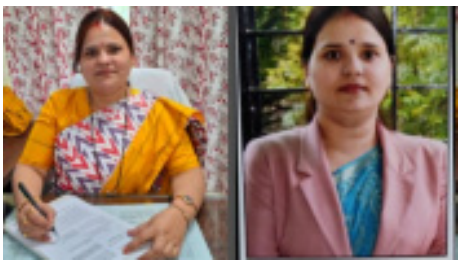


Smt. A. Sridevi Assumes Charge as Secretary Cum-Senior Civil Judge of DLSA, Nampally Court Sessions Division

Kings Daily News Paper, Crime Bureau Chief Ameer Hussain Hyderabad, September 3: Smt. A. Sridevi, who was serving as Senior Civil Judge in Nagarkurnool, has been transferred and posted as Secretary-cum-Senior Civil Judge of District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Hyderabad, Nampally Sessions Division. She assumed charge on Tuesday. On this occasion, officials and staff of District Legal Services Authority office met Smt. A. Sridevi and extended warm welcome and best wishes for her new role. Smt. A. Sridevi will work towards providing free legal aid



to public through District Legal Services Authority, conducting extensive legal awareness programmes, encouraging resolution of cases through Lok Adalats and implementing initiatives to take mediation and other legal services closer to people. Officials and staff of Legal Services Authority are extending full cooperation to her in these endeavors.-

Naidu puts alliance on poll alert as local body elections near

Amaravati: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has said to have set an October or November deadline for completing the local body election process in state, directing ministers to take responsibility for ensuring the victory of NDA alliance candidates. The issue figured prominently in the political discussions surrounding Thursday's Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, with ministers-in-charge being asked to focus on the elections and work towards securing victories for alliance candidates. The proposed sequence is to hold municipal elections first, followed by



MPTC and ZPTC polls and then gram panchayat elections. The government is keen to complete the process within this year, rather than allow any local body elections to spill over into 2027. The immediate challenge is clearing legal and administrative hurdles, particularly cases related to SIR and BC reservations. Efforts are expected to

be made to resolve the litigation and remove other impediments to enable the polls to proceed. The political importance attached to the municipal elections is particularly significant for the ruling alliance. With the urban polls likely to be among the first tests of the government's performance after two years in office, the results could provide an early indication of public sentiment towards the NDA administration. Against this backdrop, minister for IT and HRD Nara Lokesh held a breakfast meeting with ministers before the Cabinet meeting. Election preparedness, particu-

See 2nd page

Paving way for 'Orange Economy' with Creative Content

Minister Kandula Durgesh reviews establishment of Content Creation Academy, Studio in NTR District
Employment opportunities in creative field for youth, women.. Digital promotion for tourism, cultural glory

Vijayawada: September 3: State Tourism Department Minister Kandula Durgesh reviewed programmes being taken up in NTR District for development of 'Orange Economy' by linking creativity, digital media, cul-

tural sectors with economic development. Minister held meeting with Parliament Member Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni), District Collector Dr. G Lakshmisha and concerned officials at NTR District



Collectorate in Vijayawada on Thursday and discussed establishment of Content Creation Studio, Content Creation Acad- See 2nd page

Action plan to make Puttaparthi 'garbage-free'

Puttaparthi: Given Puttaparthi's prominence as an international spiritual center, MLA Palle Sindhura Reddy, district Collector Shyam Prasad and former Minister Palle Raghunatha Reddy finalised a clear plan to transform the area into a clean, modern and model city. A time-bound action plan was prepared to make Puttaparthi a 'single-use plastic-free', 'stagnant water-free' and 'garbage-free' municipality, at a review meeting held here on Thursday. The Collector said that it is man-



datory to collect wet and dry waste separately (100% segregation) from every household and commercial establishment

and vehicles with separate compartments must be used for this purpose.

doctors perform hydrus micro stent implantation

Visakhapatnam: In a remarkable achievement in glaucoma care, the Sankar Foundation glaucoma team, led by T Raveendra, performed a hydrus micro stent implantation, on a patient. The hydrus micro stent is a minimally Invasive glaucoma surgery (MIGS) device designed to improve aqueous humor outflow through Schlemm's canal, ensuring sustained control of intraocular pressure while

minimising surgical trauma. This breakthrough technology offers a safer and more effective treatment option for glaucoma patients, reducing complications and promoting faster recovery. The successful implantation reflects the hospital's commitment to bringing globally-advanced ophthalmic technologies to the region. The procedure was completed with the support of doctors K Manju



valli, B Keerthana and Raveendra. Congratulating the medical team, M Ramdas, chairman, board of trustees and A. Krishna Kumar, managing trustee and CEO of the foundation.

Andhra ACB registers disproportionate assets case against TTD Deputy EO

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh Anti-Corruption Bureau registered a disproportionate assets case against TTD Deputy Executive Officer Mendu Lokanatham after simultaneous searches at four locations in Tirupati led to the discovery of illegal assets to the tune of Rs 5 crore. The searches were conducted at four places early on Tuesday, including the house of Lokanatham and his relatives, as part of the investigation, the ACB said in a press note. "The ACB registered a disproportionate assets case against Lokanatham after searches at four locations in Tirupati led to the recovery of property documents and other incriminating material,



with the assets valued at around Rs 5 crore," said an official press release from the Bureau late on Tuesday. According to the ACB, documents found at Lokanatham's house showed that he had purchased a house in PK Layout, in Tirupati and registered it in the name of his wife. He had also purchased two housing plots along with a building in the Gollavanigunta residential area of Tirupati city and registered them in his wife's name, it said.

Six-decade canal bund housing crisis resolved

Nellore: After sixty years of uncertainty, 1,215 families living along Sarvepalli canal bund will finally receive permanent land title deeds. The Cabinet approved the issuance follow-



ing coordinated efforts by Minister Narayana across Municipal, Irrigation, and Revenue departments, with backing from Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. A formal distribution programme will take place soon. Overjoyed residents celebrated the milestone across multiple neighborhoods by performing Palabhishekam on portraits of CM Naidu and Minister Narayana. CM Chandrababu commended the Minister for his

dedication to supporting economically disadvantaged families through this long-awaited resolution. City Mayor Devarakonda Sujatha, State Waqf Board Chairman Abdul Aziz, Deputy Mayor Roop Kumar Yadav, former Municipal Chairperson Tallapaka Anuradha, City TDP President Mamidala Madhu, corporators, and party activists participated in the event.



CJP shows prudence by calling off agitation

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) has shown maturity by calling off its proposed September 5 march in Delhi. It did so after the Supreme Court on Tuesday quashed all FIRs filed against the protesters between July 20 and 25, which led to the resignation of the education minister Dharmendra Pradhan. However, the FIRs against those with criminal antecedents have not been quashed, though. Informing the Supreme Court about calling off the proposed agitation, CJP spokesperson Saurav Das said that his party “looks forward to compliance with today’s order. I also thank the Court for this decision and the learned counsel on both sides.” In other words, the CJP has made it clear that it is not lowering its guard. It may be recalled that, in the meeting with its representatives, the government had agreed not to file police cases against the agitators. But there were reports of harassment of the protestors. Evidently, the CJP is making it clear to the government that, while it is not unnecessarily aggressive, it will ensure compliance of the promises that the government has made in the apex court.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had informed the court that the Central government and Bihar, Assam, West Bengal and Maharashtra have filed applications seeking to quash the FIRs linked to student protests, adding that no future FIRs would be registered in respect of the protest related events from July 20-25. Further, the CJP has also preferred magnanimity over petulance by thanking the top court. Ironically, the bench hearing the case was headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant, whose cockroach remarks had birthed the CJP in the first place. His refusal to see the video of the use of force by the security personnel was also criticised widely, especially by youngsters. In general, the CJP leaders have demonstrated sagacity and temperance so far; they don’t get rattled, nor do they become abusive and arrogant. They seem to have decided that they would continue to function as a pressure group—at least, for now. This is a wise decision because getting into politics means doing everything that politicians do; Arvind Kejriwal’s Aam Aadmi Party is a case in point.

