

## Equipment Inauguration and Kitchen walk-through at Akshaya Patra Centralized Kitchen - Warangal



“Warangal, Telangana, December 22nd, 2025, Monday.” “The Akshaya Patra Foundation a distinguished implementing partner of the Government Mid-Day Meal programme organized an Equipment Inauguration and Kitchen Walk-through ceremony at its Centralized Kitchen in Warangal. This marks a significant milestone in strengthening its operational capacity through the induction of advanced, modern, and technology-driven equipment to efficiently prepare and serve nutritious mid-day meals to school children across the region. The state-of-the-art kitchen equipment, was generously sponsored by leading financial institution HDB Financial Services, significantly enhancing the kitchen’s scale, efficiency, and service delivery capabilities.” “The Centralized Kitchen currently prepares and delivers fresh, hygienic, and nutritious mid-day meals to nearly 26,000 children studying in 367 government schools and Anganwadi centres across Warangal and Khilla Warangal mandals in Warangal district, as well as 550 Anganwadi centres in Hanmakonda and Bhimadevarapally mandals in Hanumakonda district.” “The facility is equipped with cutting-edge technology, including advanced automated systems capable of cooking rice for 1,000 children in just 15 minutes and preparing sambar for 5,000 children in under two hours. The kitchen also incorporates sustainability-focused infrastructure such as RO-treated water systems and a solar power plant ensuring eco-friendly operations with zero

discharge.” “The event was graced by the Chief Guest, Smt. Konda Surekha Garu, Hon’ble Minister for Environment & Forests and Endowment, Government of Telangana, and presided over by His Grace Sri Satya Gaura Chandra Dasa Prabhuji, Trustee & Regional President - The Akshaya Patra Foundation - Telangana & Andhra Pradesh, along with Mr. Sathya Ramanan - Head, Emerging Markets and Gold, Mr. Sai Aakash - Regional Business Head, Emerging Markets, Mr. TVS Shridhar of CPU Head. Upon arrival, the Hon’ble Minister and dignitaries were accorded a traditional Poorna Khumba Swagatham. The program commenced with Sri Narasimha Homa and Purnahuti, invoking auspicious blessings for the successful functioning of the kitchen in its noble service.” “Following the ceremonial proceedings, the Hon’ble Minister inaugurated the Office Block and Quality Testing Laboratory, underscoring the Foundation’s strong emphasis on quality assurance, hygiene, and stringent food safety standards. Dignitaries were taken on a guided walk-through of the centralized kitchen and briefed on the end-to-end cooking processes, integration of modern technology, and strict safety and hygiene protocols. During the visit, state-of-the-art kitchen equipment—including an advanced snack production unit, automatic vegetable washing and cutting machines, automated curry-making machines, sambar cauldrons, and high-capacity rice steamers—were inaugurated to enhance effi-

ciency, consistency, and scalability. The dignitaries also flagged off two newly commissioned, custom-built Akshaya Patra food distribution vehicles.” “In a heart-warming gesture, the Hon’ble Minister and dignitaries served meals to school children, reaffirming their commitment to child nutrition and education.” “The event was attended by distinguished Guests of Honor including Smt. Gundu Sudharani, Mayor, Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation; Sri K. R. Nagaraju, MLA; and Dr. Satya Sharada, IAS, District Collector, Warangal, along with other public representatives, officials, and functionaries of HDB Financial Service and The Akshaya Patra Foundation.” “Chief Guest’s Address” “Addressing the gathering, Smt. Konda Surekha Garu, Hon’ble Cabinet Minister, said, “Srila Prabhupada, the Founder-Acharya of the worldwide Hare Krishna Movement (ISKCON), envisioned a society where no one should go hungry within a ten-mile radius of a temple. Taking inspiration from his profound vision, The Akshaya Patra Foundation was established to provide unlimited food for education. I wholeheartedly compliment the yeoman services rendered by the Hare Krishna Movement and The Akshaya Patra Foundation to society, particularly in the field of child nutrition and education. The Government of Telangana assures all possible support to further strengthen and expand these noble initiatives.” “Addressing the media, His Grace Sri Satya Gaura Chandra Dasa

Prabhuji emphasised, “The Akshaya Patra Foundation’s unwavering commitment to providing wholesome and nutritious meals that support children’s health, education, and overall well-being. He stated that the use of modern technology and efficient kitchen systems enables the Foundation to deliver meals at scale while maintaining the highest standards of quality and hygiene. He expressed his sincere gratitude to Smt. Konda Surekha Garu, Hon’ble Minister, for her valuable guidance and steadfast support in expanding Akshaya Patra’s mid-day meal services across the Warangal region. He also conveyed his heartfelt appreciation to HDB Financial Services for generously sponsoring the entire kitchen equipment, which has significantly strengthened the kitchen’s operational capacity. He further thanked the Hon’ble Chief Minister, Government officials, donors, and well-wishers for their constant encouragement and cooperation, noting that their collective support continues to reinforce Akshaya Patra’s mission of combating classroom hunger and enhancing child nutrition and health.” “About The Akshaya Patra Foundation: “The Akshaya Patra Foundation is a social impact organization committed to addressing classroom hunger and supporting children’s health and education. As an implementing partner of the Government of India’s PM POSHAN scheme, Akshaya Patra serves 23.50 Lakh mid-day meals to beneficiary children across 25,000+ Govt. schools across India, currently feeds 2.50 Lakh children in more than 2500 Govt. schools across Telangana, contributing to improved child health, increased school enrolments, attendance & retention and better learning outcomes.” “Akshaya Patra has established a robust operational network, currently functioning in 78 locations across 16 states and 3 union territories. It has set up 76 state-of-the-art centralized kitchens—globally recognized for their scale, efficiency, and food safety standards—and adopted the decentralized model in two locations where setting up centralized infrastructure is difficult due to difficult terrain and road connectivity.” “Akshaya Patra continuously forges partnerships and leverages technology to cater to millions of children and has served over 4 billion meals since 2000. The momentous milestone was commemorated at a special event at the UN headquarters in New York on 2 April 2024.” “For more information, please visit [www.akshayapatra.org](http://www.akshayapatra.org).” “Thanks & Regards,” “Public Relations Officer (PRO), “The Akshaya Patra Foundation - Hyderabad Phone: 8096544447 / 93964 16341.



