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Banks must become key partners in Telangana's \$3 trillion economy goal: Bhatti

From Our Staff Reporter
Hyderabad, August, 19: Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka said the banking and financial sectors must become key partners in the State's goal of transforming Telangana into a \$1 trillion economy by 2034 and a \$3 trillion economy by 2047. He made it clear that this objective cannot be achieved through government expenditure alone and requires large-scale private investment, strong financial institutions, deeper financial markets and innovative financing mechanisms. The Deputy Chief Minister participated in and addressed the 50th State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) meeting held at Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Praja Bhavan on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, he said that Telangana Rising 2047 is not merely a vision document, but a development compact with the people of Telangana. To transform Telangana into a \$3 trillion economy by 2047, the banking sector must also undergo a transformation, he said. Bhatti Vikramarka



stressed the need to formulate a future-oriented banking strategy in line with the objectives of Telangana Rising 2047. The Deputy Chief Minister said that banks should not merely review how far they have achieved their assigned targets, but should periodically assess what development has resulted from the loans extended, how many industries have been established and how many jobs have been created. He said that the real measure of banking performance should be the extent to which agricultural productivity has increased, rural incomes have improved and private invest-

ment has been mobilised. Bhatti Vikramarka said that the rural and agricultural sectors are the foundation of Telangana's economy. Farmers should receive loans precisely when they need them, he said. Eligible farmers should not be forced to go around banks seeking credit. "Farmers should not have to search for banks for loans; the banking system itself should reach the farmers," the Deputy Chief Minister said. Bhatti Vikramarka called for dairy, fisheries, horticulture, oil palm, food processing and other allied sectors to be brought into the formal credit system. The ob-

jective should not merely be to provide a loan to a farmer, but to convert that credit into higher and sustainable agricultural income, he said.

Revanth attends CWC meeting chaired by Kharge

From Our Staff Reporter
Hyderabad, August, 19: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy attended the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting in New Delhi on Wednesday, chaired by AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, along with the party's top leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi. CWC members K.C. Venugopal, P. Chidambaram, Veerappa Moily, Ambika Soni, Jairam Ramesh, Sachin Pilot, Damodar Rajanarsimha,



Digvijaya Singh, N. Raghuvendra Reddy and Pallam Raju, along with the Chief Ministers of Congress-ruled States, also participated in the meeting.

Telangana team studies Philippines' migration policy for welfare of Gulf workers

From Our Staff Reporter
Hyderabad, August, 19: The Telangana NRI Advisory Committee team on Wednesday visited the Indian Embassy in Manila, Philippines and held discussions with senior officials of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) on effective migration policies and the wel-

fare of migrant workers. The delegation discussed the Philippines' migration policy and studied its practices through a detailed PowerPoint presentation by Philippine officials. The team expressed its intention to examine the country's best practices and work towards developing a more effective migration policy for

the welfare of nearly 15 lakh Telangana workers employed in Gulf countries. Government Whip Aadi Srinivas and Nizamabad Rural MLADr. Bhoopathi Reddy said the Telangana government would work towards adopting suitable practices from the Philippines to strengthen protection and welfare mea-

sures for Gulf workers, in line with the vision of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. The delegation also held detailed discussions with Indian Ambassador to the Philippines Harsh Kumar Jain and First Secretary Nilesh Kumar Rai on issues concerning migrant workers. NRI Advisory Committee

Chairman Dr. B.M. Vinod Kumar, Vice-Chairman Mandha Bheem Reddy, members Singireddy Nareesh Reddy, Nangi Devender Reddy, Swadesh Parikipandla, Prof. Vijay Korra, Prof. Srinivas Junuguru, Liaison Officer Aadi Karthik, and others were part of the delegation.

Telangana govt giving major push to road infrastructure: Komatireddy

From Our Staff Reporter
Hyderabad, August, 19: Minister for Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said the Telangana government was investing heavily in road infrastructure, which would boost industrial and business activity and create more employment opportunities for local youth. Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, along with Minister in-charge of erstwhile Karimnagar district Tummalala Nageswara Rao, IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Government Whip Chintakunta Vijaya Ramana Rao, District Collector Koya Sri Harsha and Ramagundam MLA Makkansingh Raj Thakur, laid the foundation stone for Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) and non-plan road development works worth Rs.219.67 crore at Garepalli in Sultanabad mandal of Peddapalli district on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said road works worth Rs.13,000 crore were being taken up under the Roads and Buildings department and another Rs.17,000 crore under the Panchayat Raj department across the State. "No other State in the country is taking up road works on such a large scale. Under the HAM model, the government will bear 40 per cent of the project cost, while the contractor will bear the remaining 60 per cent," he said. The Minister said the road works for which the foundation stone was laid on Wednesday would be completed within two years, with ground-level works set to commence within a week. He urged motorists and the public to strictly adhere to road safety regulations and exercise caution to prevent



accidents. Komatireddy Venkat Reddy alleged that the previous government had left behind pending bills of around Rs.40,000 crore. He said discussions had been held with the Union Minister on the construction of a new greenfield road connecting Hyderabad with

Ramagundam. Efforts would be made to secure approval for the Sultanabad bypass as part of the proposed road, he said. Addressing water resources, the Minister criticised the previous BRS government for neglecting the Chinna Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project, noting that the current government has revived water pumping from the Sripada Yellampalli reservoir to support local cultivation. Recalling the contribution of irrigation projects constructed during the tenure of former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said several of them continued to remain safe and provide irrigation to lakhs of acres.

Govt to restore YSR State Heritage Museum to former glory: Jupally

From Our Staff Reporter
Hyderabad, August, 19: The Telangana government will take up comprehensive measures to restore the Dr. YSR State Heritage Museum and bring it back to its former glory, Minister for Tourism, Culture and Archaeology Jupally Krishna Rao said. Jupally Krishna Rao visited the museum at Public Gardens, Nampally, on Wednesday and inspected its various galleries and the rare archaeological and historical artefacts housed there. He reviewed the Bronze, Buddhist, sculpture, cannons and painting galleries and sought details from officials about the exhibits and their condition. The Minister also inspected the museum's 2,500-year-old Egyptian mummy, one of its

significant attractions, and directed officials to take all necessary measures for its safe and scientific conservation. Officials informed the Minister that, based on a report submitted by German experts, proposals had been prepared for the conservation of the Egyptian mummy at an estimated cost of Rs.82 lakh. Jupally Krishna Rao said the museum's rich collection of archaeological, historical and cultural artefacts should be brought into greater public focus and promoted as an important heritage attraction in Hyderabad. He directed officials to formulate special plans to attract visitors from across the country and abroad and enhance the museum's visibility among tourists. Efforts should also



be made to popularise its unique heritage collections and encourage more visitors to the museum, he said. The Minister said steps would be taken for the early release of funds required for the restoration of the museum. He directed the Archaeology department to

prepare comprehensive estimates for the reconstruction and restoration of the museum, conservation of the building and painting works. Director of Archaeology Dr. Arjun Rao was instructed to prepare and submit the estimates within a week. The Minister directed officials to

ensure that the restoration works were taken up without delay. The Minister said the government was committed to preserving Telangana's rich archaeological and cultural heritage and making it accessible to a wider audience, including domestic and international tourists.

Grievance redressal top priority of people's govt: Adluri

From Our Staff Reporter
Hyderabad, August, 19: Redressal of public grievances and ensuring prompt relief to people remain the foremost priorities of the people's government, Minister for Scheduled Castes Development, Tribal Welfare, Persons with Disabilities (PwD), Senior Citizens and Transgender Welfare Adluri Lakshman Kumar said. Addressing the 'Prajalatho Mukhamukhi' (Face-to-Face with People) programme at Gandhi Bhavan on Wednesday, the Minister said the government was committed to taking governance closer to the people instead of making them run from pillar to post in government offices to get their grievances addressed. The programme witnessed an overwhelming response, with people



from different parts of the State turning up in large numbers and personally bringing their problems to the Minister's notice. The Minister received the representations and examined each grievance. He directed the concerned departments, officials and district administrations to examine the issues in accordance with the rules and take appropriate action.

Adluri Lakshman Kumar made it clear that receiving representations would not mark the end of the process. He said every grievance would be followed up and monitored until it reached its logical conclusion. The Minister directed the officials to ensure expeditious resolution of urgent matters and take appropriate action, as per the applicable rules, on other issues.

He said he would coordinate with the concerned authorities and review the progress made in resolving the grievances. He said the government, under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, was according the highest priority to public welfare and would take responsibility for every representation received from the people

SCCL to step up coal production, expand renewable energy push: CMD

From Our Staff Reporter
Hyderabad, August, 19: Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) will continue to contribute to the country's energy security by supplying adequate quantities of coal while also expanding its efforts in the renewable energy sector, said Singareni Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti. He was speaking at a panel discussion on "Energy Security and Power Generation in India", held on Wednesday as part of the Indian Energy Summit & Expo being held in Hyderabad. Speaking on the occasion, Buddhaprakash Jyoti said that SCCL, a government-owned enterprise, has been contributing to the country's energy requirements by supplying coal for several decades. As per the directions of the State gov-



ernment, SCCL, GENCO and TRANSCO are working collectively to meet the power requirements of Telangana, he said. As part of its business diversification and expansion initiatives, SCCL has entered the fields of thermal power, solar power and critical minerals. However, he said that coal-based power generation is likely to remain in demand

in the country for another four decades. In view of this, SCCL is planning to increase coal production in the coming years to meet the growing energy requirements of the country. At the same time, the company will continue to fulfil its responsibility in the renewable energy sector and contribute towards a balanced and sustainable energy future.

Cabinet Approves Rs.9,450-Crore Railway Multitracking Projects

New Delhi, August, 19 (PIB): The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, today has approved Four projects of Ministry of Railways with total cost of Rs. 9,450 crore approximately. These projects include:

Kharagpur – Bhadrak (Ranital) 4th Line – 173 km (West Bengal and Odisha)

Bhadrak – Haridaspur 4th Line – 75 km (Odisha)

Gummidipundi – Gudur 3rd and 4th Line – 90 km (Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu)

Cuttack – Paradeep (Badabandha) 3rd and 4th Line - 72 km (Odisha)

The increased line capacity will significantly enhance mobility, resulting in improved operational efficiency and service reliability for Indian Railways.

THREE DRUG PEDDLERS HELD, MDMA & OG KUSH WORTH Rs.16.4 L SEIZED IN CYBERABAD

From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, August, 19: Gachibowli Police and Special Operation Team (SOT) Cyberabad have arrested three alleged drug peddlers and seized 95.41 grams of MDMA and 50 grams of OG Kush, collectively valued at Rs.16.40 lakh. Sixteen consumers were also apprehended during the operation. The arrests were made in connection with a case registered at Gachibowli Police Station under the NDPS Act. Police first arrested KoriPELLa Yashwanth Sai Shanmukh (26) near Kindom Pub Road,

Vattinagulapally, on August 11, along with 16 consumers. During questioning, he allegedly disclosed that he had procured MDMA and 50 grams of OG Kush. Police said she disclosed that the drugs had been procured from a friend, Aneshwar, from Kerala. The seized property includes MDMA worth Rs.11.40 lakh, OG Kush worth Rs.5 lakh and two mobile phones.

The above arrests were made under the direct supervision of CH. Srinivas, DCP, Serilingampally Zone, Shobhan Kumar, DCP, SOT Cyberabad, T. Govardhan,

covering 08 Districts across the states of West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 410 Kms. The proposed multi-tracking projects will enhance connectivity to approximately 6,448 villages, which are having a population of about 60 lakhs.

The proposed capacity enhancement will improve rail connectivity to several prominent tourist destinations across the country, including Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhitarkanika National Park, Maa Bhadrakali temple, Maa Dhamarai temple, Panchalingeswar Temple, Talsari-Udaypur and Chandipur Beach, Pulicat Lake, Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary, Lord Veeraraghava

Perumal Temple, Gada Kujanga Jagannath Temple, Sarala Temple, Dhableswar Temple, Lalitgiri (a Buddhist site), etc.

The proposed projects are essential routes for transportation of commodities such as coal, iron ore, cement, iron and steel, container, automobile, food grains, etc. The capacity augmentation works will result in additional freight traffic of magnitude 76 MTPA (Million Tonnes Per Annum). The Railways being environment friendly and energy efficient mode of transportation, will help both in achieving climate goals and minimizing logistics cost of the country, reduce oil import (~13 Crore Litres) and lower CO2 emissions (~65 Crore Kg) which is equivalent to plantation of 2.60 crore trees.

the same day at Begur, Bengaluru. A search of her residence reportedly led to the seizure of 51 grams of MDMA and 50 grams of OG Kush. Police said she disclosed that the drugs had been procured from a friend, Aneshwar, from Kerala. The seized property includes MDMA worth Rs.11.40 lakh, OG Kush worth Rs.5 lakh and two mobile phones.

The above arrests were made under the direct supervision of CH. Srinivas, DCP, Serilingampally Zone, Shobhan Kumar, DCP, SOT Cyberabad, T. Govardhan,

Addl. DCP-1, SOT Cyberabad, Uday Reddy, Addl. Dy. Commissioner of Police, Serilingampally Zone, G Venkata Ramana Goud, ACP, Narsingi Division, SOT Cyberabad teams & SHO, Gachibowli PS, DI Gachibowli and Gachibowli police personnel. Cyberabad Police appealed to citizens to report information about drug and ganja suppliers through Dial 100 or the Cyberabad Police WhatsApp number 8712663061. The police assured that the identity of informants would be kept confidential.

KONDA SUSMITA's ATTACK ON CM REVANTH REDDY TRIGGERS CONG BUZZ

From Our Staff Reporter Warangal /Hyderabad, Aug.19 : A fresh political controversy has erupted within the Telangana Congress following sharp remarks by Konda Susmitha Patel, daughter of senior Congress leader and Minister Konda Surekha and former MLC Konda Murali, against Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. Addressing a gathering in Warangal, Susmitha questioned the Chief Minister's treatment of leaders who supported the Congress and alleged that her family had been sidelined after the party came to power. She claimed that a promise to provide an MLC seat to Konda Murali had not been honoured and accused the Chief Minister of showing disregard towards BC leaders. She also took exception

to the political prominence being given to Parkal MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy, alleging that his electoral victory was largely due to the Konda family's support and political standing in the constituency. In a strongly worded challenge, Susmitha asked Revanth Reddy to resign and seek a fresh mandate if he had the confidence to face the electorate. She further alleged that long-time Congress workers were being sidelined while leaders who had joined from other parties were being given prominence.

Her remarks have triggered speculation within Congress circles, particularly over the political future of Parkal and the party's next Assembly election strategy. Revuri Prakash Reddy, meanwhile, dismissed the con-



troversy surrounding Susmitha's social media remarks. He said Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's public announcement backing him had provided clarity to Congress workers in the constituency. Revuri said the Chief Minister had taken the decision based on surveys and

his development record and asserted that the party high command was monitoring social media campaigns and would deal with anyone crossing party lines. The exchange has added to growing political activity within the Congress ahead of the next Assembly elections.

Agri-Media synergy workshop highlights need for stronger research-media collaboration

From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, August, 19 : A workshop on "Agri-Media Synergy: Enhancing Collaborative Communication" was organised at the National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) to strengthen collaboration between agricultural research institutions and the media and improve communication of scientific developments to farmers and other stakeholders.

NAARM Director Dr. R.M. Sundaram, who inaugurated the work-

shop, stressed the need for a clear communication roadmap to bridge the gap between researchers, farmers and the public. He emphasised strategic communication, transparency and innovation in making agricultural science more accessible.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr. Kurmanath, consulting editor, Business Line, highlighted the importance of using data, facts, figures, infographics, photographs and short videos to make scientific stories more engaging

and understandable. He also called for greater adoption of multi-format communication to improve the visibility of ICAR technologies in the digital and AI-driven media environment.

Dr. Venkat Kumar, Head, Extension Systems Management Division, NAARM, outlined the Academy's role in capacity building under the National Agricultural Research, Education and Extension System and explained the significance of the ICAR Science Communication Policy.

The workshop featured discussions on emerging media practices, effective information dissemination, farmers' information needs and ways to overcome communication bottlenecks. Around 35 media professionals, agri-bureau chiefs, senior reporters, PROs and communication officials participated.

G Aneja, CTO, NAARM and workshop director, welcomed the participants and outlined the objectives of the programme.

BJP's MAHESHWAR REDDY ESCALATES LAND ROW: PONGULETI BOMBULA REDDY

From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, August, 19: BJP Legislature Party Floor Leader Aleti Maheshwar Reddy on Wednesday launched a fresh attack on Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, alleging large-scale irregularities in land transactions and demanding a CBI probe into the controversy surrounding the prohibited land list.

Addressing a press conference here, Maheshwar Reddy said the Revenue Minister's apology over the issue itself indicated the seriousness of the allegations. He questioned how lands allegedly worth lakhs of crores of rupees were included in the prohibited list and demanded a comprehensive survey to identify those responsible.

Referring to allegations surrounding 42 acres at Yadagirigutta, he ques-

tioned why no action was taken despite the Chief Minister being informed about the matter. He also demanded a CBI investigation into the alleged Section 22-A controversy.

Taking a dig at Ponguleti, Maheshwar Reddy said the Minister had earlier spoken about "bombs" exploding and sarcastically described him as "Ponguleti Bombula Reddy". He challenged Ponguleti to an open debate at the Assembly Media Point and said he would present documentary evidence concerning the allegations.

The BJP leader also raised questions over alleged transactions involving Phoenix companies and Raghava Heights-related entities. He cited several registered documents and alleged successive transfers of land in the Financial District and Hi-Tech City.



He further questioned the revision of estimates for works related to the Palamuru-Rangareddy Irrigation Project from Rs.1,400 crore to Rs.4,300 crore and alleged a possible conflict of interest involving companies linked to the Minister's family.

The BJP leader said the

party would submit relevant documents to the ED, CBI and other investigating agencies if Ponguleti failed to appear for the proposed debate. He also announced that the BJP would write an open letter to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi seeking his response to the allegations.

