

**Botanics Company
a Boon to North
Andhra Farmers**

Turmeric, Coffee Products Export to Foreign Countries
Happy that Youth are Entering Industry Sector
MSME Encouragement for Establishment of Industries
Minister Kondapalli Srinivas



Vizianagaram, October 1, "State Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Rural Poverty Alleviation, and Pravasandhra Empowerment Relations Kondapalli Srinivas said that starting of Botanics Company which helps in processing turmeric, coffee products and exporting them to foreign countries is a boon to North

Andhra farmers. He said he is happy to inaugurate Botanics Company set up by young entrepreneurs Suresh and Madhu at Savaravilli in Nellimarla constituency in the district on Thursday. He said under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan

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**Happiness
Overflowing Among
Pension Beneficiaries**

**DBT Pilot Project Launched in
Gajapathinagaram**
**Rs 2,692.34 Crores Sanctioned Statewide
NTR Bharosa Pensions
Distribution in Service of Poor**
**Rs 156.21 Crores Arrears Released for
Those Who Could Not Take Pension for 2 Months**
Minister Kondapalli Srinivas



Gajapathinagaram, October 1, "State Minister for MSME, Rural Poverty Alleviation and Pravasandhra Empowerment Relations Kondapalli Srinivas said that happiness is overflowing among beneficiaries with NTR Bharosa pensions being provided by the coalition government. On Thursday, Minis-

ter Kondapalli Srinivas launched on a pilot basis the system of directly crediting pension into bank accounts (DBT) through 'SNA SPARSH' as per central instructions at Thana Street, Gajapathinagaram in Vizianagaram district. He said under this new system Rs. 6 lakhs was di-

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'A true hero and proud son of Bharat': Pawan Kalyan on Capt Smit Machchhar

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and former CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday called Captain Smit Machchhar a real hero in the skies. The Deputy CM's office took to 'X' to praise Machchhar, who prevented a flydubai flight from crashing after his co-pilot stabbed him and allegedly tried to take control of the aircraft during a flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv. "Heartfelt appreciation to Captain Smit Machchhar for his extraordinary courage and presence of mind during the mid-air crisis



aboard Flydubai Flight FZ1073. Despite being seriously injured, Captain Machchhar fought back and opened the cockpit door, enabling the crew and passengers to overpower the attacker and helping avert a catastrophic tragedy," the Jana Sena leader said in a post. "His courageous actions helped save the lives of 174 people on

board. In a moment when every second mattered, he stood between danger and 174 lives. A true hero and a proud son of Bharat. I pray for his speedy and complete recovery. May he return safely to his loved ones," he added. Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy was also all praise for Smit Chchhar. "Captain Smit Machchhar has shown extraordinary bravery and courage in the face of grave danger. Despite being seriously injured, his unwavering resolve and selfless commitment helped save hun-

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Atchanna hails Centre's rabi MSP hike for 2027-28

Amaravati: Agriculture minister K Atchannaidu welcomed the Centre's decision to increase the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for rabi crops for the 2027-28 marketing season, saying it would provide greater price security to farmers. The decision was approved at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. According to the minister, the Centre has

fixed the MSP at Rs 2,610 per quintal for wheat, Rs 2,286 for barley, Rs 5,958 for gram, Rs 7,390 for lentil (masur), Rs 6,613 for rapeseed and mustard, and Rs 7,215 for safflower. Compared with the previous season, the MSP for safflower has been increased by Rs 675 per quintal, rapeseed and mustard by Rs 413, lentil by Rs 390, barley by Rs 136, gram by Rs 83 and wheat by Rs 25. Atchan naidu said the



higher MSPs for pulses and oilseeds would encourage farmers to diversify their crops and help strengthen returns from agriculture. He said both the Centre and the state government were

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Vizag Airport warns job seekers against fraudulent recruitment offers

Hyderabad: GMR Visakhapatnam International Airport Limited (GVIAL) that developed and operates Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport (Vizag Airport) has issued a strong caution to job seekers against fraudulent recruitment offers and communications falsely claiming to represent the airport, GVIAL or the GMR Group. The advisory follows a recent instance of fraudulent recruitment communications being circulated in the name of the airport and its operator. Job seekers were advised not to re-



spond to, make any payment in connection with or share personal or financial information with anyone claiming to offer

employment unless the authenticity of the communication has been independently verified

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SI's Mother-in-Law Murdered, Gold Looted In Kavali

Nellore: A 68-year-old woman, the mother-in-law of a police sub-inspector, was allegedly strangled to death by unidentified assailants who broke into her house and decamped with gold jewellery at Tufan Nagar in Kavali on Thursday, sending shockwaves through the town. The deceased was identified as Ponguluri Vijayalakshmi, alias

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Jagan Questions Naidu Over 34% BC Quota

Vijayawada: YSR Congress president and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy questioned Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu over how long he would continue what Jagan described as "deceptive politics" on BC reservations. In a post on X, Jagan alleged that the State government's efforts to provide 34% reservation to BCs were a political drama, despite knowing that the quota would face legal scrutiny. His remarks



came after the Andhra Pradesh High Court struck down the government orders providing 34% reservation to BCs in local body elections. Also Read - SI's Mother-in-Law Murdered

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The architecture of inclusion: How Sukumar Sen built a republic of voters

“Democracy begins not with the politician. It begins with the voter.” In 1950, a newly sovereign nation embarked on the most ambitious democratic experiment in human history. India was a vast, deeply diverse landscape recovering from the trauma of Partition, where nearly 85 per cent of the population was illiterate and infrastructure was virtually non-existent. There were no digital databases, no standardised identification cards, no automated networks, and no modern technology. Into this monumental void stepped Sukumar Sen, an ICS officer appointed as India’s first Chief Election Commissioner (CEC). Tasked with executing the inaugural general election, Sen did not merely manage a bureaucratic process; he helped build the foundational instinct of Indian democracy. His mission was as radical in its simplicity as it was staggering in its scope: find every citizen, register them, and give them a voice. Today, as contemporary political discourse grows increasingly obsessed with lists, exclusions, and deletions, returning to Sen’s original vision offers a vital reminder of what it truly takes to sustain a government of the people. The enrolment epic The logistics facing Sen and his team were unprecedented. India’s electorate in 1950 spanned over 17 crore voters—a demographic larger than the combined populations of the United States and western Europe at the time. To enroll them, thousands of election workers traveled on foot, by bullock cart, on horseback, and aboard boats. They trekked across the snow-bound valleys of Himachal Pradesh, crossed the arid expanses of Rajasthan, and navigated the dense forests of the Northeast. They went door to door and village to village to compile the electoral rolls from scratch. When social stigmas prevented many women in northern states from giving their individual names to male officials—offering only their relations as “mother of X” or “wife of Y”—Sen refused to accept the compromise. He insisted that every citizen must be recognized in their own right, and delayed registration drive timelines until millions of women were properly named and cataloged on the rolls. To overcome widespread illiteracy, Sen’s team devised an intuitive visual language. They introduced distinct symbols for political parties—a pair of bullocks, a tree, an elephant—and color-coded ballot boxes so that every individual, regardless of formal education, could cast a secret ballot with dignity and confidence.

