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Vijay to meet Chandrababu Naidu on Krishna water sharing, proposed dams

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay is expected to visit Vijayawada on October 13 for talks with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Krishna water supplies, proposed dams on rivers flowing into Tamil Nadu, and river interlinking. The proposed meeting comes amid a shortfall in water received by Tamil Nadu under the Telugu Ganga project. Under the agreement, Andhra Pradesh is required to deliver 12 thousand million cubic feet (tmc) of Krishna River water annually at the interstate

border. However, Tamil Nadu had received only 2.251 tmc by October 9 this year. The gap between the stipulated annual supply and the quantity received so far is expected to be a key issue during the discussions. Vijay's visit will provide an opportunity for the two governments to review water releases and discuss Tamil Nadu's requirements for the remaining period of the year. Tamil Nadu has received less than one-fifth of the stipulated annual quantity. The figures place the outstanding balance at 9.749 tmc, although the an-

nual allocation and the amount received by October 9 cover different periods. Besides Krishna water supplies, Vijay is expected to raise Andhra Pradesh's moves to construct dams across rivers that flow into Tamil Nadu. The discussions are likely to cover the implications of these projects for water reaching the downstream State. Tamil Nadu's concerns over these proposed structures will be another agenda item, alongside consultations on river interlinking. The talks are expected to bring together issues relating to existing water-shar-



ing arrangements and proposals involving rivers connecting the two states. According to reports, Vijay will also meet Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and other ministers during the visit. The meetings are expected to focus on the water-related issues identified for discussion between the two governments. The visit would place these matters before the political leadership of both States, with Tamil

Nadu seeking discussions on the shortfall in Krishna water and the proposed dam construction. With only a portion of the annual allocation received so far, the October 13 talks are expected to centre on how the two States can address Tamil Nadu's water concerns through direct consultations. Details of any decisions or commitments will depend on the outcome of the meetings, which have been reported as part of Vijay's planne

YS Jagan alleges Naidu betrayed BCs over 34 per cent local body quota promise

Amaravati: YSR Congress Party President Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Friday accused Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu of betraying Backward Classes (BCs) on the promise of 34% reservation in local bodies. The former Chief Minister said the Supreme Court's verdict exposed the deception. "Chandrababu Naidu, you are Mr 420 when it comes to making promises to people from every section and then cheating them," YS Jagan said in a post on X. "You promised 34% reservations for BCs in local bodies,



lured them with that promise and betrayed them. The Supreme Court's verdict has now exposed this deception. Once again, you have been exposed as a cheater," the YSRCPPresident told Chandrababu Naidu. "Your Super Six and Super Seven promises are another deception. Cancelling the schemes people received under

our government was another. Leaving nearly Rs 9,000 crore due under Vidya Deevena and Vasathi Deevena is yet another grave betrayal," wrote YS Jagan. "The manifesto you issued with 143 promises is the biggest deception of all. Your promise to provide 34% reservations to BCs was another big fraud. Mr Chandrababu, apologise to the BCs at least now," he added. The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed the state government plea challenging the Andhra Pradesh High Court ruling that struck down

See 2nd page

NTR Vaidya Seva Trust penalises 203 hospitals, slaps Rs 34 cr fines

Amaravati: The NTR Vaidya Seva Trust has imposed fines totalling Rs 34.39 crore on 203 hospitals for irregularities during the 2024-25 to 2026-27 period, stepping up action against violations in the implementation of the government's cashless healthcare scheme. The disciplinary measures include suspension of 25 hospitals, withholding payments to 13 hospitals, removal of five hospitals from the network and cancellation of recognition for one hospital. The trust initiated action in 114 cases over the past six months, intensifying its scrutiny



of deficiencies in medical services and suspicious billing practices. The trust has warned hospitals against collecting fees from patients for services covered under the scheme and said strict action would follow if eligible beneficiaries were denied cashless treatment. It has been investigating patient complaints and examining medical records

See 2nd page

Police foil INDIA bloc's Chalo Raj Bhavan



Vijayawada: The NTR district police foiled the INDIA bloc parties' Chalo Raj Bhavan protest here on Saturday, placing several opposition leaders under house arrest and making preventive arrests of hundreds of leaders and activists to prevent them from participating in the agitation. Several senior leaders, including MLC and

AICC in-charge of Andhra Pradesh Congress affairs P V Mohan, CPM state secretary V Srinivasa Rao, secretariat member Ch Babu Rao, CPI state secretariat members Akkineni Vanaja and Donepudi Shankar, and others were arrested and shifted to various police stations across the district. Buy Maps

See 2nd page

AP Cabinet meets to discuss on BC reservation data

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, is considering Backward Classes (BC) reservations in local body elections after officials presented findings from a special commission. The Supreme Court has said BC reservations must be based on current population data and local conditions. Its rulings require the "Triple Test" to be completed before such reservations are provided in rural and urban local bodies. If the test is not completed, seats must be treated as general, except those reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in proportion to their population. The state appointed a special commission led by retired IAS officer Rajiv Ranjan Mishra. It began work on 23 March, visited districts and gathered views



from BC caste associations. After nearly seven months of study, it submitted its report to the government on 14 August 2026. The commission said its findings were based on current data, which was shared through "Swarna Gramam" and "Swarna Wards" to allow the public to identify and correct discrepancies. Following verification by the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development and Municipal Administration and

Urban Development departments, it estimated Andhra Pradesh's population at 5,27,46,589. Of that total, 2,65,94,418 people—or 50.42 per cent—were identified as BCs. The commission put the BC share at 48.84 per cent in rural areas and 54.36 per cent in urban areas. The Cabinet is expected to decide on BC reservations in local body elections based on the findings. bc-reservation-data-1130971



Kudos to GST Council for charting a new path

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council’s recommendations should be welcomed, as business persons, industry bodies, and experts have been calling for them for quite some time now. When implemented properly, the recommendations will not only make the lives of wealth creators easier but also help make India a better investment destination. Taking away the arrest powers of tax officers made headlines across media platforms; other suggestions to ease processes and compliance are no less important. The effort to minimise mismatches in liability and input tax credit (ITC) in returns is also commendable. At present, ITC can be denied if the supplier doesn’t deposit the corresponding tax with the authorities, even though the recipient has complied. In other words, the recipient party suffers because of someone else’s fault—in this case, the supplier. This is not just an anti-business policy but also unfair. The Council has decided to investigate the matter. The GST Council could have more happiness in the world of business by accepting the proposed change to allow ITC on motor vehicles. This would surely have boosted sectors such as logistics, transportation, travel services, equipment leasing, and vehicle rentals—that is, the businesses in which a lot of money is spent on vehicles. However, the government hinted at its change in stance over the single GST rate. Addressing reporters after the GST Council meeting, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman made it clear that the government is not opposed to a single GST rate: “When a review of GST was undertaken, one of the needs identified was that they [GST Council members] didn’t want four rates. However, the question of whether they were ready to get into one rate situation remains answer. Maybe sometime in future.” This is good news, for if the Union government gives up its resistance to the single rate, it is possible that states will follow suit, as most of them are under the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. Besides, the Congress is not against the single rate. The Council’s suggestion for common standards for GST notices and proceedings can make compliance norms easier. Other good recommendations include no notices for monetary amounts of Rs 10,000 or below, easier compliance norms for small sellers on e-commerce platforms, and allowing employers to claim input tax credit on GST paid on employee insurance cover. Apart from improving the flow of ITC, the Council has also slashed the time limit for acknowledging refund claims from 15 days to 10 days. Authorities estimate that 90 per cent of claims will get cleared within three working days of acknowledgment. The new measures will streamline and expedite refund processing through greater automation and reduced manual intervention, thereby facilitating timely sanction of eligible refunds and reducing compliance burden for taxpayers as well as interface with the department, an official press release said. “Introduction of automation will ensure transparency, certainty, and uniformity and will also improve cash flows for taxpayers.” Faster refunds will effectively address the working capital issues of businesses, especially the smaller ones.