HC QUESTIONS PUBLIC SPENDING ON KALYANA LAKSHMI, SHAADI MUBARAK

From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, August, 19: The Telangana High Court has raised serious questions over the expenditure of public funds on the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes, observing that the government money should be utilised judiciously for public welfare. The court expressed concern over the absence of a statutory basis for the schemes and suggested that public funds could instead be used to revive loss-making public sector undertakings and strengthen welfare programmes through revenue generated by them. The court also voiced concern over the plight of landowners who lost their properties for various government projects but were allegedly denied fair compensation. It noted that many affected families were being forced to repeatedly approach the courts for justice. The court sought details from the state government on the expenditure

TELANGANA HIGH COURT

ORDERS STAY

ON KALYANA LAKSHMI & SHAADI MUBARAK SCHEMES

After the state sought additional time to file counters in a petition filed by @VijayGopal_ challenging the constitutional validity of these schemes. **Hyderabad24x7news**

KALYANA LAKSHMI
Financial assistance for poor Hindu brides

SHAADI MUBARAK
Financial assistance for poor Muslim brides

being incurred on welfare schemes and the steps being taken to address the grievances of land-losers.

Meanwhile, the state government's counsel urged the court to lift the stay on Kalyana Lakshmi

and Shaadi Mubarak schemes and permit the release of assistance to beneficiaries whose payments had been withheld. In fact, the schemes were benefiting a large number of economically weaker families,

the counsel added. The court adjourned the matter and directed the government to clarify its position on compensation to affected landowners and other related issues by Thursday.

Vivek introduces 'Open Box' initiative for Chennur public

From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, August, 19: Minister for Employment, Training and Factories and Mines & Geology Dr G. Vivek Venkataswamy on Wednesday launched an 'Open Box' initiative to address the problems and grievances of people in the Chennur Assembly constituency. An 'Open Box' has been set up to enable people to directly submit their complaints and requests. The Minister said he would personally unlock the box, examine the letters and take steps to resolve the issues raised by the people. He said the initiative was aimed at promoting transparent governance and ensuring corruption-

free administration. Describing it as the first-of-its-kind initiative in the State, Vivek said the 'Open Box' would serve as a direct bridge between the people and the government. Later, the Minister laid the foundation stone for development works at Kotapalli High School, to be taken up at a cost of ₹50 lakh with CSR funds. Minister Vivek Venkataswamy and Peddapalli MP Vamsi Krishna also inaugurated a free coaching centre in Chennur for aspirants preparing for Sub-Inspector and constable recruitment examinations. The centre has been named after former Union Minister Kaka Venkataswamy.



BJP DEMANDS PARITY IN AYUSH STIPENDS, WARNS OF INTENSIFIED AGITATION

From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, August, 19: BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao on Wednesday demanded that the State government immediately raise the stipends of AYUSH PG doctors and house surgeons on par with their Allopathy counterparts and clear all pending arrears.

Rao made the demand after visiting the relay hunger strike by AYUSH PG stu-

dents and house surgeons at Dr.B.R.K.R. Government Ayurvedic College and Hospital, Erragadda. The students have been protesting for the past 16 days seeking a hike in stipends. Rao alleged that AYUSH students pursuing Ayurveda, Unani and Homeopathy were being discriminated against despite performing duties comparable to Allopathy doctors. He recalled that a 2006 government order in united

Andhra Pradesh provided for parity between AYUSH and Allopathy students, but alleged that the benefit had effectively been halted in Telangana since 2016. He pointed out that Andhra Pradesh was paying Rs.60,000 per month to AYUSH PG students and Rs.25,000 to house surgeons, while Telangana was paying only Rs.30,000 and Rs.13,000 respectively. Rao said the courts had also upheld the entitlement of

AYUSH PG students, house surgeons and interns to stipends on par with Allopathy students. He questioned why Telangana was not following the practice adopted by its neighbouring State. He urged the Congress government to resolve the issue immediately and pay the pending arrears. Rao warned that the BJP would intensify its agitation in support of the protesting AYUSH doctors if the government failed to act.

Former MP Vijayasai Reddy announces formation of new party

(Skyline daily):
Amaravati: Aug 13

Former MP Vijayasai Reddy has announced the formation of a new party. He said he will form a new party to serve the people and stand by them as a public servant.

On Wednesday morning, he visited the Tirumala temple with his family and clarified his political future to the media persons.

Vijayasai Reddy said that a new party will be formed to take up people's issues and fight for their problems. He said it will create awareness amongst the people and stand by them as a true public servant. He said that they will start the process to form the party this month and also take care of the



party name, flag, policies, guidelines, etc., and come out with a clarification about their future political plans to the media this month itself.

Meanwhile, Vijayasai Reddy said he prayed to the Lord at Tirupati that the country's development, growth, welfare, and prosperity would hap-

pen soon. He added that he prayed to Lord that the people should get rid of the effect of El Nino, and he is blessed by him.

His statement has created a new controversy in the politics of Andhra Pradesh, which put an end to the long speculations about his political future.

Government running away from DSC debate: Botcha



(Skyline daily):
Amaravati: Aug 19

Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council Botcha Satyanarayana said the TDP coalition government was running away from a debate on the alleged irregularities in DSC recruitment for the second consecutive day, while claiming in newspapers that it was "ready for anything." He demanded a CBI inquiry into the DSC issue, a full debate in the Legislative Council and the immediate resignation of Education Minister Nara Lokesh. Speaking at the Assembly Media Point here on Tuesday, Satyanarayana questioned whether teachers had ever been directly appointed under the sports quota without appearing for the DSC examination. He asked whether the government order providing three per cent sports quota had legal validity and whether it was placed before the Cabinet or the Legislature. He said changes made to the order had left the future of 438 selected candidates uncertain. Satyanarayana asked why the government had not released the DSC merit list if there was no paper leak. He said audio and video clips allegedly showing negotiations over jobs had surfaced, but no effective action had been taken. He challenged the government to order a CBI inquiry into the Group-I examinations conducted during the previous YSRCP government as well, saying the party was ready for any investigation. Referring to drought conditions and farmers' problems, Satyanarayana said YSRCP had sought a discussion in the BAC and an extension of the Assembly session by two or three days. He said the government had ignored the request and lacked commitment towards farmers. He said YSRCP would continue its fight until a comprehensive discussion on the DSC irregularities was held in the Legislative Council.

AP Government tightens safety checks on sleeper buses

(Skyline daily):
Amaravati: Aug 19

The state government has intensified safety measures to prevent fire accidents in sleeper buses, transport minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy said in the Assembly on Tuesday. Replying to a question raised by MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy during Question Hour on incidents of fire in sleeper buses, the minister said that 16 government-owned and 835 private sleeper buses are currently registered in the State. He said the transport department was conducting special inspections of sleeper buses and ensuring strict compliance with Rule 128 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules. The government was taking all necessary steps to prevent fire

accidents and improve passenger safety in sleeper buses, he added. The minister said stringent rules and preventive measures were being enforced to minimise accidents caused by human error. Transport officials were conducting regular checks to ensure that operators complied with prescribed safety standards.

On drunk driving, Ramprasad Reddy said the government was adopting a zero-tolerance approach and taking strict action against those found driving under the influence of alcohol. He assured the Assembly that the government would continue to strengthen enforcement and safety measures to protect passengers travelling in sleeper buses.

Savitha hails 'historic' BC quota restoration in local bodies

(Skyline daily):
Amaravati: Aug 19

BC, EWS welfare, handlooms and textiles minister S Savitha on Tuesday hailed the state government's decision to provide 34 per cent reservation for Backward Classes (BCs) in rural local bodies and 33.33 per cent in urban local bodies. Speaking during the discussion on the Bill providing 34 per cent reservation for BCs in local body elections in the Assembly, Savitha said the decision would be remembered as a historic day for the BC community. She thanked Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and minister Nara Lokesh for fulfilling another election promise. Savitha said the previous YSRCP government had reduced BC reservations in local bodies from 34 per cent to 24 per cent, depriving BCs of more than 16,800 elected positions. She said Lokesh had highlighted the issue during his padyatra and promised to restore the quota after coming to power. The minister said the Cabinet had already approved the proposal and the government was now seeking the Assembly's approval. She recalled that former Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao had founded the TDP with the welfare of BCs as one of its priorities and that Chandrababu Naidu had introduced 34 per cent BC reservations in 1994.

Savitha said the TDP had encouraged several prominent BC leaders, including K Yerranaidu, T Devender Goud, K E Krishnamurthy and Yanamala Ramakrishnu. She also spoke of various welfare measures implemented by the coalition government. She said BC allocations had increased from Rs 39,000 crore in the first budget to Rs 47,000 crore in the second and Rs 51,000 crore in the third budget. The government had also provided 34 per cent reservation in nominated posts and introduced several benefits for weavers, fishermen, toddy tappers and Vadderas, she said.

Government to provide support to Konaseema coconut farmers

(Skyline daily):
Vijayawada: Aug 19

The Meteorological Department stated that heavy rains are likely to occur in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana over the next week due to low pressure, which could intensify. Amaravati: The state government is taking comprehensive measures to provide a permanent solution to the problems faced by coconut farmers in Konaseema, agriculture minister K Atchannaidu said in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday. Replying to questions raised by MLAs Giddi Satyanarayana and Bandaru Satyanandarao during Question Hour, the minister said the government's objective was to plant a new coconut sapling in place of every damaged tree while addressing the root cause of the problem through desilting of canals and drains. The state has coconut cultivation over 1.18 lakh hectares, of which around 36,000 hectares are in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district. About 10,000 hectares of coconut plantations in the district are cultivated by tenant farmers, he said. Atchannaidu said inadequate desilting of canals over the past five years had allowed seawater to flow backwards into agricultural areas, increasing soil salinity. As a result, even apparently healthy coconut trees were suddenly weakening and dying. He said he had personally inspected the affected areas, while Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan had also visited the region and brought the issue to the government's attention. The minister said proposals had been prepared to



provide Rs.1,000 financial assistance for every new coconut sapling planted in place of a damaged tree. However, merely replacing trees would not solve the problem, he stressed. Unless canals and drains were properly desilted, farmers would continue to face losses despite new plantations and investments.

The government has already sanctioned funds for works on the Sankaraguptham canal, for which Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan had laid the foundation stone. Once completed, the project is expected to address the saline-water problem in two to three Assembly constituencies. The remaining canals will also be taken up for cleaning as part of an integrated project, he said. The minister said coconut farmers were receiving assistance under various Central and State government schemes. With the support of the Coconut Development Board (CDB), 5,250 hectares in Konaseema district were brought under development schemes between 2017-18 and 2024-25. A subsidy of Rs 56,000 per hectare is being provided for expansion of new coconut plantations in two equal installments of Rs.28,000 each over two

years. Under the horticulture plantation expansion programme, farmers can also receive financial assistance of up to Rs.2,47,950 per hectare over three years for activities including pit digging, planting and cultivation equipment. Atchannaidu said Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had written to the Centre in 2024 seeking establishment of a regional Coconut Board office in Konaseema to provide better services to coconut farmers. Efforts were continuing with the support of the Coconut Development Board to promote new plantations. The government would also encourage intercropping in coconut plantations to increase farmers' incomes. Crops such as cocoa, banana and vegetables could be cultivated between coconut trees, providing farmers with an additional source of income, he said. "Our objective is to plant a new sapling in place of every damaged coconut tree in Konaseema. We will work within a specific timeframe and, along with replacing the damaged trees, address the canal and drainage problems responsible for saline-water intrusion to provide permanent support to coconut farmers," Atchannaidu said.

Thumati Madhava Rao assumes charges as Dy. Chairman of AP Legislative Council

(Skyline daily):
Amaravati: Aug 19

MLC Thumati Madhava Rao has been unanimously elected as the Deputy Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council. Council Chairman Moshen Raju announced Madhava Rao's election. Subsequently, the Chairman escorted Madhava Rao to the Deputy Chairman's seat and congratulated him. The Chairman had invited members from all parties to join in escorting Madhava Rao to the chair. Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council members will soon witness an MLC of the YSR Congress Party taking over as the next Deputy



Chairman. With his newly acquired position, he will be able to control and regulate the council house and ensure that everyone's voices are heard.

Tension prevails in AP legislative council as YSRCP demands discussion on DSC, house adjourned

Amaravati: Aug 19
(Skyline daily):

The AP Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council commenced for the third day. Today (Wednesday), YCP members moved an adjournment motion in the Legislative Council regarding the 'Mega DSC' recruitment drive. Council Chairman Koyye Moshenu Raju rejected the motion. Following this, YSRCP members staged a protest at the Chairman's podium, creating a chaotic situation in the House.



They demanded a discussion on the DSC issue and surrounded the podium to register their protest. The party members attended the session wearing black scarves

around their necks. Due to the commotion caused by the YSRCP members, the Chairman adjourned the proceedings of the AP Legislative Council for a while.

Rainfall expected in AP and Telangana states as storm alert is issued



The Met department has warned of rains in the Telugu states as the depression intensifies. The state is likely to get rainshowers accompanied by thunder and lightning. Hyderabad met centre has predicted rain in several places in Telangana while isolated districts in Andhra Pradesh witnessed moderate rain with lightning. According to the weather forecast, Peddapalli, Karimnagar, Sircilla, Siddipet, Bhupalpally, Hanamkonda, Kamareddy, Nizamabad, Mulugu, Bhadradri and Khammam districts of Telangana are likely to get heavy rains till 8 am on Wednesday. Winds are

likely to attain a speed of 40 kmph so a 'yellow alert' has been issued. Meanwhile, rains accompanied by lightning are expected in many districts of Andhra Pradesh.

The districts likely to get rain include North Andhra districts such as Srikakulam, Manyam, Alluri, Kakinada, Konaseema, East Godavari, Eluru, NTR, Palnadu and Markapuram. People are advised to be cautious and take care in the wake of the weather forecast. They should avoid trees, electric posts and weak structures as strong winds are also expected.

Tirupati to host Amaravati Championship-2026 from Aug 24

(Skyline daily):
Vijayawada: Aug 13

Tirupati: Tirupati is set to host the state-level competitions of the Amaravati Championship-2026 from August 24 to 27, with 12,428 young athletes from across the state qualifying for the four-day sporting event. The championship, organised as part of the National Sports Day celebrations, is aimed at identifying sporting talent at the grassroots and providing young players with opportunities to progress from constituency-level competitions to the district and state stages. The selection process began with competitions held in all 175 Assembly constituencies between July 15 and 30. As many as 2,07,498 players participated, including 1,42,306 boys and 65,192 girls. The selections were conducted with the support of physical education teachers and physical directors, with Zilla Parishad High Schools used as venues. District-level competitions were subsequently held from August 6 to 15. Around 83,650 players took part, and the best performers have qualified for the state-level contests in Tirupati. The state championship will have equal participation from boys and girls, with 6,214 players in each category. The participants comprise 3,107 boys and 3,107 girls in the Under-17 category and an equal number in the Under-23 category. Competitions will be held in 12 disciplines, archery, athletics, badminton, boxing, basketball, chess, hockey, kabaddi, kho-kho, weightlifting, volleyball and yoga. The events include both individual and team competitions. Athletics will cover sprint, middle-distance, jumping and throwing



events, while badminton will feature singles and doubles. Team competitions will be conducted in basketball, hockey, kabaddi, kho-kho and volleyball. Chess, boxing, weightlifting, archery and yoga will also have events across the prescribed categories. The Amaravati Championship was first organised in 2025 with the objective of creating a systematic platform for young sporting talent. The 2026 edition has been expanded to the Under-17 and Under-23 age groups for both boys and girls.

Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh chairman A Ravi Naidu said the championship was being conducted to mark the birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand and strengthen the sports ecosystem in the State. He said the government was focusing on creating opportunities for young athletes and ensuring that talent identified at the constituency level gets a pathway to district and state competitions. He added that the large participation at the initial stage reflected the growing interest among youngsters in sports. The championship carries a total prize money of Rs 91.90 lakh. Winners of the state-level competitions will be honoured during the National Sports Day celebrations on August 29.

AB Venkateswara Rao meets collector over 22-A list

(Skyline daily):
Guntur Aug 19

After several rounds of talks between the Andhra Pradesh Guntur: Former IPS officer AB Venkateswara Rao on Tuesday met Guntur dis-

trict collector CM Sai Kanth Varma along with Amaravati capital region farmers and discussed the issues related to lands included in the 22-A prohibited properties list. He said the 22-A issue may

lead to unrest and increase incidents of harassment and forcible occupation. He said that 30 acres in survey No 774 in the capital region had been included in the 22-A list.

SKYLINE

Thursday 20.8.2026

Youth Reckoning

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Independence Day speech was striking not simply because he spoke so much about India’s youth, but because of what that emphasis revealed about the political challenge facing his government. After weeks in which young people had taken to the streets over examination failures, educational grievances and wider anxieties about their future, Modi offered a distinctly forward-looking answer: free online coaching for competitive examinations, artificial-intelligence training for one crore young Indians and a wider promise that youth would be the principal beneficiaries of a developed India. These are not insignificant measures.

The cost of coaching has become a serious burden on middle-class families, while technological change will require millions of workers to acquire new skills. But the political significance of the announcements lies elsewhere. They suggest that the government has recognised youth discontent as a problem that cannot simply be ignored. Yet recognition is not the same as acknowledgement. The speech offered young Indians opportunities for the future without directly confronting the institutional failures that had contributed to their anger. There was no reckoning with the examination controversies, no substantive engagement with why government jobs and competitive examinations have become such high-stakes gateways, and no reflection on what happens when institutions lose the confidence of those who depend upon them. That omission matters because the recent protests were not merely a demand for better coaching. They represented a deeper frustration with a system in which millions compete and too few secure opportunities and where the credibility of the examination process can determine the course of an entire life.

The other striking element was the warning against “dimagi Naxals” who Mr Modi said seek to create disorder, and must be identified and isolated. The juxtaposition is politically revealing. The government is willing to speak directly to young Indians about their aspirations, but it also draws a boundary around legitimate dissent. That could prove a dangerous miscalculation. Young citizens do not become hostile to the state merely because they protest. Indeed, democratic politics depends upon their ability to question institutions without being treated as enemies of the national project. The test for any government is not whether it can persuade the young to dream about 2047, but whether it can persuade them that the institutions of 2026 deserve their trust.

This is where implementation will matter, but so will accountability. A free coaching platform cannot repair an examination system whose credibility is in doubt. AI training cannot substitute for employment. And slogans about a developed India cannot compensate indefinitely for institutions that appear unresponsive when citizens demand answers. The Prime Minister has understood that India’s youth cannot be taken for granted. His speech was therefore a significant political acknowledgement of their importance. But the harder task remains for his government. It must win their trust without asking them to surrender their right to question power.

When national symbols become political football

National symbols belong to the nation, not to a political party. They are among the few things in public life that should rise above ideology, electoral rivalry and partisan loyalties. The Tricolour, the national anthem and the national song Vande Mataram occupy a special emotional space in the Indian imagination because they evoke the country's freedom struggle, its civilisational memory and the sacrifices through which India became a republic.