Building vs. maintaining-The founding instinct: Sukumar Sen and the architects of early India did not inherit a functional democracy; they had to construct one out of hope, determination, and civic faith. Because they built it from the ground up, they understood a fundamental truth that often gets lost in modern administration: the strength of a republic is measured by its capacity to include, not its efficiency at weeding out. The state seeks out the voter In recent decades, administrative focus has subtly shifted. Where the founding impulse was driven by a relentless urge to expand the circle of participation, modern election machinery is frequently pre-occupied with verification algorithms, identity cross-checks, and purging records.

Botanics Company a Boon to North Andhra Farmers

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and young leader Lokesh, the coalition government is bringing many industries to North Andhra. He said through Bhogapuram airport there will be more opportunity to export North Andhra agricultural and products to domestic and foreign countries. He said he is very happy that through Botanics 400 people are provided direct employment and 1100 families will benefit. He said a policy is going to be brought to talk to bankers through MSME and sanction loans for those setting up industries. MP Kalisetti Appala Naidu speaking said coalition government is already providing encouragement for establishment of industries in North Andhra region, and it is happy that Botanics industry which exports agricultural products has been started in our region. Nellimarla MLA Lokam Naga Madhavi speaking said it is a welcome development to set up Botanics Company which is useful for exporting crops grown locally by farmers like turmeric, ginger, coconut, mango to America and Asia Pacific countries. Markfed Chairman Karotu Bangaru Raju speaking said in previous government they were greedy for commissions and prevented companies from coming, while coalition government is encouraging those setting up industries. Oilfed Chairman Gandhi Babji speaking said there are many opportunities for establishment of industries in North Andhra, and more youth should come forward to set up industries availing such opportunities. Loksatta leader Babji speaking said if permissions are granted through single window scheme for those coming for establishment of industries, more people will come forward to set up industries. APEDA Regional Chairman RP Naidu and others participated in this program.

Happiness Overflowing Among Pension Beneficiaries

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rectly credited into the accounts of NSAP pensioners in Gajapathinagaram mandal. He said this DBT payment rule applies only to 1919 pensioners under NSAP, and for the remaining 61,38,529 lakh NTR Bharosa pensioners, pension will continue to be provided in cash form at doorstep as usual. He said government has released Rs. 2,692.34 crores for distribution of October month pensions across the state. He said in October month total 61,40,448 lakh pensioners across the state will benefit. He said out of the funds being distributed, Rs. 2,675.63 crores has been deposited in respective Swarna Gramam/Swarna Ward pension bank accounts. He said Rs. 156.21 crores has been released along with arrears for those who could not take pension in August, September months due to temporary migration. He said from the time coalition government came to power till now Rs. 76,199.38 crores has been provided for pensions, and for financial year 2026-27 state government has allocated Rs. 33,485.10 crores for NTR Bharosa pension payments. He said 8,096 people were provided pensions in Gajapathinagaram mandal. He said coalition government is supporting elderly and disabled welfare by providing pension. TDP Politburo member Gantyada Sridevi, KMC Chairman P V V Gopalaraju, DRDA PD Srinivasa Phani and others participated in this program.

'A true hero and proud son of Bharat': Pawan Kalyan on Capt Smit Machchhar

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dreds of lives. India is immensely proud of Captain Machchhar. I pray for his speedy recovery, renewed strength, and good health,” wrote the Central minister. Former Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party President Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy also lauded Smit Machchhar. “Hats off to Captain Smit Machchhar for his extraordinary courage in saving the lives of the passengers and crew. Despite being seriously injured, he remained steadfast in his commitment to passenger safety. A pride of India, he showed the world the meaning of courage and selflessness. Wishing him a speedy and full recovery. A true hero,” Jagan posted on ‘X’.

Atchanna hails Centre’s rabi MSP hike for 2027-28

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com mitted to ensuring that farmers received remunerative prices that covered their production costs and provided a reasonable return. Increasing farmers’ incomes, making agriculture more profitable and protecting farmers from market price fluctuations should remain key priorities, he said. The minister said the state government was ensuring timely availability of seeds, fertilisers and other agricultural inputs. It was also prepared to intervene in markets whenever necessary to help farmers secure remunerative prices for their produce. He said the state government was working in coordination with the Centre to promote farmers’ welfare and the development of the agriculture sector. The Centre and the state were moving forward together to provide greater financial security to farmers and make agriculture a more profitable livelihood, Atchannaidu said.

Don't Fabricate False Stories on Bhimsingi Sugar Factory“ Minister Kondapalli Srinivas Advice



Gajapathinagaram, October 1, “State Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Rural Poverty Alleviation, and Pravasandhra Empowerment Relations Kondapalli Srinivas advised not to fabricate false narratives on Bhimsingi Sugar Factory. On Thursday, the Minister gave a strong reply to a question asked by reporters on Bhimsingi stories. He said it is strange to publicize that a story appeared on NTV as if words that were not said were said. He said NTV management clarified that they did not broadcast the matter going viral on social media. He said everyone knows that Bhimsingi Factory was closed during the previous YSRCP government itself. Minister said it is shameful that YSRCP people are creating misconceptions and causing anxiety to those related to the factory, and the coalition government is ready to extend all kinds of cooperation to farmers, employees, workers and investors of Bhimsingi Sugar Factory. Minister Kondapalli Srinivas advised that it is not proper for YSRCP leaders to provoke farmer and labour unions for sake of protecting their existence.

SI’s Mother-in-Law Murdered, Gold Looted In Kavali

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Veeramm, 68, mother-in-law of an SI working at Kavali. She was living alone at Bairagula Veedhi in Tufan Nagar. According to police, the assailants entered the house when she was alone, strangled her and allegedly smothered her with a pillow after throwing her to the floor. They reportedly escaped with the gold chain, bangles and earrings she was wearing, besides around 2.5 tolas of gold ornaments kept in a bureau. On receiving information, Kavali DSP V.V. Ramana Kumar reached the scene and supervised the investigation. Police suspect that the assailants wore gloves. A blouse found near the house was also reportedly seized as part of the investigation. The body was shifted to the Kavali Area Hospital for post-mortem. Kavali II Town police registered a case and launched an investigation. Police are examining CCTV footage from surrounding areas to identify and trace the suspects.

Jagan Questions Naidu Over 34% BC Quota

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dered, Gold Looted In Kavali Advertisement Jagan said that if Naidu was genuinely committed to providing 34% reservation to BCs, he should persuade the NDA government at the Centre to establish a constitutionally and legally sustainable mechanism for implementing it. He questioned whether Naidu had discussed the issue with the Centre and urged him to use his influence as an NDA ally to persuade the Union government to bring the necessary legal amendments to facilitate 34% reservation for BCs.

Vizag Airport warns job seekers against fraudulent recruitment offers

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through official GMR channels. GMR Group and Vizag Airport do not charge candidates any fee at any stage of the recruitment process. No job is offered in exchange for any payment and candidates should not pay any individual, agency or intermediary claiming to facilitate employment opportunities at the airport. The airport further clarified that it does not conduct walk-in interviews for recruitment. All genuine job vacancies are published only through the official GMR Group Careers website: <https://www.gmrgroup.com/careers> >; <https://careers.gmrgroup.in/>, and candidates are required to apply or submit their applications through the official recruitment platform only.

