

SKYLINE

ENGLISH DAILY

Simultaneously published from Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, Hyderabad & Vijayawada .

Vol. 21 Issue: 252 Wednesday 19, August 2026 Visakhapatnam, 8 Pages Rs.1.00

AP Cabinet meeting concludes.. BC reservations, direct elections approved!



By Skyline Staff Reporter
Amaravati, August 18
The Andhra Pradesh State Cabinet meeting held at the Secretariat under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has concluded. In this long meeting, the Cabinet approved several key decisions. Mainly, the Cabinet gave the green signal to the proposal to provide 34 percent reservation for BCs in local

body elections and the decision to hold urban local body elections in a direct manner. As per the promise given during the elections, the government has decided to implement 34 percent reservation for BCs in local bodies. Accordingly, the Cabinet has resolved to apply 34.50 percent reservation to BCs in Panchayat Raj institutions (Contd. on pg.2)

YCP's job is to create a ruckus in the assembly and leave.. DSC means TDP: Payyavula Keshav

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Amaravati, August 18
The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council sessions continued for the second consecutive day with the DSC controversy raging. YSRCP members tried to disrupt the proceedings by raising slogans against the DSC. In this context, State Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav expressed his deep anger at the YSRCP members. He criticized that the main intention of the YSRCP members seems to be to create a ruckus in the House and leave without discussing public issues. As the proceedings began on the second day today under the chairmanship of



the council chairman, Moshen Raju, YCP members moved an adjournment motion alleging irregularities in the DSC sports quota. When the chairman rejected the motion and started the question and answer session, YCP members gathered around the chairman's podium and staged a large-scale protest. (Contd. on pg.2)

Houthis claim fresh drone attack on Saudi refinery



Sanaa, Aug 18 : Yemen's Houthi group said on Tuesday it had launched a fresh drone attack on a Saudi Aramco oil refinery in the southwestern Saudi region of Jazan. There was no immediate comment from Saudi authorities or Aramco on the Houthi claim, and no information was immediately available on possible casualties or damage. A number of drones tar-

geted the refinery and the strike was "precise," said a military source within the group, cited by the Houthi-run Saba news agency. The source said the attack was carried out in response to "Saudi violations of the airspace" over the Houthi-held northern provinces of Saada and Hajjah. Tuesday's announcement (Contd. on pg.2)

BJP will respond firmly to kind of language used against PM Modi: Nitin Nabin

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, Aug 18 : BJP national president Nitin Nabin on Tuesday accused the opposition of promoting anti-social elements in the country and said BJP will respond firmly to the kind of language the Leader of the Opposition has used against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Addressing the meeting of the extended executive of BJP's Andhra Pradesh unit here, he alleged that Congress is repeatedly insulting democratic institutions. "We also need to keep today's



political situation in mind. Today, we are faced with an opposition that has such a mind-

set, which is trying to promote anti-social elements in the country," he said.

He slammed the Opposition for their attitude in the Parliament and targeted Congress leaders for their behaviour on Independence Day. He alleged that the Opposition, especially Congress, insulted country's democracy. "BJP workers are known for their dignity and values, but the way the Leader of the Opposition has used words for PM Modi, we must give a sharp response while staying within our dignity," he said. He claimed that the BJP has a vision that seeks to promote

social harmony and remarked that unfortunately, the Opposition has taken a different path, with the Congress repeatedly insulting democratic institutions. Calling Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi a part-time politician, the BJP chief alleged that he focuses only on issues that divert attention from matters of faith and development. Nitin Nabin called for engaging with the youth who want to discuss their aspirations and concerns. He also emphasised the need to (Contd. on pg.2)

Sitharaman adding momentum to endeavour of strong, self-reliant India, says PM Modi on FM's birthday

New Delhi, Aug 18 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday extended birthday greetings to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and praised her efforts to advance economic reforms and development, saying that she is contributing to the country's endeavour to become stronger and more self-reliant. PM Modi took to social media 'X' and said, "Best wishes to FM Nirmala Sitharaman Ji on her birthday. With her emphasis on reforms and eco-



nomics development, she is adding momentum to our endeavour of being a strong and self-reliant India. May she be blessed with a long and healthy life." Sitharaman, one of the

senior leaders of the BJP, has been serving as India's Finance Minister and Minister of Corporate Affairs since 2019. She is also a member of the Rajya Sabha, the Upper (Contd. on pg.2)

Students end hunger strike as Jharkhand govt cancels JSSC-CGL, TDPL Exams, agitation continues over CBI probe

Ranchi, Aug 18 : Four students, including student leader Devendra Nath Mahto, ended their hunger strike on Tuesday after the Jharkhand government announced the cancellation of all examinations conducted by the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission (JSSC) and TDPL. However, the JPSC-JSSC Reform Forum has announced that its agitation will continue over its demand for a CBI probe into alleged irregularities in recruitment examinations. The four protesters,



Devendra Nath Mahto, Umm-e-Habiba, Prem Nayak and Kush Mahto, ended their hunger strike at around 1.15 a.m. at Ranchi Sadar Hospital after the state government's decision. Ministers

Deepika Pandey Singh and Irfan Ansari offered them juice to formally end the fast. Speaking after ending his hunger strike, Mahto said, "Today, on the 16th day of (Contd. on pg.2)

Meta steps up measures to curb child abuse content in India after government discussions

New Delhi, Aug 18 : US-based technology firm Meta is intensifying efforts to curb the spread and reappearance of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) across its platforms in India amid ongoing discussions with the government, according to a report. NDTV reported that the engagement between the social media company and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has focused on Meta's handling of illegal content and the broader



responsibility of digital platforms to prevent harmful material from resurfacing after it has been identified and removed. The tech company is taking steps to address the

proliferation of such content and remains particularly cautious because CSAM constitutes a clear violation of Indian law, it added. In addition, the company (Contd. on pg.2)

Health minister JP Nadda undergoes angioplasty at AIIMS Delhi, currently stable

New Delhi, Aug 18 : Union Health and Family Welfare Minister J.P. Nadda underwent an angioplasty at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in the national capital and is currently in stable condition, said the medical officials on Tuesday. The Union Health Minister is currently under observation at the Cardiology Department at the AIIMS hospital, one of the country's topmost medical universities as well as hospital. "Shri JP Nadda, Hon'ble



Minister of Health and Family Welfare underwent angioplasty on 17th August 2026 and is stable and under observation in the Dept of Cardiology, AIIMS, New Delhi," the AIIMS said in an official

statement. Angioplasty, also known as percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI), is a safe, minimally invasive medical procedure used to open blocked or narrowed (Contd. on pg.2)

Ram temple donation theft case: Champat Rai, Anil Mishra get clean chit from SIT

Ayodhya, Aug 18 : The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged theft of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya has given a clean chit to former Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust general secretary Champat Rai and former Trust member Anil Mishra. Both Rai and Mishra had stepped down from their respective positions on June 27 after allegations of irregularities in the handling of temple donations emerged. The two were subsequently questioned by the SIT as part of its investigation into the management and collection of donations at the temple. According to media, the Uttar Pradesh Home Department on Monday



submitted the SIT's final report in the alleged donation theft case to the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust for further action. According to sources, Rai denied any involvement in the alleged irregularities during questioning. He reportedly told investigators that he had himself lodged a complaint in connection with the suspected theft, following which the accused persons were

arrested. Rai also maintained that ensuring transparency and preventing irregularities in the collection of donations was part of his responsibility and that he took action after becoming aware of the alleged wrongdoing. The three-member SIT was constituted by the Uttar Pradesh government on June 13 following a request from the temple trust. The panel was

formed before the Supreme Court subsequently intervened in the matter. Lucknow Divisional Commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant headed the investigation team. Inspector General of Police, Range, Kiran S and Special Secretary (Finance) Neel Ratan Kumar were the other members of the panel. The SIT had submitted its preliminary findings to the state government on June 23. The report included several recommendations and subsequently led to further action in the case. Based on the preliminary findings, Trust member Krishnamohan submitted a written complaint at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi police station. An FIR was (Contd. on pg.2)

Eight Andhra fishermen missing in Bay of Bengal

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Amaravati, Aug 18 : Eight fishermen from Andhra Pradesh's B. R. Ambedkar Konaseema district went missing at sea, officials said on Tuesday. The fishermen, who had set out on a boat in the Bay of Bengal for fishing on August 3, were scheduled to return on August 12. The families of the fishermen were anxious as there had been no communication from them since the time they ventured into the sea. Andhra Pradesh officials have alerted the Indian Coast Guard, and the search was on for the missing fishermen. Meanwhile, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu held a review meeting with officials regarding the incident in which a boat carrying fishermen from Odalarevu, Dummalapeta, and Vasalatippa villages in Allavaram Mandal of B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district went missing at sea. The Chief Minister inquired about the ongoing search operations to locate the eight fishermen on board.

He directed officials to intensify the search efforts until the missing boat and fishermen are found. Officials informed the Chief Minister that the fishermen's boat had set out to sea for fishing from the Odalarevu jetty at 10 a.m. on August 3. They stated that while contact with family members was maintained via phone until 11 a.m., no further information was received thereafter. Officials noted that the fishermen were carrying mobile phones in addition to a VHF set on the boat.

They estimated that the boat likely reached the fishing grounds around 6 p.m. that same day. Officials mentioned that although the boat was scheduled to return by August 12, it failed to do so, prompting the immediate launch of a special search operation. They further reported that the Coast Guard Commandant had been alerted and that Coast Guard vessels were actively conducting the search. Fishing boats from Kakinada, Bhairavapalem, Visakhapatnam, and Paradip (Contd. on pg.2)



Special focus on issuance of notices and hearings in SIR

100 percent of notices should be issued within the stipulated time frame.

District Collector M. Abhishek Kishore's instructions to EROs and AEROs

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, August 18: District Collector M. Abhishek Kishore has instructed the officials to give top priority to the process of issuing notices and hearings to voters as part of the SIR process. He clarified that the concerned EROs should have complete understanding of the notices issued in each constituency. On Tuesday evening, the Collector held a video conference with the EROs, additional EROs, AEROs and election cell officers of the district from the Collectorate and reviewed the progress of the SIR process. The notices issued from the day of publication of the draft SIR till now, their delivery, hearing and subsequent update of details were reviewed constituency-wise. Each ERO explained the details



of the notices issued within their constituency to the Collector. The Collector expressed dissatisfaction over the progress of issuing notices in Bhimili constituency. He ordered that no delay in issuing notices will be

tolerated and that 100 percent of the notices should be completed in a single day. He advised that the delivery of notices should be expedited in the Eastern constituency and that notices should be given to the concerned voters

immediately without any pending issues. He instructed that the relevant details should be updated as soon as the notices are received back from the voters. He advised that the details of the completed hearings in the Northern constituency should be uploaded on the BLO app. He instructed that the progress of the SIR process should be expedited in the Western constituency as well. He clarified that pending notices should be issued immediately in the Gajuwaka constituency. He advised that the processes like delivery of notices, hearings and updating of details should be coordinated without delay. EROs, additional EROs, AEROs and election cell officials of all constituencies participated in the video conference.

Washington, Aug 18 : A regional conflict in which nuclear weapons are used locally and trigger a wider escalation poses a greater danger than a surprise mass attack on the United States, a senior Pentagon official has warned. Elbridge Colby, Under Secretary of War for Policy, said the consequences of a large-scale nuclear strike on the United States would deter countries capable of launching one. "What I would fear more is a regional war," Colby told the 2026 United States Strategic Command Deterrence Symposium. He described the danger as "a kind of local war, conventional war that



might have local employment, God forbid, of nuclear weapons that could escalate from there as it expanded outward." Colby said decision-making time in such a crisis could be extremely limited. One side could misread a military move as preparation for a total attack and respond on a far greater scale than

expected. "That would lead very rapidly to an incredibly pressurised situation that would be almost by definition not in our interests," he said. The United States, he said, must give the president credible and rational options. Those choices should deter an adversary without creating an uncontrollable spiral towards nuclear war. "It's not taking away options for the president. It's adding credible options," Colby said. He called the modernisation of America's nuclear deterrent "the single most important initiative for the American military".

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

BJP will respond firmly to kind of language used against PM Modi: Nitin

address aspirations and expectations of the young generation.

"Today, young people have opportunities to advance in different sectors. We must engage in dialogue with the youth who want to discuss their aspirations and concerns. We must address the aspirations and expectations of this young generation," he said.

The BJP chief claimed that the government has created new opportunities through initiatives such as Make in India and several other schemes.

"Youth means being committed to nation-building. Bharat's youth are not merely seeking jobs; through startups, they are creating jobs and opportunities for others," he said.

He urged the party leaders to take the government's schemes, its achievements and the party's programmes directly to the people through continuous dialogue. "As long as we maintain dialogue, contact and a strong connection with the people, we will continue to succeed in contributing to the development of Bharat and the growth of the BJP," he said.

The BJP president said that under the leadership of PM Modi, India is progressing in every sector. "Today, infrastructure projects worth more than Rs 8 lakh crore are underway. In the coming years, PM Modi's vision is to develop Bharat not only with world-class infrastructure but also as a global manufacturing hub."

He stated that PM Modi is committed to realising the dream of 'Viksit Bharat', embracing Shyama Prasad Mukherjee's nationalism, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay's 'Antyodaya', and Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee's good governance.

The BJP chief also had a meeting with State Office Bearers, district presidents and District In-charges, along with State BJP president P.V.N. Madhav. The discussion focused on strengthening the organisation and ensuring effective coordination and public outreach across the state.