That is precisely why any political leader who appears to disrespect or dismiss a national symbol must expect public scrutiny. On August 15, 2026, Congress leader Sonia Gandhi was seen agitated and hand-gesturing mid-way through a full rendition of Vande Mataram at the Congress headquarters entailing public wrath online.

Her questionable 'conduct' and the subsequent lame defence provided by her partymen have therefore provoked questions that go far beyond the immediate political controversy. That such a misconduct has come from senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi - who had built a non-controversial public image until now - is disappointing. For common public - be it a Congress or the BJP supporter - the public disrespect shown to the national song is aggravating and demeaning.

Congress's contentious stance
The Congress has historically had a complicated but important relationship with Vande Mataram. The song was deeply associated with India's freedom movement and was sung at

several important sessions of the Indian National Congress. It was adopted as the national song by the Constituent Assembly on January 24, 1950, with President Dr. Rajendra Prasad declaring it equal in status to the national anthem. More so, when the Congress has long projected itself as a party with a special claim to the legacy of India's freedom movement, the misconduct of its senior leaders is puzzling. They cannot simultaneously invoke the sacrifices of the freedom struggle and appear casual about symbols that emerged from that very struggle.

There is, of course, an important distinction between legitimate disagreement over the political use of a national symbol and disrespect towards the symbol itself. In a democracy, nobody should be compelled to surrender their political beliefs. But national symbols require a degree of restraint precisely because they represent something larger than the political moment. The larger concern is the message such gestures send.

India is already a deeply polarised political society. Political parties routinely accuse one another of being anti-national, communal, elitist or authoritarian.

False public image
The controversy also becomes more significant because of Sonia Gandhi's long curated public image. For years, the Congress president and its most powerful figure was perceived, even by many political opponents, as someone who gener-

ally maintained a measured and dignified public persona. Her politics could be criticised, her decisions could be challenged, and her leadership could be opposed, but she largely avoided the kind of theatrical political behaviour that has become increasingly common.

That image appears to be changing.

Recently, people were also witness to Sonia Gandhi's remark referring to her party spokesperson Pawan Khera as the "white-haired man". This too has removed the myth about Sonia Gandhi being 'graceful' in her public conduct. Such personal remarks about age or appearance does not behave the 'first family' of the Congress party towards its loyal workers as it bespeaks of their lowly and insignificant existence. In the age of technology and social media - when every little act, sigh and murmur are audible and visible - such gross behaviour tends to diminish the dignity of the person making them. Every politician is aware of this 24/7 scrutiny.

The higher the political stature, the higher the expectation of restraint.

Lessons from the controversy
There is a broader lesson here for India's political class. National symbols cannot become another battlefield in the permanent war between parties. The Tricolour does not belong to the ruling party, just as the Constitution does not belong to the Opposition. These are common possessions of Indians. Similarly, Vande Mataram can't be bracketed as a 'Congress's song' or 'BJP's



song'. Indeed, one of the saddest developments in contemporary politics is the tendency to convert everything into a partisan identity marker. A song becomes a test of ideology. A salute becomes a political statement. A national celebration becomes an opportunity for party mobilisation. The result is that things which should unite citizens become instruments for dividing them.

The answer cannot be to demand uniformity of thought. It must be to restore a culture of constitutional and national courtesy.

Criticism of Sonia Gandhi or the Congress on this issue should therefore not be dismissed as merely 'BJP propaganda'. Nor should every Congress supporter be painted as someone who blindly endorses everything the party does. Millions of Indians support political parties while retaining independent judgment. The democratic health of the country depends precisely on citi-

zens being willing to question their own political camps.

And that is perhaps the most important point.

National pride should not be a monopoly of the Right. Nor should secularism be a monopoly of the Left. Patriotism should not require party membership. A person can disagree profoundly with the BJP and still stand respectfully for Vande Mataram. A Congress supporter can oppose the government's policies while holding the Tricolour with pride. India is large enough for all these contradictions.

Instead of living in denial, the Congress party in all its wisdom must acknowledge the disrespect and apologise to the nation.

Because ultimately, the question is bigger than Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Narendra Modi or any political party. Politicians come and go. Governments change. Elections are won and lost. Political reputations rise and fall. The nation remains.

Rs.1.05 lakh crore lost: Inside the dangerous rise of India’s Gen Z stock traders

India's investor profile is dynamically shifting to its core demographic dividend: a tech-savvy, enterprising youth population that seems to be taking on more risk in the stock market for higher returns. Reports indicate how the average Indian investor is barely in their early 20s, with half of them being in the under-30 age group.

From being 25% of the total NSE registered investors in FY20, the Gen-Z segment rose to account for 40% of them in FY25. RBI data also confirms this sharp demographic change: the share of sub-30 age investors had jumped from 22.6% in March 2019 to 38.9% by July 2025. The National Stock Exchange's Market Pulse report for June 2026 records that the median age of the Indian investor has fallen from 38 in March 2020 to 33 today. Investors under 30 now account for 37.9% of the total investor base, up from 23.5% five years ago. They also made up 59% of all new registrations so far this financial year. The country's demat accounts, which stood at roughly 21.3 crore in November 2025, are estimated to have crossed 23 crore by June, and a large share of that growth - just brokerages alone put the figure near three in four new accounts - belongs to investors below 30.

This is not a marginal trend. It is close to becoming the market's centre of gravity.

What merits greater attention beyond this shift is the extent to which India's youth is walking into one of the most information-asymmetric arenas in finance, where the safeguards between risk and return on investment are blurry.

With graduate unemployment at record highs, secure jobs scarce, and asset prices outpacing incomes, equities (and especially derivatives) have become the default "Plan B" for a generation that was otherwise told that education guarantees stability in upward mobility towards higher-income and wealth accumulation.

A Generation Without a Safety Net
It would be tempting - and not entirely wrong - to read this as a story of desperation amongst youth, who are keen to achieve higher income-returns on risk-driven investment. The Periodic Labour Force Survey 2023-24 shows Gen Z unemployment (among those aged 15 to 26) running at 11.9%, against just 2% for millennials.

Among Gen Z graduates specifically, joblessness stands at 29% for men and 36.9% for women. Barely one in five employed Gen Z workers has any social security cover at all. A college degree, which was meant to be a ticket to stability, has for a large section of India's youth become simply a longer wait in a more crowded queue.

It would be too easy to stop here. But desperation alone can not explain why so much of this new money is flowing specifically into equities, and, increasingly, into the riskiest end of equities, rather than into gold or real estate, or simply staying in a bank account, as it did for their parents' generation. Something else has changed about how young India relates to the market itself.

How a Volatile Market Became The Answer

Part of the answer lies not with young

investors but with the system that shaped them. Over the last two decades, India quietly replaced the idea of a guaranteed pension with the market-linked National Pension System, made the Systematic Investment Plan the default answer to savings, and built, through Jan Dhan accounts, Aadhaar-based KYC and UPI, the easiest on-ramp into formal finance anywhere in the world.

This was, by most measures, a successful and necessary reform integrating the state-society compact for better digitisation and adoption of technology. But it also had a side effect, wherein an entire generation grew up being told, correctly, that fixed deposits lose to inflation and that equities are where real wealth is built. They are doing what they were taught to do. The problem is not that they entered the market. It is what happens once they are inside it.

This is where India's specific moment has an interesting trajectory and where the "higher information asymmetry" reasserts at the heart of equity investing itself. Recent research on Indian brokerage apps finds that gamified features such as streaks, badges, leaderboards, and social trading feeds correlate strongly with higher trading frequency and shorter holding periods, and that the effect is sharpest among the youngest and least experienced users. Alongside this has grown the influence of the "finfluencer", an unregulated but highly trusted content maker for many young investors, whose advice on options and small-cap bets travels faster than any SEBI disclosure ever could. None of this



has made equity markets genuinely simpler to understand. It has only made them feel that way on a phone screen, which may be more dangerous.

There is also a narrower, very Indian reason for the timing of this shift. Parliament's Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025, banned real-money fantasy sports and card games outright, shutting down an industry that, by some estimates, had drawn in nearly 45 crore Indians and cost them close to Rs 20,000 crore a year. But the appetite for a fast, skill-flavoured bet did not vanish with the ban. It needed a new legal address, and the options segment of the stock market, open to anyone with a PAN card, was the nearest one standing.

The Price of That Answer

The consequences are plainly visible in SEBI's own data. The regulator's July 2025 study found that 91% of individual traders in the equity derivatives segment lost money in FY25, with net losses widening 41% over the previous year to more than Rs 1.05 lakh crore.

A separate SEBI update showed the

share of F&O traders under 30 rising from 31% in FY23 to 43% in FY24, even as more than three-quarters of loss-making traders kept trading after consecutive bad years. A companion study on intraday cash trading found that under-30 investors made up 48% of that segment by FY23 and lost money at a higher rate than the market as a whole.

None of this is solved by telling young Indians to be more patient. It calls for SEBI to regulate app design with the same seriousness it applies to advertising, for financial literacy to reach students before their first trade rather than after their first loss, and for an honest conversation about a job market that has made impatience feel like the more rational choice.

The market, driven by the irrational exuberance of the young, as ever, will keep taking the other side of that bet. The more useful question is why it has become so easy, and so tempting, to place it, and what kind of implications it can have for a young demographic that is already finding it difficult to be directly part of income- or wealth-generating opportunities.

Monsoon immunity : Daily habits that actually work

Monsoon immunity the ayurvedic way: Daily habits that actually work Ayurveda has answers rooted in centuries of practice, from rasayana herbs to daily routine shifts. Brands like Patanjali make these age-old remedies easy to follow every single day.

Atmospheric Science
Monsoon brings relief from summer heat. It also brings a spike in infections, digestive troubles, and low energy. Ayurveda has long treated this season as a period of weakened 'agni', or digestive fire, and reduced natural immunity. Classical texts describe monsoon as 'Visarga Kala', a time when the body's strength quietly declines even as the environment feels cooler and calmer.

Understanding why this happens, and how to counter it, can help you stay well through the rainy months.

Why monsoon weakens the body
Ayurveda explains that during monsoon, Vata dosha increases due to dry winds and fluctuating temperatures, while Pitta accumulates from the residual heat of summer. This dual imbalance disturbs digestion first. Weak digestion means poor nutrient absorption, which in turn lowers 'ojas', the subtle essence Ayurveda links to immunity and vitality.

Alternative & Natural Medicine
Modern observations support this pattern. Humidity supports bacterial

and fungal growth. Waterlogging increases exposure to contaminated water. Fluctuating temperatures stress the respiratory system. The Ayurvedic and modern explanations point to the same outcome: the body needs extra support during these months.

Strengthening digestion first

Ayurveda treats digestion as the foundation of immunity. A person with strong agni can process food efficiently and build healthy tissue. A person with weak agni accumulates 'ama', or toxins, which Ayurveda considers the root of most illness.

During monsoon, classical texts recommend light, warm, and freshly cooked food. Raw salads, leafy greens, and street food are discouraged because of contamination risk and because they are harder to digest in this season. Ginger, black pepper, and cumin are commonly added to meals to kindle digestive fire.

Psychology
Many households turn to simple digestive aids during this period. Patanjali's Divya Churna is one such product used after meals to support digestion and prevent bloating, a common monsoon complaint.

The role of Rasayana herbs
Rasayana is the branch of Ayurveda focused on rejuvenation and immunity building. Several herbs used in



this tradition have been studied for their effects on the immune system. Amla, or Indian gooseberry, is one of the richest natural sources of vitamin C. It also contains antioxidants that support white blood cell function. Ashwagandha is an adaptogen studied for its role in reducing stress hormones and supporting immune resilience. Tulsi has documented antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory properties, which is why it appears in most Ayurvedic monsoon remedies.

Atmospheric Science
Chyawanprash, a herbal jam built around amla, has been part of Ayurvedic monsoon and winter routines for centuries. It combines dozens of herbs meant to work together rather than in isolation. Patanjali's Chyawanprash is widely used in Indian households for this

exact purpose, taken daily with warm milk to build resistance before the season's peak.

Daily routine adjustments

Ayurveda places heavy emphasis on 'dinacharya', or daily routine, as a tool for prevention. During monsoon, a few adjustments are commonly advised.

Waking before sunrise is recommended to align the body with natural rhythms. Warm water, sometimes with a pinch of turmeric, is suggested first thing in the morning to support digestion. Oil massage, or 'abhyanga', using warm sesame or herbal oil, is advised to balance Vata and improve circulation.

Health
Bathing with lukewarm water, rather than cold, is preferred in this season. Keeping feet dry and

clean is stressed repeatedly in classical texts, since dampness is considered a direct trigger for joint and skin issues during monsoon. Herbal oils formulated for this purpose, including options from Patanjali, are commonly used for foot and joint massage during the rains.

Foods to favour and avoid
Ayurvedic dietary guidance for monsoon is specific. Warm soups, moong dal khichdi, and steamed vegetables are considered ideal. Bitter and astringent tastes, found in foods like bitter gourd and pomegranate, are recommended to counter Pitta buildup.

Foods to limit
Include curd, heavy fried items, and cold beverages. These are believed to slow digestion further and increase mucus formation, which can worsen respiratory symptoms already common during the season.

Alternative & Natural Medicine
Herbal teas made with tulsi, ginger, and black pepper are a staple in most Indian homes during monsoon. Patanjali's Tulsi Ghanvati and herbal tea blends are frequently used as a convenient way to include these ingredients daily without preparing fresh decoctions each time.

US snubs Pak on J&K, American ambassador Sergio Gor says ‘important part of India’

Srinagar Aug 19 : United States Ambassador to India Sergio Gor on Wednesday, August 19, called Jammu and Kashmir as an “important part of India” and indicated that Washington was open to re-evaluate the travel advisory against its citizens visiting Kashmir.

“It’s a pleasure to be here... This is an important part of India. I am here, visiting for the first time. It is an incredibly beautiful place. I am thrilled to be here, thrilled to see this place. We just had a very good meeting. We have some follow-ups, so we hope to take back to Washington, back to Delhi. But a very warm, a very cordial and we look forward to building this relationship forward,” Gor said.

Notably, this marks the first visit by the top US diplomat to Kashmir. He also serves as US President Donald Trump’s Special Envoy for South and Central Asia. Gor’s visit is being looked upon as a major US diplomatic engagement in recent years amid heightened strategic developments in the region. On his “very



good” meeting with Sergio Gor, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said that they had the opportunity to discuss the relations between our two countries “but with specific focus on what the US can do with J&K.” “There are obviously certain legacy issues that over time we will be working to resolve but we look forward to taking this conversation further. This is a conversation that will take place both between Ambassador Gor and Washington, and between me and the Govt of India in New Delhi. But we are very hopeful and opti-

mistic that the engagement between the US and J&K will both widen and deepen in the years ahead,” he added. Notably, US diplomats have visited the region in the past, which includes the political engagements ahead of the 2024 Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections.

“Appreciated the opportunity to meet with Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister @OmarAbdullah and to learn more about his priorities. We discussed ways to deepen economic collaboration and create opportunities that would mutually benefit both of

our nations,” Gor wrote on X after meeting the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister.

Meanwhile, Omar Abdullah wrote on the social media platform, “It was a pleasure to receive @USAmbIndia Sergio Gor in Srinagar today. We had a very good conversation about the possibilities that exist to widen & deepen the engagement between J&K & the United States of America, particularly in areas like tourism, horticulture & the new economy. I look forward to continuing this engagement & taking our conversation forward.”

Tibetans to hold nationwide protests on August 20 over new Chinese law which ‘attacks ethnic rights’



New Delhi, Aug 19 : Tibetans in India are planning demonstrations across the country on Thursday to highlight what they describe as continuing human-rights violations in Tibet and to protest against a new Chinese law which they claim threatens their distinct linguistic, cultural and national identity.

The protests are expected to be held in several Indian cities, including New Delhi, Kolkata, Dharamshala, Chennai and Bengaluru, among other centres.

“In Kolkata, the protest will take the form of a candlelight vigil outside the Chinese Consulate General,” Tibetan Youth Congress coordinator for the Northeast Tsepel Tenzing told The Statesman.

“In Kolkata, the protest will take the form of a candlelight vigil outside the Chinese Consulate General,” Tibetan Youth Congress coordinator for the Northeast Tsepel Tenzing told The Statesman.

The new Chinese law ‘Promoting Ethnic Unity and Progress’ brought in from July 1 this year, threatens to erase the language and culture of ethnic communities like the Tibetans, Mongols and others by legalising forced assimilation, penalising any form of dissent by these ethnicities anywhere in the world, protesters claim. Social Issues & Advocacy

Tenzing said the nationwide mobilisation had been prompted in part by the self-immolation of Tibetan activist and former monk Lobga Rangzen outside the United Nations headquarters in New York on July 2.

Rangzen, also identified as Lobsang Palden, died after setting himself on fire while carrying a Tibetan flag. Tibetan organisations said he had undertaken the action to draw international attention to Tibet and demand independence.

The incident has since become a rallying point for Tibetan activists globally, with Tibetan communities planning demonstrations, candlelight vigils and other peaceful actions. India is host to nearly a million Tibetans, descendants of refugees who fled to India in wake of Chinese crackdown in the Himalayan state after the flight of the Dalai Lama in 1959 on horseback to India.

“China wants to treat us as a minority that can be erased. But we are the majority in Tibet, and Tibet is a free country. We want to underline that,” Tenzing said.

Government “They are trying to take away our children, our boys and girls, to be taught in colonial boarding schools in Mandarin only, with no access to Tibetan language ... it’s a bid to end Tibetan identity and culture,” he said.

Tenzing said the protests were also intended to draw attention to Tibetans who, he alleged, had disappeared or had been detained after speaking out against Chinese policies.

“Tens of thousands of Tibetans have vanished in recent times for daring to protest in some way or the other,” he said.

He cited the case of Tibetan protest singer A-Sang. The singer also known as Tsukte, was taken away after singing a song ‘Prince of peace’ which was taken to be a tribute to the Dalai Lama, dubbed a traitor and “splitist” by the Chinese government.

“He sang about democracy and about Tibet and then he vanished from public sight,” Tenzing said.

“Monks are continuing to protest in Tibet, but these are small, isolated incidents which are not being picked up by the media, specifically because the Chinese do not allow media access to Tibet,” he said.

Independent reporting has documented significant restrictions on access to Tibet, with foreign journalists facing restrictions on travel and reporting in Tibetan areas.

