bag will be a stylish suspense thriller where nothing is as it seems. Moreover, the team has remained mum about the plot of the film, leaving the suspense and mystery for the audience to unravel in the theatres. The cinematography of the film is superb with Priyesh Guruswamy, while Shekhar Mopuri has composed the music for the film. Shiva Sharvani is the editor of the film.

Ameer Log: Lead actors promise a pakka Hyderabad story

Hyderabad-based film Ameer Log will be unveiled in the theatres on August 21, and the lead actors believe that the audience will relate to the film's emotions, regardless of the language and dialect. This film directed by Ramana Reddy Soma is produced by Madhavi Reddy Soma of Awwal Number Production and Manohar Reddy Manchuri. It will be released by Spirit Media. The cast members stated that the film depicts the true Hyderabad basti culture and lifestyle. They also added that they grew up in a similar environment, so it was easy for them to adapt to the Telangana dialect and act in sync with their characters. The majority of the film's recording was done on a sync sound basis, and



only a small portion of the road dubbing was done. In addition to this, the lead actors mentioned that biryani plays a

significant role in the movie, just like in everyone's life. In fact, they compared Ameer Log to a complete biryani, stating that the

flavor of the story lingers in the mouth. The film production team also set up a cloud kitchen during the shoot, and the actors were always available to help. The cast members also revealed that Ameer Log is a slice-of-life family drama about the lives of three brothers. Moreover, Ameer Log contains dialogues in Telugu, Hindi, and Urdu languages because this is how Hyderabad's real language sounds. The lead actors of the film insist that everything in it is natural, including the dialogues. They also said that Smaran's music and background score helps the movie. Ameer Log promises to provide the audience with an immersive experience of real Hyderabad.

Young hero's 24 hr non-stop shoot

Energetic Star Ram Pothineni is raising the bar for his directorial debut RAPO23 by taking on an extraordinary workload both in front of and behind the camera. The actor-director completed a marathon 24-hour shooting stretch on the outskirts of Pondicherry, underlining the scale of his commitment to the project. The latest Pondicherry schedule lasted for nearly nine days and featured an elaborate production setup. While delivering his performance as the protagonist, Ram was also actively involved in directing the proceedings, making the lengthy schedule particularly challenging.



The shoot was eventually brought to a temporary halt after unexpected rains disrupted the proceedings. The team has since returned to Hyderabad, but plans are already in place to travel back to Pondicherry and finish the portions left incomplete on the same massive

setup. RAPO23 is being mounted as a large-scale production, with Krishna Pothineni bankrolling it on Rapo Cinematics banner. More details about the film's world, characters and additional cast are expected to emerge as production progresses.

Priya Bhavani Shankar on flower pot roles

Priya Bhavani Shankar has always been selective about the roles she takes up, and her latest conversation with Gulte Pro's Ram Venkat Srikanth ahead of Irumudi's release gives an interesting glimpse into her approach towards cinema. The actress opened up about choosing characters that actually have something meaningful to contribute.

One of the key points from the conversation is Priya's take on the typical flower pot roles offered to actresses. She made it clear that she does not want to be part of films merely for screen presence, songs or glamour, and prefers characters that have relevance to the story. Priya also spoke extensively about Irumudi and how the film's rooted setting adds another layer to the storytelling. According to her, the geography and culture are not just backdrops in the film but an important part of the narrative and the



characters. The actress recalled shooting in remote locations with limited network connectivity. Rather than seeing it as a difficulty, Priya described the experience as something that helped the cast and crew stay connected with each other and completely immerse themselves in the world of the film. She also had interesting things to say about director Shiva Nirvana and his working style. Priya appreciated the director's ego free approach and willingness to listen to actors, making the creative process much more collaborative on the sets. Priya was also pleasantly

surprised by Ravi Teja's performance. She revealed how his grounded and rooted portrayal challenged some of her initial perceptions about the star, especially when compared to the larger than life image associated with him. From flower pot roles to meaningful characters, rooted cinema and her experience working on Irumudi, Priya's conversation offers plenty of interesting insights into how an actress looks at her career. For anyone curious about what goes behind an actor's choice of roles, this conversation with Gulte Pro is definitely worth watching.