YS Jagan alleges Naidu betrayed BCs over 34 per cent local body quota promise

Continu, from1st page

34% reservation for BCs in local body elections. On October 1, the Andhra Pradesh High Court struck down two government orders providing 34 per cent reservation for BCs in local body elections, holding that the quota breached the 50 per cent ceiling on total reservations. The High Court observed that the aggregate reservation for all categories in local bodies should not exceed 50 per cent in accordance with the Supreme Court’s guidelines. Chief Minister Naidu had announced the enhanced quota on August 18, stating that BCs would get 34 per cent reservation in rural local bodies and 33.33 per cent in urban local bodies.

NTR Vaidya Seva Trust penalises 203 hospitals, slaps Rs 34 cr fines

Continu, from1st page

to identify violations. As part of efforts to curb the misuse of public funds, the trust plans to introduce Artificial Intelligence (AI)-assisted scrutiny of hospital bills. Suspicious bills flagged by the system will be verified against supporting evidence before action is initiated, the Trust said. The trust will process around 6,000 requests for prior medical authorisation daily and audit bills relating to 5,600 medical treatments each day. Prior authorisations will undergo a two-stage verification process, while bills will be subjected to four levels of scrutiny. The trust said the strengthened verification system would accelerate scrutiny and help focus attention on clearing pending bills while preventing improper claims.

Police foil INDIA bloc’s Chalo Raj Bhavan

Continu, from1st page

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president Y S Sharmila was prevented from leaving her residence at Kesarapalli by Gannavaram police when she attempted to proceed to Lenin Centre to participate in the protest. She reportedly tried to drive her car herself, but the police stopped her. Sharmila staged a protest by displaying a copy of the Constitution and questioned the police over their authority to prevent her from leaving her residence. The INDIA bloc parties had called for the protest demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, alleging large-scale deletion of voters’ names from electoral rolls across the country. The police placed several leaders, including CPM state secretariat member Babu Rao, Vijayawada City Congress president Naraharasetti Narasimha Rao and NTR district Congress president Borra Kiran, under house arrest. Police were deployed at party offices and other strategic locations to prevent leaders and cadres from joining the protest. Meanwhile, former Union minister JD Seelam, CPI state secretariat member Vanaja, APCC vice-presidents Gurunatham and Kolanukonda Shivaji, CPM leader D V Krishna and retired IPS officer A B Venkateswara Rao staged a protest at Lenin Centre. Tension prevailed as police attempted to take the protesters into custody, with opposition leaders and cadres resisting the action. Later, former minister Vadde Sobhanadreeswara Rao, CPM leader Babu Rao and other opposition leaders joined the protest at Lenin Centre. However, the police prevented them from continuing the agitation and took them into custody. 300 Left party and Congress leaders and activists were arrested and shifted to various police stations, including Ibrahimpatnam, Bhavanipuram, Kothapet Two Town, Singh Nagar, Nunna, Satyanarayanapuram and Krishnalanka. The Left parties have strongly condemned the police action against leaders and activists who attempted to participate in the all-party and people’s organisations’ Chalo Lok Bhavan protest in Vijayawada on Saturday. The parties demanded the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, alleging that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls was depriving people of their voting rights and threatening democracy. They accused the police of using force against protesters, making arrests and preventing opposition leaders from participating in the agitation. The Left parties alleged that several leaders were placed under house arrest from midnight and police personnel were deployed at party offices and other locations to foil the protest. They also strongly objected to the alleged blockade of the CPM and CPI state offices, describing the action as undemocratic. In protest against the police action and arrests, the Left parties called upon people and democratic organisations to organise statewide protests on Sunday, October 11.

One dead, several injured after two vehicles collided

A driver died on the spot and several others were injured following a collision between two vehicles. The incident occurred near Chinna Singamala in the Thottambedu Mandal of the Tirupati district. According to police and locals, the two vehicles collided accidentally near Chinna Singamala in the Thottambedu area. Manjunath, the driver of a private travel bus, sustained severe injuries and died instantly.



Pay for 10 days, travel for 30 days to ASR International Airport

Visakhapatnam: In a major relief to airport employees and passengers, the Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) introduced an attractive monthly pass facility for Aero Express AC bus services connecting Old Gajuwaka with Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport. As part of the initiative, commuters can travel for 30 days by paying an amount equivalent to a 10-day fare. The endeavour is expected to ease travel for regular commuters by reducing their transportation expenses and making airport trips more convenient. APSRTC Visakhapatnam Regional Manager B. Appala Naidu mentioned that airport employees and passengers can obtain monthly season passes at the counter located in the airport’s arrival block. “To facilitate the distribution of passes for the staff, the counter will remain operational for the purpose on the 10th, 11th and 12th of every month,” he informed, encouraging passengers to make use of the concessionary facility. At present, 10 Aero Express AC buses operate daily between Old Gajuwaka and the Bhogapuram Airport via the National Highway. Another 10 buses run between Old Gajuwaka and the Railway Station Bus Station via Beach Road, providing convenient connectivity to important locations across the city. APSRTC mobile application to check bus timings and track the locations of the buses. RTC officials said that the services had been operating punctually, with delays not exceeding 15 minutes so far. The monthly pass fares vary based on the boarding point, while the general pass is priced at Rs 7,000, while passes for Gurudwara and IT Hills junction cost Rs 6,000 and Rs 5,000, respectively. Commuters travelling from Tagarapavalasa can obtain a pass for Rs 2,000, while the fare for Anandapuram is Rs 3,000. Explore History RTC officials informed that monthly passes could also be obtained at bus stations across the city. The new facility is expected to encourage greater use of public transport, offer financial relief to regular commuters and improve connectivity between Visakhapatnam city and the Bhogapuram Airport. Visakhapatnam MP M Sribharat launched the facility by handing over the first APSRTC Aero Express monthly pass to a passenger at the international airport.



CPI warns of intensified stir against restrictions on citizens’ constitutional rights

Tirupati: The Communist Party of India (CPI) staged a demonstration in Tirupati on Saturday, demanding the immediate resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. CPI state secretariat member P Harinath Reddy, who attended as chief guest, accused the BJP-led Union government of systematically weakening democratic institutions and suppressing citizens’ constitutional rights. Addressing the gathering, Harinath Reddy alleged that approximately 13.7 crore votes had been disenfranchised across the country under the guise of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process. He sharply criticized restrictions placed on opposition demonstrations in Delhi, including metro station closures, train cancellations, preventive arrests of political leaders, heavy security deployment, and mobile internet suspensions. Reassuring that staging peaceful protests is a constitutionally guaranteed right, he alleged that the Election Commission is functioning in favor of the ruling dispensation. He demanded a return to paper ballots to resolve persistent public doubts surrounding Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). Republican Party of India (RPI) South India president Anjaiah and CPI district secretary P. Murali accused the NDA government of promoting communal divisions while eroding fundamental voting safeguards. Stating that the Chief Election Commissioner’s actions violate constitutional principles, they urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to seek his immediate resignation. CPI city secretary Viswanath, alongside leaders Radhakrishna, Chandrasekhar Reddy, Nadiya, Chengaiah, and Bandi Chalapathi, spearheaded the agitation, warning of intensified nationwide protests if democratic curbs persist.