“We want to focus the world’s attention on the problems that are besetting our motherland, which is Tibet,” Tenzing said.

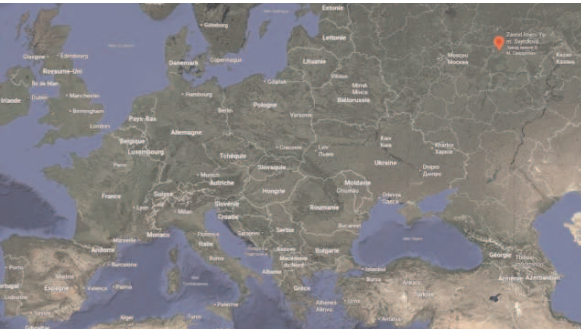
South Asians & Diaspora

The August 20 demonstrations are expected to combine opposition to China’s new ethnic-unity law with broader demands concerning human rights, religious freedom and the preservation of Tibetan language and culture.

The planned mobilisation follows a series of protests by Tibetan communities in India and abroad. Hundreds of Tibetans, including monks, demonstrated at Bylakuppe in Karnataka on August 14, demanding an end to Chinese rule in Tibet.

Indian Student Injured in Drone Attack in Russia’s Ufa

Moscow, August 19: An Indian student was injured in a drone attack in Ufa, Russia, amid escalating tensions between Russia and Ukraine. The Indian Embassy in Moscow said on Wednesday that the student is undergoing treatment at a local hospital and is in stable condition. The student, who is pursuing medical studies at Bashkir State Medical University in Ufa, was reportedly injured when drones targeted the city.



Following the incident, the Indian Embassy promptly contacted the student and is maintaining regular communication. Embassy officials are also coordinating with local authori-

ties to ensure that the student receives all necessary medical assistance and support. The embassy has withheld the student’s identity and other personal details for security reasons. Ukraine has intensified drone attacks on Russian territory over the past three days. Ufa, a major industrial city located about 1,200 km from Moscow, has been among the reported targets. An oil refinery in the city was also reportedly attacked.

South Korea, US curtail joint military drills following Trump order

Seoul, Aug 19 : South Korea and the United States are scaling down their annual combined exercise at Washington’s request, the allies said on Wednesday, after US President Donald Trump ordered a reduction in the drills that North Korea could see as “hostile.”

The allies will conclude the Ulchi Freedom Shield (UFS) exercise Friday, cutting the 11-day duration nearly in half, according to Seoul’s Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) and the US Defense Department. The UFS was scheduled to run from August 17-27. Field training exercises, a core part of the drills, will also be reduced to some extent, with discussions under way between the two militaries to decide on the detailed plans, the JCS said.

The Pentagon said it has “substantially” reduced the exercise, with associated live-training events reduced and certain events cancelled or converted to simulations. However, the department said the downsizing does not mean a weakening of the allies’ military capabilities.

“These adjustments preserve essential readiness and training objectives. There will be no degradation to US training objectives,” a Pentagon official said.

The announcement comes after Trump called for scaling down joint South Korea-US military drills in a social media post on Sunday (US time), citing a cost burden and his good relationship with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, reports Yonhap news agency.

Trump also said the exercises send a “totally inappropriate and hostile” signal to Pyongyang.

The UFS is one of the two major theatre-level combined exercises the allies conduct annually to train for contingencies against North Korea. While it is primarily a simulation-based command post exercise (CPX), often dubbed “war games,” the drills also include major field manoeuvres (FTX) across land, sea and air. The allies typically carry out defensive operations in the first week of the UFS, with the second phase more focused on counterattack scenarios against enemy aggression.

Speaking to reporters shortly after the announcement,

Defence Minister Ahn Gyu-back said that the allies were cancelling the second phase of the exercise.

“We appear to be leaning toward cancellation,” he said.

Signs of adjustments to the schedule emerged Tuesday as US Forces Korea (USFK) Commander Gen. Xavier Brunson, who doubles as the Combined Forces Command (CFC) commander, made an unannounced visit to the defence ministry in Seoul for a meeting with Ahn.

The CFC, the allies’ warfighting command, is already conducting the exercise out of two separate command posts -- at the wartime CP Tango bunker in Seongnam and at Camp Humphreys, the main US base in Pyeongtaek, some 50 kilometres south of the capital -- the JCS said.

Camp Humphreys serves as the CFC’s peacetime headquarters. Having split the command posts reflects the readjustment in the scope of the UFS. The allies had planned to carry out 14 field manoeuvres at the battalion level or above during this year’s UFS, but those are also being scaled down.

The allies are reportedly in talks to either hold the live drills separately or have South Korea conduct them independently. Some field training could also be postponed to a later date, sources familiar with the matter said.

“South Korea and the U.S. agreed to discuss and carry out various measures going forward to achieve the objectives of the UFS exercise and establish a robust combined defence posture,” the JCS said.

The scaling back of the UFS poses a dilemma for Seoul as it seeks to use the exercise to validate its capabilities to lead the combined forces once it retakes wartime operational control (OPCON) from Washington.

South Korea wants to expedite the OPCON transition process by concluding the second phase of the three-stage conditions-based transi-



tion plan agreed upon with the US and setting a target timeline by the end of this year. The reduction of the drills could undermine Seoul’s efforts to accelerate the OPCON transition, a setback for the Lee Jae Myung administration, which aims for the transfer before its five-year term ends in June 2030.

Asked by reporters about its impact on the OPCON transfer, Ahn dismissed such concerns, saying that the evaluation of South Korea’s readiness linked to the OPCON handover takes place during the first week of the exercise.

The defence ministry also downplayed concerns the scaled-back drills would weaken deterrence against North Korea. The allies scaled back their joint drills in 2019 during Trump’s first term, when the high-stakes nuclear diplomacy with Pyongyang was at its peak. But that decision was reached based on bilateral consultations, unlike this week’s unilateral request from Washington.

Wednesday’s announcement comes amid growing speculation for a resumption of dialogue between Trump and Kim.

The Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday that Trump is pushing for another in-person meeting with Kim this fall, possibly during his trip to China where he is expected to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit.

North Korea has decried the allies’ exercises as rehearsals for invasion and conducted its own weapons tests in apparent protest. South Korea and the US have stressed that the drills are defensive in nature.

Baloch leader urges Trump to act over Pakistan airstrikes in Balochistan



Washington, August 19 : The Baloch American Congress president, Tara Chand, has written to US President Donald Trump seeking urgent intervention over recent Pakistani military airstrikes in Balochistan’s Surab district that reportedly killed more than 30 civilians, including women and children.

In his letter addressed to Trump, Chand wrote, “We respectfully urge your administration to investigate these serious allegations and determine whether any US-origin aircraft, weapons, drones, technology, components, or other military equipment were used in the reported operation.”

On behalf of the Baloch community, he also urged the American administration to investigate the reported airstrikes and civilian casualties in Surab, determine whether US-origin military equipment or technology was involved, and conduct appropriate end-use and compliance reviews of relevant US defence equipment supplied to Pakistan.

Chand further called on the American authorities to support an independent investigation and accountability for any violations of US law, arms-transfer conditions, or international humanitarian law as well as review relevant US military assistance or transfers if credible evidence establishes that such equipment was misused against Baloch civilians.

“Mr. President, a Baloch child’s life is as precious as the life of any child anywhere in the world. We are not asking the United States to prejudge the evidence—we are asking your

Administration to establish the truth, protect civilians, and ensure accountability. We would welcome the opportunity to provide available documentation and meet with appropriate US officials regarding this urgent matter,” the letter mentioned.

The incident took place in the early hours of August 12 when the Pakistani Air Force reportedly carried out indiscriminate bombardment in residential areas in the Gidar area of Surab, killing civilians and causing significant damage to properties.

Last week, several Baloch activists and human rights bodies strongly rejected the statement issued by Pakistan’s Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR)—the official media and public relations wing for Pakistan’s Armed Forces, following the Pakistani airstrikes in Surab, describing it as “false and fabricated”.

The criticism came after the Director General of Inter-Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) attempted to downplay the Surab attack by attributing it to the premature detonation of a Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) allegedly linked to a militant group.

Slamming Pakistan’s official remarks, a leading Baloch human rights defender, Mir Yar Baloch, took to X and posted: “DGISPR, which serves as the official spokesperson for the Pakistani military, has long faced severe criticism over its misleading and fabricated statements and official positions regarding controversial military operations.”

“The Surab massacre was a planned act of collective punishment, and local residents of Surab stand as witnesses to the fact that the Pakistan Air Force deliberately targeted a civilian population under the cover of darkness, severely affecting an entire village and leaving its residents to bear the devastating consequences,” he added.

Human rights body Baloch Voice for Justice (BVJ) alleged that the DGISPR resorted to “extreme exaggeration” and made a failed attempt to construct a “so-called narrative” that contradicted the facts, apparently to conceal the ongoing “war crimes” in Balochistan by Pakistani forces.

The rights body noted that the reality on the ground can no longer be concealed by “distorting the facts.”

Stock Markets Extend Losing Streak; Nifty Falls for Seventh Session

Mumbai, August 19: Domestic equity markets extended their losing streak on Wednesday, with benchmark indices closing lower amid weak global market conditions. The Nifty declined for the seventh consecutive session, while the Sensex fell for the fourth straight day. At the close of trading, the Nifty dropped 76.60 points to settle at 24,078.30, while the Sensex declined 325.78 points to close at 76,909.68. This marked the Nifty’s longest losing streak since September 2025. The Nifty is now approaching the crucial 24,000 level. Market



experts said a close below 24,050 could lead to a test of 24,000 in the next session. The 24,200–24,300 range is expected to act as an immediate resistance zone. Max Healthcare Institute, Coal India and Power Grid

Corporation were among the major losers. The Nifty Midcap index fell 0.21%, while the Smallcap index declined 0.51%. Sectoral performance remained mixed, with the Nifty Chemicals index recording the steepest decline. The IT index performed relatively better. HCL Technologies, Eterna, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Sun Pharma and Titan gained, while Power Grid, Bajaj Finance, L&T, ITC and Hindustan Unilever declined.

Pallaburusu movie review

Cast - Prajwal Yadma, Muralidhar Goud, Gomathy Reddy, Sudhakar Reddy and others

Director - Uday Chauhan
Producer - Annapurna Studios, Aditya Pittie, and Vivek Krishnani

Banner - Annapurna Studios, EPIC Studios

Music - Pawan Ch

After backing several content-driven films, Annapurna Studios returns with Pallaburusu. Directed by debutant Uday Chauhan, the film has Sudhakar Reddy, Muralidhar Goud, Prajwal Yadma, and Gomathy in key roles. With music by Pawan Ch and camera by Vinod K. Bangari, the movie has been released on a low-key note. Read our review here.

Plot: Shambu(Sudhakar Reddy), an elderly villager, is advised by a doctor to use a toothbrush



instead of traditional neem sticks after suffering from a toothache. He asks his son Tirupati(Muralidhar Goud), a railway gatekeeper, to buy him a toothbrush and medicines. Though Tirupati purchases them, the toothbrush goes missing amid his daughter's marriage proposal arrangements. Hurt by his son's neglect and the fact that important family

Telangana and features the popular local artist Sudhakar Reddy. He plays Shambu, a neglected old man who is worried about aging. Firstly, Sudhakar Reddy of Balagam fame is a perfect fit for the role and delivers a sincere performance. He emotes well and is very good in all the emotional scenes. The happening Muralidhar Goud plays

matters are hidden from him, Shambhu files a case against Tirupati under the Maintenance Act, claiming that his son failed to provide him with a toothbrush. What follows and who wins the legal battle is the basic story.

Performances: Pallaburusu is set in the heartland of

Tirupathi and is also cast well in the setup. But sadly, his character is not developed properly, and this limits Muralidhar's scope for performance. Though he plays a young person in age, the way he performs as the son who neglects his father is good. Prajwal Yadma and Gomathy Reddy are okay in their roles.

Technical Aspects: Pawan CH has composed the music, and he has done a good job with the album. Two songs in particular have been composed well and gel nicely into the setup. As the film is made on a shoestring budget, there is not much to talk about. The production design does well to showcase the village setup naturally. However, the screenplay of the film is low-key. There are no special moments that stand out. The film runs on a simple thread and only clicks in the climax portions. The dialogues are good, but the lyrics are quite meaningful.

Akkineni Trio Celebrates 90 Years of family Legacy



The Akkineni family is one of the most respected names in Telugu cinema. Recently, three generations of the family's star power came together as Nagarjuna, Naga Chaitanya and Akhil Akkineni appeared for a special interview with Variety India. The conversation focused on their family's long journey, values, discipline and the future of Telugu cinema. The Akkineni trio has now appeared on the cover of Variety India. The special cover celebrates nearly 90 years of the Akkineni family's contribution to the film industry. Nagarjuna and his sons looked stylish in formal suits and impressed fans with their classy appearance. The cover picture quickly

attracted attention on social media. Many fans praised the trio for their smart looks and the strong bond they share as a family. The photograph also highlights how the Akkineni name continues to remain important in Telugu cinema. Nagarjuna has carried forward the legacy of his father, legendary actor Akkineni Nageswara Rao. Over the years, he has created a successful career with films in different genres. Now, he is preparing for another major milestone in his career. The actor is working on his 100th film, which is being directed by Ra Karthik. The project is expected to be a special one for both Nagarjuna and his fans. Naga Chaitanya is also

busy with his upcoming projects. He is currently working on Vrushakarma, which is being directed by Kartik Dandu. The actor has been choosing different kinds of stories and continues to build his own identity in the Telugu film industry. Meanwhile, Akhil Akkineni is enjoying the success of Lenin. After the film's release, the actor has not announced his next project yet. Fans are eagerly waiting to know what he will choose as his next film. The Variety India cover has once again brought the Akkineni family into the spotlight. With Nagarjuna and his sons following their own paths, fans are curious to see how the family's legacy will continue in the coming years.

Jr NTR to Entertain with 'Ntrtain' Soon?



In recent times, whenever Jr NTR's big film comes up, naturally Kalyan Ram's production house "NTR Entertainment" comes into the picture, taking a co-partnership. Even for the upcoming "God of War" that is being produced by Harika & Hasini Creations, this production house has come aboard. However, it is now coming out that Jr NTR is getting ready to launch his own production house. Reports are coming that Jr NTR is launching a production house named "NTRTAIN", which has the name NTR at the beginning, but sounds like 'entertain' when pronounced. The production house will most likely be handled by his wife Lakshmi Pranathi, as per the updates. Whether this production house will make small-budget concept movies, or some films with heroes close to them is something to be seen. Currently, only hero Nani is making films like that among the contemporary heroes, as he ropes in other stars to make conceptual movies and commercial films too. Mahesh's GMB is also doing well by backing good content, but isn't making great blockbusters. Now that Jr NTR is also getting into the game, most likely, it will be very interesting to see how many movies he would pick up, produce, release and win awards.

Toxic's Opening Day: will records break?



Finally, after a couple of postponements, most hyped superstar Yash's latest outing, "Toxic", is hitting cinemas on August 26th. The recently released trailer has truly stunned the audience, and the Hindi version alone has garnered 31 million views already, while Telugu and Tamil versions fetched 12 million views each. That proves the film is running high on hype, but what is to be seen is how much will turn that into 'collections' on First Day.

If we look at Yash's last outing, KGF Chapter 2, the super hyped sequel of his KGF, the first film of the star that stunned the nation, the openings are great. KGF Chapter 2's worldwide opening was around the Rs.165 crore range. However, if we look at other films that came around the same time, Baahubali 2 grossed more than Rs.210 crores, and Pushpa 2 touched

almost Rs.290 crores. At the same time, other Telugu movies like RRR also opened with more than Rs.200 crores gross on its release day. But then Dhurandhar 2 has shocked the world after it didn't match Pushpa 2's figures. While Dhurandhar 1 opened with Rs.40 crores, Dhurandhar 2 was welcomed with Rs.240+ crores gross on Day 1. So hype and craze might turn or might not turn into collections on Day 1, but surely Toxic has to break records or create new ones, for the kind of budgets involved. We have to wait for a week more to find out what happens. Directed by Geethu Mohandas, Toxic features Yash in a double or possibly triple action, with a galaxy of stars including Nayanthara, Kiara Advani, Tara Sutaria, Huma Qureshi and Rukmini Vasanth playing crucial roles.



Ram Pothineni Joins Rajinikanth's Dharman

A crazy multistarrer combination is taking shape as Ram Pothineni is set to share screen space with Superstar Rajinikanth in Dharman, directed by Aswath Marimuthu. Kamal Haasan and Superstar Rajinikanth are joining forces for Dharman, one of the most eagerly awaited pan-India projects. The film is being backed by the prestigious Raaj Kamal Films



International banner and is produced by Kamal Haasan and R Mahendran. The project has already generated considerable buzz following its intense first-look poster, and the addition of Ram Pothineni makes the casting even more interesting. Ram will reportedly be seen in a prominent and crucial role in the film, and this is certainly not a brief or special appearance. In a clear indication of the scope of his character. The combination of Rajinikanth and Ram Pothineni makes the project an exciting multistarrer, with Ram expected to have substantial importance in the narrative. Interestingly, Ram has taken up

Dharman even while being heavily occupied with his ambitious directorial debut, RaPo23, in which he is also playing the lead. Meanwhile, the shoot of Dharman is already underway in Chennai under the direction of Aswath Marimuthu. More details regarding Ram's character and his shooting schedule are expected to emerge soon. With Kamal Haasan backing the project, Rajinikanth leading it, Aswath Marimuthu directing, and Ram Pothineni coming on board for a substantial role, Dharman is shaping up to be one of the most interesting pan-India multistarrers in the making.

Irumudi takes off with sensational advance bookings

Ravi Teja has never stated about any movie has special and very close to his heart like he did for Irumudi. The Shiva Nirvana directorial has promised to cater to all audiences groups with great family emotions blended into thriller genre with a spiritual touch of Ayyappa Deeksha. Mallepoola Pallaki song has created gigantic buzz adding to the excitement created by songs, teaser and trailer. Releasing on 21st August worldwide, the movie opened to sensational advance bookings in North America. It collected US\$150K+ gross in pre-sales and it showcases the organic buzz that the movie has built over the months. In Nizam area, the bookings have opened to a huge start as the movie came into trending within an hour. Bookings in Andhra Pradesh will open later but trade analysts are pre-



dicting a tsunami to be unleashed. For a Ravi Teja film, such a collective positive buzz and anticipation has been absent and Irumudi is showcasing his true box office pull. Even though it is early days, the movie looks like it is set to be one of the career biggest blockbusters for Mass Maharaja. Already, GV Prakash Kumar showcased his excitement call-

ing the movie a classic. Censor reports have been super positive and anticipation among audiences is unprecedented. Mythri Movie Makers have showcased their passion to bring this movie to audiences as the director intended. On the whole, looking at the trends, trade analysts are stating that Ravi Teja is going to create ripples with Irumudi.

