

CM Chandrababu Naidu officers pattu vastrams to Goddess Kanaka Durga

CM offers prayers for happiness, prosperity, well-being of the people and abundant rainfall

Devotees happy as darsan queue continued during Chief Minister's visit without any interruption

Vijayawada Dasara festivities gain national prominence:CM

Vijayawada: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu offered Pattu vastrams to Goddess Kanaka Durga atop Indrakeel adri on behalf of the State government, along with his wife Bhuvaneswari this evening. Earlier the Temple authorities welcomed the Chief Minister with traditional honours. Sthana charya Siva Prasad Sharma adorns the Chief Minister with the traditional Pariveshtam. Chandrababu Naidu and his wife entered the temple carrying pattu vastrams and saree for the Goddess. The Chief Minister reached the sanctum sanctorum amidst Vedic chants by priests and offered special puja to Goddess Kanaka Durga. Priests offered Vedic blessings



to the Chief Minister and his wife at the Ashirvachana Man dapam. However darshan for ordinary devotees continued during the Chief Minister's visit

without any interruption. "Later speaking to media persons the Chief Minister said that he Prayed for happiness, prosper-

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VMC all set to receive nominations from today

Vijayawada: The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) has made elaborate arrangements for receiving nominations for elections to 86 municipal divisions and the post of Mayor from Friday, October 16, as part of the preparations for the 2026 second ordinary elections to urban local bodies in the state. VMC Commissioner HM Dhyanchandra said nominations would be received from October 16 to 18, between 11 am and 3 pm every day. The civic body has appointed 44 returning officers (ROs) to receive nominations for the 86 divisions, while a separate returning officer has been designated for the Mayor election. Under the guidance of Commissioner Dhyanchandra, election nodal officer and Ad-



ditional Commissioner (General) K Ravindra Rao, and other officials have coordinated arrangements to ensure the smooth conduct of the nomination process. The nomination papers for the Mayor post will be received by Rajani Kumari, Project Director (Housing) and

the designated returning officer, at the Command Control Room on the premises of the VMC headquarters. Candidates contesting from the 86 divisions have to submit their nomination papers at the respective RO offices allotted to their divisions.

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Mithun Reddy's convoy attacked in Punganur amid YSRCP-TDP clashes

Amaravati: YSRCP Floor Leader in Lok Sabha P.V. Mithun Reddy's convoy was attacked in Punganur in Andhra Pradesh's Annamayya district on Friday. YSR Congress Party alleged that there was a murderous attack on Mithun Reddy, who is the MP from Rajampet constituency, and blamed TDP workers. It said the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) men pelted stones on vehicles in the MP's convoy and attacked them with sticks and iron rods. The attack took place as he accompanied YSRCP candidates and leaders to file nominations for the local body



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YSRCP announces candidates for 27 ULBs

Amaravati: The YSRCP announced its candidates for 27 urban local bodies, including seven municipal corporations, municipalities and nagar panchayats, for the forthcoming local body elections. The list includes candidates for the mayoral and chairperson posts, with selections made in accordance with the reservation categories notified for the respective urban local bodies. For municipal corporations, the party has nominated Kolagatla Sravani for Vizianagaram and

200 people join TDP in New Rajarajeswari Peta

Vijayawada: About 200 YSRCP leaders and their followers belonging to 73rd Division New Rajarajeswari Peta in Central Constituency joined Telugu Desam Party on Friday. They joined the party in presence of TDP youth leader Bonda Ravi Teja at programme held at MLA Bonda Uma Maheswara Rao office in Singh Nagar. Leaders said they joined TDP reposing faith in MLA Bonda Uma leadership, development programmes undertaken in constituency. Speaking on this occasion, Bonda Ravi Teja said MLA is working for solving

problems like drinking water, drainage in Vijayawada Central. He said coalition government under leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu is implementing welfare schemes like Thalliki Vandanam, free bus travel for women, distribution of three free gas cylinders per year. He called upon party cadre to go among people and explain government welfare, development programmes keeping in view upcoming local body elections. He said with large number of joinings in 73rd Division enthusiasm has increased among party cadre.

NDA seat-sharing done for 123 local body polls



Amaravati: The ruling NDA alliance partners - Telugu Desam Party (TDP), Jana Sena and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) - have finalised their seat-sharing arrangement for the urban local body elections in Andhra Pradesh, allocating the 17 municipal corporations and 106 municipalities and nagar panchayats among the three parties. Under the agreement, the TDP will contest in 11 municipal corporations, Jana Sena in four and the BJP in two. The alliance has also distributed the 106 municipalities and nagar

panchayats, with the TDP securing the largest share of 78, followed by Jana Sena (21) and the BJP (7). The allocation of the 17 municipal corporations is as follows: Vizianagaram, Greater Visakhapatnam, Machilipatnam, Mangalagiri-Tadepalli, Guntur, Ongole, Nellore, Kadapa, Kurnool, Tirupati and Chittoor to the TDP; Srikakulam, Kakinada, Eluru and Vijayawada to Jana Sena; and Rajamahendravaram and Anantapur to the BJP. When it comes to municipal-

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Varudu Kalyani for Visakhapatnam, both under the unreserved women category. Ganta Mohan Rao, also known as GMR, has been selected for Eluru, which is reserved for BC candidates, while Lanka Jyothi will contest from Machilipatnam under the BC women category.

