



Kiara Advani Burns Bright In Blood Red

website: <https://skylinedaily.in/>



Gaja Alternative Asset Management IPO opens August 19; check price band, lot size and other key details

4pg

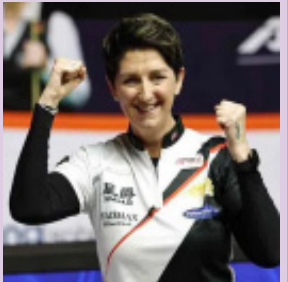


Raksha Mantri flags-off NCC's All India Girls High Altitude Long Trek 'Aparajita - Parang La 2026'

5pg

Kelly Fisher, Gareth Potts win Heyball world titles in Pune

7pg



34% Reservation for BCs in Municipalities: CM



tion promise but part of the coalition government's political ideology. CM Chandrababu Naidu said the government is not stopping at making promises but is implementing them in practice.

The Chief Minister said a special Cabinet meeting was held and a decision taken to rectify the injustice done to BCs by the previous government with regard to reservations. He said the BC community was a major reason for the alliance's victory in the 2024 elections. He stated that the alliance's 94% strike rate and 57% vote share were possible because of the support of BCs and their trust in the leadership. Chandrababu Naidu said he, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and BJP leaders had decided even

before the elections to ensure justice for BCs.

He said 34% reservation would be implemented in rural local bodies and 33.33% in urban local bodies to provide greater political representation to BCs. He explained that provisions relating to both these aspects are already incorporated in the relevant laws. Chandrababu Naidu said mayors and municipal chairpersons in urban local bodies would be elected directly. He also said there is a possibility of 28 Zilla Parishads being formed in the coming days. He criticised the previous government for failing to protect BC reservations and said the coalition government's decision once again demonstrated its commitment to supporting backward communities.

Chandrababu Naidu said there was a system of feudalism in politics before the formation of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). He said that after N.T. Rama Rao (NTR) became Chief Minister, he worked with the idea of ensuring participation of all sections of society in political power. NTR played a key role in bringing leaders such as Yerram Naidu, K.E. Krishnamurthy, Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu, Yanamala Ramakrishnudu, and Devender Goud of Telangana to the forefront of politics, Chandrababu Naidu said. Chandrababu Naidu recalled that he had introduced 34% reservation for BCs in 1995, when he was Chief Minister. However, he said BCs suffered injustice after the government changed in 2019.

34% Reservation for BCs in Upcoming Local Body Elections: Minister Savitha

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, August, 18 : The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly held a short discussion on empowering Backward Classes (BCs) through local self-governance. Minister Savitha initiated the discussion and said it was the government's responsibility to provide opportunities, representation and political empowerment to BCs. She said the State Cabinet approved 34% reservation for BCs in the upcoming local body elections today. She alleged that BCs faced hardships in every sphere during the Jagan government and criticised the YSRCP government for causing injustice to BCs in the matter of reservations.

The Minister said 34% reservation would be implemented in rural areas and 33% in urban areas. She recalled that N.T. Rama Rao (NTR) had founded the

TDP for the advancement of BCs and said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was running the government inspired by NTR's vision.

She recalled that 34% reservation for BCs was implemented for the first time in 1994. The YSRCP government, which came to power in 2019, reduced the reservation to 24%, she said. Due to the 10% reduction in reservations, BCs lost the opportunity to hold around 16,800 posts, she claimed. Minister Savitha said CM Chandrababu Naidu had decided to once again ensure BC participation in political power and that 34% reservation would be provided in the upcoming local body elections.

Savitha thanked Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Minister Nara Lokesh for



promoting political empowerment of BCs. She said the return of Chandrababu Naidu had brought better days for BCs once again.

She said the coalition government had allocated Rs.39,000 crore in its first budget, Rs.47,000 crore in the second budget and Rs.51,000 crore in the third budget for BC welfare. She said a separate corporation for gold-

smiths was established soon after the government came to power. She added that the Assembly had passed a resolution seeking 33% reservation for BCs in legislatures and forwarded it to the Central government for further action. She also said steps were being taken to provide 34% reservation for BCs in the filling of nominated posts.

If Invited to Discuss DSC, Jagan Is Avoiding It: Union Minister



From Our Staff Reporter Kurnool, Aug. 18: Union Civil Aviation Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu criticised YSRCP chief and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, saying that he was avoiding a discussion on DSC-2025 in the Assembly despite Minister Nara Lokesh inviting him to participate. Ram Mohan Naidu urged Jagan to accept Lokesh's challenge and attend the As-

sembly debate. Speaking at Orvakal near Kurnool on Tuesday, the Union Minister said Lokesh was ready to discuss the Mega DSC in the Assembly. He alleged that Jagan was refusing to attend the discussion out of fear that his alleged conspiracy would be exposed in the Assembly. He criticised Jagan for trying to protect his political existence by spreading misinformation against the coalition

government. Ram Mohan Naidu recalled that Jagan was the person who had made teachers stand outside liquor shops and alleged that Jagan harboured anger and resentment towards teachers.

The Union Minister said thousands of teacher posts had been filled through the Mega DSC in a completely transparent manner, without any irregularities. He claimed that the coalition government had filled teacher posts on a scale not achieved by any previous government. He also praised Minister Nara Lokesh for his efforts to attract investments to the state and said Andhra Pradesh had witnessed unexpected development within just two years. Later, Ram Mohan Naidu met CEOs of various drone companies at the Drone City being developed at

Palakolanu in Orvakal mandal near Kurnool. He said the Drone City would gain recognition not only in India but across the world. Drone usage is increasing across various sectors, he said. While the country needs around 600,000 drones, only about 40,000 drones are currently available, he explained. He said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was giving special attention to the Drone City project in Kurnool district.

The Union Minister said drone companies were coming forward after being impressed by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's vision. The Drone City would be developed across 600 acres in Orvakal, with facilities for drone manufacturing, production and training. Companies setting up operations there would receive incentives and con-

cessions from the State government, he said. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had recognised the potential and capabilities of drone technology. Modi's vision was to manufacture drones domestically using Indian technology and export them to other countries, he recalled. Ram Mohan Naidu also said the Centre had banned the import of drones from abroad. He said the Drone City was being established jointly under the aegis of the Central and State governments and would be India's first major integrated Drone City. He said meetings would be held with various drone companies to review their requirements and obtain their suggestions. The Union Minister expressed happiness over the participation of representatives from around 150 drone companies in the programme.

BCs Were Wronged Under Previous Government, TDP Stood by Them: Minister Atchannaidu

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, August, 18 : Minister K. Atchannaidu said justice was done to Backward Classes (BCs) only during the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) governments. Speaking in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly on Tuesday during a discussion on BC empowerment and reservations, he said N.T. Rama Rao (NTR), after founding the TDP, brought people from weaker sections into the Assembly and provided 20% reservation in local bodies. He recalled that N. Chandrababu Naidu, as Chief Minister in 1995, introduced 34% reservation for BCs. He said that if changes were to be made to the existing law, it should have been amended accordingly. Atchannaidu accused the Jagan government of attacking and suppressing weaker sections after coming to power. He said BCs had stood by the



TDP since its inception and alleged that this was why the YSRCP targeted the BC community.

The Minister criticised the previous government for increasing reservations while claiming to support weaker sections, but issuing a new government order instead of amending the existing law. He alleged that the government had cases filed in court through a YSRCP sympathiser seeking cancellation of the res-

ervations. He said that after suffering a setback in court, the government did not approach the Supreme Court, thereby causing injustice to BCs. Atchannaidu said the present government had convened a special Cabinet meeting today to discuss and decide on providing reservations to BCs in local bodies. He appealed to the weaker sections to support the Telugu Desam Party in the upcoming local body elections.

Madhav Makes Key Remarks on Local Body Elections

From Our Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, Aug. 18: BJP Andhra Pradesh president PVN Madhav said the party would contest the upcoming local body elections in alliance with the coalition partners. He said a committee headed by Minister Satyakumar had been formed in view of the local body elections. He called upon party leaders and workers to work with the goal of securing victory in the elections.

Madhav was speaking at a meeting with BJP leaders and workers in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday. He said a strong government was functioning in the country.



Development Reaching Every Village Under PM Modi

Madhav said development had reached every village under the leadership of

Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He called for the BJP flag to be hoisted in every village and said the party should have a ward member in every village. He also

urged party members to secure chairperson and other key positions.

He directed elected representatives and office-bearers to hold another meeting and asked party workers to take Mann Ki Baat closer to the people. He highlighted the establishment of the South Coast Railway Zone with Visakhapatnam as its headquarters and said the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant had been protected.

Visakhapatnam Steel Plant Moving Towards Profits

Madhav said the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant was now moving towards profitability. He said Polavaram water

would reach Visakhapatnam by the end of this month.

He said two resolutions would be introduced at the party's executive committee meeting on Tuesday and directed leaders and workers to participate in every programme announced by the party. He called for the BJP to reach every locality and urged workers to strengthen the party while adhering to coalition dharma. Madhav said the BJP would celebrate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday under the banner "Seva Sankalp". He called upon party workers to ensure that the sun rises and the lotus blooms.

CM Chandrababu, Minister Lokesh Extend Birthday Greetings to Nirmala Sitharaman

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, August, 18 : Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh extended birthday greetings to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. They prayed for her good health, happiness and long life and wished that she would continue to lead the country's development with immense energy. Chandrababu and Lokesh conveyed their wishes through posts on social media platform X.

CM Chandrababu's X Post
"Heartfelt birthday greetings to Hon'ble Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman. I wish you a long, healthy and happy life. I hope you continue to guide the nation's progress with the same dedication and tireless energy and achieve many more successes," CM Chandrababu said.

Minister Lokesh's Greetings



Minister Nara Lokesh also wished Nirmala Sitharaman on her birthday. He expressed his hope that her distinguished service to the nation would continue. He prayed for good health, happiness and greater strength for the Union Minister and wished her many more successes in the coming year.

Malla Reddy Deemed University Orientation Programme Held Grandly Near Renigunta



Renigunta, August 18 (Skyline Daily)
The orientation programme at the newly established Malla Reddy (MR) Deemed University, located near Mallavaram village in Renigunta mandal, was conducted in a grand manner on Sunday. The programme was held at the university's open auditorium and was attended by several prominent dignitaries. Malla Reddy Deemed University Founder-Chairman and Medchal MLA in Telangana State Malla Reddy, University Chancellor Mahender Reddy, and MR Group of Institutions President Dr. Bhadra Reddy participated in the programme and

formally inaugurated the orientation session. During the programme, students were given detailed information about the various courses offered by the university, educational opportunities, academic standards and the infrastructure available on the campus. The university management extended its best wishes to the newly admitted students and encouraged them to set ambitious goals, pursue their education with discipline and dedication, and strive for excellence in their future careers. University representatives, faculty members, students, staff and parents participated in the orientation programme.