Why so slow are Telugu Heroes than Malayalam super star?

Mohanlal is currently creating a lot of excitement with his new movie lineup. The Malayalam superstar has announced seven upcoming films with some of the biggest names in the industry. The announcement has once again made fans discuss the working style of senior heroes in South Indian cinema. Mohanlal revealed that he will be working with filmmakers Vishnu Mohan, Anoop Sathyan, Priyadarshan, Dileesh Pothan, Sathyan Anthikad, Jude Anthany Joseph and Jeethu Joseph. Some of these projects were already announced, while his latest announcement confirmed more interesting collaborations. The actor has several different types of films in his lineup. His project with Vishnu Mohan is currently known as L367. He is also set to work with Priyadarshan on the director's 100th film.



Another interesting project is Nedumkandam Miracle with director Dileesh Pothan. The movie has a strong technical team and is expected to be an important project. Mohanlal is also joining hands with Jude Anthany Joseph and Anoop Sathyan. The details of his upcoming films with Sathyan Anthikad and Jeethu Joseph are yet to be revealed. However, these combinations have already created curiosity among movie lovers.

Chiru & Balakrishna: Lessons Heroes Should Learn



Megastar Chiranjeevi and Nandamuri Balakrishna are currently racing against time for a reason. While doing this, they are actually giving a big message to the next generation of heroes regarding the way they should plan movies and how they should honour commitment and stay dedicated to bringing movies on said dates. Here's an interesting analysis.

Apparently, Megastar Chiranjeevi is celebrating his 71st birthday, not at home or at a holiday destination, but actually on the sets of his latest movies. He wants to make sure that his #Mega158, which is being directed by KS Bobby, is released on the eve of Sankranti 2027 at any cost.

On the other hand, despite not having recovered from his injury and surgery yet, even Nandamuri Balakrishna, the 66-year-old star, is planning #NBK111 quite packed schedules, such that it would come either in December 2026 or in early January. When two big, senior and aged stars are working that hard, many are wondering why other Tier 1 heroes who are in their 40s are struggling to wrap the schedules as planned and bring the movies to theatres. On average, every year we are seeing at least one release from these big stars, while the others in the same league are taking more than 2 years to bring one film. Should they not learn the lessons from the senior stars?

ICC Rankings: Brook dethrones Head as No. 1 Test batter; Shanto achieves career-best rankings

Dubai, Aug 19 : England batter Harry Brook reclaimed the No. 1 spot in the ICC Men's Test Player Rankings, dethroning Australia opener Travis Head, who dropped down the list following his low scores in the first match of the ICC World Test Championship series against Bangladesh. Bangladesh produced a superb team performance to defeat Australia by nine wickets in the opening match of their two-match series in Darwin. It is the fourth stint at the top for Brook, who first achieved the number one position in December 2024. Joe Root (second) and Steve Smith (third) have also overtaken Head, who could only manage scores of 22 and 17 in Darwin. Smith scored 71 and 44 to move up to third position. Meanwhile, Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto, who struck an excellent innings of 84 in the first innings to help setup the victory, shot up nine places to reach a career-best 20th position. Shanto moved above the likes of India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja and compatriot Liton Das. His tally of 659 rating points is the sixth highest for a batter from his country. Teammate Mominul Haque (up five rungs to 31st) and Australia all-rounder Cameron Green (up five

slots to 30th) also made ground on this list, while Travis Head relinquished his place as the top-ranked Test batter following scores of 22 and 17 across the match. Cameron Green's second-innings century has enabled him to advance five positions to 30th while Mominul Haque (up five places to 31st), Shadman Islam (up three places to 58th), Mehidy Hasan Miraz (up five places to 59th) and Tanzid Hasan (up 84 places to joint-88th) are the others to move up the batting rankings. There's just 33 rating points between those first four batters, meaning there could be further movement following England's home Test series with Pakistan and the second match of Australia's series against Bangladesh. Seam bowler Hasan Mahmud has made headway with his Player of the Match effort. He is up 26 places to 38th after returning figures of six for 55 in the first innings, while Mehidy's haul of five for 66 in the



second innings lifts him three places to 24th, ICC reports. In the ICC Men's ODI Player Rankings, the biggest mover this week is Afghanistan left-hander Sediqullah Atal, whose scores of 143 and 98 in the last two matches of their five-match series against Ireland have helped him advance 37 places to 33rd. Ireland's Curtis Campher's scores of 84 and 96 have lifted him 23 places to 36th. Canada batter Pargat Singh's knock of 42 against Scotland in an ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 match in Dundee has helped him move up 10 places to 85th, while Ireland's Andrew Balbirnie is up five places to 47th.

1st Test: Aim was to get the wickets as quickly as we can due to rain threat, says KL Rahul



Galle, Aug 19 : The threat of an impending downpour forced India to adopt an aggressive approach and wrap up the game quickly in their favour on day five of the opening Test against Sri Lanka, admitted vice-captain KL Rahul after the visitors got a clinical 165-run victory here at the Galle International Stadium on Wednesday. Chasing a target of 372, Sri Lanka were eventually bowled out for 206 in 77.4 overs, with young left-arm spinner Manav Suthar taking four wickets in ten balls after lunch to trigger a rapid lower-order collapse and end with figures of 6-55. The downpour coming right after the game was over led to the post-game presentation ceremony being shifted indoors. "Just relieved, honestly! We kept looking at the cloud upstairs and we knew there was one big shower coming, so we didn't want to delay the

game. We were trying to get the wickets as quickly as we could. "Obviously, they had a decent partnership and once we broke that partnership, we felt like we were right back in the game and we could, once we got into their tail, we knew that we could get the wickets early. But yeah, we had one eye on the clouds," Rahul said to broadcasters. He also praised the Galle International Stadium ground staff for making a pitch which provided a balanced contest between bat and ball over all five days. "It wasn't (as comfortable as it was). I think it was a great Test match. I think the wicket played really well throughout the five days. "There was something in it for spinners obviously, but the batters who applied themselves as well could get some runs. And we've seen Sonal (Dinusha) from the Sri Lankan team.

Both the innings, getting a hundred and an 80, batted beautifully, had a very clear game plan to sweep the spinners and use his feet. "So I think people who are really committed to their game plan could score runs as well. So that's what you want to see in Test matches, where fast bowlers picked wickets too, even for their team and for our team. So I think all in all, it was a great wicket, great Test match," he added. During the stubborn alliance between Sonal Dinusha and Keshara Nuwantha, Rahul disclosed India kept faith in their tactical discipline with the new ball, even as the possibility of striking with the second new ball was huge. "We knew that the new ball was going to come and if we couldn't get wickets, the new ball would be our next best chance. But throughout

the day, our mindset obviously was to keep putting the ball in the right areas. We knew there was a little bit of help from the wicket. "Obviously, the opposition also can play well. There are batters who will dig deep and get a partnership. So we knew that would happen. So we just had to be patient and just keep putting the ball in the areas, and the wicket, like I said, there was some help in it. And once we got a wicket or once we broke a partnership, then we knew we could get two or three together," Rahul explained. Quizzed on why several batters across both teams didn't get big scores, Rahul noted that clarity of thought during the initial period of an innings was the deciding factor on a surface offering immediate assistance to bowlers. "It was a really good Test match wicket to play in. Batters who really committed to their plans or had a plan as to how they're going to play spin or fast bowling stood a chance. I honestly feel someone who walked in there thinking, I'll see what to do once I get there. There are batters who kind of struggled because there was a little bit of help straightaway. "And the batters who have gotten out are the guys who got out in the first 15-20 balls. That tells you the whole story. So if you could get through that 20 balls, 25 balls and commit to a plan, then you were okay," he concluded.

Renshaw replaces Weatherald for Australia's second Test against Bangladesh

Mumbai, August 19: 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 David Warner. History 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: Lakshya Sen fights back from slow start to open campaign with win

New Delhi Aug 19 : Lakshya Sen shook off a sluggish start to launch his BWF World Championships campaign with a commanding comeback win over Austria's Collins Filimon at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium on Tuesday. The 14th-seeded Indian, 1111 recovered from a 16-21 opening-game loss against the Austrian, ranked 128th, to win the next two games 21-8, 21-4 and seal the Round of 64 contest in 45 minutes. Filimon had the better of the opening exchanges and managed to stay narrowly ahead for much of the first game. Sen, a former World Championships bronze medallist, struggled to find his rhythm and eventually surrendered the opener 16-21. Shopping For Authentic South Asian Apparel The response was emphatic. With the home crowd rallying behind him, Sen quickly settled into the



second game and refused to let Filimon build the same momentum. The Austrian briefly stayed level at 7-7, but Sen soon moved ahead and began finding greater success with his attacking game. His smashes repeatedly troubled Filimon, while Sen also handled the Austrian's attacking shots effectively. A 16-8 lead gave the Indian a firm grip on the game, and he went on to close it out 21-8 and force a decider. There was little doubt about the outcome in the third game. Sen opened with three

straight points and immediately began putting pressure on Filimon. His sharp attacking play helped him race to a 6-1 lead before he extended the advantage to 11-1 at the interval. The break did little to change the momentum. Sen returned to stretch his lead to 13-1, with chants of "Lakshya bhai, superstar" echoing around the stadium as the home crowd sensed the finish. Filimon managed to stop the Indian's run briefly at 15-3, but Sen remained firmly in control. He moved to 18-3 and then

20-4 before converting his first match point to complete a 21-4 third-game win. After dropping the opening game, Sen had conceded just 12 points across the next two games. The victory takes the Indian into the next round of the men's singles draw as he begins his bid for another deep run at the World Championships. In other matches on Tuesday, Unnati Hooda defeated Myanmar's Thet Htar Thuzar 22-20, 21-16 in women's singles. Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde lost 22-20, 19-21, 17-21 to Canada's Jonathan Bing Tsan Lai and Crystal Lai, while mixed doubles pair Ashith Surya and Amrutha Pramuthesh went down 21-16, 29-30, 22-24 to Turkey's Emre Sonmez and Yasemen Bektas. India's women's doubles pair Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand also advanced, beating USA's Lauren Lam and Allison Lee 21-15, 21-12

BWF World C'ships: Arjuna Award nod for Treesa-Gayatri followed by Round of 16 spot; Kavipriya-Simran bow out

New Delhi Aug 19 : Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand continued India's winning run in women's doubles at the BWF World Championships, advancing to the Round of 16 with a straight-game victory over USA's Lauren Lam and Allison Lee, while Kavipriya Selvam and Simran Singh's campaign came to an end against Bulgaria's Stoeva sisters here on Tuesday. Treesa and Gayatri, ranked 39th in the world, defeated the 16th-seeded American pair 21-15, 21-12 at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium to move into the last 16. The Indians made an assured start, taking the opening point and maintaining the lead for most of the game. Even when Lam and Lee attempted to close the gap midway through the contest, Treesa and Gayatri stayed composed and took the opening game 21-15. The Indian pair remained in control from the beginning of the second game and gradually extended their advantage. They led 19-12 late in the game before wrapping up the match 21-12. The victory was another strong outing for the pair, who had also won their opening-round match on Day 1. For Treesa and Gayatri, the result was special, as the duo was nominated for the Arjuna Award in the morning. While they kept her emotions in check after the match, they were happy with the news of nomi-



nation. For Kavipriya and Simran, however, the home World Championships campaign ended in the Round of 32. The Indian pair, who had beaten Spain's Nikol Carulla and Carmen Maria Jimenez 22-20, 21-14 in their opening match, struggled to match the experienced Stefani Stoeva and Gabriela Stoeva. The Bulgarian sisters quickly established control and took the opening game 21-7. The Indian pair tried to fight back in the second, but could not turn their efforts into a comeback and eventually went down 14-21. The loud 'Let's Go India' chants from the home crowd continued to ring around the stadium, but Kavipriya and Simran could not

find the momentum needed to force a decider. The women's doubles results came amid a mixed day for India at the World Championships. Unnati Hooda began her campaign with a 22-20, 21-16 win over Myanmar's Thet Htar Thuzar in women's singles. Earlier, India's mixed doubles campaign suffered two setbacks. Ashith Surya and Amrutha Pramuthesh lost a dramatic contest to Turkey's Emre Sonmez and Yasemen Bektas, with the second game decided by a rare 30-29 scoreline after the pair reached 29-all. Ruthvika Gadde and Rohan Kapoor also bowed out after losing 22-20, 19-21, 17-21 to Canada's Crystal Lai and Jonathan Lai.

India strengthen WTC spot as PCT rises to 53.33 after Galle win



New Delhi, Aug 19 : India received a significant boost in their World Test Championship (WTC) final qualification hopes after defeating Sri Lanka by 165 runs in the first Test in Galle on Wednesday, although the Shubman Gill-led side remained fifth in the latest points table. India's percentage of points (PCT) improved from 48.15 to 53.33 following the victory, which earned them 12 crucial WTC points. However, they could not climb above fifth place as fourth-placed Bangladesh also strengthened their position after beating

Australia in the opening Test of their series in Darwin last week. Sri Lanka remained sixth in the standings, but their PCT dropped from 37.50 to 33.33 following the defeat. Australia are still on top of the standings with 77.78 PCT as they marginally hold the second-placed South Africa behind them, who have a PCT of 75. New Zealand are placed third behind the previous two finalists with a PCT of 72.22 in six matches, while England (24.36), Pakistan (22.22) and West Indies (20.83) remain in the bottom three positions respec-

tively. India's latest victory was powered by young left-arm spinner Manav Suthar, who produced a match-winning performance on a sluggish Galle surface. Playing only his second Test, Suthar claimed 6-55 in the second innings to finish with match figures of 10-101 and register his maiden ten-wicket haul in Test cricket. Chasing 372 for victory, Sri Lanka were bowled out for 206 in 77.4 overs in the second innings. Sonal Dinusha top-scored with 84, while Dhananjaya de Silva made 59, but Suthar's decisive spell ended the hosts' resistance.

India had earlier taken control of the Test through Devdutt Padikkal's magnificent 167 in the first innings, which helped them post 462 and secure a 178-run first-innings lead. Rishabh Pant then scored a crucial 66 in the second innings as India set Sri Lanka a challenging target. The victory was particularly important for India, who have already lost four of their 10 Tests in the current WTC cycle. With seven Tests still remaining, every match assumes greater significance for the Gill-led side as they look to secure a place in the WTC final. India will get an immediate opportunity to strengthen their position in the standings when they face Sri Lanka in the second Test in Colombo from August 23. Following the Sri Lanka series, India are scheduled to travel to New Zealand for a two-Test series in November. India will then conclude their WTC campaign with a five-Test home series against Australia next year.

Drugs are destroying the future !

Visakhapatnam CP Bagchi warning for students

Awareness seminar on 'Drug Eradication' held at Samatha College



By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, Aug 19
Visakhapatnam Police Commissioner Dr. Shankabratna Bagchi said that the youth should be made aware of the use and control of drugs. Samatha College and Michael Angel Walkers Association jointly organized an awareness seminar on the topic of 'Drugs - Eradication' at Samatha College on Wednesday. The CP said that drug use has a serious impact not only on individual health but also on the family system, education, employment and society. He urged the youth to focus on education, sports, social service and creative activities. **Everyone is responsible**

'Reeda' Chairman Dr. SP Ravindra said that drug eradication is not only the responsibility of government departments, but also the responsibility of everyone in the society. He said that educational institutions should play a key role in guiding the youth on the right path. Samatha College Dean and Correspondent Dr. S. Vijaya Ravindra said that his college always gives priority to awareness programs on drug eradication keeping in mind the future of the students. College Principal Dr. S. Sarabandi said that if people become addicted to drugs, their education, health and future will be affected. Vice Principal Shilpa said that students should recognize their talents and actively participate in sports, cultural, educational and social service programs. International Walker Association President Dr. P. Raviraju said that the youth should develop healthy habits like walking and exercise. **Focus on health**

MGF Founder President Dr. K.Usha Manoranjani said that drug eradication is very important for building a healthy society. She explained to the students the ill effects of drugs. She made them pledge to stay away from them. College faculty, staff, students and representatives of the Walkers Association participated in the program.

Bhavishyonmesh Robotics Exhibition by Ramanath Secondary School



By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, Aug 19
Students of Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) and several other schools in Visakhapatnam participated in 'Bhavishyonmesh - Unfolding of the Future', a two-day robotics exhibition organised by Ramanath Secondary School under the NSTL Educational Society at the school premises in the NSTL Complex here on Wednesday. The exhibition provided a platform for young innovators to showcase their creativity and technical skills through a variety of robotics, automation and technology-based projects. Students presented working models and innovative solutions, demonstrating the practical application of concepts learned in the classroom. The exhibition was inaugurated by Dr. Abraham Varughese, Outstanding Scientist and Director, NSTL, and Chairman, NSTL Educational Society, at 9.30 a.m. Scientists and technical experts from NSTL also participated in the programme and interacted with the students. They viewed the projects, encouraged the young innovators and shared their knowledge and insights on robotics and emerging technologies. The participation of students from Kendriya Vidyalayas and other schools added diversity to the exhibition and enabled

students to exchange ideas and learn from one another. Interaction with NSTL scientists gave the participants an opportunity to understand the practical applications and future possibilities of robotics and emerging technologies. The exhibition aims to promote scientific temper, creativity, innovation and problem-solving skills among school students and encourage them to explore emerging technologies through hands-on learning. The two-day exhibition will conclude on August 20, with the valedictory programme scheduled at 3.30 p.m.

strating the practical application of concepts learned in the classroom. The exhibition was inaugurated by Dr. Abraham Varughese, Outstanding Scientist and Director, NSTL, and Chairman, NSTL Educational Society, at 9.30 a.m. Scientists and technical experts from NSTL also participated in the programme and interacted with the students. They viewed the projects, encouraged the young innovators and shared their knowledge and insights on robotics and emerging technologies. The participation of students from Kendriya Vidyalayas and other schools added diversity to the exhibition and enabled

New Agricultural Transformer Brings Relief to Konuru Farmers

Vizianagaram (Gari vidi), August 19 (Skyline): Farmers in Konuru village of Garividi mandal are set to benefit from improved power supply following the commissioning of a new 100 KVA agricultural transformer. Youth leader Kimidi Ram Mallik Naidu inaugurated the transformer and performed special prayers before switching on the power supply. The new facility was established following requests from local farmers who had been facing difficulties with agricultural electricity supply. Speaking on the occasion, Ram Mallik Naidu said farmers' welfare remained a key priority and assured that efforts would continue to address local issues



in coordination with the concerned departments. He said strengthening electricity infrastructure in rural areas would help farmers carry out agricultural operations without frequent power-related disruptions. Farmers said the additional transformer is expected to ease problems such as

low voltage and overloading, particularly during the agricultural season. They expressed gratitude to the leaders and electricity department officials for facilitating the facility. Local TDP leaders, party workers, electricity department officials, farmers and villagers attended the programme.

