

Don't take local polls lightly: Naidu to cadre

Amaravati: Chief Minister and Telugu Desam Party president Nara Chandrababu Naidu has directed party leaders and cadre to work with a sharp focus on winning the upcoming local body elections and cautioned them against taking the polls lightly. Addressing a leadership conclave at the TDP central office at NTR Bhavan here on Monday, Chandrababu stressed the need for unity and coordination among the NDA alliance partners. He said the party must convert the positive sentiment towards the coalition government into electoral success and work towards achieving in the



2029 polls results better than what was registered in the 2024 elections. The Chief Minister asked MLAs to identify 25 priority issues in each constitu-

ency and work towards resolving them with specific targets. He said legislators should focus on attracting investments, See 2nd page

Vijayawada MP Chinni earmarks Rs 15 crore for local development

VIJAYAWADA: Vijayawada Lok Sabha MP Kesineni Sivanath 'Chinni' has taken up a series of infrastructure and civic development works in the constituency under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), with a focus on addressing local needs in both urban and rural areas. For the 18th Lok Sabha term, a total of Rs 15 crore has been allocated to the Vijayawada parliamentary constituency under MPLADS. Of this, works worth Rs 5.83 crore have already been recommended, while Rs 8.86 crore remains available for further de-



velopment works, according to the MP's office. The proposed works cover drinking water supply, drainage, community halls, roads, culverts, irrigation See 2nd page

AP Insists on Sharing 100 Tmc-Ft of Krishna Water on 66:34 Ratio With TG Till July

Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh government sticks to its stand on Krishna water sharing with Telangana in the ratio of 66:34 as fixed by the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal earlier, even with the available 100 tmc-ft of water in Krishna basin up to July, 2027. This is unless rainfall in upper catchment areas brings more water. Under the influence of El Niño and less rainfall, an estimated 212 tmc-ft of water entered the Krishna basin so far this season. Out of this, only some 100 tmc-ft of water is available as on date with the remaining water used by both the states to meet the drinking water and irrigation requirements. With both AP and TG coming



up with claims and counter-claims on usage of water beyond allocation, the AP water resources department has proposed a status quo on water

sharing between both AP and TG on 66.34 ratio. TG is insisting on water sharing on a 50:50 ratio. In a recent meeting held by the Jal Shakti Ministry

in New Delhi, it was estimated that nearly 100 tmc-ft of water is available in the Krishna basin. Such water, it said, needs to be used by both AP and TG

to meet only the drinking water requirement of its people and livestock. The question of supplying the water for raising crops is ruled out, given the current situation. As for AP, its power generation at the multipurpose power house on the Nagarjuna Sagar right main canal is linked to release of water into the canal, so that such water can be used to fill tanks and overhead summer storage tanks, so as to meet the drinking water needs of the people. There should be no diversion of water, and this would be ensured with the deployment of patrolling teams all along the canal's course. Close to People AP water re- See 2nd page

Farmers Voluntarily Pool 22.68 Acres For Amaravati



Farmers and landowners from Harischandrapuram village have voluntarily handed over 22.68 acres to the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) as part of the second phase of land pooling for Amaravati. On Tuesday, Hyderabad-based landowners G. Harish and G. Lakshmi Soujanya submitted consent documents to APCRDA officials for 5.55 acres. Harish contributed 4.11 acres and Lakshmi Soujanya 1.44 acres. The agreements were handed over to

OSD K. Swarna Mary at the local unit office. Also Read - Ex-Mayor Seeks Probe Into Misuse Of Nellore Mayor's Office Advertisement In a parallel development, family members of Damineneni Srinivas came forward to pool 17.13 acres. Srinivas contributed 9.74 acres, while Damineneni Venkumamba offered 7.39 acres. The consent papers were handed over to Additional Commissioner A. Bhargava Teja at the APCRDA headquarters in Rayapudi.



Andhra Pradesh: Air India Express To Start Vizag-Bangkok Flight From Oct. 27

VISAKHAPATNAM: The Andhra Pradesh Air Travellers Association said Air India Express was proposing to commence direct, non-stop flights between Visakhapatnam (Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport, Bhogapuram) and Bangkok starting October 27. Association president O. Naresh Kumar said flight IX 904 will depart from ASR International airport at 11.30 am and arrive at Bangkok at 4 pm every Tuesday and Friday. In the return direction flight IX 903 will depart Bangkok at 2.10 am and arrive at ASR International airport at 3.55 am every Wednesday and Saturday. One-way economy starts from approximately ₹16,300 to ₹19,400, Naresh Kumar said.

CM To Visit Konaseema, Distribute Pattadar Passbooks

VIJAYAWADA: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu would be in the Dr BR Ambedkar Konaseema district on Wednesday to participate in events related to the state government's flagship 'Mee Bhoomi-Mee Hakku' programme. The visit's focus would be on strengthening land rights, distributing pattadar passbooks and addressing long-pending issues related to ground rent lands. According to the official schedule, the CM would reach Irusumanda in Ambajipeta mandal at 10.45am and hold a meeting with elected representatives and officials. He would then proceed to Jayanthi Nagar in Machavaram village. He would interact with farmers between 10.55 and 11.35am, discussing agriculture, irrigation, land rights and land records. Panduvaari peta village, where he would distribute pattadar passbooks to eligible beneficiaries under the 'Mee Bhoomi-Mee Hakku'



initiative. He's expected to explain steps for protecting land rights, resolving re-survey issues, implementing revenue reforms, and safeguarding land records through advanced technology. Later, from 3.15pm to 4.45pm, he would participate in a cadre meeting at Budungapeta before returning to the CM camp office at 5.40pm. Nearly 4 lakh additional passbooks are ready for distribution in 783 villages this month. The programme aims to cover 56 lakh passbooks across 8,582 villages by next March. A significant announcement is expected during the visit on ground rent lands in Konaseema.



‘Literacy’ goes way beyond mere reading and writing

As the world marks International Literacy Day on September 8, it is time to rethink what literacy means in the twenty-first century. For decades, literacy was understood simply as the ability to read and write. Today, that definition is no longer sufficient. In an era where education, banking, healthcare, governance, and employment are increasingly digital, literacy has become the ability to understand, adapt, and participate meaningfully in society. The challenge before us is no longer merely getting children into classrooms. It is ensuring that they learn, remain in school, and acquire the skills needed to thrive in a rapidly changing world. UNESCO describes literacy as the foundation for acquiring knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that promote equality, justice, diversity, and peaceful coexistence. In other words, literacy is not merely an educational achievement; it is a pathway to dignity, citizenship, and opportunity. It empowers people to make informed decisions, access public services, participate in democratic processes, and improve their quality of life. This broader understanding reflects how literacy has evolved. Alongside reading and writing, it now includes foundational numeracy, digital literacy, financial literacy, media literacy, and the capacity for lifelong learning. These skills are becoming essential for navigating everyday life.

According to UNESCO (2024), nearly 739 million youth and adults still lack basic literacy skills. Even more concerning is that four in every ten children fail to achieve minimum reading proficiency, while 272 million children and adolescents were out of school in 2023. These figures remind us that expanding access to schools, though important, does not automatically translate into meaningful learning. India reflects this contradiction: The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) shows that school enrolment among children aged 6-14 years has reached an impressive 98.1 per cent. But the learning outcomes tell a different story. Nearly one in four rural youth aged 14-18 years cannot fluently read a Class II-level text in their own language. Around 43 per cent struggle to read simple English sentences, while almost half cannot solve a basic three-digit by one-digit division problem. These are not isolated statistics. They reveal a deeper learning crisis where years spent in school do not always result in foundational competencies. A child, who progresses through the education system without acquiring basic reading or mathematical skills, carries those disadvantages into higher education, employment, and adulthood.

Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has rightly expanded the idea of literacy beyond reading and writing to include comprehension, basic computation, critical thinking, and essential life skills. The emphasis on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) acknowledges that these early learning skills are the building blocks for all future education. However, another challenge often receives less attention - the retention crisis. Millions of children continue to leave school before completing secondary education. Estimates suggest that around 46 million children aged 6–17 years remain outside the formal education system. While the UDISE+ data indicates that dropout rates at the preparatory stage have declined to 1.8 per cent.

