

SKYLINE

ENGLISH DAILY

Published from Hyderabad & Medchal - Malkajgiri

Circulated throughout Telangana State



Vol. 50 Issue: 272

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

Hyderabad, 12 Pages Rs.1.00

Revanth unveils Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud statue on Tank Bund



From Our Staff Reporter
Hyderabad, August, 18 : Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy unveiled the statue of 18th-century Bahujan hero Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud on Tank Bund, Hyderabad, on Tuesday. Paying rich tributes to the iconic chieftain who fought against Mughal hegemony and feudal oppression, the Chief Minister stated that Papanna Goud's legacy of self-respect and social justice continues to inspire the state's governance. Highlighting his administration's commitment to honouring regional historical figures, the Chief Minister noted that placing the statue alongside other eminent personalities on Tank Bund restores due recognition to a key figure in Telangana's history. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, TPCC President Mahesh Goud, Ministers Ponnampalapati Prabhakar, Tummalapalli Nageswara Rao, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Sridhar Babu and Seethakka, Government Advisor V Hanumantha Rao, MPs Vem Narender Reddy, Anil Kumar Yadav, Whip Birla Ilaiah, Balmur Venkat, MLAs Naveen Yadav, Sri Ganesh, Prakash Goud, Mandula Samel, Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy, Rajesh Reddy, former MP Madhu Yashki and BC community leaders were also present in the programme.

Uttam calls for prudent water management amid rainfall uncertainty

From Our Staff Reporter
Hyderabad, August, 18 : Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Tuesday called for a judicious balance between safeguarding drinking-water requirements and meeting the irrigation needs of farmers, particularly in view of prevailing El Niño conditions and uncertainty over rainfall during the remaining monsoon period. Reviewing reservoir levels and irrigation prospects for the remaining Kharif season at Jal Soudha, the Minister said water management in the coming months must be guided by prudence, scientific assessment and actual availability rather than optimistic assumptions about future rainfall. He said drinking-water security would remain a paramount consideration, but stressed that this should not result in withholding irrigation water where reservoirs and other dependable sources had adequate supplies. "Our approach must be judicious. We have to protect drinking-water require-

ments while ensuring that water available beyond those requirements reaches standing crops. Every release must be based on actual usable storage, dependable inflows and a realistic assessment of rainfall," Uttam Kumar Reddy said. The Minister stated that major reservoirs in the Krishna basin were at 76.63 per cent of their capacity, with 746.12 TMC against a total capacity of 973.68 TMC. Similarly, reservoirs in the Godavari basin were at 68.1 per cent, holding 208.38 TMC against a capacity of 306.20 TMC, he said. Referring to Nagarjuna Sagar, a joint project in the Krishna basin, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the reservoir's current storage had touched 164 TMC against its gross capacity of 312 TMC, leaving a flood cushion of about 47 per cent. He said the Nagarjuna Sagar Left Canal had an ayacut of more than 6.4 lakh acres spread across Nalgonda, Suryapet and Khammam districts in Telangana. Uttam Kumar Reddy cau-



tioned officials against presenting an overly optimistic picture based solely on gross storage percentages. Every assessment, he said, should clearly indicate gross capacity, live storage, usable water, committed requirements and the quantity actually avail-

able for irrigation. The Minister said the government's objective for the remainder of the Kharif season was to utilise every dependable water source to protect standing crops, conserve supplies in view of uncertain inflows and maintain complete transparency with farmers.

Governor hails ISKCON Abids' contribution to spirituality, social welfare



From Our Staff Reporter
Hyderabad, August, 18 : The five-decade journey of Sri Sri Radha Madanmohan Mandir at Abids, Hyderabad, has been a spiritual journey rooted in devotion, service, compassion and human welfare, Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla said. The Governor, along with his wife Janaki Shukla, participated in the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Sri Sri Radha Madanmohan Mandir, Abids, on Tuesday. The ISKCON organisers and devotees accorded a warm welcome to the Governor and his wife. The Governor and Janaki Shukla offered prayers and had darshan of Sri Sri Radha Madanmohan Swamy. Speaking on the occasion, Shiv Pratap Shukla congratulated the saints, devotees, volunteers and well-wishers of ISKCON Abids on behalf of the people of Telangana. He said the completion of 50 years was not merely a milestone in time, but a celebration of a sustained tradition of devotion, service, spiritual discipline, compassion and dedication to the welfare of society.

The Governor recalled the contribution of Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, who founded the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) in 1966, and said the movement had carried the message of Krishna consciousness and spiritual awareness across the world. Srila Prabhupada, he said, had introduced millions to the timeless wisdom of the Bhagavad Gita and shown the path of self-realisation, divine love and selfless service. The Governor observed that, located in the midst of the busy commercial hub of Abids, the temple had remained a centre of spiritual peace, harmony, values and service for five decades. He appreciated ISKCON's efforts through Harinam Sankirtan, remembrance of the divine name, prasadam distribution, cultural programmes and various service initiatives to nurture compassion and human values in society. Calling upon the youth to reconnect with India's spiritual heritage, the Governor urged them to read the Bhagavad Gita and imbibe its timeless values in their daily lives.

Dr SUDHA KIRAN HONOURED WITH 'GUARDIAN OF LIFE AWARD'

From Our Staff Reporter
Hyderabad, August, 18 : Dr. Natcharaju Venkata Sudha Kiran, Founder and CEO of the P. V. Narasimha Rao Memorial Charitable Trust, has been conferred the prestigious 'Guardian of Life Award' by the Indian Book of Records for his humanitarian leadership and sustained contribution to voluntary blood donation, safe blood banking and community healthcare. The award recognises his efforts through the Trust to improve access to safe and timely blood across Telangana, particularly through its blood centres in Hyderabad and Gajwel. His initiatives have supported thousands of patients while promoting voluntary blood donation, donor awareness and responsible blood banking. The honour was formally presented to Dr. Sudha Kiran at the Trust headquarters in Himayatnagar, Hyderabad, in recognition of his steadfast commitment to saving lives and advancing accessible healthcare.

Gaddar synonymous with people's movements: Komatireddy

From Our Staff Reporter
Hyderabad, August, 18 : Minister for Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said legendary balladeer Gaddar was synonymous with people's movements and that it was the collective responsibility of everyone to uphold his ideals and carry forward the spirit of struggle he inspired. The Minister released the poster of the documentary "Praja Yuddha Nauka Gaddar" at his residence in Hyderabad on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said Gaddar was not merely an individual but the voice of the oppressed and marginalised people of Telangana. Through his

songs and performances, Gaddar had mobilised and united millions of people during various movements, leaving an indelible mark on the history of Telangana, he said. The Minister recalled that both he and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had great admiration for Gaddar and noted that the State government had instituted the Gaddar Cine Awards in his honour. Komatireddy appreciated the efforts of Gaddar's daughter and Telangana Cultural Sarathi Chairperson Vennela, along with the producers, directors, actors and technical team, for bringing out the documentary on the legendary balladeer. He expressed hope that the documentary would shed light



on several lesser-known aspects of Gaddar's life and his role in various people's movements, besides highlighting the hardships and sacrifices he endured. Such an effort would help make Gaddar's legacy ac-

cessible to future generations, he said. The Minister assured that the State government was ready to extend all possible assistance and cooperation for the production of the documentary and also

support Vennela's efforts to make a feature film on Gaddar in the future. Telangana Cultural Sarathi Chairperson Vennela, directors, producers, technicians and others participated in the programme.

Ponguleti urges cement companies to partner with Indiramma Indlu scheme

From Our Staff Reporter
Hyderabad, August, 18 : Minister for Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy has appealed to cement companies to partner with the Telangana government's prestigious Indiramma Indlu scheme by supplying cement required for house construction at reduced prices. The Minister held a meeting with representatives of cement companies at the Secretariat on Tuesday to discuss measures to reduce the cost of cement for beneficiaries constructing Indiramma houses. Speaking on the occasion, Srinivasa Reddy said the Indiramma Indlu scheme was not merely a housing programme but a major initiative aimed at



providing poor families with a dignified life, social security and self-respect. He said 4.50 lakh Indiramma houses had been sanctioned in the first phase across the State, excluding Hyderabad. Slab work had been completed in 85 per cent of the houses, while construction of the remaining 15 per cent was progressing at various stages.

In the second phase, 2,000 houses have been sanctioned in each Assembly constituency, totalling 2.50 lakh houses across the State, the Minister said. Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy further stated that the State government has also set a target of constructing one lakh houses within the CURE limits and has experimentally launched the

Indiramma Towers project in 16 Assembly constituencies. The Minister said Telangana was the only State in the country providing financial assistance of Rs. 5 lakh with 100 per cent subsidy for the construction of houses for the poor. "Telangana is setting an example for the entire country in this regard. Irrespective of the financial burden on the

government, there will be no compromise in providing houses to the poor. Funds are being released transparently every Monday in instalments to each beneficiary based on the progress of construction," Srinivasa Reddy said. He said the government would discharge its responsibility with full commitment until every poor family was able to live in its own house.