A strong pressure group will be a restraint on the government, not just the central government but also in states, including those run by other parties. At any rate, in a democracy, political parties should not be the only vehicles through which citizens express their concerns and demand accountability; pressure groups, civil society organisations, and citizen movements are no less important than parties. The emergence of CJP, therefore, should be seen as a reminder to the political class that public patience has its limits. On its part, the political class must get its act together. The political masters must realise that people, especially Gen Z, are not willing to take any abomination lying low. The young are better informed, more vocal, and not very respectful to authority than previous generations. They are perfectly capable of mobilising quickly when needed.

Paving way for 'Orange Economy' with Creative Content

Continu, from1st page

emy, Content Lab.Minister Kandula Durgesh said by linking creativity, technology with tourism, culture, employment, new opportunities can be provided to youth along with extensive digital promotion for tourist places in State.Encouragement to Orange EconomyMinister said main objective of Orange Economy is to add economic value to creative sectors like media, design, storytelling, arts, culture, heritage, digital content. He said there is need to bring out talent among youth in this sector, provide skill training and convert them into employment, self-employment opportunities. He said Content Creation Studio,Academy established in NTR District will stand as key platform in this direction. He said studio can be utilized with facilities like video recording, editing, live streaming at professional level and through Academy training can be provided in aspects like content preparation, video shooting, editing, storytelling, responsible social media usage.Digital Promotion for Vijayawada TourismMinister suggested to extensively promote tourist, historical, cultural, heritage places in Vijayawada as well as NTR District in form of videos, reels, documentaries, other digital content. He said tourism sector can be further boosted by taking specialties like Krishna river basin, river bank, temples, historical places, local culture closer to domestic, foreign tourists through modern digital platforms.Digital Security for Our Culture.. Our HeritageMinister said folk arts, traditions, festivals, local cuisines, talent of artistes in district should be documented and preserved in digital form. He said this will provide opportunity to create digital cultural archive useful for future generations.NTR District as Model for Other DistrictsMinister suggested to bring technology, creativity, tourism, culture, employment onto one platform by effectively utilizing Content Creation Studio, Academy, Labs. He said this programme being taken up in NTR District should be developed as replicable model that can be implemented in other districts in future.Vijayawada Parliament Member Kesineni Sivanath said this Content Lab will help in providing training in content creation to Self Help Group women, students, rural youth and converting their talent into income sources. He said path can be paved for 'Local Talent - Local Income' by creating quality digital content on aspects like tourist places, temples, culture, traditions, festivals, local cuisines, folk arts of local areas.District Collector Dr. G Lakshmisha explained to Minister that about Rs 10 lakh funds required for establishment of Content Lab have been provided through District Tourism Council. He said designing and implementation of Content Lab has been taken up with cooperation of RTIH, P4 Margadarsis.District Joint Collector S Elakkiya, District Revenue Officer G Lakshmi Narasimham, RDO Vennela Srinu, DPRO T Nageswara Rao, DEO, Tourism Department and other concerned officials participated in this programme.

Naidu puts alliance on poll alert as local body elections near

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larly in urban areas, was among the key issues discussed. The ruling party leadership is also seeking to make government delivery a political advantage. Lokesh indicated that new pensions for eligible beneficiaries would be distributed in phases from October, while ministers were asked to focus on how government decisions and welfare measures are being received in urban constituencies. The TDP leadership is simultaneously preparing to counter the YSRCP’s political narrative on social media. Ministers have been asked to respond quickly to what the government considers misleading or malicious campaigns, particularly on education, welfare and BC, SC and ST-related issues.

Chandrababu has also sought greater involvement of district in-charge ministers in resolving local problems. They have been asked to identify complicated issues and coordinate with the concerned departments rather than allowing them to remain unresolved. Land-related grievances are another area of focus. The government is looking at issuing pattas for land already in people’s possession but without formal documentation. The ruling alliance is also increasingly conscious of the political influence of younger voters. The leadership has stressed the need to communicate directly with Gen Z, particularly through facts about government programmes and development, amid growing political competition on social media. The election preparations come as the government expects Central funds to be linked to the completion of the local body election process. A workshop for MLAs scheduled for September 6 and 7 is also expected to provide political and organisational direction ahead of the polls. With the municipal elections likely to set the tone for the subsequent local body contests, the ruling alliance is seeking to turn the next few weeks into a period of intensive political and organisational preparation.



State-level Gurupujotsavam on September 5 at Vijayawada 'A Convention Centre'

Arrangements should be completed in fool-proof manner and programme should be made successful
Award presentation to 183 best teachers, lecturers, professors : District Collector Dr. G Lakshmisha

Vijayawada: September 3: District Collector Dr. G Lakshmisha held review with district officials of various departments in AVS Reddy meeting hall in Collectorate on Thursday on arrangements for State-level Gurupujotsavam programme to be held on September 5 at A Convention Centre with Vijayawada as centre. District Collector suggested that officials of all departments should work in coordination to conduct Gurupujotsavam programme being prestigiously organized by State Government in festive atmosphere, grandly and without any lapses.District Collector said 183 best teachers, lecturers, professors selected from all districts across State will be presented awards in Gurupujotsavam programme. He directed concerned officials to keep ready list of award recipients in advance and make seating arrangements in such a way that teachers sit according to sequential order in list. He suggested to provide information related to programme, invitations etc., to award recipients in time and take special care so that they do not face any inconvenience in programme premises.District Collector directed to complete in advance arrangements required for rendition of Vande Mataram, Jana Gana Mana, Maa Telugu Thalli songs in Gurupujotsavam programme. He suggested concerned officials and staff to make arrangements in coordination so that rendition of songs programme is conducted timely and orderly.District Collector directed concerned officials to provide invitation letters in time to chief guests, public representatives, higher officials, award recipients etc., attending programme. He suggested to take special care in aspects like arrival of guests, seating arrangements, stage management etc.District Collector directed R&B Department to undertake necessary barricading arrangements in programme premises in fool-proof manner. He suggested Electricity Department officials to take steps to ensure no power interruption during programme and to arrange generators as precautionary measure. He directed to check all arrangements related to power supply before programme and keep them ready.District Collector suggested to decorate with plants and greenery under aegis of Horticulture Department to make premises where Gurupujotsavam programme is conducted attractive. He directed concerned officials to also pay special attention to sanitation arrangements so that programme premises is clean.District Collector suggested to conduct security arrangements in fool-proof manner in coordination with Police Department as there is possibility of large number of dignitaries, teachers, officials attending programme. He directed Fire Department officials to take necessary precautionary measures for prevention of fire accidents. He suggested Medical Department to make necessary arrangements so that immediate medical services are available in emergency situations. Similarly, he directed Transport Department officials to manage vehicle movement, parking etc., in coordination so that those attending programme do not face any difficulties.District Collector Dr. G Lakshmisha made it clear that officials should carry out responsibilities assigned to various departments for success of Gurupujotsavam programme in full coordination and fool-proof manner. He suggested to complete all arrangements in advance without any last minute problems in conduct of programme and concerned department officials should coordinate with each other. District Collector directed officials that everyone should work in coordination to make this programme being prestigiously organized by State Government successful and make Vijayawada stand as platform for State-level Gurupujotsavam.Joint Director of Education Department Subbarao, Rajahmundry RJD Nagamani, DRO Vennela Srinu, DEO L Chandrakala, district officials of various departments, concerned officials and others participated in this review meeting.