Don’t take local polls lightly: Naidu to cadre

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generating employment, and completing developmental works according to priority. He offered to provide Rs 1 crore for each constituency to address urgent local issues. Chandrababu asked party leaders to identify capable women leaders and provide them opportunities under the women's reservation. He said the best practices adopted by MLAs would be showcased at the next meeting. Emphasising the importance of leadership, Chandrababu said holding a position alone does not make a person a leader. True leadership, he said, lies in resolving people's problems with determination. He urged MLAs and party leaders to remain constantly connected with the public and party cadre. The Chief Minister said an emotional bond with people and party workers was more important than money in elections. Referring to electoral success, Naidu said leaders who win repeatedly, even during adverse political conditions, should be studied and their methods understood. The TDP president cautioned leaders against arrogance after winning elections, saying the public constantly observes the conduct and behaviour of its representatives. Chandrababu stressed that leaders must follow the ‘coalition dharma’ and avoid disputes among NDA partners over issues such as banners and posters. A major focus of the conclave was strengthening the party's organisational and leadership structure, particularly among MPs, first-time MLAs, MLCs and emerging leaders. The two-day programme includes sessions on the TDP's ideology, organisational development, leadership, welfare, political and economic empowerment and the Swarnandhra Vision. Chandrababu asked party leaders to remain active on social media and effectively counter what he described as “malicious propaganda” by the YSR Congress Party. He said leaders should promptly communicate facts to the public and counter misinformation, instead of ignoring it. The TDP has already provided leadership training to more than 8,500 leaders and party workers, with the conclave forming part of the party's broader effort to prepare its leadership and organisation for future political battles, particularly the local body elections.

Vijayawada MP Chinni earmarks Rs 15 crore for local development

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facilities and development of burial and cremation grounds. “Among the major works taken up or proposed are the supply and installation of a 2,300 HP pump set, along with electrical and mechanical works, for the lift irrigation scheme on the Krishna river at Vedadri in Jaggaiahpet mandal. A culvert and retaining wall have also been proposed across Mangalavagu at Kammavaripalem in Raghavapuram village of Nandigama mandal. “In Vijaya wada city, construction of community halls in the 31st and 60th divisions, including the Vambay Colony area, has been taken up. Pipeline works have also been proposed from P&T Colony to Gurunanak Colony Road in the 11th division and from Autonagar ELSR to Gurunanak Colony Road. “In Munaga cherla village of Nandigama mandal, a gravity main pipeline and a 40-KL sump have been proposed. Improvement works, including MS grills, glass interiors, ceiling, flooring and wall tiling, have also been proposed for the community hall in the 17th ward of Tiruvuru. “A twin-vent pipe culvert with 1,000-mm diameter pipes has been proposed across Mamilla Vagu in Gollamandala village of A Konduru mandal. “Funds have also been earmarked for the construction of a Women’s Bar Association building at the City Civil Court Complex in Vijayawada. Other works include construction of a community hall at Balusupadu village in Jaggaiahpet mandal and development works at the SC cremation ground in Malkapuram village. “For the 2026-27 financial year, the MP has proposed additional works based on local requirements. These include construction of a community hall in an SC locality of Penugan chiprolu mandal, a slab culvert at Anigandlapadu SC Colony and a compound wall for the SC cremation ground at Magallu village in Nandigama mandal.

Drainage and connectivity-related works have also been proposed in Makkapeta village of Vatsavai mandal, including a CC drain from the sump well to Ramaraju Cheruvu, a culvert near the tank and another CC drain from the residence of Chukkapalli Nageswara Rao towards Ramaraju Cheruvu. “The MP’s office said priority was being accorded to projects that could directly benefit local communities. The MP is also coordinating with the concerned departments to ensure that works taken up with public funds adhere to prescribed quality standards.

Speaking on the development initiatives, Kesineni Sivanath said balanced development of all areas under the Vijayawada parliamentary constituency remained his priority. He said local issues brought to his notice would be taken up with the concerned authorities and addressed, wherever possible, using available MPLADS funds. “He further said efforts would continue to strengthen basic infrastructure and improve civic amenities across the constituency.



Rs 37,500 crore coal gasification scheme receives seven bids in 1st round: Ministry

New Delhi: The first round of the Centre’s Rs 37,500 crore scheme to promote surface coal and lignite gasification has received seven applications from major corporates and public sector undertakings, an official statement said on Tuesday. According to the Ministry of Coal, the applications include three proposals from Adani Enterprises Ltd for urea production, while Gallantt Ispat Ltd has applied for a project producing direct reduced iron and syngas. NTPC Ltd has submitted an application for synthetic natural gas, Shyam Sel & Power Ltd for syngas and Talcher Fertilisers Ltd for urea, according to the ministry. The ministry said the response demonstrates growing industry confidence in coal gasification as a tool for strengthening energy security, reducing imports and supporting industrial development. “When we said reports of ‘no takers’ were premature, we were confident that industry would respond and it has, decisively. Seven applications in the very first round, including from some of India’s largest industrial houses and public sector undertakings, are a clear vote of confidence in the scheme and in India’s coal gasification mission. The market has spoken and it has spoken loudly,” a senior Ministry of Coal official said. The scheme — approved by the Union Cabinet in May — has a total financial outlay of Rs 37,500 crore and aims to promote the conversion of domestic coal and lignite into higher-value products such as syngas, methanol, ammonia, urea and hydrogen. It seeks to reduce India’s dependence on imports of LNG, urea, ammonia and methanol, which together were valued at around Rs 2.77 lakh crore in FY25, the ministry said. The scheme also supports India’s target of achieving 100 million tonnes of coal gasification capacity by 2030, including 75 million tonnes of capacity under the scheme. It is expected to catalyse investments of up to Rs 3 lakh crore and generate direct and indirect employment opportunities. The latest scheme builds on the Rs 8,500 crore financial incentive scheme approved in January 2024 under which eight gasification projects are currently under implementation. Moreover, the government opened the second round of the scheme on Tuesday. As per the RFP, application windows will open at two-month intervals, providing eligible entities with further opportunities to submit proposals. The first-round applications were submitted after the RFP was issued on July 7, according to the government.

AP Insists on Sharing 100 Tmc-Ft of Krishna Water on 66:34 Ratio With TG Till July

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sources department sources said that out of the estimated available 212 tmc-ft of water in Krishna basin this season, Telangana has used excess quantities of water beyond its share. In such a scenario, AP wants the currently available 100 tmc-ft to be used as per a 66.34 ratio --with no state drawing excess water beyond its allocated share. A senior official from the AP water resources department said, “As Telangana is estimated to have drawn excess water this season, we will insist on compliance with the 66.34 ratio of the available 100 tmc-ft water usage between AP and TG until next July, so as to avoid any issues of conflict.” Krishna water is not allowed into the irrigation canals on a regular basis even to meet the drinking water needs of the people, salinity levels in the water will rise. This, it says, will impact the cultivation of crops in the command areas. Infographics Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-1 assessed the quantum of water available in Krishna basin in undivided AP to be 811 tmc-ft in 1976 After bifurcation, Krishna water allocation was fixed at 512 tmc-ft for AP and 299 tmc-ft for TG in 2015. IN the 12 years since 2014, eight years recorded surplus water and four year deficit in Krishna basin Though sharing of Krishna water in a ratio of 66:34 between AP and TG was made as an interim arrangement having validity for a year, it is in vogue for the last 12 years .

A LEGAL AWARENESS PROGRAM PROGRAM ON DRUGS ABUSE AEGS BY SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE cum NAMPALLY CRIMINAL COURT SECRETARY DLSA Smt A SRIDEVI

Youth Must Stay Away from Drugs: Smt. A. Sridevi

KING DAILY NEWS PAPER Crime Beuro chief AMEER HUSSAIN Hyderabad, Khairatabad: A legal awareness program on drug abuse, prevention, and related legal aspects was organized at the Government Degree College, Khairatabad, under the aegis of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Sessions Division, Nampally, Hyderabad. An anti-drug awareness rally involving the students was also conducted as part of the event.