HIGH-POWERED COMMITTEE REVIEWS OPEN PRISON REFORMS AT CHERLAPALLY

From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, August, 18 : A High-Powered Committee, constituted pursuant to the directions of the Supreme Court of India in Suhas Chakma vs. Union of India and others, visited the Prisoners Agricultural Colony (PAC) at Cherlapally here on Tuesday to review the functioning of Open Correctional Institutions and the reformatory measures undertaken by the Telangana Prisons Department.

The committee, headed by retired Supreme Court judge Justice Ravindra Bhat Shripathi, also included senior officials from the Bureau of Police Research & Development, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and other experts. The visit was aimed at studying Open Correctional

Institutions and evolving common minimum standards for their effective governance, rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners into society.

The committee first inspected Central Prison, Cherlapally, where it reviewed prison industries and factories, hospital facilities and the Nivrutti De-Addiction Centre.

At PAC Cherlapally, Director General of Prisons & Correctional Services Dr. Soumya Mishra briefed the committee on the open prison's rehabilitation-oriented approach and livelihood initiatives. She said Telangana has two exclusive Prisoners Agricultural Colonies - PAC Cherlapally, established in 1954 across 129 acres, and PAC Warangal, established in 2022 across 101 acres. Semi-

open prisons are also functioning in four Central Prisons and six District Jails.

PAC Cherlapally has a sanctioned capacity of 150 prisoners, with 51 inmates currently housed there. Admission is based on good conduct, reliability, physical and mental fitness, emotional stability, family ties and willingness to work. Habitual offenders, escapees, prisoners with pending cases and certain other categories are excluded. Unlike conventional closed prisons, Open Correctional Institutions focus on rehabilitation by allowing eligible prisoners to work with minimal supervision while developing skills and taking greater responsibility. The facilities undertake activities including organic and vegetable farming, dairy, poultry, nurs-

ery management, aquaculture, beekeeping, steel furniture manufacturing, retail fuel outlets, weighbridge operations and car washing. Dr. Soumya Mishra said the Telangana Government enhanced prisoner incentives from October 1, 2024, to Rs.200 per day for highly skilled work, Rs.150 for skilled, Rs.125 for semi-skilled and Rs.100 for unskilled work. Prisoners in Open Correctional Institutions are also eligible for eight days of remission every month, higher than the remission available to prisoners in closed jails. IG Prisons N. Murali Babu, DIG Prisons, Warangal Range M. Sampath, PAC Cherlapally Superintendent D. Bharath and Central Prison Cherlapally Superintendent G. Pramod were present during the visit.

Indiramma governance belongs to everyone: Revanth

From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, August, 18 : Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy declared that the state belongs to the Bahujan communities, asserting that his government's "Indiramma governance" model has successfully proven that social justice and living with dignity are achievable for all sections of society.

Speaking on Tuesday after unveiling the statue of historical icon Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud on Tank Bund, the Chief Minister praised the warrior as a transformative leader who rallied Bahujan communities against oppressive feudal forces to capture the Golconda Fort. "Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud did not work merely for his caste or family. He led a campaign along with the



Bahujans and hoisted his flag over Golconda Fort. His inspiration should remain with the people of Telangana forever," Revanth Reddy said. Highlighting the historic figure's legacy, the Chief Minister confirmed that the statue of Sardar Sarvai Papanna

Goud will receive official prominence on par with the iconic Telangana Martyrs' Memorial. Reaffirming his administration's commitment to inclusive welfare, Revanth Reddy remarked: "This is not a government that belongs to me alone. It is a government working for

social justice and welfare. This government belongs to everyone". The Chief Minister expressed strong political confidence, reiterating that the Congress government is positioned to win 117 seats to secure a second consecutive term in office.

Telangana has a regime of 'robbery' in the state: BJLP Leader Aaleti Maheshwar Reddy



From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, August, 18 : BJP Legislature Party Leader Aaleti Maheshwar Reddy here on Tuesday lashed out at the Congress government in Telangana, stating that instead of protecting public assets, it was acting like a broker and had paved the way for a land scam worth lakhs of crores of rupees. He slammed state Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, who is supposed to safeguard the people's assets for turning into a "Robbery

Minister" and looting the state exchequer and public property.

Maheshwar Reddy criticized the Congress government for acting in direct contradiction to the government's constitutional obligation-under Article 300A-to protect citizens' right to property. He stated that even small plots of 60 or 100 square yards, purchased by the poor and added that the middle class through hard-earned savings, were being included in the section '22A Prohibited

List,' causing them severe fear and anxiety. He stated that including properties-which had obtained all requisite approvals from GHMC, HMDA, and RERA and secured bank loan sanctions-under the '22A' list (prohibited list) was a testament to the government's malicious administration. He alleged that by dragging these properties into disputes, officials were extorting huge sums from builders and the public, demanding a 30% to 40% share to remove them from that list. Maheshwar Reddy challenged the state government to immediately release a white paper detailing the state Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy's assets prior to assuming office versus those acquired after becoming a minister. He alleged that the 'Phoenix' group, which acted as a benami (proxy) and broker for the previous government, was now playing a pivotal role as an intermediary under the Congress government as well. He presented evidence showing the transfer of the assets worth approximately Rs.15,000 crore from the

Phoenix group to Raghava Constructions, a company owned by Ponguleti's family. He said that Seven acres of land (valued at approximately Rs.1,200 crore) were transferred from 'Phoenix Spaces Private Limited' in the Financial District to the 'Raghava Nova' project and added that the Seven acres of land were transferred from 'Phoenix Embassy Tech Zone Private Limited' in the Financial District to 'Raghava Sync'. Projects such as the massive 61-story complex under construction in Kokapet and the 12-acre commercial tower sites in Hitech City also passed from Phoenix into the hands of the Raghava Group. He claimed that the Lands originally allocated by the Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIIC) were also transferred to their companies through coercive tactics and added that In the process of converting the zoning of approximately 400 acres along the Srisailem Highway (Kandukur area), they not only secured a 30% share but also appropriated the land for themselves.

HORTICULTURE RESEARCH MUST REACH FARMERS, SAYS MINISTER TUMMALA



From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, August, 18 : State Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao has called for horticultural research to be closely aligned with farmers' needs and for modern technology to be used extensively to take scientific findings from laboratories and universities to the fields.

The Minister laid the foundation stone for a Horticultural research complex at the Sri Konda Laxman Telangana Horticultural College campus,

describing it as a historic milestone for the State's horticulture sector.

He said considerable research was being undertaken by the universities, research centres and laboratories, but its benefits had not reached farmers to the desired extent. With smartphones, social media and YouTube now widely accessible, he urged scientists, universities and the Horticulture Department to disseminate research findings through videos, short films and digital platforms.

The Minister highlighted the growing importance of horticulture to Telangana's agricultural economy, noting that horticultural crops occupy only about six percent of the state's agricultural land but contribute nearly 26 percent, or around Rs.30,346 crore, to the gross agricultural value.

Expressing concern over the State's nearly 70 percent deficit in vegetable production, which has resulted in dependence on supplies from other States, he called for stronger re-

search, technology adoption and extension services.

He also directed the officials to establish demonstration plots at every district and mandal headquarters to promote the cultivation of high-demand horticultural crops and vegetables suited to local needs.

The Minister stressed that closer coordination among researchers, universities, the Horticulture Department and farmers would be essential to improve productivity and raise farm incomes.

TELANGANA PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST TO SPOTLIGHT HIDDEN TOURISM GEMS

From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, August, 18 : The Tourism Committee of the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) has announced "Telangana Through the Lens - 2026", an open photography contest to mark World Photography Day and showcase the State's diverse and lesser-known tourism attractions. Themed "Explore, Experience and Exhibit the

Spirit of Telangana Tourism", the contest invites photography enthusiasts to capture Telangana's culture, heritage, landscapes, architecture, festivals, wildlife, cuisine, traditions and people, with special focus on hidden and unexplored destinations. Announcing the contest, FTCCI Tourism committee chairman Prakash Ammanabolu, co-chairman D Ramchandram and director Sangeetha

Parisaboina said the initiative aims to encourage people to discover the State's lesser-known tourism treasures and bring them into the public spotlight. Open to participants of all ages and professions, the contest carries no entry fee, and participants can submit multiple entries. Photographs must be original, in JPEG format and not exceed 1 MB size. Filters and artificial image enhancements are not permitted. The first prize is Rs.15,000, followed by Rs.10,500 for second prize and Rs.7,500 for third prize. Five consolation prizes of Rs.1,500 each will also be awarded. Entries will be judged by a jury of photographers, tourism professionals and artists based on creativity, composition, originality, relevance to the theme and visual impact. Selected photographs may also feature in FTCCI publications, exhibitions and digital platforms.

The last date for submissions is September 10, 2026. Entries can be submitted through the designated online form <https://tally.so/r/Y57G8d>, along with the participant's name, contact details and a brief description of the photograph, including its location and context. FTCCI has urged photography enthusiasts to move beyond popular tourist destinations and use their lenses to discover and promote Telangana's hidden tourism potential.