'2K Lovers' launched with a pooja ceremony

The much-anticipated Telugu movie 2K Lovers (Soul of Love) was released with a big pooja on Sunday. The film is the first production venture of the MB Production House. The film directed by Rajesh Naidu and produced by Bichu Naik stars Mohith Pedada and Shruti Shankar in the lead roles. The film set in Telangana is a soulful love story showcasing romance, family emotions, humour and relationships. Rasool Bhaay has written the story for the film and the makers have promised an entertaining feel good flick on modern love. The film witnessed a star-studded guest list with veteran Mani Sharma, Tanikella Bharani and VN Aditya as chief guests. VN Aditya started the proceedings by beating the clapperboard for the first time, while Mani Sharma took charge of beating the first shot.



Tanikella Bharani unveiled the script of the film. The director Rajesh Naidu said that Rasool's story is a soulful romance set in the Telangana and it will be a complete entertainer. He thanked the producer Bichu Naik and the chief guests for their constant support and cooperation.

The producer Bichu Naik said that 2K Lovers will mark a special journey for them as MB Production. He further added that the film is a unique love story, shot in Telangana dialect, which reflects the emotions of families and promises to be an unforgettable experience for the viewers

even after leaving the theatre. The writer Rasool Bhaay said that the film deals with emotions like love, pain, tears, relationships, bonding and has a good share of comedy in it. The lead hero Mohith Pedada said that it is a new experience for him as the film showcases a love story different from the clichéd ones. Meanwhile, Shruti Shankar said that she was overwhelmed by the story of the film as it made her cry even before the shooting commenced. She further added that the film has plenty of comedy in store for the audience. The actor Praneeth Reddy said that his role in the film is altogether different from the ones he has done earlier. The film also features Sai Kumar, Tanikella Bharani, Sapthagiri, Racha Ravi, Motta Rajendran, Aamani, Shivannarayana, Ramya Ponduri and other stalwarts in the supporting roles.

GV Prakash losing his magical touch?

GV Prakash is known for his sensible soundtracks, soulful music and joyful songs. His music has often added extra emotion and energy to films. GV Prakash is known for his soulful and memorable music, with films like Lucky Baskhar and Sir (Vaathi) standing as strong examples of his work in recent times. However, his latest output has not been on par with his previous work, say his critics. His latest film, Vishwanath And Sons, too, seemed to lack the



magical touch that is usually associated with GV Prakash. However, now, it feels like GV is missing that magical touch. In Vishwanath And Sons, except for the Butterfly song, which is also carried well by Mamitha Baiju, GV's work feels weak for most of the film. There are several scenes that could have looked much more beautiful with soulful and emotional background music. But the music often feels flat and fails to elevate those

moments. This has made some music lovers wonder if GV Prakash is slowly losing the touch that once made his music special. Now, all eyes are on his next film, Irumudi, to see if he can bring back that magic. Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja's Irumudi will be an important one for GV at the current stage. Fans are hoping that GV Prakash will deliver a full-fledged and memorable musical album this time and bring back his magical touch.

1st Test: Suthar, Jadeja star as India bowl out SL for 284, take 178-run lead despite Dinusha’s ton

Galle, Aug 17 : Left-arm spinners Manav Suthar and Ravindra Jadeja picked seven scalps collectively as India bowled Sri Lanka out for 284 at stumps on day three of the first Test at the Galle International Stadium on Monday. Before rain forced early stumps to be taken, Suthar and Jadeja ensured India secured a commanding 178-run first-innings lead despite a valiant maiden Test century from Sri Lanka all-rounder Sonal Dinusha. Suthar impressed everyone with his turn and bounce to pick 4-76 and be India’s standout bowler, while Jadeja took 3-57 to complete a clinical bowling display for India, who also had Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Siraj and Prasadh Krishna picking a scalp each, as the visitors put themselves firmly in control of the contest. For Sri Lanka, a determined 146-run stand between Dinusha, who got his maiden Test century in 168 balls and Niroshan Dickwella, who hit 80 off 115 balls, did a great job in not only frustrating the Indians but also ensured the hosts avoided the follow-on,