Smt. A. Sridevi, Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority (Sessions Division, Nampally, Hyderabad), attended the program as the chief guest. Addressing the students, she highlighted that drug use has a severely adverse impact on the health, education, future, and family life of the youth. She advised students to steer clear of bad company, drug use, and other addictions.

She explained that activities such as drug trafficking, sale, possession, and consumption are criminal offenses and that, under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS Act), severe punishments and fines may be imposed depending on the gravity of the offense. She emphasized the importance of students being legally aware of drug-related offenses.

She also noted the necessity of providing medical and rehabilitative support to individuals addicted to drugs whenever required. An appeal was made for everyone to act responsibly by informing the relevant authorities whenever they have information regarding drug use or trafficking, thereby helping to create a drug-free society. To raise public awareness about the harmful effects of drugs, college stu-



dents, faculty, and staff organized an awareness rally featuring slogans such as "Say No to Drugs" and "Drug-Free Society." Through the rally, they conveyed a message urging people to stay away from drugs and to adopt a healthy, responsible lifestyle.

Police officials educated the students on various topics, including the legal actions taken against drug trafficking and use, precautions youth should take to avoid falling prey to drugs, and the procedure for reporting suspicious activities to the authorities.

College Principal Mr. Prabhu, Vice Principal Mr. Vinayaka Kumar, faculty and staff, Para-Legal Volunteer (PLV) Mr. Mohammad Abdul Khader, police officials, and students participated in the event.

Vijayawada, September 8, 2026Clean villages will lead to Swarna Andhra

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha Stay away from plastic, step closer to cleanliness Building a healthy society with clean surroundings District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha in Swachhata Rally



District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said that goal of Swarna Andhra will be realized only with construction of clean villages and called upon everyone to consider cleanliness as a social responsibility and participate. On Tuesday, Swarna Andhra - Swachha Andhra awareness program was organized under auspices of District Panchayat Office in Jupudi village of Ibrahimpatnam mandal. District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha participated in program and walked along with people, officials and staff in awareness rally organized in village. As part of Swachhata rally, placards displaying messages like plastic use should be avoided, village should be kept clean, garbage should be managed properly were displayed. Speaking on occasion, Collector said that wealth can be created from garbage by properly segregating and managing garbage generated in village. He visited Wealth from Waste Creation Center and planted saplings there. He instructed officials to focus on sanitation management, waste col-

lection, segregation and reuse in villages. He said that sanitation management becomes more efficient by segregating garbage from home itself. He created awareness among people about damage caused to environment by single-use plastic. He suggested using eco-friendly alternatives like jute and cloth bags instead of plastic covers. Collector asked people to cooperate in making village plastic-free by recognizing reducing plastic use as responsibility of every citizen. Collector said that cleanliness is not just responsibility of government departments, but clean villages can be built only with participation of people. Collector Lakshmisha called upon everyone to fulfill their part of responsibility from household cleanliness to village cleanliness, from village cleanliness to healthy society, and from healthy society towards Swarna Andhra. DPO T. Seethamahalakshmi, MPDO Shakuntala, DLPO Raghavan, Deputy MPDO Manoj, local people and others participated in program.

State Government award for journalists' talent

Applications invited for 2025 Best Journalist Awards in 12 categories Cash awards from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 1 lakh Applications by September 28 Director of State Information and Public Relations Department K.S. Viswanathan

Vijayawada, September 8: State government has decided to present Best Journalist Awards in 12 categories for year 2025 to encourage and honour journalists who have rendered remarkable service in field of journalism and shown professional excellence. Director of State Information and Public Relations Department K.S. Viswanathan said in a statement that applications are invited from journalists belonging to respective categories to select eligible candidates for these awards. He suggested that eligible journalists should send their applications to following address by 5.00 pm on September 28, 2026.

Director, "Information and Public Relations Department," 2nd Floor, NTR Administration Building, "Pandit Nehru Bus Stand," Vijayawada - 520013.

Awards selected by Committee at its discretion For following three awards, without receiving separate applications from journalists, Selection Committee will select awardees at its discretion. V.R. Narla Lifetime Achievement Award Kokku Ahobala Rao Best Photo Journalist Award Award for editors of small and medium newspapers in state in name of Madduri Annapurnayya Awards selected by Committee based on applications 1. Kashinadhuni Nageswara Rao Panthulu Best Journalist Award "Cash Prize: Rs.2 lakh Eligibility: Full-time journalists who have at least 10 years of experience in journalism profession and have shown professional excellence are eligible to apply. Only journalists working in Andhra Pradesh or outside state for reputed Telugu and English newspapers or periodicals published from Andhra Pradesh should apply. 2. Best Rural Journalist Awards "Three awards in names of eminent journalists will be given to three journalists who have shown remarkable talent in rural journalism. Khasa Subbarao Best Rural Journalist Award Mutnuri Krishnarao Best Rural Journalist Award Maddukuri Chandrasekhara Rao Best Rural Journalist Award "Cash prize for each award: Rs.1 lakh Eligibility: Journalists with at least 3 years of experience

in rural areas in Telugu and English dailies published from Andhra Pradesh are eligible to apply. Former journalists who have gained considerable experience in rural reporting can also apply.

3. Savitribai Phule Best Women Journalist Award

Cash Prize: Rs.1 lakh

Eligibility: Women reporters and desk journalists working in Telugu and English newspapers or periodicals published in state are eligible.

4. Best Cartoonist Award "Cash Prize: Rs.1 lakh" Eligibility: Cartoonists working in Telugu and English dailies published from Andhra Pradesh can apply. Must have at least 10 years of experience.

5. Abul Kalam Azad Best Urdu Journalist Award

Cash Prize: Rs.1 lakh

Eligibility: Those who have worked as journalists in Urdu newspapers and have at least 10 years of experience can apply.

6. Best Electronic Media Journalist Award

Cash Prize: Rs.1 lakh

Eligibility: Journalists with at least 5 years of experience working in electronic media channels and cable networks broadcast in Andhra Pradesh can apply. Journalists working in Doordarshan and Radio are also eligible.

7. Best Video Journalist Award

Cash Prize: Rs.1 lakh

Eligibility: Video journalists with at least 5 years of experience working in electronic media channels can apply. Application Procedure - Important Conditions Journalists should apply individually with full details of organization they work for, job details and their qualifications. At least 5 articles, news stories, photos, cartoons or video clippings should be attached. They should have been published/broadcast in calendar year 2025 (from 01-01-2025 to 31-12-2025). Articles can also be submitted in form of photocopies. Selection Committee's decision is final. If Committee feels that sufficient number or applications with appropriate standards have not been received in any category, it shall have power to withhold announcement. Complete information can be viewed at: <https://mediarelations.ap.gov.in/media>

BRS accuses Revanth Reddy of conspiring attack on KCR's Erravelli residence



Hyderabad: The main Opposition BRS has accused the Congress government of plotting an attack on party chief and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao's Erravelli residence, with support from the police. Amid rising tensions after a large number of Congress activists led by its legislators reached Erravelli on

Tuesday, BRS working president KT Rama Rao, senior leaders T Harish Rao and others rushed to the spot to prevent any untoward incidents. The BRS MLAs demanded cases against Congress legislators and police officials allegedly involved in the plan.