Vakiti hails Dhanush Srikanth, Gayatri Gopichand for Arjuna Awards

From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, August, 18 : Minister for Sports Vakiti Srihari has expressed happiness over Telangana shooter Dhanush Srikanth and badminton player Gayatri Gopichand being conferred the prestigious Arjuna Awards. The Minister said sportspersons from Telangana had been making the State proud by showcasing their talent and excellence at national and international levels. Congratulating Dhanush Srikanth and Gayatri Gopichand, Srihari said their achievement reflected their dedication, determination and sporting excellence. He said the State government would extend all-round support and encouragement to young sportspersons. The government was according priority to the development of sports infrastructure, playing fields and training facilities to help more athletes from Telangana excel at national and international competitions, he said. The government was committed to making Telangana one of the leading States in the country in the field of sports, the Minister said. The achievements of Telangana's sportspersons would serve as an inspiration to the youth, he added.

34 REGISTRATIONS CLEARED IN 24 HRS AMID 22-A LAND ROW: MINISTER PONGULETI

From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, August, 18 : Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Tuesday assured the people that the Telangana government would not allow any injustice to the poor over issues related to lands included in the Section 22-A prohibited list. Speaking to the media at the Secretariat, the Minister said 34 registrations were completed within 24 hours after the government began correcting errors in the online 22-A data - 30 in Medchal-Malkajgiri district and four in Ranga Reddy district. Ponguleti said private lands that had been regularised under earlier government orders and memos, along with plots having High Court, GHMC and HMDA approvals, were inadvertently included in the prohibited list due to errors during online data uploading. He said the government had acknowledged the mistake and was rectifying it on a "war footing" in accordance with High Court directions. A special committee comprising the Principal Secretary (Revenue), Inspector General of Stamps and Registration and other senior officials has been constituted to expedite the process. The committee will review applications daily for the next 15 days and take immediate action to clear genuine private properties, the Minister said, urging people not to panic over the 22-A issue.

GERMAN DONER KEBAB MAKES INDIA DEBUT WITH HYD OUTLET

From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, August, 18 : Global quick-service restaurant brand German Doner Kebab (GDK) has entered the Indian market with its first outlet at Film Nagar, Tollywood Lane here in Jubilee Hills. Telangana Transport Minister Ponnampal Prabhakar inaugurated the outlet and welcomed the international brand to the State. He said Hyderabad has emerged as a preferred destination for global brands and stressed the importance of quality, taste and hygiene in the food sector. Founded in Berlin and headquartered in the UK, GDK operates across several international markets, including the UK, US, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Sweden and Ireland. The brand specialises in flame-grilled doner served with fresh ingredients, signature sauces and toasted waffle bread. GDK India, launched in partnership with GBC India, plans to expand into markets including Mohali, Chandigarh and other Tier-I and Tier-II cities through company-owned and franchise outlets. The company has set a long-term target of more than 450 outlets across India. Vikrant Tomer, CEO of GDK India, said the company aimed not merely to establish a restaurant chain but to develop the Doner category in India. Musician, actor and filmmaker Parmish Verma has been appointed as the brand's Cultural Partner to strengthen its connect with younger consumers. The Hyderabad outlet is expected to serve as the launchpad for GDK's nationwide expansion.

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

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



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

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

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

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

Major Fire Accident in Narasaraopet; Cars and Property Damaged

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



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

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

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

Vijayawada, August 18 (Skyline Correspondent): A man from Tamil Nadu was found murdered in a pool of blood at a private lodge near Vijayawada Railway Station, triggering shock and concern among local residents and travelers. Police have launched an investigation and are searching for three individuals suspected to be involved in the crime. According to police sources, four men, believed to be between 35 and 40 years of age, checked into the lodge during the early hours of August 16 and rented a single room. The group reportedly stayed together in the room for two days. On Monday morning at around 6 a.m., three of the men approached the reception desk and informed the management that they were checking out. After settling the bill, they reportedly left the lodge in a hurried manner, raising no immediate suspicion among the staff. Later, when lodge operator Madhu and his staff went to clean the room, they made a shocking discovery. One of the occupants

was found lying dead in a pool of blood, apparently having been brutally murdered. The incident was immediately reported to the police. A police team rushed to the scene, secured the area, and initiated an investigation. Based on identity documents recovered from the room, the deceased was identified as a resident of Tamil Nadu. Preliminary inquiries suggest that the three men who left the lodge earlier may have been involved in the murder and subsequently fled the area. Police have registered a case and are examining CCTV footage from the lodge and surrounding locations to trace the suspects. Efforts are also underway to determine the motive behind the killing and establish the relationship between the deceased and the three missing individuals. The body has been shifted for post-mortem examination, and further investigation is in progress. Authorities expressed confidence that the accused will be identified and apprehended soon.

Railway Job Scam Allegations Surface in Vijayawada

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



victims are said to have submitted written complaints directly to CBI officials, alleging that they were misled and financially exploited by brokers promising employment opportunities. The revelations have created concern among unemployed youth and their families, many of whom invested money and hope in securing railway jobs. Investigating

agencies are now examining the role of the alleged middlemen and verifying the claims made by the complainants. Officials have advised job seekers to rely only on official recruitment notifications and avoid dealing with unauthorized agents. A detailed investigation is underway to identify those responsible and determine the full extent of the alleged fraud.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

progress of BC communities should be viewed in the context of the changes that have taken place since the formation of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). He highlighted the role of former Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao (NTR) in politically empowering BC communities and expanding their representation in public life. According to him, NTR laid a strong foundation for the political advancement of backward classes by providing them with greater opportunities and recognition. The MLA also praised Chief



Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for supporting the economic development of BC communities through various welfare and empowerment initiatives. He said the government’s objective

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

Nara Lokesh provided him with encouragement and support. Expressing gratitude to the party leadership, Aravinda Babu thanked Chandrababu Naidu and Nara Lokesh for giving him the opportunity to represent the Narasaraopet constituency and secure victory in the 2024 elections. He also acknowledged the contribution of Jana Sena Party President and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan to the coalition’s success. Concluding his speech, the MLA stated that people value trust and credibility above caste, religion, or money.



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Directorate General of Training

Government of India
Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship
Notice Inviting Request for Proposal (RFP)
Tender Ref No: NSTICHN/TN/PMSETU-II/2026
Tender ID: 2026_DGT_921280_1
Request for Proposal for Selection of Lead Industry Partner (LIP) for Capacity Augmentation of National Skill Training Institute (NSTI) and Setting up of National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) located at Chennai under PM-SETU
The Regional Directorate of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (RDSDE), Tamilnadu invites online applications from eligible organizations for Selection of Lead Industry Partner (LIP) for Capacity Augmentation of National Skill Training Institute and Setting up of National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) located at Chennai under Component II of the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) through https://eprocure.gov.in. The RFP document is also available on https://pm-setu.skillsindia.digital.gov.in. The last date & time for submission of online applications is 25.09.2026 up to 06:00 PM.

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Regional Directorate Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Tamilnadu
DGT, MSDE, Government of India

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SKYLINE

Wednesday 19.8.2026

The Decoy

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

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

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



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

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

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

Shiv worship in Shravan: From Worship to experience

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

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



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

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

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

NHAI extends digital FASTag Local Pass to 121 toll plazas

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



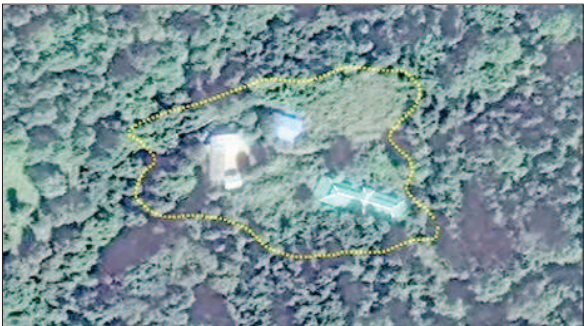
the Mundka-Bakkarwala Toll Plaza on Urban Extension Road-II (UER-II) in Delhi. The facility has since been expanded to over 120 toll plazas across the country and will be rolled out to more toll plazas across the country in the coming months. Under the Digital Local Pass framework, residents residing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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

6.1-magnitude earthquake strikes off Indonesia's North Sumatra

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Tollywood Biggies Eye On Sankranthi...



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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

Balayya Eyes December Release For NBK 111



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Anirudh And Kavya's Destination Wedding Date Locked?

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



Junior NTR As Deva Senapathi??