DISTRICT MANAGER TECHNICAL CIVIL DEPARTMENT MHBABUBABAD IN ACB NET

AMEER HUSSAIN CRIME BEURO CHIEF :CASE OF DISPROPORTION-ATE ASSETS AGAINST A DISTRICT MANAGER (TECHNICAL), CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT, MAHA BUBABAD, The Ants-Comuption Bu-reau (ACB), Telangana, has taken up a Disproportionale Asseh (DA) case againd Sri V. Narasimha Rao, Assitant Manager (Technical Civil Supplies Department, presently woning presently working as District Manager (RDC) of Muhabu babad and formerly worked at Khammam Collectorate, as he is alleged to have acquired assets by indiging in comupt practices and dublocs means during this service. As this is an offence punishable under Section 131b) read with Section 13(2) of the Prevention of Cor-ruption Act, 1988 jos amended in 2016, proceedings authorising registration of an RCA care have been loued. Preliminary searches were conducted 10.3026 of 7 places relating to the Suspect Officer, his relatives and associates Duing the searches, several several immovable and movable assets were identilled. The delas, as roteded in the property state-ment, are summaried below:

A. IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

1. Open Plot: five open plots of Bolepoll, Raghunathapalom and verugumatis, Chamnam Datic, admeasuring 1.230.16 square yards in total, standing in the names of the Suspect Officer and his wille. The aggregate document/registation value is Rs. 30.72.000/-

2. Agricultural Land Agricultural lands of Kamata Chervu, Suryapet Dinict (1.00 acres approximately, Skanda (21.3 acres) and Namavaram (331 acres each parel and Novorom (531 acres each in the names of the Suspect Officer and Na forthernow. Mothe Mandal, Suryaper Distict. The recorded document/registro enthegistration values total Rs. 1,17.01.895/ for the Skonda land, the re-corded value is Rs. 76.00.000/- and the agreement value Rs. R654.75.000 654.75.000/1 for each of the two Namavaram lands, the document value 19.25000/-and the agreement value 1,92,50,000

3. RCC Buildings/Houses: 1. G-2 RCC building and 2.0+4 RCC building of Kaviraj Nagar, Khammam, and 3. ground, fist and second floor house at Sagar En-clave, Baramalguda, 18 Nagar, standing



in the names of the Suspect Officer, hit wite and his father-inw. The aggregate document value is Rs. 1,58,00,000/-

MOVABLE ASSETS Vehicles: Hyun dai Creta cor (Reg. No. 100 18.49,759 TVS Jupiter (Reg. No. 100454772)-Rs. 1,05,000/- and Honda Activa 4G (Reg. No. 1504852517) 1504852517-Rs. 50.000/ Household articles: Rs. 33.48, 400/-Gold and silver omaments: Gold weighing approximately 380.97 grams and sliver weighing approximately 331.58 grams: combined valve Rs. 9.31.321/ Cash: Rs. 15.600/-seized from the resi-dence of the Suspect Officer. The total value of the assets identified so far, ap-proximately Rs. 9.41.06975/- (Rupees Nne Crove Forty-One Lokh Sie Thou-sand Nine Hundred and Seventy-five orly). The market value of the above im-movable properties is expected to be much higher than their document/regis-tration value. Further verificaffion regard-ing addifonal The ownership, source of acquifion, nature of transactions and source of funds relating to the identified assets are subject to further verification and investigation. A rice mill is also sus-pected to have been acquired in a benami name, and its ownership and source of investment are being verified as part of the ongoing investigation

The investigation is under : CELL PHONE NUMBER 1944 (TOL FREE Ne public che requested to contact foll free Number of ACB Le, 1064 for taking ac-tion as per Law alto be contacted froug Government offices and prominent pub-lic to com kept secret Telangana. The Emedia platforms whatsapp details of the victim complainan

**Anti-Corruption Bureau TG.
Hyderabad.**

Agitation demanding protection for drivers



Chintalapudi: October 10,“Drivers held agitation demanding protection be pro-vided for drivers working in private man-agements. Driver Pamarti Sai working in Chintalapudi Sri Chaitanya School after finishing duties on Friday while returning home died on spot when tractor going with load of sticks hit near Chintalapudi court. Pamarti Sai belonging to Jilakaragudem village of Kamavarapukota mandal died in road accident and family members wept bitterly. Drivers stated Sai has one year old baby, wife, parents, and with death of Sai who is livelihood for family they lost means of living. Drivers speaking at Chaitanya School said assur-



ance should be given to drivers living lives without protection, and Sri Chaitanya management should support family of Sai who died in road accident they demanded. As he was amicable with all and had good relationship with youth, youth participated in large numbers in Sai's final journey. Village elders Kantamaneni Anji Murthy, Bethina Venkata Rao, Gorinka Dasu etc visited Sai dead body and paid tributes. Said they will stand by their family.Gloom in Jilakaragudem:-“Pamarti Sai belonging to Jilakaragudem village died on spot in road accident that happened near Chintalapudi court on Friday night. With this gloom spread in Jilakaragudem. Sai had one year old baby, wife said

Foundation stone laid for road works with one crore rupees



Kamavarapukota, October 10,“In Dondapativarigudem village in mandal, Chintalapudi MLA Roshan Kumar laid foundation stone on Saturday for one crore rupees CC roads. Villagers are ex-pressing happiness that village outlook is going to change with road construction. There is no limit to joy of village people over starting development works as per word given by Chintalapudi MLA Songa Roshan Kumar“Solving long-standing road problem in villages, foundation stone was laid for road construction with funds of one crore rupees. On this occasion vil-lagers speaking expressed happiness say-ing after independence many MLAs won

but this is first time an MLA is coming to lay foundation stone for development pro-grams to our village. On this occasion MLA Songa Roshan Kumar speaking said it came to my notice that people of KS Ramavaram, Dondapati Vari Gudem are facing lot of difficulties for roads. Imme-diatly responded and got one crore ru-pees funds sanctioned. This is only be-ginning. In coming days we will bring more funds to these two villages and develop, MLA said we will fulfill every promise given to people.“In this program former ZPTC Ganta Sudhir Babu, Ratala Raju, alliance leaders, village elders, activists participated in large numbers.

National Saras Aajeevika Mela 2026 arrangements should be completed perfectly

**Saras should be made successful so whole country
looks towards Vijayawada
Review on arrangements at SERP office
Minister Kondapalli Srinivas orders to officials**



Vijayawada, October 10: State Minister for Micro, Small, Medium Industries, Rural Poverty Alleviation, Pravasandhra Empowerment Relations Department Kondapalli Srinivas suggested officials to work with perfect planning to make Na-tional Saras Aajeevika Mela successful. Minister Kondapalli held review on Sat-urday at SERP office in Vijayawada with SERP CEO Vakati Karuna, SERP Direc-tors on arrangements for "National Saras Aajeevika Mela 2026" to be held most grandly from 13th to 31st of this month at Punnami Ghat in Vijayawada. Speak-ing on this occasion Minister said it is very proud matter for our state that this na-tional mela is happening for first time out-side Delhi NCR in Vijayawada. Ordered officials to make arrangements without any lapses for success of mela.Minister said total 576 stalls are being set up under ae-gis of Self Help Groups (SHG) across country... about 1,500 women represen-tatives of self help women groups (SHG) from all states, union territories in coun-try will participate. Minister said handloom textiles, handicrafts, natural food prod-ucts, live food courts, FPO, CLF, Saras Shakti collection stalls will be special at-traction in this mela. Said Lakhpati Didi

pavilion, buyer-seller pavilion, conver-gence pavilion, knowledge center and demonstration areas are being decorated wonderfully in mela.We are estimating 50,000 to 1,00,000 visitors per day for this national mela.. Honorable President of India Smt Draupadi Murmu likely to inaugurate this mela on 15th of this month Minister said. Keeping in view crowd of Dasara festivities.. along with focusing on security arrangements said 24 hours medi-cal teams, ambulances should be kept available. Also suggested to officials that food quality checks in food stalls should happen continuously. Said there should be no difficulties in sanitation manage-ment, safe drinking water, electricity fa-cilities provision in premises. Said no shortcomings should be allowed in trans-port, accommodation, hospitality arrange-ments for self help group women coming from other states. Said all concerned gov-ernment departments should work in co-ordination, conduct reviews every day till mela completes. Minister called upon all officials to work collectively to make this great mela which provides marketing fa-cility at national level for self help group women's products successful and further increase prestige of our state.