## All India Cricket Tournament Launched by MLA Kuchukulla Rajesh Reddy

Nagarkurnool: The All India Cricket Tournament being organised at the ZP School Ground in Nagarkurnool town was inaugurated with much enthusiasm. Nagarkurnool MLA Dr. Kuchukulla Rajesh Reddy attended the event as the chief guest and formally launched the tournament.

The MLA inaugurated the competition by conducting the toss for the opening match between New Star Nagarkurnool and Killer CC Chennai, officially marking the beginning of the tournament. He encouraged the players and interacted with the teams on the field.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Rajesh Reddy emphasised the importance of sports among youth, stating that participation in games not only improves



physical fitness but also instils discipline and leadership qualities. He assured that full support from the government and his side would always be extended for the development of sports.

He further said that efforts are underway to develop Nagarkurnool town as a centre for sports, providing better opportunities and facilities for young talent.

Market Committee Chairman Raman Rao, senior cricketers, former councillors, sports enthusiasts, and a large number of spectators were present at the programme.

## Hyderabad police arrest two with 6.25 kg ganja at Secunderabad

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad police arrested two persons who were carrying ganja at Secunderabad on Sunday and seized 6.25 kilograms of ganja from them.



Acting on a tip-off, the Commissioner's Task Force (North) team caught Gopal

Dalai (28) and Saroj Kumar Dalai (20), of Odisha. The duo had purchased the ganja from some persons in Odisha and transported it to the city to sell it. On information, they were caught at Secunderabad railway station and the ganja seized, said the police.

## Balachelimi National Story Competition-2025: Prize Distribution Ceremony Held Grandly

Er. Manikonda Vedakumar stated that the first Balachelimi library was established at Pochampally on November 20, 2019. He recalled that Balachelimi libraries continued to function even during the COVID period, following safety measures. With Sri Garipalli Ashok as Convener, the establishment of libraries was expanded across the state. He noted that Balachelimi conveners and artists are working actively in all districts, taking the movement forward. Story anthologies written by school children from ten districts and by senior literary figures were published. He praised the invaluable contribution of illustrators and stated that, along with prizes, books are being published through Balachelimi as part of the national story competitions. He stressed the need to ensure that the Balachelimi magazine reaches children widely. He also mentioned that 20 new libraries were established and emphasized the importance of managing them effectively. Appreciating the efforts of writers, he expressed confidence that Balachelimi activities would continue to grow extensively.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Riyaz stated that Balachelimi publications significantly contribute to the welfare of society. He suggested translating the Balachelimi magazine into multiple languages along with Telugu to make it accessible to more students. He referred to the historical importance of scripts found

at Kotilingala near Karimnagar, the Krishna and Godavari river inscriptions originating in Telangana, and mentioned the role played by Deccan Land newspaper during the Telangana movement. He appreciated the environmental perspective of Er. Vedakumar and assured continued support to Balachelimi.

Mrs. Ravi Sarada said that loving books, reading them, and encouraging children to write are great achievements. She emphasized that children grow only when reading becomes a habit. She noted that Balachelimi libraries are bringing out students' creativity and remarked that a house without books is like a house without windows. She stated that Balachelimi provides valuable books useful for children.

Dr. Raghu remarked that Er. Manikonda Vedakumar has brought about a revolution in children's literature through Balachelimi.

Other dignitaries, including Gazetted HM Komma Varavu Krishnam, Tadakapal library administrator Praveen Sharma, Paidimarri Girija, Kurella Srinivas, Madabhushi Lalitha Devi, Smt Ravi Sarada, Ammin Srinivasa Raju, and others, observed that Er. Vedakumar is taking Balachelimi forward as a vibrant world of children's literature. They noted that Balachelimi libraries are igniting creativity among students and benefiting them greatly.



## "Sundays on Cycle" Rally Organized in Gadwal to Promote Fitness and Eco-Friendly Living

Gadwal: As per the directions of Jogulamba Gadwal District Collector Sri B. M. Santosh, IAS, the "Sundays on Cycle" rally was successfully organized in Gadwal town, the district headquarters, on Sunday.

The rally was formally flagged off from the District Collectorate by Assistant Officer (AO) Sri Bhupal Reddy and District Youth Sports Officer (FAC) Sri M. Krishnayya. The initiative aimed at promoting physical fitness, environmental protection, and the importance of adopting eco-friendly modes of transport among the public, especially students and youth.

