

Praja Darbar is for Solving Public Issues

Minister Kondapalli Srinivas



Vizianagaram, September 27: Minister for MSME, Rural Poverty Alleviation and NRI Empowerment, Kondapalli Srinivas, said that the Praja Darbar programme is being organized solely to resolve public grievances. On Sunday, a constituency-level Praja Darbar programme was held at the Minister's camp office under the leadership of Minister Kondapalli Srinivas. As many as 12 petitions were received from people who came from various areas. The Minister said that Praja Darbar will be conducted every Friday at the Gajapathinagaram party office and urged the public to utilize this opportunity. He said

that grievances received during last week's Praja Darbar have already been resolved. He stated that Praja Darbar is being conducted as per the directions of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. Petitions received from the public are discussed with the concerned officials, the status of the issue is tracked, steps are taken for speedy resolution, and they are uploaded online on the computer along with all the details of the petitioner and the stage of the grievance. Party leaders Kondapalli Bhaskar Naidu, Makkuva Sridhar, Namburu Rajesh and others participated in the programme.

Excise DC Explains Liquor Policy to Minister Kondapalli Srinivas



Vizianagaram, September 27: District Excise Deputy Commissioner Y. Srinivas Chowdary explained the re-tendering of liquor shops in the district and liquor policy to the State Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Industries, Rural Poverty Alleviation and Pravasandhra Empowerment Relations, and Excise Sub-Committee Member Kondapalli Srinivas. He met him courtesy at the Minister's Camp Office on Sunday. On this occasion, he said that out of 169 shops in the district, 139 shops were secured by lessees in re-tendering. The Deputy Commissioner said that 30 shops are still pending. He said that the Excise Department has already issued orders for these shops, and those who want liquor shops should take an application with Rs. 1,000 as processing fee and apply with Rs. 3 lakh (non-refundable). He said that applications can be made online and offline till 11:59 PM on October 1st. He said that on October 5th, lots will be drawn in the presence of applicants who have deposited money at the Collector's office under the supervision of the Collector. Excise DC Srinivas Chowdary said that these matters were explained to Minister Kondapalli Srinivas. Squad SI Gangadhar Rao participated along with him.

‘Chalo Vijayawada’ - the employees’ demands

Secretariat Employees' Protest
Key Demands Behind 'Chalo Vijayawada'
Salaries.. Increments.. Promotions
Government Focus on Demands



Vijayawada: Village and Ward Secretariat employees in Andhra Pradesh have once again taken to the path of agitation. They have given a call for ‘Chalo Vijayawada’ demanding resolution of their long-pending issues. The employees' unions are mainly highlighting demands such as granting notional increments, releasing pending salary arrears, and establishing a permanent policy for promotions. Employees allege injustice in promotions and other service

benefits. The problems of Secretariat employees are not new. Even in the past, employees have staged protests in various regions to achieve their demands. During the agitation in Visakhapatnam, employees demanded nine months of increments and a minimum wage of Rs.30,000. Now, they have launched a statewide agitation centered in Vijayawada to bring their issues to the notice of the government. Employee unions say that salaries, increments,

promotions and service benefits are related to their job security. However, police had earlier clarified that permission for protest in Vijayawada was not granted in view of rains and Ganesh immersion. Despite warning not to come for agitation without permission, a large number of employees reached Dharna Chowk, leading to a tense situation. Police took the employees into custody. At the same time, Nunna CI Ahmed

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AP Home Minister Anitha inaugurates new fire station building in Sabbavaram of Anakapalli

Anakapalli: Andhra Pradesh State Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha inaugurated the new fire station building in Sabbavaram, her native village in Anakapalli district. Afterward, she planted saplings on the fire station premises. She was accompanied by Pendurthi MLA Ramesh Babu and AP Oil Federation Chairman Gandhi Babji. Speaking on the occasion, the Home Minister lauded the services of the fire department personnel. She noted that they per-



form their duties during disasters without regard for their own lives and expressed gratitude on behalf of the public for their sacrifice and commitment. The

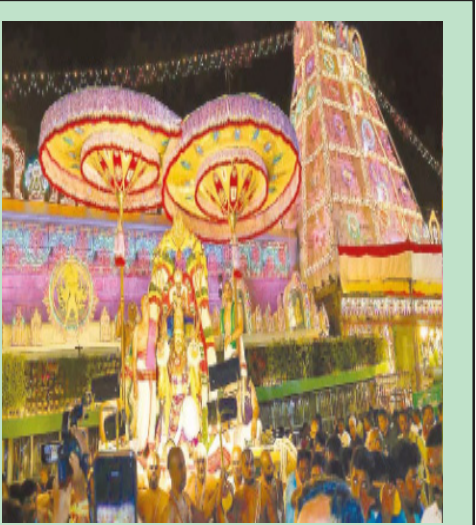
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Rains subside in Chinturu Agency, flood relief underway

Chinturu: Floods continue to plague the Chinturu Agency region of Polavaram district due to the continuing rains, even though the heavy rains have come down. People have been warned that the Sabari and Godavari rivers are still very high. The Sabari River at Chinturu measured 28.5 feet, whereas the Godavari at



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Pournami Garuda Seva held

Tirumala: Pournami Garuda Seva was held at Tirumala in a grand manner on Saturday evening. Devotees occupied the Mada Street galleries to witness Sri Malayappa Swamy on Garuda Vahanam that was held between 7pm and 9pm braving drizzles. HH Sri Pedda jiyar Swamy, HH Chinna Jiyar Swamy of Tirumala, Additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary, CVSIO Murali Krishna and others were present.

KING
DAILY NEWSPAPER

A great personality
committed to
nation-building

No mention of Ashok Singhal Ji is complete without recalling his pivotal role in the Ram Janmabhoomi Movement. Who can forget his address at the Boat Club Rally in 1991? Or the defining image of an injured and bleeding Ashok at the peak of the movement. Today, if there is a grand Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, it is because of stalwarts like him who selflessly immersed themselves in the effort to make it possible. He would have been the happiest person on seeing the Ram Mandir take shape in Ayodhya. There is a beautiful saying, It means the tree does not consume its own fruit, nor does the river retain its waters. Both exist for the benefit of others. Our saints and seers have long taught us that a life devoted to the welfare of those around us acquires a meaning far greater than individual achievement. If there is one person in whom this spirit was constantly reflected, it was Shri Ashok Singhal Ji. Starting 27th September, we mark his birth centenary to celebrate an outstanding personality who brought together spiritual pursuit, cultural awakening and decades of dedicated organisational work. I consider it a privilege that I had innumerable opportunities to interact with him and receive his affection. One of the earliest instances dates back to 1981, when I was a young karyakarta going about organisational duties given to me. I received a handwritten letter from him. Naturally, it was a noteworthy moment for me. He talked about an important upcoming programme and gave a few tasks to be done. Over several decades, I saw him work, day and night. He would undertake long and often difficult travels to the remotest of areas. He was particularly passionate about travelling across the tribal areas of Gujarat. His mind was constantly running, thinking about what more one can do for those on the margins of society. Whenever any part of the nation was affected by a natural disaster, he was either among the first to reach there or among those guiding karyakartas to help those affected. My own experience with him in the aftermath of the 2001 Kutch earthquake was unforgettable. This spirit of compassion and care for others is something that came to him very early in his life. He hailed from an illustrious and prosperous family. His father, Mahavir Ji, was a distinguished administrator. One of his brothers, B P Singhal, went on to become a police officer and later a Member of Parliament. Another brother V P Singhal was the Chief Secretary of the newly formed Tripura. Other family members succeeded in the world of commerce and agriculture. Documentaries But from a young age, Ashok Ji was attracted to something else altogether...the revival of Bharat and bringing glory to Maa Bharti's children. Growing up in Prayagraj, he would sit for hours on the banks of the Sangam. The river naturally interested him, but so did the people who came, such as saints, seers and devotees. It nurtured an understanding of India's cultural ethos and strengthened his intention to do something for society. This desire to live for others drew him to the RSS. He embraced every responsibility that came his way with enthusiasm, discipline and a sense of duty. Ashok Singhal nurtured institutions and movements through persistence and hard work.