BJP RSS murdered constitutional rights



Kamavarapukota, October 10. CPI Kamavarapukota mandal convener Tadigadapa Venkata Sattiraju expressed anger that BJP RSS keeping Election Commission in their grip are murdering democracy and constitutional rights given by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. CPI mandal convener TVS Raju suggested to central government to remove Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and appoint new person in that position. CPI cadres expressed protest in front of Ambedkar Grahana near Konda Gudem Secretariat on Saturday protesting removal of votes. Speaking on this occasion mandal convener TVS Raju expressed anguish that

BJP RSS colluded and kept Election Commission in their grip and BJP RSS forces kept powers that Election Commission has in their hands. CPI demands central government to take special measures to re-include removed votes and provide voting right to every Indian and make all people utilize voting right given by Indian Constitution maker Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. In this protest program CPI mandal executive members Mandapati Dharmarao, Nalla Velugulu Mohan Rao, Adamilli Nageswara Rao, Adamilli Ramulu, Bandi Visweswara Rao etc participated

Gazette notification for 05 liquor shops in Eluru district

Special centers set up in 7 circle offices

Eluru, October, 10: District Excise Superintendent Anala Avulaiah said that Prohibition and Excise Department released gazette notification inviting applications to issue licenses through lottery for remaining 05 liquor shops in Eluru district. Stating there are 01 vacancy in Eluru Municipal Corporation limits, 3 in Eluru Rural mandal limits, 01 in Mandavalli mandal, Avulaiah clarified that for convenience of applicants offline and online centers have been made available in 7 excise circle offices in district, government fixed application fee as Rs.3,00,000, and in this process one candidate can submit any number of applications. Government fixed annual license fee for shops belonging to Mandavalli mandal as Rs.60,50,000 while for shops of all remaining areas annual license fee as Rs.71,50,000, deadline to apply for these shops is till midnight 12 o'clock October 19, lottery will be conducted on October 20 in Gautami con-



ference hall in Collectorate to select winners for submitted applications and lottery will be conducted only if minimum 04 applications come for each shop Avulaiah said. In this statement he requested interested candidates can apply directly or through online at centers in designated circle offices, and for complete details visit Excise Department official website.

10th Convocation of PGDM (ABM) Held at MANAGE, Hyderabad



HYDERABAD, 10 October 2026 : The 10th Convocation of the Post Graduate Diploma in Management (Agri-Business Management) [PGDM (ABM)] for the 2024-26 batch was successfully held at the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad, on 10 October 2026. Marking a major milestone in MANAGE's 30-year legacy of excellence in agricultural management, the event celebrated the academic achievements and professional transition of the graduating cohort. Shri Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, IAS, Hon'ble Joint Secretary (Admin & GC, Extension & Pulses Mission), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government



of India, & Director General, MANAGE, Hyderabad, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He conferred the PGDM (ABM) diplomas upon the graduating students, presented medals to meritorious achievers, and delivered the Convocation Address.

Literature is language of human emotions



Amaravati: Padma Shri awardee and renowned actor Brahmanandam has emphasised that literature remains a timeless expression of human emotions, preserving cultural heritage, life experiences and the wisdom of generations, even as technology continues to transform society. Addressing the valedictory session of the Amaravati Literature Festival (ALF) 2026 at SRM University-AP, he described literature as a beautiful medium for expressing feelings and understanding human relationships. Drawing on Telugu literary traditions, Brahmanandam referred to celebrated poets Vemana, Srirangam Srinivasa Rao (Sri Sri) and Dhurjati highlighting the continuing relevance of their works. SRM University-AP Vice-Chancellor Prof Ch Satish Kumar said the festival brought literature

closer to young minds and encouraged engagement with diverse ideas and cultures. He noted that Brahmanandam's participation made the second edition particularly memorable. Prof Vishnupad, Dean of the Easwari School of Liberal Arts; Dr Sayantan Thakur, Head of the Department of Literature and Languages; and Dr Argha Basu, Convener of ALF 2026, said the festival promoted meaningful dialogue among writers, scholars and readers. Find Therapists Held from October 7 to 9 under the theme "Stories for a Changing World," the festival featured author Roopa Pai, graphic storyteller Samhita Arni, science journalist Dinesh C Sharma, book influencer Suruchi Garg and literary content creator Amit Bharti. A student quiz competition, Prahelika, also encouraged intellectual engagement.

Local polls near take-off, govt to decide reservation quota



Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh is preparing to fast-track local body elections, with the state Cabinet scheduled to take up reservation quotas on Saturday and the State Election Commission expected to move towards issuing notifications once the government publishes its final decision in the Gazette. With a statutory 34 per cent reservation for Backward Classes facing legal hurdles, the government is reportedly considering an alternative political commitment. The government is expected to allot more than 34 per cent of party tickets to BCs. The move would not, however, be equivalent to legally mandated reservation in local bodies. State election commissioner Anil Chandra Punetha said the election schedule would be finalised after the government notified reservations for SCs, STs and BCs based on population. The SEC would then consult recognised political parties before announcing the notification dates. The Commission has completed preliminary work on ward delimitation and community demographics over the past two months. Also Read AP Cabinet finalises BC quota for local bodies Advertisement Discover more Check Voting Info government Follow Politics The Supreme Court has clarified the way

forward on electoral rolls: if the Special Summary Revision (SSR) is completed before notification, the revised rolls must be used; otherwise, elections can proceed on the existing lists. The Court has also addressed objections to ward delimitation, clearing a major procedural hurdle. The first phase is expected to cover 100 of the State's 123 urban local bodies- 13 municipal corporations, 77 municipalities and 10 nagar panchayats. Buy Maps Elections in the remaining 23 bodies, where litigation had delayed delimitation, are expected in a second phase. The government has directed that delimitation in these bodies be completed by October 16. In the first phase, the number of wards and divisions has increased by 736, from 3,206 to 3,942. Greater Visakhapatnam's divisions have risen from 98 to 120, while Vijayawada's have increased from 64 to 86. Other major corporations include Guntur, Nellore, Kurnool, Tirupati, Kadapa, Eluru, Anantapur, Ongole, Chittoor and Machilipatnam. The immediate trigger for the election schedule is the Cabinet's reservation decision. Once the Gazette notification is issued, the SEC is expected to consult political parties and proceed with the poll notification.

Mahesh Babu wishes SS Rajamouli on his birthday ahead of Varanasi release

Mumbai: Tollywood heartthrob Mahesh Babu penned a heartfelt birthday wish for the ‘Varanasi’ maker SS Rajamouli on Saturday. He took to his official Instagram handle and published a picture of the ‘Baahubali’ director, in which he was seen laughing at something. Expressing his excitement about collaborating with the ace filmmaker, Mahesh Babu wrote on the photo-sharing app, “Wishing you the most memorable birthday yet @ssrajamouli sir... Cannot wait for the world to see what we are creating together. (Red heart emojis) (sic).” Before this, ‘RRR’ actor Jr NTR also uploaded a candid picture with SS Rajamouli on social media. In the still, Jr NTR can be seen hugging the director from behind, with his arms wrapped around SS Rajamouli in a joyous moment. Accompanying the picture, Jr NTR wrote a sweet birthday wish that read, “Happy Birthday to the man who keeps raising the bar and then jumps over it himself. Love you Jakkanna @ssrajamouli.” Talking about ‘Varanasi’, one of the producers of the drama, S S Karthikeya revealed to IANS that the post-production work on the much-anticipated drama is underway at a brisk pace and if all goes as per the plan, they should be completing it by January next year. Speaking exclusively to IANS during an event, S S Karthikeya said,



‘Don’t Trouble the Trouble’, featuring Fahadh Faasil in the lead — the producer of ‘Varanasi’ said, “We only have four to five days of shooting left to go for completing the film. Post production work on ‘Varanasi’ is happening simultaneously. It is progressing at a brisk pace and we should be done with everything by January next year.” With Mahesh Babu as the lead Rudhra, ‘Varanasi’ will also see Priyanka Chopra as Mandakini, and Prithviraj Sukumaran as Kumbha. The project is expected to be out in the cinema halls on April 7, 2027.