Nitin Nabin said that Andhra Pradesh is a distinct state that is leading the country on the development front. "This is our collective effort, and we must take it forward. Only through continuous dialogue and engagement with the people can we ensure that the government's schemes reach every citizen," he said.

The BJP chief, who hoisted the party flag, said that it reminds them of their collective responsibility to uphold the ideals and values of the party with dedication, discipline and a spirit of service, while working tirelessly towards building a 'Viksit Bharat'.

He also visited the State BJP's exhibition. The vibrant display captured one full year of the party's organisational journey across all 28 districts, highlighting public service initiatives, steady expansion, and the tireless dedication of karyakartas, Nitin Nabin said.

Sitharaman adding momentum to endeavour of strong, self-reliant India, says PM

House of Parliament, and has represented Karnataka since 2016, after earlier representing Andhra Pradesh. Before taking charge of the Finance Ministry, Sitharaman served as India's Defence Minister from 2017 to 2019. She became the second woman after late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to hold the Defence portfolio and the first woman to serve as the country's full-time Defence Minister.

Sitharaman entered the Union government in 2014 as a Minister of State in the Ministries of Finance and Corporate Affairs. She later served as Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Commerce and Industry from May 2014 to September 2017, before being elevated to the Cabinet.

Her political career in the BJP began in 2006, and she was appointed the party's National Spokesperson in 2010. Following the BJP's victory in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, she joined Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. She was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Andhra Pradesh in June 2014 and subsequently won a Rajya Sabha seat from Karnataka in 2016.

Born on August 18, 1959, in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, to Savitri and Narayanan Sitharaman, she completed her schooling in Madras and Tiruchirappalli. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Seethalakshmi Ramaswami College in Tiruchirappalli. She later moved to New Delhi in 1984 to pursue higher

studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), where she completed her Master's degree and M.Phil in Economics.

On May 31, 2019, Sitharaman assumed charge as Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister, becoming India's first full-time woman Finance Minister. She presented her first Union Budget on July 5, 2019, and subsequently presented the Union Budget for 2020-21 on February 1, 2020.

She became only the second woman to present the Union Budget after late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who had presented the Budget for 1970-71 while serving as Finance Minister.

Sitharaman has also received international recognition for her political and economic influence. She was ranked 36th on Forbes' 2022 list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women and moved up to 32nd in the 2023 rankings. Fortune has also recognised her as the most powerful woman in India.

Over the years, Sitharaman has emerged as one of the key figures in the Narendra Modi-led government, particularly in the areas of economic policy, fiscal management, corporate affairs and structural reforms. Her tenure as Finance Minister has coincided with several major policy initiatives aimed at strengthening India's economy and promoting domestic capabilities.

Students end hunger strike as Jharkhand govt cancels JSSC-CGL, TDPL

our hunger strike, we ended our fast in a dignified manner. With the joint initiative of Jharkhand Health Minister Irfan Ansari, Minister Deepika Pandey and our MLA Jairam Mahto, we decided to suspend our hunger strike. All the demands for which we had been protesting constitutionally and peacefully have been fulfilled..."

JLKM president Jairam Kumar Mahato also welcomed the government's decision, calling it historic. "I would undoubtedly thank the government. This is a historic decision, as the CGL examination process had already reached the joining stage. Despite this, the government respected the sentiments of the students..." he said.

The decision to cancel all examinations conducted by JSSC-CGL and TDPL was taken at a special Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Monday.

The announcement triggered celebrations among students protesting at Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium. Despite heavy rain, protesters embraced each other, distributed sweets, raised slogans and celebrated with colours and fireworks. They described the cancellation of the JSSC-CGL examination as a major victory after 24 days of agitation.

However, the students made it clear that their movement has not ended completely. Their key pending demand is a CBI investigation into alleged irregularities in recruitment examinations.

JPSC-JSSC Reform Forum spokesperson Ravindra Paswan said the government had accepted their most important demand by cancelling the examinations, but no decision had yet been taken on the CBI probe. He said the agitation would continue until there was clarity on the issue.

Student leader Piyush Kumar termed the government's decision the "first major victory" but said several issues, including the 11th to 13th JPSC Civil Services Examination, remain unresolved. The protesters will review the government's decision and official notification before deciding their next course of action.

Chief Minister Hemant Soren had earlier said the SIT and CID investigations into the JSSC-CGL matter had revealed several important and startling facts, including indications of alleged collusion among different agencies.

The government has also decided to conduct a comprehensive enquiry into recruitment examinations conducted by the JPSC and JSSC since 2014. In addition, a committee headed by IAS officer Amitabh Kaushal has been constituted to recommend reforms to make the examination process more transparent and prevent irregularities in the future.

Meta steps up measures to curb child abuse content in India after government

is also working to tackle instances where previously flagged material reappears on its platforms.

According to sources -- cited in the report -- the government has reiterated that platforms will not be entitled to safe harbour protection if they fail to comply with appli-

cable legal requirements. However, officials are not seeking to censor social media platforms and are instead focused on ensuring adherence to Indian laws.

"Platforms need to strike the right balance between social good and harms," the report said.

It further noted that issues such as addiction and the circulation of exploitative content remain key concerns associated with social media services.

The government has also stressed the importance of cultural context in the formulation and enforcement of content moderation policies in India, sources said.

Moreover, the ministry is exercising its statutory powers sparingly and remains focused on ensuring that platforms fulfil their legal obligations, according to sources. While intermediaries can potentially lose safe harbour protections for hosting prohibited content, whether such protections apply in any specific case is ultimately a matter for courts to determine based on compliance with prescribed legal conditions.

The discussions come as regulators worldwide increase scrutiny of online platforms over content moderation practices, user safety and compliance with local laws.

Health minister JP Nadda undergoes angioplasty at AIIMS Delhi, currently stable

heart arteries. It uses a tiny balloon threaded through a thin tube (catheter) to press plaque outward against the artery wall, restoring normal blood flow.

The Health Minister was admitted in AIIMS on the evening of August 13, after he complained of uneasiness. His health was evaluated by doctors and subsequently underwent tests including a coronary angiography the next day, on August 14.

JP Nadda, who has also served as the BJP national president, is currently stable and is currently observation in the cardiology department, AIIMS said. The hospital has not disclosed further details about the angiography findings or shared specific diagnosis.

JP Nadda holds the portfolios of Health and Family Welfare as well as Chemicals and Fertilizers in the Narendra Modi government. He has remained active in recent weeks, chairing meetings and reviewing healthcare programmes and infrastructure initiatives across the country.

Coronary angiography is a diagnostic heart test used to examine the blood vessels that supply blood to the heart. During the procedure, doctors inject a special contrast dye into the coronary arteries through a thin catheter, usually inserted through an artery in the wrist or groin. X-ray imaging then allows doctors to see whether the arteries are narrowed or blocked.

AP Cabinet meeting concludes.. BC reservations, direct elections

and 33.50 percent reservation in other local bodies. However, the meeting had an in-depth discussion on the report of the Dedicated Commission constituted by the government on BC reservations. The Cabinet, which felt that it would be difficult to achieve the target of 34 percent reservation with the recommendations of the Commission, reviewed alternative ways and took a final decision. Official orders in this regard will be issued soon.

In another key decision, the Cabinet has officially approved the policy of directly electing the heads of urban local bodies such as municipalities and corporations. This decision, which the government had already taken in principle, was given legitimacy with the latest meeting.

In addition to these two main issues, more than 55 agenda items were discussed in the cabinet meeting and several administrative and development-related decisions were taken.

YCP's job is to create a ruckus in the assembly and leave.. DSC means

In the midst of this chaos, Opposition Leader Botsa Satyanarayana was given the opportunity to speak... and he questioned why the government was hesitating to discuss the DSC issue. Minister Payyavula Keshav reacted sharply when the opposition did not listen even though the Chairman suggested bringing a proposal in a differ-

ent format.

Keshav was furious that the opposition members should not act in a way that disrespects the chairman. He said that the El Nino problem is serious in the state at present and that we should first discuss the difficulties faced by the people and then talk about the DSC issue. "DSC is what the Telugu Desam Party stands for. We have given DSC 14 times during our rule. Botsa Satyanarayana, who previously served as the Education Minister and did not give a single DSC, is now talking about having love for the unemployed," he said.

On the other hand, Botsa Satyanarayana demanded that time be allotted for discussion on the Mega DSC in the Council as it was discussed in the Legislative Assembly. Although the Chairman made it clear that the BAC meeting would decide which issues to discuss, the House was adjourned for 10 minutes as the slogans of the YCP members continued.

Houthis claim fresh drone attack on Saudi refinery

marked the latest Houthi claim of an attack on the Jazan refinery. On Thursday, the group said two drones had targeted the same facility, also citing alleged Saudi air activity over Saada and Hajjah, reports Xinhua news agency.

The recent escalation has coincided with a series of Houthi missile and drone attacks on government-held areas in Yemen, including targets in the Red Sea port city of Mocha and the oil-rich province of Marib, as well as attacks on commercial vessels in the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandab.

Yemen has been mired in conflict since late 2014, when the Houthis seized much of northern Yemen, including the capital Sanaa, prompting a Saudi-led coalition to intervene the following year in support of the internationally recognised Yemeni government.

A UN-brokered truce that took effect in April 2022 expired six months later without a formal extension, but a fragile de facto ceasefire has largely held until the recent escalation.

Ram temple donation theft case: Champat Rai, Anil Mishra get clean chit from

registered on June 25, naming eight people and other unidentified individuals as accused.

Those named in the FIR are Avinash Shukla, Anukalp Mishra, Lavkush Mishra, Manish Kumar Yadav, Karunesh Pandey, Ramashankar Mishra, Subhash Srivastava and Ram Shankar Yadav, alias Tinnu.

All the named accused have been arrested and booked under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 13(1)(a) of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The preliminary SIT report had also served as the basis for subsequent FIRs and arrests in connection with the alleged donation-related irregularities.

Eight Andhra fishermen missing in Bay of Bengal

have been alerted, and efforts were underway to gather information regarding the missing boat, they said.

The Chief Minister directed officials to maintain constant communication with the families of the missing fishermen and keep them updated on the search operations. He emphasised the need to utilise all available avenues to locate the fishermen safely and to coordinate all necessary actions.

He made it clear that the search operation must continue through the coordinated efforts of the Coast Guard, the Fisheries Department, and the district administration until the boat is found.

Chief Minister Chandrababu assured the affected families that the government stands firmly behind them.

Last month, six fishermen died after the boat carrying them capsized just 10 nautical miles off the Gangavaram coast in Visakhapatnam.

A mechanised fishing vessel, carrying seven fisherfolk, had set off for fishing on July 1. The boat capsized while they were returning to the coast on July 4. One of them was rescued by the crew of a merchant vessel, and he was brought to the coast on July 6.

The fishermen remained untraced after a four-day-long search and rescue operation by the Indian Navy and Coast Guard. The search operation was called off on July 8.

The state government distributed an ex-gratia of Rs 10 lakh each to the families of the six fishermen.

Apollo Hospitals launches ‘Always Open, Always Here’, a global first in healthcare from India

Vizag, August 2026: Apollo Hospitals today announced the launch of ‘Always Open. Always Here.’, a first-of-its-kind initiative that makes routine and planned healthcare services available across all seven days of the week, including Sundays. Apollo’s emergency, critical care and inpatient services have always been available 24x7. The new initiative extends Sunday access to outpatient consultations, diagnostics, preventive health checks, follow-up consultations and scheduled procedures, helping patients and families seek timely care without waiting for a weekday. For many working Indians, time is one of the biggest barriers to timely healthcare. Busy work schedules, family responsibilities and weekday commitments often lead people to postpone consultations, tests and health checks. Apollo’s Health of the Nation 2026 Report has pointed to the rising burden of lifestyle diseases such as obesity, hypertension, diabetes and metabolic disorders, increasingly affecting Indians during their most productive years. The report further highlights that based on health screenings from over 2.5



mn individuals across the Apollo ecosystem in India, there is certainly a rise of a silent epidemic, where millions are living with undiagnosed chronic conditions despite showing no visible symptoms. Nearly 26% were found hypertensive and 23% diabetic despite being asymptomatic, underlining that a symptom-led healthcare model is no longer viable. ‘Always Open. Always Here.’ addresses this gap by giving patients one more day to act on their health before delay becomes risk. Dr. Prathap C. Reddy, Founder & Chairman, Apollo Hospitals Group, said, “For more than four

decades, Apollo has believed that healthcare is not only about treating illness, but about protecting health and preventing disease. ‘Always Open. Always Here.’ is a continuation of that promise. We have always been available for emergencies and critical care. We are now extending the same commitment to routine and preventive care across all seven days of the week. This is our seal of service to every Indian.” He added, “This initiative is also a tribute to every doctor, nurse, technician and healthcare worker at Apollo, and to their families. Healthcare is a profession built on service

above self. Their commitment allows us to take this step for patients and families across India. If one timely consultation helps detect disease early or prevent a crisis, we would have changed a life. If we inspire millions to choose care before crisis, we would have changed the future.” A legacy of firsts, now taking on the barrier of time Apollo Hospitals has always believed that healthcare transformation begins by challenging what society has learnt to accept as normal. Dr Reddy questioned why a place meant to save a life should be called

‘Casualty’ and helped redefine it as ‘Emergency’ across hospitals. He lent his voice to ending smoking on flights when it was still considered commonplace and helped give pharmacies the unmistakable green identity recognised today. These were simple changes that altered behaviour and have been the hallmark of his journey: to see what others take for granted, ask why it cannot change, and then change it for millions. Since 1983, Apollo has played a defining role in Indian healthcare: cardiac surgeries that had never before been performed on Indian soil; South Asia’s first Proton Cancer Centre; preventive care pioneered through the Master Health Check, which has touched over 30 million lives; and one of the world’s busiest solid-organ transplant programmes. Apollo Prohealth has been the first AI-powered risk prediction and analysis designed to help individuals identify health risks earlier and take informed action before conditions progress. Patients from over 150 countries now walk through Apollo’s doors.