Panabaka Bhulakshmi Enrolls as Advocate in Andhra Pradesh High Court, Adds Legal Service to Public Life

Nayudupeta august 18 Skyline Daily TDP senior leader Panabaka Bhulakshmi has achieved another milestone in public service by enrolling as an advocate in the Andhra Pradesh High Court. A report from Naidupet dated August 18 said Bhulakshmi, who has been actively involved in politics with a focus on public welfare, completed her LLB degree and officially registered as a lawyer on Tuesday.
Along with her political and social responsibilities, Bhulakshmi currently serves as a member of the Vijayawada Sri Kanaka Durga Temple Trust Board, TDP State Organising Secretary, TDP Observer for Chandragiri constituency, and Nellore Parliament TDP Women's President. Known for her work in public life, she pursued legal education to further strengthen her ability to serve people. With her enrollment in the High Court, she can now support citizens not only as a political leader but also through legal assistance.
TDP leaders, party workers, supporters and well-wishers congratulated Bhulakshmi on completing her LLB and entering the legal profession. They expressed hope that she will continue to stand by the people by combining public service with legal service. Her journey from LLB to High Court enrollment marks a new chapter in Panabaka Bhulakshmi's career dedicated to serving the public.



Awareness Program on HIV/AIDS by Navajeevan Organization -CC-PU Project

Doravarisatram august18 Skyline Daily Doravarisatram. Under the directives of the Andhra Pradesh State AIDS Control Society (APSACS), and in collaboration with the Tirupati District Medical and Health Department and the DISHA wing, the Navajeevan Organization -CC-PU Project conducted an HIV/AIDS awareness campaign at MJPBCW junior College in DV sathram on Tuesday as a part of the "Intensified IEC Campaign." Speaking at the event, Project Manager K. Balaji explained various aspects of HIV/AIDS, including causes of transmission and modes of non-transmission, symptoms, preventive measures, and the importance of social inclusion—urging students to live alongside those affected without discrimination or stigma. He also discussed sexually transmitted infections and their treatment, the dangers of drug abuse, the use of condoms, the HIV/AIDS Act -2017, ART medicines, the APSACS app, QR codes, self-risk assessment, and the toll-free helpline- 1097, encouraging the participants to share this information with others. College Principal M. Tirupathiah, Vice principal M. Sujeevanarao, Lecturer P. Kasthuri babu, and ORWs K. Jayasree and R. Bhuvaneswari, ANM G.



Sreelatha, Peer Educators and 90 students participated in the event. Subsequently, an awareness rally and meeting on HIV/AIDS was organized in the Krishnapuram area. In this Rally 100 people participated and made a grand success. Out of these 18 people were screened for HIV by Navajeevan CC PU - ANM G. Sreelatha and informed to them about their status.

India to strengthen digital cooperation among BRICS members

New Delhi: India has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthen digital cooperation and future network technologies at the 7th 'BRICS ICT Working Group Meeting' in Pune, guided by its Chairship theme, "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability", according to an official statement. Amit Agrawal, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications, outlined the theme of the ICT Track under India's Chairship, "Innovate, Cooperate and Transform (ICT) for a Resilient Future", and its four pillars, at the three-



day event. He said that the inauguration marks the beginning of an important

week of engagement under the BRICS ICT Track and represents the continuation

of a collaborative process that has been underway for several months.

The Coalition government is a big step towards the advancement of BCs

Madanapalle, August 18(Skyline correspondent): Madanapalle MLA Shahjahan Basha said that the decision taken by the coalition government to restore 34 percent reservation for BCs in local body elections in the state is historic. He delivered a keynote speech as part of the Legislative Assembly session on Tuesday. He said that this decision will contribute to the political, social and economic empowerment of BCs. He expressed special gratitude to Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Minister Nara Lokesh for taking the decision keeping in mind the advancement of BCs. The MLA said that 34 percent reservation will become a strong foundation for the BC communities facing backwardness in rural areas. He said that there will be an opportunity for BCs to increase political representation at all levels, from sarpanch, ward members, MPTC, ZPTC to municipal chairmen and mayors. He criticized that the previous government reduced the reservation of BCs to 24 percent, damaging their political opportunities. However, he praised that the coalition government has done justice to the BCs by restoring 34 percent reservation and that this decision will stand as an example for the country. MLA Shahjahan Basha said that the Thaliki Vandanam scheme implemented by the coalition government is supporting the education of children from poor families, including BCs and Muslim minorities. He said that a person from a minority family, during a visit to the constituency, had mentioned in the Legislative Assembly what he had revealed about his children's education. He said that no matter how many children there are, due to the application of the Thalili Vandanam scheme to all of them, there will be no situation where they have to stop their education due to financial difficulties. He said that



even if one person in a poor family pursues higher education and gets a job, the financial and social status of that family will change. He said that programs like education schemes and fee reimbursement are contributing to the comprehensive development of BCs. MLA Shahjahan Basha said that as a child of the BC-E community, he wholeheartedly welcomes the steps being taken by the coalition government for the economic, social and political upliftment of BCs. He said that it is commendable that the government is giving priority to education, employment and economic development in addition to providing more political representation to BCs. He expressed hope that with 34 percent reservation, the participation of BCs in local bodies will increase further and new leadership will emerge from the lower classes.

Pennakka Cheruvu Canal Revived, Ensuring Irrigation Water for Farmers



Gudur, August 18 Skyline Daily Gudur Work to revive the Pennakka Cheruvu canal has been expedited to ensure irrigation water for thousands of acres in the region. The canal, which carries water from the Kota Swarnamukhi sub-canal in Kota mandal to the Kottapalem Pennakka Cheruvu, had been clogged for years and was being cleared ahead of the rainy season. With the support of Gudur MLA Dr. Pasham Sunil Kumar and the special initiative of District Farmers Wing Executive Secretary and Pennakka Cheruvu Water Association President Nellore Mohan Reddy, heavy machinery including hitachi excavators have been deployed for jungle clearing and desilting. Accumulated silt, mud, garbage, overgrown weeds and vegetation in the canal are being removed to ensure smooth water flow. Farmers expressed happiness over the preemptive measures taken to ensure that water from the cheruvu reaches agricultural fields without obstruction during heavy rains. They appreciated Nellore Mohan Reddy for focusing on farmers' irrigation needs and for identifying problems in

the canal and pushing forward the cleaning and desilting works. They also thanked MLA Dr. Pasham Sunil Kumar for extending support which helped speed up the work. Farmers said the works are of great importance as the Pennakka Cheruvu canal provides irrigation to several thousand acres. They expressed hope that with the removal of obstructions, water flow will improve and crops will receive timely irrigation. Farmers conveyed special gratitude to Gudur MLA Dr. Pasham Sunil Kumar and to District Farmers Wing Executive Secretary and Pennakka Cheruvu Water Association President Nellore Mohan Reddy for taking the lead to address farmers' problems. They noted that the efforts to prevent wastage of Pennakka Cheruvu water and channel it properly to fields during the monsoon will be highly beneficial, and lauded the commitment of both Dr. Pasham Sunil Kumar and local TDP leader Nellore Mohan Reddy toward protecting irrigation resources and safeguarding farmers' interests.

BJP appoints state in-charges for UP, Punjab, and Gujarat ahead of Assembly Elections 2027

New Delhi : Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national president Nitin Nabin announced the appointment of state in-charges and co-in-charges for Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Gujarat with immediate effect. According to a press release issued by the BJP, National General Secretary and Rajya Sabha MP Vinod Tawde has been appointed as the Uttar Pradesh in-charge, while National Secretary Jagdish Ishwarbhai Patel has been appointed as the co-in-charge. For Punjab, National General Secretary and Rajya Sabha MP Dr Satish Poonia has been appointed as the state in-charge. In Gujarat, Rajya Sabha MP and BJP National Headquarters In-charge Tarun Chugh has been appointed as the state in-charge. The party said that appointments of in-charges for other states will be made in due course. Meanwhile, the existing Prabhari arrangement will continue in those states. The appointments come into effect immediately. This development comes ahead of the



Assembly elections in 2027 in these three states, as the party is expected to step up its campaign. This comes after the new team of BJP chief Nitin Nabin was announced on Monday, and is a mix of experience and youth, with the media team also reflecting continuity with change. Party MP Anil Baluni continues to lead the media team as the Convenor. The party has entrusted key responsibilities to a new set of General Secretaries, including former Amethi MP Smriti Irani, former Tripura CM

Biplab Deb, Sunil Bansal, Vinod Tawde, Gajendra Patel, Satish Poonia, Harish Dwivedi, and Sanjay Bhatia. Furthermore, several senior leaders have been named as National Vice Presidents. This list includes former Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje, former Uttarakhand CM Tirath Singh Rawat, Ram Madhav, Baijyant Jay Panda, D Purandeshwari, Rekha Verma, Varshaben Narendrabhai Doshi, Bharti Pravin Pawar, Manpreet Singh Badal, Lal Singh Arya, Prof. M. Nagaraja, Prof. Tariq Mansoor, and Madhuchandra Kar. Notably, six among the thirteen new vice presidents are women. The appointment of National Secretaries reflects a broad geographical reach, featuring Kavita Patidar from Madhya Pradesh, K. Surendran from Kerala, Dr. Bhola Singh from Uttar Pradesh, Pradip Varma from Jharkhand, Jagdish Ishwarbhai Patel from Gujarat, Sandeep Pathak

from Delhi, Phangnon Konyak from Nagaland, Sangeeta Yadav from Uttar Pradesh, Anil Antony from Kerala, M. Venkateshan from Tamil Nadu, Manoj Tigga from West Bengal, Siddharth Shambhu from Bihar, Swadesh Singh from Delhi, Shri Mriganka Deo Barman from Assam, Rohan Gupta from Gujarat, and Jai Prakash from Delhi. In terms of specialised roles, Piyush Goyal has once again been entrusted with the responsibility of National Treasurer. Rajya Sabha MP Tarun Chugh has been named the Central Office In-charge. Gujarat MP Hemang Joshi will take charge of the Yuva Morcha, while the Mahila Morcha will be overseen by Roop Kumari Choudhary from Chhattisgarh. Anil Baluni, a Lok Sabha MP, will continue as Media Convenor, supported by co-convenors Ashish Usha Agrawal, Pradeep Bhandari, and Siddharth Yadav. Deepak Mahaskey of Chhattisgarh has been named as the Social Media Convenor.

EDITORIAL

Gen Z.. From Jantar Mantar to Jharkhand!

Home Minister Amit Shah, who has been avoiding the media in Parliament for the last 20 days, has come to a situation where he has no choice but to answer. The mainstream media did not even cover the Delhi agitations. But it covered the protests in Jharkhand very well. This is just a play played by the BJP. On one hand, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat talks to the media that the gen ji are traitors of the country and that the governments should listen to their demands and solve their problems. Such double standards are possible only for our political parties. That is why the youth of this country have lost faith in our traditional political parties. They are not depending on any party. They are taking independent leadership and taking up agitations to solve their problems. The famous Indian English poet and writer Ruskin Bond wrote a poem saying 'If only rats roared..'. It contains all such absurd and improbable things. But even smaller creatures, cockroaches, roared in the national capital today and forced the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Moreover, as a result of their roar, the examination law has gained more teeth. The investigation into the leakage of NEET UG question papers has intensified. Above all, a consciousness has been ignited among the dormant student youth. Lathis, bullets and barricades could not stop them. The anti-corruption movement that took place at Jantar Mantar shook the Delhi capital. Thousands of youth, led by Cockroach Janata Party founder Abhijit Deepke, questioned the incompetence of the government. It was fueled by Sonam Wangchuk's hunger strike. The activities of Parliament have come to a standstill.