Stress with Mental StrengthAwareness and Practice Needed to Overcome Stress

18th Stress Management Program Successfully Held: District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmeesha



District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmeesha said that everyone should develop skills to identify and effectively control stress arising due to job duties, family responsibilities and other reasons. He said that stress can be checked with mental strength. The Collector attended the 18th Stress Management program held for government employees on Thursday in the Collector Camp Office meeting hall under the auspices of Akarsha Foundation. Speaking as the chief guest, Nagarjuna University Professor Dr. Vimala said that stress is natural in life.. stress can arise in various situations like job, family, children, husband-wife relationships. She suggested that everyone should first understand what stress is and what kind of impact it has on us. She explained that stress can be effectively controlled by focusing on aspects like time management, change in behavior, and relationship management. Speaking on this occasion, the Collector said that Stress Management programs are continuing successfully under the auspices of Akarsha Foundation. He said that many



employees are benefiting through these programs, and good response is being received from staff. He said that such awareness programs will be useful for mental health of employees and stress control, and that necessary cooperation will be provided on behalf of district administration for organizing such programs in the future. Psychologist Dr. T.S. Rao, Akarsha Foundation Chairman Dr. Garre Shankara Rao speaking said that along with stress management, they are also organizing awareness programs in collaboration with government departments on eradication of drugs and prevention of their use. Psychologists Sripathi Jagadeesh, Samuel, Dr. Krishna kumari, Venugopal, Trainee Psychologist Indumati, Collectorate Nodal Officer G. Jyothi and others participated in the program.

Change in Schedule of Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Roll Program

Vijayawada: October 01, 2026. District Collector and District Election Officer Dr. G. Lakshmeesha said that the Election Commission has announced a revised schedule for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls being undertaken in Andhra Pradesh as per the directions of the Election Commission of India. He said that as per the orders of the Election Commission, as part of the revised schedule, the stage of notices of claims and objections and their resolution process will continue from July 31, 2026 to October 10, 2026. He said that after that, the final electoral roll will be published on October 16, 2026. The Collector said that orders have been issued to inform the concerned officials and staff at the district level regarding the revised schedule and to take measures to give wide publicity to the public. He also said that the revised schedule will also be



informed in writing to the recognized political parties. District Collector & District Election Officer Dr. G. Lakshmeesha advised the public to check their name and details in the electoral roll, and if any objections or corrections are needed, to contact the concerned election officials within the stipulated deadline.

TER eyes integrated growth across key sectors

Tirupati: The emerging space, defence, manufacturing, logistics and tourism sectors are set to play a key role in shaping the Tirupati Economic Region's (TER) development roadmap up to 2047. The state government is preparing a comprehensive development plan for the region by incorporating inputs from elected representatives, industry, academia, officials and other stakeholders. TER CEO M Mukesh Kumar Meena said that the plan would focus on local requirements, development gaps and investment oppor-

tunities. Addressing a stakeholder workshop at the Tirupati collectorate on Wednesday, Meena said the exercise should go beyond data collection and preparation of a report and result in an actionable plan reflecting ground-level needs. KPMG has been appointed as the strategic support agency for preparing the TER Development Plan 2047. Representatives from Tirupati, Chittoor and Nellore districts, including collectors, MLAs, industrialists, academicians and experts, participated in the day-long consulta-

Free Training in Digital MarketingApplications Invited for Free Training in Digital Marketing

District Skill Development Officer S. Srinivasa Rao

Vijayawada: October 1, 2026. District Skill Development Officer S. Srinivasa Rao said that free certificate training on Digital Marketing is being organized at the Federal Skill Academy Training Center in Kanuru Tulasinagar, with the cooperation of Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation, with the aim of providing employment opportunities to unemployed youth. He said that after the training, job opportunities will be provided in prominent private companies. "He said that candidates aged 18 to 30 years who have completed any graduation are eligible for this training. He revealed that training classes will start from October 5, 2026. He suggested that interested candidates should directly attend the Federal Skill Academy Training

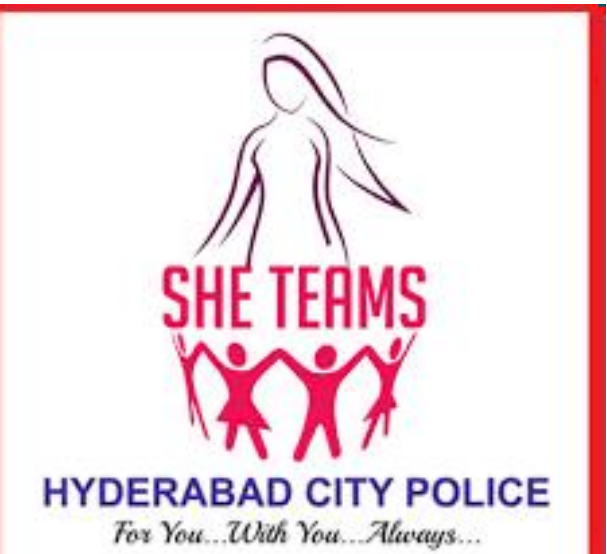


Center in Kanuru Tulasinagar with educational qualification certificates, Aadhaar copy, passport size photos and register. For more details, he asked to contact numbers 87146 92747, 87146 92748.

SHE Teams & Women and Child Safety Wing

September Key Operations & Achievements

Ameer Hussain "Crime Bureau Chief: SHE Teams - September 2026 Monthly Press Release" October 1: Hyderabad Under the supervision of Hyderabad City Police Commissioner Sri V.C. Sajjanar (IPS), the SHE Teams and Women & Child Safety Wing implemented extensive security measures to protect the safety, security and dignity of women and children who attended festivities across the city. Keeping in view the huge crowds in temples, procession routes, bus stops, metro stations, markets and other crowded areas, SHE Teams increased their presence and surveillance in sensitive areas through plain-clothes surveillance, video monitoring and immediate intervention. To prevent harassment towards women and girls and to protect their safety and dignity, SHE Teams maintained close surveillance at major crowded areas, procession routes, entry-exit points, transport hubs and other sensitive places. Special focus was placed on preventing eve-teasing, harassment, stalking, passing lewd comments, misbehaving with women, unwanted physical touch and other forms of harassment in public places. Appropriate legal and preventive action was taken against individuals caught red-handed indulging in such acts. In operations conducted by SHE Teams in September 2026, a total of 3,068 persons were caught red-handed for indecent behaviour and harassment towards women in public places; including 2,955 adults (majors) and 113 minors. As part of these actions, 106 petty cases were registered. Of these, in 05 cases up to 7 days jail sentence and Rs. 1,050 fine was



imposed; in 40 cases Rs. 1,050 fine and up to 5 days of social service was imposed; in 61 cases only Rs. 1,050 fine each was imposed. Further, 961 persons were counselled, warned and let off after taking necessary preventive measures, while 2,001 cases are pending for disposal. SHE Teams Warnings: Beware of fake profiles: Fraudsters often create fake profiles to gain your trust and exploit you. Always verify the identity of people you interact with online. Avoid over-sharing: Limit the amount of personal information you share on social media. Fraudsters can use this information to impersonate you or commit identity theft. Secure your accounts: Use strong, unique passwords for your accounts and enable two-factor authentication wherever possible to enhance security. Don't suffer in silence — Come forward and complain: "Harassment thrives when victims remain silent. Silence protects not you, but the criminal". If you face stalking, threats, abuse or harassment in any form, report immediately. Com-

plaining early helps stop repetition and also protects others. SHE Teams provide confidentiality, swift action and legal support. Your safety is our priority. Come forward. We are here to protect you. For help or to report incidents, you can contact SHE Teams Helpline by dialing 100 or via WhatsApp at 9490616555. People are requested to report any harassment or threats they face or notice. Sd/-Dr. Lavanya N.J.P., "Deputy Commissioner of Police," Women & Child Safety Wing, "Hyderabad.



tion. Meena highlighted the potential of the region in space, defence, manufacturing, logistics, agriculture, tourism and services. He proposed linking the emerging space and defence clusters in the Tirupati-Nellore belt with research, manufacturing, testing and launch facilities. With a space city coming up over nearly 2,500 acres, he suggested an R&D park involving IIT and IISER and called for policy support for land, buffer zones and infrastructure.