Narasaraopet, August 18: A major fire accident occurred on Tuesday in Narasaraopet town, the headquarters of Palnadu district, causing extensive damage to vehicles and property. The incident took place at NSB Car Decors, located on Vinukonda Road, and created panic among residents and business owners in the surrounding area. According to preliminary information, the fire broke out inside the car décor facility and quickly spread across the shed. Several expensive vehicles parked on the premises were engulfed in flames and completely damaged. Thick black smoke billowed into the sky, covering a large portion of the area and attracting the attention of local residents. As the fire intensified, the flames spread to a nearby biryani hotel, raising fears that the blaze could extend to other commercial establishments. Shopkeepers and residents rushed out of the area as the fire continued to rage, while onlookers gathered at a safe distance. The incident



caused considerable concern among people in the locality due to the intensity of the flames and the dense smoke. Upon receiving information about the accident, police personnel and fire department officials immediately rushed to the spot. Firefighters launched an intensive operation and worked for several hours to bring the blaze under control. Their timely response helped prevent the fire from spreading further and causing even greater damage. While initial reports suggested that the fire may have been triggered by an electrical short circuit, several local residents and eyewitnesses have offered a different

version. According to them, welding work was reportedly being carried out inside the shed when the fire broke out. They suspect that sparks generated during the welding process may have ignited combustible materials and led to the accident. However, authorities have not yet confirmed the exact cause of the fire. Officials are expected to conduct a detailed investigation to determine the circumstances behind the incident. The total extent of property damage and financial loss is yet to be assessed. Fortunately, no casualties or serious injuries have been reported so far. Further details are awaited.

Tamil Nadu Man Found Murdered in Vijayawada Lodge; Three Associates Suspected



Vijayawada, August 18 (Skyline Correspondent): A man from Tamil Nadu was found murdered in a pool of blood at a private lodge near Vijayawada Railway Station, triggering shock and concern among local residents and travelers. Police have launched an investigation and are searching for three individuals suspected to be involved in the crime. According to police sources, four men, believed to be between 35 and 40 years of age, checked into the lodge during the early hours of August 16 and rented a single room. The group reportedly stayed together in the room for two days. On Monday morning at around 6 a.m., three of the men approached the reception desk and informed the management that they were checking out. After settling the bill, they reportedly left the

lodge in a hurried manner, raising no immediate suspicion among the staff. Later, when lodge operator Madhu and his staff went to clean the room, they made a shocking discovery. One of the occupants was found lying dead in a pool of blood, apparently having been brutally murdered. The incident was immediately reported to the police. A police team rushed to the scene, secured the area, and initiated an investigation. Based on identity documents recovered from the room, the deceased was identified as a resident of Tamil Nadu. Preliminary inquiries suggest that the three men who left the lodge earlier may have been involved in the murder and subsequently fled the area. Police have registered a case and are examining CCTV footage from the lodge and surrounding locations to trace the suspects. Efforts are also underway to determine the motive behind the killing and establish the relationship between the deceased and the three missing individuals. The body has been shifted for post-mortem examination, and further investigation is in progress. Authorities expressed confidence that the accused will be identified and apprehended soon.

Railway Job Scam Allegations Surface in Vijayawada

Vijayawada, August 18 A suspected job racket operating in the Railway Department has come to light, with brokers allegedly cheating unemployed youth by promising jobs in exchange for money. The scam reportedly involved both permanent and contract-based positions, exploiting the aspirations of job seekers. Sources indicate that the network operated around the Vijayawada Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) office. The accused allegedly offered appointments in various sectors, including railway running rooms, ETCC units, bedroll contracts, housekeeping services, Gati Shakti projects, and RVNL-related works. The matter gained attention following recent CBI raids, which reportedly uncovered evidence of irregularities linked to recruitment activities. Encouraged by these developments, several victims are said to have submitted written complaints directly to CBI officials, alleging that they were misled and financially exploited by bro-



kers promising employment opportunities. The revelations have created concern among unemployed youth and their families, many of whom invested money and hope in securing railway jobs. Investigating agencies are now examining the role of the alleged middlemen and verifying the claims made by the complainants. Officials have advised job seekers to rely only on official recruitment notifications and avoid dealing with unauthorized agents. A detailed investigation is underway to identify those responsible and determine the full extent of the alleged fraud.

Mega DSC Irregularities Have Betrayed the Trust of Unemployed Youth: Anani Ravi

Gannavaram, August 18: YSRUC State General Secretary and Gannavaram MPP Anani Ravi strongly criticized the Mega DSC recruitment process conducted by the Andhra Pradesh coalition government, describing it as a major scandal that has shattered the hopes of lakhs of unemployed youth. He alleged that the recruitment exercise, which was expected to provide fair employment opportunities, has instead raised serious doubts about transparency and accountability. In a statement issued on Tuesday, Ravi said DSC examinations are not merely recruitment

tests but a crucial pathway to the future of thousands of families. He questioned why such an important recruitment process was conducted amid allegations of irregularities and confusion. He demanded answers regarding the involvement of outsourced employees in confidential tasks such as question paper preparation and uploading, as well as reports that an individual associated with the examination administration system secured top ranks in the same recruitment process. Ravi also raised concerns over the non-publication of merit lists, marks, and cutoff scores.

He questioned why several candidates who successfully completed certificate verification were not offered appointments. Referring to the sports quota, he alleged that teacher posts were being allotted based on participation certificates without requiring DSC and TET qualifications, which he said undermines genuine merit and disadvantages deserving candidates. He further stated that the government’s response to these concerns has been inadequate and has failed to address the questions raised by candidates and the public. Demanding a comprehensive and impartial investigation by



the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Ravi said every stage of the recruitment process, from question paper preparation to final appointments, should be scrutinized. Holding Education Minister Nara Lokesh

morally responsible for the controversy, Ravi said he should step down from office. He affirmed that YSRUC would continue to support DSC candidates and intensify legal and democratic protests until justice is delivered.

Educational Reforms Needed to Preserve Telugu Mother Tongue: Yarlagadda Venkata Rao

Gannavaram, August 18: Gannavaram MLA and Government Whip Yarlagadda Venkata Rao emphasized the need for significant reforms in the education system to preserve and promote Telugu, the mother tongue of millions in Andhra Pradesh. Speaking in the Assembly on Tuesday, he appreciated the state government’s efforts to strengthen the education sector while urging greater focus on the protection of the Telugu language. He thanked Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for allocating ₹10 crore in the state budget for the development of Telugu. He also praised the initiatives

being implemented under the leadership of Education Minister Nara Lokesh, stating that several reforms have improved the quality of education across the state. Programs such as the Mega DSC recruitment drive, which filled 16,347 teaching posts, the Dokka Seethamma Mid-Day Meal Scheme, and the Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Vidyamitra initiative have significantly benefited students, he said. Yarlagadda noted that the introduction of AI-based learning, smart classrooms, and digital teaching methods in government schools has enhanced educational



standards. He pointed out that the Class 10 pass percentage has reached 85.25 percent and that over one lakh students have shifted from private institutions to government schools, reflecting growing confidence in the public education system. However, he expressed concern over the declining proficiency

of students in Telugu. While many students can speak the language, they often struggle to read and write it effectively. He attributed this trend partly to the decreasing number of students choosing Telugu as a second language in intermediate education and to the increasing emphasis on other languages by corporate edu-

cational institutions focused on ranks and marks. Citing examination statistics, he noted that 37,679 students failed Telugu in the Class 10 examinations, compared to far fewer failures in Hindi and English. He urged the government to reform Telugu teaching methods, promote practical and conversational language learning, and establish a committee of educationists and Telugu teachers to recommend necessary changes. Preserving Telugu language and culture for future generations, he said, is a shared responsibility that deserves greater priority.

34 Percent BC Reservations Bill Promotes Social Justice: MLA Dr. Chadalawada Aravinda Babu

Amaravati, August 18: Narasaraopet MLA Dr. Chadalawada Aravinda Babu on Tuesday welcomed the introduction of the 34 percent Backward Classes (BC) Reservations Bill in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, describing it as a significant step toward ensuring greater social, economic, and political representation for BC communities. Speaking during the Assembly session, Aravinda Babu said the

bill reflects the government’s commitment to social justice and inclusive development. He noted that the progress of BC communities should be viewed in the context of the changes that have taken place since the formation of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). He highlighted the role of former Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao (NTR) in politically empowering BC communities and expanding their representation in

public life. According to him, NTR laid a strong foundation for the political advancement of backward classes by providing them with greater opportunities and recognition. The MLA also praised Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for supporting the economic development of BC communities through various welfare and empowerment initiatives. He said the government’s objective

has been to ensure that BC families achieve social dignity and economic progress. Referring to his own political journey, Aravinda Babu recalled that although he contested the 2019 elections as a TDP candidate and lost, he continued to work among the people and address public issues over the following five years. He stated that during the previous YSRCP government’s tenure, he led nearly 300 to 400 public

movements and protests on issues affecting the people. Throughout that period, he said, Chandrababu Naidu and TDP National General Secretary Nara Lokesh provided him with encouragement and support. Expressing gratitude to the party leadership, Aravinda Babu thanked Chandrababu Naidu and Nara Lokesh for giving him the opportunity to represent the Narasaraopet constituency and secure

victory in the 2024 elections. He also acknowledged the contribution of Jana Sena Party President and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan to the coalition’s success. Concluding his speech, the MLA stated that people value trust and credibility above caste, religion, or money. He thanked the coalition government led by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for introducing the BC Reservations Bill and



reaffirmed his support for measures aimed at strengthening social justice and empowerment.

SKYLINE

Wednesday 19.8.2026

The Decoy

An American President secretly abandoning Air Force One in a catering truck sounds like political theatre. In reality, it reveals something more serious about the nature of presidential power in wartime: the extraordinary lengths to which a state will go when it believes its leader may be a target. President Donald Trump has now confirmed that he was moved to another aircraft after the NATO summit in Ankara because the Secret Service and military told him to do so. He said he simply followed their instructions and suggested that the aircraft he actually boarded may have been at greater risk because an attacker would be more likely to target the plane believed to be carrying him. That last point matters. It is tempting to see the people who remained aboard the apparent Air Force One ~ including journalists and White House personnel ~ as having been unknowingly placed in harm’s way while the president escaped. But the available evidence does not necessarily establish that. The 747 continued to operate as the apparent presidential aircraft. Its passengers were told to keep the window shades closed, helping preserve the deception. If the purpose was to prevent an adversary from identifying Trump’s actual location, then the decoy was itself part of the protective operation. The people aboard may have been safer than a superficial reading of the episode suggests. What remains unknown is therefore more interesting than the obvious question of whether Trump or those left behind in the aircraft he was moved out of were endangered. What precisely did American intelligence know, and how was the safety of those aboard the decoy aircraft incorporated into the plan? That is not an accusation. Presidential security necessarily depends on secrecy, compartmentalisation and deception. The Secret Service has made past presidents use decoy aircraft, concealed journeys and other devices to frustrate potential attackers. The difference here is that most of those accompanying the president were apparently unaware that the deception was under way. The episode also offers a sobering corrective to the rhetoric surrounding Trump’s confrontation with Iran. The president has repeatedly projected an image of overwhelming American power and described Iran as severely weakened. Yet the security apparatus around him evidently considered the possibility of an attack serious enough to construct an elaborate deception and move him between aircraft in secret. That is not evidence of weakness. Protecting a president from assassination is precisely what a capable state is expected to do. But it is a reminder that military power does not eliminate vulnerability. Wars acquire a different meaning when the people directing them must themselves be moved secretly to avoid becoming targets. The most responsible conclusion, therefore, is neither ridicule nor outrage. It is to recognise the operation for what it appears to have been: a sophisticated attempt to manage an uncertain threat, while leaving an important question unanswered. How did the Secret Service assess and manage the risks to officials and journalists on board?