Rising AI Star Women on RISE platform

**First batch of AI 4 Assure completes training
Full-time job opportunities for some among 31
Work from home, freelance employment for rest
Our self-help group women prove their mettle
District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha presents certificates and offer letters
Says efforts are on to make district a frontrunner in Orange Economy**



Vijayawada, September 8: District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said that AI 4 Assure programme was started at RISE centre in Guntupalli with aim of adding modern technical skills to artistic talent hidden in rural self-help group women and shaping them into successful entrepreneurs, and through it 31 people have successfully completed training in first phase. Certificate and offer letter distribution programme was held on Tuesday at RISE centre, Guntupalli in Ibrahimpatnam mandal for 31 people who completed 45-day training programme with cooperation of Sintilla Digital Academy CEO Kemburu Satish Kumar, who came forward as a guide inspired by state government's prestigious P4 programme. Among women who completed training online as well as offline in Hyderabad, four got full-time jobs in Hyderabad in Cinematic AI segment, while rest got freelance and work-from-home opportunities. Speaking on occasion, Collector appreciated progress being made by women in modern technology fields like AI and wished that they should utilize these opportunities and rise to higher level. He said continuous efforts are being made through RISE to enhance skills, confidence and employment opportunities for women in line with goal of One Family - One Entrepreneur. He said skills like AI content creation, AI image generation, AI video creation, AI voice and audio, social media marketing, prompt engineering were taught in training. He said according to an estimate, lakhs of vacancies are currently available in India for jobs requiring such skills. He said to grab

them, one must keep improving skills from time to time. He said innovative programmes are being conducted through RISE centre as part of efforts to make NTR district No.1 in Orange Economy, which creates economic value through creativity, ideas, skills, arts and digital content. He said a special Content Create Lab has also been made available at Collectorate and enthusiasts should make best use of it. Collector Lakshmisha said that collective steps are being taken in line with goals of Viksit Bharat and Swarna Andhra and initiative is being shown in accordance with directions of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and Hon'ble IT Minister. He thanked Sintilla Digital Academy Satish Kumar for being part of such a good programme. RISE is right platform for dawn of hopes: K. Satish Kumar, Sintilla Digital Academy Sintilla CEO K. Satish Kumar said RISE is contributing greatly to expand employment opportunities by adding modern technical skills to talent, creativity and ideas present in rural women. He said it enables hopes to dawn in life and to fulfill them. He said special initiative and commitment of District Collector was main reason for success of programme. He said by providing training in skills like AI, digital content creation, branding, social media marketing, design and video production to rural self-help group women, their ideas are getting new shape, their products new market and their lives new opportunities. DRDA PD ANV Nanchara Rao, RISE Manager B. Tejaswini and others participated in programme.

Swaramadhuri Group 5th Anniversary celebrations held grandly in Chintalapudi

Today's generation should be taught culture and respect for elders: Garapati Chowdary

Chintalapudi, September 8: 5th anniversary celebrations of Swaramadhuri Group were held grandly in Chintalapudi. Speaking as chief guest at programme held at local VKM Function Hall on Tuesday, Tapana Foundation founder and BJP leader Garapati Sitaramanjaneya Chowdary said 5th anniversary celebrations of 'Swaramadhuri Group' conveyed unity to society and value of family bonds. He praised affection of Swaramadhuri family members and progress achieved by organization. He said it is delightful that group, which



started with just 150 members, has expanded to thousands of members today.

100 percent literacy is the goal We will make NTR district a 100 percent literate district through 'Aksharandhra' programme District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha



Vijayawada, September 8: District administration, Education Department and concerned departments are working in coordination with goal of making district a 100 percent literate district, District Collector said. 60th International Literacy Day celebrations were held grandly on Tuesday at KBN College, Vijayawada under auspices of District Adult Education Department. District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha attended programme as chief guest. Programme started with collective singing of Vande Mataram. Speaking on occasion, District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said literacy is not just learning to read and write but is a key tool for social, economic and technological development of a person. He said responsibility of effectively implementing programmes undertaken by government to ensure literacy for everyone lies on everyone. Collector revealed that as part of 'Aksharandhra' programme, target was set to make 97,047 people literate for year 2025-26, and 96,686 people were made literate, achieving 99 percent literacy. District Collector said that enrollment target of 88,890 people for year 2026-27 has been completed. He said continuous efforts will continue to make remaining people literate and take district towards 100 percent literacy. Collector said participation of field staff, Education Department, Adult Education Department, voluntary organizations, public representatives, students and various sections of so-



ciety is very important in implementation of literacy programmes. District Collector said that in present technological era, along with general literacy, digital literacy is also necessary for everyone. He said digital knowledge is very useful for utilizing government welfare schemes, digital services, online transactions and information technology. He said there is need to create awareness so that at least one person in every family has digital knowledge. Prizes and certificates were presented by District Collector to winners of essay writing competitions held on topic "Importance of literacy - Responsibility of everyone" and winners of elocution competitions held on topic "Digital literacy in digital age". Collector congratulated winning students and suggested that students should also be partners in widely propagating importance of literacy in society. Officials, staff, students and others who participated in programme took literacy movement pledge. On this occasion, they pledged that everyone should extend their cooperation to identify illiterates in district and provide literacy to them. District Education Officer L. Chandrakala, ICDS PD SK Ruksana, Adult Education Department DD G. Prabhakar, AD Haji Baig, CDO Srikanth, HM Hanumantha Rao, Assistant Project Officer G. Prasad Rao, M. Singayya, College Vice Principal, officials, staff, students and others participated in programme.

Over 58,000 forms of Ganesha: Man from Hyderabad builds world record Ganesh sanctuary

Hyderabad: Amassing over 58,000 different forms of Ganesha, the remover of obstacles, requires a lifetime of absolute devotion and boundless passion. Have you ever come across such a collection that spans continents, eras, and mediums to reach a stunning 58,498 Ganesha-related items? For Secunderabad-based Pabsetti Shekhar, the monumental achievement did not happen overnight. It took him over five decades of relentless pursuit, meticulous curation, and unwavering faith, which eventually culminated in a unique and gigantic collection of various forms of Ganesha. Walking into his repository feels like stepping into a sprawling spiritual sanctuary, where rows upon rows of Ganesha idols, ranging from towering, intricately carved metallic statues to delicate miniature figurines, line custom-built shelves from floor to ceiling. Showcasing an astonishing variety of shapes, postures, and artistic expressions from dozens of countries including Japan, Egypt, Tibet, and South Africa, the sheer volume and scale of the Ganesha collection is mind-boggling. Shekhar's meticulously maintained repository spans 21,622 Ganesh idols, 19,708 postcards, 15,582 photos, 1,105 big posters, 260 Ganesha puranas and books, 250 key chains, and 205 audio-video cassettes, featuring all 33 traditional forms of Ganesha crafted from materials as diverse as gold, silver, terracotta, and



sandalwood. What began in July 1973 as a childhood inspiration sparked by a small Plaster of Paris (POP) Ganesha idol at the Shirdi Saibaba Temple has evolved into a lifelong pursuit for Shekhar. "I have always been a follower and admirer of Ganesha. It's not possible to sustain my passion and devotion unless I have support from my family. I have made a lot of sacrifices to build this collection. Ultimately, I aim to make the next generation aware of the rich cultural heritage and profound significance of Lord Ganesha and preserve these sacred forms for posterity," he says. In addition to holding titles from the Guinness World Records (2014, 2015), Limca Book of Records, Exclusive World Record and the Kings Book of World Records for 2024, Shekhar is currently working on a book titled Vishwa Vinayaka covering global and Indian Ganesha temples to benefit social causes. He can be reached at pabsetti shekhar@gmail.com or 9246505368.

‘Soggadila’ Song from ‘Mana Doctor Baabe’ Released



Hyderabad cinema: Presented by Sharanya-Sudhiksha, the film 'Mana Doctor Baabe' is being produced by Kruthakshi under the Skanda Films banner. Sri Skanda is making his debut as a hero with this film. Mohana Siddhi and Sruthi Shankar are playing the female leads. The film is written, screenplay-ed and directed by Theru Chalapathi Kumar Puvvala. The teaser of the movie has already impressed audiences. "“'Mana Doctor Baabe' is a family entertainer set against a village backdrop, packed with comedy and emotions. As part of the film's promotions, the makers have now released the song 'Soggadila'. "The 'Soggadila' song looks extremely pleasant and engaging. The chemistry between the hero and heroine, along with the heroine's playful antics, is sure to entertain audiences. The lyrics penned by Giridhar Ragolu, along with the vocals by Lipsika and Sudhanshu, stand out as the

major highlights of the song. The catchy tune composed by Manoj Kumar Boosam adds to its appeal. The beautiful rural backdrop further enhances the visual charm of the video song.