The Prime Minister had to resign in the face of no other option. Another demand was compensation of Rs 1 crore to the families of NEET victims. Although the Act to conduct the exams strictly was passed in 2024, it was not implemented properly. Now, some more classes have been added to it and 10 years of rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 10 crore have been included in this Act for those responsible for leakage. The Cockroach Janata Party is just an online party. But it has a huge following. The youth, who had lost faith in traditional parties, expressed their support for the CJP and risked their lives to participate in the protest at Jantar Mantar. The mainstream media did not give it publicity. The BJP and its affiliated branches branded this movement as treason. They promoted them as anarchic forces and anti-social elements. But the CJP concentrated all its energies on compensation for the NEET victims and succeeded in that. Their desire is that the exams should be conducted in a disciplined manner. Because for some time now, examinations in the country have lost their sanctity and have become a mockery. Leakage of question papers has become common. As a result, students and youth have lost faith in the system itself. Job seekers have also had similar experiences. All this has come together for the CJP. That is why they took part in this movement with determination. Lathis with pellets and nails did not stand in front of their courage. That is why the CJP was able to make its agitation successful even though no party directly participated. It gave a good message to the country.

Inspired by this message, now the Genji movements have spread across the country. In Telangana state, it is known that the youth are planning to protest against the closure of schools and the release of notifications for the implementation of the job calendar. Similarly, in Andhra Pradesh state, we are hearing that the Genji youth are planning to organize protests against the coalition government that is implementing anti-people policies. In some other states too, we are reading that the youth will be alert and will come out on the roads to protest the governments and their corrupt activities. Especially, reforms in the education system, leakage of question papers in exams, and corruption are going to be their main issues.

The eastern Indian state of Jharkhand is in turmoil today. A large number of youth are protesting against irregularities in the examinations conducted by the Jharkhand Public Service Commission and the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission. Jharkhand Lok Tantrik Krantikari Morcha leader Devendranath Mehto has been on a hunger strike for more than nine days and has lost 10.5 kg. Police resorted to lathicharge during the protests on Monday. Protesters are holding their protest at the Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium in Ranchi. In protest against the lathicharge on them, the state BJP president and former Chief Minister Babulal Marandi, the leader of the opposition in the assembly, has called for a state bandh on the 11th of this month. The youth became even more agitated when the police used tear gas shells and water cannons. They ignored the barricades. They expressed their protest by dancing on them. They are strongly alleging a lack of transparency in the JSSC recruitment, demanding the cancellation of the 14th GCSC preliminary examination and a CBI or judicial inquiry into it. Their main demand is that justice should be done to the deserving. The former chairman of JPSC was arrested on this occasion. The government has also decided to cancel three exams. The double standards of the main parties are evident in these movements. While the Bharatiya Janata Party, which opposed and suppressed the protest movement at Jantar Mantar in Delhi, is in opposition in Jharkhand and is demanding the cancellation of the exams, the Congress Party, which came to support the Delhi movement, is making waves in Jharkhand. It is noteworthy that the Congress Party is supporting the government there. That is why it can be said that the youth of the country have developed aversion, aversion and opposition to traditional political parties. The youth's opposition has gone so far that they are reluctant to even invite the Chief Justice of India as the chief guest. Students of the prestigious Hyderabad NALSAR University have refused to receive their degrees from him at the convocation ceremony and have submitted signed letters to the Vice Chancellor and Registrar. Earlier, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences had postponed the CJI's program. This means that the Chief Justice's comments on the youth and his attitude towards watching videos of police brutality against protesters have hurt the youth of this country. The decision to boycott the CJI is a reflection of their anger. The frustration and despair among the youth of the country is being exposed through these protest movements. Resignation of individuals or ministers is only a temporary solution. But it is clear that they want a system free from irregularities, irregularities and corruption.

Attack On Sukhbir Badal: Time To Heal, Time To Rethink Panthak Politics

A sacred Sikh space in the Deccan has become the setting for a question Punjab can no longer avoid. What happens when religious identity, grievance and violence begin appearing too closely together?

The motive behind the attack on Sukhbir Singh Badal remains under investigation. But the incident raises questions about the direction of Sikh public discourse. I was in Nanded in June, walking through a city where Sikh history feels inseparable from the cultural world around it.

Takht Sachkhand Sri Hazur Sahib is a holy centre of enormous importance, associated with Guru Gobind Singh's final days in 1708 and the continuing Sikh presence in the Deccan.

That experience challenged the neat categories through which many of us in Delhi have understood Sikhi.

Sikhs in the Deccan have absorbed the cultural landscape around them without surrendering their own identity.

Then, back in London, came the news that Sukhbir Singh Badal had been attacked inside a gurdwara in Nanded by Jaspal Singh, identified by police as a Nihang.

Badal reportedly suffered a penetrating wound to his hand and underwent surgery.

A Faith That Leaves Room For Mercy

The question is larger than Badal.

He carries political baggage. The sacrilege incidents of 2015, during the Akali-BJP government, caused a wound that cannot be dismissed in religious life.

The controversies around the handling of those cases and the religious pardon granted to Sirsa Dera chief Ram Rahim by the then Jathedar of the Akal Takht for an earlier instance of blasphemy, followed by its revocation, remain embedded in Sikh memory.

Badal later sought Panthak and religious forgiveness for wrongdoings committed during his years in power.

Sikhi gives considerable space to confession, correction and forgiveness.

Gurbani places daya at the heart of the Sikh moral imagi-



nation.

“Make compassion the cotton, contentment the thread, modesty the knot and truth the twist.”

— Guru Nanak, Ang 471, Sri Guru Granth Sahib

The Guru turns daya into the material from which the sacred thread of the soul is made. Compassion is foundational.

Guru Arjan, the fifth Guru, describes the Divine as:

“The Supreme Being is the treasure of mercy, compassionate and forgiving.”

So what should religious wrongdoing produce?

A demand for accountability, repentance and justice.

The answer cannot be presumed to be violence. And in Nanded, with the motive still unknown, it would be irresponsible to presume that it was.

The Nihangs And A Damaging Headline

There is another uncomfortable part of this story.

The Nihang order has a long and important place in Sikh history, associated with martial service, protection of Sikh institutions and distinctive traditions.

In recent years, however, Nihangs have repeatedly entered public headlines for the wrong reasons.

In England, the murder of 18-year-old Henry Nowak by

Vickrum Digwa became entangled in public discussion about Sikh identity, the kirpan and the convicted attacker's association with Nihang traditions. Sikh organisations condemned the murder. The case also generated wider hostility and misinformation around Sikhs in Britain this year.

Now Nanded brings the Nihang identity back into headlines, this time through an attack on the head of the Shiromani Akali Dal inside a gurdwara.

This recurring association with acts of violence in public discourse should concern the Sikh community.

A tradition known for the kirpan, a symbol whose name is traditionally linked to kirpa, or grace, cannot allow a sword used as an attacking weapon to become its most visible public language.

Looking Beyond The Panthak Space

Badal is at his strongest when he acts as a public figure for Punjab in all its diversity.

Last year, when floods ravaged the state, he was on the ground.

During the farmers' agitation, he stood beside farmers.

The SGPC, controlled by the Shiromani Akali Dal, has repeatedly been among the first Sikh institutions to mobilise during

major crises.

That is useful public leadership.

He becomes vulnerable when he overreaches into Panthak theatre.

His embrace of the Satluj movie to appease hardline sections brought old questions rushing back: senior police appointments under the Akali-BJP governments, the 2015 sacrilege cases, the Dera pardon and the political decisions surrounding it.

The Panthak space once occupied by the Badal-led Shiromani Akali Dal is increasingly being contested by Amritpal Singh's Waris Punjab De.

Badal would rather serve Punjab better by concentrating on debt, jobs, agriculture, education, healthcare and investment.

Like Uddhav Thackeray, Akhilesh Yadav, Arvind Kejriwal and Rahul Gandhi, he should have registered his presence at Gen Z protests at Jantar Mantar. The SGPC, after all, itself runs medical and higher educational institutions. The stakes are common. Young Punjabis asking for opportunity and a future are speaking directly to the institutions that claim to represent their aspirations. That is where the political contest will ultimately be

decided.

A Larger Sikh Question

During colonial rule, Sikh author Kahn Singh Nabha (1861-1938) wrote 'Hum Hindu Nahin' to assert Sikh distinctiveness.

Today, perhaps Sikhs need another question. Hum Abrahmic Bhi Nahin.

The point is not theological rivalry. It is a warning against importing a politics of religious offence in which perceived wrongdoing invites personal retaliation, public punishment or vigilante justice.

Sikhi has its own moral vocabulary.

Daya. Khimaa. Santokh. Seva. Kirpa. Bakhshish.

In June, Nanded gave me a glimpse of a Sikh tradition spacious enough to absorb cultural diversities without losing its identity.

Two months later, the attack on Badal presents a very different image from the same sacred landscape.

The motive may eventually explain the attacker's actions. The larger significance lies in how the incident enters Sikh public discourse, especially at a time when violence, religious offence and retribution are increasingly appearing in the same conversation. Nanded, in that sense, offers both the contrast and the context.

79 Years On, India's Enduring Answer To Those Who Had Predicted Its Collapse

As the tricolour unfurls against the August sky to mark our seventy-ninth Independence Day, the sight unfailingly evokes a profound mix of reverence and contemplation. Seventy-nine years in the lifespan of an ancient civilisation is a mere heartbeat; yet, in the annals of modern nation-building, India's journey stands as a singular, audacious triumph of human hope over historic cynicism.

When our founding fathers and mothers stood in that historic Midnight Hour on August 14-15, 1947, they hailed, in Nehru's immortal words, a “tryst with destiny”; but over the next decade and a half, many western commentators were swift to forecast the imminent collapse of our fledgling republic. India, they argued, was merely a geographical notion, a chaotic, bewildering aggregation of languages, ethnicities, castes, and creeds lacking the unifying singular identity of the classic European nation-state. We were “no more a single country than the Equator”, Churchill barked. What those sceptics failed to grasp was that India's unity was never intended to be forged through uniformity, but was rooted instead in a far grander philosophy: the celebration of difference.

Our Many Truths

For decades, we have used the word tolerance to describe our societal ethos, but tolerance, as Swami Vivekananda so powerfully reminded the world at Chicago in 1893, is an inadequate virtue. To tolerate someone else's faith, culture, or way of life carries a faint, patronising whiff of condescension: it implies that you possess the absolute truth, but magnanimously permit another to exist in their error. India's traditional genius lies not in tolerance, but in acceptance. Our civilisation has historically operated on the conviction that truth is a prism with many facets - Ekam Sat Vipra Bahudha Vedanti, or "Truth is one, but the wise call it by many names". We are not a melting pot in the American image, where diverse ingredients are blended down into a homogenous broth. India is a rich, varied thali, a selection of distinct dishes served in separate bowls, each retaining its unique aroma, texture, and flavour, yet coming together on a single platter to create a harmonious, unforgettable feast.

To be an Indian is not to subscribe to a single religion, speak a single tongue, or worship a single doctrine, but to share a common narrative

of belonging, codified in a magnificent Constitution that guarantees liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith, and worship to every citizen, regardless of their background or stature. India instinctively understands that in a vast and varied civilisation functioning as a democracy under the rule of law, you don't really need to agree all the time, except on the ground rules of how to disagree. That is our secret: we have achieved consensus on how to flourish without consensus.