especially after being 90/5 at one point. Resuming the final session from a position of strength, after the second session saw them not lose a single wicket, Sri Lanka’s resistance dissolved once the partnership was broken, as India’s bowling unit tore through the lower order to claim the final five wickets for 50 runs. Dickwella signalled Sri Lanka’s intent immediately after the tea break by ramping Prasadh Krishna over the slips for four, while Dinusha greeted Jadeja with a towering slog-sweep for six. But Krishna provided the crucial breakthrough in the 62nd over as he found subtle movement away from Dickwella, who gave a faint edge behind to Rishabh Pant and end a magnificent 146-run

stand for the sixth wicket. Jadeja then reached his milestone 350th Test wicket in bizarre fashion. Keshara Nuwantha drove a turning delivery straight into the knee of silly point fielder Yashasvi Jaiswal, with the deflection looping conveniently to Shubman Gill, who completed the catch at cover. It made Jadeja only the fourth player and second Indian overall to score more than 4000 runs and pick 350 wickets in men’s Test cricket history after Kapil Dev, Daniel Vettori and Ian Botham. Jadeja has also become the ninth spinner, fifth Indian and 28th overall to take 350 Test wickets, with him also becoming the first Indian left-arm bowler to pick 350 wickets in Test cricket. Dinusha remained res-

olute amid the chaotic lower-order collapse, sweeping Suthar to deep square leg for a single to get his century in 167 balls. The milestone was swiftly followed by India’s knockout blow. Prabath Jayasuriya mis-cued a slog-sweep off Suthar to deep square leg, before Jadeja trapped Dinusha lbw with a delivery that bit sharply off the pitch. Suthar sealed India’s lead by having Lahiru Kumara stumped while charging down the pitch. Brief Scores: India 462 in 116.4 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 167, KL Rahul 82; Prabath Jayasuriya 4-109, Keshara Nuwantha 3-175) lead Sri Lanka 284 in 79.4 overs (Sonal Dinusha 100, Niroshan Dickwella 80; Manav Suthar 4-76, Ravindra Jadeja 3-57) by 178 runs

Ravindra Jadeja becomes first Indian left-arm bowler to pick 350 wickets in Test cricket



Galle, Aug 17 : Ravindra Jadeja achieved another significant milestone in his illustrious Test career during the ongoing first match against Sri Lanka at the Galle International Stadium in Galle on Monday. Jadeja, who returned to the Test side after missing the one-off game against Afghanistan, has become the first Indian left-arm bowler to take 350 wickets in the longest international format. Jadeja achieved the feat on Day 3 of the first Test at the Galle International Stadium when he removed bowling all-rounder Keshara

Nuwantha in the third session of the moving day. The Indian iconic all-rounder got Nuwantha out with Shubman Gill taking the catch at covers after the Sri Lankan batsman tried whacking a ball towards covers but ended up hitting it to the thigh of an evading Yashasvi Jaiswal at silly point. The ball ricocheted towards Gill, who completed the catch. In the process, Jadeja became the first Indian left-arm bowler to take 350 wickets in the Test format, with former fast-bowler Zaheer Khan a distant second now with 311 wickets. The 37-

year-old is also the fifth Indian overall to have taken 350 wickets, joining the likes of Anil Kumble (619), Ravichandran Ashwin (537), Kapil Dev (434) and Harbhajan Singh (417). Jadeja is also the third left-arm spinner in the world to have achieved the milestone, joining the likes of Rangana Herath (433) and Daniel Vettori (362). In the process, he also achieved another significant record. Jadeja is now only the fourth player in the history of Test cricket to have a double of 4000-plus Test runs and 350-plus Test wickets. Only

Kapil Dev (5248, 434), Ian Botham (5200, 383) and Daniel Vettori (4531, 362) have achieved the milestone before him. India managed to put Sri Lanka’s resistance to a halt in the third session after the hosts put up a brilliant fight in the latter half of the first and the entirety of the second session. Returning to the Test side after three years, Niroshan Dickwella scored a strong 80, while youngster Sonal Dinusha made 89 as they forged a partnership of 146 for the sixth wicket. The hosts were reeling at 90/5 before the two stepped up and put up a fight. They took the team to 236/5 before Prasadh Krishna got the veteran Dickwella. Soon after, Jadeja came and removed Nuwantha for his milestone wicket. India had made 462 in the first innings with Devdutt Padikkal leading the way with his 167, while KL Rahul (82) and Dhruv Jurel (51) also made strong contributions on Day 2.