Several dignitaries and sports officials participated in the event, including SGF Secretary Dr. T. Srinivasulu, Stadium Assistant Officer Basheer Ahmed (PD), Telangana State Taekwondo General Secretary Srihari along with his disciples, Senior Football Coach Vijay Kumar, Sri Narsimha Raju (PD), and Rajinikanth (PD). Members of various sports asso-

ciations, sports enthusiasts, and athletes also took part in large numbers.

The rally covered a distance of approximately 5 kilometers, passing through important routes of Gadwal town. Around 200 students enthusiastically participated in the cycling rally, reflecting strong public support for health-oriented and environmentally responsible initiatives.

Speaking on the occasion, officials highlighted the importance of regular physical activity and encouraged citizens to make cycling a part of their daily routine for better health and a cleaner environment.

The event concluded successfully with active participation from students, sportspersons, and officials, marking another positive step toward community fitness and sustainable living in Jogulamba Gadwal district.



# Kalvakuntla Kavitha Leads 'Jagruthi Janam Bata' in Jogulamba Gadwal, Flags Healthcare Negligence and Farmers' Issues

Gadwal: Telangana Jagruthi President and BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha undertook an extensive tour of Jogulamba Gadwal district on Sunday as part of the organization's flagship outreach programme 'Jagruthi Janam Bata'. She began her journey at 7:00 a.m. from her residence in Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, traveling by road to interact directly with people and assess ground-level issues.

Upon reaching the district border at Beechupalli Bridge, Kavitha received a warm and enthusiastic welcome from Telangana Jagruthi leaders, party activists, and members of the Nadigadda Rights Struggle Committee. The area resonated with slogans of "Jai Telangana" as supporters greeted her with floral bouquets, reflecting strong public participation in the programme.

Before commencing her district engagements, Kavitha visited the historic Sri Anjaneya Swamy Temple at Beechupalli. Temple priests accorded her a traditional Poornakumbha welcome. She offered special prayers and

received theertha prasadam, marking a spiritual beginning to her public outreach.

As part of the Jagruthi Janam Bata, Kavitha visited the Alampur Government Hospital, where she strongly criticised the state government for what she termed as "gross neglect" of public healthcare.

She expressed serious concern over the condition of the 100-bed hospital, stating that although the building was sanctioned and completed nearly three years ago, it still lacks basic infrastructure, medical equipment, and adequate staff. "The hospital was opened only recently due to public pressure, but inside, there are no essential facilities. Even the construction quality is poor, with visible cracks on the walls," she alleged.

Kavitha lauded government doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers for

delivering services to poor patients despite severe resource constraints. However, she accused the government of failing to increase staff strength in proportion to population growth. She noted that during her visits to over 15 districts, she observed a similar deteriorating condition of government hospitals everywhere. Highlighting the absence of basic diagnostic services, Kavitha questioned why patients from Alampur are forced to travel to Gadwal district headquarters even for routine blood tests. She pointed out that samples collected locally are sent to Gadwal, causing delays of two to three days for test results, which critically affects patient care. She demanded immediate establishment of full-fledged diagnostic facilities at Alampur hospital.

"If this is the condition in the Chief Minister's own erstwhile district, one can

imagine the plight of other regions," Kavitha remarked. She urged the government to immediately focus on the healthcare sector by filling vacant posts, supplying medicines, and providing necessary medical equipment without delay. Later, as part of the same tour, Kavitha visited a maize procurement centre set up near Kalkuntla village in Manopadu mandal. She interacted with farmers and enquired about procurement procedures, moisture content assessment, and weighing methods. Addressing the gathering, Kavitha demanded that the government ensure every grain produced by farmers is procured at Minimum Support Price (MSP). She called for better facilities at procurement centres and stressed that payments must be made promptly without unnecessary delays. "

## Maddi Gunta Turns into Sewage Pond; BJP Demands Immediate Action Against Municipal Negligence in Aiza

Gadwal: The Maddi Gunta area in Ward No. 20 of Aiza Municipality has turned into a severe sanitation and public health concern due to prolonged stagnation of rainwater and sewage, alleged Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders during an inspection visit.

BJP Aiza Town President Kompati Bhagat Reddy, along with party leaders, visited the Maddi Gunta lo-

area almost unlivable.

Newspaper subscriptions

The BJP leadership squarely blamed the negligence of the previous municipal administration and the continued apathy of current officials for the prevailing situation. They accused the authorities of playing with the lives of the people and warned that such irresponsible governance would not be tolerated.

The leaders further highlighted that in the past, Maddi Gunta functioned as a natural pond that collected sewage water, which was then channeled through drains to the main stream near the Ambedkar statue. However, due to alleged corruption, illegal permissions, and negligence by municipal officials and former rulers, private individuals were allowed to illegally construct shops over drainage channels and nalas. These structures are reportedly being rented out for large sums, while residents of Maddi Gunta continue to suffer amid sewage and stagnant water.

The BJP demanded that municipal authorities immediately take action to remove illegal constructions, reconstruct the drainage canals, and provide a permanent solution to prevent sewage stagnation in Maddi Gunta. The party warned that if authorities fail to respond promptly, the BJP would launch large-scale public agitation programs in association with local residents.

BJP leaders asserted that the issue is not merely administrative but a serious humanitarian and public health crisis, requiring urgent intervention.