India has often been described as a palimpsest, a canvas upon which successive layers of thought, culture, and migration have been written, without ever fully erasing what lay beneath. This historical depth gives us our extraordinary resilience, yet pluralism cannot be treated merely as a passive inheritance to be praised in ceremonial speeches. It is a vital, daily dynamic that must be actively nurtured and defended. A vibrant democracy cannot survive on past glory alone, and the true strength of our institutions lies in their capacity to absorb the soaring aspirations of our youth.

Future, Not The Past
Today, with more than half

of our population under thirty, the young do not view independence solely as freedom from foreign rule, but as the freedom to achieve. They seek freedom from poverty, bureaucratic inertia, administrative failure and social discrimination, alongside the freedom to innovate, dissent, dream, and shape their own destinies in an increasingly complex global order, while demanding accountability from those who govern them. This makes it all the more vital that our democratic machinery remains responsive and dynamic, and that we listen to the young, especially "Gen-Z", who in the next general elections will be the largest single voting cohort.

Our young people are rightly impatient for progress, understanding that genuine development cannot occur in an atmosphere of communal friction, political polarisation, or majoritarian triumphalism. Economic dynamism and social harmony are not mutually exclusive pursuits, but twin pillars of national greatness. A society divided against itself spends its energy squabbling over the past rather than conquering the future.

The Indian Experiment Endures

As we celebrate this

milestone, we must reaffirm our commitment to the fundamental principles that birthed our republic. Patriotism is not about demanding conformity or questioning the nationalism or loyalty of those who see things differently; true patriotism is inclusive, welcoming, and confident enough to embrace criticism in the service of progress.

Let us celebrate India not despite its diversity, but precisely because of it. Let us pledge to safeguard the institutions that protect our freedoms - our independent judiciary, our free press, our robust parliamentary traditions, our vigorous civil society, and the sacred equality and fraternity guaranteed by our Constitution. Let us celebrate the fact that the Indian experiment remains one of the most magnificent undertakings in human history: a billion and a half people, of every conceivable background, attempting to forge a shared future through peaceful, democratic means. As the tricolour flutters in the breeze today, let us resolve to keep its promise bright. Let it fly proudly as a beacon of liberty, pluralism, and boundless opportunity for generations yet to come.



Gaja Alternative Asset Management IPO opens August 19; check price band, lot size and other key details



New Delhi : Gaja Alternative Asset Management IPO: Gaja Alternative Asset Management Ltd is set to launch its initial public offering (IPO) on August 19, 2026. The Rs 550 crore book-built issue will remain open for subscription until August 21, 2026. The IPO comprises a mix of a fresh issue of 2.81 crore shares totalling Rs 450 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of 0.63 crore shares worth Rs 100 crore.

Gaja Alternative Asset Management IPO: Price band, lot size

The company has fixed the IPO price band at Rs 152 to Rs 160 per share. Investors can bid in a lot size of 93 shares, meaning retail investors will need to invest a minimum of Rs 14,880 at the upper end of the price band.

Gaja Alternative Asset Management IPO: Key dates

The IPO will remain open

for public bidding from August 19 till August 21, 2026. The allotment is expected to be finalised on August 24, 2026, while the shares are likely to be listed on both the NSE and BSE on August 26, 2026.

Gaja Alternative Asset Management IPO: Book-running lead managers and issue registrar

JM Financial Ltd and IIFL Capital Services Ltd are the book-running lead managers for the issue, while

MUFG Intime India Pvt Ltd is the registrar.

Gaja Alternative Asset Management IPO: Investor reservation

Under the IPO's reservation structure, qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) will be allocated not more than 50 per cent of the net offer. Retail individual investors (RIIs) will have a reservation of not less than 35 per cent, while non-institutional investors (NIIs) will have a reservation of not less than 15 per cent of the net offer.

What does Gaja Alternative Asset Management do?

Gaja Alternative Asset Management Ltd is an independent alternative asset management company focused on India-focused funds. It manages and advises Category I and Category II Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), as well as offshore funds investing in India. The company's investment focus spans sectors including education, energy and environment, financial services, consumer

and digital technology. Gaja Alternative Asset Management has built its track record across multiple fund cycles through the Gaja Capital Funds, including Fund II, Fund III and Fund IV. The company also has long-standing relationships with investors across more than 20 countries. As of March 31, 2026, the company had committed approximately Rs 274 crore as Sponsor Commitment, representing 6.41 per cent of the total size of the Gaja Capital Funds. The company generates income through management fees, carried interest and gains from sponsor commitments. Its business model is focused on capturing the economic value generated by the funds it manages and advises. Gaja Capital follows an invest-and-collaborate approach, under which it works closely with portfolio companies on areas such as product development, sales, human resources and financial management.

Sensex falls 493 pts; IT stocks major drag

Indian equity indices ended lower on August 18 with Nifty below 24,200 amid selling seen in the IT, realty, metal and FMCG names. At close, the Sensex was down 492.70 points or 0.63 percent at 77,235.46, and the Nifty was down 132.75 points or 0.55 percent at 24,154.90. We wrap up today's edition of the Moneycontrol live market blog, and will be back tomorrow morning with all the latest updates and alerts. Today, the Indian equities ended negatively. Nifty 50 lost 133 points, while Sensex closed 493 points lower. The weakness was mainly driven by global factors. Rising crude prices, renewed US-Iran tensions, and higher bond yields. Foreign investors remained sellers yesterday, with FIIs selling Rs. 2,535 cr, although DIIs bought Rs. 5,102 cr, providing some support to the market.

Dubai commercial real estate hits AED 65.23 billion in H1 2026: 5 key trends



Dubai Real Estate: Dubai's commercial real estate market recorded transactions worth AED 65.23 billion in the first half of 2026, marking an 8.5 per cent year-on-year (YoY) increase, according to a recent report by property consultant ANAROCK. Transaction volumes also rose nearly 13 per cent YoY to 6,487 deals. The growth came despite heightened geopolitical tensions in the region, highlighting the resilience of Dubai's commercial property market and continued investor demand for income-generating assets.

The commercial real estate segment includes offices, retail properties, land, hotel apartments, hotel rooms, whole buildings and industrial assets.

Anuj Kejriwal, CEO-Retail and CEO-Europe, Middle East and Africa, ANAROCK Group, said Dubai's commercial real estate market continued to demonstrate its ability to absorb external shocks.

"The combined transaction value was AED 60.14 billion in H1 2025, so this is an increase of nearly 8.5 per cent. Transaction volumes climbed to 6,487 deals from 5,754 deals in this period, a rise of nearly 13 per cent. Dubai's commercial real estate market has once again displayed its remarkable external shock-absorbing abilities," he said.

Dubai Commercial Real Estate: 5 Key Trends in H1 2026

1) Office market emerges as the standout performer

The office segment was the strongest performer in Dubai's commercial real estate market during H1 2026.

Office transaction volumes increased 38.2 per cent YoY to 2,571 deals, compared with 1,860 deals in H1 2025. More significantly, office transaction value surged 199.3 per cent to AED 15.81 billion, from AED 5.28 billion a year earlier. Average office prices

also climbed 85 per cent YoY to AED 3,202 per sq ft.

According to ANAROCK, the sharp increase points to intensifying demand for Grade A office space, particularly in key business districts and free zones where supply remains constrained.

2) Retail property demand strengthens sharply

The retail segment also recorded strong growth in H1 2026. Retail transaction volumes increased 56.2 per cent YoY to 853 deals, while transaction value jumped 174.3 per cent to AED 3.71 billion, compared with AED 1.35 billion in H1 2025.

Average retail property prices rose 54 per cent YoY to AED 3,486 per sq ft. The increase was supported by a resurgent consumer economy and growing investor interest in well-located retail formats. 3) Record Q1 gives way to a more measured Q2

Dubai's commercial property market recorded its strongest quarter on record in Q1 2026.

Transaction value reached an estimated AED 40.75 billion, more than 40 per cent higher YoY, despite escalating regional tensions during the quarter. Dubai continued to attract regional and global capital as investors looked for relatively stable markets amid geopolitical uncertainty.

The volume of commercial real estate transactions eased in Q2 due to exceptionally high transactions in the first quarter of the year.

The transaction volumes decreased by about 22 per cent sequentially, while transaction value fell by almost 40 per cent on a QoQ basis. Transaction volumes in the second quarter of 2026 declined by just 1 per cent in comparison to Q2 2025, while transaction value fell by 21 per cent from a year ago, according to ANAROCK, primarily because of the elevated base of large land deals in Q2 2025.

4) Commercial property prices continue to rise

However, despite the restraint shown in the number of transactions in Q2, the prices of commercial properties were firm.

Commercial property average prices rose by 34 per cent to AED 3,186 per sq ft in Q2 2026. It is clear that the buyers were ready to pay extra for commercial properties that would give them rental income.

5) Investor appetite shifts from land to income-generating assets

Land transactions were the main drag on Dubai's overall commercial real estate transaction volumes during H1 2026.

The number of land transactions declined 29.3 per cent YoY to 941 deals, while transaction value fell 9.3 per cent to AED 33.19 billion, from AED 36.60 billion in H1 2025. The decline suggests that investor appetite is shifting away from land banking towards assets that can generate recurring income, particularly office and retail properties. Dubai Commercial Real Estate Outlook for 2026

Dubai's commercial real estate market is expected to maintain its growth trajectory through the rest of 2026, supported by several structural factors.

These include tax advantages, freehold ownership opportunities for foreign investors and the continued expansion of the Golden Visa scheme. Kejriwal said near-term transaction volumes could continue to fluctuate depending on regional sentiment. However, tight Grade A office supply, rising rents and steady occupier demand are expected to support Dubai's commercial property market.

The H1 2026 data indicates that while transaction volumes may fluctuate, demand for prime, income-generating commercial real estate in Dubai remains strong.

Delhi Govt Services Bill: Officials may face Rs 5,000 fine for delayed services

New Delhi : Delhi government has proposed a new law that could make delays in delivering government services costly for officials. Under the Delhi Citizen's Right to Time-Bound and Ease of Delivery of Services Bill, 2026, an official could face a penalty of Rs 250 per day, subject to a maximum of Rs 5,000, for failing to dispose of a citizen's application within the prescribed time. The Bill has been introduced in the Delhi Legislative Assembly with the aim of making government services more time-bound and accountable. It also proposes an online appeal mechanism, automatic escalation of delayed cases and a new Delhi Service Rights Commission.

Rs 250 daily penalty for delayed services

One of the key provisions of the proposed Bill is a financial penalty for delays in delivering government services.

If an application is not disposed of within the prescribed time, the concerned official could be held accountable. The proposed penalty is Rs 250 for each day of delay, with the total amount capped at Rs 5,000.

The Bill also proposes a penalty ranging from Rs 250

to Rs 5,000 if an application is rejected in an incorrect or unjustified manner.

However, the penalty would not be imposed automatically without due process. The concerned official would get an opportunity to present their side before any penalty is imposed.

What happens if a service is delayed?

The proposed law seeks to reduce the need for citizens to repeatedly visit government offices or file separate complaints when a service is not delivered on time.

If the prescribed deadline is missed, the matter would automatically move into the appeal process before the Citizens' Grievance Redressal Authority.

A citizen would also be able to file an appeal online in cases where a government service has been denied.

The authority would have to decide the appeal within 30 days. If the initial examination finds that the delay was unjustified, the official could be directed to provide the service within seven days.