The story of the former state of Jammu and Kashmir is usually told as though it belonged to a single people. Newspapers spoke of “the Kashmiri mood.” Television debates invoked “the aspirations of Jammu and Kashmir.” Even academic literature often treated the politics of the Kashmir Valley as the political grammar of the entire state. Yet this has always been an incomplete history. The erstwhile state was not a singular political community but a mosaic of histories, cultures, religions, and identities that often interpreted the same events in profoundly different ways. Beyond the Muslim-majority Kashmir Valley lived the Dogras of Jammu, the Buddhist-majority population of Ladakh, the Shia-majority district of Kargil, Kashmiri Sikhs, and smaller but historically significant communities such as the Gujjars, Bakarwals, Baltis, Brokpas, Changpas, and Purigis. Each possessed its own historical memory, political vocabulary, and relationship with the Indian Union. To speak of “the people of Jammu and Kashmir” as though they constituted a single political bloc was always more a convenience than a description. Communities outside the Valley have long argued that India’s national imagination ~ and much of international commentary ~ understood them primarily through the prism of Kashmir’s separatist conflict. Booking Historical Guided Tours Their own aspirations, political preferences, and historical experiences often disappeared beneath a narrative that assumed the Valley represented the whole. The first casualty of this narrowing was arguably the Dogra imagination itself. The princely state established under Maharaja Gulab Singh in 1846 brought together territories that had rarely existed under one political authority. His successor, Maharaja Hari Singh, governed a remarkably diverse kingdom while introducing a series of administra-

tive and social reforms. Whatever judgment history ultimately renders on princely rule, the Dogra dynasty occupies a foundational place in the making of modern Jammu and Kashmir. Yet after accession to India in 1947 and the eclipse of Maharaja Hari Singh’s political authority, the state’s public memory increasingly revolved around the Valley. As constitutional disputes and later insurgency came to dominate national attention, the historical role of the Dogras gradually receded. The political imagination of the former state became increasingly framed through a Valley-centric lens, leaving less room for understanding how other communities remembered the same history differently. This narrowing proved even more consequential for smaller communities. The Gujjars and Bakarwals, for example, are ethnically, culturally, and linguistically distinct from the settled Muslim population of the Valley. Their seasonal migrations have long made them custodians of some of the Himalayas’ most inaccessible terrain. During the 1999 Kargil War, Bakarwal shepherds famously alerted the Indian Army to suspicious movements that helped expose Pakistani intrusions. Yet historical loyalty did not shield them from prejudice. Following the horrific rape and murder of an eight-year-old Bakarwal girl in Kathua in 2018, sections of public discourse cast suspicion on the nomadic community itself, leaving many Gujjars and Bakarwals feeling unfairly stigmatized despite their long-standing contributions to the region and the country. The episode demonstrated how political polarization can quickly dissolve distinctions between individuals and entire communities. Ladakh reflects a different version of the same pattern. For decades, many Ladakhis articulated political aspirations distinct from those of the Valley, seeking greater administrative autonomy while



emphasizing closer integration with India. Their concerns centered on governance, cultural preservation, environmental protection, and constitutional safeguards rather than the questions that dominated politics in Srinagar. Yet Ladakh was often interpreted through the same lens as the Kashmir dispute. This conflation carried social consequences. Many Ladakhis have spoken of facing racial stereotyping because of their East Asian features, including casual insinuations that they were somehow “Chinese” or “pro – China.” Booking Historical Guided Tours Such assumptions reduced identity to appearance and overlooked the region’s long-standing contribution to India’s frontier security and national life. The trajectory of Sonam Wangchuk illustrates how these anxieties continue to resonate. Celebrated nationally as an engineer, educator, and environmentalist, Wangchuk later became one of the most visible advocates for constitutional safeguards and greater political accountability in Ladakh after its reorganization in 2019. As his criticism of the government’s perceived failure to fulfill promises became more pronounced, the tenor of public discussion around him shifted. His participation in protests, including those supported by students, was accompanied by accusations that he was “anti-

national,” “pro-China,” or motivated by institutional self-interest. Regardless of the merits of those allegations, their rapid circulation suggested how easily dissent from a peripheral region could be recast as disloyalty rather than democratic disagreement. Viewed individually, each of these episodes belongs to a different political context. Together, however, they reveal a recurring pattern. The Dogras saw their historical centrality fade from public memory. Gujjars and Bakarwals experienced stereotyping during one of the state’s most traumatic criminal cases. Ladakhis have often found their political aspirations conflated with conflicts that are not entirely their own, while prominent voices from the region have sometimes been subjected to sweeping suspicions once they entered contentious national debates. The common thread is not identical grievance but a shared experience of simplification. Large political narratives tend to flatten smaller identities. Once a region becomes synonymous with a single conflict, communities that do not fit its dominant storyline risk becoming invisible ~ or inheriting suspicions generated by political movements with which they have little connection. This is not unique to Jammu and Kashmir. Diverse societies

everywhere struggle against the temptation to compress complex histories into convenient binaries. But the stakes are especially high in a border region whose social fabric has always been unusually intricate. The former state was never simply “Kashmir.” It was a political and cultural mosaic whose peoples remembered the past differently, imagined the future differently, and related to the Indian Union in different ways. Recognizing that diversity is not merely a matter of historical accuracy; it is a democratic imperative. A mature understanding of the former Jammu and Kashmir requires moving beyond the assumption that one region can speak for all others. The Dogras, Gujjars, Bakarwals, Ladakhis, Baltis, Brokpas, Kargilis, Sikhs, and the Valley’s own communities each possess distinct histories, aspirations, and experiences that deserve to be understood on their own terms. The future of reconciliation in the region will depend not only on constitutional arrangements or security policies but also on the willingness to replace simplification with understanding. Nations are strengthened not by folding diverse communities into a single narrative, but by ensuring that each finds an equal place within the larger national story.

Shiv worship in Shravan: From Worship to experience

Shiva is not merely to be worshipped. The Shiva principle has to be understood. Shiva is not merely to be understood either. The Shiva principle has to be experienced. The month of Shravan arrives and a change begins to appear in the atmosphere. Water is offered at Shiva temples, the sound of “Om Namah Shivaya” is heard, people observe fasts, perform worship, and adopt some rules and restraint in their lives. One question should be asked to oneself: Is Shiva only in the temple? If Shiva is only in the temple, then when we come out of the temple after worship, where is Shiva? This is the very question from where the real experiential practice of Shiva begins. Shiva is not merely to be worshipped. The Shiva principle has to be understood. Shiva is not merely to be understood either. The Shiva principle has to be experienced. And the Shiva principle is not merely to be experienced. It has to be expressed in one’s own life. This is the practice of Shravan. Who is Shiva? We see Shiva in many forms. He is a yogi. He is a sannyasi. He is a householder. He is Bholanath. He is Mahakal. He is Nataraj. He is Neelkanth. Why are these different forms in one personality? Because Shiva is not the name of a particular personality. Shiva is a principle. Therefore, whatever thoughts, whatever feelings and whatever actions in life take us from unrest to peace, from ignorance to knowledge, from bondage to freedom, from selfishness to service, and from ego to surrender, therein lies the expression of the Shiva principle. From this perspective, in Shravan we should not ask, “What should I offer to Shiva?” We should also ask, “How do I bring Shiva into my life?” **Shiva’s Silence: Training of the Mind** What is Shiva’s Most Beautiful Form? Meditating Shiva. The world around is moving. Changes are taking place. Creation is happening, it is disappearing. Circumstances are changing. But Shiva remains established in his centre. This is the teaching of yoga. In life, circumstances will not go according to us. People will not behave according to us. The family will not behave according to us. Society will not behave according to us. The world will not behave according to us. Yet we want everything to happen according to our wishes. And when it does not happen? Anger. Disappointment. Stress. Complaints. Blame. We say, “That person disturbed me.” In reality, the other per-

son merely said some words or performed some action. The reaction of unrest arose within our own mind. This is the psychological practice of Shravan. For one month, observe one of your reactions. If you get angry quickly, observe the anger. If you have a habit of complaining, observe the complaint. If you have a habit of criticising, observe the criticism. If you expect too much from others, observe the expectation. Do not suppress it. Do not fight with it either. Just remain aware. The moment you begin to observe your reaction, in that very moment you become a little separate from the reaction. And this is where transformation begins. **Learn to Become Neelkanth** Neelkanth is one of the names of Shiva, Neelkanth. The churning of the ocean took place. Poison emerged before the nectar. Who would bear this poison? Shiva accepted it. But he did not allow the poison to spread throughout his entire existence. This is not merely a mythological story; understand it in the context of your own life as well. In our lives too, a little poison emerges every day. Someone insulted us. Someone did not listen to us. Someone criticised us. Someone did not fulfil our expectations. Sometimes we met with failure. Sometimes disappointment. Sometimes opposition. This is the state of our daily life. Now what do we do with it? Mostly, we do two things. Either we throw the poison at someone else, in the form of anger, harsh words, criticism, or we take it inside ourselves, in the form of hatred, pain, resentment. Neither of the two situations is right. Shiva shows us the third path. Recognise the poison. Hold it. Observe it. Transform it. Do not let it spread further. If someone hurt me and I carry the same hurt to five other people, then I have increased the poison in the world. If someone hurt me and that hurt ended with me, then perhaps at that moment I tried to become Neelkanth. This too is Shiva worship. **Where Should Abhishek Take Place?** In Shravan, we offer water on the Shivlinga. Water is cooling. Now look within yourself. There is the fire of anger. There is the fire of jealousy. There is the fire of ambition. There is the fire of expectations. There is the fire of competition. There is the fire of ego. So where should the real abhishek take place? Within the mind. Offer a pot of water on the Shivlinga and along with it make a resolution: “Today I will not be angry with any-



one.” Second day: “Today I will not unnecessarily criticise anyone.” Third day: “Today I will reduce complaints and increase gratitude.” Fourth day: “Today I will provide selfless help to one person.” Then see how Shravan changes. Outer abhishek and inner abhishek will begin to move together. **Shiva’s Social Message** Who stays around Shiva? Everyone stays. There are deities, ganas, animals, snakes, and also such creatures whom ordinary society does not accept. Shiva does not cast anyone out. Therefore, Shiva has one great social message: Accept. One of the biggest problems of human beings today is that we want to accept only people like ourselves. The one who thinks like me is good. The one who agrees with me is good. The one who likes what I like is good. We keep the rest away from us. But the Shiva principle says: Recognise unity even in diversity. Every person will not be like me. Every person will not think in my language. Every person will not behave according to my values. Yet I can live with that person with respect, cooperation and harmony. This is the social yoga of Shiva. **From Worship to Service** Swami Satyanand Ji gave a special place to service in spiritual life. Merely worrying about one’s own liberation is not the completion of spirituality. It is also necessary to look around. Who is unhappy? Who needs help? Who is alone? Who needs food? Who needs two words of love? Who needs only someone to listen to them? If in Shravan we offer water to the Shivlinga every day and do not see the tears of a distressed person, then we will have to make our worship a little

broader. Shiva is in the temple as well as in life. Therefore, remember one simple formula: Worship Shiva within, serve Shiva outside. **Shiva Is My Guide** Now connect the symbols of Shiva with your own life. When the mind is restless and you see meditating Shiva, tell yourself: “First become calm, then make a decision.” When someone speaks harsh words to you and you remember Neelkanth: “Do not take this poison forward.” When ego begins to grow and you see the ashes of Shiva: “One day everything will turn to ashes. What is there to be so proud of?” When desires become very large and you remember Shiva’s simplicity: “How little is needed to live, and how much does the mind ask for?” When the mind becomes restless and you see the moon on Shiva’s head: “The mind is my instrument; I am not a servant of the mind.” When your strength and energy are being wasted and you see Shiva’s snake: “Control your energy, give it the right direction.” When you cannot understand a situation and remember Shiva’s third eye: “Do not look only at what is visible. Look a little deeper.” And when some achievement, knowledge, power or grace is attained in life and the stream of Ganga is visible: “Do not keep what you have received only for yourself. Let it flow for the welfare of others too.” Then Shiva will no longer remain merely an idol of worship for us. Shiva will become our guide. **Three Resolutions** Three resolutions can be taken in this Shravan. First: Social resolution. “May a little happiness come into

someone’s life because of me.” Second: Psychological resolution. “I will identify one negative habit of mine and try to change it.” Third: Spiritual resolution. “I will develop silence, awareness, simplicity and faith within myself.” If we can live these three resolutions in Shravan, then worship will not remain merely worship. It will become practice. From Worship to Experience There is a sequence in the spiritual journey. First, I worship Shiva. Then, I remember Shiva. After that, I begin to understand the Shiva principle. Then, I begin to experience the Shiva principle within myself. And ultimately, the effort is made, I live the qualities of Shiva in my life. This is the journey from worship to practice and from practice to experience. Then the greatest Shrivlinga becomes our own consciousness. Offer the water of awareness upon it. Offer the bilva leaves of *purity, simplicity and innocence. Offer the flowers of positive thoughts. Offer the fruits of service. Light the incense of cooperation. Light the lamp of discrimination. And offer the ego at the feet of Shiva. Then Shiva will not be only on Kailash. Shiva will be in our silence. He will be in our awareness. He will be in our restraint. He will be in our compassion. He will be in our service. He will be in our positivity. And in difficult times, when we do not understand which direction to take, a peaceful inspiration will arise from within: Do not react, become aware. Do not spread the poison, transform it. Do not live only for yourself, serve. Do not get entangled in ego, surrender. Do not flow in unrest, return to your centre.

NHAI extends digital FASTag Local Pass to 121 toll plazas

New Delhi, Aug 18 : The National Highways Authority of India has extended the online FASTag Local Pass facility to 121 toll plazas nationwide, enabling eligible commuters to buy monthly local passes through the Rajmargyatra mobile app, an official statement said on Tuesday. The Online Local Pass enables eligible commuters to subscribe the monthly Local pass online through the Rajmargyatra Mobile App, eliminating the need for physical visits to toll plazas and manual submission of supporting documents, the statement from Ministry of Road Transport & Highways said. The initiative will make National Highway travel more seamless and citizen-centric by leveraging technology to enhance transparency and efficiency of the tolling operations, the statement noted. The first Digital Local Pass facility was launched in July 2026 at



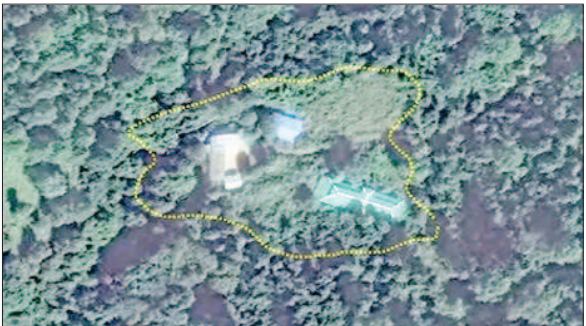
the Mundka-Bakkarwala Toll Plaza on Urban Extension Road-II (UER-II) in Delhi. The facility has since been expanded to over 120 toll plazas across the country and will be rolled out to more toll plazas across the country in the coming months. Under the Digital Local Pass framework, residents residing within a 20 km radius of an eligible toll plaza can apply for the Local Pass through Rajmargyatra Mobile App. The pass permits

unlimited travel through the respective toll plaza during the month, subject to applicable provisions. Previously, commuters had to visit toll plazas in person and submit documents to prove residential address and meet other eligibility requirements. The Digital Local Pass facility leverages consent-based integration with Government digital platforms, including DigiLocker and VAHAN, to retrieve and verify relevant information such as

the commuter's residential address, vehicle details and linked FASTag. Eligibility is further established through GIS-based verification, which determines whether the applicant's registered address falls within the prescribed 20 km radius of the eligible toll plaza. "The system also reduces scope for manual intervention and streamlines the delivery of local toll services to eligible commuters," the statement noted.