Medical Tests for Hajj-2027 Pilgrims

Vijayawada, September 3: Medical screening, fitness certificates through Government Medical Officers Andhra Pradesh State Haj Committee Chairman Shaik Hasan Basha suggested that medical tests should be conducted and medical screening and fitness certificates should be issued for pilgrims provisionally selected for Hajj-2027 journey. In this regard, he stated in a statement released on Wednesday that a written representation has been submitted to Commissioner of Public Health and Family Welfare Department Veerapandian. He said according to Circular No. 10 dated September 1, 2026 issued by Haj Committee of India, every pilgrim provisionally selected must obtain prescribed Medical Screening and Fitness Certificate. He said this certificate must be obtained through Government allopathy medical officer officially authorized under State, Central Governments, Defence Department, Public Sector Undertakings, Autonomous Bodies. In view of large number of Haj pilgrims provisionally selected from various districts in State, he directed that appropriate instructions be given to District Medical and Health Officers of all districts to conduct necessary medical tests



for them and issue Medical Screening and Fitness Certificates in prescribed format. It was requested to take steps to complete medical tests and obtain certificates within deadline prescribed by Haj Committee of India. He said these certificates will be facilitated for submission to Haj Committee of India further and for uploading online. He said Haj pilgrims should complete medical tests and obtain fitness certificate within prescribed deadline without any delay. He requested that Medical and Health Department officials should provide fitness certificates as per instructions of State Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu with special focus to ensure that Haj pilgrimage is conducted without any inconvenience.

State Food Commission Member Sri B Kanta Rao tours NTR District for second day on implementation of National Food Security Scheme



Vijayawada, September 3: State Food Commission Member Sri B Kanta Rao officially toured NTR District for second day as part of implementation of National Food Security Scheme. As part of this tour, he conducted extensive inspections on functioning of ration shops, Anganwadi centres and mid-day meal scheme in Nunna, Potha Padu, Singh Nagar areas of Vijayawada Rural. As part of this, he first inspected ration shop in Nunna village and ordered that food grains be provided to beneficiaries quickly. Later, he visited Anganwadi centre and made several suggestions on quality of nutritious food being provided to children. Similarly, he warned that children's attendance register should be maintained effectively from time to time without blanks. He visited another centre there and enquired about functioning of Matru Vandana Yojana provided by Government for pregnant women. He warned to be alert so that mistakes are not repeated in stock records. He inspected Social Welfare Hostel and issued orders that negligence should not be shown in matter of cleanliness of surroundings and that sanitation should be done from time to time near students' bathrooms. He gave instructions to cooks that rice should be cooked without draining gruel so that food provided to students does not lose nutritional values. He visited Nunna Zilla Parishad School and inspected kitchen and classrooms. He faulted absence of Headmaster signatures in stock record and asked officials to give explanation. He congratulated donors who contributed to development of school. Finally, he inspected MK Beg High School and examined quality of students' mid-day meal scheme. He planted saplings in school premises and advised that every student



should gear up for environmental protection. He was attracted to various programmes done by school students and expressed full happiness over their talent. District Civil Supplies Officer P Vani, ICDS officials, Education department officials, various Hostel Welfare officials, Food Safety officials, Weights and Measures department officials and others participated in this programme.

Assam outpost firing: Two cops killed as colleague opens fire with AK-47

Guwahati: At least two Assam Police personnel were killed, and two others sustained injuries after a colleague allegedly opened fire with an AK-47 rifle at a police outpost in Assam's Kamrup district, officials said on Thursday. The incident took place late on Wednesday night at the Gamerimura Police Outpost under the jurisdiction of Boko Police Station. The deceased have been identified as Fazrul Ali and Indrajit Bora, who was serving as the officer-in-charge of the Gamerimura Police Outpost at the time of the incident. According to information available so far, the firing was allegedly carried out by a police personnel identified as Chiranjeev Choudhury. The circum-

Works under VB-G Ram Ji scheme should be beneficial to farmers

Construction of water pits to increase ground water Horticulture farmers should earn additional income through inter crop cultivation Eligible farmers should come forward for horticulture cultivation: District Collector Dr. G Lakshmisha



Jaggayyapeta, September 3: District Collector Dr. G Lakshmisha directed officials and field staff that works taken up under VB-G Ram Ji scheme should be with quality standards and in a way that directly benefits farmers. District Collector Dr. G Lakshmisha inspected various works taken up under VB-G Ram Ji scheme at field level in Jayanthipuram of Jaggayyapeta mandal on Thursday. First, he inspected excavation works of farm ponds being taken up in farmers' agricultural fields. He enquired details from concerned staff about progress of works, quality and benefits to farmers. Speaking on this occasion, District Collector said works being taken up through VB-G Ram Ji scheme being prestigiously implemented by Central Government should not be limited to employment generation only but should be useful to farmers on long-term basis. He suggested to take up works under scheme in planned manner so as to meet agricultural needs of farmers and contribute to increase of ground water. He suggested that construction of water pits should be in such a way as to efficiently trap rain water, thereby providing opportunity for increase of ground water. Collector said keeping present climatic conditions in view, there is need to trap rain water without wasting. He suggested to establish water pits in scientific methods in such a way as to improve availability of water for agriculture and recharge ground water. He instructed workers and concerned officials to strictly adhere to quality standards in excavation works of water pits and to take up constructions in such a way as to be useful to farmers in future also. Later, he spoke to farmer who is planting lemon saplings in extent of 1.80 acres in his agricultural field under VB-G Ram Ji scheme and enquired about benefits of scheme. On this occasion, District Collector himself planted a lemon sapling. He explained benefits of horticulture cultivation and assistance being provided through scheme

to farmer. District Collector said Government is providing financial assistance for various works required for growing saplings to farmers who cultivate horticulture crops under VB-G Ram Ji scheme. He said financial assistance upto Rs 2.60 lakh will be provided in phased manner over period of three years for digging pits for saplings, maintenance of saplings, water usage etc.

He suggested farmers to make best use of this opportunity. District Collector suggested farmers to cultivate inter-crops along with horticulture crops. He said there is possibility of getting additional income by cultivating suitable inter-crops in between main crops. He suggested Agriculture and Horticulture department officials to provide appropriate suggestions and technical advices to farmers so that economic benefit will accrue to farmers through inter-crops till horticulture gardens come to full yield. Collector suggested farmers to focus on horticulture cultivation keeping availability of water in present conditions in view. He said there is possibility of getting good economic benefits through horticulture crops even with low water usage. He said if eligible farmers come forward for horticulture cultivation in their agricultural fields, steps will be taken to provide necessary assistance including saplings free of cost under VB-G Ram Ji scheme. Collector directed officials to create extensive awareness at village level about benefits being provided to farmers through VB-G Ram Ji scheme. He suggested to identify eligible farmers and take steps to ensure benefits of scheme reach them. He made it clear that every work taken up in agricultural fields should be useful to farmers on long-term basis and there should be no compromise in quality of works. Nandigama RDO G Anil Kumar, Jaggayyapeta Tahsildar S Sirisha, DWMA APO K Ramakrishna, DLDO Lakshmi Kumari, MPDO Aruna Kumari and other officials participated in this programme.



there had been any altercation or other developments immediately before the incident. The motive behind the shooting also remains unknown. Police authorities are expected to conduct a detailed investigation into the incident.

