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Hon'ble President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu visited Vijayawada Indrakeeladri Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Devasthanam on Wednesday evening, had divine darshan of Sri Kanaka Durgamma in Sri Maha Chandidevi Alankaram, received Veda Ashirvachanam - Tour Photos.

# President Murmu offers prayers at Vijayawada's Kanaka Durga Temple

Vijayawada: President Droupadi Murmu offered prayers at the Kanaka Durga Temple in Andhra Pradesh's Vijayawada on Wednesday night. After arrival at Gannavaram Airport from Delhi by a special aircraft, the President travelled by road to Indrakeeladri and offered prayers to Goddess Kanaka Durga. Following the darshan, temple priests rendered Veda Ashirvachanam and presented her the sacred offerings. On arrival at Indrakeeladri, Home Minister V. Anitha, MP Kesineni Chinni, temple chairman Radhakrishna, Executive Officer Sheena Naik and other



temple officials welcomed President Murmu. Track Exec Orders She moved ahead while greeting devotees standing in queues with folded hands. The priests performed various rituals. After the pujas in the sanctum sanctorum, Vedic scholars and temple officials offered

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## VCM Naidu pushes for Godavari-Cauvery link



Amaravati: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has indicated that the state will consider Tamil Nadu's request for additional Krishna water to meet Chennai's drinking water needs while balancing the needs of Andhra Pradesh and also pitched the Godavari-Cauvery river-linking project as a long-term solution to water scarcity in southern India. Naidu held talks with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Joseph Vijay at his residence in Undavalli on Tuesday. The meeting, which lasted for about an hour and a half, covered Chennai's drinking water requirements, inter-state water issues and proposals to divert surplus Godavari flows to water-deficit regions. Tamil Nadu has sought increased releases through the Telugu Ganga project, which supplies Krishna water to Chennai. Against an annual requirement of 12 thousand

residence in Undavalli on Tuesday. The meeting, which lasted for about an hour and a half, covered Chennai's drinking water requirements, inter-state water issues and proposals to divert surplus Godavari flows to water-deficit regions. Tamil Nadu has sought increased releases through the Telugu Ganga project, which supplies Krishna water to Chennai. Against an annual requirement of 12 thousand

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## AP SEC releases notification for local body polls, to be held in three phases

The Andhra Pradesh State Election Commission has announced a three-phase schedule for local body elections. The notification for polls to 100 urban local bodies has been issued, bringing the election code of conduct into force across the state. Municipal elections for 10 urban local bodies, 77 municipalities and 13 corporations will be held on the 28th of this month. The results will be declared on the 30th. MPTC and ZPTC elections are scheduled for 3 November, with counting and results on 5 November. Gram Panchayat polls will be held in three phases: 26 November, 29 November and 2 December. Results will be declared on the day of polling. Reservations for municipality, corporation and Zilla Parishad seats have been finalised, with 50 per



cent reserved for women across all categories. Reservations for panchayat, MPTC and ZPTC seats are yet to be finalised.

## Malayappa Swamy blesses devotees on Chinna Sesha Vahanam

Tirumala: On the second day of the ongoing annual Srivari Navratri Brahmotsavams at Tirumala, Sri Malayappa Swamy blessed thousands of devotees in the exquisite Dwaraka Krishna Alankaram while riding the five-headed Chinna Sesha Vahanam on Tuesday morning. The morning vahana seva took place in a deeply devotional atmosphere, led by elephants, decorated horses, traditional musical instruments, and lively kolatam troupes. Associated with Vasuki, the divine serpent king, the Chinna Sesha Vahanam is devoutly believed by pilgrims to bestow family well-being and the spiritual benefits of Kundalini Yoga. A grand total of 489 artistes from 17 cultural troupes across nine



states enthralled the gathering. Key highlights included the energetic Tappetagullu folk dance of North Andhra and the graceful Dhimsa tribal dance from the Araku Valley region, creating a splendid blend of spirituality and cultural heritage. Later in the evening, the deity was taken out in a majestic procession on the Hamsa Vahanam along the four

Mada Streets, delighting crowds of gathered pilgrims. The religious proceedings were led by Sri Pedda Jeeyar Swamy and Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swamy, in the presence of TTD Executive Officer Ravichandra, TTD Board members, Additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary, CVSO Murali Krishna, and other senior officials and temple staff.

## Venkatadri app will offer complete information to devotees: TTD IT chief



Tirumala: The newly-launched Venkatadri app is intended to provide devotees with comprehensive information on Tirumala services in a concise and user-friendly format, said general manager of TTD IT wing Venkateswarlu Naidu. Briefing media persons on IT wing activities here on Tuesday he said TTD has extensively leveraged information technology to enhance the Srivari darshan experience through its AI-driven Command Control Centre.

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KING  
DAILY NEWSPAPER  
English language came  
as a colonial tool: Now  
it's time to own it

There is, justifiably, a feeling in some quarters in our country that as the English language is irrevocably associated with colonial administration, any encouragement to that language in India now is detrimental to our native tongues. Nothing would be more erroneous than to think that English should be abhorred just because it belonged to the British, who perpetuated colonialism in our country for so long. India is a land of languages. The country is rich with its varied languages and multitude of dialects. In fact, India's culture and civilisation is interwoven with the multiplicity of its languages. From historical times, multilingualism has never been a barrier in the nation building process in our country. History is replete with examples when modern nations in the West were moulded based on common languages. Castilian language, for instance, brought various far-flung provinces like Castile, Aragon, Navarre and Granada together to form Spain as a well-knit nation at the opening part of the modern period in Europe. Italy and Germany, however, remained without such unification almost till the last quarter of the 19th century. After independence, language became the basis for the reorganisation of constituent states in Federal India for the formation of linguistic states with the carving of Andhra Pradesh in 1956. Karnataka, Odisha, Gujarat, Kerala followed suit. However, for Andhra Pradesh, ironically language proved to be not a binding factor for the continuation as a separate state on linguistic lines as other socio-economic and administrative factors outweighed language considerations.

This was proved when Telangana got separated from the united Andhra Pradesh in 2014. Buy Maps Advent of English education:

The advent of English as a part of Indian educational curriculum is traced to the famous (or infamous) minutes of Thomas Babington Macaulay on February 2, 1835, when he declared that the purpose of English education in India was to produce:

“A class of persons, Indian in blood and colour, but English in taste, in opinions, in morals and in intellect”.

A big reason for him to bat for the introduction of his language to Indian students was the need of his government's vast workforce to serve its bureaucracy. But the most objectionable part of his high decibel argument was when he further went on:

“...a single shelf of a good European library was worth the whole native literature of India and Arabia”.

It was that tone of imperial arrogance wrapped in racial superiority and the colonial mindset in Macaulay's Minute that the Indian resistance to the introduction of English in India was largely aimed at. Preference to English for their administrative purposes without denigrating our native tongues would not have estranged Indians against England on the language issue. Yet, willing or not, English was thrust on unwilling throats and over these 200 years, India took it much to its advantage and even enriched the language and its vocabulary, going by their own Oxford Dictionary. An adversary was converted to an opportunity. English education brought western thought, act, customs and manners of not only that country but of the entire continent.

President Murmu offers prayers at  
Vijayawada's Kanaka Durga Temple

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Vedic blessings to the President and presented her with silk sarees, a shawl, and a portrait of the Goddess. Earlier, on arrival from Delhi at Gannavaram Airport, President Murmu was received by Governor S. Abdul Nazeer, Union Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, Minister of State for Rural Development Kamlesh Paswan, State Minister for Mines, Geology, and Excise Kollu Ravindra, Andhra Pradesh Home and Disaster Management Minister Vangalapudi Anitha, Chief Secretary G. Sai Prasad, State Director General of Police Harish Kumar Gupta, Krishna District Collector D.K. Balaji, and District Superintendent of Police V. Vidya Sagar Naidu. Subsequently, the President departed for Vijayawada by road in a special vehicle, escorted by security forces. President Murmu will inaugurate the national-level SARAS Mela at Punnami Ghat in Vijayawada on Thursday. SARAS Mela (Sale of Articles of Rural Artisans Society) is organised jointly by the Union Ministry of Rural Development and the Andhra Pradesh government. The mela will feature more than 600 stalls showcasing products made by women belonging to self-help groups from across the country. After the programme, she will attend a luncheon with members of Self-Help Groups and 'Lakshpati Didis'.