BWF World Championships: Treesa-Gayatri cruise into next round with dominant win



New Delhi, Aug 17 : Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand Pullela continued India’s positive start at the BWF World Championships, producing a dominant straight-game victory over Spain’s Lucia Rodriguez and Paula Lopez in front of a vocal home crowd here on Monday. The Indian pair began with high energy, feeding off the support from the packed stands. Treesa and Gayatri controlled the opening game from the outset and never

allowed the Spanish duo to settle, taking it 21-9. The second game followed a similar pattern, with the Indians racing to a 3-0 lead before Rodriguez and Lopez responded with two consecutive points. Treesa and Gayatri quickly regained control and went into the interval with an 11-7 advantage. The Indians continued to dictate play after the break, maintaining their lead before closing out the game 21-13 to seal a comfortable victory.

Earlier, M R Arjun and Hariharan Amsakarunan gave India its first win of the championships, advancing to the men’s doubles Round of 32 after Ireland’s Scott Guildlea and Paul Reynolds retired due to injury with the Indian pair leading 21-16, 6-4. Five-time World Championships medallist PV Sindhu then added another win for India, defeating Ireland’s Sophia Noble in straight games. Sindhu dominated the contest to take the

opening game 21-7 before closing out the second 21-11. Sindhu’s victory gives India another strong result on the opening day as the home crowd continues to rally behind the country’s players at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium. India’s campaign continues with more action later in the day, with Ayush Shetty set to face top seed and defending champion Shi Yu Qi of China in the men’s singles.

Smriti's skill, Harmanpreet's tenacity makes them exceptional competitors: Perry

London, Aug 17 : Legendary Australia seam-bowling all-rounder Ellyse Perry has lauded the skillsets of India captain Harmanpreet Kaur and vice-captain Smriti Mandhana, describing the latter’s mind and skill as ‘incredible’ while highlighting the former’s fierce competitive spirit. Ellyse recently led Birmingham Phoenix in The Hundred 2026 and concluded her campaign with a match-winning performance in their final league game. “What makes Smriti so successful? Her amazing skill. I think she’s got incredible willpower and a super-strong mind, the way she approaches the game, the way she prepares, the way she knows herself, the way she thinks about things, and the way that she likes challenges. “She’s got it all. Harman, I think her greatest strength is her tenacity. She’s a great competitor, and when she’s going, she hits some of the biggest shots in the women’s game,” said Ellyse to JioStar. Reflecting on her own remarkable career longevity and personal evolution over the years, Ellyse credited gradual, continuous learning rather than any single turning point. “You just naturally evolve as you grow as a person. Over the many years I’ve been involved in the game,



there have been a number of different experiences, things to learn, people to work with and new avenues to explore. “I guess incrementally, as that happens, you add new things or change the way you do things. Often, they’re only small changes, but over a long period of time, there’s always something new or a way to learn more. Hopefully, you keep improving, and that just kind of builds upon each other. So, nothing in particular, just years of experience.” Despite accumulating numerous World Cup titles and accolades on the global stage, Ellyse maintained that wearing the Australian shirt remains her ultimate highlight. “Honestly, just being able to play for Australia would be my proudest achievement. I’m a really

passionate and patriotic Australian, and I love representing my country.” Looking ahead to the inaugural ICC Women’s Champions Trophy in 2027, Ellyse welcomed the new addition to the international calendar, while acknowledging the physical and mental demands it will place on teams. “It’s another great opportunity for the women’s game and for all the teams competing. From my perspective, it’s a new event, so it’s always exciting to be a part of something like that, and a new spot on the calendar, which will be great for everyone. You want to play every game well. “This tournament will be physically and mentally a huge challenge, and preparing for those matches, everyone’s going to have to be spot on. But yeah, the