Better medical care should be provided to poor sections

Hospital premises should be kept clean - Financial burden on poor will be avoided if quality medical care is provided in Government hospitals : District Collector Dr. G Lakshmisha



Jaggayyapeta: September 3: District Collector Dr. G Lakshmisha directed medical officers and staff to provide better medical services to poor, common people in Jaggayyapeta Area Hospital and to keep hospital premises clean always. District Collector Dr. G Lakshmisha suddenly visited Jaggayyapeta Area Hospital on Thursday and inspected medical services, facilities and performance of staff being provided in hospital. On this occasion, Collector thoroughly inspected Dialysis Centre, Laboratory, OP Department, ABHA Generations, various wards and other medical departments in hospital. District Collector directly spoke to patients undergoing treatment in hospital and enquired about medical services, medicines, tests, availability of doctors being provided to them. He instructed doctors to provide necessary medical services in time without causing any inconvenience to patients coming to hospital. Collector also inspected usage of QR scan in hospital functioning and other aspects. He directed officials to take steps to ensure effective utilization of Government medical services available to public. Speaking to doctors on this occasion, District Collector Dr. G Lakshmisha said poor and weaker sections will not face financial difficulties only when quality medical care is provided. He said though better medical services are available in Government hospitals, if adequate medical care is not provided poor will inevitably have to approach private hospitals, thereby they may face severe financial burden. Therefore, he directed doctors to provide efficient, quality and humane medical services to every patient coming to Government hospitals. Collector said providing medical assistance to poor is great thing. He suggested that getting opportunity to serve poor people as Government doctors should be considered as fortune and this opportunity should be utilized. He said to treat patients politely, listen to their problems patiently and provide necessary medical services. He made it clear that everyone should perform duties responsibly without negligence in matter of medical services. District Collector suggested to take steps to ensure that inside and outside premises of hospital are always clean. He said providing healthy environment to patients is responsibility of hospital management and staff. He directed officials to undertake continuous sanitation maintenance in wards, patients' resting places, toilets, hospital premises and other areas.

Collector made it clear that doctors and staff should attend duties on time and be available to patients. He suggested to follow punctuality in duties so that timely medical services are provided to



people coming to Government hospitals. District Collector said Government is spending crores of rupees for protection of public health. He said responsibility lies with medical officers and staff to ensure that medical facilities, infrastructure, medicines, medical equipment etc., being provided by Government fully reach poor people. District Collector suggested to continuously strive to provide better medical services to every patient coming to hospital by effectively utilizing resources being provided by Government. Hospital Superintendent Dr. A Harikrishna, doctors of various departments Dr. Hari, Dr. Lakshmi Prasanna, Dr. Aruna, Dr. Rajakumari, Dr. Jyotsna, RDO Anil Kumar and others participated on this occasion.

Jaggayyapeta: September 3, 2026 MSME Park works in Jayanthipuram should be completed expeditiously

Park should be ready with all infrastructure by time of virtual inauguration by State Chief Minister : District Collector Dr. G Lakshmisha

District Collector Dr. G Lakshmisha directed APIIC officials to complete construction works of MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) Park being set up in Jayanthipuram of Jaggayyapeta mandal expeditiously. District Collector suddenly visited MSME Park under construction in Jaggayyapeta Jayanthipuram on Thursday and inspected progress of works. Collector inspected various infrastructure works being taken up in park at field level and issued several suggestions and instructions to concerned officials. District Collector inspected internal roads, drains and other infrastructure works under construction in MSME Park. He enquired details from APIIC engineering officials about progress of respective works, quality, time of completion etc. He directed officials to complete works within stipulated time without any delay in construction works. He suggested to bring all necessary infrastructure facilities available before inauguration of park. Through this park, apart from providing necessary facilities for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, industrial development will get further encouragement. District Collector directed officials to remove bushes and unnecessary garbage at some places in park premises and keep surroundings clean. He suggested to make entire premises of park clean and attractive. District Collector said inauguration of fourth phase MSME parks across State will be conducted by State Chief Minister through virtual mode soon. In this context, as Jaggayyapeta MSME Park in our district is also going to be inaugurated, he directed officials to expedite all works already taken up and make park ready with all facilities by time of inauguration. District Collector examined map related to construction of park and enquired details from offi-

Special campaign programmes in 1,936 polling stations in district on September 5, 6 - Special opportunity for receipt of Claims, Objections in Special Intensive Revision of Voters List (SIR-2026) : District Collector Dr. G Lakshmisha



Vijayawada: September 3: District Collector Dr. G Lakshmisha explained to CEO Vivek Yadav that special campaign programmes are undertaken in 1,936 polling stations in district on September 5, 6. CEO Vivek Yadav reviewed Collectors, Election Officers through Zoom conference from Election Department office in State Secretariat on Thursday on resolution of claims and objections received in draft list of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) – 2026 and preparation of final list. On this occasion, CEO Vivek Yadav said Election Commission of India has released revised schedule on 01.09.2026 as part of Special Intensive Revision of Voters List (SIR-2026) process on request of political parties. According to revised schedule, deadline for filing Claims and Objections has been extended from 30.08.2026 to 10.09.2026. He said final date earlier fixed for claims, objections filed so far was 28.09.2026, but as per revised schedule deadline has been extended to 05.10.2026. Similarly, publication date of final voters list has been changed from 03.10.2026 to 09.10.2026. Speaking on this occasion, District Collector Dr. G Lakshmisha said steps have been taken to conduct special campaign programmes in all polling stations in district on 05.09.2026, 06.09.2026

(Saturday, Sunday). He said Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will be available in 1,936 polling stations in district from 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM along with Booth Level Agents appointed by political parties. In these special programmes, Booth Level Officers will be kept ready with Form-6, Form-6A, Form-7, Form-8 along with draft voters list, ASDD list as well as list of those to whom notices have been issued in SIR-2026 process. He said apart from receiving Claims, Objections and other applications from public, their doubts will be clarified and appropriate guidance will be given. Collector and District Election Officer Dr. G Lakshmisha said eligible adults whose names are not in draft voters list as well as youth of 18-19 years should utilize this special programme and apply for new voting rights. Collector said every application received in this programme will be immediately examined by Booth Level Officers, conduct local enquiry wherever necessary and submit to concerned Constituency Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) for further action. Collector Dr. G Lakshmisha said on this occasion that conduct of special campaign programmes will be directly supervised by District Roll Observer, District Collector, EROs, AEROs.



cial about various infrastructure facilities and their establishment. He suggested to strictly adhere to quality standards in works. Officials said with establishment of MSME Park in Jaggayyapeta area, industrial activities will further develop locally along with opportunity for encouragement to small and medium industries. Collector suggested that concerned departments should work in coordination to bring park available within stipulated time. Nandigama RDO Anil Kumar, APIIC ZM Babji, Deputy ZM Engineer G Jyothi and others participated in this programme.