VCM Naidu pushes for  
Godavari-Cauvery link

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sand million cubic feet (TMC), Andhra Pradesh has supplied 4.08 TMC this year. Naidu indicated that the request would be examined favourably to the extent possible, balancing Tamil Nadu's needs with Andhra Pradesh's own water constraints. Naidu said on X that Andhra Pradesh remained committed to supporting its neighbouring state despite its own water limitations. He stressed that water should be a source of cooperation rather than conflict and called for coordination among states with the support of the Union government. Buy Maps The two Chief Ministers also discussed the proposed Godavari-Cauvery interlinking project, which Naidu said could help address water shortages, transform agriculture and benefit lakhs of farmers across southern India. Under Andhra Pradesh's proposal, Godavari water would be diverted towards the Krishna River and carried to Bollapalli, with a further link proposed from Bollapalli to Banakacherla and subsequently to the Penna River. Naidu said the state had submitted river-linking proposals to the Centre and neighbouring states, and that implementation would require their cooperation. Naidu and IT minister Nara Lokesh welcomed Vijay at the Undavalli residence, presenting him with a bouquet and a Mangalagiri shawl. Ministers and other leaders participated in the discussions. Vijay also joined Naidu at Vijayawada Utsav in the city. The visit brought Chennai's immediate drinking water requirements and the longer-term prospects of interlinking rivers into the same set of discussions.

Venkatadri app will offer complete  
information to devotees: TTD IT chief

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TTD proposes to further strengthen traffic management at the Alipiri check-point by introducing an automated number-plate verification system. In addition, a QR-code-based verification system has been enabled for gallery passes issued during the ongoing Brahmotsavams. Clarifying concerns circulating on social media over the booking of Rs 300 Special Entry Darshan (SED) tickets, Naidu explained that the online quota was limited, while demand was nearly 10 times higher. He reiterated that TTD has been consistently identifying and blocking third-party websites that use automated form-filling and copy-paste tools to generate fake SED tickets. Such fraudulent operations are being regularly detected, blocked and banned, he maintained. Upgrade IT He affirmed that TTD has deployed robust and reliable technology to facilitate devotees. Devotees facing any difficulty or requiring clarification may contact the TTD helpline for assistance.

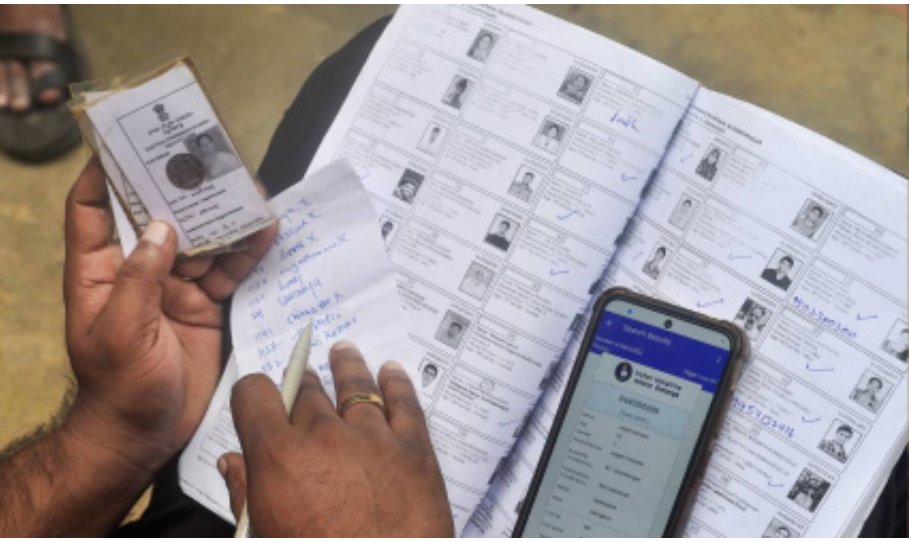
Bengaluru police book AP IAS officer in pub brawl

Tirupati: A late-night altercation at a bar and restaurant on Residency Road in Bengaluru has landed Vikas Marmat, a 2019-batch Andhra Pradesh cadre IAS officer, and three others in a police case, after they allegedly abused and confronted police personnel who were checking the identities and ages of customers. The Cubbon Park police registered an FIR against Marmat, Project Director, Kuppam Area Development Authority (KADA), and Abhay Uday Singh, Nitish and Roshan following the incident during a city-wide inspection of pubs, bars and restaurants on the intervening night of October 9 and

10. According to the complaint lodged by Police Inspector Arun Salunke, the inspection was carried out on the directions of the Bengaluru City Police Commissioner to identify underage persons and check suspicious individuals at establishments within the Cubbon Park and Ashok Nagar police station limits. Salunke, along with police personnel including BS Ashoka and Balaram Nayak, reached Cavoire Bar and Restaurant on Residency Road around midnight to verify the identity cards of customers and establish their ages. During the inspection, four individuals allegedly picked



an argument with the police team over trivial issues and verbally abused the inspector and other personnel on duty. The confrontation was recorded, and videos purportedly showing the incident circulated widely on social media on Tuesday.



Over 6.70 lakh Telangana  
electors miss SIR hearings,  
15,281 skip rescheduled dates

Hyderabad: Hearings under the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls have lapsed for more than 6.70 lakh electors in Telangana. Another 15,281 voters who rescheduled their hearings after missing their initial appointments also failed to turn up. According to data from the Telangana Chief Electoral Officer (TG CEO), hearing dates had lapsed for 6,70,299 electors as of Tuesday. Hyderabad accounted for the highest number at 1,50,260, followed by Rangareddy with 1,02,182 and Medchal-Malkajgiri with 78,301. Hanamkonda recorded the highest number of electors who missed their rescheduled hearings, at 5,092. Nizamabad followed with 2,572, Hyderabad with 1,942, Rangareddy with 1,155 and Medchal-Malkajgiri with 1,014, as of Tuesday. Before the commencement of the SIR exercise, Telangana had a total of 3,38,26,448 voters. During the enumeration phase, 2,64,87,213 voters submitted forms, while the remaining 73,39,235 were categorised under the Absent, Shifted, Dead and Duplicate (ASDD) category. Among those who submitted enumeration forms, the Election Commission of India (ECI) flagged logical discrepancies and a lack of mapping with the SIR 2002 list for 92,88,188 voters. It generated 92,88,187 notices seeking verification of electors' documents before their inclusion in the final electoral roll. Of these, 92,44,446 notices were delivered to electors. Hearings have been completed for 86,02,606 electors, while 78,87,352 have been marked for inclusion in the final voter list, as of Tuesday. In Medchal-Malkajgiri, 9,07,405 of the 10,71,566 electors flagged for not being mapped with the SIR 2002 list had been marked for inclusion in the final roll. In Hyderabad, which had 19,41,444 unmapped voters, 4,39,151 had been marked for inclusion. Rangareddy had 12,87,091 unmapped voters, of whom 5,35,467 had been marked for inclusion in the final voter list. Electors who receive notices must respond by November 5 to retain their voting rights. Those who fail to appear for hearings before the deadline will be categorised under ASDD, and their names will be excluded from the final rolls, which are scheduled to be published on November 9. Those left out of the final rolls, as well as youngsters who have attained the age of 18, can submit Form 6 to seek inclusion in the electoral roll.

Chhattisgarh migrant worker  
found dead under suspicious  
circumstances in Ibrahimpatnam

Hyderabad: A 24-year-old migrant worker from Chhattisgarh was found dead under suspicious circumstances inside his house at Sheriguda in Ibrahimpatnam on Tuesday morning, police said. The man was identified as Birendra Kumar Dhruv, son of Bishal Dhruv, who was working as a labourer and residing at Sheriguda. According to available information, he had reportedly quarrelled with his wife over family issues. He later locked himself in a room and did not respond to calls. Police received information about the incident around 8.30 am. On reaching the spot, they found that Dhruv had locked himself inside a room of the house when no other family members were present. The police broke the door and went inside to find the man lying dead. The body was shifted to the mortuary at Ibrahimpatnam hospital for further investigation.