‘Chalo Vijayawada’ -
the employees’ demands

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Ali, who was on bandobast duty, fell ill and died, making the agitation even more tragic. Official clarity is needed on the medical reasons for his death. On the other hand, ministers say that the government is taking steps to resolve the employees' problems in a phased manner. The government has revealed that the file related to notional increments has been sent to the Finance Department. However, employee unions are insisting on a clear decision on their demands. Employees are demanding clarity not just on assurances, but on deadline, policy and implementation. At the same time, pending dues, DAs, PRC, IR etc. of regular government employees have also been prominent in past agitations by employee unions. Now the agitation of Secretariat employees has become another key challenge for the government. The government needs to give clarity on which of the employees' demands can be resolved immediately, which require financial decisions, and what kind of permanent policy should be brought on promotions and service benefits. On the other hand, coordination is also needed in aspects like permissions for protests, conducting agitations without causing inconvenience to the public, and police bandobast. Whether a solution to the employees' problems will be found through talks or whether the agitations will spread further depends on the government's decisions in the coming days.

AP Home Minister Anitha
inaugurates new fire station building
in Sabbavaram of Anakapalli

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Minister recalled how fire personnel went door-to-door to clean up the surroundings during the Budameru disaster. She stated that the Sabbavaram fire station building was constructed at a cost of ₹1.60 crore using 15th Finance Commission funds. She mentioned that numerous new fire stations have been built across the state under the NDA alliance government and revealed that a large number of vehicles have also been procured. Happy to visit my hometown: Anitha "I am very happy to visit my hometown. My father had asked me to build a wedding hall here in my grandfather's name. I will soon construct a wedding hall in Sabbavaram in accordance with his wish," she said. She toured various parts of Anakapalli district and addressed the people of the Pendurthi constituency. He stated that he would do his part for the development of the Pendurthi constituency. The Minister advised the candidates to demonstrate the strength of the NDA alliance in the local elections.

Rains subside in Chinturu
Agency, flood relief underway

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Kunavaram measured 30 feet. District Collector visited the flood-affected regions using a boat, met with the affected people and found out about their problems. He ordered the authorities to supply them with basic necessities as soon as possible and undertake the relief measures. He also asked the concerned departments to file a complete report of damages caused to houses, livestock and crops in 24 hours. The residents of the regions near the rivers have been told to be vigilant for 48 hours. The District Collector stated that the whole situation was under close observation. Authorities assured that the flood relief activities in the affected areas would be speeded up.



First zonal conference of
Vizag zone's UBISTEWA

Visakhapatnam: The first zonal conference of the Union Bank Scheduled Tribe Employees Welfare Association (UBISTEWA), Visakhapatnam zone, was held in the city, drawing enthusiastic participation from Scheduled Tribe employees and representatives from various regions. The conference was hosted by zonal secretary Ubbeti Murali Krishna, zonal president Nimmaka Pratap Kumar and the zonal team. Representatives and members from the Vizianagaram, Srikakulam, Kakinada and Rajamahendravaram regions participated, reflecting the unity and collective participation of ST employees across the zone. G Bala Krishna, IAS, attended the conference as chief guest and addressed the gathering. In his address, he highlighted the importance of unity, collective welfare, empowerment and the responsibility of employees towards society. The conference was attended by senior leaders of the association from the central office, including national chairman B. Prasad Naik, national general secretary Mahendra Naik and joint general secretary Ramana Kishore Naik.



Minister Kondapalli
Srinivas Felicitates Award
Winner Gopinath Patnaik

Vizianagaram, September 27: State Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Industries, Rural Poverty Alleviation and Pravasandhra Empowerment Relations, Kondapalli Srinivas, said that it is a matter of pride for Vizianagaram district that Pakki Gopinath Patnaik from the town received the Vamsi ANR Kamadhenu National Award at the Tyagaraya Gana Sabha in Hyderabad. Minister Kondapalli Srinivas felicitated Gopinath Patnaik at the Minister's Camp Office on Sunday. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Kondapalli Srinivas said he is happy that Gopinath Patnaik from our Vizianagaram received the award in the category of eminent political analyst and best public relations person from prominent film director Relangi Narasimha Rao and Telangana Telugu Academy President Sri Kurapati Vamsi Ramaraju of Vamsi Art Theatres, Hyderabad. The Minister said that Gopinath Patnaik has good relations with leaders of political parties in the town and people of all sections, and receiving an award for such a person will increase more responsibility towards society, and expressed hope that he will receive many such awards in the future.

Siriman Festival Recognized as
State Festival by Government

Chief Minister Chandrababu's Affection for North Andhra "Pydithalli Ammavari Invitation Card Handed Over to Minister Kondapalli Srinivas Vizianagaram, September 27," Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Industries, Rural Poverty Alleviation and Pravasandhra Empowerment Relations, Kondapalli Srinivas, said that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu declaring the Siriman festival of Uttarandhra's presiding deity, Sri Sri Sri Pydithalli Ammavari fair, as a state festival shows the Chief Minister's affection for the North Andhra region. Temple Assistant Commissioner and Executive Officer K. Sirisha met Minister Kondapalli Srinivas courtesy at the Minister's Camp Office on Sunday and presented Veda blessings under the auspices of temple priests and handed over the invitation card for Siriman celebrations. On this occasion, EO K. Sirisha requested Minister Kondapalli Srinivas to extend cooperation to make the Siriman celebrations of Pydithalli Ammavari, which is being organized as a state festival, a success. Speaking on this occasion, Minister Kondapalli Srinivas suggested that all facilities should be provided to the devotees coming to have darshan of the Goddess in the festival of the Goddess who is the golden treasure for those who believe in her, and facilities should be provided to the devotees without any inconvenience in coordination with officials of all departments.

DMHO's Courtesy Meeting
DMHO Meets Srikakulam In-Charge Minister Kondapalli

Vizianagaram, September 27: Dr. Naresh Kumar, District Medical and Health Officer of Srikakulam district, who recently took charge, met the State Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Industries, Rural Poverty Alleviation and Pravasandhra Empowerment Relations and Srikakulam District In-charge Minister Kondapalli Srinivas in a courtesy call at the Minister's Camp Office in Vizianagaram on Sunday. Dr. Naresh Kumar said that he was working as Chief Medical Officer of GVMC Visakhapatnam and came to Srikakulam as DMHO on promotion. Speaking on this occasion, Minister Kondapalli Srinivas said that better medical care should be provided to the poor people, and awareness should be created among the people from the rural level about toxic fevers caused by cyclones. Minister Kondapalli Srinivas suggested that people should be instilled with confidence that staff will be available along with better medical care in government hospitals.



Tourism is a Bridge to Culture and a Driving Force for Development

Sustainable Tourism for Nature Conservation and Holistic Development

Let's Showcase Our Region's Uniqueness to the World

World Tourism Day Celebrations Held Grandly



Vijayawada, September 27: Marking World Tourism Day, special programmes were organized grandly on Sunday at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Smritivanam in Vijayawada, jointly by the NTR District Tourism Department, Spruhapthi Charitable Trust, and RISE. On the occasion, various competitions were held to introduce the significance of historical, cultural, spiritual and natural tourism spots in NTR district to students and youth. Competitions were conducted in essay writing, painting, and traditional art forms, in which students participated enthusiastically in sub-junior, junior and senior categories. Such programmes greatly help in introducing the importance of tourist places, local arts, culture and heritage wealth to future generations.

Special Initiative by Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha: District Tourism Officer Dr. Kolleti Ramesh said that on the special initiative of District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha, special programmes are being organized to highlight the greatness of respective fields on occasions like World Heritage Day and World Museums Day. He said that with the development of the tourism sector, many employment and self-employment opportunities are available to local artists, artisans, small traders, the hospitality sector and youth. He stated that tourism is being de-

veloped while conserving natural resources and protecting historical monuments and cultural heritage. "Our heritage is our pride... our tourist places are wealth that brings global recognition to our region," he explained. He said tourism is not limited to entertainment and excursions alone, but is a powerful sector that introduces the history, culture, traditions and natural beauty of a region to the world, while also boosting the local economy and employment opportunities, and efforts are being made for comprehensive development of tourism in the district. On the occasion of World Tourism Day, stalls set up by youth and women under the auspices of Guntupalli RISE and DRDA were a special attraction. They reflected environmentally friendly tourism development. Dances performed by children in the evening programme were a special attraction. Children's art performances and traditional dances captivated the audience. Later, winners who excelled in competitions held in various categories were presented with prizes and certificates of appreciation. Dr. Samaram, local elder Gurunath, along with Govardhan, Shivareddy, APIIC Zonal Manager K. Babji, Spruhapthi Charitable Trust Founder V. Bharathidevi, Co-Founder T. Madhuri and others participated in the programme.