mindset remains the same, you just want to win every game,” she added. Offering her perspective on the next generation of female cricketers, Ellyse highlighted the shifting landscape of the women’s game and stressed on the value of mutual learning between generations as the key behind growing the game. “I was unbelievably fortunate to have some amazing advice when I was younger. I grew up playing cricket locally with some great friends, and I’ve always gone down to the nets with my dad. He’s taught me just about everything I know about cricket, and I’ve just loved having him as a confidant and someone to lean on all the time. “I think the landscape of women’s cricket is really different these days. You walk into a very different environment as a young professional, but those girls are so well prepared for that. So, I don’t think there’s any one piece of advice. It’s probably just as much as they would learn from current players, I learn from them. “They’ve got a different experience, a different energy and a different way of going about things. So, it’s just about supporting each other and having a really open mind to learn from each other,” she concluded.

BWF World Championships: Arjun-Hariharan advance to Round of 32 after Irish pair retires



New Delhi, Aug 17 : India opened its campaign at the BWF World Championships on home soil with M R Arjun and Hariharan Amsakarunan advancing to the men’s doubles Round of 32 after Ireland’s Scott Guildlea and Paul Reynolds were forced to retire from their opening-round contest on Monday. The Indian pair took the opening game 21-16 and moved 6-4 ahead in the second before the Irish combination was unable to continue due to an

injury, bringing the match to an early end. Arjun and Amsakarunan were in control for much of the opening game, although Guildlea and Reynolds stayed within touching distance. The Indians remained composed in the crucial rallies and converted their chances to take the lead. The second game barely had time to develop before the injury forced the Irish pair to retire, handing India its first victory of the championships.

The result gives Arjun and Amsakarunan a positive start at a World Championships being staged in India for the first time since 2009. The 2026 edition is being held at New Delhi’s Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium from August 17 to 23, bringing the tournament back to the country after a 17-year gap. The Indian duo will now await their next opponents as they look to build on their opening-day win. There is plenty more Indian interest on the

opening day. Five-time World Championships medallist PV Sindhu is set to begin her women’s singles campaign against Ireland’s Sophia Noble, with the Indian star chasing a record sixth medal at the event. Ayush Shetty, meanwhile, faces top seed and defending champion Shi Yu Qi of China in the men’s singles. Shetty has faced the Chinese star three times and is yet to beat him. Earlier, Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand will take on Spain’s Paula Lopez and Lucia Rodriguez, while Kavipriya Selvam and Simran Singh face Spain’s Nikol Carulla and Carmen Maria Jimenez later in the day. With Sindhu and Shetty still to take the court, India’s campaign has already begun with a win, albeit one cut short by injury, as Arjun and Amsakarunan move into the next round of the home World Championships.

Cristiano Ronaldo hints at end of legendary football career: ‘Probably my last year’

Melbourne, Aug 17 : Cristiano Ronaldo has offered his strongest indication yet that his remarkable football career could be nearing its end, admitting that the current season is “probably my last year” in the sport. The Portugal captain, who turns 42 next year, made the revelation in an interview with Vogue published on Sunday, while stopping short of announcing a definitive retirement date. “This is probably my last year of football, and I want to leave a spectacular legacy,” Ronaldo said. Ronaldo’s contract with Saudi Pro League club Al Nassr runs until June 2027, but the five-time Ballon d’Or winner has previously acknowledged that retirement is approaching. In November last year, Ronaldo said he expected to continue playing for another “one or two years” and confirmed that the 2026 FIFA World Cup would be his final appearance at football’s biggest tournament.

Portugal’s World Cup campaign ended last month with a defeat to Spain in the last 16. Ronaldo scored three goals during the tournament. His latest comments suggest that he could bring the curtain down on his playing career sooner than previously expected. The 41-year-old has already started looking beyond football, saying he wants to spend more time with his family and explore interests away from the game. “I have my future all mapped out,” Ronaldo told Vogue. “I have so many things to keep me busy that to tell you just one thing is hard.” The Portuguese star said football could leave a significant void after retirement and that he would need to fill his time with different activities, including travelling and playing padel. “Because after all it’s been 25 years with a lot of sacrifice,” he said. The interview was conducted five days before



Ronaldo married his long-time partner Georgina Rodriguez in Cascais, Portugal, adding another major milestone to a period of significant personal and professional change. Ronaldo began his senior career with Sporting CP before moving to Manchester United, Real Madrid and Juventus. He joined Al Nassr in January 2023. His nine-year spell at Real Madrid remains the defining chapter of his club career. In 438 appearances for the Spanish side, Ronaldo scored a club-

record 450 goals and established himself as one of the most influential players in the club’s history. His latest retirement comments also come shortly after Lionel Messi, his long-time rival, raised questions over his own future following the death of his father, Jorge Messi. For Ronaldo, however, the focus now appears to be on making the final chapter of a record-breaking career as memorable as the 25 years that came before it.