Op Sindoor documentary hits a nerve in Pakistan, triggers fresh ISPR offensive

New Delhi, Aug 18 : Pakistan is visibly rattled by the documentary on Operation Sindoor. The Discovery channel released the documentary titled, "Declassified: Operation Sindoor," which was premiered on August 15. The two-part documentary features Indian military leaders and all those personnel involved in Operation Sindoor. It delves deep into the planning and execution of the operation that was carried out by the Indian armed forces to avenge the Pahalgam attack. The official response came from the Inter-Service Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the Pakistan military. The ISPR has called the documentary as India's own depiction of the operation. It also questioned India's 100 per cent success claim. Officials say that post Operation Sindoor, a lot has changed in Islamabad. Field Marshal's aggressive posture in his own country



is a reflection of what transpired during the Operation Sindoor. His actions in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK), Balochistan, Afghanistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) are clear indications that the aggression is aimed at covering up the loss of face during the Indian operation, the official said. Pakistan watchers say that post Operation Sindoor, Pakistani establishment and the military in particular, had a lot of explaining to do. They had to explain to the people of the country and more importantly to terror groups such as the Lashkar-

e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and Hizbul Mujahideen, which were the hardest hit in the operation. All three terror groups lost a considerable amount of infrastructure which included training facilities, headquarters and even personnel. The experts say that the documentary has just rubbed salt to the wounds. It has hit a nerve centre and once again raked up a sensitive issue, which the establishment and Asim Munir would like to forget. An Intelligence Bureau official said that the ISPR has been instructed to continu-

ously attack the documentary and question its authenticity. Although it makes no difference to the Indian people, those in Pakistan will once again begin questioning the establishment, the official said. This explains why the ISPR has taken an aggressive stance against the documentary, the official also said. Another official said that since Operation Sindoor, Pakistan has indulged in an information war against India. There were several handles that were created by the Pakistani Army and ISI to put out fake narratives against the Indian armed forces. These were aimed at both spreading lies and also trying to demoralise the forces, the official said. This latest tirade against the documentary is part of the same disinformation warfare. Intelligence agencies are continuing to keep a close watch on the activities of Pakistani handles on the social media.

Pakistan's top court orders jailed Imran Khan be shifted to hospital amid health concerns

Islamabad, Aug 18 : Pakistan's Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered authorities to transfer jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan to Islamabad's Shifa International Hospital for a comprehensive medical examination within the next few days, local media reported. A three-member Supreme Court bench led by Justice Shahid Waheed passed the order while hearing several petitions seeking Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's hospitalisation and meeting with his family. "Mindful of the fundamental right, we are issuing this order to ensure the health and safety of the prisoner," leading Pakistani daily Dawn quoted Waheed as saying. The court said the order was being issued in view of Imran Khan's health and the constitutional guarantee of the right to life and access to medical facilities. It also directed authorities to ensure weekly meetings between Imran Khan and his family members and ordered the establishment of a medical board, with his personal physician and his sister Uzma Khan, to be associated with it. The ruling came a day after the Superintendent of Adiala jail, where Imran Khan has been incarcerated since August 2023, submitted a report to the Supreme Court on the former PM's health.



Citing an annexure to the findings, Dawn reported that Akhtar Ali Bandeshah, a doctor at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), examined Imran Khan on August 1 and recorded complaints of uncontrolled and fluctuating blood pressure, palpitations, headache, and restlessness. Imran Khan reportedly linked his symptoms and stress partly to limited meetings with his wife, family, and social contacts, as well as the lack of access to newspapers and television, Dawn reported. The doctor advised steps to ease Imran Khan's mental stress, including allowing him to meet his wife more frequently and providing access to reading material. He also recommended a CT coronary angiography and an increase in his blood

pressure medication, warning that the 74-year-old PTI leader was at risk of developing complications. Imran Khan had approached the Supreme Court in May, seeking his transfer to Shifa International Hospital and access to his personal physicians, family members, and legal counsel, as well as the sharing of his medical records with his family. Last month, UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, Alice Jill Edwards, expressed concerns over reports of Imran Khan's detention conditions and his not getting access to proper medical care. She also urged Pakistan to restore humane conditions and allow the former PM to access medical examination and treatment of his own

choice. "Fmr PM Imran Khan has now been held in near-total solitary for 33 months in a small, windowless cell under 24/7 CCTV. Often more than 2 weeks continuously, without exercise or meaningful human contact. This far exceeds the MANDELA rules," Edwards wrote in a post on LinkedIn. "I am also concerned about reports that he is being denied proper medical care and is suffering from serious medical issues that have not been treated appropriately, compounding a spinal injury from a 2013 accident and bullet wounds sustained in a November 2022 assassination attempt. I call on Pakistan to restore humane conditions and allow him his choice of medical examination and appropriate treatment," she added.

6.1-magnitude earthquake strikes off Indonesia's North Sumatra

Jakarta, Aug 18 : A 6.1-magnitude earthquake struck off Nias Island in Indonesia's North Sumatra province on Tuesday, according to the country's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency. No casualties or property damage have been reported so far, reports Xinhua news agency. The earthquake occurred at 1:02 p.m. local time (0602 GMT), with its epicentre located about 147 km southeast of South Nias regency at a depth of 29 km, the agency said. The earthquake did not have the potential to trigger a tsunami, it added. This comes against the backdrop of another strong earthquake earlier this month, when a 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck Indonesia's East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) province. The death toll has risen to 68, the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) said Monday.



"The fatalities include 26 in Manggarai regency, 24 in East Manggarai, eight in Nagekeo, four in Sikka, and two each in Ende, West Manggarai and Ngada, while 213 others were injured," BNPB Deputy for Prevention Abdul Muhari told a press conference. At least 1,576 aftershocks have been recorded since the main quake.

The earthquake was centred about 30 km northeast of Mbaya in Nagekeo Regency at a depth of 15 km, according to the decree. The quake damaged 914 houses heavily, 126 moderately and 317 lightly. It also damaged 93 educational facilities, 36 health facilities and 38 government offices. Roads in the affected

areas are generally passable with some restrictions, while no residents remain reported missing across the seven affected regencies. The Health Ministry has sent two field hospitals to Manggarai and Nagekeo and deployed medical and crisis management teams to support health services in quake-hit areas. Meanwhile, electricity restoration in western and eastern Flores Island has reached 99.5 per cent, while telecommunications services across Flores have recovered to 95.4 per cent. The Indonesian military has also deployed personnel and equipment to accelerate the distribution of relief supplies to hard-to-reach areas. East Nusa Tenggara provincial government has declared a 14-day emergency response status following the earthquake on August 15, according to a provincial government decree.

India's election model draws Trump's praise: A system built on multiple checks



New Delhi, Aug 18 : When US President Donald Trump praised India's voter identification system and cited it as an example for the United States, he put the spotlight on one of the world's most extensive electoral frameworks. Referring to his conversation with Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, Trump questioned how elections could be conducted in the US without mandatory photo identification and renewed his support for the SAVE America Act, which proposes documentary proof of citizenship and government-issued photo identification for federal elections. India's electoral strength,

however, goes far beyond the voter ID card. At the centre of the system is the Election Commission of India, an independent constitutional authority entrusted with conducting elections to the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies and Councils, and the offices of the President and Vice President. The scale of the exercise is enormous. In the 2024 Lok Sabha election, more than 642 million people voted, making it one of the largest democratic exercises ever conducted. Millions of voters are spread across more than a million polling stations, from remote villages and difficult terrain to major

cities. The foundation is the electoral roll. Booth Level Officers help prepare, verify and update voter lists at the grassroots. Political parties can appoint Booth Level Agents to scrutinise these rolls and flag discrepancies. This creates a system in which the preparation of electoral rolls is subject to political as well as administrative scrutiny. At the polling station, voters are generally identified through the Electoral Photo Identity Card, or EPIC, though the Election Commission also permits other approved identification documents. Digital e-EPIC services have further expanded access to voter identifica-

tion and electoral information. Another important safeguard is the presence of representatives of candidates and political parties. Polling agents can observe proceedings inside polling stations, while counting agents are present during the counting of votes. Their role provides an additional layer of scrutiny at both stages. Technology adds another dimension. Electronic Voting Machines, backed by Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail systems, are subject to prescribed procedures for commissioning, sealing, storage, transportation and verification. Strong rooms, election observers and detailed counting procedures add further safeguards. According to experts, India's electoral robustness therefore rests on multiple checks and balances—not merely on voter identification. "From voter registration and polling to counting and verification, the system combines constitutional oversight, administrative machinery, political-party scrutiny, candidate representatives and technology," say officials.

'Second stage of protest': Jharkhand student leader demands law that guarantees leak-proof examination

Ranchi, Aug 18 : Following the conclusion of his hunger strike after the Jharkhand government announced the cancellation of all examinations conducted by the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission (JSSC) and TDPL, student leader Devendra Nath Mahto said that the protesters will now seek the implementation of a law that guarantees leak-proof examinations as the "second stage of the agitation". He emphasised that the movement's objective is not merely to get specific exams cancelled but to transform Jharkhand's entire recruitment and examination system into one that is transparent and free from corruption. Speaking to IANS, Mahto said: "The CGL examination that was cancelled yesterday had also been cancelled on January 28, 2024, due to a paper leak. The paper leak took place even during the re-examination, due to which the exam was again cancelled. So, the 14 exams which have now been cancelled, what is the guarantee that paper leaks won't happen again?" He stated that the government accepting their demand of taking action over exam irregularities marks the success of only the first stage of their agitation. "We would thank the government, students and



all our supporters for this," he added while claiming that probes by various agencies over exam irregularities have been taking place "even since the formation of Jharkhand but students have not received justice yet". "We want recruitment examinations which are secure from any kind of paper leaks. Government must now guarantee a system that leaves no room for future paper leaks, issues in question paper setting, or any form of malpractice during examinations. We should be assured that those indulging in such acts will be given the harshest punishment and a law should be passed by the state

Assembly in this regard. If required, the Constitution may be amended to achieve this objective. This is the second stage of our fight," Mahto said. He asserted that if such a law comes into effect, it would benefit the coming generations as well. Earlier, after ending his hunger strike, Mahto had said: "Today, on the 16th day of our hunger strike, we ended our fast in a dignified manner. With the joint initiative of Jharkhand Health Minister Irfan Ansari, Minister Deepika Pandey and our MLA Jairam Mahto, we decided to suspend our hunger strike. All the demands for which we

had been protesting constitutionally and peacefully have been fulfilled..." The decision to cancel all examinations conducted by JSSC-CGL and TDPL was taken at a special Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Monday. The announcement triggered celebrations among students protesting at Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium. Despite heavy rain, protesters embraced each other, distributed sweets, raised slogans, and celebrated with colours and fireworks. They described the cancellation of the JSSC-CGL examination as a major victory after 24 days of agitation.

Tollywood Biggies Eye On Sankranthi...



Sankranti... It's not just a festival, but a celebration that brings the entire family together. Well, for Tollywood, it's one of the biggest seasons for Telugu cinema. This Sankranti, we already witnessed megastar's Mana Shankara Vara Prasad movie breaking records. Even Sharwanand's Nari Nari Naduma Murari and Naveen Polishetty's Anaganaga Oka Raju emerged as

blockbusters with their comedy narratives. But the next Sankranti is not going to be that easy... Already Sai Dharam Tej's Sambarala Yeti Gatti, Anil Ravipudi's new movie and Megastar's new movie and Sharwanand's George Krish have zeroed in their release dates. But film circles are also expecting Nagarjuna's 100th movie and Balakrishna's

Malineni movie to join the bandwagon. As of now, let's first check out the tentative release dates of confirmed Sankranti movies: **Mega 158** Star Cast: Megastar Chiranjeevi Director: Gopichand Malineni Producer: KVN Productions Distributor: Dil Raju Release Date: 10th January **Sambarala Yeti Gattu**

Star Cast: Mega Hero Sai Dharam Tej Director: KP Rohith Producer: Prime Show Entertainment Distributor: Mythri Movie Makers Release Date: 12th January **Venkatesh And Kalyan Ram's Multi-Starrer** Star Cast: Venkatesh And Kalyan Ram Director: Anil Ravipudi Producer: Shine Screens Distributor: Mythri Movie Makers Release Date: 13th January **George Krish** Star Cast: Sharwanand Director: Sreenu Vaitla Producer: AK Entertainments Distributor: Asian Suresh Release Date: 14th January **Nagarjuna's King 100** Star Cast: Nagarjuna and Tabu Director: Ra Karthik Producer: Annapurna Studios Distributor: Annapurna/Asian Suresh Release Date: 14th January These days, films are frequently postponed despite their initially announced release dates. So, we need to wait for at least 4-5 months to curate the exact list of movies which will hit the theatres during the Sankranti festival!