District Level Youth Festival at Nalanda Degree College



Vijayawada, September 27: U. Srinivasa Rao, Chief Executive Officer, STEP, KRISHI, Vijayawada, said in a statement that the district-level youth festivals conducted every year under the auspices of the District Youth Welfare Department, Vijayawada, will be held this year on the 29th of this month at Nalanda Degree College, M.G. Road, Vijayawada. He said that in the said youth festivals, competitions will be conducted for youth aged between 15 to 29 years in NTR District in group events like folk song, folk dance, street play etc. and individual events like painting, poetry etc. Therefore, all the



youth of colleges in the district, members of youth associations and artists are requested to participate in the said competitions and make this youth festival a grand success. He said that winners at the district level will be sent to participate in the state-level youth festivals. Similarly, winners at the state-level youth festivals will be sent at full government expense to the national-level youth festivals to be held in New Delhi on January 12, 2027, marking the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. Srinivasa Rao requested that all youth belonging to NTR district should make use of this opportunity.

Living Tree Discovery High School Teachers Honoured with Vidya Seva Ratna Award

Nalgonda(Alair) September 27: Under the aegis of the Telangana Recognized Schools Management Association (TRSMA), Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District, the Vidya Seva Ratna Awards ceremony was held at Suman gali Function Hall, Bhuvanagiri. As part of the programme, Best Headmasters and Teachers from across the district were honoured with the prestigious Vidya Seva Ratna Awards in recognition of their valuable services in the field of education. We are proud to announce that Mr. D. Ramesh, Headmaster of Living Tree Discovery High School, and Mr. P. Raju, Mathematics Teacher, received the Vidya Seva Ratna Award. The programme was graced by Sri Birla Ilaiah, Government Whip and Alair MLA, as the Chief Guest. He attended the event and addressed the gathering. The Director of Living Tree Discovery High School, Mrs. Abhilasha Karnati, along with the fellow teachers and staff, expressed their happiness and extended their heartfelt congratulations to Mr. D. Ramesh and Mr. P. Raju on this proud achievement. Congratulations to both of them on receiving this prestigious award!



COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY OFFENCE IN GOSHAMAHAL POLICE STATION LIMIT



AMEEN HUSSAIN CRIME BEURO CHIEF : A-1) Vikram S/o Gangaram The Goshamahall PS, Hyderabad Police has apprehended (01) Accused person in Crime No: 359/2026 U/s 179, 180, 318(4) r/w 3(5) BNS of Goshamahall P.S. who are involved in Possession and circulation of counterfeit currency and cheating.

DETAILS OF THE ACCUSED: A-1) Vikram S/o Gangaram, age: 21 yrs, Occ: Private Employee at Balaji Decors R/o 14-5-399, Bedarwadi, Begum Bazar, Hyderabad N/o Kumawato Ka Baas, Lototi, Pali District, Rajasthan, Cell: 8302990698, Aadhaar No. 8590 0856 7832 (Accused person A1 was arrested on 25.09.2026 at 2330 hrs and being produced before the Hon'ble Court) "A2) Ashok and others (Absconding)

Seized: - 16 counterfeit rs500 currency notes

BRIEF FACTS: On 25-09-2026 at about 21:00 hrs, while conducting patrolling near Begum Bazar Chatri, Hyderabad, ASI Janardhan Naik and HC 3649 Sanjay Kumar Sharma noticed and secured Vikram, aged 21 years, on suspicion. During enquiry, he disclosed that he was circulating counterfeit ₹500 currency notes among petty vendors by taking ₹400 change per note. On search, 16 counterfeit ₹500 notes amounting to ₹8,000/- were recovered, and he further disclosed that the counterfeit notes were obtained from one Ashok. The accused along with the counterfeit currency was brought to PS Goshamahall for necessary legal action.

Goshamahall Police registered Cr.No. 359/2026 U/s 179, 180, 318(4) r/w 3(5) BNS. During enquiry, A-1 confessed that he obtained counterfeit ₹500 currency notes from his friend Ashok and circulated them among petty vendors by receiving ₹400 genuine currency as change



for each note. A-1 was arrested and sent to judicial remand. As per the instructions from superior officers, Further investigation is being conducted to trace the source and network involved and to file the charge sheet against the accused persons.

"The swift action by PS Goshamahall reflects the commitment of the Hyderabad City Police to maintain law and order and ensure public safety. Strict action will be taken against individuals indulging in such unlawful and disruptive activities. Investigation is ongoing, and further legal action will be taken as per law."

"PUBLIC APPEAL" Goshamahall Police appeal to all petty vendors, shopkeepers, street vendors and the general public to remain vigilant against the circulation of counterfeit currency notes, particularly ₹500 denomination notes. "The public is advised to carefully verify currency notes before accepting them, especially during busy hours and rush situations. Vendors and shopkeepers are requested to check the security features of currency notes and avoid accepting any note if they have reasonable suspicion about its genuineness. If any person is found attempting to circulate or tender a suspected counterfeit currency note, do not confront or engage in an argument. Note the person's appearance and other relevant details, if possible, and immediately inform the nearest Police Station or Dial-100. Public cooperation is essential to prevent the circulation of counterfeit currency and protect the public from financial loss.

Sd/-
"(B Sravan Kumar),"Inspector of Police,"Goshamahall PS, Hyderabad.

Digital police services launched at railway station

Visakhapatnam: Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha stated that the police department increasingly uses advanced technology to effectively tackle the changing nature of crime and provide more transparent services to people. Speaking at the inauguration of the ‘Mee Police..Mee Friend’ (your police, your friend) digital e-complaint kiosk at Visakhapatnam railway station on Saturday, Anitha highlighted that the initiative would make it easier for passengers and the public to approach the police without visiting a station. The Home Minister mentioned that nearly 1.5 lakh passengers visit Visakhapatnam railway station daily, and the new kiosk enables them to lodge complaints directly from the railway station. A key feature of the system is its voice-based complaint facility in Telugu, English and Hindi, allowing even people who are unable to read or write to submit complaints easily. The kiosk has also been integrated with the PGRS (public grievance redressal system) to improve transparency, accuracy and monitoring in the receipt and resolution of complaints. Also Read AP Home Minister Anitha inaugurates new fire station building in Sabbavaram of Anakapalli Advertisement Discover more News Geographic Reference E-Paper Access Anitha opined that public safety is being accorded top priority in Visakhapatnam, which is witnessing rapid growth in the industrial and tourism sectors. She also highlighted the



city’s focus on the safety of women and sustaining the efforts to ensure Vizag remains the safest city for them. Speaking on the occasion, Visakhapatnam Police Commissioner Shankhabrata Bagchi mentioned that citizens could use the kiosk to register complaints without visiting a police station. He said the voice-enabled system would make police services more accessible to all sections of society. A similar digital complaint kiosk has been introduced at the APSRTC Dwarka Bus Station police outpost. District Public Transport Officer B. Appala Naidu said commuters could lodge complaints concerning incidents within the jurisdiction of any police station, providing them with greater security and confidence while travelling. Visakhapatnam Division, Divisional Railway Manager Lalit Bohra, DCPs Manikantha, Mary Prashanthi, Madhu and Papa Rao, ADCP (Traffic) A. Narasimha Rao, police ACPs and circle inspectors, along with deputy chief traffic manager K Padmavati and assistant traffic manager K Gangadhar, were present at the kiosk launch.

Kurnool set to take wings as aviation, drone hub: Ram Mohan Naidu

Kurnool: Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu said the Centre and the State government were taking steps to develop Kurnool as a major aviation and drone hub. Inaugurating Orient Flights Aviation Academy at Kurnool Airport on Saturday, he described the State’s first Flight Training Organisation (FTO) as a significant milestone. He said Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu envisioned Andhra Pradesh as a leading aviation hub covering pilot training, aircraft maintenance, ground operations and airport management. Established by Hindustan Group, the academy currently has three training aircraft and aims to expand the fleet to



10. With Kurnool’s strategic location and favourable weather, the FTO can train 60 pilots annually while generating related employment. India’s airports have grown from 74 in 2014 to around 166, and the country may need 25,000 to 30,000 pilots over the next 10–15 years.