# Commissioner Hyd V C Sajjnar IPS with cyber crime Team Hyderabad ON Cyber FRAUD cases

AMEER HUSSAIN CRIME BEURO CHIEF : Don't think 'It won't reach us'.. Don't fall into the traps of cyber criminals! The Hyderabad Police machinery is constantly standing in support, thwarting the latest tactics of cyber criminals to protect the hard-earned money of the people. We repeatedly emphasize that we can build a cyber-free city only when citizens act with full awareness. However, it has shaken us that in just one day on Monday, victims in three separate cases registered in the city lost a whopping Rs. 5.35 crore to cyber criminals. I personally spoke with the three victims who suffered losses in these incidents. The surprising thing is all three are highly educated, with complete awareness of society. Yet, due to an innocent belief that 'Scams like this won't reach us' and over-confidence, they failed to stay alert from the very first transaction, leading to the loss of such a massive amount. The negligence shown by the victims and the dangerous web of illusions spun by the crimi-

nals are exemplified by these three incidents. In one case, an accountant at a prominent business firm in the city fell for an unknown zip file and a fake WhatsApp message with the CEO's DP, mistaking it for routine OTP clearances in daily transactions, and transferred a staggering Rs. 2.70 crore; even as funds were being reversed for eight days and bank messages were arriving, the management failed to notice, which is gross negligence. In another incident, a 72-year-old woman was terrorized for 20 days with threats of 'digital arrest' in the name of CBI, ED, and money laundering, forcing her to sell even her gold and cough up Rs. 2.12 crore. Meanwhile, a prominent doctor who works abroad and had returned to the city, despite being an experienced trader in the stock market for the past decade, fell for the allure of ads on Instagram promising 5 to 20 percent daily profits, and lost Rs. 52.51 lakh in a fake trading app. On be-



half of the Honorable Chief Minister, DGP, and the Police Department, we are constantly issuing warnings against cyber crimes. Under the banner of 'Alert Hyderabad - Safe Hyderabad', we conducted nearly 11,417 awareness sessions in just one year, reaching about 5.06 lakh people with education. Yet, the public is taking our advisories far too lightly. No matter how many times we say that there's no concept of 'digital arrest' anywhere in our country's law, and no investigative agency demands cash online, people are still succumbing to fear and anxiety. On the other hand, bank officials show no concern in alerting account holders even when crores of rupees are being debited in bulk from banks. Don't be negligent thinking 'This won't

happen to me'; stay vigilant every moment with the awareness that 'It could happen to me too'. Don't open unknown links or files, and don't blindly believe ads promising unlimited profits. When unknown threat calls come, never panic under any circumstances; inform family members and immediately report to the police or dial 112. Especially, children should constantly monitor the behavior of elderly family members at home and provide them moral support. If unfortunately anyone falls victim to a scam, without the slightest delay, call 1930 immediately within the crucial 'golden hour' or file a complaint at [cybercrime.gov.in](https://cybercrime.gov.in). Remember. **Vigilance is the real antidote to cyber crimes!**

## Senior officials inspected medical camps, ICU unit at National Saras Mela

Today at the National Saras Mela premises, the medical camps and ICU unit set up were visited and inspected by Director of Health and Family Welfare Dr. Venkataramana, NTR District Medical and Health Officer Dr. A. Sravan Babu, DCHS Dr. Madhavi Devi. They reviewed the necessary arrangements to provide better medical services to the people and visitors coming to the fair. They instructed the concerned officials that medical staff should be alert to provide immediate medical assistance in emergency situations, and medicines and medical equipment should be kept available.



## Another step forward for Jangareddygudem town sanitation

Jangareddygudem, October 14, "As part of improving the town, 14 E-autos were inaugurated on Wednesday by Chintalapudi MLA Songa Roshan Kumar. Speaking on the occasion MLA said "E-autos have been launched with the aim of further improving sanitation management in the town, keeping streets clean, and providing better sanitation services to the people, MLA Roshan said Municip-



pal Commissioner Sri Venkataramana, municipal staff, alliance leaders, workers participated in this program.

## International Expert Team Inspects Polavaram Project Works

A four-member team of international experts inspected the ongoing construction of the earth-cum-rock-fill dam of the Polavaram irrigation project on Wednesday. The team comprising Richard Donnelly, Gianfranco Di Cicco, Sean Hinchberger and David Paul reviewed the progress of construction



and the implementation of recommendations made during earlier inspections. The experts and officials from various divisions of the Union ministry of Jal Shakti attended a review meeting chaired by Polavaram Project Authority CEO Sanjeev Vohra. Officials of the AP water resources department, including adviser M. Venkateswara Rao and engineer-in-chief K. Narasimha Murthy, along with representatives of executing agencies, briefed the team on construction progress and implementation of technical recommendations.

## Saras is a wonderful platform for women empowerment, development of rural entrepreneurs National Saras to be inaugurated today by President Minister Kondapalli inspects arrangements along with Union Minister Pemmasani



Vijayawada, October 14: Saras is a wonderful platform for women empowerment and development of rural entrepreneurs, said State Minister for Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises, Rural Poverty Alleviation, Pravasandhra Empowerment Relations Kondapalli Srinivas. Minister Kondapalli along with Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications inspected on Wednesday the arrangements for the "National Saras" inauguration to be held in Vijayawada today by the Hon'ble President of India. Afterwards Minister Kondapalli spoke to media. A nice platform has been created through National Saras for all our women to learn and showcase their skills. Minister said women who manufacture products in their own villages in rural areas through this mela will successfully sell and not only become economically stable but also gain self-confidence. He said with their inspiration more women in villages will also get inspired. Minister said this mela will create awareness among women on deciding actual price of products, purchasing power of people in market, ways to increase income. He clarified that stalls have been allotted transparently through online applications and middleman system has

been completely removed.. and large scale publicity is being given to rural products. Minister said along with observing performance of women of other states, through specially set up 'Knowledge Center' training is being given on government schemes, packing, branding, pricing, product promotion. Also said we are creating awareness through banks, financial institutions on low interest loans, various financial schemes for women.. and information is also being provided through Knowledge Center coordinating opportunities in animal husbandry, agriculture, fisheries departments. As per the thought of Hon'ble Chief Minister Chandrababu, 300 women entrepreneurs from each district have been brought and special training is being given in day-sessions through Saras mela and Knowledge Center. Also said all sessions happening on stage will be live telecast through official YouTube channel and inspire all women in state. Minister Kondapalli clarified that along with Hon'ble President Droupadi Murmu, Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will also attend this inaugural program to be held on Thursday. Minister said through this platform all women in state will get more successes and wonderful inspiring victories in future.

# AP Govt links industrial incentives to SGST



Amaravati: The state government has approved an escrow-based mechanism to release industrial incentives to eligible large and mega industrial units, linking the amount routed into a consolidated escrow account to the net State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) generated by participating units. The industries and commerce department approved the mechanism under the Andhra Pradesh Industrial Development Policy 4.0 (2024–29). The system will become operational from November 12 with detailed implementation guidelines to be issued soon. The mechanism follows Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu’s announcement at the 30th CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam in November 2025. The government said large and mega industries contribute substantially to the State’s SGST revenues, creating scope for linking incentive disbursement to the revenue generated by beneficiary units. Under the approved framework, eligible projects approved and commissioned after June 2024, including projects approved by the State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB), can participate voluntarily by applying for government approval. Eligibility will be confirmed only after commercial production begins, based on actual net SGST accruals. A consolidated escrow account will be opened and operated by the director of industries. Net SGST attributable to a participating unit

will be routed into the account from the start of construction, or from any earlier SGST-generating activity associated with the approved plant, as applicable. Learn a Language Also Read AP Chambers seeks urgent relief for MSMEs Advertisement Discover more government Buy Maps Follow Politics For each participating unit, the government will prescribe a project-specific ceiling equal to the total incentives approved for that investment in the relevant government order. SGST-linked amounts will be routed into the escrow account until the cumulative amount reaches this ceiling. Thereafter, further routing will stop and all subsequent SGST generated by the unit will accrue directly to the State exchequer. The government has clarified that the escrow mechanism is an additional channel for funding and releasing incentives, not an exclusive one. Eligible incentives may continue to be released through budgetary allocations or other approved means. Participation will not confer any lien, charge, guarantee or other right over the consolidated escrow funds, and no interest will be payable for delays in releasing amounts. The government said the framework was intended to improve the predictability and timeliness of incentive payments, strengthen investor confidence, particularly among foreign investors, and ensure fiscal prudence through a transparent funding mechanism.