The release date of the film will be announced soon. Kishore Boyidapu is handling the cinematography, while Selva Kumar is the editor.

Cast : Sri Skanda, Mohana Siddhi, Sruthi Shankar

Technical Crew

Banner: Skanda Films

Presented by: Sharanya-Sudhiksha

Producer: Kruthakshi

Director: Theru Chalapathi Kumar
Puvvala

Cinematographer: Kishore Boyidapu

Editor: Selva Kumar

Fights: Devaraj Master

Choreography: Gopi Raay

PRO: Sai Satish

Kumar Sanu honours Asha Bhosle's legacy on her birthday: 'Her music will never leave us'

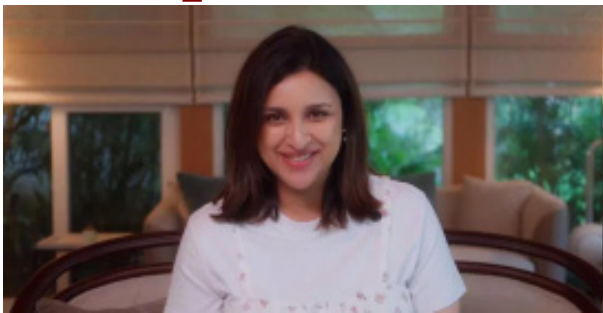
Mumbai: Playback singer Kumar Sanu paid a heartfelt tribute to legendary singer Asha Bhosle on her birthday. He remembered not only her iconic voice but also the person behind the musical legacy she created over the decades. Taking to Instagram, Kumar reflected on Asha Bhosle's extraordinary contribution to music and said her work would continue to resonate with generations to come. The veteran actor also recalled feeling fortunate to have shared the same musical journey and to have known the legendary artiste personally. Sharing his image with Asha, Kumar Sanu wrote, "Today, on Asha Ji's birthday, I find myself remembering not just the legendary voice the world knew, but the beautiful person behind it. There are some artists who leave behind songs, and then there are those who leave behind an entire legacy. Asha Ji was truly one of them. Her voice brought life to countless emotions and will continue to live on in our hearts and in the music she gifted to generations." "I feel fortunate to have shared the same musical journey and to have known her. Her presence will always be deeply missed, but her music will never leave us. Happy Birthday in heaven, Asha Ji." Kumar Sanu and Asha Bhosle lent their



voices to several memorable duets during the 1990s and 2000s. Among their notable collaborations were songs such as “Dekh Ke Yeh Roomal” and “Khat Maine Tere Naam Likha” from *Bekhudi* (1992), along with the playful track “Mummy Daddy Meri Shaadi Karva Rahe Hain” from the same film. The duo also lent their voices to “Mujhko To Kuchh Kuchh Hota Hai” from “*Tyagi*”, composed by Bappi Lahiri, and “Maina Bol Rahi” from *Kanyadaan*.” Sudesh Bhosale, Soni Razdan, and several other members of the film and music fraternity paid tribute to the legendary singer on her birth anniversary.

‘Shaque’, led by Parineeti Chopra, to release on Netflix on September 24

New Delhi: “Shaque: Trust No One”, featuring actor Parineeti Chopra, is set to release on Netflix on September 24. The project is directed by Rensil D’Silva and is produced by Alchemy Films. It is created by D’Silva and Siddharth P Malhotra and also serves as the series debut for the actor. Chopra shared the news with a post on her Instagram handle on Monday, which featured the poster of the series with the release date over it. “Shaque ki sui chal padi hai, tareekh nazdeek aa rahi hai. Watch ‘Shaque’, out 24 Sept, only on Netflix,” read the caption.



YouTuber Nandu Was Reportedly Expected to Make a Wild-Card Entry Into Bigg Boss Telugu 10



It is well known that popular YouTuber Rama Nandana was arrested at Rajiv Gandhi International airport immediately after landing the flight. Although she covered her face with a mask and black cloth, most of the media covered her arrest. As police officials already issued a look-out notice in multiple cheating cases, she was detained by the immigration officials at the airport. Earlier, a case was booked at Ibrahimpatnam police station against Rama Nandana who rose to fame with her YouTube channel 'Nandu's World'. Even her husband Madhukar and his father are also involved in this case as they allegedly collected large sums of money by promising jobs in London. Well, this case was filed by Mamillapalli Sivakranthi Kumar, a UK resident at Ibrahimpatnam Police Station in Andhra Pradesh's NTR district. So, Nandana will be shortly handed over to the concerned police officials. This FIR has Jagarlamudi Madhukar as accused number one, Rama Nandana as accused number two and

Madhukar's father Mohan as accused number three. Although Madhukar's father still resides in AP, LOC was issued for Nandana and Madhukar a few days ago who reside in London. But our question is why did Rama Nandana travel to Hyderabad amid this chaos. As she already knew about the LOC, what made her board the flight? Some reports claim that Nandana travelled to Hyderabad to take part in Bigg Boss 10 Telugu reality show which was launched on 6th September. According to the sources, she was supposed to enter the house as a wild-card contestant in the coming weeks. But now, with her arrest the case seems to be on the right track. Further sources also claim that even Madhukar is expected to fly to Hyderabad amid Nandana's arrest. But some reports also claim that the couple are hoping to solve the case going through an out-of-court settlement. This might solve their legal issues and make them fly back to London without any legal complications.

Ashmita Bakshi reflects on the pressure on actors to maintain a perfect appearance

Mumbai: Actress Ashmita Bakshi opened up about the constant pressure faced by actors to maintain a perfect appearance. Talking exclusively to IANS, Ashmita said that she believes the industry has a place for everyone, as there are all types of roles available for all body types. She said that the only important thing is to be confident and comfortable in your skin. She was asked, "Actors are often told to change their body or appearance to fit a particular role. How much pressure do you think such comments can create, especially when they affect an



actor's confidence?" Ashmita told IANS, "Sometimes, when you go to a producer or director, they may tell you that you need to be a little thinner. They may comment on different aspects of your appearance and say that you might get a job if you change certain things." She added that the industry is a place where every character is different. "In a particular project, you will find all kinds of actors — thin, plus-sized, dark, tall, fair, and everything else. There is a place for everyone," she added. Ashmita said that what matters is where one sees themselves. She explained by giving her own example. The '108 Base Hospital' actress said, "If I am a little healthy today, but I want to play a character that requires a very sleek body or a certain oomph factor, and I feel that I cannot achieve that look naturally, then I will have to work on my body and attitude accordingly." Ashmita said that the era has gone when only a person's complexion or body type constituted the definition of beauty. "Today, it is about confidence and talent", she shared. "Unless you personally want to look a particular way, I feel you should simply be confident in your own skin," Ashmita concluded.