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



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

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

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



Sigma... Right now, this project is creating a buzz in both Tollywood and Kollywood. While Sundeep is playing the lead, the major buzz relates to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's son Jason Sanjay. Of late, the makers locked in the release date and zeroed in 2nd October... The official release date poster features the lead actor Sundeep along with his pet! Sigma, which also marks the directorial debut of Sanjay is a complete action drama. During his recent interview, Sanjay doled out many things about the scale of the project stating, "We are very excited about it, and we're also very aware of the hype and expectations surrounding it. At this moment, Sigma feels more like a cultural experience than a film. Sanjay has made a very cool film that's also a lot of fun. It's a film that will connect with children as much as it will connect with the older lot. I'm sure it will be a very special film. It's come out really well, and it looks huge." Sundeep already featured in a few Tamil movies like Maanagaram, Raayan and Captain Miller and is all set to feature in Sigma which is being bankrolled by Subaskaran under the

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Renshaw replaces Weatherald for Australia's second Test against Bangladesh

Australia have made one change to their squad for the second and final Test against Bangladesh, recalling Matthew Renshaw after their shocking nine-wicket humiliation in the series opener in Darwin. Opener Jake Weatherald has been dropped from the 13-member squad after a disappointing outing in the first Test, with the left-handed Renshaw named as his replacement. Renshaw could make his first Test appearance in more than three years if selected for the Mackay Test, which begins on Saturday. The 30-year-old last played Test cricket in Delhi against India in 2023, when he came into the side as a concussion substitute for regular opener. Since then, Renshaw has represented Australia in both ODI and T20I cricket. His return to the Test squad comes after Australia's top order struggled badly against



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

An Investor Awareness Initiative was organised at the 5th Tamil Nadu International Kite Festival 2026, being held from August 14 to 16, 2026, at Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu.

On the inaugural day of the festival, the SEBI-NSE Investor Awareness Stall, set up in collaboration with other securities market participants, was inaugurated by Thiru S. Rajesh Kumar, Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Government of Tamil Nadu.

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

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

Leveraging the Spirit of Kite Flying for Investor Awareness

Kite flying represents aspiration, balance, direction, vigilance and control - qualities that also resonate strongly with the principles of informed investing.

Just as flying a kite requires awareness of changing conditions, the right balance and



control over the kite's movement, investing requires knowledge, discipline, patience and informed decision-making.

NSE is leveraging this relatable theme to communicate important investor awareness messages in a simple and engaging manner. Through its dedicated investor awareness stall, visitors are being introduced to key concepts relating to investor protection, financial literacy and safe participation in the securities market through interactive and accessible activities. This innovative effort brought together kite enthusiasts and other visitors from across India and provided a vibrant public platform for promoting important messages on financial awareness and investor protection.

Promoting Safe and Informed Investing

The investor awareness initiative focuses on important messages, including:

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

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

Connecting Kite Flying with Financial Awareness

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

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

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

A Collaborative Approach to Investor Awareness

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

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

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

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

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

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, Aug 18

District Collector M. Abhishikth Kishore has instructed the officials to make all necessary arrangements for the Army recruitment rally to be held in Visakhapatnam from September 3rd to 20th. He directed that all necessary facilities be provided to 10,355 candidates who qualified in the written examination will participate in this recruitment rally to be held at the Indira Priyadarshini Stadium so that they do not face any inconvenience. He spoke to this effect at a meeting held at the Collectorate meeting hall on Monday evening.

He said that arrangements should be made to start the 1.6-kilometer night run organized as part of the rally at the Kalimata Temple on R.K. Beach Road and end at the Victory at Sea War Memorial. It was clarified that 800 people will participate in it every day, and the remaining procedures



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

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

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

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

40 years of Kala Bharati
A six-day celebrations of cultural events

By Skyline Staff Reporter
Visakhapatnam, Aug 18

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



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

Rambabu, while giving details of the program, said that the festivities will begin on the 22nd with a vocal concert by renowned vocal scholars Dr. Pantula Rama, who received the Sangeet Natak Academy Award from the President this week and is the pride of our Visakhapatnam. On the second day, on the 23rd, Sanskara Bharati Andhra Pradesh will be presenting the historical drama "Jayaho Shri Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj" with 60 artists on a huge stage. On the third day, on the 24th, renowned Hindustani scholars from Delhi, Kashmir and Calcutta will be performing a Hindustani vocal and sarod instrumental jugalbandi concert. On the fourth day, on the 25th, world-renowned vocal scholars Trichur

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

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

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

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

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

TDP State Executive Secretary and youth leader Kimidi Ram Mallik Naidu handed over a Rs.5 lakh accident insurance cheque to the family of Konchada Saraswathi at Itakarlapalli village in Cheepurupalli mandal.

Saraswathi's husband died in an accidental incident, leaving the family in distress. Mallik Naidu visited the family and provided the sanctioned insurance assistance.

He consoled the bereaved



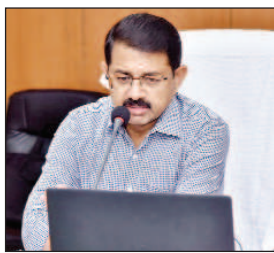
family members and assured them that the TDP leadership would continue to extend support during difficult times. He said the party remains committed to the welfare and security

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

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

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

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



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

ity required for the Oberoi and Mayfair hotels to be set up at Kancheru and Kancherupalem . Review of land acquisition for projects

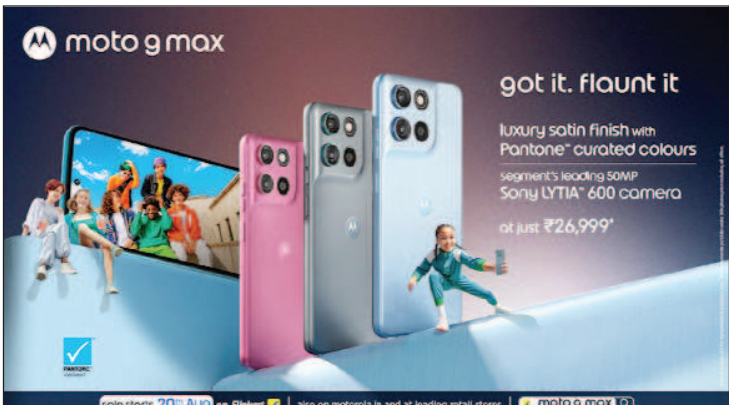
In the same meeting, the progress of land acquisition related to Tarakaram Tirtha Sagar Head Works , Thotapalli Barrage pending works , and Uttarandhra Sujala Sravanti projects was reviewed. The land acquisition details of the four-lane road to Bhogapuram Airport, National Highway 516 (B) from Pendurthi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

Line and Kothavalasa-Vizianagaram Railway Fourth Line constructions were also discussed with the officials and appropriate orders were issued. The Collector clarified that the landowners should be provided with adequate compensation as per the law and the award process should be completed expeditiously.

Joint Collector Sethu Madhavan , District Revenue Officer C.H. Sathibabu , RDOs of Vizianagaram , Cheepurupalli , Bobbili, Special Deputy Collectors of Land Acquisition , Tehsildars and other officials participated.

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

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



and the latest Android™ 16 experience.

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

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

go.

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

Twin Tragedies Within a Day Shake Gurla Village

Vizianagaram (Gurla), August 18 (Skyline):

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

A Devakinandan 22-year-old youth from the village died by suicide, following which Gurla police registered a case and began an investigation. The circumstances leading to his death remain unclear.

Before the village could come to terms with the incident, a 17-year-old minor girl from the same village also died by suicide within a day.

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



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

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

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

Reckless driving causes accidents : District Transport Officer Shankar Naik



Skyline Correspondent
Mahbubabad AUG-18 District Transport Officer Shankar Naik said that reckless driving is the root cause of accidents. On Tuesday, on the orders of the District Collector, a road safety program was organized at JNTU H Engineering College in the district center under the aus-

pices of the District Transport Department. On this occasion, engineering students were made aware of road accident prevention, traffic rules and safe travel. Speaking on this occasion, he said that road safety is everyone's responsibility and motorists must follow traffic rules. He said that helmets should be

worn while riding two-wheelers and seat belts should be worn while traveling in cars. It is advised not to drive under the influence of alcohol and not to talk on the cell phone while driving. He said that road accidents are likely to happen due to reasons like over speeding and care-

less driving and everyone should be alert. Officials have made it clear that vehicles should not be driven without a valid driving license. He also warned that if minors are allowed to drive vehicles, there is a possibility of registering criminal cases and canceling the registration of the respective vehicle. Parents and vehicle owners are advised to act responsibly by not giving vehicles to minors. The officials asked the students to develop awareness about road safety and also educate their family members and friends about traffic rules. He said that by following road rules, accidents can be avoided and precious lives can be saved. District Transport Officer Shankar Naik, Venkat Reddy, JNTU H College Principal Balram Naik and others participated in this programme.

BRS Leaders' False Propaganda on Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak Schemes Is Shameful



Skyline Correspondent
Kumarambheem Asifabad AUG-18 Congress Mandal President Kishan Goud, DCC Vice-President Palle Prakash Rao, District Official Spokesperson Durgam Ravinder, and SC Cell District President Pastham Posham demanded that BRS leaders stop spreading false allegations that the Congress government is

discontinuing the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes. A press conference was held at the Congress party office in Rebbena mandal headquarters on Tuesday under the leadership of Congress Mandal President Kesari Kishan Goud. Speaking on the occasion, they clarified that the Congress government has not stopped the

Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes. They said the government is also clearing bills pending from the previous government and ensuring that eligible beneficiaries receive welfare benefits. District Executive Committee member Modem Chiranjeevi Goud, former ZPTC member Vemurla

Santosh, former Deputy Sarpanch Maddi Srinivas Goud, District Youth Congress General Secretary Erram Tirupathi, former Co-option Member Jahuruddin, Congress leaders Durgam Rajesh, Gogarla Rajesh and Erra Santosh, Ward Members Pastham Raju, Bhargav Goud, Balun Naik and others participated in the programme

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 develop-



ment 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 Mhaskey of Chhattisgarh has been named as the Social Media Convenor.