# Goddess Durga appears as Maha Chandi at Vijayawada Indrakiladri

Dussehra celebrations at the temple on Indrakiladri Hill have entered their fourth day, with the Goddess appearing as Sri Maha Chandi Devi on Wednesday. Devotees began queuing early to seek blessings, as officials put arrangements in place to manage the crowds. Chants of “Jai Durga” echoed across the hill. According to priests, Maha Chandi represents the combined power of Mahalakshmi, Mahakali and Maha Saraswati. Worshipers believe her blessings bring knowledge, fame and prosperity, and that prayers for specific wishes are fulfilled. President of India Droupadi Murmu is



scheduled to visit the temple and offer prayers. Police have made extensive security arrangements ahead of her visit. Learn Hindi ABOUT THE AUTHOR Pavan Bandari I am

Heartfelt Congratulations to M A Khadir Sharif! He has successfully completed his MBA (Entrepreneurship) from Shadan Institute of Management. This is a moment of immense pride and joy for his mother Shabaz Fatima and his late father M A Dayan Sharif. Wishing him great success as he steps forward to achieve greater heights as a successful entrepreneur.



# Simha, Muthyapu Pandiri Vahanams Mark Tirumala Brahmotsavams’ Third Day

TIRUPATI: The third day of Navaratri Brahmotsavams at Tirumala on Wednesday featured the Simha Vahanam in the morning and the Muthyapu Pandiri Vahanam in the evening, with Lord Malayappa Swamy appearing as Yoga Narasimha during the morning procession and as Lord Rama in the evening. The morning celebrations began with Lord Malayappa seated on the lion-shaped Simha Vahanam adorned as Yoga Narasimha. The lion symbolises courage, strength, and valour, while Lord Narasimha, the half lion incarnation of Lord Vishnu, represents the destruction of evil and protection of the righteous. Devotees gathered along the mada streets to have darshan of the deity as the procession moved amid chants of Govinda nama. Elephants, traditional music, bhajans, and Kolatam performances accompanied the procession. A total of 491 artistes from 17 groups representing 10 states took part in the morning procession. They performed Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, Ghoomar, Kalbelia, and other traditional dances. Students of Tirupati Balmandir presented Kolatam, while artistes from Telangana performed dances based on the compositions of saint poet Annamacharya. Lord Malayappa Swamy, accompanied by Sridevi and

Bhude vi, appeared on the Muthyapu Pandiri Vahanam, decorated with pearls. The adornment depicted the Sita Swayamvaram episode from the Ramayana, with Lord Malayappa appearing as Lord Rama and the Goddesses adorned as Sita and Lakshmana. The scene recalled Rama breaking Shiva's bow to win Sita's hand in marriage. Tirumala Pedda Jeeyar Swamy, Chinna Jeeyar Swamy, TTD executive officer Muddada Ravichandra, additional EO Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary and other officials participated in the vahana sevas. EO Chowdary donated five indigenous cows to Sri Venkateswara Gosamra kshana Shala in Tirupati. TTD priests performed special pujas to Sri Venugopala Swamy at the facility, followed by Go Dhana puja. Chowdary said cows hold a special place in Sanatana Dharma. He called upon people to support cow protection. He said worshipping the cow as a mother is an integral part of the tradition. Beginning auspicious occasions with Go Puja is considered sacred. Chowdary handed over the five cows to Gosamra kshana Shala director Siva Kumar.



# ‘Mini India’ at Vijayawada as National Saras Mela Moves Out of NCR



Vijayawada: Vijayawada is turning into a ‘mini India’ with over 650 stalls showcasing the products, crafts and culinary traditions of rural women entrepreneurs from across the country at the National Saras Aajeevika Mela 2026. This is the first time the national-level event is being held outside the Delhi-National Capital Region. President Droupadi Murmu would inaugurate the mega fair at Pun nami Ghat on the banks of the Krishna river on October 15 in the presence of Union rural development minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, governor S Abdul Nazeer, chief minister Chandrababu Naidu, deputy CM Pawan Kalyan and others. The event is being organised at the initiative of Chouhan to promote women’s empowerment and rural entrepreneurship and decentralise national-level programmes by taking them beyond the national capital region. Describing the fair as more than a commercial exhibition, Chouhan said it would celebrate the self-reliance, skills and entrepreneurial spirit of women from remote villages. The event is being organised by the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission in collaboration with AP’s Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty. Around 1,000 women entrepreneurs and artisans from 34 states and UTs are participating in the fair. More than 650 stalls will showcase traditional

handlooms, handicrafts, organic products and household goods, offering visitors an opportunity to explore India’s diverse rural products under one roof. A major highlight will be the launch of the ‘Lakhpati Didi Sankalan’ and the ‘Saras Shakti’ application. A special film would also highlight the national target of creating six crore Lakhpati Didis, women from self-help groups who earn at least `1 lakh annually. The ‘India Food Court’ will feature over 200 women chefs from 28 states preparing regional delicacies using authentic local ingredients. Visitors can savour dishes such as litti chokha, Hyderabad dum biryani and makki di roti with sarson ka saag, alongside other traditional specialties. Themed pavilions dedicated to Lakhpati Didis, knowledge-sharing, convergence and live demonstrations will provide visitors with insights into rural entrepreneurship. Artisans will demonstrate pottery, embroidery, weaving and other crafts. Experts from Amazon, Flipkart, NABARD and leading industry organisations would train women entrepreneurs in packaging, branding and e-commerce, helping them expand their market reach. Murmu is scheduled to visit stalls, interact with women entrepreneurs and have a meal with Lakhpati Didis representing different states.

# Parineeti Chopra shares easy makeup hack for hotel rooms

Mumbai: Actress Parineeti Chopra recently shared a simple makeup hack with her fans while getting ready in a hotel room. Dressed in a bathrobe, the actress was seen demonstrating how to make the most of poor lighting while doing makeup, offering a quick tip that could come in handy for actors and travellers alike. In the video, Parineeti explained how hotel room lighting can often make applying makeup difficult. Sharing her trick, she said, “When you are doing your makeup in a hotel room, where the light is not so great, and I know makeup artists and actors face this all the time, you know they have these crazy lights, which are facing you and making everything look worse? Do this. Instead of the light looking at you, face it into the mirror on your reflection. And you have this amazing light on your face. Perfect to do makeup.” The actress demonstrated how redirecting the light towards the mirror could create a softer, more flattering reflection, making it easier to apply makeup. On the professional front, Parineeti has been exploring different formats and roles. She had received great applause for her performance in Imtiaz Ali’s ‘Amar Singh Chamkila’ in 2024, in which she starred



alongside Diljit Dosanjh as Amarjot Kaur, the wife and musical collaborator of Punjabi singer Amar Singh Chamkila. She then made her web series debut with Netflix’s ‘Shaque: Trust No One’, a mystery thriller in which she plays a mother searching for her missing child. The actress also headlined an investigative thriller ‘Reporting Live’, which follows a journalist and his cameraman as they investigate a sand-mining mafia. On the personal front, Parineeti is married to politician Raghav Chadha. The couple tied the knot in Udaipur in September 2023 and welcomed their son, Neer, in October 2025.