Ravi Pal elected as state chairman of Youth Hostels



By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, Aug 17
CH Ravi Pal elected as state chairman of Youth Hostels Association of India The new executive committee was elected at the state general meeting held at the Youth Hostels building on Beach Road on Sunday. Chimala Ravi Pal, who contested as chairman for the second consecutive term, was unanimously elected. Dr. Verma was elected as president, A. Pundarikaksha, N. Mallikarjuna

Rao, J. Madhusudhan Rao as vice presidents, V.V.V.N. Jagapathi Raju as treasurer, K.V.E. Prasad as secretary and Barri Umamaheswara Rao as managing secretary. The new executive committee will hold office for three years. Telangana Youth Hostels Association Chairman Venkat Yadav was present as election observers. After assuming office, the new executive committee appointed various committees.

Schwan Lab' Inaugurated at GITAM's Biotechnology Department



By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, Aug 17
Professor P. Bharani Chandra Kumar, Director of the GITAM School of Core Engineering, inaugurated the state-of-the-art 'Schwan Lab' at the Department of Biotechnology (under the School of Core Engineering, GITAM Deemed University) on August 17, 2026. Speaking on the occasion, he highlighted that the B.Tech Biomedical Engineering course integrates biological sciences, medicine, and engineering, and provides training in designing the modern equipment and technology essential for the healthcare sector. He explained that the Schwan Lab facilitates the analysis of physiological signals—such as ECG, EEG, and

EMG—using BioPac systems. He further noted that the lab enables the study of muscle movements and gait patterns using Noraxon technology. Additionally, he mentioned that the facility is equipped with cutting-edge medical devices, including surgical diathermy units, hemodialysis machines, non-invasive ventilators, spirometers, syringe pumps, and defibrillator simulators. Dr. I. Sarath Babu, Head of the Department of Biotechnology at GITAM, stated that the program fosters an understanding of engineering measurements, design, and systems analysis alongside biology and medical sciences. He mentioned that specialized training would be provided in areas such as medical imaging, BioMEMS,

biosignal processing, and surgical robotics. Through the 'Schwan' laboratory, students will gain a clear understanding of medical device maintenance and diagnostic procedures. As part of the course, students will receive two months of hands-on experience regarding hospital operations at prominent organizations and hospitals like AP MedTech Zone, Apollo Hospitals, and Pinnacle Hospitals. He added that, in collaboration with GITAM Medical College (GMSR), students are receiving hospital-level training, in addition to training provided by AP MedTech Zone and Vijaya Diagnostics. Faculty members and students from the Department of Biotechnology participated in the event.

SEED recognized for outstanding service towards a drug-free society

The district administration honored SEED Secretary Venuthurupalli Sanyasiraju with a meritorious certificate.

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, Aug 17
The Visakhapatnam district administration has honored the Society for Education and Environment Development (SEED), an organization providing distinguished services in rehabilitation, treatment, counseling and creating awareness about the ill effects of drugs, with a meritorious certificate. SEED Secretary Venuthurupalli Sanyasiraju received this meritorious certificate from the district administration led by the District Collector at a program organized on the occasion of Independence Day. The New Life-Integrated Rehabilitation Center for Addicts (NIRCA) run by SEED in Chinamushidivada, Pendurthi, provides comprehensive services such as prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, counseling,

outreach programs, capacity development, and aftercare to those affected by drug abuse. SEED was selected for this award in recognition of its efforts to support government actions at the district level in controlling drug abuse and to bring victims back into the mainstream of life. SEED continues to provide its services extensively in line with the programs being undertaken by the central and state governments with the aim of building a drug-free India. The organization is fulfilling its social responsibility by providing counseling to victims and their families, creating awareness about the harms caused by drugs, and providing necessary support even after rehabilitation. In recognition of the services provided by SEED, the Department of Welfare of the Disabled, Transgenders and Elderly



proposed the name of the organization to the Visakhapatnam District Administration. This honorary award was presented considering the services provided by the organization in the areas of prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, counseling, etc. Sanyasiraju said that it was a great encouragement for the district administration and the welfare department to recognize and honor the services of their organization.