Bezwada Getting Ready for Dussehra

Festival Carnival in Vijayawada During Dussehra
Vijayawada Utsav to be Held Grandly from October 11-20
National Saras Mela from October 8-23

On the occasion of Dussehra Sharann avaratri, Vijayawada city is once again going to be a platform for culture, spirituality and artistic grandeur. Arrangements are being made to organize 'Vijayawada Utsav' more grandly this year. Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath revealed that the festival will be organized for ten days from October 11 to 20. In view of the response received for last year's festivities, programmes are being designed more extensively this time. Along with Vijayawada Utsav, the National Saras Mela will also be organized from October 8 to 23. Programmes will be undertaken to reflect the culture, traditions and arts of various states in the country. Along with traditional art forms, modern entertainment programmes will also be given importance. An attempt is being made to once again showcase Vijayawada as the

cultural and artistic capital by organizing performances by artists in various parts of the city for ten days. The MP said that several dignitaries from across the country, Chief Ministers of other states and Union Ministers are being invited for these festivities. He also revealed that arrangements are being made to bring elephants from Mysore. On the other hand, a convenient plan is being made for guests and devotees to visit Kanaka Durga darshan, National Saras Mela and Vijayawada Utsav in a single trip. An opportunity will be provided to have darshan of the Goddess in the morning and participate in the festivities in the evening. In view of the possibility of lakhs of devotees coming to Vijayawada during Dussehra, special focus is being laid on traffic, parking and security arrangements. Officials say that arrangements are being made with advance

Tragedy on Duty Tragedy in Chalo Vijayawada

Tension During Secretariat Employees' Protest CI Ahmed Ali Dies of Heart Attack



Vijayawada: A tragic incident occurred when the 'Chalo Vijayawada' programme of Village and Ward Secretariat employees led to tension. Nunna Police Station CI Ahmed Ali of Vijayawada collapsed and died after suddenly falling ill while on bandobast duty. The incident took place when a large number of Secretariat employees staged a protest at Dharna Chowk in Gandhinagar. The situation turned tense as employees reached Dharna Chowk even though police had clarified in advance that there was no permission for the protest. There was a scuffle between police and protesters while taking the employees into custody. At the same time, CI Ahmed Ali, who was on bandobast duty, suddenly collapsed. Fellow police personnel immediately performed CPR and tried to shift him to the hospital. However, he died on the way. The death of the CI has left the police personnel in grief. It is yet to be known whether the cause of his death was a heart attack or any other medical reasons. On the other hand, employee unions say that there are several pending demands behind the agitation of Village and Ward Secretariat employees. Dissatisfaction is being expressed among employees mainly on issues like notional increments, salaries, promotions etc. Employee unions are making it clear that they will continue the agitation until their problems are resolved. The government, however, says it is committed to the welfare of employees and that the file related to notional increments has been sent to the Finance Department. In this context, the



real question is how to resolve the employees' agitation. While on one hand employees are taking the path of protest for their rights and demands, on the other hand police have to face severe stress in maintaining law and order. In a democracy, the right to protest and at the same time the duty of the police - coordination between these two is most crucial. After the recent incident, there is also a need for discussion on issues like management of such agitations in the future, bandobast arrangements, and safety of police personnel. The death of CI Ahmed Ali in 'Chalo Vijayawada' has cast a shadow of tragedy over the employees' agitation. Complete clarity will emerge only after the full facts related to the incident and the medical reasons for the CI's death are officially revealed. At the same time, whether the government will find a solution to the employees' problems through talks and how it will defuse the agitation has become crucial. On one hand the demands of the employees, on the other hand the death of a police officer on duty - the Vijayawada incident has once again reminded how much responsibility, restraint and coordination are needed on both sides.

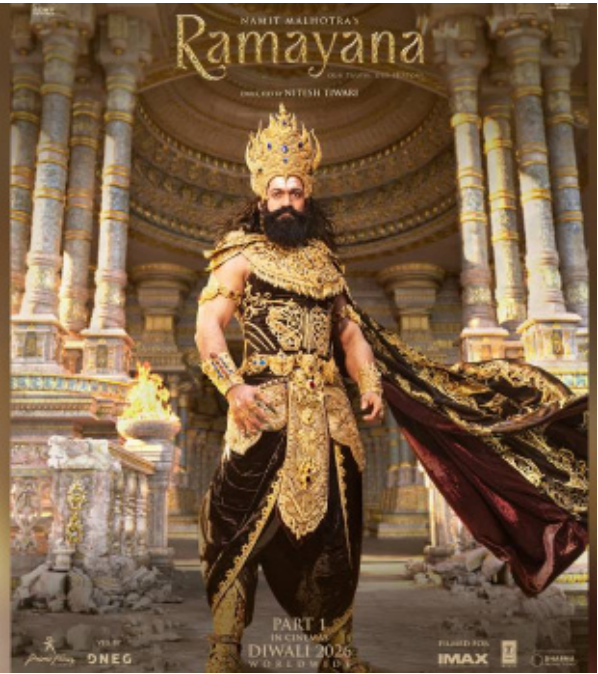


planning this time, taking into account the experiences faced last year. There is a need for various departments to work in coordination so that no inconvenience is caused to the public. Especially as there is a possibility of increased crowd in the city during the festivities, traffic management is going to be crucial. Vijayawada Utsav has the potential to be a platform that not only limits itself to entertainment programmes but also encourages local artists, traders and the handicrafts sector. With the National Saras Mela, handi-

crafts and products from various parts of the country will be introduced to the city people. The government, tourism department and other departments are moving forward in coordination with the aim of bringing more recognition to Vijayawada in terms of tourism as well. It will be interesting to see to what extent the attempt to make Vijayawada a festival city by combining spirituality with culture, arts and entertainment during Dussehra will impress this year.

Yash unveiled as Ravana in Nitesh Tiwari’s ‘Ramayana’

New Delhi: The makers of “Ramayana” have unveiled the first look poster of Yash, who features as Ravana in the film. The film is directed by Nitesh Tiwari and is produced by Namit Malhotra’s DNEG and Prime Focus Studios. The poster, which featured the actor in a glittering golden crown embellished with gems, layered pearl necklaces and gold bracelets, was released on an Instagram handle on Saturday and was re-shared by Yash. The film has been mounted as an ambitious global-scale adaptation, with Oscar-winning filmmaker Hans Zimmer and Grammy-winning composer James Newton Howard attached to the music. It also features Ranbir Kapoor as Ram, Sai Pallavi as Sita and Ravie Dubey as Lakshman alongside Sunny Deol as Hanuman and Vivek Oberoi as Vidyutjihva, among



others. The film will release in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam languages.

Kareena Kapoor sweats it out with intense ‘KKK Flow’ workout

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor enjoyed her Sunday with an intense workout session. Providing netizens a glimpse into her latest workout routine, Bebo shared a short clip of her ‘KKK Flow’ whiteboard. Sharing her workout routine for the day, Kareena shared that she will be performing Bell Complex, Pull Overs, Gun Slingers, Halos, and Oblique Rotations as part one of the routine, while Zone 2 will have Db Lift Over Core. Expressing her excitement, Kareena added the text “lets Go!!!” However, this is not the first time that Bebo has shared such a motivational post regarding her workout. On Friday, the ‘K3G’ actress uploaded a whiteboard titled ‘KKK Flow’. An amalgamation of strength training, conditioning and cardio exercises, Kareena divided her workout into two parts. Part A included 10 step-back kettlebell chops, 10 wide-stance kettlebell lift-to-row repetitions, and two laps of sled pushes, whereas Part B comprised 200 metres on the ski erg, 200 metres of rowing and a one-minute bear hold. Kareena has been a constant motivation for fitness enthusiasts. Her fitness journey made headlines when she transformed for her 2008 release ‘Tashan’ and made ‘size zero’ a nationwide phenomenon. However, Bebo has repeatedly said that she did not starve herself to achieve ‘size zero’. Kareena claims that she enjoyed her favourite foods, including parathas while