Elderly People are Invaluable Assets to Society

Their Experiences are Golden Paths for Future Generations
Government Stands by Protection, Respect, Welfare of Elderly
District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmeesha



Vijayawada, October 01: District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmeesha said that elderly people are invaluable assets to society, and their life experiences are very valuable guidance for future generations. He said elderly should not lose courage under any circumstances, and that there are legal protections for their safety. On the occasion of International Day of Older Persons, a district-level program was grandly organized on Thursday at the Freedom Fighters Building in Bandar Locks, Vijayawada under the auspices of NTR District Differently Abled, Transgenders, Senior Citizens Welfare Department. District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmeesha, DCP KGV Saritha, Second Additional District Judge M. Sunil Kumar attended as chief guests. They conveyed International Day of Older Persons greetings. Speaking on this occasion, the District Collector said that the government is providing all kinds of help and cooperation to the elderly. He advised children to respect their parents and not to behave negligently towards them under any circumstances. He said action as per law will not be spared against those who behave negligently or illegally towards the elderly. He said life experiences of the elderly are very valuable for the



family, for today's generation, and for society. DCP KGV Saritha speaking said elderly are guides for future generations, their experiences are very valuable to society. She suggested that everyone should act responsibly for the safety, respect and welfare of the elderly. On this occasion, several elderly people aged 80 to 100 years along with old age home organizers were grandly felicitated. About 200 elderly people belonging to district senior citizens associations and old age homes participated in the program. The program was attended by NTR District Differently Abled, Transgenders, Senior Citizens Welfare Department Assistant Director Vadrevu Kamaraju, Senior Citizens Welfare Association United Krishna District President Vemuri Babu Rao, Secretary Motukuri Venkateswara Rao and others.

NTR Bharosa for Social Security of the Poor

Rs. 86.59 Crores to 2,23,883 Beneficiaries in the District
District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmeesha in Pension Distribution



Vijayawada, October 01: District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmeesha said that in line with achieving Swarnandhra @ 2047 goals, the benefits of NTR Bharosa pensions are being delivered to the doorsteps of the eligible to provide social security to the poor and eradicate poverty. Collector Lakshmeesha participated in the NTR Bharosa pension distribution program in Madhuranagar, Vijayawada Urban on Thursday. He spoke with beneficiaries and enquired about the way government welfare schemes are being received. Speaking on this occasion, the Collector said that measures are being



taken to ensure that benefits of government welfare schemes reach every eligible beneficiary transparently and without any difficulties. He suggested that those benefiting from government schemes should make proper use of them and contribute to the economic and social development of their families. He said that Rs. 86.59 crores is being distributed to 2,23,883 beneficiaries in the district. He explained that government employees and staff are delivering pensions at the doorstep itself so that elderly, differently-abled and other beneficiaries do not face any inconvenience. Collector Lakshmeesha explained that officials are continuously monitoring at the field level to ensure no problems arise during distribution. DRDA PD ANV Nanchar Rao and others participated in the program.

'Chenetha Bazaar' Support to Glory of Handloom

Crafts Council Services Commendable Efforts for Preservation of Culture, Heritage Wealth
District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmeesha



Vijayawada, October 01, 2026: District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmeesha said that the programs being organized under the auspices of Andhra Pradesh Crafts Council with the intention of taking forward the glory of state's handloom, handicrafts and encouraging weavers and artisans are commendable. District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmeesha along with his wife and CCAP Secretary S. Ranjana, Vice Chairperson B. Sujatha and others inaugurated the Chenetha Bazaar set up under the auspices of Crafts Council of Andhra Pradesh (CCAP) at PVP Square Mall in Vijayawada on Thursday. This bazaar is being organized from October 1 to 4 on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanthi from 9:30 AM to 8:30 PM. Speaking on this occasion, the Collector said handloom and handicrafts are symbols of our culture and traditions, and especially such programs are very useful to increase awareness about handloom and handicrafts among youth and to pass on



our traditional arts to future generations. He said Crafts Council is working without any profit motive for sustainable development of handicrafts and handloom textiles. He said awareness is being created on welfare of weavers and artisans, design development, training, marketing etc. He said handloom textiles from Venkatagiri, Ponduru, Pedana and other areas along with traditional artworks are being promoted through special programs. He said Central and State Governments are also undertaking many programs for protection and promotion of handloom and handicrafts. He revealed that National SARAS Aajeevika Mela will be held soon in Vijayawada. He said special efforts are also being made for preservation of rare art wealth like Kondapalli, Etikoppaka. He requested people to visit Chenetha Bazaar and support weavers and artisans by purchasing handloom textiles and handicraft products. CCAP members and others participated in the program.

Creation of Infrastructure in Rural Areas: Chintalapudi MLA Roshan Kumar, Eluru MP Mahesh Kumar

Eluru District, Lingapalem, October 1, MP Putta Mahesh Kumar Yadav and MLA Songa Roshan Kumar said that the coalition government is giving priority to development works with the aim of improving infrastructure in rural areas and providing better transport facilities to people. On Thursday, they inaugurated BT road construction works to be taken up with funds of Rs. 2.53 crores in Ayya pparajugudem in the mandal. Speaking on this occasion, MP Mahesh Kumar said that with the development of roads in rural areas, transport facilities for people will improve and there will be an opportunity to easily transport agricultural products to markets. He said that under the leadership of Chief Minis-



ter Chandrababu Naidu, the coalition government is giving equal importance to development and welfare and bringing schemes closer to people. He said that Chintalapudi lift irrigation scheme works will be started soon. He said environmental clearances have been obtained. He said the government is continuously striving to provide necessary infrastructure for development of villages. He said that in the coming days also, more development works will be taken up as per the needs of people.

Anganwadis Crucial in Preventing Malnutrition

Kamavarapukota: ICDS PD P. Sharada called upon pregnant women and lactating mothers to make best use of Angan wadi services. She participated as chief guest in a program held at Kamavara pukota - 6 Anganwadi Center in the mandal on Tuesday as part of National Nutrition Month celebrations. Speaking on this occasion, Sharada gave appropriate suggestions and advice to Angan wadi workers on community health and importance of nutrition. She said role of Anganwadi workers is very crucial in preventing malnutrition in rural areas. Jangareddygudem CDPO Beulah speaking said that nutrition and health monitoring services being provided by government through Anganwadi centers should be ensured to reach everyone. ICDS Supervisor Padmajyothi, local Anganwadi workers, mothers and lactating mothers under respective centers participated in this program.