# Rajinikanth continues to rewrite history at 76, says Anirudh

Chennai: Stating that the world would witness the love for Superstar Rajinikanth, who lives in the hearts of every Indian, for the 172nd time on Thursday, when ace director Nelson Dilipkumar’s eagerly awaited action entertainer Jailer 2 releases, ace music director Anirudh has pointed out that Rajinikanth, at 76, is still creating magic and rewriting history. Taking to X to write a post about Rajinikanth’s upcoming film Jailer 2, which hits screens on Thursday, Anirudh wrote, “For generations, he has given us happiness, laughter, goosebumps and memories for a lifetime. At 76 and after 51 years, he still creates magic and rewrites history.” He then went on to say, “Tomorrow, once again for the 172nd time, the lights will dim, the screens will ignite and, hopefully, with all your wishes, the world will witness the love for a man who lives in the hearts of every Indian. One Sun. One Moon. And One ?? #Jailer2 from tomo! Superstar @rajinikanth @Nelson dilpkumar @sunpictures.” The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has already cleared the film for release with a U/A certificate, triggering expectations among fans and film buffs. Sun Pictures, which is producing the film, recently took to its social media accounts to share the update. It said, “#Jailer2 is censored U/ A!” It may be recalled that the makers recently released the film’s trailer, much to the delight of fans. The trailer opens with actor Suraj Venjaramoodu’s character questioning a person he has taken hostage. “In these two months, you must have learnt something about the person who did this, right?” the hostage replies, “Not just me, even you won’t be able to find him.” The trailer then shows that not only Suraj Venjaramoodu’s character but also a host of villains are wondering who is behind certain developments. Rajinikanth then appears as Tiger Muthuvel Pandian. At one point, a weary Suraj Venjaramoodu is seen asking his accomplices, “Have you managed to find him or not?” For a moment, viewers are led to believe that Tiger Muthuvel Pandian has gone into hiding, but the trailer almost immediately clears up the confusion. It shows that Tiger Muthuvel Pandian has



gone off the radar by posing as a driver. He has chosen to lie low to find out whether the chain of command among the villains extends higher. The trailer also reveals that Tiger Muthuvel Pandian has used snipers to attack his enemies. One of them, played by S J Suryah, says that they, too, can retaliate in kind. The trailer also features an interesting conversation between the characters played by Rajinikanth and Vidya Balan. She asks him whether he wants tea or coffee, and he politely refuses. She responds, “The choice is between tea or coffee. It is not between whether to drink or not.” A person warns Tiger Muthuvel Pandian about the dreaded “Kalpaks”, who, he says, will not allow anyone to live. Muthuvel Pandian smiles and replies, “Oh dear, I didn’t know. Shall we see?” He then issues a warning to the Kalpaks himself. Listing the ways thugs use to strike terror into the hearts of their victims, he tells them, “All this is the style employed in your father’s time. Now, getting all your enemies in one place and bombing that place is the current trend.” The film is slated for a worldwide release on October 15. It has generated huge expectations among fans and the general public ever since the project was first announced. In April this year, the makers announced that the film’s shooting had been completed. They also shared pictures of a cake-cutting ceremony held to mark the completion of filming.

# Karan Johar recalls how Salman Khan joined Kuch Kuch Hota Hai

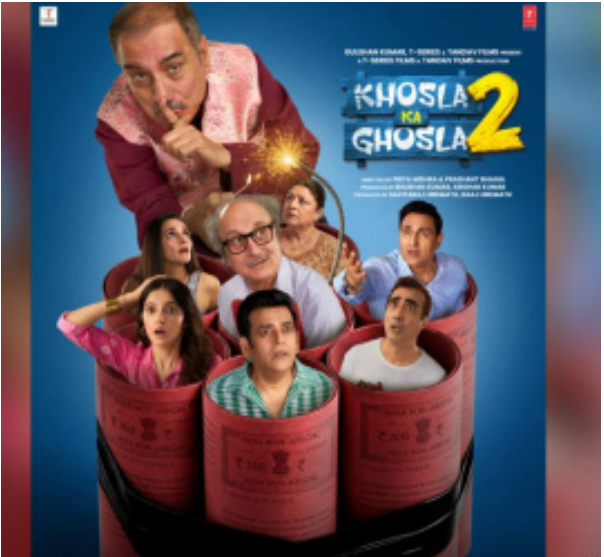
Mumbai: Bollywood filmmaker Karan Johar and his superstar guest Salman Khan will be seen sharing some interesting anecdotes about the 1998 film “Kuch Kuch Hota Hai” in the ultimate season of the chat show “Koffee With Karan Season 9”. On the premiere episode of Koffee With Karan Season 9, Karan revealed how Salman was onboarded for Kuch Kuch Hota Hai, after several leading actors turned down the supporting role. Recalling the meeting, Karan shared that Khan casually told him, “You’ve been shopping, come narrate the film to me tomorrow.” Karan arrived at Khan’s apartment and began narrating the film. Salman, dressed in striking yellow shorts, agreed to come sign the film without even hearing the entire narration. He said yes despite the filmmaker telling him that there would be no remuneration for the special appearance. The duo also spoke about the close bond between their families, recalling how Karan’s father personally flew to Mauritius to help secure government permissions for Salman’s then-ongoing shoot for Hello Brother. They also reminisced about a major production hiccup during the climax of Kuch Kuch Hota Hai, where the



camera operator accidentally shot the entire sequence in slow motion, forcing a complete reshoot. Salman then pushed his next shoot back by a day to stay back and complete the sequence. Kuch Kuch Hota Hai also stars Shah Rukh Khan, Kajol, Rani Mukerji, and Sana Saeed. Set primarily across two time periods, the narrative follows the love-triangle between college friends Rahul, Anjali, and Tina. Years later, Rahul’s young daughter attempts to reunite him with his former best friend. The film won numerous awards, including the National Film Award for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment. The film remains a landmark in Hindi cinema for its cultural impact, music, and fashion influence. New Episodes of Koffee with Karan Season 9 will air on JioHotstar.

# Anupam Kher says ‘Khosla Ka Ghosla’ and its characters are ‘immortal’

Mumbai: Veteran actor Anupam Kher has called ‘Khosla Ka Ghosla’ one of those rare films that have the potential to make both the movie and its characters immortal, as the sequel to the much-loved film is all set to hit the screens. Anupam took to Instagram, where he expressed gratitude for the love audiences have showered on his character and said that the “plot is bigger” this time. “KHOSLA KA GHOSLA 2!. In every actor’s life, there are a few films that have the possibility of making both the film and its characters immortal. For me, Khosla Ka Ghosla is one of them. I feel very fortunate to be your Khosla saab—a character you have embraced with so much love. And now... WE ARE BACK!” Anupam wrote as the caption. The actor said: “Delighted to share the poster of KHOSLA KA GHOSLA 2, coming to cinemas on 5th March 2027!” “The Khoslas will meet Khurana again... and the game of chess will begin! Is baar kaun kisko maat dega? The plot is bigger. The stakes are higher. And so is our excitement about bringing this much-loved world back to you! See you #Khat the cinemas! Deal Pakki.” The announcement poster featured the primary cast wrapped in a bomb, made from what seemed to be property agreements, with



Boman aka Khurana ready to set them all on fire. Earlier, ‘Khosla Ka Ghosla 2’ was slated to be out in the cinema halls on 28th August 2026. Directed by Priya Mishra and Prashant Bhagia, “Khosla Ka Ghosla 2” has been produced by Bhushan Kumar, Krishan Kumar, Savita Raj Hiremath, and Raj Hiremath. The project will also see Kiran Juneja, Ranvir Shorey and Tara Sharma reprising their roles from the original drama. Released in 2006, ‘Khosla Ka Ghosla’ shares the journey of Kamal Kishore Khosla (Kher), a middle-class Delhiite, and his family who wish to reclaim their land seized by a builder, Khurana.

# ‘Maha Devi Adishakti’ FL unveiled; set to release in Feb 2027

The first look of Maha Devi Adishakti—The Legend of Maa Durga, an upcoming animated film that narrates India’s spiritual and cultural legacy, was unveiled on Navratri. The film, directed by Milind Nandanwar and written by acclaimed writer Akshat Gupta, is slated to release globally in February 2027. Produced by Gaurav Malhotra of Artha Entertainment and Animation, the film features music by Shreyas Puranik and narrates the tales of the various avatars of the Divine Mother, including Mahishasuramardini who defeated the demon king Mahishasura and Goddess Kali who embodies power and the destruction of evil. The film’s creators hope that by using animation, they will be able to reach out to the next generation and educate them about India’s ancient mythological tales and spiritual traditions. Milind Nandanwar, the director of the



film, said the project was a privilege and an opportunity for them, as the message of Dharma and good triumphing over evil is universal. Malhotra added that the film is a family-friendly endeavor that aims to bridge generational gaps and enable grand parents, parents, and children to experience the same joy and devotion. The film’s animation, which requires painstaking hand-drawn work, is noteworthy in an era when artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming the entertainment industry.