Popular Director Sai Rajesh Un-veils ‘Dear Heart’ Motion Poster



Hyderabad cinema The motion poster of ‘Dear Heart’, a film presented by Bobba's Presents under the Vaarahi Arts banner and produced by Raavi Sowjanya, was unveiled by popular Cult director Sai Rajesh. “Starring Lakshman Tekumudi, Radhika Joshi, and Supriya Chavan in the lead roles, the film is directed by GD Narasimmha. Actors Suresh Guru, Prudhvi Raj, Sathya Prakash, Jabardasth Nookaraju, Jagadeeshwari, and others play key roles in the movie. “The recently released motion poster has garnered attention with its soulful portrayal of love. The poster carries an emotional narration: ““Some love stories are remembered only for a few days... but some stories remain etched in our hearts as long as time exists. Every time you came before me, even time seemed to stop for a moment and look at you. Until my last breath... every beat of my heart echoes just one name — yours. If I live, it will be with your love; if my breath stops, it

will be with your memories. Not every love story may reach its ending... but every true love deserves to be remembered in history... just like ours.” “The motion poster has created a strong impression with its emotional and romantic feel. ‘Dear Heart’ is set to be a youthful, feel-good love story. Director Sai Rajesh wished the entire team all the very best for the film. “Aravind B is the cinematographer, while S. Suhas is composing the music. The makers will announce further updates about the movie soon. “Cast “Lakshman Tekumudi, Radhika Joshi, Supriya Chavan, Suresh Guru, Prudhvi Raj, Sathya Prakash, Jabardasth Nookaraju, Jagadeeshwari, and others. Technical Crew “ “Banner: Vaarahi Arts Presented by: Bobba's Presents Director: GD Narasimmha Writers: Lakshman Tekumudi, Ajay Yarlagadda Cinematography: Aravind B Music: S. Suhas “PRO: Sai Satish

Mahesh Babu wishes success to Sandeep Reddy Vanga’s Romanchakam



Hyderabad: Telugu superstar Mahesh Babu has now backed director Venu Gopal Reddy’s romantic drama ‘Romanchakam’, which has been produced by ace director Sandeep Reddy Vanga, saying, the film looked “entertaining and promising. Taking to his X timelines to express his thoughts about the film, Mahesh Babu wrote, “#Romanchakam looks entertaining and promising... Wishing Sandeep, Pranay and the entire team the very best... You can truly see the love, passion and hard work that has gone into this project and I sincerely hope it comes back to you all in abundance.” The unexpected support from Mahesh Babu left the entire team of Romanchakam delighted with Sandeep Reddy Vanga’s production house Bhadrakali Pictures expressing its gratitude. Responding to Mahesh Babu’s post on X, Bhadrakali Pictures wrote, “WHAT A MOMENT!!! A beautiful moment in our #Romanchakam journey... And one we are going to cherish for a very long time! Thank you SUPERSTAR @urstmaheshgaru for this beautiful gesture and for making the entire team smile

so wide today. ” For the unaware, the film, which has triggered huge expectations, is slated to hit screens worldwide on Thursday. Excitement about the film shot up after the makers chose to release a glimpse video of the film a couple of weeks ago. The glimpse video begins with Sumanth Prabhask and Ananthika Sanilkumar’s characters in the film being madly in love with each other. Just when you begin to think that the couple is made for each other, the second half of the glimpse shows both characters beginning to hate each other. Adding to the excitement and intrigue is the character played by actor Upendra Limaye in the film. The glimpse gives the impression that the actor plays a cop in the film. Apart from Sumanth Prabhask, Ananthika Sanilkumar and Upendra Limaye, the film will also feature actors Venkatesh Kakumanu, Narendra Ravi, Mani Aegurla and Sai Sohan among others. Produced by Pranay Reddy Vanga, the film has cinematography by Pavan Pappula and music by Vasuki Vaibhav. Gobind Kotap has choreographed the dances in the film, which has costumes by Akunur Keerthana.

Shehnaaz Gill on exploring Bengali culture through ‘Singh Vs Kaur 2’: ‘I enjoyed it a lot’

Mumbai: Actress Shehnaaz Gill has opened up about her character Jasneet Kaur in “Singh Vs Kaur 2.” Speaking exclusively to IANS, she shared what made portraying the Bengali-rooted character an interesting experience for her. Jasneet Kaur comes from a Bengali background, while the story of the film travels across Punjab, Kolkata, and Canada. Speaking about the character, Shehnaaz shared that the role gave her an opportunity to explore different cultures, languages, and personalities. Gill stated, “It was a lot of fun, and it was a very interesting character. And I enjoyed living in that culture. And seriously, when you watch the film, the way we have presented Kolkata so beautifully, you will find it very interesting. When you watch the film on 11th September, you tell me how much you found my character interesting. I enjoyed it a lot.” Shehnaaz has opened up about being part of the ‘Singh vs Kaur 2’ franchise and addressed the possibility of comparisons with the first film. The actress said she does not feel any pressure, as her character Jasmeet is different from the one portrayed in the original. The actress explained that while the first installment featured a different char-



acter named Jasmeet, the sequel introduces her in the role. “I think, as far as comparisons are concerned, in Singh Vs Kaur, the first character was a girl named Jasmeet, who was someone else. Now, it’s me. So, I don’t have any pressure about this at all. And I don’t think there will be any point of comparison because, of course, some things have a lot of impact on the audience’s minds. But when people see me, trust me, they will fall in love with me too,” said Shehnaaz. Directed by Navaniat Singh, ‘Singh Vs Kaur 2’ stars Gippy Grewal and Shehnaaz Gill in the lead roles. The film is slated for a worldwide release on September 11, 2026.

Priyanka Chopra recalls giving Nick her number in 2017



Mumbai: Global icon Priyanka Chopra Jonas took a trip down memory lane as husband Nick Jonas and his brothers Joe and Kevin released their latest song “Listen When Sad”. She shared a nostalgic compilation of their relationship and recalled the summer when she gave Nick her number, in the summer of 2017. Priyanka shared a video featuring a series of pictures capturing happy moments from her journey with Nick, including their early days together, travels and family memories. The actress captioned the post as, “Oh yes! I do remember, the summer, I gave you, my number... circa: summer 2017 Sound on New Song Out Now | #ListenWhenSad @jonasbrothers.” For the uninitiated, the post comes as the Jonas Brothers’ new single “Listen When Sad” was released on August 28. The song nostalgically revolves around memories of young love, including the line about a summer when a girl gave someone her number. Priyanka’s compilation also included a picture from a family holiday in Goa, featuring her cousin and actress Parineeti Chopra,

brother Siddharth Chopra and other family members posing together. Parineeti, who seemed thrilled, also took to the comments section to reminisce about the trip, writing, “Dayum that Goa trip was THE ONEEEEE”. Talking about the Priyanka and Nick’s love story, while the couple’s first face-to-face meeting took place at the Vanity Fair Oscars after-party in February 2017, Nick apparently had already made the first move months earlier. On September 8, 2016, he had sent Priyanka a Twitter DM saying, “I’m hearing from a few mutual friends that we should meet.” Priyanka replied asking him to text her instead considering her team had access to her social media account, which is how Nick got her number. The two later met for drinks in New York and were subsequently invited to attend the 2017 Met Gala together by Ralph Lauren. Their relationship eventually turned serious in 2018. Nick proposed to Priyanka and the couple tied the knot in a lavish wedding ceremony in Jodhpur in December 2018. The couple are parents to their daughter Malti Marie.