FAKE IDs USED TO GRAB TIRUMALA ROOMS; BROKER GANG BUSTED

Tirumala, Aug.18 : TTD Vigilance officials have foiled an alleged broker racket involving the procurement of Tirumala accommodation using fake identity documents and its subsequent sale to devotees at higher prices. The racket came to light on August 16 when CRO staff noticed a man who had

already secured a room returning to the queue under another identity. He was apprehended and identified as Ashiq Ali P.M. (32) of Malappuram, Kerala. Vigilance officials seized two fake Aadhaar cards, a room registration slip, Rs.800 in cash and a mobile phone from him. During questioning, Ashiq Ali reportedly re-

vealed that he was working for a broker identified as Ranjith and was paid Rs. 1,000 for each room secured using fake documents. The investigation is underway to identify other members of the alleged gang. Following a complaint from the TTD Vigilance department, police registered a case at Tirumala-2 Town Police Station and are exam-

ining the technical evidence and authenticity of the seized Aadhaar cards. TTD urged devotees not to approach brokers or share Aadhaar details, photographs, phone numbers or other personal information with strangers. Accommodation should be obtained only through official CRO counters, the TTD website or mobile app.

Your unwavering commitment to accelerating nation-building through economic growth: Amit Shah wishes Sitharaman

New Delhi : Union Home Minister Amit Shah praised Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on her birthday for commending her "unwavering commitment" to the nation's progress and her efforts to advance nation-building through economic growth. Shah took to his social media account X to extend his wishes to Sitharaman, a senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader, who is currently holding the portfolio of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. "Birthday wishes to Union Minister Smt @nsitharaman Ji. Your unwavering commitment to

the nation's progress is accelerating the realisation of Modi Ji's vision of nation-building through economic growth. May you always be blessed with good health and success," Shah posted on X, formerly Twitter. Born in 1959 in Tamil Nadu's Madurai, Sitharaman was first inducted as Defence Minister on September 3, 2017, a position she held until May 30, 2019. She subsequently took charge of the Finance and Corporate Affairs ministries on May 30, 2019, and continued in the portfolios until June 2024. She has been serving as Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister for a



second consecutive term since June 2024. Re-elected to the Rajya Sabha for a third term in July 2022, Sitharaman holds an MA in Economics and an M.Phil

degree. She pursued her studies at Seethalakshmi Ramaswamy College in Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu, and Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi.

J-K: CRPF bunker vehicle overturns after collision with truck in Qazigund; personnel suffer minor injuries

Qazigund : A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) bunker vehicle overturned after it was involved in a collision with a truck in Jammu and Kashmir, officials informed. Some CRPF personnel onboard the vehicle reportedly suffered minor injuries in the incident. The injured personnel were immediately shifted to the 163 Battalion CRPF camp in Qazigund for treatment. Further details are awaited. Earlier, on July 20, two persons were killed, and five others were injured after a massive boulder rolled down a hillside and struck a passenger bus and two light motor vehicles at Ragi Nallah in J&K's Doda district on July 19. The heavy impact caused extensive damage to the vehicles and triggered panic among commuters along the route. Upon receiving information, rescue teams and local police personnel rushed to the spot, initiated immediate relief operations, and evacuated the injured to a nearby hospital for primary treatment. The injured individuals were subsequently shifted to the Government Medical College (GMC) in Jammu for specialised care.



Botad gets Vande Bharat connectivity as train begins running via Gandhigram route

Gandhigram-Botad : Botad Gujarat's Botad district gained direct Vande Bharat connectivity with the Sabarmati-Veraval service beginning operations through the Gandhigram-Botad route, following a change approved by the Railway Board. The revised route came into effect on August 17, bringing the semi-high-speed service to the town and improving rail connectivity for passengers travelling between Ahmedabad and Saurashtra

in the return direction. The revised alignment takes the train through Gandhigram and Botad instead of its earlier route via Viramgam, Surendranagar and Rajkot. The change is aimed at providing a more direct connection between Ahmedabad and destinations in Saurashtra.



The new service is expected to benefit passengers from Botad and nearby areas travelling towards Sabarmati and Veraval. It will also provide a faster and more convenient option for devotees travelling to Somnath, as well as for traders, students, employees and other passengers. The revised service also includes a permanent halt at Chital in Amreli district, further extending Vande Bharat connectivity in the Saurashtra region. Alongside the Vande Bharat service, electric train operations have also begun on the Botad-Gandhigram railway route, according to officials. The development is

expected to improve the speed and convenience of rail travel for passengers using the corridor. "I have made representations to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking better railway facilities for Botad," Makwana said. He has also sought additional Vande Bharat services connecting the town with major cities. Among the proposed routes are Bhavnagar-Botad-Vadodara-Surat-Mumbai and Bhavnagar-Botad-Sabarmati-Delhi. If introduced, the proposed

services would provide passengers from Botad and the Bhavnagar region with direct modern rail links to Vadodara, Surat, Mumbai, Sabarmati and Delhi. Makwana said, "Continuous efforts are being made to provide the people of Botad with better railway facilities and more convenient rail connectivity with important cities as well as religious and economic centres of the state. Necessary representations and efforts for the development of Botad's railway facilities will continue in the future as well."

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 under-



way for several months. Since the commencement of India's Chairship of the BRICS ICT Track earlier this year, "we have worked closely together through successive Working Group meetings, thematic webinars, discussions on concept notes and regular exchanges among

experts and officials," said Agrawal. "These engagements have enabled us to share experiences, build a common understanding of our priorities and collectively shape the agenda before us today," he told the BRICS members. Notably, the Council of the BRICS In-

stitute of Future Networks reviewed the activities of the designated national branches, together with updates from the Study Groups on artificial intelligence, next generation communications, internet applications in Industry 4.0, and electromagnetic field exposure.

Immediate Action Needed to Recover Rice Mill Dues: Additional Collector V. Ramulu



Skyline Correspondent Mancherla AUG-18District Additional Collector (Revenue) V. Ramulu directed officials to take immediate steps to recover the outstanding dues owed to the government by rice mills in the district.

On Tuesday, a meeting was held in the chamber of the Additional Collector (Revenue) at the Integrated District Offices Complex in Naspur. The meeting was attended by B-Section Superintendent Madhusudhan, District

Manager of the Civil Supplies Department Sreekala, and the Tahsildars of the concerned mandals. The meeting focused on recovering the dues payable by rice mills to the government under the Revenue Recovery Act.

During the meeting, officials discussed in detail the provisions of the Revenue Recovery Act, the procedures to be followed for recovering the outstanding amounts, reconciliation of pending dues mill-wise, and matters relating to court cases.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional Collector V. Ramulu instructed officials to identify all outstanding government dues, verify the relevant records, and expedite the recovery process in accordance with the prescribed rules. He also directed officials to take appropriate action in cases pending before the courts and to resolve other pending issues as per the applicable regulations.

Savaayi Papanna Goud's Ideals Continue to Inspire the Present Generation: District Collector Khushboo Gupta

Skyline Correspondent Mahabubnagar AUG-18The birth anniversary celebrations of Savaayi Papanna Goud were held at the Green Belt in Padmavathi Colony, Mahabubnagar. Government Whip and MLA Yennam Srinivas Reddy, Mahabubnagar MP D.K. Aruna, Devarakadra MLA G. Madhusudhan Reddy, Jadcherla MLA Anirudh Reddy, District Collector Khushboo Gupta, Minority Corporation Chairman Obedulla Kotwal and others participated in the celebrations and paid floral tributes to the statue of Savaayi Papanna Goud.



had secured a permanent place in history.

District Collector Khushboo Gupta said that Savaayi Papanna Goud was a brave leader who fought for the rights and self-respect of the people. His courage and contribution towards social equality were unforgettable, she

said, adding that his ideals continue to be exemplary and inspirational for the present generation.

Muda Chairman Lakshman Yadav, District Library Institution Chairman Mallu Narasimha Reddy, Municipal Mayor Smt. Gummala Mamatha Srinivas, Market Committee Chairper-

son Bekkeri Anitha Madhusudhan Reddy, DCC President Sanjeev Mudiraj, senior Congress leaders Vinod Kumar, Sattur Chandrakumar Goud and C.J. Benahar, corporators from various divisions, public representatives, leaders, officials and others participated in the programme.

New Executive Committee Elected for Police Officers' Association – New Leadership in Key Positions



Skyline Correspondent Rajanna Sircilla AUG-18Representatives of Neti Mana Desam reported that a new executive committee of the Rajanna Sircilla District Police Officers' Association was elected through elections. The polling was conducted in the conference hall of the District Police Office under the supervision of Election Nodal Officer and Special Branch DSP Venkateshwarlu, along with election committee member RI (Admin).