Saira Banu recalls Dilip Kumar’s heartwarming gesture towards Nana Patekar

Mumbai: Veteran star Saira Banu remembered a beautiful moment between her late husband, legendary actor Dilip Kumar, and legendary Nana Patekar which highlighted an emotional camaraderie between the two. She recalled how Dilip Kumar personally dried the actor’s head and offered him a fresh shirt after he arrived at their home completely drenched in heavy rain. Saira shared the anecdote while paying tribute to Nana following his demise, and remembering the warmth and humanity that defined Dilip Kumar beyond his legendary stature in Indian cinema. Sharing a video of Nana, Saira expressed grief over his passing, further describing him as an extraordinary artist and a performer of rare intensity. She also recalled an incident Nana had narrated about Dilip Kumar after receiving the National Film Award for Best Actor for his performance in Krantiveer in 1994. In her tribute, Saira wrote, “The passing of Nana Patekar ji is a heartbreaking loss for Indian cinema. We have lost an extraordinary artist, a performer of rare intensity, and a man whose presence on screen was as unforgettable as the person he was beyond it. My heartfelt condolences to his family, loved ones, and the countless admirers who cherished his work. “Today, my thoughts go back to an incident that Nana ji once shared about Dilip Sahib, a memory that has stayed with me for the profound humanity it holds,” she added. “After Nana ji received the Best Actor award for Krantiveer, Dilip Sahib invited him to our home in Pali Hill. As fate would have it, it began to rain heavily on his way to meet Sahib, and by the time he arrived, he was completely drenched.” Recalling what happened when Nana arrived at their home, Saira further added, “When Dilip Sahib saw him standing there, soaking wet, he did not make a fuss or utter a word. He simply went inside, brought a



towel, gently dried Nana ji’s head, and then brought him a fresh shirt to change into. “Just imagine that moment. Here was Dilip Sahib, an institution in himself, a legend whose very presence was an honour, expressing his affection not through grand words or gestures, but through the simplest, most beautiful act of kindness. She further highlighted Nana’s reaction that warmed the cockles of her heart. “Nana ji later said something that touched my heart deeply: ‘Isse bada kya award chahiye ek insaan ko?’ And truly, what greater award can life give you than the love, warmth, and respect of someone you have admired so deeply?” “May he be remembered not only for the extraordinary characters he brought to life, but also for the memories, emotions, and impressions he leaves behind.. Rest in peace, Nana ji. You will be deeply missed.” Talking about Krantiveer, the movie was directed by Mehul Kumar, and released in 1994 and featured Nana Patekar in one of the most memorable performances of his career. The film also starred Dimple Kapadia, Atul Agnihotri, Mamta Kulkarni and Danny Denzongpa. For the uninitiated, Nana Patekar passed away on October 8, 2026, at the age of 75.

‘Love you Jakkanna’: Jr NTR’s birthday wish for SS Rajamouli

Mumbai: Actor Jr NTR extended birthday wishes to filmmaker SS Rajamouli, celebrating the director’s ability to raise the bar with his cinema and then surpass his own achievements. The actor shared a warm picture with Rajamouli on social media, offering fans a glimpse of the camaraderie they share beyond the screen. In the picture, Jr NTR can be seen hugging Rajamouli from behind, wrapping his arms around the filmmaker as the two share a cheerful moment. Rajamouli, dressed in black, smiles as Jr NTR affectionately holds him, while the actor leans over his shoulder, smiling. Alongside the picture, Jr NTR wrote, “Happy Birthday to the man who keeps raising the bar and then jumps over it himself. Love you Jakkanna @ssrajamouli.” For the uninitiated, Jr NTR and ace filmmaker SS Rajamouli share a long-standing professional association that began with Student No. 1 in 2001. The film marked an important milestone in the actor’s career, with their collaboration continuing with Simhadri in 2003 and Yamadonga in 2007. The duo reunited after a gap of 14 years for RRR in 2022, which also starred Ram Charan. Over the years, SS Rajamouli has built a reputation for combining emotionally charged storytelling with high-octane action sequences and large-scale cinematic worlds. His filmography includes Magadheera in 2009, Eega in 2012,



Baahubali: The Beginning in 2015, Baahubali 2: The Conclusion in 2017 and RRR in 2022. The Baahubali franchise established his ability to mount large-scale historical fantasy dramas. Rajamouli is currently working on Varanasi, which he has described as an ambitious action-adventure film featuring Mahesh Babu, Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Prithviraj Sukumaran. The project marks Priyanka’s return to a major Indian film after focusing extensively on international projects. Mahesh Babu plays Rudhra, Priyanka portrays Mandakini, and Prithviraj takes on the role of Kumbha. The makers have scheduled its theatrical release for April 7, 2027.

Kangana Ranaut remembers great-grandfather during Pitru Paksha

Mumbai: Actress and politician Kangana Ranaut recently remembered her great-grandfather, Sarju Singh Ranaut, sharing a picture of him on her social media account during Pitru Paksha. Recalling her childhood memories with him, Kangana described him as a freedom fighter and a renowned politician, crediting him for shaping her personality and giving her the confidence she carries today. Sharing the picture, Kangana wrote, “Since pitru paksha is going on here is the last picture of my great grandfather when he passed away at 102. When I was small, dada ji adopted me, every thing that I am today I owe it to my dada ji because he always sang a song to wake me up in the mornings, allowed me to play his Secretary when the landline phone rang, he laughed like a laughing Buddha and I could play on his shaking belly and he scolded my parents for being strict with me.” She further recalled how her great-grandfather made her feel valued and loved, adding, “He gave me the main character energy that I have today, he made me feel seen, heard and loved. When he passed away I



was filming Tanu Weds Manu, he was immensely proud of me. Thank you dada ji” Kangana also described Sarju Singh Ranaut as a freedom fighter and a renowned politician, expressing her gratitude for his influence on her life. Kangana Ranaut often takes to a social media account to express her opinions, calling them as strong and unfiltered. The actress, who is from Himachal Pradesh, is also often seen expressing pride in her state and its culture.

Katrina Kaif shares why emotional independence matters in relationships

Mumbai: Actress Katrina Kaif has opened up about the biggest lessons she has learnt from her relationships over the years, saying that no one else should be held responsible for one’s happiness. During an interaction with host and filmmaker Karan Johar on the chat show Koffee with Karan Season 6, Katrina said she had realised that people should not depend on others for their happiness. She added that, in her view, the best relationships are built not on dependence but on admiration, respect and companionship. The Tiger Zinda Hai actress said, “I had this discussion, not long back, with a few friends. They felt most women need men or it’s necessary to have a man.



Hyderabad Cricket Association to set up regional cricket coaching hubs in Karimnagar and Mahabubnagar

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA), in association with the Karimnagar District Cricket Association and the Mahabubnagar District Cricket Association, is establishing two Regional Cricket Coaching Camps at Karimnagar and Mahabubnagar to strengthen grassroots cricket development across Telangana. The coaching camp at Karimnagar will serve as the North Telangana Hub, while the camp at Mahabubnagar will serve as the South Telangana Hub. These year-round coaching camps will provide talented cricketers from various districts, across all age groups in men's and women's cricket, with professional coaching, modern training facilities, fitness and physiotherapy support, video analysis and specialised training programmes. The initiative aims



to identify and nurture emerging talent, provide equal opportunities to district-level players and strengthen the pathway for selection to state and national cricket teams. Through these regional coaching camps, HCA reaffirms its commitment to decentralising cricket development and taking quality coaching closer to talented players across Telangana.

P V Sindhu loses to Ratchanok Intanon in Arctic Open quarterfinals

Vantaa (Finland): Two-time Olympic medallist P V Sindhu fought hard before going down in three games against top seed and world No. 5 Ratchanok Intanon of Indonesia in the quarterfinals of the USD 500,000 Arctic Open Super 500 tournament here on Friday. Intanon beat Sindhu, seeded sixth, 21-11 19-21 21-18. The match lasted one hour and two minutes. With this win, Intanon leads Sindhu 10-4 in head-to-head record. Earlier, Sindhu saw off Japan's Riko Gunji to advance to the quarterfinals of women's singles competition. Sindhu, the 31-year-old from Hyderabad, who won the Japan Open Super 750 title in July, notched up a 21-15 21-15 win over Gunji in the second round. Later in the day, the men's doubles pair of Krishna



Prasad Garaga and Pruthvi Krishnamurthi Roy also crashed out, losing to Denmark's Christian Faust Kjaer and Rasmus Kjaer 13-21 14-21 in the quarterfinals.