He said that this honor will inspire the staff, counselors and field staff of SEED to work with greater dedication. He said that this recognition given by the district administration has been an important incentive for SEED's efforts for drug eradication, rehabilitation of victims and building a healthy society. Ravi Pal elected as state chairman of Youth Hostels CH Ravi Pal elected as state chairman

Traffic Enforcement Drive at Koduru Road Junction



Vizianagaram (Garivdi) 17 (Skyline):
Garivdi SI B.L. Lokeswara Rao conducted vehicle checking at Koduru Road Junction. Police officials inspected vehicles passing through the junction. The required vehicle documents were verified during the checking. Motorists violating traffic rules were identified by the police.

Fines were imposed on those found committing traffic violations. The SI warned motorists against rash and negligent driving. He advised vehicle users to carry all valid documents. Motorists were also urged to strictly follow traffic regulations. Police said regular checks would be conducted to ensure road safety.

Dedicated Health Assistant Mata Gopi Receives District-Level Honour



Vizianagaram (Gurla) 17 (Skyline):
Mata Gopi, a Health Assistant serving at Tettangi Primary Health Centre (PHC), has been recognised for his dedicated service by receiving the "Best Health Assistant" award during the Independence Day celebrations in Vizianagaram district. District Medical Officer Dr. A. Jeevana Rani presented the award to Gopi at the Independence Day programme held on August 15. The honour was given in recognition of his commitment, sincerity and contribution to delivering healthcare

services to people in the PHC limits. Tettangi PHC doctors Dr. M.D. Akib and Dr. G. Sai Sindhuja, along with staff members Chamundeswari, Sagar and Suresh, congratulated Gopi on the achievement. Staff nurses, MLHPs, ASHA workers and local public representatives also appreciated his services. Gopi said the recognition had further strengthened his responsibility towards the community and expressed his commitment to providing more effective healthcare services in the coming days.

Action should be taken against officials who are condoning government land grabbers

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, Aug 17
Former corporator Kallepalli Venkata Seetharama Raju alleged that the GVMC and Revenue Department officials are giving a helping hand to the land grabbers of government lands and are not protecting the property of the people. He was speaking at a press conference organized at a hotel in Srinagar. It is learnt that some builders in Rajendranagar, Srinagar, have colluded with squatters and hundreds of crores of rupees have changed hands by granting building permits. The people who bought the same building said that it is outrageous that the authorities are not paying attention to the suffering. They expressed concern that it has become a sin to buy a plot from the owners with great

hopes that the family will live happily and comfortably. They also expressed concern that the banks are not giving loans to the buyers and are trying to sell the plot to meet their needs and get their daughter married. The plots are listed as ULC 22A (slaughter house) as government land and cannot be sold, and the register office is saying that if you get an NOC for this survey number, it will be registered or it will not be registered. For that, they have been going around the mandal survey, town survey, and offices for years, taking huge bribes and giving NOCs, and due to them, registrations are being done, but they are facing a lot of difficulties in selling them, and they are making demonstrations around government offices, but there is no result. Did we make a mistake by buy-



ing the plots in the layout with the survey numbers approved by the government? We bought them in the layout or in the surrounding areas, hoping that the government would have approved them after examining all the infrastructure facilities for the local people, schools, parks, and wide roads. But they are suffering from the double standards of government officials.

They said that they have some properties in Survey No. 688A of GVMC area, Srinagar, and in Rajendranagar, Rajendranagar, the current South constituency area of ??GVMC ward 27. Raju said that in the layout plan of Block No. 24, Town Survey No. 688A, Town Planning No. 20/54, 6 plots have been allocated for roads and parks, and he bought it after seeing that layout plan. When he applied to GVMC for building permits on the same property, which he had been in possession of for a long time, the GVMC town planning officials announced that there were disputes in these survey numbers, T.S. No. 688A, T.P. No. 20/54. When he made an inquiry, he realized that many plot owners, including us, are suffering a lot.