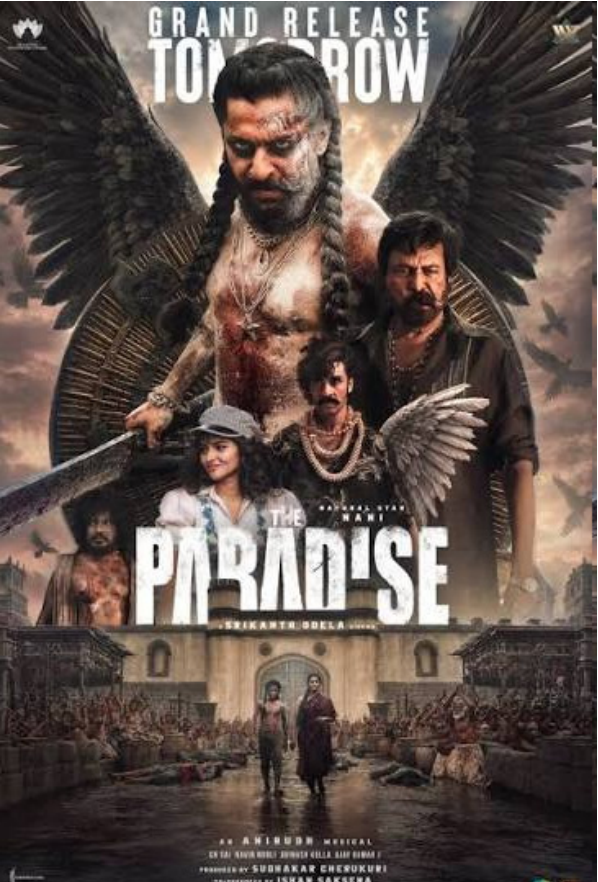


on her journey to achieving that physique. On the professional front, Kareena recently graced the screen with Meghna Gulzar’s crime thriller ‘Daayra’. Released in theatres on September 18, the movie marked Bebo’s first on-screen association with Malayalam star Prithviraj Sukumaran. Their co-actor, Saksham Dayma, also shared his experience of working alongside Kareena and Prithviraj in the film. He revealed that neither of them made him feel intimidated on set. Saksham recalled the atmosphere on the set as comfortable and collaborative, which allowed him to work with the two accomplished actors without feeling overwhelmed.

KTR hails The Paradise for capturing Telangana soil, dialect and culture



Hyderabad: Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) Working President K T Rama Rao, along with other party leaders, watched Nani-starrer ‘The Paradise’ at a theatre in Hyderabad and later praised the film for portraying a struggle for existence and a fight against oppression. Rama Rao, along with BRS MLAs, former ministers and other party leaders, watched a special screening of the film at Sudharshan Theatre at RTC X Roads on Saturday night. The film features a lookalike of BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrasekhara Reddy (KCR). Set in the 1980s, the film has actor Priyadarshi Pulikonda playing MLA Shankaranna, a character that resembles



KCR. The audience cheered loudly when scenes featuring Shankaranna, sporting a ‘tilak’ and delivering trademark dialogues in the Telangana dialect, appeared on

Kriti Sanon: A world where daughters need not fear walking home alone

Mumbai: Actress Kriti Sanon used Daughter’s Day to raise concerns over women’s safety in the country, highlighting the everyday fears and precautions many women face while navigating public spaces. On Sunday, Kriti shared a post on Instagram describing situations such as walking alone at night, informing loved ones about their whereabouts and taking precautions to feel safe. “This Daughter’s Day, Imagine your daughter calling you saying, ‘I think I’m being followed by some men.’ Imagine her walking home alone at night, constantly looking over her shoulder. Imagine her phone dying before she reaches home. Now let that sink in,” she wrote. The “Cocktail 2” actress said women have been forced to make safety precautions part of their daily lives, including sharing live locations, carrying pepper spray, booking cabs instead of walking and calling someone for reassurance. She said the day a daughter can walk home alone at night, sit in a park after dark, wear what she wants, use public transport or simply be in a public space without fearing assault should be the day Daughter’s Day is truly celebrated. “To every daughter who has ever called home and said, ‘I’ve reached.’ May you one



day live in a world where you don’t have to. That is the world our daughters deserve! And that is the world we owe them!” Kriti wrote. Her post comes amid protests following the alleged gang rape of a 17-year-old girl at Aastha Kunj Park in Kalkaji. Hundreds of students, particularly from Delhi University colleges, have taken part in marches demanding safer public spaces for women, with slogans including “Hum Auratein Azaad Hain”.

Nani’s The Paradise earns Rs 136 crore in opening three days



New Delhi: Nani-starrer “The Paradise” has earned over Rs 136 crore in three days at the global box office, the film’s pro-

duction banner said on Sunday. The production house shared the box office figures on Instagram along with a poster of the film. “It is JADAL ZAMANA at the box office. #TheParadise collects 136 CRORES+ GROSS WORLDWIDE in 3 days. Book your tickets now,” the caption read. The film earned over Rs 88 crore on its opening day, followed by over Rs 26 crore and Rs 22 crore on the next two days, respectively. “The Paradise” follows the story of a marginalised tribe stripped of fundamental rights and subjected to social discrimination. Jadali, played by Nani, challenges the systemic oppression. The film released in theatres on Thursday in Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Bengali, Telugu, English and Spanish. Mohan Babu, Kayadu Lohar, Sonali Kulkarni and Raghav Juyal are also part of the cast. The film is produced by SLV Cinemas. “The Paradise” marks the reunion of Nani and director Srikanth Odela after their 2023 film “Dasara”. screen. BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy was also seen throwing confetti towards the screen. The film revolves around the Savaari tribe’s fight for recognition, with Nani playing the protagonist. It also references the legacy of Sammakka and the historical struggle of the Koya tribal community against oppression. Shankaranna vows to support the Savaari tribe’s fight for dignity. K T Rama Rao said in a post on X that the film portrayed a struggle for existence and a fight against oppression. He congratulated director Srikanth Odela, saying the filmmaker had conveyed a powerful message that when the moment arises, even blades of grass can transform into crowbars. Rama Rao said Srikanth had given a “splendid visual form” to the story of a leader who emerged and fought for recognition when a society was oppressed. “Sincere best wishes to my friend Nani, who truly lived the role of the protagonist. Special congratulations to Priyadarshi,” Rama Rao posted. KTR also quoted a dialogue by Priyadarshi’s character: “Even if it means staring death in the face... I will bring you recognition.”

“You know who that is,” he added. Rama Rao also praised the film for cap-

turing Telangana’s soil, dialect and culture. Rajya Sabha member Vaddiraju Ravichandra, former ministers Guntakandla Jagadish Reddy and Talasani Srinivas Yadav, and MLAs Dr Palla Rajeshwar Reddy, Kaleru Venkatesh, Bandaru Lakshma Reddy and Anil Jadhav, along with other BRS leaders, watched the film with KTR.

Virat Kohli, Shubman Gill hundreds power India to eight-wicket win over West Indies in first ODI

Thiruvananthapuram: Maestro Virat Kohli and skipper Shubman Gill displayed their mastery in 50-over format with virtuoso hundreds as India subdued the West Indies by eight wickets in the first ODI here on Sunday. India now lead the three-match series 1-0, after Kohli (139 not out, 10×4, 9×6) and Gill (110, 107b) milked 150 runs for the second wicket to help the hosts scale down 296 in 41.4 overs, ending up at 300 for two. West Indies too had a centurion in their ranks in Justin Greaves, but his maiden effort — 101 — is now destined to remain as an afterthought as it was already overshadowed by Kuldeep Yadav’s excellent four-wicket burst. But even Greaves will not complain about that after remaining a reverent student during India’s innings, watching a GOAT and another batter looking to attain that status working in tandem. Here’s a quick look at the stats: Gill crunched his 10th ODI hundred and Kohli steamrolled Windies for his 55th ton, and 86th in international cricket. Additionally, Kohli also became the second batter in history to register 15000 runs in one-dayers after Sachin Tendulkar. All these are heady numbers but their batting on the day was even more so — in haste but not in hate. After scoring 75 runs for the opening wicket with Rohit Sharma, Gill’s innings blossomed in the company of Kohli. Gill exploited the reprieve he received on 11, when substitute Keemo Paul dropped him off Jayden Seales, to