Among those present during the visit were Aiza Town SC Morcha President Khushi, Ramakrishna, Narasimha Rao, Oblesh, Rajashekhar, Venkatesh, and other party workers and local residents.

The BJP reiterated its demand that municipal officials act without further delay to restore proper drainage infrastructure and provide relief to the long-suffering residents of Maddi Gunta.



## Hyderabad builder held for duping investors of Rs 61 cr

Hyderabad/Chennai: The Enforcement Directorate's (ED) Hyderabad Zonal Office on Saturday arrested Kakarla Srinivas, the Managing Director of Jayathri Infrastructures India Pvt Ltd and initiated investigation based on multiple FIRs registered by the Hyderabad Police over alleged Rs 61 cr fraud.

The FIRs were filed against Jayathri Infrastructures India Pvt Ltd, its Managing Director Kakarla Srinivas, Jayathri Reliabilities India Pvt Ltd, and others under various sections of the IPC, 1860, and the Telangana State Protection of Depositors of Financial Establishments Act. These FIRs stemmed from complaints by homebuyers and investors alleging cheating, criminal breach of trust, and misappropriation of funds. The victims were promised pre-launch flats, commercial units, metro-station stalls, and assured rental returns that never materialised.



cality and strongly criticized municipal authorities for their alleged negligence and failure to address the long-standing drainage issues. The leaders stated that rainwater and sewage from several surrounding areas converge at one point, converting Maddi Gunta into a sewage pond.

Speaking on the occasion, Kompati Bhagat Reddy said that the absence of a proper drainage system in the Maddi Gunta area has resulted in sewage water overflowing onto roads, causing immense hardship to residents. He stated that people are being forced to live in unhygienic conditions, enduring severe foul smell, mosquito menace, and the constant risk of infectious diseases.

Local residents expressed serious concern, stating that students, women, and elderly people are facing extreme difficulties in commuting, while daily life has been completely disrupted. They alleged that the situation worsens during the rainy season, making the



# TDP announces incharges for Lok Sabha Constituencies and District Committees

The leadership of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has unveiled the eagerly awaited list of presidents for its Lok Sabha constituencies and district committees. The party high command has appointed presidents and general secretaries for all 25 Lok Sabha constituencies across the state.

In a significant move towards inclusivity, the newly appointed district presidents include representatives from various communities: eight from the Backward Classes (BC), one from the minority community, eleven from the Other Castes (OC), four from the Scheduled Castes (SC), and one from the Scheduled Tribes (ST). This strategic distribution aims to strengthen the party's outreach and representation among diverse social groups.

Here's the list of president and general secretaries to lok sabha and districts

1. Anakapalli - Bathula Tatayya Babu - Lalam Kashi Naidu
2. Araku (ST) - Moju Tejavathi - Datti Lakshmana Rao
3. Srikakulam - Modavalasa Ramesh - Peerikatla Vithal Rao

4. Visakhapatnam - Chode Venkata Pattabhiram - Lodagala Krishna
5. Vizianagaram - Kimidi Nagarjuna - Prasadula Varaprasad
6. Amalapuram - Guttala Sai - Palam Raju
7. Eluru - Badeti Radhakrishna - Muthareddy Jaggavarapu
8. Kakinada - Jyothula Naveen - Pinke Srinivas Baba
9. Narsapuram - Manthana Ramaraju - Pithani Mohan Rao
10. Rajahmundry - Boddu Venkata Ramana Chowdary - Kasi Naveen
11. Bapatla - Salagala Rajasekhar Babu - Nakkala Raghava
12. Guntur - Pilli Manikya Rao - Pothineni Srinivasarao
13. Machilipatnam - Veeranki Gurumurthy - Govu Satyanarayana
14. Narasaraopet - Sheikh Jane Saida - Nallapati Ramachandra Prasad
15. Vijayawada - Gadde Anuradha - Chennuboyina Chittibabu
16. Chittoor - Shanmuga Reddy - Y Sunil Kumar Chowdary



17. Nellore - Beeda Ravichandra - Chejerla Venkateswarlu Reddy
18. Ongole - Ugra Narasimha Reddy - Kothari Nageswara Rao
19. Rajampet - Sugavasi Prasad Babu - Pathan Khader Khan
20. Tirupati - Panabaka Lakshmi - Dollar Divakar Reddy
21. Anantapur - Poola Nagaraju -

- Sridhar Chowdary
22. Hindupur - MS Raju - Hanumappa
23. Kadapa - Chadipiralla Bhupesh Subbirami Reddy - YS Jabiulla
24. Kurnool - Gudishe Krishnamma - Poola Nagaraju Yadav
25. Nandyal - Gouru Charitha Reddy - NMD Feroz

## 8 police vehicles, surveillance drones handed over to Kadiri police

Kadiri: District SP S Satish Kumar and Kadiri MLA Kandikunta Venkata Prasad inaugurated eight new police vehicles and two advanced surveillance drones at Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple on Saturday. The equipment, valued at approximately Rs 1.1 crore, was procured through CSR funds provided by local industrialists. The new fleet includes one day-vision and one night-vision drone, aimed at enhancing emergency response, traffic management, and law enforcement during large festivals.