'Red Bull' Racing Car Exhibition at GITAM

By Skyline Staff Reporter, Visakhapatnam, Aug 19
GITAM President M. Sribharat participated as the chief guest at the Red Bull Racing project/Formula race car exhibition held on the GITAM University campus. The event captivated GITAM students and automobile enthusiasts alike. It was organized to bring motorsport culture and engineering technical expertise closer to the students. On this occasion, university students, along with members of the GITAM Automotive Club and GUSAC, had the opportunity to observe and learn firsthand about Red Bull Racing technology, advanced aerodynamics, speed, and powertrain design principles. Students gained insights into the engineering techniques and design methodologies used in world-class racing. Engineering students and motorsport enthusiasts from GITAM University expressed their delight as they viewed the racing car and took photographs. The management stated that the GITAM Automotive department would continue to encourage students through such global racing initiatives, enabling them to participate in national and international racing events (such as Formula Student or Karting) in the future. The GITAM University management, faculty, and Automotive Club coordinators thanked everyone who participated and contributed to the success of the event.



AINU Vizag Performs First Robotic Boari Flap Reconstruction Surgery in Vizag, Restoring Kidney Function

By Skyline Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, Aug 19
In a significant milestone for advanced urological care in the region, the Asian Institute of Nephrology & Urology (AINU), Vizag, has successfully performed Vizag's first robotic Boari flap reconstruction surgery to treat a complex long-segment ureteric stricture, restoring normal kidney function in a 50-year-old woman suffering from a severe ureteric stricture. The patient, a resident of Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, initially presented with a ureteric stone that could not be treated successfully at another hospital due to significant narrowing of the ureter. Following this, she developed urinary obstruction and infection, requiring immediate intervention. Upon admission at AINU Hospital Vizag, the medical team first stabilized her condition by placing a percutaneous nephrostomy (PCN) tube to relieve obstruction and manage infection. The stone was later successfully removed. However, the patient continued to experience recurrent infections due to a long segment ureteric stricture, which left her dependent on an external drainage system. After comprehensive evaluation, the urology team opted for a robotic reconstructive approach to restore normal urinary flow and preserve kidney function. During surgery, the team encountered



a more extensive ureteric defect than anticipated, making conventional procedures such as ureteric reimplantation or psaos hitch unsuitable. The surgeons therefore performed a robotic Boari flap reconstruction, a specialized technique in which a flap from the urinary bladder is used to reconstruct the damaged ureter. Unlike traditional open surgery—which involves a large incision and prolonged recovery—the procedure was carried out using minimally invasive robotic technology through just a few keyhole incisions. This resulted in minimal blood loss, reduced post-operative pain, faster recovery, and excellent functional outcomes. The patient recovered well, had the kidney tube removed prior to discharge, and was discharged within three days. Speaking about the case, Dr. Amit Saple, Senior Consultant Urologist,

Transplant, Laparoscopic & Robotic Surgeon said: "This was a highly complex reconstructive case. The ureteric narrowing involved a long segment located close to major pelvic blood vessels, making the surgery technically demanding. Robotic technology allowed us to perform the reconstruction with exceptional precision while minimizing surgical trauma, resulting in quicker recovery and excellent outcomes." He further added "The robotic platform has significantly enhanced our ability to perform complex reconstructive urological surgeries. It enables meticulous dissection and precise suturing in difficult anatomical locations, ensuring better clinical outcomes and improved patient recovery." Dr. G. Ravindra Varma, Managing Director & Sr. Consultant Urologist, Andrologist, Uro-Oncologist,

Laparoscopic & Robotic Surgeon, AINU Hospital Vizag, said, "Managing long-segment ureteric strictures is particularly challenging, as they can significantly compromise kidney function if not addressed with precision. In this case, we adopted a robotic Boari flap reconstruction—a highly advanced, minimally invasive technique that utilizes bladder tissue to restore ureteral continuity and ensure normal urine flow. This approach not only allowed us to effectively bridge the damaged segment but also helped preserve the patient's kidney function. Robotic technology provides enhanced precision, better visualization, and faster recovery, making it a game-changer in complex reconstructive urology." The advanced procedure was expertly led by Dr. Amit Saple, Senior Consultant Urologist, Transplant, Laparoscopic & Robotic Surgeon, along with Dr. G. Ravindra Varma, Managing Director & Senior Consultant Urologist, Andrologist, Uro-Oncologist, Laparoscopic & Robotic Surgeon, and Dr. P. Sridhar, Consultant Urologist. This success also highlights AINU Hospital Vizag's broader expertise in robotic urology, where other complex procedures, including Radical Prostatectomy and Radical Cystectomy, are routinely performed with excellent outcomes.

A tribute to a time-honoured tradition of valour: The Royal enfield Classic 350 Gorkha Edition

Visakhapatnam, August 19: Royal Enfield, the global leader in the mid-size motorcycle segment (250cc-750cc), today announced the launch of the Classic 350 Gorkha Edition in India. Inspired by the legacy of the Gorkha Regiment, this newest expression of the Classic 350 pays tribute to generations of courage, discipline, and resilience, while remaining true to the motorcycle's timeless character and authentic riding experience. Rooted in Royal Enfield's design philosophy, the Gorkha Edition of the Classic 350 has been conceptualised as a mark of honour and admiration for the brave men of the Gorkha fraternity, one of the world's most respected military regiments. The Classic 350 Gorkha edition wears its inspiration with unmistakable presence. Finished in a distinctive Gorkha Green, the rich, commanding colourway gives the iconic Classic silhouette a

new depth and character, while a bespoke insignia featuring the legendary crossed Khukris serves as its defining signature. Crafted exclusively for the edition, these elements come together to create a motorcycle that carries the spirit of the Gorkhas with pride—bold in its expression, rooted in its heritage and unmistakably Classic. Speaking at the launch, Yadvinder Singh Guleria, Chief Commercial Officer, Royal Enfield, said, "With the Classic 350 Gorkha Edition, we pay tribute to an extraordinary military legacy defined by fierce bravery, loyalty and absolute honour. Every detail stays true to the timeless character of the Classic 350, while the bespoke Gorkha insignia speak of the values that have defined this regiment for generations. The Gorkha apparel collection extends that tribute beyond the ride, giving our community a way to carry that legacy forward with pride and purpose."



Speaking on the occasion, Lieutenant General Sanjeev Chauhan, AVSM, YSM, President, Gorkha Brigade, said, "The strength of the Gorkha Regiment lies not only in its history, but in the values of courage, discipline and honour that have been upheld across generations. It is a privilege to see this legacy acknowledged through the Royal Enfield Classic 350 Gorkha Edition, which pays tribute to the spirit and traditions of the Gorkha soldiers with dignity and respect."

With its signature upright riding posture and refined J-series engine, the Classic 350 Gorkha edition retains the unmistakable design and riding experience that have made the Classic 350 one of Royal Enfield's most iconic motorcycles, staying true to its Classicism. For enhanced everyday convenience, it also features an Assist & Slipper clutch for smoother gear shifts and a Type-C USB Fast Charging port. The Royal Enfield Classic 350 Gorkha Edition will be available at Rs.2,10,684 (ex-showroom, New Delhi) and

booking opens today. Complementing the motorcycle, Royal Enfield introduced the Gorkha Collection, an exclusive range of apparel inspired by the bravery and discipline of the Gorkha Regiment. The range features dual-certified Jet and Quest helmets, high-ankle distressed leather boots, multi-functional headgear, and curated lifestyle apparel and collectibles. Designed in a palette of regimental crimson, tactical olive green, matte black, and warm bronze, every piece draws design cues from military uniforms, regimental insignia, and the iconic crossed khukris. From hand-embroidered badges to heavyweight cotton twill and distressed leather, the collection seamlessly fuses artisanal craftsmanship with rugged utility. More than lifestyle gear, the Gorkha Collection carries a story of courage, honour, and resilience, built to accompany riders far beyond the journey.

NLEP Workshop Strengthens Leprosy Control Measures

New Delhi, August, 19 (PIB): The two-day National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) Review-cum-Capacity Building Workshop commenced today in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. Organised by the Central Leprosy Division (CLD), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the workshop aims to strengthen programme implementation, enhance technical capacities and accelerate focused action towards achieving Interruption of Transmission (IoT) of leprosy. The workshop brought together more than 70 participants, including the Additional Director General, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS); Deputy Director General (Leprosy); officials of the Central Leprosy Division; representatives from RLTRI Raipur and Aska Institute; State Leprosy Officers; Chief Medical and Health Officers; District Leprosy Officers from all 51 districts of Madhya Pradesh; District Consultants; technical development partners; and a representative of APAL. The deliberations focused on reviewing the epidemio-



logical situation, assessing programme performance, identifying implementation gaps and sharing field-level experiences and best practices. Particular emphasis was placed on strengthening early case detection, contact tracing, timely initiation and completion of treatment, prevention of disabilities and intensified surveillance as key components of the last-mile strategy for interrupting leprosy transmission. The workshop commenced with a welcome address by the State Lep-

rosy Officer, Madhya Pradesh, followed by a Special Address by the Additional Director General, DGHS. The first day of the workshop featured technical sessions focusing on the epidemiological scenario of leprosy in Madhya Pradesh, focused strategies under NLEP, improving the quality and outcomes of the Leprosy Case Detection Campaign (LCDC), and strengthening Retrospective and Reverse Contact Tracing. The session led by Dr. Sunil V. Gitte, Deputy Di-

rector General (Leprosy), highlighted the importance of leveraging programme data to identify priority districts and areas requiring intensified surveillance and targeted interventions. Particular emphasis was laid on implementing focused strategies to bring the prevalence rate below 1 per 10,000 population, while strengthening early case detection, contact tracing, timely treatment and disability prevention as part of the last-mile efforts towards interruption

of transmission.

Dr. Rashmi Shukla, National Programme Officer, WHO, led a technical session on “Improving the Quality and Outcomes of Leprosy Case Detection Campaign (LCDC)”, focusing on enhancing the quality of campaign implementation and improving the effectiveness of case detection activities. Another technical session, conducted by Dr. Sandeep Jogdand, RLTRI Raipur, focused on “Retrospective and Reverse Contact Tracing”. The session provided technical orientation on strengthening contact-tracing approaches to identify potentially missed or undiagnosed cases and to better understand transmission dynamics within affected communities.

The technical deliberations were followed by a brainstorming and experience-sharing session with District Leprosy Officers from across Madhya Pradesh. Districts including Alirajpur, Anuppur, Barwani, Burhanpur and Dhar shared their respective field experiences, highlighting programme perfor-

mance, operational challenges, priority areas and district-level actions being undertaken to strengthen early case detection, timely treatment and prevention of disability. The experience-sharing session also facilitated peer learning among district teams and provided an opportunity to identify practical and replicable approaches for strengthening implementation. The Vice-President of APAL shared experiences and practical insights on strengthening early case detection and community-level action, underscoring the importance of incorporating the perspectives of persons affected by leprosy and enhancing community engagement in programme implementation. The two-day workshop will continue on 20 August 2026, with further deliberations and capacity-building sessions aimed at consolidating district-level strategies, strengthening programme implementation and accelerating focused interventions towards the national goal of Interruption of Leprosy Transmission.

Raksha Mantri to hold bilateral talks with his Japanese counterpart in New Delhi to further deepen defence cooperation

New Delhi, August, 19 (PIB): Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh will hold a bilateral meeting with the Defence Minister of Japan Mr Shinjiro Koizumi in New Delhi on August 20, 2026. The meeting is expected to further strengthen bilateral defence relations, enhance strategic trust and cooperation, promote stability & security in the Indo-Pacific region and identify new areas of collaboration. The two Ministers will exchange views on deeper maritime security cooperation and closer defence equipment and technology collaboration under the ‘Make-in-India’ framework, following Japan’s revision of the Three Principles on Transfer of Defence Equipment and Technology. The meeting provides an opportunity to build a roadmap for further advancing bilateral defence and security cooperation. On his maiden visit to India, Mr Shinjiro Koizumi visited the Western Naval Command in Mumbai on August 19, 2026, where he held discussions with the Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Krishna Swaminathan and Flag Officer Commanding in Chief, Western Naval Command Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan. The delegation was briefed on the roles & responsibilities and operational capabilities of the Indian Navy. Upon his arrival, the visiting dignitary inspected a Guard of Honour at the Western Naval Command. He, earlier, laid a wreath at the Gaurav Stambh at the Naval Dockyard. He also paid a visit to the indigenous ship INS Chennai. India and Japan share a common vision of building a free, open, resilient and prosperous Indo-Pacific region. The two-day visit of the Japanese Defence Minister underscores the growing momentum in bilateral defence cooperation and reflects the commitment of both sides to further expand the partnership. The visit comes weeks after Japanese Prime Minister Ms Sanae Takaichi was in Delhi for the Annual Summit with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi where both sides agreed to deepen defence and security cooperation.

Cabinet Clears Rs.3,591-Crore NH-22 Four-Laning Project in Bihar

New Delhi, August, 19 (PIB): The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the Upgradation of the Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi-Sonbarsa Section of NH-22 to four-lane Standard in Bihar. The project will be developed on Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) at a total capital cost of Rs.3590.73 crore with a total length of 82.578 km. The proposed project holds significant strategic and economic relevance due to its integration with Bihar’s expanding National Highway network. It acts as a key feeder corridor connecting the India–Nepal border at Sonbarsa with economic centers like Muzaffarpur at NH-27 (East–West Corridor). The project will significantly reduce congestion in densely populated areas of Muzaffarpur, Muksudpur, Runni Saidpur, Thumma, Dumra, Bhutahi, and Sonbarsa. The project is expected to enable faster and safer movement of passengers and freight, improve travel efficiency and strengthen regional connectivity. It has been designed for a speed of 100 kmph with an average speed of 80 kmph, having no at-grade median openings, ensuring fast and safe travel. Planned in accordance with the principles of the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, the project will enhance multimodal integration by improving connectivity to key economic, social and logistics nodes, including industrial areas and major railway stations. Improved connectivity will facilitate efficient movement of goods and agricultural supply chains, support regional economic growth, and provide better access to important cultural and religious destinations such as the Buddhist Circuit and historic Janaki Punaura Dham Temple, Sitamarhi. The Muzaffarpur–Sitamarhi–Sonbarsa stretch of NH-22 holds significant strategic and economic relevance, ensuring seamless linkage to the national freight grid. It is in synergy with existing corridors such as NH-31 and NH-122 enhances connectivity to industrial zones like Barauni and riverine logistics hubs along the Ganga It also enhances cross-border passenger and cargo movement via the nearby Land Port at Bhihamore. In addition, the project has provision for seven Major Bridges (including a 340m long major bridge over the perennial Bagmati River), three Railway Over Bridges (ROBs), and two Flyovers (1170m & 270m) to maintain cross movement of the traffic and ensure safe, high-speed travel. The project will increase average travel speeds, reduce travel time, and improve overall road safety, fuel efficiency, and vehicle operating costs, thereby enhancing regional mobility and socio-economic development. The project provides seamless connectivity to key economic, social, and logistics nodes across Bihar. Additionally, the upgraded corridor will enhance connectivity to five PM Gati-Shakti Economic Nodes (four Industrial Estates and one Mega Food park), four Social Nodes (Baba Garibnath Temple, Mata Janki Temple, Punaura Dham, Muzaffarpur & Sitamarhi aspirational Districts), and two Logistic Nodes (Muzaffarpur & Sitamarhi Railway Stations), thereby facilitating faster movement of goods and passengers across the region.

NHRC, India takes suo motu cognizance of the reported physical assault on two men from Manipur in Munirka area of Delhi

- Reportedly, one of the victims with serious head injuries has been put on a ventilator at a hospital - The Commission issues a notice to the Delhi Police Commissioner, calling for a detailed report on the matter within two weeks
New Delhi, August, 19 (PIB): The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India has taken suo motu cognizance of a media report that two men from Manipur were assaulted by two persons in the Munirka area of Delhi. Reportedly, one of the victims sustained serious head injuries and has been put on a ventilator at a hospital. The Commission has observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raise serious issues of violation of human rights. Therefore, it has issued a notice to the Delhi Police Commissioner, calling for a detailed report on the matter within two weeks. The report is expected to include the investigation and the health status of the injured. According to the media report, carried on 14th August 2026, a dispute over a minor issue led to the attack on the victims.

Today's Horoscope



Aries

Find the solace in the company of children. The therapeutic powers of children not only those of your own family but even the off-springs of others can give you solace and calm your anxiety. Today, you can take your family members out for a get-together and spend a lot of money on them. Unexpected good news later in the day brings happiness and cheers for the entire family. Today chances of meeting someone who would appeal to your heart would be very strong. Today, you will not feel like working in the office. You will face a dilemma, which won't allow you to concentrate on your work. Today, you can come back from office and get indulged in some of your favourite hobbies. This will calm you down. Today, you will get to spend the best evening of your life with your spouse. **Remedy :-** Health will be wonderful by regularly watering a tamarind tree.



Taurus

Your personality will act like a perfume today. By spending money on essential household items, you will definitely face financial distress today, but this will save you from many future troubles. Time spent with relatives will be to your advantage. Spell of love is all set to bind you this day. Just feel the bliss. Do not enter into any joint venture- as partners will try to take advantage of you. Communication will be your strong point today. Your marriage will see a wonderful phase during this day. **Remedy :-** Donate battery-run toys and dolls to poor and needy children.



Gemini

Friends will introduce you to somebody special who would have a remarkable influence on your thoughts. Improvement in finances will make it convenient for you to make important purchases. Overall a beneficial day but someone you think you can trust will let you down. Love is synonymous to worshipping God; it is very spiritual as well as religious. You will know this today. Do not come under pressure of others when making important business decisions. Resist associating with people that will harm your reputation. The series of disagreements will take its toll and you will find it very difficult reconcile with your spouse. **Remedy :-** To experience continued growth in business/career, minimize, and if possible avoid, the use of black leather shoes.