Alcaraz survives first-set scare, storms into US Open third round



New York: Carlos Alcaraz acknowledged he was ‘doing everything in a rush’ in the first set against Jaime Faria but noted that increased patience and extended rallies enabled him to turn the match around and progress smoothly into the third round of the US Open. The defending champion bounced back after losing the first set to beat Portugal’s Faria 4-6, 6-0, 6-3, 6-2 in the second round at Arthur Ashe Stadium. Speaking after the match, Alcaraz said he quickly realised that his opening-set approach was not working and that he needed to change the tempo of the contest. “The first set was a little bit about adjustment for me. I would say I was playing well. I had a great point, but I think I did everything in a rush, playing short points,” Alcaraz told Jio Star. “But I had to do the complete opposite. I needed to play long rallies, be patient over the first two or three shots, and after that, go for the point. So, I just made that mistake in the first set, and after that, I realised what I had to do in the match, and everything went well.” The 23-year-old said that discussions with his team also helped him identify the tactical change needed against Faria. “The feeling that my team and I had was that I needed to play cross-court a little bit more. The first two or three shots, more cross-court, and then go for it,” he said. Alcaraz then began playing with greater composure and capitalised on er-

rors from his Portuguese opponent, including a couple of double faults. “I think he made a couple of mistakes as well, a couple of double faults that helped me get an early break, which for me was great. I was playing more calmly, and I think he just let me get back into the match and get a good result,” he added. After struggling in the opening set, Alcaraz took complete control of the contest, winning eight consecutive games and breaking Faria’s serve five times in a row. He finished with 43 winners, compared with 27 from Faria, and converted seven of his 12 break-point opportunities. The Spaniard also spoke warmly about the atmosphere at Arthur Ashe Stadium, saying the energy from the New York crowd fuels his motivation to entertain. “It’s amazing for me, going up here on Arthur Ashe, in a night session, with people going crazy. I love the energy, I love the people,” Alcaraz said. “I’m just trying to make the match fun to watch, entertaining for them, and I just love it. I can’t wait to be back in the next round, feeling that warm again, and hopefully, people enjoyed it tonight.” The victory extended Alcaraz’s Grand Slam winning streak to 16 matches and improved his US Open record to 26-3. He will next face China’s Wu Yibing, who beat James Duckworth 7-5, 6-3, 6-1.

Dhoni rules out Impact Player role in IPL 2027: Badrinath



New Delhi: Mahendra Singh Dhoni has told former Chennai Super Kings batter Subramaniam Badrinath that he does not intend to continue as an Impact Player, adding another twist to the uncertainty surrounding his participation in the 2027 Indian Premier League. The Impact Player rule could potentially have offered the veteran wicketkeeper-batter a way to prolong his IPL career further by reducing his workload, but Dhoni has made it clear that he wants to remain a full-time

wicketkeeper if he continues playing. Badrinath, however, feels the Impact Player role could actually suit Dhoni at this stage of his career, considering his limited involvement with the bat and the physical demands of keeping wickets for 20 overs. “He has personally told me that he won’t play as an Impact Player. He sees himself as a full-time keeper, and that means he has to be on the field for the full 20 overs.

East Bengal FC drawn with Hwacheon, Ho Chi Minh City, 4.25 in AFC Women's Champions League

New Delhi: East Bengal FC have been drawn alongside Hwacheon KSPO WFC (Korea Republic), Ho Chi Minh City WFC (Vietnam) and 4.25 SC (DPR Korea) in Group B of the AFC Women’s Champions League 2026-27 Group Stage, following the draw conducted at the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday. Kolkata will host Group B from November 1 to 7, marking the first time the AFC Women’s Champions League will be played in India. The Indian club secured their place in the Group Stage for the second consecutive year after finishing atop Group A of the Preliminary Stage in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, ahead of Sabah FA (Malaysia), Rovers FC (Guam), and Rajshahi Stars FC (Bangladesh). The third edition of the AFC Women’s Champions League will see 12 teams compete across three groups of four each in a centralised league format. East Bengal FC, the Indian Women’s League champions, will aim to qualify for the quarter-finals for the first time. Their opponents Hwacheon KSPO WFC are the WK League champions, while Ho Chi Minh City WFC are the Vietnamese Women’s League Champions and 4.25 SC are the DPR Korea Women’s Premier League champions. Also Read East Bengal FC drawn with Hwacheon, Ho Chi Minh City, 4.25 in AFC Women’s Champions League Advertisement Discover more Geographic Reference History India News Portal Following the Group Stage, the three group winners, three runners-up and the two best-ranked third-placed teams will advance to the Knockout Stage. The Quarter-finals will be hosted by the top four clubs - the three group winners and best-ranked runners-



up - and played in March as single-leg ties. The Semi-finals and Final - scheduled for May - will be played in a centralised venue. AFC Women’s Champions League 2026-27 Group Stage Draw Group A: Naegohyang Women’s FC (PRK), INAC Kobe Leonessa (JPN), Bam Khatoon FC (IRN), Ayeyawady FC - Women (MYA, H) Group B: Hwacheon KSPO WFC (KOR), Ho Chi Minh City Women’s FC (VIE), East Bengal FC (IND, H), 4.25 SC (PRK) Group C: Melbourne City FC (AUS), Beijing Jingtan FC (CHN), Kaya FC-Iloilo (PHI), PFC Nasaf (UZB, H) East Bengal FC’s Fixtures: November 1: Ho Chi Minh City WFC vs East Bengal FC November 4: East Bengal FC vs Hwacheon KSPO WFC November 7: East Bengal FC vs 4.25 SC .

‘You guys are like joke’: Sabalenka fumes at reporter over ‘partying and fun’ question



New York: Two-time defending champion Aryna Sabalenka lambasted a reporter during the press conference following her round 2 win at the US Open for being asked about her pre-tournament activities. Sabalenka brushed aside Polina Iatcenko 6-1, 6-1 in her round 2 outing to march into the third round as he looks to defend her title in New York. Following her dominant win over the 22-year-old Iatcenko, the World No.1 was asked about her sponsorship work in the lead-up to the Flushing Meadows. “How are you finding your mood now that the tournament has started? Obviously last week it’s lots of parties and fun and stuff like that,” a reporter asked during the press conference. Sabalenka lambasted the reporter, saying “what kind of question did he ask?” “You guys are like a joke. Parties? Fun? Why would you even say that? Why would you even think about that? Like, what kind of question is that? Just because I posted

some activities with brands and you think that I’ve been partying?” she said in the press conference. Sabalenka made light work of her opponent in the second round. She took just 54 minutes to cruise past Iatcenko and extend her streak in New York to 15 matches. “I’m happy with my level. I’ve been working really hard, but I feel like I’m kind of moving away from trying to be perfect on court,” Sabalenka said reflecting on the match. “I know that you cannot be perfect, and I’m just trying to work with what I have right now. “I’m pretty happy with the level. I’m happy with my focus. I’m happy that I’m able to focus on myself no matter what and being consistent with my focus,” she added. The top seed will now be up against Uzbekistan’s Kamilla Rakhimova in the third round as she looks to keep her march going and become just the third woman to win three straight US Open titles.