SP Satish Kumar emphasised that the vehicles will allow for faster response to emergencies and grievances reported through the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS). The drones will serve as vital tools for surveillance in Kadiri, supporting the town's security infrastructure. MLA Venkata Prasad highlighted the goal of developing Kadiri into a 'smart temple town' and pledged continued support to curb crime and alleviate traffic congestion. The event concluded with the SP felicitating MLA Prasad and donors

## 44th State-level shooting ball championships begin in Kurnool

Kurnool: Kurnool Municipal Corporation corporators Narayana Reddy, Dandu Lakshmikanth Reddy, and Nagalakshmi Reddy inaugurated 44th State-level Senior Men's and Women's Shooting Ball Championships at Outdoor Stadium in Kurnool on Saturday. Organised by Kurnool District Shooting Ball Association, the event began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp amid sports administrators and public representatives.

Prominent attendees included State Shooting Ball Association Secretary Joseph, Kurnool District Olympic Association CEO Vijay Kumar, Sepak Takraw Federation of India President Srinivasulu, District Olympic Association Executive Secretary Sunil Kumar, KV Subba Reddy Educational Institutions Chairman KV Subba Reddy, former KDCC Director Ramana Reddy, and youth leader Hanumanthu Reddy.

Speakers emphasised that sporting excellence alone earns global recognition, stressing discipline, dedication, and continuous practice for success. They called for collective efforts to support athletes, noting that competitions



foster friendship and sportsmanship. The invaluable role of physical education teachers in nurturing medal-winning performers was highlighted.

Joseph announced that nearly 400 players from 17 districts of the State are competing. Top performers will represent the State at national championships in

Maharashtra in early January, under Shooting Ball Federation of India.

The inauguration featured a ceremonial march-past by participating teams. District Association Secretary Eshwar Naidu, along with State representatives Ratnam and Surendra, were present.



## Science exhibitions enhance students' innovation and scientific temper

Kurnool: District Collector Dr A Siri inaugurated district-level science exhibition organised by education department at Government Town Model High School in Kurnool on Saturday. She paid floral tributes to Nobel laureate CV Raman and closely examined scientific models, experiments, and innova-



tive projects displayed by students.

Addressing the gathering, Dr Siri emphasised that science exhibitions are an effective platform for fostering creativity, analytical thinking, and scientific temperament among students. The event featured projects under seven distinct themes to promote holistic learning. She outlined the selection process: school-level exhibitions on December 16, mandal-level on December 17, leading to the district-level event. Eleven outstanding students were selected to represent Kurnool at State-level Science Exhibition on December 23.

The Collector highlighted the importance of practical and experiential learning alongside classroom education in shaping students' careers. She urged parents to identify and nurture their children's talents early. Expressing concern over persisting illiteracy, she linked it to social issues like child marriages and encouraged students to pursue education despite challenges, affirming that government school students have immense potential to excel nationally and internationally with proper guidance. She acknowledged teachers' crucial role in cultivating scientific and innovative mindset.

Later, Dr Siri inspected 'Mustabu Corner' promoting health, hygiene, and discipline, directing officials to ensure daily implementation across schools with necessary facilities. She stressed coordination among education, health, and women & child welfare departments and planted a sapling on the campus. District Education Officer L. Sudhakar, Science Exhibition Officer Rangamma, Samagra Shiksha APC Dr. Lokaraju, Principal Adinarayana Reddy, and other officials were present.

## Drug-free society is our goal: Collector



District Collector A Shyam Prasad, SP S Satish Kumar, MLA K Venkata Prasad and others taking pledge in Kadiri on Saturday

Kadiri: District Collector A Shyam Prasad called for a drug-free society during an awareness programme at Kadiri R&B Guest House on Saturday. Held under the National Action Plan for Drug Abuse Prevention, the event aimed to sensitise public to the dangers of substance abuse and illegal trafficking.

The Collector emphasised that building a healthy

society requires collective discipline and clear goals from the youth. He highlighted that departments—including police, health, and excise—are coordinating district-wide to curb illicit activities.

SP S Satish Kumar urged public to report drug-related activity via toll-free number 1972, noting the police department's commitment to protecting the youth. MLA Kandikunta Venkata Prasad advised parents to monitor their children's progress closely and encourage them to pursue their ambitions with determination.



## Awareness programme on 'Opportunities in Environment' held

Anantapur: As part of Swarna Andhra-Swachh Andhra initiative, an awareness drive on this month's theme, 'Opportunities in Environment', was organised on Saturday at New Council Hall of Anantapur Municipal Corporation.

The programme highlighted the potential of utilising waste generated from households and surroundings as valuable resources for self-employment and commercial activities.

Representatives from City of Terrace Gardens (CTG) initiative explained the participants about the benefits of promoting terrace and backyard gardening. They emphasised the importance of converting kitchen waste into compost for plant nutrition, which not only increases crop yield but also reduces house-

hold waste and contributes to environmental conservation.

The speakers underscored the role of citizens in reducing solid waste, promoting composting practices, and adopting eco-friendly habits to protect the environment while creating sustainable income opportunities.

Municipal Commissioner B Balaswamy, MEPMA Project Director J Viswajyothi, Deputy Commissioner Dr Pavani, Town Project Officer K Naga Subba Rayudu, TE-IB S Bhavani, City Mission Manager PC Katamaiah, community organisers, urban and slum federation resource persons, slum federation leaders, and members of self-help groups participated in the programme.



# It looks like this message is in English

## Lexus India Reports Strong Growth Momentum for the LM 350h

Hyderabad Lexus India announced a strong performance update for its flagship luxury MPV, the LM 350h, which recorded 40% growth in November 2025 and a cumulative 15% growth from January to November 2025, compared to the same period last year. The LM 350h continues to stand out in the ultra-luxury mobility space, attracting guests who seek to discover purposeful design paired with elevated comfort and convenience.