Cancer

Hectic work schedule may make you short-tempered. New moneymaking opportunities will be lucrative. You will be torn in many different directions if you try to take care of everyone's demands. Interference of others will cause frictions. Journey undertaken for the job prospects would yield positive results. You need to keep your composure and express yourself during interview. You need to remember that god helps those who help themselves. You might feel awkward about an action of your spouse. But later you will realize it happened for good. **Remedy :-** Always keep a yellow piece of cloth in your pocket/wallet/near you for health body and mind. Yellow colour is a great mood enhancer.



Leo

You are likely to impress people around you with your positive outlook and confidence. Those who were going through financial crisis for a long time can attain money from anywhere today, which will eliminate several life problems in an instant. Do not neglect your social life. Take some time from your busy schedule and go out to attend the party with your family. It will not only relieve your pressure but also remove your hesitation. Have you ever smelled chocolate with ginger and roses? Your love life is going to taste like that today. Your work may get suddenly checked thoroughly at the workplace. **Remedy :-** Store water in a red or maroon coloured glass bottle and let it absorb Sun's rays. Then mix this water with your bathing water and have bath for active professional life



Virgo

Your hope will bloom like a rich delicate fragrant and dazzling flower. You know the importance of money very well, which is why the money you save today will be useful in the future and get out of any major difficulty. Festive atmosphere at home would ease your tension. Make sure you also participate in this and not remain like a silent spectator. Even your precious gifts/presents might not bring in the cheerful moments, because it could be discarded by your lover. You should put in your best efforts to reap excellent reward today. Natives of this zodiac sign need to understand themselves a bit better today. **Remedy :-** For a happy and contented love life, present your lover with blue coloured or hued flowers such as orchids, iris, hyacinths, etc.



Libra

Health will be fine despite some mental pressures. You may witness tremendous profit in business today. You can give new heights to your business today. Today you will benefit-as family members will respond to you in a positive manner. The ecstasy of entire universe is held between the two who are in love. Yes, you are the lucky one. Good day for traders and businessmen as they would benefit from growing demand. Today, you would like to do all the things that you used to love during your childhood. Love making is at its best when you can feel the emotional bond with your life-partner. **Remedy :-** Donate Barley equivalent to your weight in any goshala or cowshed and maintain great health.



Scorpio

Your charming behaviour will attract attention. Today, you will understand the importance of money and how unnecessarily spending it can negatively affect your future. Some of you are likely to purchase jewelry or a home appliance. Likely to be rewarded for fair and generous love. Others might demand too much of your time- Before you make any commitment towards them make sure that your work is not affected and also they are not taking advantage of your kindness and generosity. It is good for you to keep up with time, but at the same time, it is important to understand the importance of family and spend as much time as you can with them. The day might become one of the best days of your married life. **Remedy :-** Reciting (Om Namoh Bhagavate Vasudevayaa) 28 or 108 times will be good for professional life.



Sagittarius

Some people might feel that you are too old to learn something new-but that is far from the truth- you will easily learn new things because of your sharp and active mind. Today, you can learn the skill of accumulating and saving money and put it to the right use. Unexpected gifts and presents from relatives and friends. Sharing food with beloved in candlelight. Added knowledge that you acquire today would give you an edge when dealing with peers. You can watch any web series on your mobile in free time today. The day might become one of the best days of your married life. **Remedy :-** For enhanced health, distribute white scented-sweets to poor and needy children, especially young girls.



Capricorn

If possible try to avoid long journey as you are too weak to travel and this could put further weaken you. It should be well understood that in the hour of grief, your accumulated wealth will only help you tackle the situation. Hence, start saving from today and avoid excessive spending. Good time to get involved into activities that include youngsters. Beloved will be in a romantic mood. Your work will be appreciated at work. Efforts made to improve your looks and personality will turn out to your satisfaction. Your spouse will be full of energy and love today. **Remedy :-** Wear a bangle made up of bronze/brass for maintaining good health.



Aquarius

Health remains good. Certain important work will come to a halt due to bleak financial position. People you live with will not be very happy with you- regardless of what you do to please them. You may fall in love at first sight. Controversies or office politics; you will rule on everything today. Travel undertaken for business purpose will prove to be beneficial in the long run. You and your spouse might get a wonderful news today. **Remedy :-** Enrich your financial life by donating pure cotton clothes and namkeens to economically backward section of the society.



Pisces

Outdoor sports will attract you- Meditation and yoga will bring gains. Money position improves as delayed payments are recovered. The family's situation won't be normal as you think. Today, there is a possibility of an argument or dispute within the family. Hence, control yourself in such a case. Don't lose heart- failures are quite natural they are the beauty of life. Today you have a tendency to set your objectives much higher than you generally do- Do not get disappointed if results don't come as per your expectation. Choose your words with care when interacting with important people. Your married life will get stressed today due to lack of daily needs' fulfillment. It could be about anything like food, cleaning, other household works, etc. **Remedy :-** Maintain bliss and happiness in your love life by having food without salt once a day.

Rammohan Naidu Announces Drone Incentives, BVLOS Certification



Kurnool : Union Minister for Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu outlined the Government of India's commitment to advancing the next phase of reforms for India's rapidly growing drone sector, including enabling BVLOS certification by the end of 2026 and introducing a new financial incentive scheme to strengthen domestic manufacturing of drones and critical components. Speaking at the AP Drone Industry CEO's Round Table, jointly hosted by the Drone Federation India (DFI) and the Government of Andhra Pradesh at Orvakal Drone City, the Minister said the regulatory framework must evolve alongside the industry to enable innovation while maintaining the highest standards of safety and security.

The CEO round table brought together 150+ leading companies from the drone, counter-drone and component ecosystem, alongside senior representatives from the Government of India, Government

of Andhra Pradesh, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), academia and research institutions. According to the release, Naidu said, "By the end of this year, we will have a refined certification framework with enablement of BVLOS certification. As the industry moves into its next phase of growth, the regulatory framework must evolve with it, enabling innovation while maintaining the highest standards of safety and security."

He further highlighted the Ministry's work on a new financial incentive scheme aimed at strengthening domestic drone and critical component manufacturing and supporting the industry in scaling its capabilities. The round table focused on the next phase of reforms needed to take India's drone ecosystem from foundational growth to large-scale deployment and global competitiveness. Key areas of discussion included Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) operations, certification, testing and sandboxing, UAS Traf-

fic Management (UTM), airspace access, government-led adoption and strengthening India's domestic component ecosystem. President, Drone Federation India, Smit Shah, said, "A lot of good work has been done over the last few years. The Government of India and State Governments have played a great role in establishing an industry that barely existed a decade ago. We now have the foundations of a strong Indian drone ecosystem. The next push has to be about scale." He added, "The next wave of reforms must enable Indian companies to manufacture at greater scale, deploy advanced BVLOS operations, access world-class testing infrastructure, build critical components domestically and compete in global markets."

A key focus of the discussions was the enablement of BVLOS operations, which are expected to unlock large-scale applications across logistics, healthcare, infrastructure, agriculture and other sectors. Industry leaders called for a predictable, risk-based certification framework, dedicated flight-testing environments and clear operating protocols to enable the transition from experimental operations to commercially scalable drone networks. Participants also called for strengthening India's testing and certification ecosystem through dedicated testing sites and flight-testing corridors, common laboratory facilities and greater utilisation of

infrastructure available with government institutions, technical institutes and research organisations. The discussions further highlighted the need for specialised testing capabilities spanning both civil and defence applications, alongside stronger UTM and live-tracking capabilities and more efficient mechanisms for drone operations in restricted and red zones.

Government-led adoption emerged as another key priority, with industry representatives emphasising the role of government departments in creating demand through wider deployment of drone-based solutions. Participants also highlighted the need to build a stronger domestic component ecosystem across critical technologies through deeper collaboration between industry, academia, research institutions and government. The round table also discussed strengthening India's position as a global drone manufacturing and technology hub through improved ease of doing business, streamlined regulatory processes and stronger export and trade promotion mechanisms. The discussions assume particular significance for Orvakal Drone City, a 600-acre purpose-built ecosystem being developed to bring together drone manufacturing, R&D, testing, logistics and supporting infrastructure. The initiative is envisaged as an integrated environment where companies can develop, test and scale next-generation drone technologies.

Tamil Nadu Governement announces 365-Day maternity leave for women employees for third child

Chennai : The Tamil Nadu government, led by Chief Minister Vijay, announced a series of welfare measures, including extending 365 days of maternity leave for women state government employees for a third child and enhanced benefits for MLAs. According to the announcement, women working in the state government will now be entitled to 365 days of maternity leave for the first two children. However, opposing the announcement, DMK spokesperson TKS Elangovan said that Tamil Nadu was the first state to follow family planning and encouraged couples to have not more than two children. "Tamil Nadu is the first state to follow family planning in a restricted sense. That is why we stopped at two children. It is better to have only two children in a family, which will help the family and enable the parents to bring up their children," the DMK leaders said.

Saying that the current TVK-led state government might be abandoning family planning, he added, "But if they are having a third child, it means they are abandoning the family planning programme. I don't understand the meaning of this. This government does not want family planning. That is the only thing I can infer from this." Additionally, the state government also announced that cars will be provided to all MLAs at government expense. The monthly vehicle allowance for every MLA has been increased to Rs 75,000, while the assistant



allowance has been fixed at Rs 25,000 per month. Further, the government has decided to enhance health insurance coverage for MLAs under the government scheme from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 25 lakh. Meanwhile, the Tamil Nadu government has announced a series of major measures under Rule 110, covering milk procurement prices, medical education, healthcare infrastructure, and insurance coverage.

The government has announced an increase in the milk procurement price from Rs.38 to Rs.41 per litre. The announcement states that, as a result of the increase, the government will incur an additional expenditure of Rs.30 crore per month and Rs.360 crore per year. In the healthcare and medical education sector, the government has announced Rs.351 crore for increasing student admission capacity in gov-

ernment medical colleges. A total of 6,098 additional seats will be created for developing healthcare professionals, including 660 B.Sc. Nursing seats, 1,925 additional seats in nursing colleges and schools, 2,778 seats across 12 paramedical courses, and 735 additional seats in medical courses. The announcement also states that seven new government nursing colleges will be established. In Perambalur, a 400-bed world-class multi-speciality hospital will be established at an estimated cost of Rs.300 crore. The facility is intended to provide advanced medical treatment and healthcare services. Another major announcement concerns the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme. The annual limit for medical treatment is proposed to be increased from Rs.5 lakh to Rs.25 lakh, according to the announce-

ment. Additional medical and surgical services for transgender persons will also be provided under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme at Chennai, Stanley, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Chengalpattu, Thiruvapur, Karur and Kanyakumari. The milk procurement measure is expected to benefit more than 3.16 lakh milk producers. In addition to the increase in the procurement price, the government has announced that the government incentive will be increased from Rs.3 to Rs.5 per litre. Taken together, the announcements focus on improving the livelihoods of milk producers, expanding medical and nursing education, strengthening healthcare infrastructure, increasing access to insurance-funded treatment and expanding specialised healthcare services across Tamil Nadu.

CJP's Ashutosh Ranka Challenges Rajasthan Minister to Showcase Top Schools



New Delhi : Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) co-convenor Ashutosh Ranka on Wednesday challenged Rajasthan Education Minister Madan Dilawar to showcase his ten finest educational campuses during his tenure and emphasized that he will visit those schools, with his entire team, following his return from Bengal. Ashutosh Ranka, in a post on X, re-

quested the Rajasthan education minister to verify the magnificent educational institutions during his tenure, as he will be visiting them in the next few days. He wrote, "I'm returning to Jaipur after spending three days in Bengal. In the next few days, I'll visit schools in Rajasthan with the entire team. Madan Dilawar ji - I have an offer for you. Tell me the 10 most magnificent

schools built during your tenure. My team and I will visit those as well. You must have at least 10 such schools to show, right?" Earlier this week, on Monday, Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) co-convenor Ashutosh Ranka challenged Rajasthan Education Minister Madan Dilawar following an official circular restricting external visitors from entering government schools. Rebuffing potential police action, Ranka declared that ongoing inspections of dilapidated school infrastructure across the state would continue unabated.

In a post on X, Ranka targeted Education Minister Madan Dilawar and said, "Madan Dilawar ji, either fix all the dilapidated schools in Rajasthan, or go ahead and file an FIR against us in advance. You can even arrest us in advance. It's your

government, your police. But we won't stop inspecting the schools until all schools in Rajasthan are fixed." The confrontation follows an urgent circular issued by Lalit Kumar, Director of Secondary Education, Bikaner, Rajasthan (dated August 16, 2026). Citing the doctrine of "In Loco Parentis", Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, the Supreme Court's KS Puttaswamy privacy judgment, and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) guidelines, the order restricts entry into government educational institutions. External individuals are barred from school premises without explicit prior authorisation from the Principal or Head of Institute, except for authorised government officials executing official duties. Mandatory entry in visitor registers before entering school grounds.

Odisha floods: CM Mohan Majhi announces Rs 1,000 crore relief package for six districts

Bhubaneswar : Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced a Rs 1,000-crore relief package for six flood-hit districts, as heavy rainfall triggered fresh flooding in northern Odisha, affecting over nine lakh people across Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar and Kendrapara. Under the special package for flood-hit areas, farmers whose crops suffered damage in non-irrigated areas will be provided Rs 8,500 per hectare, while those in irrigated areas will receive Rs 17,000 per hectare. Assistance for damage to perennial crops has been fixed at Rs 22,500 per hectare. Special financial assistance will be transferred through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to the bank accounts of affected farmers for the purchase of paddy and non-paddy seeds. Affected farmers will also be provided

free vegetable mini-kits, along with a 75% subsidy for post-flood pest and disease management. Damaged irrigation projects will be restored and repaired on a war footing. Compensation will be provided for livestock losses, while assistance will be extended to fishermen and farmers for the restoration of damaged boats, fishing nets and ponds. Short-term Kharif crop loans of willing farmers will be converted into medium-term loans.

Artisans and weavers affected by the floods will receive Rs 5,000 for damaged tools and equipment, and another Rs 5,000 for loss of raw materials or finished products. Temporary repairs of roads and other infrastructure will be undertaken immediately, with funds for permanent reconstruction to be provided after a detailed damage assessment. Distribution of



cooked food, dry food and relief rice will continue in all affected areas until the situation returns to normal. Financial assistance will also be provided to affected families for the purchase of essential clothing, utensils and household articles. CM Majhi on Tuesday said authorities are intensifying evacuation, rescue and relief operations amid continuing rainfall and rising river levels across the six districts. He has also visited several of the flood affected

area to assess the situation on the ground. According to IMD reports on August 15, 429 villages across 52 blocks had been affected by floodwater, while 79 rescue teams were deployed. The Central Water Commission has warned of flash-flood risks in parts of Odisha, while the IMD has forecast further heavy rainfall and issued an alert for 11 districts. Authorities continue to monitor vulnerable areas and coordinate evacuation, relief distribution and medical preparedness.

Lebanon: Over 8,50,000 displaced return amid lack of services, widespread disruption

Geneva : Amid continued tensions in West Asia, a report by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has observed that about 8,50,000 displaced persons have returned to areas of origin; however, the crisis remains far from over as humanitarian agencies remain underfunded,

thereby posing challenges to restoring livelihoods and rehabilitating infrastructure. In a post on X on Tuesday, the UNHCR underlined that, despite declared ceasefire arrangements, fresh Israeli airstrikes in south Lebanon over the weekend triggered a new wave of displacement, with hundreds of

families fleeing northward in search of safety. These movements add to an already protracted displacement crisis, increasing uncertainty for communities attempting to make their way home. "Around 860,000 people are reported to have returned to their areas of origin, while some

360,000 people remain displaced, including at least 22,000 people living in collective shelters. Others report living with relatives or in overcrowded rented apartments," UNHCR said. There were more than 1 million people displaced inside Lebanon during the peak of the conflict.

Rajdhani Express halted in Hojai to allow safe crossing of elephant herd through railway track



Hojai : A Rajdhani Express was halted in Assam's Hojai district so that a herd of wild elephants could cross the railway tracks safely. According to officials, strict vigilance and prompt alert action by forest staff and coordination by the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) helped save the lives of

the elephants in Hojai district. As per reports, forest staff spotted an elephant herd near the railway track as they tried to cross at the Hawaipur area near Lanka in Hojai district, with the Down Rajdhani Express approaching. Alert action by the forest staff, the loco-pilot and the Lumding

Railway Control Room ensured the elephant herd crossed safely and the train resumed its journey. Sharing the heartwarming video on social media, Assam Forest Minister Jayanta Malla Barua wrote on X, "An unexpected halt on the tracks, but only for our adorable giants to pass by. This morning,

the Down Rajdhani Express was stopped at Km 167/8 as an elephant herd crossed the tracks at Hawaipur under Lanka Range, Nagaon South Division, Hojai." "Alert action by our @assamforest staff, the loco-pilot and Lumding Railway Control Room ensured the herd crossed safely and the train resumed its journey. Another day, another safe crossing!" he added. "Every day, our dedicated forest personnel remain watchful, quietly ensuring the safety of our wildlife. These may be silent stories, but each safe crossing is a story worth telling," the Minister further said.

Sree Visvesvaraya Inst. of Tech. & Science
(V) Chowderpally, (M) Devarkadra, Mahabubnagar, T.G (Code:-VITS)

MBA “ B” Category Admissions Notification :- 2026-27

PG COURSE	INTAKE	30% SEATS
MBA	120	36

The prescribed application forms are available in the college Office/college website: www.svitsmbnr.ac.in .The last date for receipt of applications is 24-08-2026.The admissions will be made as per the guidelines of TG Govt. Contact. Nos:- 9505506207/219

Sd/- PRINCIPAL

Grand Celebration of ITDA Project Officer B. Rahul's Birthday



Bhadrachalam, August 19: The birthday celebrations of B. Rahul, Project Officer of the Bhadrachalam Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), were held in a grand manner at

the ITDA meeting hall on Wednesday.

B. Rahul has earned appreciation for his dedicated efforts towards the welfare and development of tribal communities. Under his

culture and traditions, for which he received a Best Award from the Telangana Chief Minister. He also prepared a book on the Koya deities and was honoured with the title "Adivasi Vikas Ratna" by members of the tribal community.