Delhi Service Rights Commission proposed

The Bill also proposes the creation of a Delhi Ser-



vice Rights Commission.

The proposed commission would hear appeals, oversee implementation of the law and provide recommendations to improve the delivery of government services.

This would create a dedicated institutional mechanism for monitoring time-bound service delivery and addressing complaints related to delays or denial of services.

Online application and tracking

The proposed framework also focuses on digital access to government services.

Citizens would be able to

apply for services online and track the status of their applications. The government has said the system is aimed at making service delivery more transparent and reducing delays.

The move is expected to strengthen accountability by linking service delivery with prescribed timelines and a formal appeal mechanism.

2011 service rights law to be replaced

The proposed legislation would replace Delhi's existing 2011 service rights law once the new law comes into force. The government has said the new framework is intended to improve the

delivery of public services, reduce unnecessary delays and make officials more accountable.

However, the proposed penalties should not be treated as an existing punishment at this stage. The Rs 250 per day penalty, capped at Rs 5,000, is part of the 2026 Bill and would apply under the provisions of the new law if it is enacted and comes into force.

For citizens, the proposed changes could mean a clearer timeline for government services, easier online tracking and a formal mechanism to seek action when services are delayed or denied.

BPCL approves fundraise of up to Rs 5,000 crore through NCDs

New Delhi : Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) will raise up to Rs 5,000 crore through the issuance of secured or unsecured redeemable non-convertible debentures (NCDs), as the state-run oil major looks to raise funds over the next one year. The company said its board approved the fund-raising plan at its meeting held on August 18, 2026. The issuance will be carried out in one or more series or tranches. The company can issue the debentures in a maximum of 10 tranches.

The fund-raising plan was approved under Regulations 30 and 51 of the

SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

The company did not disclose the specific interest rate, maturity period or terms of the proposed NCDs in the announcement.

Strong financial performance

The fund-raising plan comes after BPCL reported a strong financial performance for the financial year 2025-26.

According to its annual report, the company recorded consolidated revenue from operations of Rs 5.22 lakh crore in FY26. This was higher than Rs

5.01 lakh crore in the previous financial year.

Net profit attributable to BPCL more than doubled to Rs 25,843.45 crore in FY26 from Rs 13,336.55 crore in FY25. Earnings per share also rose to Rs 60.49 from Rs 31.21. The company's operating cash flow stood at Rs 50,769 crore in FY26, compared with Rs 23,678 crore a year earlier. Return on capital employed improved to 33 per cent from 19.90 per cent.

Refining operations remain strong

BPCL's refining operations also delivered record numbers during the year. Refinery throughput



rose to 41.15 million tonnes (MMT) in FY26 from 40.51 MMT in FY25. Domestic market sales increased 3.4 per cent to 54.18 MMT from 52.40 MMT. The company reported a gross refining margin of \$11.74 per barrel. Refinery capacity utilisation stood at 116.6

per cent. BPCL's annual report said its refineries achieved their highest-ever crude throughput and domestic market sales during FY26. It also highlighted the company's focus on crude sourcing, refinery optimisation and improving product yields.

Smart Sector for Smart Investor: From infra to AI, how India's new capex cycle could reshape growth across sectors

New Delhi : India's capital expenditure (capex) cycle is entering a broader phase, with government spending on infrastructure now being complemented by rising private-sector investments. One thing that is constantly gaining market attention is buzz around the prospect of this cycle growing deeper and lasting longer than its predecessors, creating opportunities across sectors ranging from manufacturing to capital goods, from renewables to EVs, and from digital infrastructure to defence. The possibilities are endless as the nation gears up for its next phase of economic

growth, which experts are widely linking to tailwinds that go beyond consumption. But is this just another investment cycle? Or is it a long-term structural transformation in the soon-to-be \$5 trillion economy? Dhananjay Tikariha, Vice President, Kotak Mutual Fund, and Saurabh Gupta, CEO-Fund Management at Welspun One, answer these and several other questions in 'Smart Sector for Smart Investor', a thought-leadership series by Zee Business in partnership with Kotak Mutual Fund. According to Kotak Mahindra AMC's Tikariha, the current capex cycle could be more sus-

tained than earlier cycles. In previous cycles, we saw one or, at most, two sectors growing very rapidly at the same time. But this time, several sectors are participating, and capital is also available. That is why this cycle appears to be deeper and likely to last longer," he says.

Why is India's current capex cycle different?

The current investment cycle is being supported by multiple growth drivers, including infrastructure spending, defence expenditure, semiconductor manufacturing, artificial intelligence and new-age technologies.

Raksha Mantri flags-off NCC’s All India Girls High Altitude Long Trek ‘Aparajita - Parang La 2026’

- Led by women officers of the three Services, 28 Girl Cadets to undertake a 250-km, 30-day trek traversing one of India's most challenging high-altitude routes

- The expedition is a powerful testimony to the courage, determination & growing capabilities of the nation’s ‘Nari Shakti’: Rajnath Singh



New Delhi, August, 18 (PIB): Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh flagged-off the All India Girls High Altitude Long Trek ‘Aparajita - Parang La 2026’, a flagship adventure activity of the National Cadet Corps (NCC), during an event in New Delhi on August 18, 2026. The trek will traverse the Parang La Pass (5,578 metres, 18,300 feet), connecting the Spiti Valley of Himachal Pradesh with the Changthang region of Ladakh and is regarded as one of the country’s most challenging high-altitude

trekking routes. The team will be led by three women officers representing the three services. 28 Girl Cadets are participating in the expedition, with an average age of 19 years, the youngest participant being just 16 and a half years old. In his address, Raksha Mantri termed the participation of young girls in such a challenging high-altitude expedition as a powerful testament to the courage, determination and growing capabilities of the women of the country. The expedition team, accompanied by officers,

medical staff, instructors and support personnel, will undertake the approximately 250-km trek over 30 days through some of the most remote and challenging terrain in the Himalayas. The route of the expedition includes Kibber, Dumla, Thaltak, Bongrojen, Parang La Pass, Dak Karzong, Norbu Sumdo, Kiangdom and Korkok, traversing high-altitude deserts, glaciers, snowfields and river valleys. Extending his best wishes to the team for a safe and successful trek, Shri Rajnath Singh stated that such expe-

ditions play an important role in developing leadership qualities, mental resilience, discipline and self-confidence among the youth. He commended the selected cadets for their physical and mental preparation, emphasising that the trek would be a life lesson for them in resilience, confidence and self-discovery. “The cadets would return from Parang La with not only memorable experiences but also a deeper understanding of their own inner strength,” he hoped. Raksha Mantri exhorted the team members to keep

‘safety’, ‘environment’ and ‘interaction with local communities’ as their priorities throughout the expedition. “Strictly follow the guidance of instructors, avoid unnecessary risks, and adopt a zero-waste approach to protect the Himalayan ecology. Engage respectfully with local communities, understand their culture & traditions, and learn from their experiences. The expedition would become a defining milestone in your lives and inspire you to remain ‘Aparajita’ at every stage of life,” he told the cadets.

Aatmanirbhar Bharat: DDP notifies 6th Positive Indigenisation List of 405 strategically important items

New Delhi, August, 18 (PIB): The Department of Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence has notified the sixth Positive Indigenisation List (PIL) comprising 405 strategically important items with an estimated business potential of Rs 3,070 crore. The list contains Line Replaceable Units, sub-systems, sub-assemblies, spares, components and raw materials. These include 16 items of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and 389 items of Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs). The items cover a broad range of defence platforms and systems, including:

- Air platforms such as Advanced Light Helicopter, Light Utility Helicopter, Su-30MKI, Light Combat Aircraft and AL-31FP Engine
- Armoured platforms including T-72, T-90 and BMP-II
- Warships
- Missile systems such as Konkurs-M, Invar and MRSAM

- Defence electronics including radars, sonars, fire control systems and satellite communication systems
- High Explosive Anti-Tank ammunition and other critical defence equipment

SIXTH POSITIVE INDIGENISATION LIST OF 405 ITEMS

The detailed list of items is also available on the SRIJAN Portal

(srijandefence.gov.in). Each item has an indicative timeline for indigenisation. Upon successful indigenous development, these items will be procured from the Indian industry. The DPSUs and ICG will undertake indigenisation through various routes, including their ‘Make’ procedure and in-house development, with participation from the industry, particularly MSMEs. This sixth PIL marks another step in the Government’s efforts to promote self-reliance in defence manufacturing under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. It is expected to further expand opportunities for the Indian industry, strengthen the domestic defence manufacturing ecosystem, promote investment & innovation, and contribute to reducing dependence on imports.

The DDP launched the SRIJAN Defence Portal in August 2020 as a dedicated platform through which the DPSUs and Service Headquarters (SHQs) offer defence items to the industry, including MSMEs and start-ups, for indigenous development and production. Since its launch, the portal has facilitated the offer of more than 33,000 defence items for indigenisation by DPSUs and SHQs up to June 2026. These include 5,012 items notified under the first five Positive Indigenisation Lists. More than 15,700 defence items have been successfully indigenised, resulting in an estimated import substitution value of about Rs 9,000 crore over the last five years. In addition, DPSUs have placed procurement orders, including in-house production, worth approximately Rs 10,000 crore on domestic vendors up to March 2026.

Waste to Woods: Raichur Reclaims 22 Acres with Miyawaki Transformation



New Delhi, August, 18 (PIB): Raichur in Karnataka, has transformed the 35-acre Yakalasapura dumpsite into a green asset through scientific legacy waste remediation under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0). ~ 62,252 MT of waste has been processed and nearly 22 acres of valuable urban land, has been reclaimed so far. The restored site now supports sustainable land use, including a vibrant Miyawaki forest, demonstrating how former dumpsites can be converted into thriving ecological spaces. Under the SBM–U 2.0, cities across India are undertaking the transformation of legacy dumpsites into productive and environmentally sustainable spaces. In Raichur, Karnataka, this vision has been realized through the successful remediation of the Yakalasapura dumpsite, once a symbol of environmental degradation, now emerging as a model of ecological restoration and sustainable urban development. Spread across 35 acres, the Yakalasapura site had accumulated decades of municipal solid waste, creating significant environmental and public health concerns for nearby communities. The growing mountain of garbage not only occupied valuable urban land but also posed risks through leachate generation, foul odour, and environmental pollution. Recognizing the urgent need for intervention, Raichur City Corporation undertook a scientific legacy waste remediation project.

As a result of the intervention, 62,252 metric tonnes of legacy waste were scientifically processed and remediated. The project has led to the reclamation of nearly 22 acres of valuable urban land, significantly reducing environmental risks while improving the surrounding landscape. The successful clearance of the dumpsite marks a major milestone in Raichur’s efforts to strengthen urban sanitation and environmental management. On the reclaimed land, remediation works have been completed and plantation activities commenced on 5 June, 2026. Raichur City Corporation has adopted an innovative approach to utilize the reclaimed land. Guided by the concept of "Toxic Waste to Ecological Wealth," the city is developing a Miyawaki forest across approximately 5–7 acres of the remediated site in collaboration with Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) and New India Space Limited. A total of 60,000 saplings have been planted. It is expected that within one year, the area will be successfully afforested, resulting in the development of a green cover over the reclaimed land. The plantation includes bamboo and other native species that contribute to soil restoration, carbon sequestration, biodiversity enhancement, and improved air quality.