# Iyer joins Kishan and Abhishek in T20I rankings top four

New Delhi: India batter Shreyas Iyer has reached a career-high fourth position in the latest ICC T20I rankings for batters after moving up three places following his impressive start to the five-match home series against the West Indies. Iyer smashed his maiden T20I century in the series opener in Lucknow, earning a significant rise in the latest rankings. His ascent to fourth place means India now have three players inside the top four, with Ishan Kishan leading the list and Abhishek Sharma occupying second position. Pakistan captain Sahibzada Farhan sits third after achieving a career-best rating following an impressive performance against Sri Lanka. Other batters making progress in the T20I rankings include Sri Lanka's Kusal Mendis, who climbed three places to 23rd, West Indies' Sherfane Rutherford, who rose 13 spots to share 24th position, and India's Sanju Samson, who moved up four places to equal 27th. Pakistan youngster Maaz Sadaqat also made a significant jump, rising from outside the top 100 to 45th following his performances in the three-match series against Sri Lanka. In the bowling rankings, West Indies player Roston Chase climbed 24 places to 23rd following his performances against India. He also gained two spots to reach third in the T20I all-rounders' rankings. Pakistan's Salman Mirza rose nine places to 14th in the T20I bowling rankings, while teammate Saim Ayub climbed eight spots to 54th. There was also significant movement in the Test rankings following Australia's 214-run victory over South Africa in the opening match of their three-Test series at Kingsmead in Durban. Australia batter Matthew Renshaw was rewarded for his player-of-the-match performance, which included 190 in the first innings and 82 in



the second. The left-hander climbed from outside the top 100 to equal 49th in the Test batting rankings. Former world No. 1 Marnus Labuschagne also moved up four places to 34th, while South Africa opener Aiden Markram climbed four spots to equal 10th. Australia fast bowler Josh Hazlewood rose two places to seventh in the Test bowling rankings after taking career-best figures of six for 49 on the final day. Teammate Mitchell Starc continued to lead the list, although his advantage over New Zealand pacer Matt Henry narrowed to four rating points. South Africa fast bowler Anrich Nortje returned to the Test bowling rankings at 34th after playing his first red-ball match in more than three years. India's Ravindra Jadeja continued to lead the Test all-rounders' rankings, while South Africa's Wiaan Mulder climbed one place to fourth and Simon Harmer rose five spots to equal 23rd. Following the drawn one-off Test between Afghanistan and Bangladesh in Abu Dhabi, Rahmat Shah climbed 13 places to 13th, while Litton Das moved up three spots to equal 29th in the Test batting rankings. Bangladesh pacer Hasan Mahmud, who took a hat-trick and five wickets in the match, rose seven places to 38th in the bowling rankings.

# Arsenal thrashes Lille with three second-half goals to extend Champions League winning run

London: Three goals in seven devastating second-half minutes did the damage as we made it two wins from two in this season's Champions League with victory over Lille. After a goalless first half, the gunners finally saw their dominance reflected on the scoreboard in the second half, with Jurrien Timber scoring a fine individual goal to break the resistance at 64 minutes and Ebere Eze finishing off a quick counterattack three minutes later. Then Bukayo Saka became our second-highest European goalscorer of all time as he coolly netted minutes after coming off the bench, ensuring we made it 14 successive victories in the league phase of the competition, closing in on next week's opponents Bayern Munich's record of 17. A goalless first half flattered the French side, and after the restart Arsenal cranked up the pressure further to try and rectify that. In the opening 15 minutes of the second half, Gunners suffocated Lille, not allowing them out of their half, and eventually their resistance broke. On 64 minutes, Noni Madueke found Timber inside the box, who produced a brilliant touch to drag the ball into space, and then calmly lifted the ball over Ozer to score in style. Then Kai Havertz, Martin Odegaard and Saka entered the fray, and within 90 seconds Arsenal doubled their lead. Again, Timber did the damage by pressing high and winning possession, and after Odegaard found Guimaraes, his pass set Saka up to centre for Eze to finish from just inside the area. And at the 71st minute, the trio of subs all combined to allow Saka to put the game to bed



after a devastating period of play. Odegaard played a one-two with the winger on the edge of the box before finding Havertz, and he returned the ball to Saka. With time to take a touch, he composed himself before sliding into the bottom corner. That was his 19th European goal for us – only Thierry Henry has more. With the result in the bag, another great French striker received some N5 adulation when 40-year-old Olivier Giroud was introduced as a sub and given a standing ovation. However, he couldn't help improving his side's attacking threat, as Raya celebrated equalling David Seaman's goalkeeping Champions League appearance record of 38 games with another clean sheet, setting Arsenal up perfectly for our heavyweight fixture in Munich next week.

# Harmanpreet Singh looks forward to Asian Champions Trophy 2026 in Punjab

New Delhi: Indian men's hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh has described the Men's Asian Champions Trophy Punjab 2026 as a special occasion for the national team, with the tournament set to bring international hockey back to Punjab from October 27 to November 5, celebrating a state that has shaped generations of Indian hockey players. India will compete alongside Malaysia, South Korea, China, Japan, and Bangladesh in the six-team tournament, which will be hosted across Jalandhar and Mohali. The competition marks the second time India will stage the men's edition of the Asian Champions Trophy, following Chennai's hosting in 2023. For Harmanpreet, the tournament carries a personal significance, with the Indian skipper anticipating the opportunity to play an international match in his home state in front of family members. "It's going to be a special occasion for the entire team, especially for the players who belong to Punjab because it's the first time that we will be wearing India jersey at an international tournament in Punjab," said India captain Harmanpreet Singh. "My entire family is expected to be at the stadium watching me play an international match together from the venue for the first time, including my father who has never seen me play for the country while sitting inside the stadium," added Harmanpreet, the first Indian captain to lead the country in two Asian Games gold medal triumphs, and that too in consecutive editions. The tournament is expected to place the spotlight on Punjab's longstanding contribution to Indian hockey. From grassroots academies and village playing fields to the international stage, the state has produced some of the country's most celebrated players, including Uddham Singh, Balbir Singh Sr, Manpreet Singh, and Harmanpreet himself. Jalandhar, in particular, remains closely linked to the sport's history, with hockey-playing communities in Sansarpur and Mithapur nurturing generations of talent. The Olym-



pian Surjit Singh Hockey Stadium at Burlton Park will host the opening ceremony and league-stage matches from October 27 to November 2. The competition will then move to Mohali's Olympian Balbir Singh Senior International Hockey Stadium, where the semi-finals and medal matches are scheduled for November 4 and 5. India enter the tournament as the defending champions and the most successful side in its history, having lifted the Asian Champions Trophy five times, in 2011, 2016, 2018 (joint winners), 2023, and 2024. The reigning Asian Games champions will begin their campaign against Bangladesh in Jalandhar on October 27. The six participating teams will face each other once in the league stage, with the top four advancing to the semi-finals. The tournament offers India an opportunity to defend their title while competing in front of supporters in a region where hockey remains deeply embedded in the sporting culture. Beyond the contest for continental honours, the return of international hockey gives Punjab an opportunity to showcase its sporting infrastructure and reconnect local supporters with the national team. For players such as Harmanpreet, the occasion will also bring the experience of representing India closer to home, adding a personal dimension to an important tournament on the Asian hockey calendar.

# Archery Premier League: Rajputana Royals Beat Chero Archers 6-0 for Second Straight Win



Hyderabad: Defending champions Rajputana Royals bounced back from a poor run of results to register their second consecutive win, defeating high-flying Chero Archers in the second season of the Archery Premier League here on Tuesday. After suffering three consecutive defeats, the Royals turned their campaign around on Monday and continued their resurgence with a commanding 6-0 victory over Chero, winning all three sets. The result took the Royals to six points and kept them firmly in contention for a semi-final berth. Chero also remained on six points. The star of the show for the Royals was compound world No. 1 Ella Gibson, who hit the 10-ring with every arrow to score a perfect 60 out of 60. Chero opted for their international recurve archer Casey Kaufhold ahead of Kumkum Mohod but lost the opening set

73-74 after the American started with a costly seven. The Royals edged the second set 76-75, with Chero paying the price for a couple of nines from their compound archers. The third set was tied at 58-58 after both teams had shot six arrows each. Atanu Das, who has otherwise been in fine form when selected, then hit a rare eight. For the Royals, Sangeeta, playing her first match in place of Ankita Bhakat, responded with a sensational 10. Needing an eight to win, Tokyo Olympic champion Mete Gazoz delivered a nine, sealing the victory before breaking into his trademark celebration and exchanging high-fives with his teammates. "We didn't start well over the first four days. I guess everybody misses us because I think the APL needs more energy and more dancing and now we're giving that," Gazoz said after the win.