Nagarjuna’s Geethanjali Finally Gets Its New Re-Release Date



How can one forget Akkineni Nagarjuna’s Geethanjali movie? Being a Mani Ratnam’s cult classic love tale, it completely stole the hearts with its emotional ending. Both the lead actors Nagarjuna and Girija made the audience go teary-eyed with their amazing screen presence. And the story which turns engaging with its emotional depth made the film receive the prestigious National Film Award for Best Popular Film and six state Nandi Awards including Best Feature Film. Well, it also screened for more than 100 days in the theatres and turned it into a biggest blockbuster of Nagarjuna’s career! As the re-release trend is still on in Tollywood, even the makers of Nagarjuna’s Geethanjali are all set to re-release this movie in the theatres on 13th November, 2026. They

Shiva Kandukuri’s ‘Talcum Powder’ unveils racy glimpse, locks Nov 13 release



Hyderabad: The makers of director Sainath Ponna’s upcoming Telugu film, ‘Talcum Powder’, featuring actor Shiva Kandukuri in the lead, have now released a racy glimpse video from the film, much to the delight of fans and film buffs. The makers have also announced that their film is to hit screens on November 13 this year. The film has triggered huge interest as it is being presented by National Award-winning producer Raj Kandukuri, known for backing wholesome entertainers such as ‘Pellichoopulu’, ‘Mental Madhilo’, and ‘Choosi Choodangaane’. Written and directed by Sainath Ponna, the film features Drishika Chander as the female lead. Apart from Shiva Kandukuri and Drishika Chander, the film will also feature a host of actors such as Venkatesh Maha, A Jeevan Kumar, Krishna Kamal, Rupa Lakshmi, Sanjay Swarup, Yogi Khatri, Naga Mahesh and Shivani Mahi among others. Billed as a new-age crime dramedy, the makers of the film kick-

started this big news on social media and delighted the movie lovers and Akkineni fans. This post reads, “Feel the magic once again. The cult classic #Geethanjali returns to the theatres on 13th NOVEMBER 2026”. Earlier this movie was scheduled to release on November 14, 2025 but it didn’t happen and later, they also planned it on 28th August, 2026 but even that didn’t materialize. And now finally, Geethanjali movie will re-release in the theatres on 13th November and that too in 4K format. Shree Padmini Cinemas is handling the re-release while 37-year-old film was produced under the Bhagyalakshmi Enterprises banner. Well, King Nagarjuna’s 100th movie King 100 is all set to hit the theatres in December.

The glimpse video gives rise to questions such as what exactly Bunty has done, and how is he going to get out of the mess. Blending crime, comedy, and drama, the glimpse promises a racy narrative packed with entertaining moments and unexpected turns. Director Sainath Ponna seems to have adopted a contemporary storytelling approach, giving the film a distinct flavour. On the technical front, the film has cinematography by GV Ajay Kumar while music for the film has been scored by Osho V. Editing for the film is by Surya Ponnappalli.

Bhagyashrii Borse pens heartfelt note for Mohanlal during ‘Operation Ganga’ shoot

Chennai: Actress Bhagyashrii Borse, who plays the female lead in actor Mohanlal’s upcoming film, ‘Operation Ganga’, has now told the Malayalam superstar that it felt like a blessing to be his co-actor. Taking to her Instagram page to post a picture of herself with her ‘Operation Ganga’ co-star Mohanlal, she wrote, “Dearest @mohanlal sir, To be your co-actor feels like a blessing. Every day of shoot, I get to see cinema through your eyes and learn from you.. you are truly gifted sir. #OperationGanga #AgentOnDuty.” Sources close to the unit of ‘Operation Ganga’ said that the crew was in Georgia filming some important sequences for the film. For the unaware, the film, which is being directed by National Award-winning filmmaker Vishnu Mohan, was tentatively being referred to as L367 before being titled ‘Operation Ganga’. ‘Operation Ganga’ refers to India’s evacuation mission launched to bring back Indian citizens, including thousands of students, who were stranded in Ukraine following the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war. ‘Operation Ganga’, which has the tagline ‘A Nation’s Promise’ will be a film on one of the most daring and intriguing operations on international borders by India. Apart from Malayalam superstar Mohanlal and Bhagyashrii Borse, the film will also feature Bollywood star Arjun Rampal and actors Parthiban & Adil Hussain in pivotal roles. The film is directed by National Award-winning filmmaker Vishnu Mohan, who is best known for having directed the devotional blockbuster ‘Meppadiyan’.

‘Operation Ganga’ also boasts of an extraordinarily talented technical team. The technical crew includes cinematographer Miroslaw Kuba Brozek, known for having shot the blockbusters ‘Pushpa 1’ and



‘Pushpa 2’ and production designer Rajeevan, who is best known for having worked in critically acclaimed films such as ‘GOAT’, ‘Meiyazhagan’, ‘Amaran’ and ‘Kathanar’. The film will have its stunts choreographed by action director Sea Young Oh, known for his work in ‘Dhurandhar’ and ‘Kill’. Music composer Shashwat Sachdev, following the success of the pan-Indian film ‘Dhurandhar’, is scoring the music for ‘Operation Ganga’. Produced by Gokulam Gopalan under the banner of Sree Gokulam Movies, Operation Ganga’s crew also includes editor Shameer Mohammed and sound designer Bishwadeep Chatterjee, best known for his work in ‘Dhurandhar’, ‘Uri’, ‘3 Idiots’ and ‘Padmaavat’. VFX for the film is being overseen by K. V. Sanjit. ‘Lokah’ Costume Director Melvy J is in-charge of costume design for this film and makeup is by Ronex Xavier. The film is produced by Gokulam Gopalan, with Baiju Gopalan and V. C. Praveen as co-producers and Krishnamoorthy as executive producer.

Allu Ramalingaiah Birth Anniversary: The Legendary Comedian Who Made Generations Laugh

Right from Relangi and Raja Babu to Brahmanandam and Vennela Kishore, Tollywood has witnessed many star comedians but Allu Ramalingaiah holds a separate fan base for his exceptional performances. Well, he was not only an actor but also served the industry as a producer too. As of now, his son Allu Aravind is continuing his legacy with Geetha Arts banner which bankrolled many blockbusters in Tollywood. Today being Allu Ramalingaiah’s birth anniversary, let’s check out his biography and go down the memory lane reminiscing his memorable characters and unique style of comedy which continue to remain close to the hearts of movie lovers. Allu Ramalingaiah was born on October 1, 1922, in Palakollu, there after he went on to become one of the most popular character artists and comedians in Tollywood. Thus, his career spanned more than five decades and acted in more than 1,000 films becoming an unforgettable name in Telugu film industry. Well, ahead of foraying into the film industry, he was a theatre artist and was also trained in homeopathy too. He also continued this practice even after foraying into the film industry. Not to forget, during the freedom move-



ment, he was reportedly arrested by the British authorities for his participation in the Quit India Movement. Also Read Nagarjuna’s Geethanjali Finally Gets Its New Re-Release Date Advertisement Allu Ramalingaiah made his debut with Puttillu in 1953. From there, there was no looking back for the talented actor. His career continued for more than five decades, with his final years still filled with memorable appearances. Well, Allu Ramalingaiah was never restricted to one particular type of role. Although comedy became his biggest identity, he also portrayed supporting characters, serious roles and negative shades whenever the story demanded them. His distinctive voice, expressive face and effortless comic timing made even ordinary scenes highly entertaining.