the hilt, first bringing a 50 off 49 balls and the next 50 in 47 balls. In the interim, there were a litany of shots — a square cut and punch through the covers of Alzarri Joseph, a square cut off Seales and six and four combination off spinner Gudakesh Motie. They were shots played with the subtle hands of a butterfly curator, and even the bowlers would not have felt the anguish. Kohli, on the other hand, did what he has been doing all these years — running hard and then unfurling an array of dazzling shots, his blueprint while conducting ODI chases. Just that this time, he showed an increasing appetite for sixes. The only false shot in his innings was a top-edged pull off Joseph that went for a six over the stumper’s head, and in one way it hinted that the day belonged to the ‘Master.’ Shots of the highest class flowed soon, and Joseph bore the brunt — three fours in a row and a later six down the ground to bring his half-century in 40 balls. A tired-looking Gill departed when a slog sweep off Roston Chase was caught in the deep by Jewel Andrew. But a certain 37-year-old made of iron will and sublime skills soon reached his own mark in just 74 balls as the Greenfield Stadium erupted like a live volcano, spewing chants of Kohli and howling of appreciation. The Delhi man fetched his three-figure mark with a thundering six over mid-wicket off Motie — a neat leap from 94 to even hundred. Kuldeep’s magic But the holiday crowd was also fortunate



to witness another class act — Kuldeep Yadav, who took four wickets (4/40) to stem the early run of Windies, and restrict them to 295 for seven. His sorcery mitigated a maiden 50-over format hundred by Greaves. Greaves and his opening partner John Campbell (62, 60b) added 135 runs in 19.2 overs as the West Indies appeared to have primed for a far bigger total. But the left-arm spinner was too crafty and brainy on the day for the tourists. After keeping Campbell guessing with two wide deliveries on the off-stump, Kuldeep fired one in fuller and the left-handed batter’s miscued sweep ended in Prasad Krishna’s hands at mid-on. It was a huge relief for India as Campbell, who hammered Ravindra Jadeja for a four and two sixes in his first over en route to a 49-ball fifty, was settling in for a bigger knock. Kuldeep soon dealt a severe blow to the West Indies, dismissing Shai Hope. The captain was deceived by the subtle change in line by Kuldeep, skying him to Jadeja near point. Greaves and promising

Andrew fell in successive balls to Kuldeep. The 31-year-old managed to sneak the ball under Greaves’s sweep and the DRS umpire upheld the bowlers’ shout for a leg before wicket. Andrew did not have much idea about a googly on the middle and off stumps line, and playing forward had disastrous consequences. Suddenly, the Windies found themselves shuddering at 198 for five from 176 for one. It required Amir Jangoo (58 not out) to stitch alliances of 48 runs for the sixth wicket with Chase, and 38 runs for the seventh wicket with Matthew Ford, to get near 300. Jangoo’s pulls were a treat to watch as pacer Prasad felt the heat a couple of times. The left-handed Jangoo reached 50 in just 38 balls with an astoundingly simple flick of his wrists six off Brar over the cow corner. Before that, Greaves played some exquisite shots around, helping the West Indies score more than six runs an over in the first 20-over segment. But with Kohli and Gill in such touch, the volume of target did not matter.

India’s 1-1 draw with Panama creates football history in Bengaluru

Hyderabad: There are results that look good on the scoreboard. Then there are results whose significance becomes clearer when placed alongside everything that came before them. India’s 1-1 draw with Panama at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Friday belongs firmly in the latter category. By the measure of the FIFA World Ranking, the Blue Tigers had never before earned a result against an opponent ranked as high as Panama. The Central Americans arrived in Bengaluru ranked 44th in the world, 94 places above 138th-ranked India. Ryan Williams’ first-half goal and a disciplined yet adventurous team performance ensured that gap never translated onto the scoreboard. In the FIFA World Ranking era, Panama are now the highest-ranked opposition against whom the Indian men’s national team have avoided defeat. The previous benchmark had stood for almost 22 years. On November 5, 2004, India defeated Kuwait 3-2 in an international friendly in Kuwait City. Kuwait were ranked 60th at the time, while Stephen Constantine’s India were 138th. Until Friday night at the Kanteerava, no team placed higher than the West Asians in the rankings had failed to beat India. For Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, however, the statistic also came with a lingering feeling that India could have taken even more from the evening. “It is a great result for us, but in my opinion, it could have been even better because we were very close to getting a victory at home,” the captain said. “We knew Panama were a big team. They played at the World Cup and were in the top 40 around that time, and now they are 44th. So we knew it was going to be a big challenge. “But all the credit goes to the staff and the boys who played and gave everything. Without that effort, discipline and commitment, it would not have been possible. And also to the people who came to the stadium, cheered for us and pushed us to give everything.



I think all of that played a part in making this result possible.” Perhaps it was fitting that another memorable Indian football result should arrive in Bengaluru. For the Blue Tigers, the city has a habit of providing nights worth remembering. Back on April 8, 2001, the Bengaluru Football Stadium, three-and-a-half kilometres from the Kanteerava, witnessed one of India’s most celebrated FIFA World Cup qualifying victories when Jules Alberto Dias scored the winner in a 1-0 triumph over the United Arab Emirates. Sixteen years later, Sunil Chhetri’s strike against Kyrgyzstan secured another 1-0 victory at the Kanteerava, a crucial result in the campaign that would eventually take India to the AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019. Then came 2023. India went unbeaten through the SAFF Championship in Bengaluru and, after successive penalty shootout victories over Lebanon and Kuwait, lifted the trophy in front of a jubilant Kanteerava crowd. On Friday, another chapter was added. And what made this one stand out was not merely the ranking of the opposition, but the manner in which India approached them. There was respect for Panama, but no signs of intimidation. Khalid Jamil’s side did not spend the evening retreating towards their own penalty area and waiting for the visitors to dictate terms. India chose their moments to press, looked for the spaces Panama left behind and, whenever possession was regained, tried to move forward with purpose. Jamil’s instructions from the touchline could repeatedly be heard.

Hyderabad para-swimmer Karthik Agneya wins Cannonball Swimathon gold

Hyderabad: Hyderabad para-swimmer Karthik Agneya Kolli won gold at the Cannonball Swimathon in Gurugram. The 16-year-old Karthik Agneya clinched the honours in the six-km swim and is the youngest and only neurodiverse swimmer in the event. Karthik completed the gruelling race in 1 hour and 52 minutes, leading from the early stages while competing alongside adult professional swimmers. The PSA appreciated Karthik’s remarkable performance and congratulated him on inspiring young athletes across the State.



Asian Games: India could advance if rain washes out Afghanistan QF

Nisshin: Rain threat looms large over the Asian Games cricket quarterfinal between defending champions India and a second-string Afghanistan side at Korogi Sports Park here on Monday. The match is scheduled to begin at 1:30 pm local time, or 10 am IST, but weather forecasts have raised doubts over whether the game will be completed. According to AccuWeather, there is a 97 per cent chance of precipitation in Nisshin on Monday. Pakistan will face Hong Kong, China in the first quarter final before India take on Afghanistan. The Pakistan-Hong Kong, China match is scheduled to begin at 9 am local time, or 5:30 am IST. AccuWeather has forecast a 69 per cent chance of precipitation at 8 am local time, rising to 70 per cent at the scheduled start of the first quarterfinal. The rain chances are forecast at 49 per cent at 10 am, 75 per cent at 11 am and 71 per cent at noon. They are expected to fall to 40 per cent at 1 pm, when the toss for the India-Afghanistan match is scheduled, before standing at 34 per cent at 2 pm and 40 per cent at 3 pm. The precipitation probability is forecast to rise



to 58 per cent at 4 pm, followed by 49 per cent at 5 pm, 60 per cent at 6 pm and 49 per cent at 7 pm local time. If rain washes out the match, India and Pakistan will advance as the winners of the two quarterfinals by virtue of their higher T20I rankings. According to the ICC rankings, India are No. 1 in T20Is, while Afghanistan are ranked 10th. Pakistan are sixth and Hong Kong, China are 24th. A similar situation occurred at the 2023 Asian Games, when rain washed out the final between India and Afghanistan. India were awarded the gold medal based on their superior ranking.