It was alleged that due to arbitrary decisions by the GVMC Town Planning Department officials, the planning department of this area has become a cesspool of errors. He said that the reasons for the discrepancy in the boundaries, plot numbers and survey numbers of Allipuram Ward Block No. 24, Town Survey No. 688A land, TP No. 20/54 have come to light. He said that the facts have been revealed. He said that the GVMC planning officials have cooperated with the squatters and the occupiers without even looking at or examining the records under the GVMC, and that the government has registered ULC 22A as government land in the prohibited list so that no registration or sale of buildings can take place.

Discovery brings together India's top military and national security leadership for the first time with declassified Operation Sindoor

Visakhapatnam, 17 August 2026: This Independence Day, Discovery brought unparalleled access to India's senior military and national security leadership, operational commanders and frontline personnel in Declassified: Operation Sindoor. Building on the brand's legacy of taking audiences deeper into pivotal real-world stories, the docuseries reveals how key moments in the operation took shape and unfolded through those who led it. Following its premiere on Discovery on August 15, 2026, the two-part docuseries is available to stream on discovery+. In his first interview since Operation Sindoor, Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor of India, says in the docuseries, "We had decided the objective of the operation was destruction of the enemy camps particularly those who had been responsible for the Pahalgam attack." "Our message to the world is very clear - India's generosity or India being tolerant should not be mistaken for its weakness. India can take risks and hit hard, irrespective of the consequences," he added.

Beginning in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, Part 1 traces how the armed forces and intelligence teams moved into action, gathering intelligence, carrying out surveillance and preparing for the operation. From identifying targets, to conducting mock drills and planning for multiple scenarios, teams worked towards a precise operation designed to minimise civilian and military casualties. Part 2 moves from planning to execution, taking viewers inside the operation as it unfolded. Drawing on first-hand accounts from those involved, it captures the tense moments before the strikes, the coordination across the three services - Army, Navy and Air Force, and the decisions made in real time. As the strikes began, the docuseries follows the operation finally leading to the confirmation coming in that the mission was complete. The series also offers a view into the military thinking that followed once the objective had been set, including the assessment of targets, decisions taken as the situation developed and the responsibility placed on those carrying out the mission.



Anil Chauhan, former Chief of Defence Staff said, "All of us, as citizens of this country, were deeply affected by the sheer brutality of this attack. It was, I believe, one of the most barbaric attacks we had witnessed. It was decided that India would not bow down to such kinds of threats. At a strategic level, I think that knowing when to stop a conflict is equally important. It is easy to start a war; it is very difficult to stop it." Speaking on Army's Women officers addressing the press briefing, former Chief of Defence Staff said, "From the armed forces, we were represented by two

women officers, and it conveyed two important messages: that the women of India will not be deterred by these cowardly attacks, and that the social and emotional fabric of India will remain unaffected even by such kinds of challenges." At the heart of the docuseries are the voices of those closely associated with the operation, recounting the events, choices and considerations that shaped its course. Together with inputs from defence experts and the wider national security context, they take audiences deeper into the story behind Operation Sindoor like never-seen-before.

Declassified: Operation Sindoor also opens a new chapter for factual storytelling in India for Warner Bros. Discovery. Speaking on this, Arjun Nohwar, SVP & Managing Director, India & South Asia, Warner Bros. Discovery, said, "For decades, Discovery has earned the trust of audiences by telling real stories which are not only riveting but also authentic and credible. With Declassified: Operation Sindoor, our endeavour is to bring audiences closer to one of the most significant chapters in India's recent military history through the voices of those who led and lived it." He added, "Launching the Declassified franchise reflects our ambition to spotlight the defining events that have shaped history. It has been a privilege for us to present this docuseries, and we hope it leaves audiences with a deeper understanding of the preparation and leadership behind this operation." Declassified: Operation Sindoor is now streaming exclusively on discovery+.