Following the directions of Superintendent of Police (SP) Mahesh B. Gite, the elections were conducted transparently. The SP reviewed the election process and issued several instructions to officials to ensure fairness and transparency.

The newly elected office-bearers are: "President: S. Gopal, Constable, Vemulawada Town" Vice Presidents: V. Ravi, Inspector, Special Branch; Venkatrajam, SI, Vemulawada Rural Secretary: K. Nageswara Rao, CI, Sircilla Rural" Joint Secretary: D. Srinath Raj, Constable, Gambhirapet Organizing Secretary: M. Prakash, Constable, Special Branch" Treasurer: A. Venu, District Police Office staff member District SP Mahesh B. Gite congratulated the newly elected executive committee members and conveyed his best wishes.

Foundation, visited senior journalist and Mudiraj Mahasabha State General Secretary Salendra Shivaiah Mudiraj, who is recovering at the Old MLA Quarters in Hyderabad after undergoing surgery following injuries sustained in a road accident in Himayatnagar,

TUWJ H-143 Continues Its Struggle for Journalists' Rights and Welfare

Skyline Correspondent Rajanna Sircilla AUG-18The TUWJ H-143 will continue to fight relentlessly for the rights, welfare, and freedom of journalists, said District President Layaq Pasha.



to eligible journalists, issue health cards immediately, and resolve the pending accreditation card issues without delay. He said the union would continue its efforts for the welfare of journalists and the protection of their rights. The programme was attended by Electronic Media District President Irukulla Praveen Kumar, TUWJ General Secretary Samala Gattu, Treasurer Syed Khaleem, Vice-President Prasad Reddy, Joint Secretary Salman, Mallikarjun, district executive committee member Daram

Krishna, committee member Kantala Vijay, former town president Ramanatham, senior journalists Chiluka Satyanarayana, Nagaraju, B. Srinivas, M. Srinivas, Bhaskar, Rafi, and Aslam, along with other district leaders and a large number of journalists.

against social and economic inequality and fought for the self-respect of the common people. "Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud said that the history is not just a biography of a person, but a symbol of the struggle for social justice, self-respect and equality." Similarly, representatives, members and officials of caste societies all participated and paid tributes to Papanna Goud's portrait by garlanding it." DRO

VB-G RAM G Scheme Should Be Implemented Effectively: Additional Collector Madhusudan Naik

Skyline Correspondent Mahabubnagar AUG-18Local Bodies Additional Collector Madhusudan Naik directed officials to ensure effective implementation of the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) scheme in the district and to expand employment opportunities in rural areas. On Tuesday, the Additional Collector conducted a review meeting with the staff of the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA). During the meeting, he reviewed the performance and implementation of the VB-G RAM G scheme, its progress, and the employment-related works being undertaken in rural areas. He instructed officials to



closely monitor the implementation of the scheme at the field level so that eligible rural households are provided with employment opportunities. He directed them to complete the works undertaken in accordance with prescribed guidelines and quality standards. He

also instructed officials to provide employment to labourers on time and regularly review the progress of the works. The Additional Collector directed officials to identify and immediately resolve problems encountered in the implementation of the scheme and expedite

the completion of pending works. He stated that priority should be given to works that contribute to rural development and the creation of basic infrastructure. DRDO Narasimhulu, along with concerned officials and staff, participated in the review meeting.

No compromise in maintaining law and order, and in enforcement of laws" - Ramagundam Police Commissioner Amber Kishore Jha

Skyline Correspondent Peddapalli AUG-18Ramagundam Police Commissioner Amber Kishore Jha directed police officers that there should be no compromise under any circumstances in maintaining law and order and in enforcement of laws. "As part of annual inspections, the Police Commissioner inspected the Godavarikani ACP office on Tuesday. On this occasion, Peddapalli DCP B. Ram Reddy and Godavarikani ACP M. Ramesh welcomed the CP with a bouquet. Following this, the armed police presented a guard of honor. The CP thoroughly examined various records in the ACP office. He reviewed cases under investigation in the division, their progress, arrests of accused, status of cases registered under the SC/ST



Atrocities Act, and pending cases. He asked ACP Ramesh about the reasons for delays in case investigations. "The CP instructed that special surveillance should be kept on rowdy-sheeters and history-sheeters, and their movements should be continuously monitored. He directed officers to be

alert to activities that disrupt law and order, and to take strict legal action against those indulging in illegal activities. The CP clarified that police should not unnecessarily interfere in civil and land disputes, and should act only in accordance with legal provisions. "Along with providing better policing to the public, he sug-

gested taking measures to investigate every case impartially so that victims get justice. After the inspection, the CP planted saplings in the ACP office premises along with police officers. "Peddapalli DCP B. Ram Reddy, CIs and SIs from the Godavarikani sub-division, and other police officers participated in the program.

TPCC SC Chairman Durgham Shekhar Visits Senior Journalist and Offers Well-Wishes



Skyline Correspondent Adilabad AUG-18"Durgham Shekhar, TPCC SC Department Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Durgham Trust

Foundation, visited senior journalist and Mudiraj Mahasabha State General Secretary Salendra Shivaiah Mudiraj, who is recovering at the Old MLA Quarters in Hyderabad after undergoing surgery following injuries sustained in a road accident in Himayatnagar,

er at the Old MLA Quarters in Hyderabad after undergoing surgery following injuries sustained in a road accident in Himayatnagar,

Hyderabad, about a month ago. "On Tuesday morning, Durgham Shekhar visited the MLA Quarters and enquired about Shivaiah's health and recovery. He expressed his concern and wished him a speedy recovery. "Several members of Shivaiah's friends' group were present during the visit, including Gaddam Ashok (Retired Army), Deepak Agarwal (LIC General Secretary), Boyer Vitthal, G. Jalapathi, Chikkala Ashanna, and Mohammed Ali (High Court Advocate). "Also present were Mudiraj community state leader Sunkari Potharaju from Godavarikani and journalist association leader Guvva Tirupathi Mudiraj.

Sarvai Papanna Gaud Jayanti Celebrations

Mahbubabad AUG-18On the occasion of the 376th birth anniversary of Sardar Sarvai Papanna Gaud on Tuesday in the main meeting hall of the district integrated collector's office, the District Backward Classes Department organized a ceremony. District Additional Collector Anil Kumar paid floral tributes to the portrait of Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud. Speaking on the occasion, he said that Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud stood

against social and economic inequality and fought for the self-respect of the common people. "Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud said that the history is not just a biography of a person, but a symbol of the struggle for social justice, self-respect and equality." Similarly, representatives, members and officials of caste societies all participated and paid tributes to Papanna Goud's portrait by garlanding it." DRO



Nagavani, BC Welfare Officer Sai Sreeja, Excise Officer Karamchand, Collectorate Administration Officer Pawan

Kumar, Gowda Sangha leaders, IDOC staff, District Backward Classes Welfare Department staff, etc.

Solutions to Psychological Challenges with different perspectives



(By Our Reporter / Skyline)
Patancheru, August.18 : Psychology experts believe that interdisciplinary per-

spectives are needed in psychology to solve complex human and social challenges. GITAM Deemed University organized a two-

day 'Psychon '26' conference on the theme 'Psychology in Times of Uncertainty: Interdisciplinary Perspective, Innovation, Im-

part' in Hyderabad. Researchers, academicians, professionals and students participated in the conference organized by the Department of Applied Psychology, GITAM School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Research papers were presented on topics such as clinical, social, educational, health, organizational psychology as well as technology-AI. Dr.Gerd Gigerenger from the Max Planck Institute, Berlin delivered the keynote address. Several eminent psychology experts spoke on contemporary issues. The conference provided a platform for students and researchers to present their research and discuss with experts.

NJR pays tribute to Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud



(District Correspondent / Skyline)
Sangareddy, August.18 : Nirmala Jaggareddy, the Sangareddy DCC President paid tribute to Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud on his birth

anniversary. On this occasion, he was remembered by garlanding the statue of Sarvai Papanna Goud opposite the Collectorate in Sangareddy town. Leaders of the Goud community

honored Nirmala Jaggareddy with a shawl. Speaking on the occasion, Nirmala Jaggareddy said that Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud's bravery and his struggle for social justice

have a special place in history. She praised Papanna Goud as a great man who fought for the rights of the oppressed. She said that the path he showed for equality, self-respect and social justice in society is inspiring to today's generation. She called on everyone to work hard to carry forward the aspirations of Papanna Goud. She said that it is the responsibility of everyone to inform the youth about his life story and fighting spirit.

The Program was attended by TPCC General Secretary Topaji Ananthakishan, Municipal Chairman Kuna Vanitha, Town President Kiran Goud, Kuna Santosh activists, public representatives, Goud Sangham leaders and others.