Chahal says T20 cricket is becoming increasingly difficult for bowlers



New Delhi: India leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal has raised concerns over increasingly batter-friendly conditions in T20 cricket after the West Indies chased down a target of 250 against India in the second T20I in Ranchi on Friday. He argued that flat pitches, dew and smaller boundaries are making it increasingly difficult for bowlers to remain competitive. "On such wickets, there's nothing for the bowlers. When the ball gets old, there's dew, the ball comes nicely onto the bat, and the grounds are getting smaller. We've seen this in the IPL as well, with 260 being chased in 19 overs. In this game too, 250 got chased down easily in 18.3 overs. So, what should bowlers do? What is the use of their skill?" Chahal asked while speaking to JioStar. Chahal's remarks followed a contest in which India scored 249/5, only for the West Indies to overhaul the target with four balls to spare. The result underlined the challenge facing bowling attacks when batters can sustain an aggressive scoring rate throughout an innings. Shai Hope led the visitors' chase with an unbeaten 102 off 45 deliveries, while Sherfane Rutherford

struck 84 off 37 balls. Their 120-run partnership turned the chase in the West Indies' favour after India had made early inroads, helping the visitors finish on 252/4 and secure a six-wicket victory. "I feel for them, because I am a bowler too and when I bowl in the IPL, on small grounds with flat wickets, you have an Impact Player as well. Earlier, when the Impact Player rule was not there, you used to see 50 runs in six overs, and 170-180 was a fighting total. But these days, 70-80 runs are scored in the first six overs, and the game is done there itself. So, either you have to have something for the bowlers in the wicket, or else just install a bowling machine," he added. The win levelled the five-match series at 1-1 and highlighted the difficulty of defending large totals in modern T20 cricket. Chahal's criticism also extended to the Indian Premier League, where he believes the combination of smaller grounds, flat pitches and the Impact Player rule has further tilted the balance towards batters. India will have another opportunity to assess their bowling approach in the third T20I in Indore on Sunday.

Premier League Matchweek 6: Liverpool vs Manchester City headlines weekend fixtures



London: The Premier League returns from the international break with a blockbuster clash between Liverpool and Manchester City at Anfield headlining Matchweek 6, as the visitors look to maintain their perfect start to the 2026/27 season while several other clubs aim to reverse their early struggles. Manchester City are the only team to have won all five of their opening league matches and will travel to Anfield on Sunday looking to extend their winning run. Liverpool, meanwhile, have drawn both their home games this season and will be keen to secure a statement victory against one of their fiercest rivals. City won both league meetings against Liverpool last season, marking the first time they had recorded successive victories over the Merseyside club since 1937. The visitors could also win consecutive league matches at Anfield for the first time since January 1953, according to Jio Star. The contest carries additional significance, as it will be the first Premier League meeting between the clubs without either Jurgen Klopp or Pep Guardiola in the dugout since March 2015. Erling Haaland and Alexander Isak have been among the leading attacking threats this season, with the Manchester City striker scoring five goals and Liverpool forward Isak netting four. Elsewhere, Arsenal will look to bounce back from their 3-0 defeat to Brighton when they host Leeds United. The loss was Arsenal's heaviest since May 2023, but Mikel Arteta's side have generally responded well to setbacks, having lost consecutive league matches only once since the start of 2024. Arsenal have won nine of their last 10 Premier League meetings with Leeds, including each of the last seven. Leeds, however, arrive unbeaten in five matches, with two wins and three draws, marking their best start to a top-flight campaign since 2001/02. Aston Villa face Brentford, who enter the weekend on a seven-match unbeaten league run, the longest active streak in the division. Villa have struggled in front of goal and have lost both their home league games this season. Brentford also boasts the league's highest expected goals tally from set pieces, making their threat from dead-ball situations a key factor in the contest. Chelsea host Bournemouth in another fixture that could have a significant impact on the early-season standings. Chelsea have conceded 12 goals, the most in the division, while their five league matches under Xabi Alonso have produced 22 goals, with 10 scored and 12 conceded. Bournemouth have yet to win in their opening five matches but have been strong on their travels in 2026, collecting 20 away points, behind only Arsenal and Manchester City. Tottenham Hotspur will seek their first league vic-

tory of the campaign when they travel to Manchester United. Spurs have failed to win any of their opening five matches and face a United side that is also searching for consistency after going three games without a victory. United have registered the most shots in the league this season, with 113, but their expected goals per shot remains among the division's lowest. Tottenham have also struggled when conceding first, having gone 37 consecutive Premier League matches without a win after falling behind. Crystal Palace host Nottingham Forest, with the visitors aiming to continue their impressive away form. Forest have won all four of their away league matches against London clubs in 2026 and have scored at least twice in each of their last seven away league games. Palace, by contrast, have won only one of their last 12 league matches and have lost both home games this season. Forest have also enjoyed a strong historical record against Palace, remaining unbeaten in all 12 of their Premier League meetings. Newly promoted Hull City will look to continue their impressive defensive record at home when they face Everton. Hull are the only team yet to concede a home goal this season, while Everton are unbeaten in five league matches. However, the visitors have gone seven away league games without a victory. Hull have also recorded the lowest possession figure in the competition this season, averaging 32.3 per cent, highlighting their contrasting approach as they look to remain defensively resilient. Sunderland host Brighton after contrasting results before the break. Sunderland have lost their last two matches, while Brighton have won their previous two by an aggregate score of 8-0. Brighton have also led the league for possession and high turnovers, while Sunderland's strength from set pieces could provide an opportunity to challenge the visitors. Fulham, still searching for their first win of the campaign, travel to Ipswich Town. Ipswich could win three of their opening six Premier League matches in a season for only the second time, while Fulham have lost just one of their last 15 league games against newly promoted sides. The weekend also features Coventry City against Newcastle United. Coventry secured their first win last time out after losing their opening four matches without scoring but have struggled at home, losing both fixtures by an aggregate score of 6-0. Newcastle, meanwhile, have won four league matches since the start of May, with only Arsenal and Manchester City recording more victories in that period. Premier League live streaming will be available on Jio Star in India.

RBI tightens currency derivative rules, mandates 20 per-cent reserve for specified contracts

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Saturday announced fresh regulatory curbs, cutting the threshold for unhedged foreign exchange derivative transactions from \$100 million to \$5 million and introducing a 20 per cent Foreign Exchange Risk Reserve (FERR), to curb currency speculation and ensure orderly market conditions. Under the new directions, authorised dealers shall not permit users to rebook any foreign exchange derivative contract involving the rupee, whether deliverable or non-deliverable, that was cancelled with any authorised dealer after the issuance of the directions. However, the rollover of contracts upon maturity will continue to be permitted. The RBI sharply reduced the threshold for undertaking foreign exchange derivative transactions without establishing an underlying exposure from the equivalent of \$100 million to \$5 million across all authorised dealers. In addition, the threshold for taking positions in exchange-traded currency derivatives involving the rupee without an underlying exposure has also been cut from \$100 million to \$5 million across all recognised stock exchanges. Authorised dealers will also be required to obtain and retain an undertaking from users entering into foreign exchange derivative contracts involving the Indian currency to hedge contracted exposures, confirming that the same underlying exposure has not been hedged with any other authorised dealer. The central bank has also introduced the Foreign Exchange Risk Re-



serve (FERR). For all rupee foreign exchange derivative contracts with a notional value exceeding the equivalent of \$2 million, undertaken to hedge current account exposures in which users purchase foreign currency against the rupee, authorised dealers shall maintain a FERR with the Reserve Bank in cash, equivalent to 20 per cent of the rupee value of the notional amount. The RBI added that the reserve must be maintained daily until the contract is terminated. The central bank further said that any attempt by users to circumvent the requirement through multiple transactions would be considered a violation. Authorised dealers will have to report FERR details daily through the Centralised Information Management System. The directions under Circular 25 come into force with immediate effect, while the FERR directions under Circular 26 apply to contracts undertaken after the issuance of the circulars. The measures are intended to strengthen market discipline and ensure appropriate risk management while maintaining an orderly and transparent market environment, the RBI said.