The transformed site was inaugurated on World Environment Day (5 June, 2026) by Hon'ble Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, underscoring the significance of the initiative in advancing environmental sustainability. The Yakalasapura transformation is more than a waste remediation project; it is a testament to the impact of effective urban governance, strategic investments, and sustained commitment to swachhata. By converting a long-standing environmental challenge into a thriving ecological space, Raichur City Corporation has created a replicable model for cities across the country working towards garbage-free and sustainable urban futures.

Today’s Horoscope



Aries

Unnecessary condemning yourself could lower spirit. Today, you will be able to earn money without any help or assistance. Short trip to the relative brings moment of comfort and relaxation from your daily hectic schedule Your love story can take a new turn today, in which your partner can discuss the prospect of marriage with you. In this case, you must consider every aspect before taking any decision. Business partners behave supportive and you work together to complete pending jobs. Pleasure trip will be satisfying. It is the day to experience the brighter side of marriage. Remedy :- Soak barley overnight, and in the morning distribute among animals and birds for continued good health.



Taurus

A wonderful day to do things that would make you feel good about yourself. You will make some extra cash today if you play your cards well. Sort out personal problems by understanding eachother's point of view. Do not bring them in public otherwise chances of defaming you are high. Be alert as chances of losing friendship are high on card today. Professional advancements for some. Today there will be lot of issues-which need immediate attention. If you want the day to go well, just don't utter a single word if the mood of your spouse is off. Remedy :- It will be auspicious for family life to have fruit-bearing plants at home.



Gemini

If you feel overtly stressed-spend more time with children. Their warm embrace/cuddle or even an innocent smile would lift you from your woes. Explore new investment opportunities that come your way today- but commit yourself only after you have studied the viability of these projects. Your partner would be supportive and helpful. Your beloved today would like to say his/her mind rather than listening to you. This can make you upset. You will gain if you give your views to people who make important decision around you- You are likely to be appreciated for your dedication and sincerity. Remedy :- Reciting (Om Shukraaya Namaha) 11 times will contribute to good health.



Cancer

Harboring of ill-will against others will give mental tension. You should avoid these kinds of thoughts as these are life wasters and kill your efficiency. Expenditure rises but rise in income takes care of your bills. Family needs and requirements get neglected as you overstrain at work place Behave decently with your sweetheart today. Joint ventures made today would be beneficial eventually, but you will face some major opposition from partners. Your family will share many problems with you today, but you will remain occupied in your own world, and do something in your spare time that you like. You might feel troubled due to your spouse today. Remedy :- Feed the dogs rotis, bread and other dog-food, and increase the happiness quotient in the family.



Leo

Start meditation and yoga for physical gain especially mental toughness. Today, you can spend a lot of money on a party with friends, but despite this, your financial side will remain strong today. You need to be patient with children or those who are less experienced than you are. Your romantic relationship will suffer today. Natives under this sign managing small businesses may incur losses today. However, you mustn't worry if you are working hard and putting efforts in the right direction. In such a way, you will definitely get good results. Seminars and exhibitions will provide you with new knowledge and contacts. Your spouse might cause you some loss today. Remedy :- Wear perfumes and scented accessories while meeting your lover. Venus rules perfumes, scents and fragrance and will help enhance your love life.



Virgo

Support of highly influential people will give a big boost to your moral. Today, there will be a constant outflow of money, and you may face difficulties in accumulating wealth today. A day for renewal of bonds and ties with relations. You will be in the mood for love-and the opportunities would be plenty. Venture into partnership with enterprising people. Today, you can spend a whole day by yourself in a room reading a book. That would be your perfect idea of spending a day together. Do you think that married life is all about compromises? If yes, you will know today that it's the best thing ever happened to you. Remedy :- For maintaining good economic condition, apply a paste of saffron or turmeric on forehead, before venturing out for any work.



Libra

Find the solace in the company of children. The therapeutic powers of children not only those of your own family but even the off-springs of others can give you solace and calm your anxiety. Sudden inflow of funds takes care of your bills and immediate expenses. People close to you will create problems at personal level. Your gloomy life may give tension to your spouse. Today is a day for high performance and high profile. Today, some students of this zodiac sign can spend their time by watching a movie on a laptop or TV. Your spouse might hurt you intentionallly today, which might keep you upset for some time. Remedy :- Maintain peace at home by lighting a lamp and worshipping Lord Bhairav at home.



Scorpio

Your energy level will be high and you should use it to complete pending tasks. You will be presented with many new financial schemes today- Weigh the pros and cons carefully before making any commitment. Your unnecessary finding faults in others could be criticised by relatives. You must realize that it is only wastage of time. You don't gain anything from this. Better to change your habit. You need to be in your best behaviour- because it won't take much to upset your lover today. Pending projects and plans move to take a final shape. Today, you'll understand the importance of relationships as you'll spend the majority of your time with your family members. Remedy :- Gift yellow or saffron coloured clothing to Guru or teachers or saintly persons for building good family relations.



Sagittarius

Think twice before speaking. Unknowingly your views could hurt someone's sentiments. Don't spend too much on entertainment or cosmetic improvement. Be independent and take your own decisions when it comes to making fresh investments. Being revengeful towards your lover will not bring any result-rather you should keep a cool head and explain your true feelings to your lover. You should work on projects-which have long-term benefits. You have to learn to give time to relationships and people in your life you value the most. Relatives of your spouse might disturb the harmony of your marital bliss. Remedy :- Wear bangles or khadas made of silver and make your love life memorable.



Capricorn

Health wise this period will be dull therefore be careful of what you consume. Due to a function being organized at home, you will have to spend a lot of money today. This can negatively affect your financial condition. Try not to offend others and adapt to your family needs. Avoid a hasty step in love. If you feel that you can handle important jobs without the assistance of others then you are highly mistaken. Choose your words with care when interacting with important people. A stranger might cause tiff between you and your partner. Remedy :- To enjoy the benefits of good health, ensure that your home gets sufficient sunlight.



Aquarius

You will have enough time to yourself today so, go out for a long walk for the sake of your good health. Wishes will be fulfilled as blessings and good fortune comes your way- and as hard work of the previous days brings results. News of arrival of a new family member may enthrall you. Celebrate your joy by throwing a party in anticipation. Don't lose heart-failures are quite natural they are the beauty of life. Despite overburdened with work, you can remain energetic at your workplace. Today, you can complete all your tasks before the given scheduled time. Take advantage of your enormous confidence and go out and make some new contacts and friends. Remedy :- Gift perfumes or scented accessories to your lover and ensure that your love life runs smoothly.



Pisces

Give every man an ear you might find solution of your problems. Money will help you remain afloat during dark times in life. Hence, consider investing and saving your money from today, or else troubles can occur. Your child-like and innocent behavior would play a pivotal role in solving family problem. Relive your precious moments by going on a picnic with your beloved. Today you will be in the spotlight- and success is well within your reach. Stay away from gossip and rumours. Today, you and your spouse will have a really deep soulfully romantic talk. Remedy :- Give black-white sesame seeds and seven types of grains at any religious place, doing this remedy will make financial life strong.

Ba Ba Black Sheep First Song Aaja Meri Jaani Out



An unexpected turn of events forms the core of Chitralayam Studios' upcoming new-age crime comedy 'Baa Baa Black Sheep'. Bringing together crime, comedy, eccentric characters and a series of surprising situations, the film promises to deliver a fresh and entertaining experience for audiences. Presented by Donepudi Chakrapani and produced by Venu Donepudi under the Chitralayam Studios banner, the film is directed by Guni Manchikanti. The cast includes Tinnu Anand, Upendra Limaye, George Maryan, Akshay Lagusani, Vishnu Oi, Karthikya, Vismayasri, Malvi Malhotra, Kasyap, Raja Ravindra and others in promi-

nent roles. The film has another interesting distinction to its credit. 'Baa Baa Black Sheep' is the first South Indian film to be shot entirely in Meghalaya. The production team travelled through various parts of the state, capturing its spectacular landscapes and natural beauty, including the picturesque locations of Cherrapunji. The film's teaser had earlier created curiosity by introducing its quirky characters and offering glimpses of the unusual situations that drive the story. Its fast-paced treatment, comic elements and unexpected twists gave audiences a peek into the film's distinctive world. The makers have now announced that 'Baa Baa Black Sheep' will

have its grand theatrical release on October 9, coinciding with the Dussehra festive season. The team also unveiled the first lyrical song, 'Aaja Meri Jaani', marking the beginning of the film's musical promotions. Rockstar Devi Sri Prasad launched the song. Devi Sri Prasad appreciated the song's energetic and youthful vibe and congratulated the team for attempting a unique concept. He also wished the film and its entire team a successful theatrical journey. **'Aaja Meri Jaani' Adds Colour and Energy** 'Aaja Meri Jaani' is a lively party number featuring Akshay Lagusani and Vishnu Oi. With vibrant visuals, energetic per-

formances and a catchy rhythm, the song brings a celebratory mood to the film's promotions. Electronic Kili and Arcado have composed the music, while Kittu Vissapragada has penned the lyrics. Benny Dayal's powerful and energetic vocals add to the song's appeal, complementing its peppy beats and youthful composition. The makers have designed the song as a fun-filled musical number with a strong youth appeal, making it an energetic start to the film's music promotions. Producer Venu Donepudi said, "We are pleased to have successfully completed the shoot of 'Baa Baa Black Sheep', which is centred around a very interesting incident. The post-production activities are now nearing completion, and we are preparing for a grand theatrical release on October 9 during the Dussehra festive season."

"Filming the entire movie in Meghalaya is a memorable achievement for our team. We explored several beautiful locations across the state, including Cherrapunji, and the experience has given the film a distinctive visual identity. With proper planning and the dedicated efforts of everyone involved, we completed the shoot within the planned schedule. "I sincerely thank our director Guni, the actors, technicians and the entire crew for their commitment and support throughout the making of the film. We are excited to share more updates with audiences soon and look forward to bringing 'Baa Baa Black Sheep' to theatres this Dussehra."

#VenkyAnil5 FL: Powerful Intro As Colonel Venkat Reddy

The makers of #VenkyAnil5 / #NKRAR2 have added a fresh dimension to the film's growing buzz by revealing Victory Venkatesh's first look. Co-starring Nandamuri Kalyan Ram and directed by Anil Ravipudi, the film is progressing swiftly, with its shoot in Hyderabad.

Venkatesh appears in a completely new avatar in the poster, stepping into the shoes of Lt. Colonel Venkat Reddy, an Indian Army officer with expertise in counter-terrorism and hostage negotiation. Wearing combat camouflage and accompanied by sunglasses and a scarf, the actor carries a calm but unmistakably authoritative expression. His placement beside a luxurious car further strengthens the action-oriented military mood.

The backdrop is equally striking. The Army insignia and crossed-swords symbol reinforce the identity of the character. The rugged surroundings give the first look a gritty quality, making Venkatesh's military avatar stand out.

The reveal comes after Kalyan Ram's traditional first look, which was unveiled on his birthday and met with an enthusiastic response. With the two actors introduced in distinctly contrasting styles, expectations are naturally building around the combination they will share on screen.

The film is backed by Sahu Garapati under the Shine Screens banner and presented by Suresh Productions, Smt. Archana, and Zee Studios. Keerthy Suresh and Krithi Shetty are the heroines.