Ram Pothineni Brightens Fan Sashi's Day with a Special Video Call

Movie Stars always enjoy a massive fan following... Some stars like Chiranjeevi, Allu Arjun, Prabhas, Junior NTR, Balakrishna and Nagarjuna also have their dedicated fan associations. In turn, even our top heroes also support their fans during difficult times. We have already witnessed Megastar Chiranjeevi helping thousands of his fans through his blood bank and eye bank initiatives. Even Balakrishna often helps his fans. When it comes to Prabhas, he is also known for quietly helping people and maintaining a close bond with his fans. In recent years, several stars have visited fans battling serious illnesses fulfilling their wishes through the 'Make A Wish' foundation. Of late, even Pawan Kalyan visited one of his



fans and fulfilled his wish. Even Ram Pothineni showed off his beautiful gesture... Despite his busy schedule, Ram Pothineni connected with his fan through a video call Saladi Sashi, who is currently battling a serious illness. Sashi's mother was seen holding the phone in the video and shared that Sashi often completes her meal watching Ram Pothineni's reels. Even Ram was touched with her fan's love and assured that

he is always there for them. Coming to Ram Pothineni's work front, he will next be seen in his 23rd movie. Notably, it also marks his directorial debut and is a psychological action-thriller. This movie is expected to hit the theatres in December and it is also being bankrolled under RAPo's home banner Rapo Cinematics while the tunes are being recorded by Sam CS.

Balayya Eyes December Release For NBK 111



Nandamuri Balakrishna, fondly known as Balayya has an exciting line-up... "From Gopichand Malineni's upcoming film to

Koratala Siva's political drama, Balayya has a packed lineup of highly anticipated projects. If everything would go as planned,

Gopichand's movie was initially scheduled for a Dussehra release and Koratala's political drama was expected to hit the silver screens during the Sankranti. But Balayya's injury on the sets forced him to take rest for at least 2 months. Balakrishna, who always holds a devil-may-care attitude, suffered a serious injury on the sets of NBK 111. Thus, he also underwent a knee surgery last month. Although Balayya is on the road to recovery, Gopichand's team is planning to release the movie this year itself. Balakrishna who is said to be committed to release NBK 111 in December, hopes to return to the sets in September itself. As both the director and Balakrishna want

to avoid the heavily crowded Sankranti season hope to complete the shoot by November and bring their film to the theatres in December which is also a holiday window. Coming to NBK 111 cast, it has Kajal Aggarwal as a government official... Her first look poster highlighted her decent appeal with the backdrop of a government office. Be it Balakrishna's first look poster or the OST, they created enough buzz on social media. This movie also has an ensemble cast of Sarathkumar, Sanjay Dutt, Samuthirakani, Upendra Limaye and Manish Wadhwa. If the rumours are to be believed, Manchu Manoj will also essay a prominent role in this gangster drama!

Pooja Hegde on being guest of honour at India Day Parade in NY: Immense pride



Mumbai: Actress Pooja Hegde showcased pride after being invited as the Guest of Honour at the India Day Parade in New York, saying the experience of seeing the Indian community come together to celebrate the country

was "truly an honour". The actress shared a slew of images on Instagram, where she is seen holding the Indian flag and waving it as she stood atop a car during the parade. She was also felicitated with a sash that read

"Chief Guest." "It was truly an honour and a matter of immense pride to be the Guest of Honour at the India Day Parade in New York. There was something incredibly surreal about seeing the streets of New York come alive with so many Indians, proudly celebrating our country and everything that connects us to home," she wrote as the caption. The actress added: "Thank you to @federation of indian associations for the honour and a beautifully organised event along with the officials of New York. To be there, doing this with you all is a privilege I don't take lightly. Gratitude for this moment that I'll carry with me for a long time. Jai Hind." It was the 44th annual India Day Parade in New York City, which

took place along Madison Avenue in Manhattan. Organized by the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA), it is celebrated as the largest India Day Parade outside of India. Pooja was joined by actor Adivi Sesh, who also served as a chief guest and grand marshal. The lead actors of Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah made their first-ever New York City appearance at the event. Pooja's latest release is Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai, a romantic comedy film directed by David Dhawan. The film also stars Mrunal Thakur, Varun Dhawan, Manish Paul, Chunky Panday, Jimmy Sheirgill and Mouni Roy. The film is intended to be David Dhawan's final directorial film.

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



Vishal's directorial debut Makutam (Magudam in Tamil) has turned into a major box-office debacle. For Vishal, who took the additional responsibility of directing the film after Ravi Arasu's exit, this is a huge setback both as a debut director and the lead actor. The film was rejected by critics and audiences right from its release. The

biggest problem is its outdated storytelling, routine treatment and overuse of familiar cliches. Instead of offering anything fresh, the film follows a formulaic and tiring template that frontally disconnects audience. The poor response was visible from the opening itself. The film opened to negative reviews and very low numbers. The weak

word of mouth has made the situation even worse. With the film struggling to attract audience Makutam is heading towards a box-office disaster. If the reports are to be believed, the film's opening weekend gross is below the Rs 2 crore mark, it means the film would not even be enough to recover the basic theatrical release expenses.

Anirudh And Kavya's Destination Wedding Date Locked?

Sensational music director Anirudh Ravichander and Sunrisers Hyderabad owner Kavya Maran are once again making headlines. According to several reports in the Tamil media, they are all set to get married in Greece on November 10. The speculation gained fresh momentum after Anirudh's uncle, veteran actor Y.G. Mahendran, publicly spoke about the relationship and indirectly stated that the marriage will happen soon. Interestingly, wedding rumors involving the duo have been circulating for more than a year. While Anirudh had previously dismissed similar reports, the latest reports have once again gained traction. As of now, fans are eagerly waiting for an official announcement. Until then, the reported destination wedding plans remain a major talking point on social media. Anirudh is high on the success of his new film DC, which had great music.



Junior NTR As Deva Senapathi??

Young tiger, Junior NTR is currently recovering from his shoulder surgery. After the massive success of RRR, he scored a decent hit with Devara but faced the biggest flop of his career with Hrithik Roshan's War 2. But then his collaboration with KGF and Salaar fame Prashant Neel, made DRAGON into the most-awaited movie of this season. Unfortunately, he also got injured on the sets of Dragon and underwent a surgery to recover completely. Prashant Neel is known for his dark action entertainers and when it comes to Junior NTR, he never attempted a role of this scale and style. Being a complete action entertainer, the plot centers on a bloody global war for dominance over the international opium and heroin trade. Already the glimpse



introduced NTR as Luger, a merciless Assassin-in-Chief of Afghan trading company. This movie is scheduled to hit the theatres on 11th June, 2027. Well, after this movie, NTR will star in Trivikram's God Of War! Being a mythological movie, he is expected to essay the role of Lord Murugan. Already the announcement poster itself hit the right chord and made his fans go speechless. NTR previously portrayed

Yamadharma Raju's role in 'Yama Donga' and mesmerized the movie lovers as Lord Rama in his childhood itself. So, mythological roles are no new to him and he will definitely ace it with much perfection. Amid this huge buzz, the production banner of his movie, NTR ARTS has reportedly registered two titles, Deva Senapathi and God Of War today and secured their titles before hitting the floors!

Sundeep Kishan's Sigma Release Date Is Out...



Sigma... Right now, this project is creating a buzz in both Tollywood and Kollywood. While Sundeep is playing the lead, the major buzz relates to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's son Jason Sanjay. Of late, the makers locked in the release date and zeroed in 2nd October... The official release date poster features the lead actor Sundeep along with his pet! Sigma, which also marks the directorial debut of Sanjay is a complete action drama. During his recent interview, Sanjay doled out many things about the scale of the project stating, "We are very excited about it, and we're also very aware of the hype and expectations surrounding it. At this moment, Sigma feels more like a cultural expe-

rience than a film. Sanjay has made a very cool film that's also a lot of fun. It's a film that will connect with children as much as it will connect with the older lot. I'm sure it will be a very special film. It's come out really well, and it looks huge." Sundeep already featured in a few Tamil movies like Maanagaram, Raayan and Captain Miller and is all set to feature in Sigma which is being bankrolled by Subaskaran under the

Lyca Productions banner. The film was originally scheduled for a July 31 release but was postponed to avoid a clash with Jason Sanjay's father Vijay's Jana Nayakan. Faria Abdullah plays the female lead while Raju Sundaram, Sampath Raj and Shiv Panditt are roped in to essay prominent roles. Being a Tamil-Telugu bilingual project, Sundeep pins all his hopes on this action drama!

1st Test: Suthar, Prasidh star with ball as India sense victory in Galle

Galle (Sri Lanka), Aug 18 : Bowlers put up a highly disciplined performance to keep India in command in the first Test against Sri Lanka at the Galle International Stadium in Galle on Tuesday. Manav Suthar struck twice, while Prasidh Krishna and Mohammed Siraj took one wicket apiece as the visitors kept their stranglehold on the Galle Test by sending Sri Lanka reeling to 84/4 at the end of Day 4, needing 288 runs more for an improbable win. The Indian bowlers began the defence of 371 after the batters had put 193 in the first innings. Mohammed Siraj and Manav Suthar started things for the visitors with the ball, and both struck in the seventh and eighth over before Prasidh Krishna joined the party as well with a brilliant spell, during which he picked up a wicket. Sri Lanka were reeling at 21/3 after losing Nishan Madushka (6 off 27 balls), Pasindu Sooriyabandara (0 off 1) and Kamindu Mendis (2 off 12) before a mini-stand of 26 runs for the fourth wicket between Lahiru Udara (16 off 58 balls) and Dhananjaya de Silva. Suthar returned and scalped another wicket -- that of Udara before captain Dhananjaya de Silva (31* off 73 balls) and Sonal Dinusha (25* off 36) fought their way to stumps with an unbeaten stand of 37 for the fifth wicket. The innings began with Siraj and Suthar testing the Sri Lankan openers Madushka and Udara.



Siraj gave India the first breakthrough in the seventh over when he bounced off Madushka, caught at deep fine leg, before Suthar removed the concussion substitute and debutant Pasindu Sooriyabandara, who came in as a substitute for the injured Dinesh Chandimal after the latter suffered a neck and shoulder injury. Sooriyabandara fell victim to Suthar's flighted delivery that did not spin but thudded into the back leg. The umpire did not rule it out initially, but India got the call overturned on review. The visitors kept probing the hosts with hard lengths from the pacers and minging spells from the spinners, with an odd one spinning and outfoxing the batters. Prasidh Krishna was superb with the ball in his first spell as he unleashed brilliant hard-length balls. In his first five overs, the tall speedster gave just nine runs with two maidens and scalped a wicket in his first over itself. Prasidh removed

Kamindu Mendis in the 11th over with a back-of-a-length ball as the batter looked clueless as to whether to play it with a vertical or a horizontal bat and edged it behind for KL Rahul to grab an easy one. Ravindra Jadeja was equally difficult to deal with; however, he would be kicking himself for having bowled a no-ball when he had got de Silva caught at slips in the 16th over. Suthar came for his second spell and ended Udara's resistance in the 22nd over, although the catch raised a few eyebrows. Udara edged one fuller one as Dhruv Jurel divided in front to palm the dying ball. He caught it, but it seemed to the eye that the ball may have grassed a bit, but the third umpire deemed it out, calling, "I can see fingers underneath". There was a mini-scare for India when Dhruv Jurel was hit on his ankle while trying to evade a flick from Dinusha. He was seen in pain and walked off as Sarfaraz Khan turned up for him.

The visitors brought in Kuldeep Yadav very late in the innings, giving the chinaman his first over in the 29th over and testing the hosts with his loopy deliveries, but to no harm. The lights faded as the day was called to a close with Sri Lanka well and truly away from the 372 set by India. The day started with India batting for two sessions. They were positive in their play. Rishabh Pant threw caution to the wind in his stroke-filled 66 from 69 balls. KL Rahul (35) and Devdutt Padikkal (44) also forged a good partnership of 65 for the second wicket as India managed to post 193 in the first innings. Brief scores: India 462 & 193 (Rishabh Pant 66, Devdutt Padikkal 44; Asitha Fernando 4-31, Prabath Jayasuriya 3-43) lead Sri Lanka 284 & 84/4 in 34 overs (Dhananjaya de Silva 31 not out, Sonal Dinusha 25 not out; Manav Suthar 2-30, Prasidh Krishna 1-13) by 288 runs

1st Test: Pasindu Sooriyabandara replaces injured Chandimal, makes debut as concussion sub

Galle, Aug 18 : Right-handed batter Pasindu Sooriyabandara on Tuesday was named concussion substitute for the injured batter Dinesh Chandimal for the remainder of the first Test between India and Sri Lanka at the Galle International Stadium. Chandimal suffered an injury to his neck and shoulder while trying to save a ball in the first session on Day 4 of the match. He was taken for scans to a hospital. The Sri Lanka Cricket Board (SLC) confirmed that the precautionary scan on Chandimal was "clear" and there were "no signs of internal injury". The match referee approved the change, it added. Meanwhile, Sooriyabandara has made his debut and has become just the fifth player in Test cricket's history to win his maiden Test cap



as a substitute. The previous five before him were Brian Mudzinganyama of Zimbabwe (Concussion), Khaya Zondo of South Africa (Covid), Matt Parkinson of England (Concussion) and Bahir Shah of Afghanistan (Concussion). The 26-year-old has a decent record in first-class

Sooriyabandara has scored 4893 runs in 102 FC innings at an average of 54.36. He has scored 14 centuries and 23 half-tens to his name. He was also part of the tour match between India and Sri Lanka Cricket XI and scored 35 and four runs across the two innings in the game, which India won by six wickets after chasing 207.