Sensex gains 315 points, Nifty rises 77 points after sharp sell-off

Mumbai: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty recovered on Friday after a sharp sell-off in the previous session, but analysts said the market’s near-term trend remains cautious, with the Sensex needing to sustain above 74,000 and the Nifty above 23,300 to strengthen the recovery momentum. The 30-share Sensex rose 315.20 points, or 0.43 per cent, to close at 73,895.74. During the day, the index touched an intra-day high of 73,968.05 and a low of 73,477.77, witnessing a swing of nearly 490 points. The recovery came a day after the Sensex slipped to its lowest level in more than three months. The broader Nifty also rebounded, gaining 77.40 points, or 0.34 per cent, to settle at 23,140.50. Despite Friday’s gains, technical analysts said the market continues to exhibit a cautious undertone, with key resistance and support levels likely to determine the next directional move. Market watchers said the Sensex continues to maintain a sideways-to-bearish outlook. According to experts, the 73,200-73,450 zone remains a crucial support area for the index. “The Sensex continues to maintain a sideways-to-bearish outlook, with 73,200-73,450 acting as the crucial support zone. Sustained buying above 74,000 could strengthen the recovery and open the way towards 74,200-74,500, while a break below the



support band may revive selling pressure,” market watchers stated. “For now, traders should monitor the 73,500-74,000 zone closely along with OI changes for confirmation of the next move,” analysts noted. On the Nifty, experts said the index managed to recover modestly after Thursday’s sharp fall but its short-term technical structure remains weak. Technically, Nifty is witnessing a gradual deterioration in its weekly structure, with the recent breakdown below the 23,070 support zone weakening the near-term setup. “On the upside, immediate resistance is placed at 23,400 and 23,600. A sustained move above this zone could provide some relief and help the index regain stability,” market watchers stated. “On the downside, support is seen at 23,000 and 22,800. A decisive breakdown below 22,800-23,000 could further weaken the structure and open room for additional downside,” analysts added.

Mahindra may hike SUV prices again in coming weeks amid rising commodity costs

New Delhi: Mahindra & Mahindra is weighing another price increase across its SUV portfolio amid recent increases in commodity prices, with a decision expected in the next couple of weeks, said Nalinikanth Gollagunta, CEO, Automotive Division, Mahindra Group. In an interview with PTI, Gollagunta said the company has already taken three price increases this year — in January, April and July, with the July increase being about 2.7 per cent on sports utility vehicles (SUVs). “We’re watching it very closely. As you know, we’ve already taken three increases — one in January, one in April, and a fairly significant one in July, about 2.7 per cent on SUVs. That said, it’s something that can be very dynamic, so we continue to watch it,” he said. Elaborating further, Gollagunta said, “We’ll probably take a call in the next couple of weeks on whether we need a price increase... I can’t say we will or we won’t, but it’s something we’re looking at closely, given the recent price increases in commodities.” He said recent price increases across the auto industry have not affected customer inquiries or bookings, with vehicles still priced below pre-GST levels. “No, primarily for a couple of reasons — we’re still well below pre-GST prices, so demand continues to be quite intact and robust at this point,” Gollagunta said. On the festive season, he said demand should be strong for Mahindra as well as across the industry, helped by prices remaining below pre-GST (Goods and Services Tax) levels and a refreshed product portfolio. “Festive should be very good for us, and across the industry, for a couple of reasons. We’ve had inflationary pressures, but the reality is the GST price cuts from last year are holding us all well below pre-GST prices, even with the inflationary price increases we’ve made over the past year or so,” he said. On hybrid technology, Gollagunta said Mahindra remains focused on electric vehicles and would adapt if the regulatory environment changes. “We’re very clear



in our minds — EV is the end state the country is heading towards, and that’s also what the government has made clear to the industry. If you look at the CAFE (Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency) norms, there’s a very clear differentiation between the benefits given to an EV versus a hybrid. So our focus is on EVs to that extent. If the regulatory environment changes, we have the ability to adapt, but at this point our focus is primarily on EVs,” he said. On capacity, Gollagunta said Mahindra currently has about 60,000 units of monthly ICE (internal combustion engine) capacity and about 8,000 units of EV (electric vehicle) capacity, and is largely delivering at those levels. “The next set of capacity increases will happen at the end of March, early April — the 60,000 ICE capacity will go to 70,000, and the EV capacity of 8,000 will go to 12,000. So, where we are now, we’re at 68,000, and we’ll go to 84,000 in about six months,” he said. Gollagunta also said the company has several product refreshes and two major launches lined up over the next two quarters. “We’ll have a set of refreshes coming — some of this we’ve already talked about. We have about 5 (product) refreshes; a few have already happened, and two or three more are coming up. Other than that, we have two major launches coming within the next couple of quarters — that’s also why we’ve added the capacity. We’ll have one major launch on the ICE side and one major launch on the EV side, both happening within the next two quarters,” he said.

India’s maritime insurance pool strengthens war-risk cover for shipping sector



New Delhi: The launch of the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP) in May 2026 marks a significant development in India’s maritime insurance sector, with the facility ensuring uninterrupted war-risk insurance coverage for Indian maritime stakeholders since its operational launch. War-risk insurance premiums have fallen by about 35-40 per cent from their peak during the West Asia conflict. As of September 7, 2026, the pool had issued 3,000 Cargo War, 92 Hull War-risk and three Protection & Indemnity insurance policies, according to a government factsheet issued on Sunday. Conflicts in the Red Sea and tensions near the Strait of Hormuz have disrupted vital shipping routes. With a major share of crude oil imported by sea, India’s energy security depends on uninterrupted maritime insurance coverage. During the period of heightened tensions, foreign insurers increased premiums or stopped providing cover, sharply raising costs for shipowners and creating the need for a domestic safety net. The insurance facility has government-backed support of Rs 12,980 crore (\$1.4 billion), providing financial strength to meet obligations even in the event of catastrophic losses. The pool can cover risks worth Rs 13,906.5 crore (\$1.5 billion), backed by a sovereign guarantee, increasing its capacity to cover large maritime losses, the factsheet stated. Earlier, India lacked institutional depth in marine underwriting and claims management. BMIP is intended to build this expertise domestically, laying the foundation for a stronger domestic insurance sector and reducing reliance on foreign insurance hubs such as London and Switzerland. BMIP

has been designed to provide coverage across a broad range of maritime risk categories. It is intended to ensure that vessels and cargo involved in Indian trade have access to domestic insurance protection, regardless of the route or nature of the risk. On July 30, 2026, India’s first Protection & Indemnity insurance policy under BMIP was issued to Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. Issued by New India Assurance Company Ltd, the policy provides financial protection against third-party liabilities. A Marine Cargo War Policy was also issued to Vedanta Sterlite Copper Ltd. It covers the company’s imports of cable wires into India, demonstrating the pool’s potential to serve large industrial importers and support the insurance needs of supply chains feeding Indian industry. A policy was also issued to Balrampur Chini Mills Ltd, a sugar manufacturer. The facility is available not only to shipowners but also to businesses involved in moving goods by sea, including manufacturers and commodity traders. The Governing Body and Underwriting Committee were constituted after the pool’s launch, while General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) took charge as the Pool Manager and Administrator. Systems for underwriting, claims and regulatory compliance have also been put in place. India had earlier depended heavily on foreign insurers across the maritime insurance value chain. Indian shipowners rely largely on 13 international Protection & Indemnity clubs, mostly based in the West. This dependence can expose them to sudden changes in coverage, underscoring the importance of developing a domestic alternative, the factsheet added.

Odds of rate hike at RBI’s October MPC meet on the rise: Economists

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) inflation mandate has likely reinforced the push to drain excess liquidity, with the odds of a rate hike at the October meeting on the rise, according to economists. Short-end rates are likely to stay bid as markets price in these rate increases, they added. According to Radhika Rao, Senior Economist and Executive Director, DBS Bank, pullback in benchmark oil prices helped to stabilise INR asset markets, though overnight climb in US yields might counteract some of the positive impact. “USD/INR had ended around the mid-95 handle, though is set to resume its climb, attracting strong intervention bids. Liquidity conditions have tightened meaningfully following the central bank’s sustained absorption operations, which have relied on a mix of open market operations, VRRR auctions, and short-tenor sell-buy swaps,” she explained. Tax outflows, rising seasonal currency leakage, and intermittent FX sales likely helped further lower the surfeit. As a result, the liquidity balance narrowed to below Rs 5 lakh crore last



week from a peak of around Rs 10-11 lakh crore, helping to improve monetary policy transmission and align the weighted average call rate more closely with the repo rate. Liquidity and core inflation have historically displayed a modest positive relationship, said the economist. Pranjal Bhandari, Chief India Economist and Strategist, HSBC Global Investment Research, said that they maintain the long-held view of two 25 bp hikes in the October and December meetings, respectively, taking the repo rate to 5.75 per cent. “We also expect further clarity/steps on liquidity removal in the October meeting,” she noted.