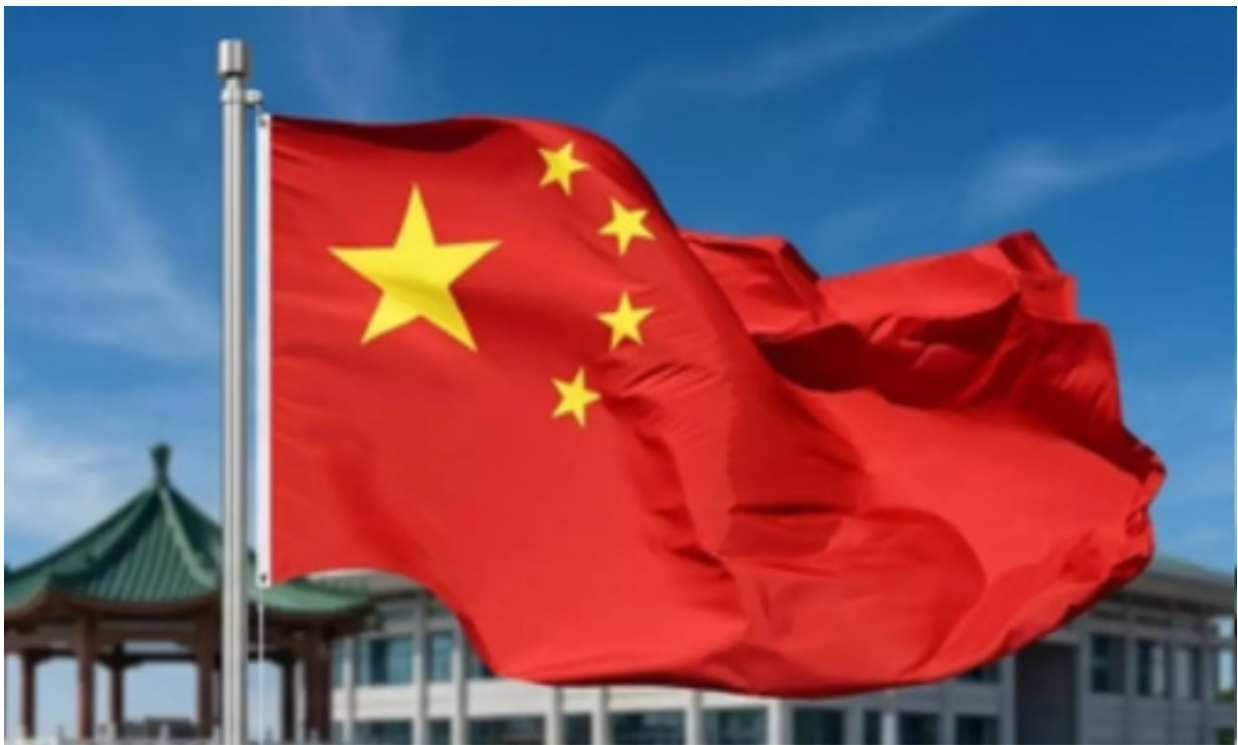
‘Dear PM Ambani’: Elon Musk takes fresh dig at Mukesh Ambani over Starlink row

New Delhi: SpaceX and Tesla CEO Elon Musk on Friday took another swipe at billionaire Mukesh Ambani over Starlink’s entry into India, calling him “Dear Prime Minister Ambani,” and accusing him of seeking to maintain a monopoly and questioning whether he would allow the satellite internet service to compete in the country. In a post on X, Musk addressed Ambani as the “real boss of India” and apologised for not recognising his influence. “Dear Prime Minister Ambani, Please accept my humble apologies for not realizing that you are the real boss of India,” Musk posted. “Naturally, you would prefer to maintain your monopolistic exploitation of the great people of India, but would you nonetheless consider allowing Starlink to compete?” he added. He said that “there are many areas of India, as there are in all countries, with no Internet access, which denies children the opportunity for education and for small businesses the opportunity to sell their goods to a global market. Starlink would change their lives for the better.” Also, “Starlink has proven to be essential for saving lives during natural disasters throughout the world, when all other communications systems have failed, so you would also be helping save men, women and children throughout India,” said Musk. Musk earlier questioned why Starlink is yet to receive the final approvals to begin commercial operations in India, claiming that the satellite internet company has spent five years complying with the country’s laws and regulations. Musk first accused unnamed “oligarchs” of blocking Starlink’s entry into India, alleging that powerful business interests were trying to protect their position in the country’s



telecom market. He did not name any company or individual. The government then slammed the US business tycoon over his allegations that Starlink’s satcom services are being blocked, making it clear that demonstrating compliance with security norms is an absolute must for every satcom licensee in the country. Within hours of the government’s rebuttal, Musk in an X post asked whether “Ambani is the real boss of India”. The comments came in response to a post arguing that Starlink could help expand internet access in parts of India where traditional telecom infrastructure is difficult or expensive to build. Starlink has secured a licence to provide satellite communication services in India, but the company still requires security-related clearances and other approvals before it can commercially launch its service. The government has rejected suggestions that Starlink is facing a discriminatory regulatory regime, describing such claims as “baseless and misconceived”.

China’s ‘predatory’ market practices threaten survival of Europe’s industrial base: Report



New Delhi: The ‘systemic and persistent market-distorting practices’ of China have apparently threatened the survival of Europe’s industrial base, according to a new report. Brussels Signal reports that China is not a benevolent trading partner, but a “predatory superpower using massive State subsidies, currency manipulation and raw material monopolies to destroy European manufacturing”. The report further stated that French and German leaders are now calling for “sector-wide anti-dumping investigations” targeting Chinese electric vehicles, chemicals and machine tools. They are also demanding powers to curb Europe’s critical dependence on Chinese supply chains. “German industrial giants are now cutting tens of thousands of jobs, European auto manufacturers are shutting down domestic assembly lines and critical supply chains have been completely outsourced to an authoritarian rival,” said the report. However, the proposed EU “rapid-response” mechanism is inherently flawed because it relies on the very institution that created the crisis -- The European Commission, it added. “Even if Brussels manages to push the

button, Beijing holds the real levers of power,” the report argued. From rare earths to semiconductor-grade gases, China controls the critical inputs Europe needs to function. In such a scenario, any aggressive tariff war may hit European consumers, and remaining factories far harder than it will affect Beijing, said the report. According to a recent article in Eurasia News, Britain has taken the lead among European countries in starting the process of breaking free from dependence on China with a diversification of trade and investment ties with other countries such as India. OTT Entertainment The European Union’s heavy reliance on China for goods and raw materials creates several long-lasting issues that go beyond the displayed trade imbalance. Policymakers consistently worry that so much dependence undermines European strategic autonomy. The UK’s China playbook offers a template the rest of Europe would do well to follow. India looks like the natural partner to build it around. Europe’s exposure to China remains far deeper than Britain’s in electronics, solar components, pharmaceuticals, and rare earths, said the report.