On the occasion of his 33rd birthday, ITDA unit officials and staff lit the ceremonial lamp and cut a cake in his presence. The officials appreciated his dedicated efforts towards tribal welfare and conveyed their warm birthday wishes.

Later, ITDA officials and staff fed him cake, extended their birthday greetings and felicitated him on the occasion.

Assistant Project Officer (General) David Raj, SDC Anand Kumar, AO Sunnam Rambabu, APO Power Venu, ADMHVO Saidulu, EE Tribal Welfare Madhukar, HNTC Uday Kumar, AAO Santosh, ATDO

Radhamma, Sports Officer Gopal Rao, DSO Prabhakar Rao, Manager Adinarayana, along with supervisors and staff from various departments, participated in the celebrations.

leadership, the Bhadrachalam ITDA received national recognition as the best ITDA in the country through NITI Aayog for effectively implementing tribal welfare programmes.

He has also worked to promote the Koya language and preserve the traditional lifestyle, customs and practices of tribal communities. His initiatives to support the economic empowerment and livelihoods of tribal women, including the establishment of Bhadrugiri Mart, have received appreciation.

He also played a key role in establishing a Tribal Museum showcasing tribal

Vanamahotsavam Celebrated at Arts and Science College



Hanamkonda, August 19: A plantation programme was organised on Wednesday as part of the Vanamahotsavam celebrations at the University Arts and Science College, Subedari, Kakatiya University, Hanamkonda. College Principal Prof. Sunkari Jyothi formally inaugurated

the programme by planting saplings on the college premises. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Sunkari Jyothi said that protecting the environment is the collective responsibility of everyone. She emphasised the need not only to plant more saplings but also to ensure their proper care and pro-

tection. She called upon students, teaching and non-teaching staff to actively participate in environmental protection initiatives and contribute to creating a greener campus.

She further stated that increasing greenery on the college campus would help create a healthy and

pleasant environment for students and staff. Assistant Registrar Srilatha, NSS Programme Officers Dr. Sridevi, Srilatha, Ramesh, Anjan Rao and Sridhar Kumar, Dr. Adi Reddy, teaching and non-teaching staff, and others participated in the programme.

Indian Embassy in the Philippines Visited NRI Advisory Committee

Hyderabad, Jay August 19: Members of the state government's NRI Advisory Committee team visited the Indian Embassy in Manila, the capital of the Philippines on Wednesday to formulate a better migration policy for the welfare of around 15 lakh workers who have migrated from Telangana state for employment in Gulf countries. After that, the committee members met with the top officials of the Commission on Overseas Philippines in Manila. On this occasion, he inquired about the best immigration procedure. The immigration policy of the Philippines was explained to the committee members through a power point presentation by the top officials of the country. Government Whip Adi Srinivas, Nizamabad Rural MLA Dr. R. said that

the Philippines, which is implementing the best immigration policy in the world, will closely examine the procedures in place and work to implement a similar better immigration policy for the Gulf workers. Bhupathi Reddy stated that the members of the committee had a long

discussion with Indian Embassy Ambassador Harsha Kumar Jain and First Secretary Nilesh Kumar Roy in Manila, the capital of the Philippines. Chief Minister of the state A. In line with Revanth Reddy's ideas, the NRI Advisory Committee is touring the Philippines. NRI Advisory Committee Chairman

Ambassador Dr. BM Vinod Kumar, Vice Chairman Manda Bhim Reddy, Members Singireddy Naresh Reddy, Nangi Devender Reddy, Swadesh Parikipandla, Professors Vijay Korra, Srinivas Junuguru, Liaison Officer Adi Karthik and others are in this team.

PSB Confluence 2026 ends with seven-point action plan, FM Sitharaman calls for month-long youth banking campaign from Oct 2



NEW DELHI: The two-day PSB Confluence 2026 concluded with Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and Public Financial Institutions (PFIs) identifying actionable strategies across seven key themes to strengthen the banking and financial sector and support India's growth towards Viksit Bharat 2047. The conclave, organised by the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, brought together senior leadership of PSBs and PFIs, government officials and domain experts for discussions on emerging priorities and challenges facing the financial sector. Addressing the concluding session, Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman called upon PSBs and PFIs to translate the deliberations into tangible outcomes and build on their institutional strengths to meet India's evolving economic requirements.

Focus on banking for youth

FM Sitharaman called on PSBs to launch a focused, month-long campaign for young people above 16 years from October 2, 2026, in coordination with the Indian Banks' Association (IBA). The initiative aims to strengthen banks' engagement with young customers and establish long-term relationships as they move through different stages of their financial lives, including education, employment, entrepreneurship, invest-

ment and wealth creation. A common online portal or application for youth is also envisaged to provide easy access to information on banking services and opportunities related to education, skilling and entrepreneurship. The initiative is expected to be supported by physical outreach programmes at colleges, universities, skill institutions and other campuses.

Banks urged to strengthen priority sector lending

The Finance Minister also emphasised the importance of Priority Sector Lending (PSL), urging PSBs to closely monitor shortfalls against individual targets and sub-targets. Banks were encouraged to undertake granular monitoring, identify emerging gaps at an early stage and adopt appropriate business strategies to ensure productive credit reaches the intended beneficiaries. The discussions

on the second day also focused on strengthening financing across agriculture and horticulture value chains, including Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), storage, processing, logistics and market linkages.

Credit card business and digital opportunities

The Confluence also examined ways to reimagine the credit card business, with discussions focusing on digital onboarding, greater cross-selling among existing customers and opportunities arising from the integration of RuPay and UPI. Real-world perspectives were shared by CA Arvind Agarwal, Director, VNR Group, on agriculture and horticulture value chain infrastructure, and Sanjay Mehndiratta, Director, Toy Zone, on Priority Sector Lending. The second day concluded with debriefing sessions during which thematic groups pre-

sented actionable strategies and innovative solutions emerging from discussions across all seven themes. Secretary, Department of Financial Services, said the Confluence had helped sharpen priorities and identify clear areas for action. PSBs and PFIs will now be required to take forward these strategies through defined ownership and realistic timelines, while successful institutional models may be considered for wider adoption. The government said the outcomes of PSB Confluence 2026 would be taken forward by the concerned institutions through follow-up and implementation. PSBs and PFIs are expected to play a key role in deepening financial inclusion, financing emerging opportunities and supporting India's next phase of economic growth as the country moves towards the Viksit Bharat 2047 goal.

Accurate data key to effective governance, delivery of benefits to right beneficiaries: Vice President Radhakrishnan

NEW DELHI: Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan on Tuesday emphasised the importance of accurate and timely data for effective governance, saying that reliable statistics are essential for proper planning, resource allocation and ensuring that government benefits reach the intended beneficiaries.

Addressing 34 Officer Trainees of the 2026 batch of the Indian Statistical Service (ISS), including 16 women, at Uprashtrapati Bhavan, the Vice-President said, "If the data is not correct, no decision can be correct." He cautioned that inaccurate foundational data could lead to inappropriate policy decisions, inefficient use of scarce resources and difficulties in addressing national challenges.

V-P Radhakrishnan said official statistics are not merely numbers but important instruments of governance that enable the government to understand the position of the country and different sections of society. He stressed that field experience, accurate data collection, proper maintenance and timely presentation of statistics are crucial for the successful implementation of government programmes. "The success or failure of a scheme depends significantly on the quality of data," he said, underlining the role of statisticians in ensuring that government schemes deliver their intended benefits to eligible beneficiaries. The Vice President also highlighted the strengthening of India's statistical and administrative data ecosystem, including digital databases, GST data and high-frequency economic infor-



mation. Referring to the expansion of digital transactions, he said the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has contributed significantly to the growth of digital payments and helped reduce the parallel economy. He also stressed the importance of selecting appropriate base years for economic calculations and accurately measuring the country's real growth. At the same time, he noted that economic indicators alone do not provide a complete picture of human well-being, with factors such as happiness and

quality of life also requiring consideration. Calling trust the foundation of statistics, V-P Radhakrishnan urged the young officers to maintain professional and ethical integrity, political neutrality, confidentiality and impartiality. He encouraged them to continuously learn from field experiences and remain receptive to insights from seniors, colleagues and subordinates. The Vice President further urged the officer trainees to remain curious, rigorous and open to innovation while safeguarding their professional independence.

Cases against those who question government wrongdoing

Hyderabad, August 19: Leader of BRS Parliamentary Party Vaviraju Ravichandrababu Naidu said that the Congress leaders are not able to govern, they have failed miserably in solving the immediate problems faced by the people and there is chaos in the state.

He complained that cases are being filed against those who question the government's mistakes and police are being sent to the houses of BRS leaders of the main opposition and arrested. He said that it is ironic that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy opened the

buildings of Sanat Nagar Tims built during the tenure of the first Chief Minister of Telangana Kalvakuntla Chandrababu Naidu with great fanfare as if he had built them himself. MP Ravichandrababu Naidu said in a statement that it is highly objectionable that BRS deputy leaders Harish Rao, Srinivas Yadav, Sabita Indra Reddy and former minister Srinivas Goud were stopped by the police and put under house arrest to explain the facts to the people. MP Ravichandrababu Naidu said that it is sad that the rulers are trying



to demolish the late former MLA Peddi Sudarshan Reddy's statue and block instead of building a new one. He demanded that the government should take strict action against those who are responsible for this, regardless of their level. MP Vaviraju said that the women's world is angry with the efforts of the rul-

ers to cancel the Kalyana Lakmi and Shadi Mubarak schemes. Students and college owners are protesting due to non-payment of dues. MP Ravichandrababu Naidu said that the educated unemployed youth are protesting that notifications should be issued for the filling of vacancies for employees and vacancies for PRC and DA. Farmers are expressing their anger against the government due to the lack of proper insurance, cancellation of insurance, severe interruptions in irrigation water, electricity and urea supply.

Should take immediate steps to resolve public issues



(District Correspondent / Skyline)

Sangareddy, August.19: Chinta Prabhakar, the Sangareddy legislator and Zaheerabad MLA Manik Rao discussed public issues and development works in the Sangareddy and Zaheerabad constituencies with District Collec-

tor Prateek Jain. On this occasion, the MLAs requested that special steps be taken to provide toilets, drinking water and other basic amenities in government schools in the constituencies. They also discussed with the Collector the sanction of R&B roads to improve transport facili-

ties for the people and the progress of pending road works. They also inquired about the digging of borewells required to resolve the drinking water problem in rural areas and the development of sub-centers to provide better medical services to the people. Chinta Prabhakar

also inquired about the development works being undertaken through CSR, DMFT, MST etc. funds, the available funds and the details of pending works from the Collector. He requested that the already sanctioned works be completed expeditiously and necessary steps be taken for pending works. The MLAs suggested that the authorities should work in coordination to solve the problems of basic infrastructure, education, healthcare, roads and drinking water needed by the people and speed up the development works. The Program was attended by BRS leaders Buchi Reddy, Patnam Manikam, Nagaraj Goud and others.

Temple construction festivities conclude



(By Our Reporter / Skyline)

Narayankhed, August.19: The laying festivities of the Swayambhu

Hanuman Padamandira, which began on Tuesday in Sri Krishna Bandavan Colony in NKD town, concluded on Wednesday. On

the second day, local Vedic Vedic Smarta Jyotishya Chandi Upasaka Malamanchi Gururaja Sharma con-

ducted Ganapati Puja, Gartanyasa, Shilanyasa, Conch laying, Bhoomi Puja, Aradhana, Aarti, Mantra Pushpam and Poornahuti programs. Devotees offered navdhanya and flowers on the conch stones. Along with the devotees, the state representative of Akhil Bharat Sadhusantula Sangram Maharaj, Khed Municipal Chairman Nagesh Shetkar, former MLA Bhupal Reddy, DCC General Secretary Chandrasekhar Reddy and others participated in the festivities.

Photographers problems should be solved

(By Our Reporter / Skyline)

Narayankhed, August.19: The leaders of the Khed Division Photographers' Welfare Association have requested that the problems of photo and videographers be solved. To this end, a petition was submitted to Khed Sub-Collector Umaharati under the auspices of the association on Wednesday. They requested that a building be sanctioned to the asso-

ciation to hold meetings and conferences and other issues related to photographers be resolved. To celebrate Photographers Day, a demonstration was first held on two-wheelers from the Durga Bhavani Mata temple in Mangalpet, a twin village of Khed, through the ancient streets of the town. Later, the association flag was unfurled. Several photographers and videographers from the division participated in the program.



Charles Schwab Office Inaugurated in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, August 19: Charles Schwab Services India, a leading financial services company, inaugurated its new office in Hyderabad. The office was inaugurated by Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu in the presence of company representatives, senior executives and state government officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Sridhar Babu said that the establishment of a Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Hyderabad was a testament to Telangana's talent pool, technological capabilities and strong technology ecosystem. He said the decision of global companies to choose Telangana as a hub for expansion was a positive development for the state.

The centre will provide support to the company's technology services, operations and business services, he said. By managing global-scale operations from Hyderabad, the city's



importance as an international business hub would further increase, the minister added.

The Telangana government is creating a conducive environment for global companies to invest and expand in the state, Minister Sridhar Babu said. He stated that the government's objective was not only to attract investments but also to

create quality employment opportunities for local youth. He expressed the view that the entry of Charles Schwab would create new opportunities in the technology and financial services sectors. Skilled youth would have greater opportunities to work with global companies, he said, adding that the organisation would contribute to the growth

of Telangana's technology sector. Minister Sridhar Babu congratulated Charles Schwab Services India on commencing its operations in Hyderabad. He expressed hope that the company would expand further in the future and emerge as a key partner in Hyderabad's international business community.

Senior journalist Devulapalli Ramalingam passes away

Rajamahendravaram, August 18: Devulapalli Ramalingam (60), a senior journalist and editor of Velugu Patrika, who dedicated himself to journalism for about four decades, breathed his last at a hospital in Kakinada on Tuesday. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Born in Kirkampudi in the joint East Godavari district, Ramalingam started his journalistic career in Andhra Bhoomi in 1985. Later, he worked in Deccan Chronicle till 1998. Later, he joined the morning daily as a staff reporter and worked in Mahabubnagar as well as in several districts of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

He started Velugu Patrika in Rajamahendravaram in 2002 and continued as its editor since then. His straightforward manner, simple life, courage and ex-



tensive knowledge brought him special recognition.

Ramalingam, who renounced his personal interests for journalism, also used his ancestors' property to run the newspaper. He constantly fought for the rights and welfare of journalists. He dedicated his life to the field of journalism without accumulating wealth. He had close

contacts with prominent figures such as Mudragada Padmanabham, Jakkampudi Rammohan Rao, Gorantla Butchaiah Chowdhury, Adireddy Apparao, former MP Undavalli Arunkumar and others. Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan expressed condo-

lences on Ramalingam's death. Fellow journalists said that the death of Ramalingam, who stood as a symbol of simplicity, honesty, courage and selfless service, is a great loss to the Telugu journalism sector.

A.P. state small and medium daily newspapers association has expressed profound grief over the demise of devulapalli Ramalingam and Mr K.S. RANGASAYI president of the association said that Mr. Ramalingam was associated with the association since decades and extended his services as a member of district media accreditation committee for a number of years. He added, that the association was in great loss with the demise of senior Journalist Mr. Ramalingam and on behalf of association, conveyed condolences to the bereaved family.

BRS Leaders Placed Under House Arrest While Heading to Visit TIMS



Hyderabad, Jay August 19: Former minister V. Srinivas Goud was placed under house arrest by the police as BRS leaders were preparing to visit Dr. MCR TIMS Hospital in Sanathnagar. A large number of police personnel were deployed at his residence in Narsingi and reportedly prevented him from leaving the house.

BRS sources said the action was taken when the party leaders were preparing to visit the TIMS Hospital to assess the situation there and present the facts before the people. Speaking on the occasion, V. Srinivas Goud criticized the police action, saying that preventing Opposition leaders from raising

questions on public issues was against the spirit of democracy. He said it was not appropriate to undermine the Opposition's right to question the government on behalf of the people. He made it clear that their fight to bring public issues to light would not stop under any circumstances. Srinivas Goud demanded that the government explain to the people the reason behind restricting him to his residence and preventing him from visiting TIMS Hospital. He said it was the responsibility of the Opposition to examine the functioning of government hospitals and the services being provided to the public.

He questioned what was wrong with visiting and inspecting hospitals built with public money. Meanwhile, BRS party sources said that former ministers Harish Rao, Talasani Srinivas Yadav and Sabitha Indra Reddy, along with BRS leader R.S. Praveen Kumar, were also placed under house arrest by the police. The party said the action appeared to have been taken after BRS leaders collectively decided to visit the TIMS Hospital and inspect its conditions. The BRS alleged that the government was afraid of criticism and was preventing Opposition leaders from visiting the hospital. The party

criticized the government, alleging that the house arrests were intended to prevent people from learning about the actual situation. BRS leaders said that the role of the Opposition must be respected in a democracy. V. Srinivas Goud said that they would visit TIMS Hospital at another time if they were unable to do so now and would continue to examine the conditions there. He asserted that their fight on issues concerning public health would continue and that they would bring the facts before the people. The incident has once again become a topic of discussion in the state's political circles.

Deadline Extended for Applications for Admission to B.Ed. College

Bhadrachalam, August 19: The deadline for submitting applications for admission to the regular B.Ed. course at the Special Tribal B.Ed. College being run under the aegis of the Bhadrachalam Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) has been extended to August 25. In a statement issued on Wednesday, ITDA Project Officer B. Rahul said that applications are being invited directly from tribal graduates belonging to the Agency Scheduled Areas of Telangana for admission to the 28th batch of the two-year regular B.Ed. course for the academic year 2026-28. The Government Teacher Education College has a total of 100 seats. To be eligible for admission, candi-

dates must be tribal graduates belonging to the Agency Scheduled Areas of Telangana and must have passed their degree with a minimum of 40% marks.

He said that candidates would be selected based on the merit secured in the relevant degree examination. Seats have been reserved for women under a separate category in accordance with government rules and regulations. Selection will be made strictly on the basis of merit as per Government Orders No. 14 dated April 12, 2021, and No. 53 dated May 19, 2009. The ITDA Project Officer stated that the prospectus and application forms are available free of cost. Candidates can obtain them from the



ITDA offices at Eturunagaram, Utnoor and Mannanur, as well as from the Tribal B.Ed. College at Bhadrachalam. Candidates seeking admission to the two-year regular B.Ed. course (28th batch) for the 2026-28 academic year have been advised to submit their applications by August 25. For further details and clarification, candidates may contact the following phone numbers: 8247528404, 8247798370, 9912272959, 9959575539.