India handed a strong target of 372 to Sri Lanka as they were bowled out for 193 at tea on the second-to-last day of the match. The start was delayed a bit due to drizzle as the third session began at 3:30 PM, nearly half an hour late from the assumed innings and tea break. For India, Rishabh Pant was the star with the bat as he made a stroke-filled 66 from 69 balls. Pant got to his 20th half-century while KL Rahul and Devdutt Padikkal also put in strong hands with 35 and 44, respectively. For Sri Lanka, Asitha Fernando starred with four wickets as he tested the Indian batters with his shortish deliveries. Prabath Jayasuriya also picked three, while Lahiru Kumara and Keshara Nuwantha scalped two and one, respectively.

Tejaswin Shankar, Treesa-Gayatri, Divya Deshmukh headline Arjuna Awards 2025 list

New Delhi, Aug 18 : Decathlon athlete Tejaswin Shankar leads a list of 17 athletes who will be conferred with the prestigious Arjuna Awards as the sports ministry on Tuesday announced the National Sports Awards 2025. The Arjuna Award list also includes India's premier women's badminton doubles pair, Treesa Jolly and Pullela Gayatri Gopichand, FIDE World Cup winner Divya Deshmukh, track and field athlete Muhammad Ajmal Variyathodi, race walker Priyanak Goswami, Boxer Narendar, Chess player Vidit Santosh Gujarathi, para shooter Dhanush Srikanth, Lahremisami Hmarzote (Hockey), Rajkumar Pal (Hockey), Surjeet and Pooja (Kabaddi), Para shooter Rudransh Khandelwal, Para athlete Ekta Bhyan, rower Arvind Singh and shooter Akhil Sheoran. Tejaswin Shankar created history at the Commonwealth Games by securing bronze in the decathlon, becoming the first Indian athlete to win a medal in the event at the Games. Divya stunned the chess world by winning the FIDE Women's World Cup 2025, becoming the first Indian woman to claim the prestigious title. In the all-Indian final, Divya defeated

legendary compatriot Koneru Humpy 1.5-0.5 in the rapid tie-breaks on Monday to script a fairytale ending in Baku. "Based on the recommendations of the Selection Committee chaired by a former Judge of the Supreme Court of India, Justice (Retd.) Arun Kumar Mishra, the Government has decided to confer awards on the following sportspersons, coaches and entities under various categories," the ministry said. The 'Arjuna Award for outstanding performance in Sports and Games' is awarded for good performance over the previous four years and for demonstrating qualities of leadership, sportsmanship, and discipline. Meanwhile, veteran Indian footballer Isaiah Arumainayagam will be honoured with the Arjuna Award (Lifetime). He participated in the 1962 Jakarta Asian Games, where India won gold. He was also part of the Indian team that achieved second place at the 1964 AFC Asian Cup in Israel. The 'Arjuna Award (Lifetime)' is



given to honour and motivate those sportspersons who have contributed to sports by their performance and continue to contribute to the promotion of sports even after their retirement from active sporting careers. Athletics coach Parveer Singh, boxing coach Chhote Lal Yadav and shooting coach Neha Nandkumar Chavan will be presented with the Dronacharya Award. Meanwhile, Army Paralympic Node, Pune will be awarded with the Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar. This award is given to a corporate entity or non-governmental organisation that has played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development. The National Sports Awards are given every year to recognise and reward excellence in sports.

Renshaw replaces Weatherald for Australia's second Test against Bangladesh

Australia have made one change to their squad for the second and final Test against Bangladesh, recalling Matthew Renshaw after their shocking nine-wicket humiliation in the series opener in Darwin. Opener Jake Weatherald has been dropped from the 13-member squad after a disappointing outing in the first Test, with the left-handed Renshaw named as his replacement. Renshaw could make his first Test appearance in more than three years if selected for the Mackay Test, which begins on Saturday. The 30-year-old last played Test cricket in Delhi against India in 2023, when he came into the side as a concussion substitute for regular opener



Since then, Renshaw has represented Australia in both ODI and T20I cricket. His return to the Test squad comes after Australia's top order struggled badly against Bangladesh, who secured a stunning nine-wicket victory in Darwin. Australia were bowled out for just 198 in their first innings, while Weatherald managed only 23 and a duck across the two innings. His poor showing has resulted in his omission from the squad for the series finale. Renshaw's inclusion provides Australia with another option at the top of the order as they look to

respond to one of the most unexpected defeats in their recent Test history. Regular No. 3 Marnus Labuschagne, however, has retained his place despite his own struggles with the bat. Labuschagne scored 31 in the second innings in Darwin but has been short of runs for some time. Australia coach Andrew McDonald acknowledged that the experienced batter still has work to do to

secure his position in the side. "I think it was 31 he got in the second innings, and up until the point he got out, you'd sit there and say he was looking good," McDonald said of Labuschagne. "He was moving well, he's clipping off his pads, he was getting back through the ball down the ground. So it's easy for me to sit here and try to defend that, but ultimately it's 31. It's not a big score. He's lacked runs. He feels that. We feel that. We're working incredibly hard as a coaching group." The defeat in Darwin left Australia with plenty to address before the second Test, particularly after Bangladesh's bowlers exposed weaknesses in their batting line-up. Australia's reserve wicketkeeper-batter Josh Inglis and fast bowler Scott Boland have retained their places in the squad and could also come into contention for the series finale.

BWF World C'ships: Unnati Hooda starts with a win, Rohan-Ruthvika's campaign ends



Unnati Hooda made a winning start to her BWF World Championships debut, but admitted she briefly took her foot off the pedal after building a commanding lead against Myanmar's Thet Htar Thuzar, prompting her coach to step in with a simple message: "No, no, just focus now and play." Hooda went on to beat Thuzar 22-20, 21-16 at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium on Tuesday, recovering from a tightly contested opening game to make an impressive start to her maiden World Championships campaign. The 18-year-old raced to an 11-1 lead after the change of ends and appeared to be cruising towards victory. With the match seemingly under control, however, Hooda began experimenting with some of her strokes, allowing Thuzar to fight back to 16-20. That was when her coach reminded her to focus on finishing the match. "Not as such, but with that such lead I was in between trying a few of my strokes also, because I had so much lead, so he also said like you can try few of your strokes, but then I made some silly errors also, then he also like strictly said no, no, just now focus and play," Hooda told reporters in the mixed zone after her

win. The opening game had been a much tighter affair, with Hooda needing 21 minutes to edge it 22-20. She said she was initially trying to understand the conditions, particularly the difference in drift on the two sides of the court. "I do not know in the starting I was just understanding the court conditions and everything, but yeah just because both of the sides are very much different, so from the first game that I played there was like my attack was not going so good, so I changed my plan and did like I used some tosses and all that and then her attack was going well from the first side, then like I got a few bit idea like the how the courts are going on, so I was able to adapt well in the second game," she said. Hooda felt she managed the drift well but admitted to making a few errors while trying to close out the first game. "I feel like it was a good match and I am happy that I was able to control the drift pretty well, but in the second half during the finishing I made a few errors and just may be rushing a little bit, but then I controlled myself," she said. Asked if the drift was behind some of her errors, Hooda instead put them down to her own execu-

tion. "No, I feel like that was little bit of my hand mistakes," she said. The victory gives Hooda confidence ahead of a significantly tougher second-round assignment against 13th seed Michelle Li of Canada, who defeated Chinese Taipei's P. Chiu 22-20, 21-12. Subscribing To Digital Newspaper Outlets "Every match will be a different match, tomorrow I will be playing against Michelle (Li), so I will prepare well for tomorrow's match, but yeah I played today, so got an idea of the court and everything, but we cannot say because drift can change sometimes," Hooda said. While Hooda managed to recover from a wobble and close out her match, India's mixed doubles pair of Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde were left to rue a similar loss of momentum. Booking Historical Guided Tours The Indian pair surrendered a one-game lead to lose 22-20, 19-21, 17-21 to Canada's Jonathan Lai and Crystal Lai in their opening-round contest, ending their campaign after one hour and eight minutes. Kapoor admitted the pair lost focus at a crucial stage of the second game, allowing the Canadians to turn

the match around. "We won the first game. We were in control of the first game. We were on what we thought was the fastest side. But we were actually in the control of the entire match. But I think we lost a bit of focus in the second set. We just lost the second game there and then obviously the pressure built up in the third," Kapoor said. The Indians had also entered the match with confidence after beating the Canadian pair in straight games the previous time they met. "We were quite confident for the match as we have already played this pair before last year and we won in straight sets. So we were quite confident that we would pull out this match. But obviously, sometimes the conditions, even when you are comfortable with the conditions, things are not in your favour," he said. Kapoor said the key message from the bench, including coach Pullela Gopichand, was to return to the basics, particularly in the service and return exchanges. "Yeah, I think it was just that we need to stick to basics. We need to focus a lot on service receivings. Because that was the area where we were lacking in the second set in the second half," he said. Despite the disappointment, Kapoor was keen to draw a line under the defeat. "I would not want to think about this match ever again. Probably that's the good way ahead. If I want to continue working hard and get better, I think I need to forget about this match and move on," he said. For Hooda, meanwhile, the focus now turns to Li and another test on the biggest stage of her career.

Rishabh Pant hits 100th Test six, becomes first Indian to reach milestone

New Delhi, Aug 18 : Rishabh Pant has added another record to his name, becoming the first Indian cricketer to hit 100 sixes in Test cricket during Day 4 of the first Test against Sri Lanka at the Galle International Stadium on Tuesday. Coming into the Test, Pant had 97 maximums in the longest format. After hitting one in the first innings, he needed two more in the second to reach the landmark. He smashed Lahiru Kumara for a straight six in the first session before bringing up his 100th maximum off the same bowler in the second, clearing deep fine leg. The shot also brought up his fifty, which came off just 53 balls. The milestone made Pant the first Indian and only the fourth batter overall to hit 100 sixes in Test cricket. He also became the fastest batter to reach the mark, doing so in his 89th innings and 51st Test, surpassing the previous record held by former Australia wick-

etkeeper-batter Adam Gilchrist.Geographic Reference Former England captain Ben Stokes leads the list with 138 sixes, followed by New Zealand great Brendon McCullum on 107. Gilchrist finished his Test career with exactly 100 sixes. But while Pant has been grabbing headlines in Galle for his batting, the wicketkeeper-batter has hardly stayed away from the limelight off the field either. Earlier this month, Pant went viral after making a late-night appeal on social media to Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami over difficulties in acquiring land in his home state. Pant said he had been trying for three years to buy land to build a home and move his base from Delhi to Uttarakhand, while making it clear that he wanted to purchase the land rather than receive it as a favour. Dhami subsequently directed officials to look into the matter.



And now, during the Sri Lanka Test, Pant's voice has become an internet attraction of its own.News His animated stump-mic commentary has been making the rounds on Instagram Reels, with clips of his exchanges with India's bowlers turning into popular voice-over material. One of the most widely shared moments came when Pant was heard telling Kuldeep Yadav, "Eating sugar ho jayega," before adding his trademark encouragement to Kuldeep and Ravindra Jadeja. The clip quickly went viral on social media.

SEBI and NSE along with other securities market participants promote financial literacy and investor awareness at the 5th Tamil Nadu International Kite Festival 2026

Visakhapatnam, 18th August: The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE), under the aegis of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), continues to strengthen its efforts towards promoting financial literacy, investor education and investor protection across the country. Through investor awareness initiatives, NSE seeks to empower citizens with knowledge and encourage informed, responsible and secure participation in the securities market.

An Investor Awareness Initiative was organised at the 5th Tamil Nadu International Kite Festival 2026, being held from August 14 to 16, 2026, at Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu. On the inaugural day of the festival, the SEBI-NSE Investor Awareness Stall, set up in collaboration with other securities market participants, was inaugurated by Thiru S. Rajesh Kumar, Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Government of Tamil Nadu.

The inauguration was attended by Shri M. K. Srikanth, General Manager, SEBI, and Shri Joginder Singh, Vice President, NSE, along with representatives from other securities market participants.

The participation of the Government of Tamil Nadu, SEBI, NSE and other securities market participants underscores the collective endeavour to strengthen investor education, financial literacy and investor protection and to take these messages to a wider and more diverse audience.

Leveraging the Spirit of Kite Flying for Investor Awareness

Kite flying represents aspiration, balance, direction, vigilance and control - qualities that also resonate strongly with the principles of informed investing. Just as flying a kite requires awareness of changing conditions, the right balance and



control over the kite's movement, investing requires knowledge, discipline, patience and informed decision-making. NSE is leveraging this relatable theme to communicate important investor awareness messages in a simple and engaging manner. Through its dedicated investor awareness stall, visitors are being introduced to key concepts relating to investor protection, financial literacy and safe participation in the securities market through interactive and accessible activities. This innovative effort brought together kite enthusiasts and other visitors from across India and provided a vibrant public platform for promoting important messages on financial awareness and investor protection. Promoting Safe and Informed Investing

The investor awareness initiative focuses on important messages, including:

- * Investor rights and responsibilities
- * Making informed investment decisions
- * Identifying and avoiding investment frauds and scams
- * Safe and responsible participation in the securities market
- * Basics of financial planning and investing
- * Awareness about SEBI-verified apps
- * Grievance redressal mechanisms available to investors

Visitors to the stall are being provided with simplified investor education material and encouraged to participate in interactive awareness activities. The initiative is designed to make financial awareness easy to understand and relevant for a diverse audience, including young adults, families and first-time investors.