Sensex, Nifty snap eight-week losing streak as crude subsides

Mumbai: Indian equity benchmarks posted notable gains this week, snapping an eight-week losing streak as crude oil prices retreated from recent highs. Nifty added 0.44 per cent during the week and gained 1.30 per cent on the last trading day to reach 22,520. At close, Sensex was up 879 points or 1.23 per cent at 72,472. It gained 0.78 per cent during the week. On the sectoral front, IT led the recovery supported by a positive quarterly result, while banking, FMCG and auto also witnessed buying interest. Broad market indices performed largely in line with the benchmark indices as Nifty Midcap100 added 0.09 per cent and Nifty Smallcap100 gained 0.44 per cent during the week. Though global cues improved as Brent crude price eased, the elevated bond yields and continued foreign fund outflows keep sentiment cautious, analysts said. “Participants should remain selective, maintain disciplined position sizing and favour a hedged approach amid elevated macroeconomic and earnings-related uncertainty,” a market participant said. Markets staged a strong



recovery on Friday, taking a breather after the sharp sell-off in the previous session. The 22,200–22,300 zone remains the immediate support area for Nifty, while the 22,700–22,800 zone remains the immediate resistance zone, according to the market experts. Moreover, Nifty advanced in the first two sessions, came under pressure over the next two and rebounded sharply later. NSE cash-market turnover fell 14 per cent from the previous session. Market breadth improved sharply with the advance–decline ratio rising to 1.35, pointing to renewed interest in mid- and small-cap stocks after their steep correction in recent sessions. The rupee recovered after three consecutive sessions of weakness, strengthening against the US dollar in line with its Asian peers. It gained 5 paise to close at 96.71. The dollar weakened as crude prices eased and global risk appetite improved. Market sentiment improved after US President Donald Trump said the US would refrain from military action against Iran ahead of the November midterm elections. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also likely intervened, providing further support to the rupee

AP Chambers hails GST reforms, demands rate cuts

Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation (AP Chambers) has welcomed the recommendations of the 57th GST Council meeting, describing them as a major step towards simplifying compliance, reducing penalties and improving the ease of doing business. In a statement on Friday, AP Chambers president Potluri Bhaskara Rao said the proposed reforms would particularly benefit micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). He welcomed the removal of arrest provisions, the increase in the prosecution threshold from Rs 1 crore to Rs 5 crore, the reduction in general penalties from Rs 25,000 to Rs 10,000, and the introduction of a Rs 10,000 threshold for issuing show-cause notices. Rao also appreciated measures aimed at speeding up GST refunds, including deemed acknowledgements in delayed cases, automatic refunds of excess cash-ledger balances and provisional sanction of 90 per cent of eligible refund claims. These steps, he said, would improve



business cash flow. He welcomed the proposed expansion of Input Tax Credit (ITC) benefits to areas such as employee insurance, outdoor catering, telecom towers, pipelines, free samples and legally destroyed goods. Simplified registration procedures and intelligence-based inspections would further help businesses. Buy Maps However, Bhaskar Rao urged the GST Council to rationalise tax rates in sectors such as food processing, fruit-pulp-based beverages, hospitality, textiles and garments. He said lower GST rates would support farmers, boost investment, reduce wastage and strengthen industry growth while promoting employment and tourism.

Rs 3.26 cr sanctioned for Sabbavaram College development

Anakapalli: Sabbavaram Government Degree College is set to undergo a major transformation with Rs 3.26 crore sanctioned for its development, informed Pendurthi MLA Panchakarla Ramesh Babu. Laying the foundation stone for development works along with MLC Vepada Chiranjeevi Rao here on Friday, Ramesh Babu stated that the NDA government is according top priority to the education sector and was committed to strengthening educational infrastructure across Andhra Pradesh. Assuring that the college development works would be completed following strict timelines, the MLA said that necessary facilities would be provided to students. “Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan and Education Minister Nara Lokesh are committed to developing the institution into a model college for the region,” Ramesh



Babu stressed. Later, the MLA directed the Mandal Revenue Officer and police officials to take immediate steps to remove encroachments at the college premises to ensure that the institution has adequate space for its development. The MLA lauded college Principal TMA Niveditha’s efforts to develop the institution across various sectors and assured that he would extend all possible support for its progress. Speaking on the occasion, MLC Vepada Chiranjeevi Rao stated that revolutionary changes are being introduced in the state’s education system.

Artis zee Bi-Plane Cath Lab launched in city

Visakhapatnam: An Artis zee Bi-Plane Cath Lab, which aims to strengthen advanced stroke, cardiac and neuro-interventional care in the region was inaugurated at Care Hospitals, Health City on Friday. The technology allows doctors to see blood vessels from two different angles during a procedure and provides advanced 3D and CT-like imaging, helping specialists navigate delicate blood vessels and treatment devices with greater precision. The facility was inaugurated by Visakhapatnam east MLA Velagapudi Ramakrishna Babu in the presence of TDP state president and Gajuwaka MLA Palla Srinivasa Rao, Bheemili MLA Ganta Srinivasa Rao, Haresh Trivedi, Regional CEO – India II, Aster DM Quality Care Limited. Along with the Bi-Plane Cath Lab, the hospital also inaugurated a neuro lab, stroke unit and endoscopic spine unit, further expanding specialised neurological, stroke and spine services available



in Visakhapatnam. Speaking on the occasion, Haresh Trivedi said, “We are continuously strengthening our hospitals with advanced technology and specialist expertise to meet the growing healthcare needs of the communities we serve.” Buy Maps According to hospital officials, the Artis zee Bi-Plane Cath Lab is the first facility in Andhra Pradesh. G Suresh Reddy, HCOO of the hospital, GSR Murthy, senior interventional cardiologist & clinical director, CV Rao, senior interventional cardiologist and clinical director, Rajesh Poosarla, senior interventional neuro radiologist, among others, were present.

Strengthening Visakhapatnam port Infrastructure a key priority



Visakhapatnam: The Central and state governments are working in coordination to accelerate port-led industrial development in Andhra Pradesh and harness the full potential of the maritime sector, Visakhapatnam Member of Parliament M Sribharat emphasised. The MP said that strengthening Visakhapatnam Port infrastructure, adopting modern maritime technologies, improving transport connectivity and creating a conducive investment ecosystem would open up new avenues for economic growth and employment generation in the state. Sribharat informed that key issues concerning port-led industrial development and expansion of the maritime sector in Andhra Pradesh were discussed at a meeting in New Delhi by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu with Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal in the presence of MPs, Union Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar and

senior political leaders. The discussions primarily focused on the development of Visakhapatnam Port, modernisation of ports and shipbuilding facilities across AP, expansion of multimodal transport connectivity and the development of integrated cargo-handling and logistics infrastructure. Hire Contractors Further, Sribharat underlined that such initiatives would help enhance cargo-handling capacity, reduce logistics costs, attract industrial investments and create more employment opportunities for local youth. Also, strengthening connectivity between ports, industrial hubs and transportation networks would further improve the competitiveness of Andhra Pradesh as an attractive destination for domestic and international investors, he opined. Highlighting Visakhapatnam’s strategic geographical location, established port infrastructure and significant industrial potential, MP M Sribharat observed that the city could emerge as one of the country’s leading maritime trade and industrial hubs.

Alliance will repeat 2024 election victory in local body polls



Visakhapatnam: Bheemunipatnam MLA Ganta Srinivasa Rao expressed confidence that the NDA alliance would repeat its resounding victory in the 2024 general elections in the upcoming local body polls. Laying the foundation stone for central median works from Kommadi to Doratota junction at an estimated cost of Rs.10.43 crore at Marikavalasa here on Friday, the MLA mentioned that the people would once again support the alliance, as it fulfilled the promises made during the elections. Srinivasa Rao stated that the YSRCP would not succeed in its attempts to prevent the local body elections and that the alliance would secure a decisive victory despite any challenges. Referring to the legal proceedings concerning the conduct of local body elections, Ganta Srinivasa Rao said that the Supreme Court’s verdict had ended attempts to obstruct the electoral process. He said that the alliance had approached both the High Court and the Supreme Court seeking the implementation of 34 per cent reservation for Backward Classes to enhance their political representation. He noted that BCs had stood firmly behind the Telugu

Desam Party since its inception and assured them that they would continue to receive top priority in the party. Buy Maps Further, the MLA said that people would not be misled by the statements made by the YSRCP and would exercise their judgement wisely in the local body elections. He informed that Zilla Parishad elections would be held in Anandapuram, Padmanabham, Bheemunipatnam and Pendurthi mandals. Highlighting development initiatives in the constituency, Srinivasa Rao revealed that more than Rs 41 crore was spent on various infrastructure projects. These include 93 road works covering a total stretch of 39 kilometres in the Madhurawada zone. The MLA said that Visakhapatnam will be beautified and upgraded ahead of the 31st CII Partnership Summit, scheduled to be held on November 12 and 13. The ongoing development works aim to improve infrastructure and enhance the city’s appearance before the prestigious event. Zonal Commissioner V Ayyappa Naidu, DE Mani Kumar, APD Sriram and leaders of the alliance parties participated in the programme.