Deadline for Journalist Awards Applications Extended till October 05

State Government Award for Journalists' Talent Applications Invited for 2025 Best Journalist Awards ,Awards in 12 Categories

Vijayawada 27: Cash Prizes from Rs.2 Lakh to Rs.1 Lakh“Director of State Information and Public Relations Department K.S. ViswanathanVijayawada, September 27, 2026: The State Government has decided to present Best Journalist Awards in 12 categories for the year 2025 to encourage journalists who have rendered outstanding service in the field of journalism and shown professional excellence, and to recognize and honour their services. Director of State Information and Public Relations Department K.S. Viswanathan said in a statement that applications are invited from journalists belonging to respective categories to select the eligible candidates for these awards.As informed earlier, the deadline which was September 28 has been extended to October 05, 2026. Eligible journalists should send their applications to the following address by 5.00 PM on October 05, 2026.Director,“Information and Public Relations Department,“2nd Floor, NTR Administration Building, “Pandit Nehru Bus Station,“Vijayawada – 520013.Awards Selected at the Discretion of the CommitteeFor the following three awards, without receiving separate applications from journalists, the selection committee will select the awardees at its discretion.

- 1.V.R. Narla Lifetime Achievement Award
- Kokku Ahobal Rao Best Photojournalist Award
2. Madduri Annapurnayya Award for Editors of Small and Medium Newspapers in the State
3. Awards Selected by the Committee Based on Applications
1. Kasinadhuni Nageswara Rao Pantulu Best Journalist Award Cash Prize: Rs.2 Lakhs

Eligibility: Full-time journalists with at least 10 years of experience in the journalism profession and who have shown professional excellence are eligible to apply. Only journalists working in Andhra Pradesh or outside the state for reputed Telugu and English newspapers or periodicals published from Andhra Pradesh should apply.

2. Best Rural Journalist AwardsThree awards in the names of eminent journalists will be presented to three journalists who have shown exceptional talent in rural journalism.Khasa Subbarao Best Rural Journalist AwardMutnuri Krishnarao Best Rural Journalist AwardMaddukuri Chandrasekhara Rao Best Rural Journalist AwardCash prize per award: Rs.1 Lakh

Eligibility:Journalists with at least 3 years of experience in rural areas in Telugu and English dailies published from

Andhra Pradesh are eligible to apply. Former journalists who have gained extensive experience in rural reporting can also apply.

3. Savitribai Phule Best Woman Journalist AwardCash Prize: Rs.1 Lakh

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

4. Best Cartoonist AwardCash Prize: Rs.1 Lakh

Eligibility:Cartoonists working in Telugu and English dailies published from Andhra Pradesh can apply. Must have at least 10 years of experience.

5. Abul Kalam Azad Best Urdu Journalist AwardCash Prize: Rs.1 Lakh

Eligibility:Those working as journalists in Urdu publications with at least 10 years of experience can apply. The awardee will be selected based on services rendered to Urdu journalism, reporting on social, economic and political issues of rural areas, and overall professional performance.

6. Best Electronic Media Journalist AwardCash Prize: Rs.1 Lakh

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

7. Best Video Journalist AwardCash Prize: Rs.1 Lakh

Eligibility:Video journalists working in electronic media channels with at least 5 years of experience can apply. Application Procedure – Important Conditions Journalists should apply individually with full details of the organization they are working for, job details and their qualifications.Along with the application, at least 5 articles, news stories, photos, cartoons or video clippings should be attached. They should have been published / broadcast in the calendar year 2025 (from 01-01-2025 to 31-12-2025). Articles, news stories and other articles can also be submitted in the form of photocopies.The decision of the selection committee is final regarding the selection of award winners. No correspondence in this regard will be entertained.If the committee feels that sufficient number of applications or applications of required standard have not been received in any category, the selection committee has the power to withhold the concerned award without announcing it.Complete information regarding eligibility, application procedure and other conditions related to Best Journalist Awards can be viewed on the Media Relations website under the Information and Public Relations Department: (<https://mediarelations.ap.gov.in/media>).

Share Your Feedback on PGRS Services Through QR Code : District Collector K. Vetriselvi

Eluru, September 27: District Collector K. Vetriselvi requested the public to share their opinions on the services received through PGRS via QR code.She said that the State Government is striving to provide more transparent and accountable services to the people, and as part of this programme, it is seeking public opinions on services provided through PGRS via QR code. She said that the QR code has been prominently displayed in clearly visible places at the entry and exit areas of District and

Mandal level P.G.R.S centres.She said that people who have availed P.G.R.S services can scan the QR code through their mobile phones and convey their opinion and satisfaction level. She said that the public response through QR code will reach the official P.G.R.S portal. She said that to know the status of petitions, one can call the toll-free number 1100.Collector Vetriselvi appealed to people to share their opinions through QR code and cooperate in providing better services.

"My Health, My Pride" Programme Conducted in Vijayawada as Part of Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat

Vijayawada, September 27: As part of the Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat programme, "My Health, My Pride" programme was organized by My Bharat, Andhra Pradesh at Aditya Degree College near Benz Circle in Vijayawada. The main objective of the programme is to promote awareness on health among youth, preventive health care, healthy lifestyle and staying away from drugs.The EAGLE wing of the Andhra Pradesh Government also participated in this programme and created awareness among youth about the ill effects of drugs. Students were educated on aspects like physical and mental health, adopting a healthy lifestyle and staying away from drug use.My Bharat Andhra Pradesh State Director Shri K. Ujwal attended the programme and spoke to the students. He said that healthy and responsible youth will play a key role in building Viksit Bharat. He called upon the youth to inculcate healthy habits and become partners in building a drug-free society.Senior Doctor and Psychiatrist of District Mental Health Awareness Programme, Dr. Meena conducted awareness and counselling for students. She explained the importance of mental health, identifying problems like stress at an early stage, and taking expert help when needed.Jana Seva Society President and High Court Advo-

cate Shri Adishesayya, addressing the students, explained social responsibility, awareness on health and the role to be played by youth in building a drug-free society.Dr. Veeraj, Principal, Aditya Degree College, Vijayawada welcomed the guests and appreciated My Bharat and the Andhra Pradesh Government for organizing such programmes related to health and welfare of students.As part of the programme, general health check-ups were conducted for more than 200 students along with individual counselling sessions. Students actively participated in the programme and discussed various aspects related to health and mental health with experts.The programme strongly conveyed the message that healthy and energetic youth is the foundation for building Viksit Bharat. Students were called upon to adopt a healthy lifestyle and become partners in the development of society as responsible citizens.Along with making youth partners in nation building, My Bharat, NTR is continuing such youth-centric programmes to promote health, social responsibility and building a drug-free society. In this programme, My Bharat NTR District Youth Officer B. Pradeep Kumar, My Bharat staff along with National Youth Volunteers participated.Sincerely,“B. Pradeep Kumar“District Youth Officer“My Bharat NTR

Public Grievance Redressal Platform on 28th of this Month

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha

Vijayawada: September 27: .District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said that the district administration is taking special measures to provide speedy and transparent resolution to the problems of the district people. As part of this, he revealed that a ‘Public Grievance Redressal Platform’ will be organized at Sri Pingali Venkayya Meeting Hall in the Collectorate. The Collector said that the Public Grievance Redressal Platform will be held on Monday, September 28 from 10 AM to 1.00 PM.He said that officials from various departments at the district level will participate in this programme and directly receive petitions from the public. He said that this platform will be useful for people to bring their problems to the notice of officials and take necessary steps to resolve them.The Collector suggested that people should clearly mention their name, full address, mobile number along with comprehensive details of the problem while submitting petitions related to their problems. He said that supporting documents and other



related documents related to the problem should be attached along with the petition. He suggested that those who have already complained about the same issue in the past should bring their old petition receipt / complaint receipt with them. He said that this will allow the details of the old complaint to be examined and further action to be taken quickly. He said that measures are being taken to make information related to the resolution process available from time to time.The Collector said that people who cannot attend the Collectorate in person to submit petitions can also use the 1100 toll-free call centre services provided by the government to bring their problems to the notice of officials. He also said that there is an opportunity to register their complaints online through the website meekosam.ap.gov.in.The District Collector said that there is also an opportunity to receive petitions from the public at Division, Mandal offices and Municipal offices to provide services closer to the people. He suggested that people can contact the respective offices near their area and register their problems.District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha appealed to the public to make use of this opportunity provided by the government for redressal of public grievances. He said that the main goal of the district administration is to provide transparent and accountable services to the people.