Connecting Kite Flying with Financial Awareness

The kite festival offers a unique and relatable platform to draw parallels between the art of kite flying and the principles of investing.

A kite needs balance, direction, vigilance and a strong thread to remain steady and fly high. Similarly, investors need knowledge, discipline, patience and informed decision-making to navigate the securities market and work towards their long-term financial goals.

By taking investor awareness to a popular public festival, NSE aims to move beyond conventional awareness platforms and connect with citizens in an environment that is engaging, accessible and culturally relevant. A Collaborative Approach to Investor Awareness

The initiative reflects the importance of collaboration among securities market participants in taking investor education and protection messages to citizens across diverse communities and geographies.

NSE will continue to undertake investor awareness initiatives across multiple platforms and formats to promote financial literacy, encourage informed and responsible participation in the securities market, help investors recognise and avoid fraudulent activities, and contribute towards building a secure, transparent and informed investment ecosystem.

Through initiatives such as these, NSE remains committed to taking investor awareness closer to citizens and making financial literacy an accessible and engaging part of everyday life.

Army recruitment rally in Visakhapatnam from September 3rd to 20th

District Collector M. Abhishikh Kishore has directed the officials to make security arrangements.

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, Aug 18
District Collector M. Abhishikh Kishore has instructed the officials to make all necessary arrangements for the Army recruitment rally to be held in Visakhapatnam from September 3rd to 20th. He directed that all necessary facilities be provided to 10,355 candidates who qualified in the written examination will participate in this recruitment rally to be held at the Indira Priyadarshini Stadium so that they do not face any inconvenience. He spoke to this effect at a meeting held at the Collectorate meeting hall on Monday evening. He said that arrangements should be made to start the 1.6-kilometer night run organized as part of the rally at the Kalimata Temple on R.K. Beach Road and end at the Victory at Sea War Memorial. It was clarified that 800 people will participate in it every day, and the remaining procedures



will be held at the Indira Priyadarshini Stadium for the winners of the run. Traffic control, police security, barricading, electric lights, drinking water and other facilities should be prepared in advance on the run route. The relevant officials were instructed to arrange necessary transport facilities for the movement of candidates, 30 KVA generators in the rally premises, electricity facilities, CCTV cameras, PA system, computers, printers, high-speed broadband, Wi-Fi, LDN and other IT facilities. Giving special priority to cleanliness,

it was suggested that necessary accommodation facilities should be provided for candidates and staff along with mobile toilets, conservancy staff, waste management. It was stated that arrangements should be made for fire engines, dewatering pumps, waterproof tents, shamianas, ground mats, tarpaulins, etc. in case of rain. For the health safety of the candidates, medical teams, ambulances, medical camps have been set up and drinking water points have been set up in the R.K. Beach Run area. It has been suggested that ORS

solution and glucose biscuits should be made available to the candidates keeping in mind the sun and rain. The officials have been instructed to examine the possibilities of providing meals and refreshments to the candidates at subsidized prices or free of cost during the rally. The necessary arrangements for the physical fitness test, long jump pit and other infrastructure should be prepared in the premises of Indira Priyadarshini Stadium. The officials of the concerned departments have been instructed to work in coordination and complete all the prescribed arrangements within the stipulated time to conduct the army recruitment rally successfully.

Colonel Amaresh Singh, DCP Manikantha, DRO M. Visveswara Naidu, RDO Dilip Chakraborty, officers from Police, GVMC, Sports, and other departments participated in the meeting.

40 years of Kala Bharati

A six-day celebrations of cultural events

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, Aug 18
Visakhapatnam Music and Dance Academy Kala Bharathi has been established for 40 years and since then, thousands of concerts, dance programs, plays, literary programs, Harikathas, Burrakathas, Thyagaraja Utsavas, Vaggeyya Karla Utsavas have been organized on this platform, said MSN Raju and Dr. Rambabu, the president secretaries of the trust. Speaking at a press conference organized at the Kala Bharathi auditorium, they said that this Kala Bharathi is an art center formed by elders like C.S.N. Raju, Dr. Gopal Sastry, D.V. Subbarao, V. Seetharamaiah, Ch.V. Joga Rao as a trust and built in the direction of fulfilling the wish of Susarla Surya Bhagwat Shankara Sastri, a devotee of Thyagaraja Swamy, to have a cultural center in Visakhapatnam. He said that Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri, Sangeetha Kala Nidhi, and other renowned artists from all over the world have performed on this stage and Visakhapatnam has become a center for arts through Kala Bharathi. He said that Kala Bharathi Trust has the for-



tune to introduce such an artist to all the people of Visakhapatnam. This year, in line with the four decades of Kala Bharathi's musical service, a six-day program of the highest level has been organized for which Odisha Governor H.E. K. Hari Babu will be the chief guest at the "Natya Vidya Bharati" title conferment ceremony to be held on the 27th. He also said that Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla will be present on the 26th. First, the invitation letter for the six-day festival was unveiled by President MSN Raju, Secretary Dr. Rambabu, Treasurer Paida Krishna Prasad, Trustee Mallika Manoj Granthi, Trustee S. Ramagopal, Pantula Narsingarao, and Manager Mohan Das. General Secretary Sri Ramadasa Dr.

Rambabu, while giving details of the program, said that the festivities will begin on the 22nd with a vocal concert by renowned vocal scholars Dr. Pantula Rama, who received the Sangeet Natak Academy Award from the President this week and is the pride of our Visakhapatnam.

On the second day, on the 23rd, Sanskara Bharati Andhra Pradesh will be presenting the historical drama "Jayaho Shri Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj" with 60 artists on a huge stage. On the third day, on the 24th, renowned Hindustani scholars from Delhi, Kashmir and Calcutta will be performing a Hindustani vocal and sarod instrumental jugalbandi concert. On the fourth day, on the 25th, world-renowned vocal scholars Trichur

Brothers will be performing a wonderful concert. On the fifth day, on the 26th, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award winner Vidwan Mysore will be performing. Manjunath and their son Vidwan Suman

Violin duo concert with Manjunath That will be. On the last day, the 27th, at 6:30 pm, the prestigious annual title "Natya Vidya Bharathi" awarded by VMDA will be conferred on 84-year-old Bharatanatyam artist and Padma Vibhushan awardee Dr. Padma Subramaniam. The main function will be held under the patronage of H.E. Dr. K. Hari Babu as the chief guest. The awardee will also be felicitated with a "Swarnakamalam" worth two and a half lakhs sponsored by Vaibhav Jewellers, a cash prize of one lakh rupees, a certificate of appreciation, new clothes and camphor garlands.

He said that the six-day programs were of the highest standard and that great scholars were invited without any expense being spared. He urged music lovers, artists, and art lovers to come and watch the programs, enjoy them, and encourage them. He also said that prasadam was arranged every night in the form of dinner.

TDP leader hands over Rs.5 lakh aid to bereaved family

Vizianagaram (Cheepuru palli), August 18 (Skyline):

TDP State Executive Secretary and youth leader Kimidi Ram Mallik Naidu handed over a Rs.5 lakh accident insurance cheque to the family of Konchada Saraswathi at Itakarlappalli village in Cheepurupalli mandal. Saraswathi's husband died in an accidental incident, leaving the family in distress. Mallik Naidu visited the family and provided the sanctioned insurance assistance. He consoled the bereaved



family members and assured them that the TDP leadership would continue to extend support during difficult times. He said the party remains committed to the welfare and security

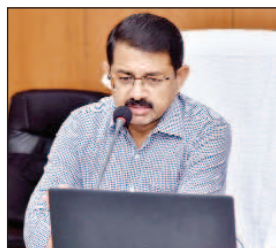
of its workers and their families.

The family members thanked Mallik Naidu and the TDP leadership for standing by them during their difficult period.

Vizianagaram , August 18 (Skyline): District Collector S. Ram Sundar Reddy has directed the officials to expedite the land acquisition process required for various industrial projects to be undertaken under the auspices of Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC) in the district. He held a review meeting with the officials of the concerned departments on the progress of land acquisition of APIIC projects at the Collectorate Conference Hall on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that the establishment of industries in the district will

increase local employment opportunities and expand economic activities. Suggesting that the lands should be made available within the specified time, he discussed with the officials the land acquired project-wise, the land yet to be acquired, the problems being faced and the compensation payment process.

In this review, the status of land acquisition for the establishment of a toy park at G. Chodavaram in Pusapatirega Mandal, industrial parks at Ambatiwalasa in Bondapally Mandal and Marupally in Gajapathinagaram Mandal, MSME parks at Gollapadu in



Garividi and Regidi Amadalavalasa Mandal, integrated steel plant at Srirampuram-Malliweedu in L. Kota Mandal, food park at Akulakatta in Badangi Mandal, and data center at Polipalli near Bhogapuram was inquired about. Special steps were also ordered to be taken for the road connectiv-

ity required for the Oberoi and Mayfair hotels to be set up at Kancheru and Kancherupalem.

Review of land acquisition for projects

In the same meeting, the progress of land acquisition related to Tarakaram Tirtha Sagar Head Works, Thotapalli Barrage pending works, and Uttarandhra Sujala Sravanti projects was reviewed. The land acquisition details of the four-lane road to Bhogapuram Airport, National Highway 516 (B) from Pendurthi to Boudara, Raipur-Visakhapatnam NH 130 CD road, Vizianagaram-Sambalpur Railway Third

Line and Kothavalasa-Vizianagaram Railway Fourth Line constructions were also discussed with the officials and appropriate orders were issued. The Collector clarified that the landowners should be provided with adequate compensation as per the law and the award process should be completed expeditiously. Joint Collector Sethu Madhavan, District Revenue Officer C.H. Saththibabu, RDOs of Vizianagaram, Cheepurupalli, Bobbili, Special Deputy Collectors of Land Acquisition, Tehsildars and other officials participated.

Motorola launches moto g max, the Most Complete Smartphone Massive 7000mAh Battery, Starting at just Rs.26,999

Visakhapatnam, 18th August 2026: Motorola, a global leader in mobile technology and India's leading AI smartphone brand, today announced the launch of the all-new moto g max, the most complete smartphone in the segment, designed for consumers who demand premium design, exceptional durability, pro-grade photography, powerful performance, and long-lasting battery life. Combining a Luxury Satin-inspired Finish in stunning PANTONE™ curated colours, the Segment's Leading 50MP Sony LYTIA™ 600 Camera System, the powerful Snapdragon® 6s Gen 4 processor, an immersive 6.72-inch 120Hz Full HD+ Display, and a massive 7000mAh Silicon-Carbon Battery, the moto g max delivers a complete smartphone experience. Built to keep up with modern lifestyles, the smartphone also features Corning® Gorilla® Glass 7i, MIL-STD-810H certification, IP64 Water-resistant Design, Dolby Atmos® Stereo Speakers,



and the latest Android™ 16 experience.

The moto g max combines premium craftsmanship with a refined Luxurious Satin Finish, for the first time in any G-series smartphones delivering an ultra-premium look and feel while resisting everyday fingerprints and smudges. Available in stunning PANTONE Stargazer, PANTONE Alaskan Blue, and PANTONE Malaga colour options, the smartphone brings together globally curated colours with

Motorola's premium design philosophy, giving the device a distinctive and sophisticated appearance. The sleek design, ergonomic profile, and balanced weight distribution provide a comfortable in-hand experience, whether users are browsing, gaming, streaming, or capturing photos throughout the day. Combining premium craftsmanship with everyday durability, the moto g max is designed to look elegant, feel premium, and complement users' lifestyles wherever they

go. Mr. T.M. Narasimhan, Managing Director, Motorola India, said, "At Motorola, we believe a smartphone is no longer just a device — it is an expression of how we live, work and experience the world around us. With the new moto g max, we have brought together a premium design and luxurious satin finish with powerful photography, exceptional battery life, smooth performance and durability, creating a smartphone that is designed to complement today's dynamic lifestyles. From capturing everyday moments and staying connected to working, gaming and entertainment, moto g max is built to keep up with consumers who expect more from their smartphone. With its distinctive luxurious design, segment-leading features and exceptional value, we believe moto g max sets a new benchmark for a smartphone that looks as good as it performs."

Twin Tragedies Within a Day Shake Gurla Village

Vizianagaram (Gurla), August 18 (Skyline):

A wave of grief swept through Kotagandredu village in Gurla mandal after two persons allegedly died by suicide within a 24-hour period.

A Devakinandan 22-year-old youth from the village died by suicide, following which Gurla police registered a case and began an investigation. The circumstances leading to his death remain unclear. Before the village could come to terms with the incident, a 17-year-old minor girl from the same village also died by suicide within a day.

Local residents said the two were allegedly known to each other and were reportedly in a relationship. There are unverified claims that the youth had



been under emotional distress following objections from elders. The girl is also suspected to have been deeply affected by the youth's death. Police have not confirmed

the reported relationship or the circumstances being discussed locally. Investigators are gathering information to establish the facts behind both deaths.

The consecutive incidents have left Kotagandredu residents in shock and mourning. Community members appealed to parents and elders to handle sensitive issues involving young people with care and provide emotional support when needed.