Nashra Sandhu's six-wicket haul sends Pakistan into Asia Cup semi-finals

Dubai: A brilliant maiden six-wicket haul by left-arm spinner Nashra Sandhu in T20Is helped Pakistan Women beat Hong Kong Women by 72 runs in their Group 'A' match of the ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium (DICS) in Dubai on Monday. With this win, Pakistan confirmed their place in the semifinals of the eight-team tournament. Pakistan will now take on Sri Lanka in the second semifinal, scheduled for September 11. Defending a modest total of 144 built mainly on a brisk 47 by Shawaal Zulfiqar, the 28-year-old Nashra never allowed the Hong Kong batters to get going. Wickets fell at regular intervals as Pakistan bowled their opponents out for a paltry 71 to win the match with six balls to spare. Player of the Match Nashra finished with figures of 4-0-7-6, which were also the best bowling figures by a Pakistan women's cricketer in T20Is, surpassing Omaina Sohail's five for 13 in four overs against Sri Lanka in Sylhet, Bangladesh in 2022. Earlier, opting to bat first, Pakistan scored 143 for eight in their allotted 20 overs. Right-handed batter Shawaal top-scored with a 35-ball 47, hitting seven fours. Ayesha Zafar (26, 19b, 4x4) and captain Fatima Sana (24 not out, 24b, 2x6) were the other notable run-scorers for Pakistan, who had earlier on Sunday lost to



archivals India in their second match in the league. South Asians & Diaspora For Hong Kong, Joyleen Kaur was the most successful bowler, taking four wickets for 19 runs. Pakistan finished second in Group 'A', earning four points from two wins in three matches. They had won their first match against Thailand in the tournament. **Brief scores:** Pakistan 143/8 in 20 overs (Shawaal Zulfiqar 47, Ayesha Zafar 26, Fatima Sana 24 not out; Joyleen Kaur 4-19, Iqra Sahar 2-27, Kary Chan 2-33) beat Hong Kong 71 all out in 19 overs (Kary Chan 30; Nashra Sandhu

India women thrash Japan 7-0 to march into Junior Asia Cup QF



Moqi: The Indian junior women's hockey team continued their dominant run at the 2026 Junior Asia Cup, cruising to a commanding 7-0 win over Japan in their third Elite Pool match on Tuesday. The win saw India maintain their perfect record in the tournament and secure their place in the quarter-finals. With nine points from three matches, India currently top the Elite Pool. They will play against China on Wednesday in their final pool match, which will decide the top spot in the group. China has accumulated six points from their two matches. Having opened their campaign with a 4-1 win over Korea and followed it with an 11-1 victory against Malaysia, India carried their attacking momentum into the clash against Japan and took control from the outset. India's early pressure was rewarded in the fifth minute when Krishna Sharma scored to give the Indian side a 1-0 lead. India doubled their advantage in the ninth minute after a Japanese defender's foul inside the circle led to a penalty stroke. Supriya stepped up and made no mistake from the spot, putting India 2-0 ahead. Also Read AHF Junior Asia Cup: Indian women thrashe Malaysia 11-1 Advertisement Discover more South Asians & Diaspora Geographic Reference Travel Guides & Travelogues India continued to dominate proceedings and added a third goal just before the end of the opening quarter. Purnima Yadav scored a field goal

in the 14th minute, and India finished the first quarter with a commanding 3-0 lead. Japan showed more attacking intent in the second quarter as they aimed to come back into the game, while India kept looking for chances to extend their lead. However, neither team scored again, and India headed into the half with a solid 3-0 advantage. Japan began the third quarter with renewed attacking intent, seeking to score their first goal of the match. However, the Indian defence remained resolute and effectively neutralised Japan's attempts. India then shifted through the gears once again, scoring three goals in five minutes. Geeta Yadav smashed a field goal in the 41st minute to make it 4-0, before completing her brace in the 45th minute, further strengthening India's commanding position. India continued their dominance, adding another goal just a minute later. Purnima Yadav found the back of the net in the 46th minute to complete her brace and take India's lead to 6-0 at the end of the third quarter. The Indian side maintained their attacking intent in the final quarter and were rewarded again in the 50th minute when Sanika Chandrakant Mane scored her first goal of the match, making it 7-0. India comfortably saw out the remainder of the match to register their third consecutive victory and another emphatic result in the Elite Pool.

India U19 replaces Rohit Yadav over age issue

Hyderabad: The Junior Cricket Committee has named Saurashtra Cricket Association's Aryan Savsani as Rohit Yadav's replacement in India U19's One-Day squad, while Haryana Cricket Association's Tanmay Baloda has been named as his replacement in the Multi-Day squad. Rohit, who was named in India's U19 squads for the upcoming fixtures against Australia U19 at Rajkot and Ahmedabad, has been withdrawn from the squad due to age-related discrepancies. India U19's updated squad for One-Day matches: Lakshya Raichandani (C), Yashbardhan Chauhan (VC), Rajat Baghel

(WK), Aaryavir Sehwa, V.K. Vineet, Kushagra Ojha, Arjun Rajput, Manal Chauhan, Anvay Dravid (WK), V. Yashveer, Shavin Vinodh, Mohit Ulva, Chigurupati Venkata, Kavya Patel, Aryan Savsani India U19's updated squad for Multi-Day fixtures: Yashbardhan Chauhan (C), Lakshya Raichandani (VC), Sagar Virk, Kushagra Ojha, Manal Chauhan, Kush Patel, Manav Krishna (WK), Abhipray Biswas (WK), Ishan Om, Ayaan Akram, Pranav Ragavendra, Priyanshu Singh, Mohit Ulva, Aryan Yadav, Tanmay Baloda.

World Archery Para Series: India secure multiple finals and assure medals in Ahmedabad



Ahmedabad: India sealed multiple finals assuring a string of medals across recurve, compound and W1 events to enjoy a productive outing on the third day of the World Archery Para Series (Stage III) here on Monday. In the visually impaired 1 category, Tanvi Pravin Ingale settled for a silver medal after losing 4-6 to Cyprus' Christos Misos in the final. Yugal Garg defeated compatriot Pawan Kumar to win a bronze medal in the category. Harvinder Singh and Vijay Sundi defeated China's Xia Lei and Zhu Wenjian 5-1 to enter the final of the para recurve men's team event and confirm another medal for India. The Indian duo will face third-seeded Slovakia in the gold medal clash. India also booked a place in the final of the para recurve women's team event after Bhawna and Pooja defeated their Iranian counterparts 6-2. They will face China in the gold medal match. India confirmed a third medal in the recurve mixed team event when Harvinder and Bhawna defeated Indonesia's pairing 6-0 in straight sets to book their place in the final. The Indian duo will face China in the gold medal clash. The compound men's team of Shyam Sunder Swami and Toman Kumar also assured India another medal by advancing to the final. Swami and Toman beat China's Bao Yirui and Feng Yue 154-153 and will face seventh-seeded Iraq in the gold medal match. The compound women's team of Sheetal Devi and Payal Nag narrowly missed out on a place in the final after losing to Kazakhstan 151-152. They will now face China in the bronze medal match. India also lost a closely fought compound mixed team shoot-off against China after the two sides were locked at 156-156. The shoot-off was tied 20-20, with China advancing after winning on the basis of the arrow being closer to the centre. In the W1 mixed team (recurve/compound) event, Swati Chaudhary and Adil Mohamed Nazir Ansari got the better of China's Jin Huan and Yang Xupeng 6-2 to enter the

final and confirm another medal for India. The Indian pair will face China in the gold medal clash. In the W1 men's team event, India finished third among the three competing teams. China and Czechia will fight for the gold medal. Earlier in the day the reigning world champion Sheetal Devi confirmed a medal for India by storming into the women's compound individual final. In an all-Indian semifinal, the armless archer from Jammu defeated Sarita 145-143 to book her place in the gold medal clash, where she will face Aizada Seidan of Kazakhstan. Sarita will also have another opportunity to add to India's medal tally when she will take on Wang Huiting of China in the bronze medal match. The women's compound event thus gave India one confirmed medal and another still in the hunt, with world number one Sheetal eyeing the top podium finish. In the compound men's section, reigning world champion and world number one Toman Kumar lost to top seed Ken Swagumilang of Indonesia 146-144 in the semifinal and will fight for the bronze medal against Abbas Kahdim of Iraq. Earlier, Swagumilang ended the campaign of Gurwinder Singh in the quarterfinals, with the Indian losing 141-143. India's campaign ended in the W1 men's section after fifth seed Adil Mohamed Nazir Ansari and ninth seed Nurudin lost their respective quarterfinal matches. Adil lost to Czechia's multiple Paralympics-medallist David Drahoninsky 5-6 (8-10) in the shoot-off, while Nurudin went down 2-6 to top seed Yang Xupeng of China. The women, on the other hand, kept India's hopes alive in the W1 women's section, with second-seeded Indian Swati Chaudhary set to fight for the bronze medal. Swati lost to sixth seed Liu Jing of China 1-7. Athletes classified as W1 usually have an impairment in the top and bottom halves of their bodies, torso and at least three limbs and some W1 athletes have an assistant to help them load the bow.