LM 350h has been developed for guests who see travel as an extension of their personal space. This meticulously crafted LM, a luxury lounge on wheels, has expanded the ultra-luxury mobility segment. Guided by the Lexus philosophy of Omotenashi, the cabin is designed to deliver comfort that feels effortless. The vehicle features advanced hybrid technology that ensures a smooth, near-silent ride, precise handling, and outstanding rear-seat comfort for a more restful journey. Available in four-seater and seven-seater configurations,

it represents the pinnacle of comfort and luxury mobility for High-Net-worth Individuals (HNIs) and Ultra HNIs.

Mr. Hikaru Ikeuchi, President, Lexus India, said, "We are deeply grateful to our guests for the confidence they place in Lexus and for their continued support and enthusiasm for the Lexus LM 350h. The vehicle represents the ultimate in grandeur and refinement, where space, quietness, and the assurance of advanced hybrid technology come together, allowing guests to discover a new benchmark in luxury mobility. This sustained pan-India demand, from cities such as Delhi and Mumbai as well as Hyderabad, and Chennai, reflects a growing preference for thoughtfully designed private luxury lounges on wheels. As we look ahead, our priority remains to strengthen this connection through innovations that further enrich the Lexus journey in India."

The ownership journey continues to be supported by Lexus India's signature benefits, including Lexus Luxury



Care, an 8-year vehicle warranty\*\*, a choice of Lexus Luxury Care service packages (Comfort, Relax, and Premiere), and 5-year Roadside Assistance reinforcing commitment to an unparalleled peace of mind.

As Lexus continues to expand its portfolio in India, the strong performance of the LM reaffirms the brand's unique ability for Indian guests to discover transformative luxury mobility experiences.

## KCG College Student Rithika S K Wins the 9th IET India Scholarship Award for solar-powered healthcare solution

Hyderabad The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), one of the world's leading professional engineering bodies, has announced Rithika S K, a student of KCG College of Technology - Chennai, as the national winner of the 9th edition of the IET India Scholarship Award—one of India's most prestigious honours for undergraduate engineers.

Rithika made it to the top from a total of 43,971 applications received from across India, following a rigorous, multi-stage evaluation process that assesses academic excellence, innovation, leadership, and commitment to societal impact. Her solar-powered healthcare kiosk (HEKIO), won the National Finals held in December, reflecting the programme's emphasis on applying engineering thinking to real-world challenges and moving ideas beyond concept towards practical implementation. As the national winner, Rithika received a scholarship of ₹3 lakh along with a complimentary IET membership.

Vansika Jhawar, from Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), was named First Runner-up, while Khushi Malhotra from SRM University AP secured the Second Runner-up position. In total, the programme awarded ₹10 lakhs of scholarship prize money this year.

The 2025 edition of the IET India Scholarship Award also marked a significant milestone for gender representation among young engineers. For the

first time since the programme's inception, all five national finalists were women, underscoring the growing leadership and impact of young women engineers in India's technology ecosystem.

\*Prof. Abhijit Chakrabarti, Chair, IET India Scholarship Advisory Committee,\* said: "The IET India Scholarship Award celebrates young engineers who demonstrate not just technical ability, but leadership and a strong sense of purpose. This year's cohort deserves special commendation for the quality of their solutions and the effort taken to move these ideas as close to real-world implementation as possible. The fact that this year marked the first-ever all-women finalist group further reflects the depth and diversity of engineering talent emerging from India. I congratulate the winner and finalists and look forward to the contributions they will make as future engineering leaders."



## Newton School Strengthens Presence in Hyderabad with Strong Hiring Across GCCs and Startups

Hyderabad: Newton School, India's leading outcome-driven tech education platform, has announced strong placement outcomes from Hyderabad, contributing significantly to its nationwide achievement of 4,500+ tech placements. This follows the platform's recent national milestone, where Newton School reported its highest package crossing ₹1.5 crore, with top product companies, unicorns, and global MNCs hiring graduates across India.

From Hyderabad alone, around 500 learners secured placements, giving students from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana meaningful early industry exposure at the start of their careers. A key regional insight is that 58.6% of placed learners come from Tier-3 colleges, reinforcing Newton School's mission of enabling career mobility for students from underserved academic backgrounds. Within this cohort, the top 10 percentile of learners secured packages of ₹18 LPA, demonstrating strong market value recognition for high-performing graduates from underserved backgrounds.



# Blenders Pride Fashion Tour Crafts Fashion's New Revolution

Hyderabad Blenders Pride Fashion Tour brought the curtains down on this year's edition, with a breakthrough fashion narrative that shattered moulds of fashion craft as it is known. Set against the dramatic backdrop of iconic Howrah Bridge and transforming the city's historic Hooghly River into a spectacular runway, the finale edition presented an experimental collection by designer Anamika Khanna AK | OK, with the charismatic Ishaan Khatter as the showstopper, that pushed design beyond convention and made fashion move into the next era.

In collaboration with the Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI), the showcase challenged long-held notions of craftsmanship, treating it not as a static tradition but as a living, evolving force. Anamika Khanna's AK | OK dismantled familiar craft vocabularies — zardozi, chikankari and mirror work — pulling them apart and reassembling them through futuristic tailoring, metallic interventions and cosmic-inspired

graphics.