Kanakarapu Rajasekhar Excels in Martial Arts, Earns Prestigious 3rd-Degree Black Belt

Skyline Correspondent Vemulawada AUG-18 A young man from Vemulawada has showcased outstanding talent in karate grading examinations and earned the prestigious 3rd-Degree Black Belt. A Black Belt Grading Test was conducted on Tuesday at English Union School in Karimnagar under the auspices of the Okinawa Martial Arts Academy. Kanakarapu Rajasekhar, a senior karate instructor from Vemulawada, has been undergoing training for the past 15 years under the

guidance of Master Abdul Mannan of Vemulawada Okinawa Sports Karate Academy. He demonstrated exceptional skills in the grading examinations. Rajasekhar impressed the examiners with outstanding performances in the highly demanding Katas and Kumite techniques and secured the prestigious 3rd-Degree Black Belt. He received the Black Belt and a certificate of appreciation from Okinawa Martial Arts Chief Examiner K. Vasanth Kumar. Okinawa Sports Karate Academy District President Konda Devayya, Se-



nior Karate Master Abdul Mannan, and several karate instructors congratulated Rajasekhar on his excellent performance in the grading

examination and appreciated his achievement. Karate instructors Rajasekhar, Moiz, and others were present at the event.

Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud's Life is an Inspiration to Everyone: District Collector Kumar Deepak



Skyline Correspondent Mancherla AUG-18: District Collector Kumar Deepak said that the life of Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud is an inspiration to everyone. On Tuesday, on the occasion of Sardar Sarvai

Papanna Goud's birth anniversary, celebrations were organized by the District Backward Classes Welfare Department at the conference hall of the Integrated District Offices Complex in Naspur. District Collector Kumar Deepak, along

with Additional Collectors P. Chandraiah and V. Ramulu, District Revenue Officer Mothiram, Trainee Deputy Collector Mohammed Vilayat Ali, Backward Classes Development Officer Rajeswari, and Collectorate Adminis-

trative Officer Srinivasa Rao Deshpande, attended the programme. They paid floral tributes to the portrait of Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud. Later, they lit the ceremonial lamp and inaugurated the programme by breaking a coconut.

The Collector said it was a matter of happiness that the government is officially conducting birth and death anniversary celebrations of great personalities so that their ideals and practical approaches can be made known to future. District-level officials from various departments, representatives of Backward Classes and Goud associations, concerned officials, and others participated in the programme.

Shakti Policy should be withdrawn, GO.97 should be abolished

(By Our Reporter / Skyline)

Narayankhed, August.18 : Swaraj, the NFA NKD Division Secretary demanded that the government immediately withdraw the Shakti policy, cancel GO.97 and continue polytechnic courses in the old manner. To achieve these demands, a dharna was held in front of the Sub-Collector's office along with the students of NKD Government Polytechnic College on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, Swaraj said that the merger of polytechnic colleges with the Young India Skill University is likely to have a negative impact on the future of students. He said that students who have completed diplomas at



present have the opportunity to pursue higher education such as B.Tech and others and become engineers. However, he expressed concern that linking polytechnic education with ITI and ATC courses

could lead to students being turned away from higher education and remaining mere workers. Keeping in mind the future of the students, they demanded that the government immediately withdraw

the Shakti policy and repeal GO.97. Later, they handed over a petition to Tahsildar Chandramohan Reddy. The Program was attended by Polytechnic college students and NFA leaders.

Work in coordination to resolve public issues

(By Our Reporter / Skyline)

Narayankhed, August.18 : Dr.Patlolla Sanjeev Reddy, the Narayanakhed legislator asked officials and public representatives to work in coordination to identify and resolve public issues within the mandal. MLA Sanjeev Reddy and Narayankhed Sub-Collector Uma Harathi attended the mandal general body meeting held at the Mandal Praja Parishad office in Nagalgidda. During the meeting, the MLA inquired about and gathered details regarding issues prevailing in various villages from officials and village Sarpanches. He reviewed matters concerning basic amenities such as electricity, education, drinking water, roads, sanitation, and drainage systems. He



directed officials to promptly identify and take measures to resolve issues raised by the public. He advised them to pay special attention to ensuring that government welfare schemes reach every eligible beneficiary. He also empha-

sized the need to complete ongoing development works in villages swiftly and in compliance with quality standards. Discussions were held with the concerned officials regarding electricity issues, school infrastructure, drinking water

supply, and road development in the mandal. He instructed them to take necessary steps to provide better facilities for the public. The Program was attended by Mandal officials, Public representatives, village Sarpanches, and Officials.

Government Welfare Schemes Only for Eligible Beneficiaries



Skyline Correspondent Kumaram Bheem Asifabad AUG-18 State Minister for Prohibition & Excise, Tourism, Culture and Archaeology, and District In-charge

Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, said that government welfare schemes would be provided only to eligible beneficiaries. "He participated in the distribution of

sanction letters for the second phase of Indiramma Houses and sewing machines to minority women at the meeting hall of the Integrated District

Collectorate in the district headquarters on Tuesday. MLC Dande Vithal, District Collector K. Haritha, Additional Collectors Yuvaraj Marmat and M. David, Asifabad MLA Kova Laxmi, Sirpur MLA Palvai Harish Rao, District Library Institution Chairman Kamde Anil, Asifabad and Kagaznagar Municipal Chairpersons Akash and Sahin Sultana, and market committee chairpersons Manga and Devaiah, among others, attended the programme. "District Revenue Officer Dasari Venu, Asifabad Revenue Divisional Officer Lokeshwar Rao, Asifabad Municipal Vice-Chairman M.D. Ahmed, officials from the Housing and Minority Welfare departments, beneficiaries, councillors and other concerned officials participated in the programme.

BJP leaders anoints portraits of PM Modi, MP Raghunandan

(District Correspondent / Skyline)

Sangareddy, August.18 : BJP leaders of Sangareddy District anoints portraits of Prime Minister Modi and MP Raghunandan Rao for fulfilling the long-standing aspiration of the people of Sangareddy district. At a program organized by BJP Vice President Pawan Mudiraj at the Head Post Office for the sanction of Passport Center and the

Sangareddy District Head Office, they expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Modi and MP Raghunandan by anointing their portraits. Speaking on the occasion, Pawan Mudiraj said that the sanction of Passport Center and Modern Parcel Unit is a joyous occasion, and that MP Raghunandan Rao will always work on public issues and try to resolve every issue brought to his attention. He said



that the MP has promised that he will also try to set up a Tatkal ticket booking counter soon. The Program was attended by

OBC Morcha District Secretary Srinath, BJP leaders Naikoti Ramesh, Ravi Shankar, Nagaraju, Vasu, Ashwanth and others.

Young India Integrated Residential School to be Established in Kamareddy Constituency with Rs 200 Crore Investment



Skyline Correspondent Kamareddy AUG-18 Government Advisor Mohammed Ali Shabbir held a media conference at the Kamareddy District Collectorate. District Collector Ashish Sangwan also participated in the meeting. On the occasion, Mohammed Ali Shabbir expressed his special gratitude to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for granting administrative approval for the establishment of a

Young India Integrated Residential School and College in Kamareddy Assembly Constituency at an estimated cost of ₹200 crore. He stated that the Telangana School Education Department had issued G.O.Rt.No.145, dated August 4, 2026, granting administrative approval of ₹200 crore for the construction of the Young India Integrated Residential School Complex in Kamareddy Assembly Constituency,

Kamareddy district. The integrated residential school is expected to provide students with a quality educational environment on a single campus, including modern classrooms, laboratories, a library, sports facilities, residential accommodation, dining facilities and other essential infrastructure. Mohammed Ali Shabbir clarified that the educational institution would be constructed in the mandal. Municipal Chair-

person Uma Srinivas, former DCC president Kaila Srinivasa Rao, Congress town president Airen Sandeep Kumar, District Library Chairman Maddi Chandrakanth Reddy, Congress State General Secretary Baddam Indrakaran Reddy, presidents of various mandals, AMC chairpersons, market committee chairpersons, councillors, Congress leaders and party workers were present at the programme.

Unemployed Youth Seek Immediate Restoration of Pragathi Maidan

Skyline Correspondent Bhadrri Kothagudem AUG-18: Unemployed youth from Kothagudem Municipality have urged the Municipal Commissioner to take immediate steps to restore and develop Pragathi Maidan, the main practice ground for aspirants preparing for Telangana State Police Recruitment, SSC GD, Agniveer and various other uniformed services. In a representation submitted to the Commissioner, the youth said the 400-metre and 1,600-metre running tracks, Long Jump pit and Shot Put area at the ground were in a severely damaged and unusable condition. Despite repeated representations to the authorities, no permanent solution had been implemented, they said. They alleged that heavy vehicles were regularly entering the ground,



further damaging the running track and creating unsafe conditions for candidates. Liquor bottles, broken glass, plastic waste and other garbage were also being dumped on the premises. The overgrown bushes and accumulated waste had created an unhygienic environment and increased the risk of snakes

and other reptiles, posing a serious threat to the safety of aspirants, they said. They urged the authorities to restore the 400-metre and 1,600-metre tracks, develop standard Long Jump and Shot Put facilities, remove garbage and hazardous waste, prevent heavy vehicles from entering the ground by installing perma-

nent barriers or fencing, and ensure regular maintenance, cleanliness and security. The representatives appealed to the Municipal Commissioner to treat the issue as a matter of urgent public importance and initiate immediate corrective measures to ensure a safe and suitable training facility for unemployed youth.