India's operational office REIT portfolio surges 74 pc in H1 2026

New Delhi: The operational office Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) portfolio in India expanded 74 per cent year-on-year to 167 million sq ft in H1 2026 from 95.8 million sq ft in H1 2025, a report said on Tuesday. The report from ASSOCHAM-Knight Frank India said the operational retail REIT



portfolio stood at 11 million sq ft while the warehousing InvIT portfolio reached 44.2 million sq ft as of June 2026. The sharp increase in the REIT portfolio highlighted the growing role of REITs and InvITs as vehicles to monetise, aggregate and recycle capital across real estate and infrastructure-linked assets. Roads and fibre continue to dominate the broader InvIT asset base, while warehousing is emerging as an increasingly important component, the report forecasted. The operational office REIT portfolio represents 16 per cent of India's 1.05 million sq ft office stock and the under-construction REIT pipeline is equivalent to a further 19 per cent of the existing operational REIT stock, indicating continued expansion of institutional ownership. Bengaluru has the highest REIT penetration among the major office markets, with 67.6 million sq ft of REIT-backed office stock accounting for 27 per cent of the Bengaluru office inventory. Hyderabad followed with 26.2 million sq ft of REIT-

backed stock, covering 20 per cent of its office inventory. Mumbai has 24.6 million sq ft of REIT stock, equivalent to 14 per cent of its office inventory. NCR and Pune recorded a coverage of 11 per cent each. While Chennai and Kolkata saw 10 per cent coverage each, Ahmedabad remained at 1 per cent. "The expansion of listed REITs has strengthened the exit and capital-recycling mechanism available to institutional real estate investors," said Shishir Bajjal, International Partner, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India. Stabilised assets can be aggregated into listed portfolios, allowing existing investors to monetise their holdings while widening access to institutional real estate for a broader investor base, he added. Listed office REIT platforms have a combined 36 million sq ft of office space under construction. Bengaluru accounted for the largest share at 16.3 million sq ft, followed by Mumbai at 4.6 million sq ft, Hyderabad at 3.9 million sq ft and Chennai at 3.8 million sq ft.

United Breweries shares hit 52-week low, down in six of nine sessions



Mumbai: Shares of United Breweries Limited fell 3.1 per cent on Tuesday, to hit their 52-week low, extending the recent weakness in the stock. The shares touched an intra-day and 52-week low of Rs 1,251.6 apiece during the session. The decline marks the stock's sharpest single-day fall since January 20, 2026, when it had dropped 3.4 per cent. The shares had also declined 3.02 per cent on May 19. United Breweries has now fallen in six of the last nine trading sessions. The recent pressure on the stock comes even as the beer maker is focusing on premiumisation and capacity expansion to drive growth. United Breweries Managing Director and CEO Vivek Gupta said the premium beer segment could account for 18 per cent to 20 per cent of the company's sales by FY30, compared with around 11 per cent currently. According to Gupta, premium beer is growing at an annual rate of 20 per cent to 25 per cent and is increasingly becoming an important contributor to the company's profitability. United

Breweries is also expanding the presence of Heineken Silver. Last month, the company expanded the brand across Kerala, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh as it seeks to tap growing consumer demand for premium beer. Meanwhile, the company is investing in its manufacturing capacity. Earlier this month, United Breweries informed the stock exchanges that it would invest Rs 110 crore to commission a new canning line at its Ellora brewery in Maharashtra. The new canning line is expected to become operational in September 2026, subject to statutory approvals. It will be the first canning line at the Ellora brewery and will have a production capacity of 40,000 cans per hour. The investment comes as United Breweries looks to strengthen its manufacturing capabilities and meet rising demand for canned beer. The company's focus on premium products and expanded production capacity is expected to remain central to its growth strategy even as the stock faces near-term selling pressure.

Indian healthcare providers scale AI pilots into practice: Report

New Delhi: Indian healthcare providers are moving artificial intelligence from pilots into operational use cases that ease administrative burdens on clinicians, a report said on Tuesday. Government initiatives, rising Electronic Medical Record (EMR) penetration, deployment of private capital, a thriving start-up ecosystem and clinician acceptance are strengthening the enabling environment, the report from Bain & Company and HealthQuad said. However, most providers remain in controlled testing with meaningful scale limited to operational workflows. Electronic Medical Record (EMR) adoption in India at nearly 35 per cent remains well below the US and UK and is concentrated among larger urban hospital chains, while most small- and mid-sized hospitals continue to rely heavily on paper records. India's framework for adaptive and autonomous clinical AI is still evolving, particularly around accountability, data governance and clinical validation. The country has deep AI capabilities, but much of that talent is currently directed toward global markets, the report said. "AI adoption in Indian healthcare is still early, but the conditions for it to scale are strengthening quickly," said Dhruv Sukhrani, Head of Bain & Company's Healthcare & Life Sciences practice in India. "The technol-



ogy itself has advanced significantly; the harder question now is how providers redesign workflows, manage change and build trust among doctors and nurses," Sukhrani said. Frontier models now match or outperform pre-licensed medical professionals in some controlled clinical reasoning tests. Meanwhile, these capabilities are becoming more accessible as the cost of frontier AI models has fallen by approximately 92 per cent since 2023. The report identified significant headroom areas such as remote patient monitoring, operating theatre, ICU optimization, and post-discharge chronic disease management.

realme announces realme 16 Pro 5G Harry Potter Edition in latest pop culture collaboration

New Delhi: Smartphone brands are increasingly looking beyond specifications and hardware upgrades to create products that connect with consumers through culture, entertainment and fandom. From limited-edition designs to collaborations with global entertainment franchises, these partnerships are giving brands another way to make familiar devices feel distinctive and more personal. As smartphone features become increasingly comparable across price segments, special-edition devices are emerging as a way for companies to build a stronger connection with consumers by bringing familiar cultural and entertainment properties into products they use every day. The trend has seen smartphone makers collaborate with entertainment franchises, automobile brands, sports teams, lifestyle companies and popular consumer brands. These partnerships often go beyond simply adding a logo or changing the exterior of a device, with elements of the collaboration extending to packaging, accessories, wallpapers, software interfaces, charging animations, sounds and other parts of the user experience. Also Read United Breweries shares hit 52-week low, down in six of nine sessions Advertisement Discover more Stream History Documentaries Send Money Overseas Access Premium News realme has been among the smartphone brands that have increasingly explored this space, bringing technology together with popular culture and entertainment. Over the years, the company has worked on special editions linked to franchises and brands including Coca-Cola, Naruto, Thor and Game of Thrones, while also exploring collaborations rooted in the world of motorsport. The realme 10 Pro 5G Coca-Cola Edition brought the beverage brand's identity to the smartphone through a red-and-black design, customised software elements, charging effects, sounds and themed



packaging, while the realme GT NEO 3 Naruto Edition incorporated references to the Naruto universe across the device design, packaging, accessories and software. The company has also collaborated on entertainment properties, with the Thor: Love and Thunder Limited Edition featuring movie-inspired packaging, collectibles, wallpapers and accessories, and the realme 15 Pro 5G Game of Thrones Limited Edition incorporating House Targaryen-inspired design elements, a themed user interface and collectibles. Also Read World Avocado Organisation Deepens Its India Focus with 2026 Campaign, Bringing Avocados Closer to Everyday Indian Cuisine! Beyond entertainment, realme has also partnered with the Aston Martin Aramco F1 Team across its smartphone portfolio, including the realme GT 7 Dream Edition and the realme GT8 Pro Dream Edition, bringing the racing team's identity into its devices through distinctive design and branding. Against this backdrop, realme has announced its latest pop-culture collaboration with Warner Bros. Discovery Global Consumer Products for the realme 16 Pro 5G Harry Potter Edition. Following the realme 15 Pro Game of Thrones Limited Edition, the partnership marks the second collaboration between realme and Warner Bros. Discovery. The Harry Potter universe, which has remained a major part of global popular culture for more than 25 years, has built a multi-generational fan base through books, films, games, stage productions, consumer products and immersive experiences.