Sensex, Nifty rebound in early trade after 3-day slide; bank stocks lead recovery

Mumbai: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded in early trade on Thursday after three sessions of losses, helped by buying in blue-chip bank stocks and a firm trend in global markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 334.16 points, or 0.44 per cent, to 76,904.51 in morning trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty advanced 95.45 points to 24,009.90. Tata Steel, Adani Ports, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, Power Grid, Eternal, Larsen & Toubro, Bharti Airtel and UltraTech Cement were among the major gainers from the Sensex pack. Tech Mahindra, HCL Technologies, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, Bajaj Finance, Titan, IndiGo, Sun Pharmaceuticals and ITC were among the laggards.

Analysts said market sentiment was also supported by easing US bond yields and record foreign-currency deposit inflows under a special RBI programme aimed at strengthening foreign-exchange liquidity. “The market sentiment is likely to look up on Thursday following the slight easing of the US bond yields. A big positive from the rupee perspective is the huge mobilisation of USD 136 billion under concessional swap facility. “The USD 127 billion mobilised under the FCNR(B) scheme has come way above the consensus estimates. The implication of this from the market perspective is that the rupee will stabilise, imparting confidence to FIIs,” said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments Ltd. India mobilised a record USD 127.23 billion through foreign-currency deposits under a special central-bank programme aimed at bolstering the country’s foreign-exchange liquidity, underscoring the growing role of its overseas diaspora as a buffer during periods of market stress. Foreign Currency Non-Resident

GDP manipulation allegations ‘completely baseless’, says former Finance Commission Chief; hails new methodology

New Delhi: Former Finance Commission chairman and Institute of Economic Growth president N.K. Singh on Thursday rejected allegations questioning the methodology used by the government to calculate India’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP), calling such claims “completely baseless”. Responding to questions over former Finance Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg’s concerns regarding GDP calculations, Singh said changing the base year and updating the methodology is a normal exercise undertaken by countries to ensure that economic data reflects emerging trends and developments. “As far as I know, the allegation being made against the government is completely baseless,” Singh said. He explained that countries periodically change the base year for GDP calculations as new data becomes available and new forms of economic activity emerge. “Such revisions are intended to capture changes in the structure and performance of the economy more accurately,” he said. According to Singh, the latest changes made by the government should not be viewed as an attempt to manipulate economic data. Instead, he described the exercise as an effort to make GDP estimates more robust and comprehensive. Also Read The Indian GDP paradox: Measuring the unmeasurable dragon Advertisement Discover more History Online Newspaper Subscription Geographic



(Bank), or FCNR(B) deposits accounted for USD 127.226 billion in inflows as of August 31, the Reserve Bank of India said on Wednesday. Meanwhile, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 6,688.37 crore on Wednesday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) also purchased shares worth Rs 2,812.98 crore, according to exchange data. Vijayakumar noted that an interesting feature of Wednesday’s market decline is that the 141-point dip in Nifty happened despite Rs 9,500 crore of institutional buying, with FIIs buy figure of Rs 6,688 crore and DII buy figure of Rs 2,812 crore. “So, it is obvious that the brunt of the selling came from retail investors, proprietary traders and bears who used the market weakness to hammer the stocks down. This is likely to reverse on Thursday,” he added.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, slipped 0.17 per cent at USD 95.47 a barrel. In Asian markets, South Korea’s Kospi, Shanghai’s SSE Composite index, and Japan’s Nikkei 225 index traded higher, while Hong Kong’s Hang Seng index quoted lower.

US markets ended higher on Wednesday.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 373.93 points to settle at 76,570.35 on Wednesday, while NSE Nifty slumped 141.35 points to end at 23,914.45, extending their losses to a third consecutive session.



Reference He said the revised GDP methodology captures more data and a wider range of economic segments, allowing developments in the economy to be reflected more effectively. Singh also linked the latest GDP growth figures with India’s improved sovereign credit rating, describing the developments of the past few days as a “moment of celebration”. He noted that India had regained an ‘A’ credit rating after a gap of 38 years. India was an ‘A’-rated country in 1988 but lost the rating in 1991, and had to wait until 2026 to return to the category, he said. Singh said it was particularly significant that the credit rating upgrade coincided with the latest GDP estimates, which showed the Indian economy growing at 7.8 per cent based on the new calculation methodology. He described the simultaneous improvement in India’s credit rating and the strong GDP growth estimate as a “happy congruence”, arguing that both developments reflected the underlying strength and resilience of the Indian economy.

Tripura sends 18 MT of organic rice to Austria, Netherlands; farmer returns may rise 40 pc

New Delhi: Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) facilitated flag-off of a consignment of 18 metric tonnes of four varieties of NPOP-certified ethnic rice from Tripura for export to Austria and the Netherlands, an initiative expected to lift farmer



price realisation by up to 40 per cent, an official statement said on Thursday. The shipment of NPOP-certified ethnic rice comprised of Aromatic Kali Khasa Rice, Aromatic Harinarayan Rice, Biron Rice (white sticky rice) and Maimi Hanga Rice (Black Rice), aggregated from Farmer Producer Companies supported by the Tripura State Organic Farming Development Agency and exported by Pratithi Organic Foods, Sonapat. The export marks a significant step towards creating new market opportunities for local farmers and strengthening Tripura’s integration with international markets through organised and export-oriented production, the statement from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry said. The initiative provides an avenue for local producers and FPCs to connect with international markets and strengthens the State’s participation in the growing global demand for certified organic products. The flag-off builds on the Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet (RBSM) organised in Tripura by APEDA last month, which brought together potential international buyers and local producers and helped create linkages for market access. The present ex-

port consignment reflects the conversion of such buyer-seller interactions into concrete international business opportunities for farmers and FPCs. The exports to Austria and the Netherlands are also significant as these are discerning international markets where quality, food safety, certification and traceability are important considerations. The Agriculture Minister, Tripura, Ratan Lal Nath, said that the consignment reflects the hard work of farmers, Farmer Producer Companies and other stakeholders. He also said that the state government is committed to strengthening the organic farming ecosystem and supporting producers in meeting international standards. Chairman, APEDA, Abhishek Dev, highlighted that APEDA is helping create sustainable and organised export opportunities by connecting FPCs and farmers with international markets and strengthening certification, traceability and quality systems. He further said that APEDA would continue to work closely with the Tripura government and other stakeholders to promote the state’s unique agricultural products in global markets.

Foodgrain production estimated at 376.5 million tonnes amid robust decentralised grain storage infra



New Delhi: The country’s total foodgrain production is estimated at 376.563 million tonnes, according to the Third Advance Estimates (2025-26), which is nearly 18.8 million tonnes (5.3 per cent) higher than last year’s production of 357.732 million tonnes, an official factsheet said on Thursday. India also operates one of the world’s largest food security programmes under the National Food Security Act, 2013, that covers about 80 crore people. “India’s expanding agricultural production and food security efforts have increased the importance of decentralised grain storage infrastructure across the country. The Decentralised Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector, launched in 2023, is designed to improve storage, processing, procurement, and distribution systems through Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS),” the factsheet noted. The plan is supported through institutional coordination and financial support mechanisms. Beginning with pilot projects across 11 states/PACS with 9,750 MT of storage capacity, the initiative has expanded steadily. As of July 2026, construction had been completed in 313 PACS across the country, creating more

than 1.80 LMT of storage capacity. The framework also emphasises quality standards, transparency and operational viability, according to the factsheet. The Decentralised Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector seeks to reduce food grain wastage and strengthen food security; provide farmers with greater flexibility to avoid distress sales and secure better price realization; reduce transportation costs between procurement centres, warehouses, and Fair Price Shops; and expand the role of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) through diversification of agricultural activities. It also supports higher income opportunities for farmers. The pilot projects were implemented in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Assam, Karnataka, and Tripura. The se pilots have provided an important operational foundation and demonstrated the feasibility of local storage infrastructure at the cooperative level, said the factsheet. According to the official statement, the Decentralised Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector represents an integrated approach towards improving agricultural infrastructure through cooperatives.