Kotak confident India’s batters can adapt to tougher conditions ahead of 2027 WC



Guwahati: India batting coach Sitanshu Kotak expressed disappointment over the stark imbalance between bat and ball during India’s record-breaking run chase of 406 against the West Indies, saying the pitch at the ACA Stadium offered little assistance to the bowling unit. India chased down 406 with 39 balls to spare in the second ODI on Wednesday, in a match that produced five centuries, including a double hundred from skipper Shubman Gill, and a total of 811 runs. “There was not a lot for the bowlers. We wish that it is equally balanced. Maybe on a 300-run wicket, the other team has to fight hard to get that 300, 320 (is ideal). The outfield was quick and 20, 30, 40 runs go from there. Particularly in this game, yes, you do feel for the bowlers,” Kotak said at the conclusion of the game. He reckoned India could have avoided conceding 400-plus runs to the West Indies, though he refrained from directly blaming the pitch curators. “See, we keep talking about pitches. But, let me tell you, I don’t think anyone can make a perfect pitch in the world. “No one can make a wicket and say that it will have only 250 or 300 runs. It is possible that the curator tries to make a match with 250 or 300 runs and the wicket spins or seams more and the team gets out for 150 runs. So, he will get criticism in that too. “Sometimes I also wonder that, say in the 1983 World Cup, 180 runs in 60 overs were a lot. Today, it looks like 400 is also not enough. So, whether it is only the wicket to blame or the standard of batting is going high, the way guys are batting, it’s debatable,” he added. His thoughts were echoed by West Indies bowling coach Ravi Rampaul, who pointed out that such pitches leave little margin for error. “Flat pitches are everywhere now. This is flatter, more for batting, because it allows nothing for the spinners, nothing for the fast bowlers.

Obviously, whoever scores more runs wins the game, and it’s tough for bowlers coming into these conditions and coming out without any set of wickets.” With India scheduled to tour New Zealand before hosting Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe in home ODIs, questions were raised on whether playing on such batting-friendly pitches could lead to a false sense of security ahead of the 2027 ODI World Cup in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. Kotak, however, expressed confidence in the batting group’s ability to adapt to tougher surfaces. “About preparation, I would say we will be playing five games in New Zealand. I have been to South Africa. Some wickets will be similar to our conditions. “They also want to play on decent wickets because if you give uneven wickets in white-ball cricket, and if it is a low-scoring one-day game, nobody wants that. So, wickets may not be like 350, 400. It could be 300, 300+. But it depends. So, we should be preparing for whichever conditions are present.” India head coach Gautam Gambhir was also critical of the pitch while speaking to broadcasters after the second ODI. “Look, if I have to be absolutely honest, I feel I think there has to be a bit of more contest between bat and ball, because I think you talk about cricket – but this is not cricket, this is only batting. “Because imagine a young bowler bowling on this wicket, and the opposition getting 400 and then we go on to chase 400. Obviously, for the records it’s outstanding, for the crowd it’s outstanding, and for the broadcaster it’s outstanding. “But if you ask me as a genuine cricket fan and as a coach, because I have to have sympathy for the bowlers as well. When you bowl on this kind of a wicket, it’s not fair for the bowlers. So, we’ve got to give something to the bowlers so there’s at least something which the bowlers can work with. It’s not cricket, it’s batting.”

Asian Games hockey: India beat Pakistan, move one win away from LA Olympics



Kakamigahara: India held their nerve through a dramatic late Pakistan fightback to beat their arch-rivals 4-3 and reach the men’s hockey final at the Asian Games 2026 here at the Gifu Prefectural Green Stadium on Thursday. The defending champions have now confirmed a medal and are one win away from qualifying for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics. The victory not only kept India’s title defence alive but also created a piece of Asian Games history, with both the Indian men’s and women’s hockey teams reaching the final at the same edition of the Games for the first time since 1998. India appeared to be cruising towards a comfortable victory after racing into a 3-0 lead, only for Pakistan to claw their way back and level the contest early in the final quarter. Abhishek then produced the decisive moment in the final minute, restoring India’s lead and sending the team into the title clash. The Indians made an assertive start and were rewarded with their first goal in the fifth minute. After a succession of penalty corners, Harmanpreet Singh finally found a way through Pakistan goalkeeper Muneeb-ur-Rehman Raza, firing between his legs to put India ahead. Harmanpreet doubled the advantage in the 13th minute, converting another penalty-corner opportunity with a powerful strike after India had continued to dominate possession and territory. Pakistan struggled to cope with India’s movement in the opening quarter, but the game changed after the break. Sukhjeet Singh made it 3-0 in the 23rd minute, finishing a move that began with Manpreet Singh winning possession before Shilanand Lakra drove down the left and sent the ball across goal. Pakistan finally found their way back into

the contest shortly before halftime when Abu Mahmood converted a penalty corner in the 30th minute, cutting the deficit to 3-1. The momentum continued to shift after the interval. Hannan Shahid pulled another goal back in the 45th minute, capitalising on a dangerous ball from the right after India failed to clear their lines. Three minutes into the final quarter, Pakistan completed the comeback. Rana Waheed turned in another delivery from the right to make it 3-3, leaving India facing the prospect of a shootout after having led by three goals. Instead, Abhishek settled the contest with barely seconds remaining. Finding space on the right side of the circle, he got a deflection on his effort that carried the ball beyond Raza and into the net. Pakistan were unable to respond before the final hooter, giving India a 21st consecutive match unbeaten against their neighbours. The result also leaves India one victory away from retaining their Asian Games crown. They will face the winner of the second semifinal between South Korea and Malaysia in the gold-medal match. India’s women had earlier booked their place in the women’s final, where they will face defending champions China. The simultaneous appearance of both Indian teams in the Asian Games hockey finals is a feat the country last achieved in 1998. That year, the men won gold after overcoming South Korea on penalties, while the women finished runners-up to the same opponents. No edition of the Asian Games has yet seen India win hockey gold in both the men’s and women’s competitions. The 2026 Games therefore offer both teams an opportunity to create another first and confirm their place in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, with the Asian Games gold medallist earning direct qualification.

Fenesta Open to feature eight national top-15 players

Hyderabad: India No. 3 and two-time champion Vaidehee Chaudhari and defending men’s champion Manish Sureshkumar will lead a field featuring eight players ranked in the AITA national top 15 at the 31st Fenesta Open National Tennis Championship, to be held at the DLTA Complex in New Delhi from October 5 to 17. Chaudhari will chase her third women’s singles crown after winning the title in 2022 and 2024, while Sureshkumar returns to defend his 2025 title. Shruti Ahlawat adds to the women’s challenge after winning her maiden ITF \$15,000 title at the same venue in May, defeating Poland’s Zuzanna Kolonus in the final. Speaking ahead of the championship, Ajay S Shriram, Chairman and Senior Managing Director, and Vikram

Shriram, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, DCM Shriram Ltd, said, “For over three decades, the Fenesta Open has supported Indian tennis at the grassroots, providing a strong competitive platform that challenges players and tests their abilities against talent from across the country. As we enter the 31st edition, our focus remains on raising the standard of competition and giving emerging players the experience they need to progress to higher levels of the sport.” The men’s field includes four national top-15 players: Sureshkumar (IR 8), No. 10 Nitin Kumar Sinha (IR 10), Aditya Balsekar (IR 11) and Udit Kamboj (IR 13). The women’s field features four national top-10 players, with Ahlawat ranked seventh, Sonal Paygonda Patil (IR 9) and Akanksha Nitture (IR 10)



joining Chaudhari, according to the latest ranking list updated on July 27, 2026. The junior field includes Delhi’s Praneel Sharma, Karnataka’s Prakaash Sarran, Gujarat’s Om Patel and Haryana’s Harsh Malik in the boys’ competition. Tamil Nadu’s Savitha Bhubaneshwaran, Maharashtra’s Parthsarathi Mundhe and Swanika Roy, and Karnataka’s Shreeniti Chowdhury will feature in the girls’ competition.