# Gautam Adani shares what Michael Bloomberg’s vision means for India

Ahmedabad: Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group, said on Wednesday that leadership is not measured by the milestones we celebrate today, but by the commitment to expand what humanity can achieve tomorrow, and very few embody that better than Bloomberg Co-founder Michael Bloomberg. In a post on LinkedIn, Gautam Adani spoke about his meeting with Michael Bloomberg during the ‘Bloomberg New Economy Forum’ in New Delhi. “His line of questioning crystallised something for me. Nations need two kinds of infrastructure to endure. The first is visible and includes ports, transmission corridors, green hydrogen plants, gigawatt-scale compute clusters and transit systems. The second is invisible but decisive because it enables the first. It rests on trusted data, accountable institutions and governance treated as an operating discipline rather than a stage for announcements,” said the billionaire industrialist. Two builders doing their part in a rapidly transforming world will not always view every milestone through the same lens. “Our perspectives reflect our operating realities. From an emerging economy, the imperative is immediate. It means delivering the baseload power, industrial capacity and digital access to lift hundreds of millions into economic security without delay. From mature capital markets, the focus often leans toward the speed of decarbonisation and regulatory alignment,” said the Adani Group Chairman.

Yet beneath these differences lies a shared conviction that clean energy and affordability must move in lockstep. “Decarbonisation cannot be an ideological decree that prices out ordinary citizens, shuts down factories or stalls the Global South. If green energy is not reliable and viable for a small business owner in Gujarat or a household in Uttar Pradesh, the transition will collapse under its own weight,” the industrialist further stated.

Equally, clinging to legacy systems ignores the existential reality of climate volatility. Real progress demands that capital, policy and execution lock arms to drive down the green premium until



clean power is undeniably the cheaper, superior choice, said Gautam Adani. “This pragmatism is what makes Mike’s record so instructive. When he addressed the Bloomberg New Economy Forum in Delhi yesterday, he spoke with conviction about India’s momentum across artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing and green infrastructure. It was not rhetoric crafted for a podium. Bloomberg has operated on Indian ground for thirty years, backed by nearly two decades of philanthropic partnership,” said the Adani Group Chairman. Michael and Gautam Adani also discussed Dharavi, the Mumbai redevelopment that will test our collective capability. “Mike’s tenure in New York showed how municipal data and rigorous execution can serve dense urban communities. Dharavi cannot be approached as a real estate parcel. It is a vital, self-sustaining ecosystem of micro-entrepreneurs, multigenerational households, and relentless human grit. Its renewal cannot be measured in square footage. It must be judged by the tangible expansion of dignity through climate-resilient homes, modern sanitation, reliable power, and protected livelihoods,” Gautam Adani observed. By marrying engineering discipline with community trust, Dharavi can stand as an enduring benchmark for urban regeneration across the developing world, the industrialist said. “True nation-building demands four non-negotiable forces, namely patient capital, physical execution, transparent governance and capable local leadership. None can substitute for another,” said Gautam Adani.

## India's hospitality sector investments likely to cross \$1.1 billion in 2026: Report

Delhi: India’s hospitality sector saw transaction volumes reach \$497 million across eleven deals in the first half of 2026, a 197 per cent increase from \$167 million a year earlier, a report said on Wednesday, adding that full-year 2026 transaction volumes are projected at about \$1.1 billion. The report from JLL said the momentum is expected to continue and that transaction volumes will see a robust 94 per cent year-on-year growth over CY 2025’s \$567 million. Real estate developers emerged as the dominant investor group in H1 2026, accounting for 58 per cent of total volume. The report noted a significant shift from the previous year when High-Net-Worth (HNIs) individuals, family offices, and private hotel owners led the market with approximately 54 per cent share. Listed hotel companies contributed 31.1 per cent of volumes, while High-Net-Worth (HNIs), family offices, and private hotel owners accounted for 8.2 per cent. “Real estate developers now command majority of transaction activity, up from a minor share previously, while Tier II and III cities have captured 60 per cent of investment volumes, signalling a fundamental geographical rebalancing of capital deployment,” said Gaurav Sharma, Managing Director Hotels, India, Senior Director Hotels Capital Markets, Asia, JLL.



The convergence of institutional capital, evidenced by nearly \$445 million in strategic platform investments, robust consolidation activity through marquee acquisitions, and sustained signing momentum of more than 29,000 keys in H1 alone, positions Indian hospitality for a multi-year growth trajectory. “With limited availability of institutional-grade assets, strong operational fundamentals, and IBC-led opportunities unlocking distressed asset value, we anticipate competitive bidding to intensify,” Sharma added. The sector’s appeal centres around capturing India’s evolving consumption story, where emerging destinations and experiential leisure are redefining investment theses for the next decade, the report noted. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)-led transactions demonstrated strong investor appetite for distressed-asset opportunities, generating approximately USD 288 million, representing 58 per cent of H1 2026’s total transaction volume.

# SEBI extends IPO issue-size relaxation until March 31, 2027

Mumbai: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Tuesday extended a temporary relaxation that allows companies planning to launch initial public offerings (IPOs) to revise the size of their fresh issues without filing fresh draft documents, providing greater flexibility to issuers navigating volatile market conditions.

According to a communication sent to the Association of Investment Bankers of India (AIBI), the relaxation, which was originally introduced in the backdrop of the West Asia conflict and expired on September 30, will now remain in force for IPOs opening on or before March 31, 2027. Under the framework, IPO-bound companies can increase or decrease the size of their fresh issue by up to 50 per cent without submitting new draft offer documents to the market regulator. The move is aimed at helping companies respond more effectively to changing market conditions and investor demand. In an email dated October 12, SEBI said lead managers may file updated offer documents reflecting the revised issue size, provided there is no change in the primary objective of the issue. Merchant bankers will also be required to provide a justification for any revision in the offer size. The regulator further directed investment bankers to ensure that all relevant changes are disclosed to investors through an addendum and that the offer documents continue to comply with applicable regulations. Market participants



said the extension follows representations made by industry stakeholders who had urged the regulator to continue the flexibility amid persistent geopolitical tensions and evolving market conditions. The decision comes at a time when activity in the primary market remains robust. September emerged as one of the busiest months for IPOs, with more than 34 companies collectively raising Rs 39,380 crore, accounting for around 42 per cent of the total funds mobilised during the 2026-27 financial year so far. Overall, 78 companies had raised approximately Rs 94,276 crore through IPOs as of September in FY27. The record fundraising was also supported by the listing of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), which became the largest IPO of the current financial year and the second-largest public issue in India’s capital market history, contributing significantly to September’s fundraising tally.

## ISIG Summit: Global leaders, policymakers to discuss chip ecosystem and supply chains in India



New Delhi: The International Semiconductor Industry Group (ISIG) will host the ISIG Executive Summit India 2026 here from November 3-4, bringing together senior executives, technology leaders, researchers and policymakers from across the global semiconductor ecosystem, according to a statement on Wednesday. The two-day event will serve as a platform for discussions on technologies, policy developments and supply chain priorities shaping the semiconductor industry. The summit follows ISIG’s 2026 executive summit series in the United States, Taiwan, South Korea and Europe, all of which were fully subscribed. ISIG confirmed the summit will return to India on November 30 - December 1, 2027. As India advances its semiconductor manufacturing goals through policy initiatives, including the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), the summit aims to facilitate dialogue among domestic and international stakeholders on ecosystem development, technology collaboration and India’s position within the global semiconductor value chain. Also Read India’s economy on purchasing power parity basis is around \$20 trillion: Piyush Goyal Advertisement "India is no longer a future chapter in the semiconductor story,

it is a present one," said Salah Nasri, CEO and Co-Founder of ISIG. "We brought ISIG's summit series to New Delhi because the decisions being made here, in advanced packaging, power electronics and domestic manufacturing, will shape the global supply chain for the next decade. Our role is to put executives, policymakers and capital in one room, and India is exactly where that conversation needs to happen now." Amitesh Kumar Sinha, Additional Secretary at the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) among other government representatives expected to participate in the event. The summit agenda will include sessions on advanced packaging, outsourced semiconductor assembly and test (OSAT), power electronics, and wide-bandgap semiconductor technologies such as silicon carbide (SiC) and gallium nitride (GaN). Apart from that, participants will also discuss India's semiconductor strategy, supply chain development and emerging technology priorities. "India has the talent, the policy momentum and the market to become a hub for the global semiconductor supply chain," said Dr. Shalu Agarwal, General Manager of India and Head of Power Semiconductor at ISIG.