Andhra ACB arrests TTD official in ghee adulteration probe

Tirupati: Andhra Pradesh's Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday arrested Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam's Deputy Executive Officer (EO) Mendu Lokanatham after searches at premises linked to him in connection with the investigation into the alleged adulteration of ghee supplied to the TTD. The ACB arrested Lokanatham after searches at his house, office and other premises were completed on Thursday. The TTD official is likely to be produced before the ACB Court later in the day. Lokanatham is currently serving as Deputy EO of the Tirumala temple. He had reportedly held key positions in the erstwhile YSRCP government. ACB officials simultaneously raided four premises linked to Lokanatham in Tirupati district on Wednesday. They seized evidence, including property documents, Rs 12 lakh cash, two kg gold, 6.5 kg silver and other material. Searches were conducted at Lokanatham's residence in Peddakapu Layout in Tirupati, the residences of his wife's brothers, Munikrishna and Ramesh, and the house of his younger brother in Yerpedu mandal. The anti-graft agency identified assets worth around Rs 5 crore. The value

could be higher according to prevailing market rates. According to the agency, a residential property in Peddakapu Layout was purchased in the name of Lokanatham's wife, Manjula. Officials also identified two house plots in Gollavanigunta, a plot in the Padiredu forest area of Vadamalapeta mandal, and a house plot in Srinivasanagar in Tirupati city in the name of his son. Four fixed deposits held in the names of Lokanatham and his son were also identified. The ACB said it conducted the searches as part of its surveillance of officials suspected of facilitating irregularities in connection with the investigation into the alleged adulteration of ghee supplied to the TTD. The Special Investigation Team (SIT), probing the alleged ghee adulteration case, had recommended that the involvement of TTD officials and other suspects linked to the irregularities be established. As a follow-up, ACB Visakhapatnam registered a case against K. Chinna Appanna, who served as personal assistant to the then TTD chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy, for his alleged role in influencing ghee suppliers. The investigation further led to the doorstep of Deputy EO Lokanatham.

Krishna water to reach erstwhile Chittoor district after Sept 10



Tirupati: With El Nino casting drought shadows over Rayalaseema, the government has begun early transfer of Krishna water through Handri-Neeva project to secure drinking water supplies in the erstwhile Chittoor district. Intermittent rains in the upper riparian States of Maharashtra and Karnataka have brought some movement into Krishna River despite weak rainfall in Andhra Pradesh. Pumping of water was started from Malyala, an upstream area of Srisailem in Kurnool district sometime back. The water reached Jeedipalli Reservoir in Anantapur district on August 11 and passed through Handri-Neeva main canal towards Cherlopalli Reservoir near Kadiri in Sri Sathya Sai district. Officials are making arrangements to release Handri-Neeva water to the erstwhile Chittoor district after September 10. Water will be supplied through Punganur Branch Canal to Thamballapalle, Madanapalle and Punganur constituencies, while Kuppam Branch Canal will carry water to Palamaner and Kuppam constituencies. The need for drinking water has increased as several tanks, ponds and agricultural borewells have started drying up. Also Read TTD Deputy EO Lokanath arrested in disproportionate assets case Advertisement Discover more Government Business News Service Digital Newspaper Access The situation has also affected irrigation in sev-

eral areas. Against this backdrop, the government decided to bring Krishna water to the region ahead of the peak water shortage period. Cherlopalli Reservoir has a storage capacity of 1.618 TMC and currently holds around 0.500 TMC. Officials plan to release water into Punganur Branch Canal once the reservoir receives around one TMC to 1.2 TMC. They expect the required storage to be reached in another week and are preparing to release water after September 10. For 2026-27, the government has decided to use Handri-Neeva water mainly for drinking water and industrial requirements. In Anantapur district, water will be supplied to the Kia company and industries in the Gollapalli area, including those under APIIC. In the erstwhile Chittoor district, priority will be given to filling Chippili and Guttakindapalle summer storage tanks in Madanapalle and summer storage tank in Punganur. Officials have also planned to fill three summer storage tanks and around 50 tanks along Punganur and Kuppam branch canals, including tanks located along the initial stretches up to Kuppam. This will be the ninth occasion that Krishna water reaches the district after completion of first and second phases of Handri-Neeva project. The longest continuous flow was recorded from August 21, 2025, to April 12, 2026, when Krishna water flowed for nearly eight months.

AP to revamp private school admission rules



Amaravati: The state government has constituted a panel to comprehensively review and revise the guidelines governing admissions in private schools under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act. The move is aimed at bringing the state's existing framework in line with statutory provisions, directions of the Supreme Court, guidelines of the Union government, and the directions of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR). Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act provides for the admission of children from economically weaker and disadvantaged sections in unaided private schools under the provisions prescribed by law. The committee will be headed by Director of School Education Thameem Ansariya, while state Project Director of Samagra Shiksha B Srinivasa Rao will serve as member convener. The panel includes senior officials from the School Education Department, Samagra Shiksha, SCERT, SIEMAT and other educational bodies. It will also have representation

from district-level education officials, a legal consultant, an NGO working in the education sector, the Andhra Pradesh Private Schools Association, and parents of children studying in unaided private schools under Section 12(1)(c). The government has entrusted the committee with the task of examining the provisions of the RTE Act and the Andhra Pradesh RTE Rules, besides studying the Supreme Court's judgments. The committee will also examine the Standard Operating Procedures issued by the NCPCR and review the operational guidelines currently followed in the state for implementing RTE Section 12(1)(c). A key responsibility of the panel will be to identify the legal and practical difficulties faced during the implementation of the provisions and recommend changes to ensure that the admission process conforms to the law and judicial directions. The proposed revised framework is expected to focus on the publication of school-wise seat matrices, centralised online admissions.

AP plans 4 convention centres across state



Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh government on Thursday approved the construction of four convention centres across the state at an estimated cost of around Rs 200 crore to create modern, multi-purpose convention facilities. The effort was aimed at promoting business, tourism, cultural events and public gatherings. N Yuvaraj, secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, said the convention centres will be built at a cost of around Rs 50-crore each. "Government, after careful examination of the matter, hereby accords Administrative Sanction to the VC&MD, APIIC Ltd., for construction of four Convention Centres at Tirupati, Anantapur, Rajamahendravaram and Amaravati, at an estimated cost of Rs 50 crore each, involving a total estimated cost of Rs 200 crore," he stated

in a GO. According to the Secretary, the Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Ltd (APIIC) has proposed to develop convention centres similar to Dr BR Ambedkar Kala Vedika in Vijayawada across the state. Accordingly, APIIC has prepared a lean design of the proposed convention centres in these four places with capacity to house 2,000 people each. After completion, the convention centres are proposed to be operated and maintained under PPP mode, on the lines of the Vijayawada Convention Centre, said the GO. Meanwhile, the vice chairman and managing director of APIIC requested the government to accord approval under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme funds for the construction of the convention centres.