A total of 324 matches are scheduled across the championship. The Under-18 boys’ and girls’ events will kick off the championship, with qualifying on October 3-4, main rounds beginning October 8 and finals on October 10. The Under-16 and Under-14 events will follow, with qualifying on October 10-11 and main rounds starting October 12. Quarter-finals are scheduled for October 15, semi-finals for October 16 and finals for October 17.

PIB debunks fake order claiming all Saturdays are public holidays for public sector banks

New Delhi: The Press Information Bureau’s (PIB) Fact Check unit on Thursday dismissed as fake a purported government gazette notification circulating on social media that claims the Centre has declared every Saturday a public holiday for all public sector banks, including the State Bank of India (SBI). In a post on social media platform X, PIB Fact Check clarified that no such notification has been issued by the Ministry of Finance’s Department of Financial Services. The agency said the document being shared online is fake and does not represent any official government order. “A Gazette circulating on social media, purportedly issued by the Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services), claims that the Central Government has declared every Saturday a public holiday for all Public Sector Banks, including SBI. The document being circulated is fake,” it said. The fact-checking unit urged the public not to rely on unverified documents circulating on social media and advised citizens to verify government-related information through official channels before sharing it further. “No such notification has been issued by Finance Ministry declaring every Saturday as public holiday for public sector banks,” it said. “Flag suspicious content related to the Central Government to PIB Fact Check,” it added. The clarification came after the widely circulated document claimed that all public sector banks would remain closed every Saturday following a purported decision by the Central



Government. However, PIB Fact Check firmly denied the claim, stating that no notification declaring every Saturday as a public holiday for public sector banks has been issued by the Finance Ministry. PIB also encouraged people to report suspicious content related to the Central Government to its Fact Check team to help curb the spread of misinformation online. This comes after the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) last week deferred its three-day nationwide strike early next week, following an eleventh-hour meeting with the Indian Banks’ Association (IBA). According to a statement released by the bank union, the IBA and UFBU met on Sunday. After talks, both sides agreed to defer the nationwide bank strike.

OMCs raise commercial LPG rates; aviation fuel price increased from October 1



New Delhi: State-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) have increased commercial LPG rates by Rs 62.50 per 19-kg cylinder effective from Thursday in line with firming international benchmark prices. Apart from that, aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices were also increased by Rs 16 per litre. ATF prices for domestic airlines have been increased to Rs 137 per litre from Rs 121 per litre. However, the latest hike follows an increase of Rs 6.28 per litre or 5.46 per cent in September and Rs 5 per litre in August. ATF accounts for up to 40 per cent of an airline’s operating costs which makes fuel prices a key component of carriers’ expenses. Moreover, commercial LPG prices were increased by Rs 62.50 per 19-kg cylinder following a Rs 9.50 increase in September after rates were cut by Rs 192 in August and Rs 183.50 in July. Commercial LPG prices had surged to a record high

in June amid disruptions to global energy supplies and elevated international prices. In addition, rates had risen by Rs 1,373 per 19-kg cylinder between February and June from Rs 1,740.50 to Rs 3,113.50 before declining in July and August. However, prices of domestic LPG are kept unchanged at Rs 942. Prices of these segment cylinders had risen by Rs 89 per cylinder between March and June amid supply disruptions linked to the West Asia crisis and a surge in international energy prices. The latest revisions are based on movements in international benchmark prices and the rupee-dollar exchange rate. ATF and LPG prices are revised on the first day of every month and may vary across states due to local taxes such as VAT. Additionally, fuel — petrol and diesel — prices that were increased earlier in May also have remained unchanged.

Rupee hits over two-month low at 96.31 against dollar



Mumbai: The rupee slumped below the psychologically important 96-per-dollar mark on Thursday to close at 96.31 (provisional) against the US dollar, its lowest level in more than two months, amid risk aversion in global markets, surging global bond yields and selling pressure from foreign investors. Forex traders said the rupee is expected to trade with a negative bias amid risk aversion in global markets and concerns over rising global Treasury yields. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.95 and then lost ground to touch an intraday low of 96.34 against the US dollar. At the end of Thursday’s trading session, the domestic unit was quoted at 96.31 (provisional) against the greenback, down 37 paise from its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee pared gains to settle flat at 95.94 against the US dollar. “We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on risk aversion in global markets and worries over rising global Treasury yields. A strong dollar and surge in global crude oil prices may further pressurise the rupee,” said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Mirae Asset Sharekhan. Choudhary further noted that uncertainty

over a US-Iran deal may also pressurise the rupee. However, any intervention by the RBI may support the rupee at lower levels. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the strength of the greenback against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 101.90, higher by 0.45 per cent. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 2.54 per cent higher at USD 100.52 per barrel in futures trade. On the domestic equity market front, the Sensex dropped 570.59 points to settle at 71,909.70, while the Nifty tanked 198.50 points to 22,421.95. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 10,148.41 crore on a net basis on Wednesday, according to exchange data. On the domestic macroeconomic front, India’s manufacturing sector activity growth touched a seven-month high in September, boosted by accelerating new orders and output. The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI) rose by more than two index points in September to 55.1 from 52.8 in August, signalling the strongest improvement in the health of the sector in seven months.

FSSAI suspends licences of two food firms over serious hygiene, safety violations

New Delhi: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on Thursday suspended the licences of TCF Chocolates and Gifts and Shivam Agro after inspections uncovered serious food safety and hygiene lapses at their facilities. The action was initiated after a consumer complaint related to food ordered through an e-commerce platform prompted an inspection of TCF Chocolates and Gifts. During the inspection, FSSAI officials found poor hygiene and sanitation standards, pest infestation, cat droppings and uncovered drainage in food processing areas. The regulator also identified the presence of expired food colours and flavours at the premises. Cleaning chemicals were reportedly stored close to raw materials and food-related items, raising concerns about contamination risks. In addition, food-handler hygiene and protective practices were found to be inadequate, including lapses in jewellery control measures. FSSAI noted that TCF Chocolates and Gifts had recorded a compliance score of only 14 per cent during a previous inspection owing to the non-availability of required documentation. “The licences of FBOs Shivam Agro and TCF Chocolates & Gifts Private Limited have been suspended with immediate effect following serious food safety violations identified during inspection,” the food regulator stated. Similar violations were detected at Shivam Agro, where inspectors observed flies, garbage, stagnant sewage water and spider infestation at the facility. The regulator said cleaning of floors, equipment, walls and ceilings was inadequate, while



evidence of rodent activity and ineffective pest-control measures was also found. The inspection further revealed improper storage practices, with food ingredients and non-food items kept together. Food products were also stored in corridors and temporary storage areas, contrary to prescribed safety norms. According to FSSAI, rusting and corroded equipment were found at the facility. Iron and ferrous tanks and vessels were being used for blending edible oil, and the company could not satisfactorily demonstrate their suitability for food-contact applications. The regulator also flagged the absence of a functional in-house laboratory at Shivam Agro and said the company failed to produce records of periodic testing of finished food products during the inspection. Both companies were found to have labelling deficiencies. While TCF Chocolates and Gifts did not adequately declare food product names on labels, Shivam Agro was found to have incorrectly declared serving information and cholesterol content on a plant-based edible oil product. Following the findings, FSSAI has directed both firms to immediately cease all food business activities during the suspension period.