# VMC finalises reservations for all 86 divisions



Vijayawada: The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) has finalised reservations for all 86 divisions under the Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Backward Classes (BC) and General categories, including seats reserved for women, marking a key step towards the civic body elections. The mayor's post has already been allotted to the General category. According to the reservations finalised by the Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MA&UD) Department, 43 divisions have been allocated to the General category, 31 to BCs, 10 to SCs and two to STs. Of these, 22 General cat-

egory divisions, 16 BC divisions and five SC divisions have been reserved for women. One of the two ST-reserved divisions has also been earmarked for a woman. Vijayawada has 8,05,797 voters, including 4,11,294 women, 3,94,397 men, and 106 voters belonging to the third gender. BCs account for the largest social group, with 3,58,742 voters, followed by 3,40,374 OC voters, 91,933 SC voters and 9,542 ST voters. The 86 divisions are spread across the Vijayawada East, Central and West Assembly constituencies, which fall under the three circles of the civic body.

## Training programme held for ROs, AROs



Vijayawada: The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) organised a training programme for Returning Officers (ROs) and Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) to familiarise them with election procedures ahead of the 2026 second general elections to urban local bodies. The training programme was held at IV Palace in Governorpet on Tuesday afternoon under the supervision of VMC Elections Nodal Officer and Additional Commissioner (General) A Ravindra Rao and Election Training Nodal Officer Dr D Harish, Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, as per the directions of Commis-

sioner HM Dhyanaachandra. Officials were briefed on receiving nominations, preparing election-related reports, polling procedures and the rules and guidelines to be followed while conducting elections for the mayor and ward members. The election authorities instructed the ROs and AROs to study the RO handbook thoroughly and familiarise themselves with the prescribed procedures and guidelines. Mayor's Returning Officer and Housing Project Director Rajini Kumari, along with ARO and West Deputy Tahsildar Ismail, participated in the pro

# ALC lecturer finds place in world's top 2% scientists list

Vijayawada: Dr MC Rao, Head of the Department of Physics at Andhra Loyola College, Vijayawada, has earned international recognition by featuring in the World's Top 2% Scientists list in Physics, released by Stanford University and Elsevier in October 2026. Dr Rao has secured a place in the prestigious rankings for seven consecutive years, from 2020 to 2026. His global ranking has improved from 934 to 810, based on an evaluation that included 278 high-impact research publications. Donate to Research He is reportedly the only scientist from an undergraduate college in

Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to achieve this distinction in Physics. With 32 years of academic experience, Dr Rao has published over 295 research papers indexed in Scopus and more than 350 publications listed on Google Scholar. He has authored 10 textbooks, holds over 35 patents and has received more than 5,100 citations, with an h-index of 37. His research focuses on nanomaterials, clean energy, wastewater purification and environmental sustainability.



# Streenidhi: Rs 3 lakh loan in 48 hours for women

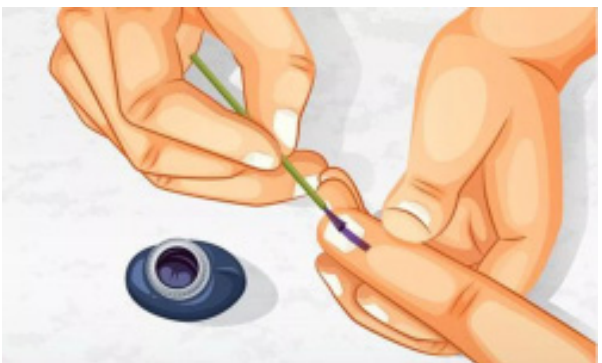
Vijayawada: The state government has launched a special loan scheme for women entrepreneurs through Streenidhi Andhra Pradesh, offering loans of up to Rs 3 lakh at an annual interest rate of 11 per cent, minister for MSMEs, rural poverty alleviation and NRI empowerment Kondapalli Srinivas said here on Tuesday. The initiative aims to promote entrepreneurship among women from self-help groups (SHGs), in line with the government's vision of creating an entrepreneur in every family. Eligible SHG women can avail themselves of loans up to Rs 3 lakh, with a maximum of three beneficiaries from each SHG. The loans will be sanctioned within 48 hours, the minister said. He stated that subsidy-linked loans under the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme, involving amounts below Rs. 3 lakh, would now be sanctioned through Streenidhi. Between 2024-25 and October 8, 2026, Streenidhi sanctioned loans worth Rs. 14,467.12 crore to approximately 17.96 lakh women. Digital collections amounted to Rs. 4,443.13 crore, while 30,000 biometric devices worth Rs. 6 crore were distributed to village organisations. The institution recorded



a loan recovery rate of 98 per cent, he said. The loan limit for SHGs has been increased from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 17 lakh, while the borrowing limit for village organisations has been raised to Rs. 1.50 crore. Education and marriage loans are also being provided with a four per cent interest subsidy. Special short-term loans are being extended to women in tribal areas, he added. Use Calculators The government has allocated Rs. 3,000 crore exclusively for women entrepreneurs' loans under the 2026-27 financial plan, the Minister said. Streenidhi also provides loan protection and accidental death assistance to support the families of borrowers in the event of the borrower's death. The government is committed to strengthening Streenidhi as a model institution for women's empowerment, entrepreneurship development and digital financial inclusion, Srinivas said.

## Poll panel doubles expenditure limits

Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh State Election Commission (APSEC) has doubled the expenditure ceilings for candidates contesting the upcoming second ordinary elections to gram panchayats, mandal parishads and zilla parishads across the state compared with the limits prescribed for the 2021 local body elections. State Election Commissioner Anil Chandra Punetha issued two notifications, Nos. 566/SEC-B1/2026 and 567/SEC-B1/2026, on Tuesday, specifying the maximum election expenditure and nomination security deposits for various categories of candidates. The expenditure limits have been fixed based on the 2011 Census population figures. Buy Maps Copies of both notifications have been sent to district collectors, district election authorities, district panchayat officers, zilla parishad chief executive officers and recognised political parties for information and implementation. Under the revised norms, candidates contesting gram panchayat ward member elections in villages with a population below 10,000 can spend up to Rs 60,000 as against the earlier limit of Rs 30,000. In villages with a population of 10,000 and above, the ceiling has been increased to Rs 1 lakh from Rs 50,000. The expenditure limit for sarpanch candidates in gram panchayats with a population below



10,000 has been raised to Rs 2.5 lakh from Rs 1.5 lakh. For gram panchayats with a population of 10,000 and above, the ceiling has been enhanced to Rs.4 lakh from Rs 2.5 lakh. Similarly, the spending limit for mandal parishad territorial constituency (MPTC) candidates has been increased to Rs 4 lakh from Rs 2 lakh, while the ceiling for zilla parishad territorial constituency (ZPTC) candidates has been raised to Rs 8 lakh from Rs 4 lakh. The second notification specifies the security deposits payable by candidates while filing nominations. Candidates belonging to the general category must pay Rs 1,000 for a gram panchayat ward member seat, Rs 3,000 for a sarpanch or MPTC seat, and Rs 6,000 for a ZPTC seat. Candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes are required to pay half the prescribed amounts: Rs 500 for a ward member seat, Rs 1,500 for a sarpanch or MPTC seat and Rs.3,000 for a ZPTC seat.

## Collector, SP review strong rooms and counting halls

Tirupati: District Collector Dr S Venkateswar, along with District SP L Subba Rayudu, Municipal Commissioner M Jayakrishna, and Joint Collector R Govinda Rao, conducted an extensive field inspection on Tuesday to review vote-counting arrangements for the Tirupati Municipal Corporation elections at Sri Venkateswara Arts College. The high-level official team evaluated proposed facilities for strong rooms, ward-wise counting halls, election material storage rooms, waiting areas for candidates and election agents, a dedicated media room, and the central control room. Speaking during the review, Collector Venkateswar detailed that strong rooms and counting halls will be established across the ground, first.