Kiara Advani Burns Bright In Blood Red



Kiara Advani's red-hot look is basically Nadia energy spilling into real life. In the new pictures, she's draped in a sharp red blazer with a plunging neckline, worn against a moody all-red backdrop that makes the whole frame smoulder. Her dark wavy hair falls loose, bold red lips match the outfit, and the intense, smoky gaze she throws at the camera feels straight out of Toxic itself. It's the kind of look that matches the film's dramatic, circus-meets-crime world perfectly. As Nadia, a circus performer in Geetu Mohandas' Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups, she plays a layered, complex character, and these pictures capture that same intensity off-screen. The trailer dropped to massive buzz, with reactions calling it possibly her career-best performance opposite Yash. The film also stars Nayanthara, Huma Qureshi, Tara Sutaria and Rukmini Vasanth, set in a Goa-backed world of crime, power and old-world drama. With a worldwide release locked for August 26, 2026, anticipation keeps climbing.

VISA Teaser: Double Dose of Love, Fun & Chaos in America



Ashok Galla's upcoming film VISA – Vintara Saradaga impressed everyone with a blockbuster first teaser and chartbuster song. Now, makers dropped the second teaser with a delightful surprise that is already grabbing attention. Ashok Galla takes centre stage as the teaser unfolds completely through his character's point of view, offering a funny and candid take on love and the complications that come with it. The standout moment is the clever reference to Superstar Mahesh Babu's Khaleja. Beyond the humour, the

teaser gives a glimpse into an unusual romantic journey. Ashok Galla's character falls in love with a girl in America, and the teaser hints at how this unexpected relationship unfolds. The combination of long-distance romance, quirky situations and youthful humour makes the story look refreshingly different. The overseas visuals are another major attraction, with an energetic background score from Vijai Bulgani. Ashok Galla carries the teaser with confidence, showcasing both his comic side and emotional depth. Sri Gouri

Priya looks perfectly suited to the romantic setup, while Rahul Vijay, Shivathmika Rajasekhar and Harsha Chemudu add magic. Satya, Viva Harsha and Gundu Sudarshan are also part of the ensemble, promising plenty of entertaining moments. Directed by Udbhav Raghu, VISA – Vintara Saradaga is produced by Naga Vamsi S and Sai Soujanya under Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas. Releasing worldwide on October 17th, the film looks set to deliver a fun-filled romantic comedy.

Anahat Singh eyes Asian Games gold after historic junior squash triumph

New Delhi: World junior squash champion Anahat Singh is ready to go the extra mile to change the colour of the Asian Games medals she won last time when she competes at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games in Japan next month. The 18-year-old Anahat had won a bronze each in the mixed doubles and team events at the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, held in 2023. She had partnered with Abhay Singh in mixed doubles and was part of the team event squad alongside Joshna Chinappa, Dipika Pallikal and Tanvi Khanna.

Satwik-Chirag embrace home challenge, target better medal at World Championships

New Delhi: A recurring shoulder injury has been “frustrating” for Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and at times “irritating” for partner Chirag Shetty, but the Indian pair will stick to their “aggressive and explosive” brand of badminton as they target a better medal at their first World Championships on home soil. Satwik has been managing the shoulder problem for the last few years, making it difficult to maintain momentum after a good tournament. The duo had won the Singapore Open Super 750, their first title in two years, but subsequent flare-ups forced mid-match retirements and withdrawals at both the Indonesia Open and the Japan Open. “It is always tough with the shoulder injury. I have been managing it for the last few years. It is on and off all the time. Sometimes I feel good and sometimes I feel not so good. It is frustrating. Obviously, you have the momentum and you want to continue,” Satwik told PTI. “If you play a good tournament and then again you are off, it is irritating for your partner as well. It is not easy, but we are used to it. We know how to handle this situation. We have to respect the body as well.” The injury, however, has not prompted the pair to alter their style. “Our game style is the same. We didn’t change so much. It will be aggressive and explosive. That is what we played when we started and we will stick to that only,” Satwik said.

Satwik and Chirag are among the top five pairs to watch in a men’s doubles draw that has traditionally been wide open. No pair has dominated the event for long, with six different combinations from five countries winning the last six editions. “Doubles has evolved over the years. It is much faster, a lot of flat exchanges and long rallies, and every pair in this tournament is quite strong,” Chirag said. “In men’s doubles you can’t say



that this pair will go on to win the title. So I won’t say there is a favourite. It is an open competition. Every pair is capable of winning a medal.” The opening exchanges could prove decisive, with both Satwik and Chirag placing particular emphasis on the first four strokes of a rally. For Chirag, the focus on the opening exchanges has already produced results. “We need to be really focused on our first couple of strokes once the rally starts. I think we can manage the rallies, but the first four strokes will definitely be important. No matter if you’re serving or receiving, it becomes quite crucial,” he said. “Even at the Singapore Open, I think that worked really well for us. We had some really good insights from the coaching chair. Yeah, I think even for this World Champs, they just asked us to keep it simple and take it one match at a time.” Satwik echoed that approach. “We have been working with Tan coach for quite some time. We just needed that small break. We have been training the same way for some time. It is not new things. The tactics will be the same,” he said. “His point was very much open and clear: just take one at a time. Don’t think

too much and don’t take so much expectation. Of course, we want to do well, but still take one match at a time. “As we are coming back from the injury, it will be tough to adjust, so just find that momentum and try to play as deep as possible.” World No. 1s Kim Won Ho and Seo Seung Jae had carried their dominance from 2025 into the opening part of this season, but have looked more vulnerable since the Thomas Cup Finals in May, opening the door for challengers including Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri, Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin, and the Indian pair.

“I think Fajar and Fikri, Goh and Nur, they are quite good at the first four strokes. They are kind of little short guys. They have very quick rackets. They have good skills on the racket. So they are very good at reading the shuttle, understanding and catching those four strokes. Then they put you in a very under-pressure situation. “So it is not an easy thing playing against them. It is not easy to play against them. So it is always tricky to play against them. But once you get adjusted to their game style, I think you will feel a little bit

more comfortable. “Apart from that, they don’t make you feel very comfortable on court. You have to play a little bit in an uncomfortable situation. So it is always a tough battle against both the players.”

The home setting, though, is something Satwik is keen to embrace rather than treat as an additional burden. “It is fun and challenging, exciting. There is no pressure. Everyone says pressure is privilege. We love taking the challenge. Hopefully, we will handle it in a positive way. Hopefully, people will come in good numbers and see how badminton is growing,” he said. For Satwik, the occasion also carries a deeply personal connection. He was at the 2009 World Championships in Hyderabad, where his brother was volunteering and his father was working as a line umpire. Satwik recalled watching the men’s doubles final and playing with the racquet that was thrown into the crowd by the winner and retrieved by his father. “I have very good memories from 2009... Now I am playing back in India at the World Championships. It is quite a long journey from a small town to here, so it is a great thing to remember.”

Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium ready for BWF World Championships



Hyderabad: With less than 48 hours left for the BWF World Championships 2026 to kick off, the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium is all decked up to witness world badminton’s biggest extravaganza, and the venue has already received a thumbs-up from the Chinese contingent, which trained there along with all the other top teams. The BWF World Championships are returning to Indian shores after a gap of 17 years, with the world’s best players looking forward to getting their hands on the coveted title.

Unlike the India Open, where competition usually starts, World Championships action begins, with matches in the top half of the men’s and women’s singles draws taking place on the opening day.

“I think the stadium has changed a lot, that’s very good. I just finished my training. I feel like there was a little bit of wind on the court, so we need to get used to the conditions,” said Chinese world No. 3 Wang Zhi Yi, who is likely to face former world champion PV Sindhu in the pre-quarterfinals. The players who practised at the main hall on Saturday mentioned that there was a slight side drift on all the courts, and their focus was to understand the conditions and make adjustments. The players had expressed a few concerns about the stadium during the India Open earlier this year, which was treated as a test event for the World Championships. The Badminton Association of India and the Sports Authority of

India, which owns the stadium, got into action soon after, and over Rs 20 crore was spent on refurbishing the venue.

Apart from Wang Zhi Yi, Chinese hopes of ending their 15-year gold-medal drought in women’s singles will rest on 2020 Olympic gold medallist Chen Yufei and world No. 5 Han Yue. Speaking after the team practice, Chen said, “The conditions are quite good compared to the last time we played here. I am getting used to the weather, but apart from that, I am just focused on giving my best in the tournament.” The Badminton Association of India has also set up a players’ lounge with round-the-clock food availability and even a sanitary-pad machine for women players.

Kelly Fisher, Gareth Potts win Heyball world titles in Pune



Pune: Dominant British cueists Kelly Fisher and Gareth Potts came up with a brilliant display to retain their titles at the \$400,000 Apex Sports 3rd Heyball World Championships in Pune. While Fisher fended off a late fightback from challenger Waratthanun Sukritthanes of Thailand in a thrilling shootout for the women’s crown, Potts outclassed the hitherto unbeaten Jordan Shepherd 7-4 in the men’s final. Fisher, a cue sports legend, clinched the shootout 5-3 after a 5-5 tie in regulation time during Saturday’s race-to-6 title clash at the Rajan Khinvasara Billiards and

Snooker Academy, located inside the Jairaj Sports & Convention Centre. Fisher gifted herself an early birthday present. The British cueist, who turns 48 in ten days, was in top form from the get-go. She capitalised on Sukritthanes’ errors to run up a quick 3-0 lead and seemed to be running away with the title. Fisher regrouped in the shootout, potting all five of her attempts to her rival’s three to take home the winner’s cheque of \$30,000.

Later, Potts, who came through the losers’ bracket following a loss to Tobias Bongers, was in a different zone altogether. Fortunately for him,

Shepherd, who ousted fancied Jack Whelan in the semi-finals, failed to get going in the all-important clash. Defending champion Potts, a four-time World Pool champion, called the shots from the beginning. After being tied 3-3, he shifted gears to leave his rival, who was coming off an International Heyball Open triumph earlier this month, gasping in his wake. Late on Friday, the Indian challenge ended with the defeats of Laxman Rawat and Varshaa Sanjeev. While Rawat, playing his fourth match of the day, lost 2-7 to Whelan, Varshaa gave women’s second seed Wendy Jans a fright before falling 3-6.

Pratika Rawal pulls out of Warwickshire stint following maiden T20I call-up



Birmingham: Top-order batter Pratika Rawal will miss her planned domestic stint with Warwickshire in the One-Day Cup in England after earning a maiden T20I call-up to India’s squad for the upcoming ACC Women’s Asia Cup. Pratika was

named by the Amita Sharma-led Women’s Selection Committee as a replacement for star batter Jemimah Rodrigues, who has been ruled out of both the Asia Cup in the UAE and the Asian Games in Japan due to a high-grade right hamstring tear. The

maiden T20I call-up Pratika, 25, who was scheduled to join Warwickshire on August 19 for the remainder of the season, will no longer travel to Edgbaston. Warwickshire women’s head coach Ali Maiden expressed disappointment at losing Pratika’s services, while wishing her success on national duty. “We were really looking forward to welcoming Pratika into our squad for the remainder of the season, and we’re incredibly disappointed to lose her. That being said, we’ve still got a lot to play for in the remaining weeks of the season, and we’re confident in the squad we have at our disposal. Playing for your country is the ultimate honour, and we wish Pratika well in the Asia Cup,” he said in a statement.