AP State police induct 36 dual-skilled canines



Amaravati: Police dogs play a crucial role in crime detection along with modern technology and forensic evidence, home minister Vangalapudi Anitha said on Wednesday. She was speaking at the passing-out parade of the 23rd batch of canines and handlers held at the ISW Canine Training Centre of the 6th Battalion in Mangalagiri. DGP Harish Kumar Gupta attended the event as the guest of honour. The home minister said 36 dogs had undergone specialised training for 10 months and were now ready for deployment. The state police currently had 218 trained dogs in service, while around 78 dogs had been trained during the past two years. She said trained canines could detect narcotic substances through smell even when they were packed in multiple layers. Their role in detecting narcotics also helped protect youngsters from the harmful effects of drug abuse. Anitha said the government was focusing on both visible and invisible policing, technology, forensic services and the canine wing to strengthen crime prevention and investigation. The objective was to ensure that offenders did not escape and that investigations were supported by timely forensic and scientific evidence. DGP Harish Kumar Gupta said canines had become highly reliable partners in policing. He said the 36 dogs inducted into the police force had been trained in dual skills to meet

emerging crime and internal security requirements. Of the 23rd batch, 13 dogs were trained in explosive detection and tracking, while another 13 received dual training in narcotics detection and tracking. Seven dogs were trained in explosive detection, two in cadaver detection along with search and rescue (SAR), and one in assault and explosive detection. For the first time, dogs trained in cadaver detection and search and rescue were being inducted into the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), the DGP said. The training was conducted in coordination with the Taralu CRPF Dog Breeding and Training Centre in Bengaluru. Belgian Malinois and Dutch Shepherd breeds were also being introduced for dual-purpose duties. Gupta said dogs of the 22nd batch, deployed in 19 units around 10 months ago, had already contributed to results in 97 cases. Home minister Anitha presented prizes to dogs that excelled in various areas of training. Senior police officials, including CID chief Ravi Shankar Ayyanar, ACB chief Atul Singh, intelligence chief Mahesh Chandra Ladha, additional DGP (law and order) N Madhusudana Reddy, IGPs B Rajakumari, Kanthirana Tata and K V Mohan Rao, SP K Arif Hafeez, senior police officers, ISW personnel and veterinary surgeon Dr Pratap Surapaneni attended the programme.

A global milestone: SRM-AP debuts in THE World University rankings

Amaravati: “Entering the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings within a decade of its founding affirms that SRM University-AP is moving in the right direction,” said Dr P Sathyanarayanan, Pro-Chancellor, SRM University-AP, following the university’s debut in THE World University Rankings 2027. SRM University-AP has secured a place in the 1,001–1,200 band in its first year of participation, emerging as the first university in Andhra Pradesh to achieve the distinction within such a short period of its establishment. Dr Sathyanarayanan said the recognition reflected the quality, purpose and ambition of SRM University-AP. “With a focused roadmap for research and academic growth, we will build on this foundation by further strengthening academic quality, global engagement and meaningful impact,” he said. The recognition also made SRM-AP, established less than a decade ago, the youngest private university in India to enter the rankings within 10 years of its inception. The university recorded a strong performance in the International Outlook indicator, with a score of 58.5, placing it fifth in India on this parameter. Its Research Quality score of 55.4 reflected the reach



and growing impact of its scholarly output in the global research community. Vice-Chancellor Prof Ch Satish Kumar said the ranking reflected the culture of inquiry nurtured at the university. He said the recognition strengthened the institution’s resolve to pursue its vision and further strengthen academic, research and international engagement. Dr Karthik Rajendran, Associate Dean, Quality Assurance and Rankings, said the ranking was particularly encouraging as it was the university’s first submission to THE. He said the recognition validated its efforts to benchmark teaching, research and international engagement against global standards and provided an international baseline for measuring future progress.

State brings healthcare to seniors’ doorsteps

The state government is taking special measures to make healthcare services more accessible to senior citizens, health minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav said on Wednesday, stating that 1.10 crore health check-ups were conducted for people aged above 60 during 2025-26. In a statement on the eve of International Day of Older Persons observed on October 1, Thursday, the minister said the government was taking healthcare services to elderly people instead of waiting for them to visit hospitals. Besides medical check-ups, services such as physiotherapy and rehabilitation were being provided from the village level to district hospitals. He said special geriatric services were being conducted every Thursday at primary health centres for people aged above 60. Those requiring advanced treatment were being referred to higher-level hospitals. Special geriatric wards had been established at district hospitals, while area hospitals in places without district hospitals were also providing such services. According to the government, 1,10,01,508 health check-ups were conducted among elderly people across the state during 2025-26, including 6,12,601 physiotherapy services. During 2026-27, 52,79,669 OP, IP, physiotherapy and other services have so far been provided to senior citizens. As part of community-based healthcare, special medical teams visited 74 government-recognised old-age homes and conducted comprehensive health assessments. The teams included specialists in general medicine, psychiatry, gynaecology and other areas. The assessment identified depression-related



problems in 18.8 per cent of the elderly, frequent falls in 9.8 per cent, and memory-related problems in 7.5 per cent. About 2.1 per cent had both memory problems and depression, while 6.4 per cent had more than one age-related health problem. Others reported difficulties with activities such as cooking, shopping, travelling, going outside and performing routine tasks independently. Those identified with health or psychosocial problems were provided counselling, treatment and other support services. Mental health professionals also participated in the visits. The minister said rehabilitation workers were being encouraged to visit at least five elderly people living near community health centres every week to provide physiotherapy and other services. He said October would be observed as a special month for elderly healthcare, with awareness programmes on healthy ageing, early disease detection, hypertension, mental health, physiotherapy, rehabilitation and geriatric care. A comprehensive geriatric assessment tool-based questionnaire would also be used at district and area hospitals to collect health information from at least 1,000 elderly people and provide treatment based on their needs.

AP pitches opportunities for investment at Mumbai roadshow



Amaravati: The state government, in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), organised a major investment promotion roadshow in Mumbai on Wednesday, showcasing investment opportunities in the State and seeking to forge new partnerships with domestic and international businesses. Minister for micro, small and medium enterprises Kondapalli Srinivas was the chief guest at the roadshow, which was attended by representatives of prominent industrial associations, trade organisations, foreign trade bodies and business groups. Addressing the gathering, Srinivas said Andhra Pradesh offered a combination of land availability, natural resources, infrastructure, ports and logistics connectivity that could support large-scale industrial investments. He said the State government was committed to facilitating investments through entrepreneur-friendly policies and ensuring a favourable business environment. The roadshow focused on investment opportunities in BFSI and FinTech, textiles, pharmaceuticals and life sciences, chemicals and pet-

rochemicals, ports and shipping logistics, food processing and FMCG, Global Capability Centres (GCCs), data centres and renewable energy. The minister said the government was pursuing a 3S approach — speed of doing business, service and stability to improve the investment climate and provide greater certainty to investors. The Mumbai event was organised as part of the State government’s broader investment mobilisation strategy and also served as the opening platform for the CII Partnership Conference, scheduled to be held in Visakhapatnam on November 12 and 13. Srinivas said the government expected the Mumbai roadshow to encourage leading companies and investors from Maharashtra to participate in the Visakhapatnam conference. The interaction with the business community in Mumbai, he said, would help broaden the scope for investments and partnerships in Andhra Pradesh. The government is using a series of investor outreach programmes to present sector-specific opportunities and build interest ahead of the Visakhapatnam conference.