AP Charges Up MSME Engine With Rs. 641-Cr Infra Push, 175-Park Vision

In a major push to transform Andhra Pradesh's grassroots industrial landscape, the government has unleashed a high-octane drive to strengthen the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector. Driven by the AP MSME & Entrepreneur Development Policy 4.0 (2024-29) and the flagship vision of 'One Family, One Entrepreneur by 2030,' the state is rapidly expanding industrial infrastructure across all 175 assembly constituencies.

Over 23 lakh MSME units operate in the state, with manufacturing accounting for 24 per cent (5 lakh units) across the textiles, food processing, apparel and agro-based industries sectors. Nearly 45 per cent of these enterprises are led by women entrepreneurs. To bolster this ecosystem, the state industrial infrastructure corporation has spent `641.50 crore on MSME Parks infrastructure between

April 2024 and July 2026, combining APIIC funds, central MSE-CDP schemes, and state MSME allocations. Expenditures accelerated from `219.31 crore in FY 2024-25 to `329.54 crore in FY 2025-26.

IFAT India 2026 Between June 2024 and September 2026, APIIC allotted land to 3,246 MSME units across 1,954.1 acres, carrying a proposed investment of `9,162 crore and employment potential for 1,15,958 persons. Commercial production has commenced in 37 units, while 466 units are under civil construction. The policy prioritises social equity with SC entrepreneurs securing 33 per cent of land allotments since June 2024, followed by BCs (23), STs (8), and Others (39) per cent. Under Policy 4.0, land cost rebates for SC/ST entrepreneurs were increased to 75 per cent (up to `25 lakh), generating `79 crore in rebates across 1,243 al-



lotments during 2024-26.

Under the 175 MSME Parks Programme, the government aims to set up an MSME park or Flatted Factory Complex in every constituency. To date, parks have been inaugurated or foundation stones laid in 138 constituencies (79 per cent coverage) across three phases, with the remaining 37 constituencies scheduled for September 2026. Crucially, the programme extends industrial infrastructure to 40 out

of 63 constituencies that historically lacked APIIC industrial parks. On the ground, APIIC zonal teams resolved critical bottlenecks, including removing Section 22-A land restrictions in Tirupati, Prakasam, and Srikakulam, restoring power and water facilities in Koduru, Parawada, and Brahmanapalli, and achieving 100 per cent allotment in key parks like Palamaner and Amancherla Phase-I.

Minister Ramprasad slams YSRCP over Mega DSC slur

Amaravati: Transport minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy on Monday condemned the YSRCP's allegations against Mega DSC candidates, saying such remarks insult the years of hard work and sacrifices made by successful candidates. Speaking to the media at party state office in Mangalagiri, the minister urged YSRCP leaders to stop harassing and casting aspersions on Mega DSC candidates. He said many candidates who appeared for the DSC examination in 2018 but failed to secure jobs continued their efforts for seven years and finally succeeded in the 2025 Mega DSC recruitment. The candidates studied day and night and made several sacrifices to secure government jobs, he said. "Even though this was their last opportunity for some of them, they remained determined and achieved their goal. It is unfair to belittle their success for political reasons," he said. Reddy said the entire Mega DSC



recruitment process, from receiving applications to preparing the merit list, was conducted in a strict and transparent manner. Jobs were awarded purely on the basis of merit and eligibility, he said, adding that there was no scope for irregularities in the recruitment process. Questioning the success of the selected candidates amounted to insulting the years of hard work put in by them and their families, the Minister said. He warned the YSRCP against playing politics with the future of the youth and urged it not to undermine the efforts of the candidates.

Nadendla Announces Sale Of Onions At Rs.32 Per Kg

AP Food and Civil Supplies minister Nadendla Manohar who unveiled a plan to make essential commodities available at affordable prices in the state. Accordingly, to start with, onions will be sold at `32 per kilogram through 115 Rythu Bazaars and mobile counters beginning next week. The minister has returned to Andhra Pradesh after a two-day visit to New Delhi. He said he has held discussions with the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF). Also Read - Lokesh Bats for 'TD Version 3.0' Advertisement Nadendla said he has secured support from them for supplying onions, red gram, and palm oil at concessional rates. "El Niño conditions and other factors have pushed up market prices. However, we are determined to shield the public. Using the Price Stabilisation Fund, onions will be supplied at `32 per kg, while pulses and palm oil will also reach households at reduced rates," the minister stated. Under the initiative, he said, 1.20 lakh metric tonnes of red gram and 86,400 kilolitres of palm oil will be distributed to 1.46 lakh families through fair price depots. Each ration card holder will receive one kilogram



of red gram. The essentials will be available at prices 30 per cent lower than the open market prices, providing significant relief to common households, he maintained. Also Read - El Niño Impact: CM Asks TD Leaders to Safeguard Farmers, Water Resources Manohar highlighted Andhra Pradesh's successful pilot project of reducing broken rice content to 10 per cent in the PDS rice. "This has improved quality and increased consumption. The centre has now decided to implement this model nationwide from next month. It is a matter of pride that our state's initiative has become a benchmark for the country," the minister said, calling it a major reform in the 30-year history of the public distribution system. Also Read - Urban Transformation Drive: AP to Showcase Waste Manage-

Officials reject claims of Mega DSC irregularities

Amaravati: The Education Department and the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) on Monday rejected allegations circulating in sections of the media regarding TET qualifications, caste certificates and the authenticity of sports certificates of certain candidates selected under the Mega DSC-2025 Sports Quota. Addressing a press conference at the Secretariat media centre, Education Department Commissioner Tamim Ansaria and SAAP Vice-Chairman and Managing Director Bharani said each allegation was being examined on the basis of official records, applicable rules and verification reports from the authorities concerned. They maintained that the government was committed to transparency and merit-based recruitment, while making it clear that action would be taken under the rules if any certificate was found to be fake or any candidate was found ineligible. The Education Commissioner explained that TET qualifying marks are 90 out of 150 for OC/EWS candidates, 75 for BC candidates and 60 for SC/ST/PwBD/ex-servicemen candidates. She said the Mega DSC merit list was prepared with 20 per cent weightage for TET and 80 per cent for the TRT written examination. However, TET qualification is not applicable to certain posts, including school assistant, PET (Physical Education), physical director, PGT and principal. Responding to allegations against several sports' quota candidates, Ansaria said official records showed that most had secured the prescribed TET marks. In the case of Ediga Prabhakar of Kurnool, against whom allegations were raised over TET eligibility, she said records showed that he had secured 77 marks in Paper-II-B in 2018.



However, an official inquiry into the matter is continuing and further action will be taken based on the inquiry report. She said Jampala Usha, against whom similar allegations were raised, had secured qualifying marks under the rules applicable during the relevant period. Officials also said records confirmed the TET eligibility of Miriyala Gayatri Sai Sri, Pragada Kalyani, Shaik Nayab Rasool, Jakkula Udayala kshmi, Tadimarri Mohammad Rafi, Devarakonda Pavan Kumar, Togata Charan Raja and V Chakrapani Reddy. Bharani said that a tentative sports quota list had been published between August 8 and 14, 2025 allowing candidates to submit grievances while subsequent complaints were also examined. Andhra Pradesh High Court over sports DSC matters, but none specifically challenged the genuineness of certificates issued by the AP State Judo Association. She said the broader issue relating to judo certificate authenticity was presently before the High Court in PIL No. 170 of 2026, while a vigilance inquiry was underway. The High Court had directed the Vigilance Department to complete its inquiry and submit a report, she said, adding that further action would depend on its findings. Addressing allegations that 21 judo candidates belonged to the same mandal, including seven from one family, Bharani said the authenticity of the certificates was under vigilance inquiry and no final conclusion would be drawn until verification was completed. She also clarified individual allegations involving Nossam Karishma and Shaik Imam Hussain, Pedda Appalaraju, Konada Padmaja and candidates whose softball certificates had been questioned, saying their cases had been examined on the basis of available records and verification by the concerned sports bodies. On allegations involving the OC-EWS category, Bharani said appointments were made on basis of certificates issued by competent authorities.