The show unfolded on a Barge, anchored in the midst of the Hooghly river, transforming it into a floating theatre of fashion. It opened with divers emerging onto the barge and scaffolding brought alive through light, smoke, and sound. Models appeared from within the structure to a high-energy score, as responsive lasers shifted with each step, amplifying the tension and momentum of the show. The narrative peaked with powerful chainmail looks presented as a unified statement, followed by sculptural silhouettes in motion. The finale delivered a dramatic crescendo with the Ishaan's arrival in a speedboat, culminating in a collective closing moment set against the iconic Howrah bridge.

Adding a touch of gravitas to the evening was The Bengal Paddle vessel, with its museum-like interiors and historic detailing, that hosted the who's who of the city before they were brought



onboard the barge. The Riverine Museum within its former boiler room, that houses rare marine artefacts and curated installations tracing the Hooghly's legacy, created an immersive cultural backdrop that complemented the sophistication of the showcase.

Debasree Dasgupta, CMO, Pernod

Ricard India said, "Blenders Pride Fashion Tour has always been at the forefront of shaping fashion and cultural conversations. As the final chapter of this edition, Kolkata delivered the very essence of what makes fashion truly transformative. 'Future Is Crafted' was not just a showcase—it was a powerful statement on how heritage and innovation converge to create something extraordinary."

## Newton School Strengthens Presence in Hyderabad with Strong Hiring Across GCCs and Startups

Hyderabad: Newton School, India's leading outcome-driven tech education platform, has announced strong placement outcomes from Hyderabad, contributing significantly to its nationwide achievement of 4,500+ tech placements. This follows the platform's recent national milestone, where Newton School reported its highest package crossing ₹1.5 crore, with top product companies, unicorns, and global MNCs hiring graduates across India.

From Hyderabad alone, around 500 learners secured placements, giving students from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana meaningful early industry exposure at the start of their careers. A key regional insight is that 58.6% of placed learners come from Tier-3 colleges, reinforcing Newton School's mission of enabling career mobility for students from underserved academic backgrounds. Within this cohort, the top 10 percentile of learners secured packages of ₹18 LPA, demonstrating strong market value recognition for high-performing graduates from underserved backgrounds.

Where AP-TS Students Are Getting Placed

Based on regional placement distribution:

44.8% in high-growth startups  
26.3% combined in GCCs and top MNCs



### Newton School

This diverse distribution reflects the strong demand for Newton School graduates across Hyderabad's rapidly growing tech ecosystem, with top recruiters in the region including Ekinicare,

which hired 26 learners, and ADP, which hired 22.

Speaking on the milestone, Nishant Chandra, Co-founder of Newton School, said: "Hyderabad has become

a talent powerhouse for us. The top performers from Tier-3 colleges here are matching—and often surpassing—graduates from traditional tech hubs. This is where the real story of outcome-driven education proves itself. With the right mentorship, structured training, and personalised placement support, they are entering companies that once felt distant. Their success is a reflection of what focused, outcome-driven education can achieve."

## Flipkart deepens role in building India's future-ready skilling ecosystem with NCVET, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship

Hyderabad Flipkart, India's home-grown e-commerce marketplace, has entered into an agreement with the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) to strengthen India's skilling ecosystem and support the government's Skill India Mission with a focus on creating nationally recognised, industry-led pathways for India's fast-growing e-commerce and logistics workforce. The agreement took place at Kaushal Bhawan, New Delhi, in the presence of senior representatives from the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and NCVET. Ms. Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Chairperson, NCVET, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, alongside Mr. Rajneesh Kumar, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Flipkart Group; Prof. (Dr.) Ashok

Kumar Gaba, Executive Member, NCVET and Lt. Col. Vikram Singh Bhati, Director, NCVET were present amongst dignitaries. Established under the aegis of MSDE, NCVET plays a critical role in regulating and ensuring quality across India's vocational education, training, and skilling ecosystem. Its mandate focuses on creating nationally benchmarked standards that strengthen workforce employability and contribute to sustained economic growth. Speaking about the partnership, Rajneesh Kumar, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Flipkart Group, said, "At Flipkart, skilling is not a peripheral effort, it is core to how we build India's digital commerce infrastructure. As one of the country's largest employers and enablers in the e-commerce and logistics ecosystem, we see it as our responsibility to help create standardized, nationally

recognised skilling pathways that are industry-led and outcome-oriented. This collaboration with NCVET allows us to bring real operational insight from the shopfloor into formal training, assessment and certification frameworks. Our intent is to help build a large pool of job-ready talent that can grow with India's digital economy, while supporting the Skill India Mission in a meaningful, long-term way." Speaking on the occasion, Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary, MSDE & Chairperson, NCVET, said, "NCVET's partnership with Flipkart reinforces our ongoing effort to make India's skilling architecture more industry-responsive, credible and outcomes-driven. By aligning training and certification closely with real operational needs, we are strengthening pathways for quality jobs, mobility and long-term career growth."



# It's okay to not have the right

A question I am asked often is what I do. When I respond with "I am a journalist", what inevitably follows are questions for pointers to an "insider's" view of the political climate in New Delhi. Elections are just around the corner and people want to know. The problem is, I don't have one because I am not a political journalist. To get to this point where I can say "I don't know" has taken enormous courage. And I wear this courage as a badge of honour. And each time I say no, I tell myself I have passed the Max Planck/Chauffeur Test. This needs some background.