Sardar Sarvai Papanna Was a Great Warrior: District Collector K. Haimavathi



Skyline Correspondent Siddipet AUG-18: The birth anniversary of Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud was celebrated at the crossroads near the Ensanpally road in Siddipet town under the

aegis of the District Backward Classes Development Department. District Collector K. Haimavathi attended the event as the chief guest, garlanded the statue of Sardar Sarvai Papanna

Goud, and paid floral tributes. Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector said that Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud's contribution towards political and social equality for all sec-

tions of society remains etched in history. She described him as a symbol of the self-respect and courage of the people of Telangana. She said that his struggle, inspired by democratic ideals, to ensure the participation of people from all sections of society in political power during those times was remarkable. She added that the Telangana State Government officially celebrates his birth anniversary to commemorate the legacy and greatness of the warrior who earned worldwide recognition. District BC Welfare Officer Syed Rafi, Municipal Commissioner Mallikarjun, leaders of the Goud community, and others participated in the programme.

Better Services Through Digital Policing – District SP Mahesh

Skyline Correspondent sircilla AUG-18 District Superintendent of Police Mahesh B. Gite directed police officials to effectively utilize modern technology as part of digital policing to provide better police services to the public. A one-day training programme was conducted at the District Police Office for police officials on the use of CCTNS, technology in cybercrime investiga-

tions, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in case investigations. He instructed officials to strictly follow SOPs in cybercrime investigations and effectively utilize national-level platforms such as CCTNS, NCRP, Samanvay, and Sahyog. He also directed officials to create awareness among people in rural areas about the increasing threat of cyber



fraud. The SP further instructed officials to expedite investigations into POCSO, grave and non-grave offences, and SC/ST Atrocities cases, file charge sheets within the stipulated

time, and work towards ensuring convictions of the accused. DSPs Nagendra Chary and Srinivasulu, CIs, RIs, SIs, and other police personnel participated in the programme.

Mudiraj Association Leaders Submit Petition to Collector Seeking Installation of Panduga Sayanna Statue



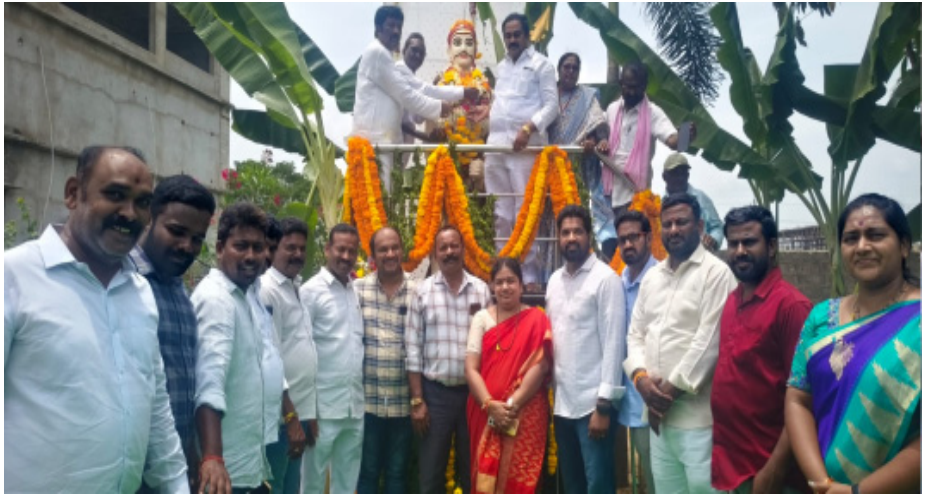
Skyline Correspondent Kamareddy AUG-18 Leaders of the Mudiraj community submitted a petition to the District Collector seeking permission to install a statue of Panduga Sayanna, popularly remembered as the "Robin Hood of Telangana," at the district headquarters. The leaders praised Panduga Sayanna as a great personality from the Mudiraj community who worked tirelessly for the upliftment

of the weaker and underprivileged sections of society. During the oppressive rule of the Nizam, when landlords and feudal forces dominated society, Sayanna worked for the welfare of marginalized communities. Irrespective of caste and religion, he helped arrange marriages for girls and played the role of an elder brother in many families. They stated that Panduga Sayanna aspired for people's empowerment

and Bahujan Rajyadhikaram (political empowerment of the majority communities) and dedicated his life to that cause. Though he lived for only 36 years, his courage and commitment made him a legendary figure. When landlords plotted to kill him, ordinary people united and revolted against them, the leaders said. Mudiraj leaders Ippa Umarani Srinivas, Punna Rajeshwar, Neela

Nagaraju, Gajjel Bhikshapathi, Nanda Ramesh, Geriganti Lakshmi Narayana, Sunuguri Bhanu Prakash, Daki Aravind, Kalla Gangaraju, Pilli Mallesh, Chintala Ramesh, Modegam Mahesh, Battu Narsimulu, Prasad, Barla Swamy, Kanikanti Ramesh, Narsimulu, Chityala Ramesh, Pitla Shankar, Kanakanti Ramesh, Bal Narsulu, Swamy, Srinivas, and others participated in the programme.

We Should Draw Inspiration from the Lives of Great Leaders: Additional Collector Srinivasa Reddy



Skyline Correspondent Khammam AUG-18: Additional Collector P. Srinivasa Reddy said that everyone should draw inspiration from the lives and ideals of great personalities. He participated in the 376th birth anniversary celebrations of Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud, organized by the Backward Classes

Welfare Department at the local Lakkaram Tank Bund in Khammam on Tuesday. He paid floral tributes to the statue and portrait of Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud. The Additional Collector called upon everyone to work for the upliftment and welfare of the weaker sections of society. He urged people to draw inspiration

from the ideals of Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud and work towards equality, social justice and public welfare. District BC Welfare Officer G. Jyothi, Dr. Rajasekhara Goud, District Excise Superintendent B. Janaiah, and leaders Amaragani Venkanna Goud, Kathi Nehru Goud,

Polampally Nagaraju Goud, Bandi Nageswara Rao Goud, Gajjelli Venkanna, Noothi Satyanarayana Goud, Voodugu Srinivas Goud, Boligani Srinivas Goud, Bichala Tirumala Rao Goud, Maragani Sudarshan Goud, Bellamkonda Sharath Goud, Kappala Madhu Goud, Kukkala Nageswara Rao, Moodu Muntala Gangaraju Goud, Komili Srinivas Goud, G. Srinivasa Rao, Markam Lingaiah Goud, Dasari Sriramulu Goud, Allika Anjaiah, Pagadala Nagaraju, Gudidha Srinivas, Vattikuti Umadevi, Dr. Gongura Venkateshwarlu, Rudra Pradeep, Mokka Shekhar Goud, representatives of BC caste associations, and officials and staff of the Backward Classes Welfare Department, among others, participated in the programme.

Farmers Should Cultivate Alternative Crops Based on Irrigation Requirements: District Collector Kumar Deepak

Skyline Correspondent Mancherla AUG-18: In view of the El Niño conditions, farmers should cultivate alternative crops that require less water, keeping irrigation requirements in mind, said District Collector Kumar Deepak. On Tuesday, the District Collector visited the Gollavagu Medium Irrigation Project in Bheemaram Mandal and inspected the water storage position. Speaking on the occasion, he said that in view of the prevailing rainfall deficit in the state, farmers should cultivate dryland and alternative crops requiring less water instead of paddy. He instructed officials to continuously monitor the water storage capacity of the project. The Collector inspected the proposed land for the construction of the Bheemaram Mandal Tahsildar office and the Model Indiramma Houses being constructed in the mandal. He enquired with officials about the



progress of the works. He also inspected the construction of the newly proposed V.O. building. The District Collector also visited the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya and inspected the ongoing construction of additional rooms and the dining hall. He directed the concerned officials to

speed up the construction works and complete them at the earliest. After inspecting the kitchen, he instructed the staff to provide students with quality food as per the menu prescribed by the government. The Collector also spoke with the Mandal Agriculture Officer and issued several instructions

regarding the agriculture sector. He directed officials to ensure that farmers have access to technical advice, information about government schemes and guidance related to crop cultivation. Tahsildar Sadanandam, R.I. Rajitha and officials from the concerned departments participated in the programme.

Grand Celebrations Held to Mark Sardar Sarvai Papanna Jayanti

Skyline Correspondent Rajanna Sircilla AUG-18: Sardar Sarvai Papanna Jayanti was celebrated grandly on Tuesday at the District Integrated Offices Complex under the auspices of the Backward Classes Welfare Department. District Collector Garima Agrawal, the chief guest, along with Additional Collector Gaddam Nagesh, paid

floral tributes to the portrait of Sardar Sarvai Papanna. District Library Institution Chairman Nagula Satyanarayana, BC Welfare Department District Officer Soujanya, District Animal Husbandry Officer Ravinder Reddy, CPO Srinivasachary, District Industries Officer Hanumanthu, District Youth and Sports Officer Ramdas, SC Corporation ED Swapna,



representatives of the Gouda community, and others

participated in the programme.