Pratika, a member of India’s 2025 Women’s ODI World Cup-winning side, will now leave for Dubai with the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side ahead of their tournament opener against Thailand on August 30. Pratika is yet to be capped in T20Is, but she has featured in 27 ODIs and amassed 1189 runs. She made a fifty on her Test debut against Australia at Perth earlier this year. India will also face Hong Kong and China on September 3, before the marquee clash against arch-rivals Pakistan takes place on September 5. All matches of the tournament will be played at the Dubai International Stadium, as the UAE plays host to the tournament for the first time. The semi-finals will be held on September 10 and 11, with the final to be played on September 13.

Saina Nehwal calls for better funding, coaching and support systems for athletes



Mumbai: Former world No. 1 shuttler and Olympics medallist Saina Nehwal on Saturday said featuring among top nations in medals tally would be the real metric of calling India a “sporting nation”, amid the push to host global competitions here. Saina said while the scenario has changed in sports, especially for women in the country,

there still is a lot to be done. “We are trying (to host) Olympics or big tournaments but I think one thing we have to make sure is that we are in top of the medal tally as well and that is when we can call ourselves a sporting nation,” Nehwal said during an inter-collegiate festival ‘Malhar’, hosted by the St Xavier’s College.

Dr Talimeren Ao Junior Girls’ NFC 2026-27 dates announced

Hyderabad: The 2026-27 season of the Dr Talimeren Ao Junior Girls’ National Football Championship will be held from September 10 to October 7, 2026. Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, will host Tier 1 for the third straight season from September 10 to 25, while Tier 2 will be held at the RK Ashram Ground in Narainpur, Chhattisgarh, from September 15 to October 7. Tier 1 will feature 15 teams divided into three groups of four and one group of three. Tier

2 consists of 18 teams split into two groups of five and two groups of four. The group winners will progress to the semi-finals.



Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, promoted from Tier 2 at the end of last season, will compete in Tier 1 in 2026-27, replacing Goa and Arunachal Pradesh, who were relegated and will compete in Tier 2 this season. Manipur are the defending champions, having defeated West Bengal 9-0 in last year’s final in Anantapur.

MITs signs MoU with Aprotech R and D Solutions to provide technical skills and training to students as per industry requirements



Madanapalle, August 18(Skyline correspondent): The Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) at MITs Deemed to be University near Madanapalle, under the auspices of MITs Industry Relations Cell, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Chennai-based Aprotech R and D Solutions Private Limited with the aim of further strengthening industry-academic linkages, said Principal Dr P Ramanathan. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the main objective of the agreement is to provide students with technical skills, training and practical experience that are relevant to the needs of the industry, as well as to improve their employment opportunities. He said that through partnership between educational institutions and industries, students can enhance their understanding of modern technology and develop their skills according to the needs of the job market. Speaking at the event, S Prabhu, Director, Aprotech R and D Solutions Private Limited, explained the objectives and importance of the MoU. The agreement will provide in-

ternships, placement opportunities, industrial training and career development programs to students, he said. Similarly, opportunities such as industry-based training, technical skill development programs, certification courses, industry projects, internships, placement assistance and research collaboration will be provided to students in emerging technology areas such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, data science, cloud computing and cyber security. Through this partnership, students will get experience working on real industry projects and will get an opportunity to improve their technical and professional skills as per the industry requirements, he said. On this occasion, Dr M Sridevi, Head of the Department of CSE and S Prabhu, Director of Aprotech R and D Solutions Private Limited signed MoUs. Dean-School of Computing Dr C Chandra Prakash Gupta, Assistant Director-Industry Relations PM Balaji, Coordinators D Ramalingam and Dr R Sudhakar and other faculty members participated in the program.

Med Ed Synergy–2026 Inaugurated at AIMSRS, Chittoor



Chittoor, August 18(skyline daily) : A two-day CME program titled “Med Ed Synergy–2026” was inaugurated on Tuesday at Apollo Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (AIMSR), Chittoor, under the aegis of the Medical Education Unit. The program commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries. On the occasion, Dr. Nitin M. Nagarkar, Vice Chancellor, Apollo University, stated that interdisciplinary coordination is essential for delivering comprehensive healthcare services. He stressed the need for faculty training to equip educators with the skills required to meet both local and global healthcare demands. Dr. H. Vinod Bhat, Strategic Advisor, Apollo Knowledge and Former Vice Chancellor of Apollo University, participated virtually. He emphasized that medical education is

continuously evolving and should extend beyond classroom teaching to include practical training, innovation, and advanced diagnostic approaches. He highlighted the importance of quality enhancement, modern teaching methodologies, and integrated learning in shaping competent healthcare professionals. Renowned medical experts from across the country and abroad delivered lectures on key topics. Dr. Latha Ravichandran (Dean, Sriher, Chennai), Dr. Sreekumar (Associate Professor, Anaesthesiology), Dr. Anand R (Professor, Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore), and Dr. Margaret Shanthi (Professor, CMC Vellore) participated in person. Additionally, international and national experts including Dr. R. Parthasarathi (Head, Community Medicine, K.A.P. Viswanatham Government Medical College, Trichy), Dr. Siraj A.M. (Head, Medical Education, National University of Science and Technology, Sohar, Oman) joined virtually. The event was attended by Dr. Alfred J. Augustine, Pro Vice Chancellor, Dr. Ramya Ramakrishnan, Dean, AIMSRS; Dr. Usha Adiga, Associate Dean (Research); Dr. Ranganath B.G., Medical Superintendent; Dr. A. Kishore, Organizing Chairman; Dr. Ramya R., Organizing Secretary, along with deans, heads of departments, faculty members, and a large number of delegates from Apollo Knowledge City and various regions.

VELUGU Special School Principal P Leena Kumari's services to the disabled are amazing



Madanapalle, August 18(Skyline correspondent): As part of the 80th Independence Day celebrations organized at BT College Ground, Bangalore Road, Madanapalle, Annamayya District Differently Gifted, Hijras and Elderly Welfare Department and Support Organization Assistant Director Krishna Kishore, RO Srikanth, with the support of VELUGU Organization Secretary M Uday Mohan Reddy, Minister Ram Prasad Reddy, District In-Charge Collector Shiva Narayana Sarma, Sub-Collector Challa Kalyani, SP Dheeraj visited the stall where special equipment required by the disabled and elderly was set up, and they were welcomed by the disabled with bouquets. Hearing Aids were presented to the deaf Akhil and Charan. TLM kits were presented to the physically challenged Aishwarya and Anusha, and a wheelchair was presented

to the physically challenged Reddemma by the chief guests. In particular, the government recognized the services of Principal P Leena Kumari, who has been providing dedicated and distinguished services to the disabled for the last 30 years at VELUGU Special School, presented a certificate of appreciation for her outstanding service on August 15th by Minister Ram Prasad Reddy. The event was attended by the Assistant Director of the Department of Welfare of Differently-abled, Hijras and Elderly Krishna Kishore, RO Srikanth, Minister Ram Prasad Reddy, District In-Charge Collector Shiva Narayana Sarma, Sub-Collector Challa Kalyani, SP Dheeraj Kunubilli, VELUGU Secretary M Uday Mohan Reddy, Principal P Leena Kumari, staff, Disabled and Deaf people.

Sankalp – Sampoorna Swasthya’ Awareness Programme Held in Pileru

‘(By Skyline Staff Reporter)
Pileru, August 18: The 43rd ‘Sankalp – Sampoorna Swasthya’ awareness programme on comprehensive health was organised on Tuesday at VSN NextGen CBSE School in Pileru. The programme was conducted under the auspices of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics, Tirupati, and the Sri Sathya Sai District branch, with the support of the Indian Medical Association, Pileru, and the Lions Club of Pileru.

The programme was organised for students of Class 5 and above. Doctors created awareness among the students about healthy lifestyle practices, including a balanced diet, avoiding junk food, checking food labels before consumption, physical exercise, limiting the use of mobile phones and other screens, adequate sleep, mental health, staying away from substance abuse, and preventing pollution. Special skill stations were arranged to help students understand these topics more effectively. Practical training was provided on how to read food labels and how to say “No” to addictions. Students were also educated about ways to stay away from addictive substances through role-play activities. Dr. K. Kesavulu, State Coordinator of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics’ Sampoorna Swasthya programme and President of the IAP Sri Sathya Sai District branch, participated as the chief speaker. Dr. P. Chandrasekhar, Superintendent of the Area Hospital, Pileru, attended as



the chief guest. Dr. Tejasri and other doctors created awareness among the students on various health-related issues. The doctors advised students to develop healthy eating habits from an early age, engage in physical exercise every day, get adequate sleep, limit the use of mobile phones and other screens, and take care of their mental health. They also urged students to stay completely away from addictive substances. The organisers stated that the main objective of the programme was to create proper health awareness among students from a young age and thereby contribute to building a healthier society. The programme was attended by the school management, teachers, doctors, organisers, and students.

Chandrababu’s Vision to Transform Ramakuppam - Airport Foundation Soon

Ramakuppam August 17. (Sky Line Daily)

Ramakuppam which was once a major commercial center for Kuppam constituency is all set to witness a historic transformation. With Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu laying the foundation stone for the proposed airport in Ramakuppam, the entire region is expected to undergo a massive facelift. The Bengaluru International Airport Authority has granted conditional approval for the construction of Kuppam Airport, ending decades of wait for the people. The State Government has also received NOC for airport operation and management with 15% margin on the capex to be borne by the government. With this, almost all hurdles have been cleared and the foundation stone is likely to be laid by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu within the next two months. Strategically located on the borders of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, Ramakuppam holds key importance. Once the airport becomes operational, the economic conditions of local people will improve significantly and business activities will flourish. Transportation, logistics, tourism

and employment opportunities will increase, leading to all-round development of Ramakuppam mandal. Farmers



will get wider markets for their produce. Youth will get job and employment opportunities. Small traders, hotels and transport sector will get a major boost. People are expressing happiness saying "With the airport coming, our lives will change". Local leaders hailed that this development is possible only due to the vision of CM Chandrababu Naidu. The public is eagerly awaiting the completion of the airport works. Ramakuppam is soon going to emerge as a hub for three states and a symbol of development.

HPV Vaccine Safe for Preventing Cancer in Girls: Dr. Sree Girisha

Pileru , August 18:Dr. Sree Girisha, Medical Officer of Talupula Primary Health Centre (PHC), assured

the occasion, Dr. Sree Girisha advised every 14-year-old girl to take the HPV vaccine with the consent of her parents. He explained that the vaccine provides long-term protection against cervical cancer and is both safe and effective. He said that the vaccine can be taken during the working hours of Primary Health Centres. She advised the girls to have food before coming for vaccination and not to come on an empty stomach. He also asked them to bring either their mother or father along with them and carry their Aadhaar card. Dr. Sree Girisha urged the girls to dispel misconceptions, understand the facts about HPV vaccination, and actively contribute to creating a cancer-free society by spreading awareness among their peers. Deputy Health Education Officer Kondaiah, Headmaster Reddappa, supervisors Nagamma and ANM Famunnisa, ASHA workers, and students participated in the programme.



adolescent girls that the HPV vaccine is safe and effective in preventing cervical cancer, a silent threat among women. Dr. Sree Girisha conducted an awareness programme today for the girl students of Talupula Zilla Parishad High School on the topic “HPV Vaccine for Cancer Prevention.” Speaking on