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There is real knowledge, which is profound and rooted in deep comprehension. Then there is pretend knowledge, which is superficial and masquerades as expertise. The dichotomy between the both was vividly illustrated by a narrative, apocryphal perhaps, that involves the Nobel Prize-winning physicist Max Planck and his chauffeur. This story, captured public imagination when Charlie Munger, the billionaire investor and vice chairman of Berkshire Hathaway, delivered the commencement speech at the University of Santa Clara Gould Law School in 2007. Now called the Max Planck/Chauffeur Test, it serves as a powerful lens through which we can examine the texture of true understanding versus the veneer of pretend expertise.

The story has it that Planck, after receiving the Nobel Prize, was invited to lecture across Germany. His chauffeur, after having heard Planck's speech many times, memorized it and could recite it perfectly. One day, to amuse themselves, Planck and his chauffeur switched roles; the chauffeur delivered the lecture flawlessly until a physicist in the audience asked a complex question. The chauffeur, realizing the limits of his mimicry, wittily remarked that the question was so simple, he would let his chauffeur answer it. Max Planck took over. The point is, there is a profound truth about knowledge: the difference between understanding what lies on the surface and wrapping your head around its depths.

Extrapolate this test to professions such as journalism, stock market research and academia, where the currency of credibility is knowledge. In journalism, the rapid pace and the pressure to break news can sometimes lead to a reliance on pretend knowledge. Journalists, under deadline duress, may skim the surface of complex issues, offering summaries without the depth that understanding requires. This is not to disparage the profession; many journalists perform their roles with diligence and integrity, striving to understand the nuances of the stories they cover. Much the

same can be said of stock market analysts. As recently as in January 2024, the most blue-blooded of them applauded Paytm's founder Vijay Shekar Sharma for the company's results declared in the last quarter of December 2023. They refused to see the man was breaking the law and it would be a matter of time before the RBI would lose patience with him.

In much the same way, academia is not immune to the allure of pretend knowledge. The publish-or-perish ethos encourages quantity over quality. This leads many researchers to feign expertise in areas beyond their genuine comprehension. It is compounded by the complex incentive structures within academia, such as funding for the labs they rub, hinges on perceived expertise. The outcome is a landscape where some take shortcuts and navigate with the compass of pretence rather than the hard-earned map of real knowledge. While it is true the pressures are high in all these professions, it takes moral strength to admit the boundaries of one's understanding. "I don't know" is not a declaration of defeat, but a statement of honesty. Charlie Munger himself has championed the virtue of recognizing the limits of one's knowledge. He advocates for a



model of intellectual integrity where admitting ignorance is not only acceptable but commendable. The real versus pretend knowledge framework encourages us to scrutinize not just the information we consume but also the depth of our understanding. It invites us to ask ourselves whether we are the chauffeur, reciting facts without comprehension, or the scientist, deeply engaged with the material. In the end, the Max Planck/Chauffeur Test is more than

just a cautionary tale about the perils of superficial understanding. It is a call to intellectual integrity, a reminder that real knowledge is not just about the accumulation of facts but the depth of understanding. It challenges us to look beyond the surface, to engage with ideas and issues at a profound level, and to recognize that in the quest for knowledge, the courage to admit ignorance is the first step towards true understanding.

## Experts suggest ASHA-like cadre for community mental healthcare

Could the south of India see the repurposing of the Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) into a community health worker who is paid, not incentivised, and can provide support to persons discharged from a psychiatric facility? Or can a similar cadre be created to take up community mental healthcare? In a conversation held recently, Vikram Patel, Paul Farmer Professor and Chair, Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School and R. Thara, vice chairperson, Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF), explored the possibility of having a cadre similar to ASHAs to take community mental healthcare forward. Noting that he had visited many District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) sites around the country, Dr. Patel said that DMHP was purely a medication programme. "There is nothing community-based, no peer support and no rehabilitation," he said. There is no psychosocial intervention, added Dr. Thara. Elaborating on community mental health, Dr. Thara said it meant involving the local community in every way; including all community stakeholders - teachers, doctors, panchayat leaders or tahsildars. "We have trained a number of community-level workers, mostly women. They have empathy, they have acceptance in the local community, and if you train them, they play an excellent role in early detection, in facilitating care and follow-up, and in delivering some psychosocial intervention. We have



ASHAs, but you cannot overburden them, but we can have a similar cadre of health workers," she said. ASHAs conduct a rally organised to raise awareness among people on the importance of polio drops, in Vijayawada on February 29, 2024. SCARF started 'Manam Inidhu', a programme in which women from self-help groups were trained in the basic principles of mental health and counselling. If they came across persons with mild symptoms, they took them to a counsellor or to the DMHP, she said. Dr. Patel observed: "The (Indian) government is among the first governments in the world to embrace the com-

munity health worker movement, and on a massive scale. It is an environment ready for a change. We could say that maternal, new born and child health (MNCH) issues, which dominated the ASHA movement, are no longer major concerns. Let's say Tamil Nadu does not need ASHAs for maternal and child health, Kerala does not need it, and Karnataka probably does not either. So, could the south of India see the repurposing of the ASHA into a community health worker who is paid, not incentivised.... Could these States pioneer this kind of support such that every person who is discharged from a psychiatric facility -