Kuppam Prasad has been named for Ongole and Anam Vijay Kumar Reddy for Nellore, both under the unreserved category. Bandi Deepthi Reddy has been selected for Kadapa under the unreserved women category. Among the municipalities, the party has nominated Pilaka Rajya Lakshmi for Ichapuram under the BC women category and Talasu Sree Padma for Palasa-Kasibugga under the unreserved women category. Chintakayala

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KING

DAILY NEWSPAPER

Navratri:

A powerful

spiritual journey

Navratri- is a nine-night Hindu festival, dedicated to the worship of the divine feminine Shakti symbolising the triumph of good over evil and the journey from the inner turmoil to spiritual awakening. It transcends mere festivities, it's a powerful spiritual journey encouraging introspection, prayer, and renewal of faith. Tradition divides the nine days into three-day phases governed by different qualities. Day 1 to 3- Tamas: Harvesting raw energy and fierce devotion to destroy negative tendencies--days associated with Durga or Kali. Day 4 to 6-Rajas: cultivating inner wealth, peace, and noble virtues--days associated with Lakshmi. Day 7 to 9: Sattva-attaining supreme knowledge, clarity and spiritual enlightenment days associated with Saraswati. The nine-day festival turns urban centres and large open-air grounds into massive night-time social gathering. For many young people it serves as a rare annual intersection of tradition, night life and social freedom. As there was transformation in many things Navratri and Garbha(Garba) too underwent many changes suiting the times and the generation. Sometimes I wonder how different it was 2 to 3 decades ago! They were nostalgic days with warm, simple, fond recollection of youth. Navratri celebrations were community -centric devotion. Garba, other than for Gujarat and neighbouring states, for many parts of the country was simple dance form mostly restricted to compounds of few big houses where every-one from around joined in the celebration, temple courtyards with local singers. Fasting and daily puja for nine days was more strictly observed at home. It was less commercial and more economical. Dresses were often repeated, handmade or borrowed. Music was traditional folk. Rituals were led by grandmothers and mothers, and participation was seen as a family duty. But generations changed and so do the celebrations. You have high participation but different motivation. In cities like Hyderabad, Ahme dabad, Mumbai, Delhi- is actually higher than ever. For the youth it is a mix of devotion,culture, social identity, and the most important is celebration with friends. The celebration is curated and digitized. The fervour is very visible on Instagram, You Tube, Snapchat—outfit transitions, Garba reels, vlogs and temple visits.The devotion is there, but it is also performed for an online community. Commercial aspect cannot be ignored--Designer lehenga rentals, paid passes for big Dandiya nights with DJs and fusion music.Two view points exist: Elders often feel that discipline, silence and inward devotion have reduced, and that noise and show have increased. Younger people often feel that they are reclaiming the festival in their own way—more open, more joyful, less out of compulsion and more out of choice. In short 30 years ago Navratri fervour was quieter, more domestic, and ritual bound. Today it is louder, more public, more stylized and more individualistic—but not necessarily less felt. Buy Maps Mahatma Gandhi said,” The soul of India lives in villages,” and I add in small towns too. When you pass through small towns and villages during these festive days, which I happened to, the devotion, the ‘Aastha’ the uncompromising, pure, innocent, unforced, genuine values are clearly visible.

CM Chandrababu Naidu officers pattu vastrams to Goddess Kanaka Durga

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ity and well-being of the people, for abundant rainfall and prosperity in Andhra Pradesh. He said he sought blessings of Goddess for poverty eradication and improved living standards of people. “The Chief Minister said eight lakh devotees had darshan of Goddess Kanaka Durga in the last six days. Devotees, from children to the elderly are visiting the temple with devotion to seek the Goddess’s blessings. He said “Vijayawada Utsav 2.0 and the National Saras Mela are being organised in Vijayawada and it is a matter of pride that Vijayawada Dasara celebrations are gaining national prominence.

VMC all set to receive nominations from today

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The civic administration has identified 44 locations across the three municipal circles and announced their addresses to facilitate candidates in locating the designated offices. The arrangements cover government and municipal buildings, ward secretariats, community halls, schools and other public facilities across the city. Candidates have been advised to identify their designated RO offices in advance and submit nomination papers within the stipulated hours. Meanwhile, the VMC conducted practical training for returning officers and assistant returning officers on Thursday to familiarise them with election procedures and their responsibilities. The programme was held at IV Palace in Governo rpet under the supervision of election nodal officer A Ravin dra Rao and election training nodal officer Dr D Harish, Veterinary Assistant Surgeon. Commissioner Dhyan achandra participated in the session through video conference. The training covered the receipt and scrutiny of nominations, maintenance of election records, preparation of reports, polling procedures and compliance with election rules and guidelines. Officials were also briefed on their responsibilities at different stages of the electoral process. Meanwhile, VMC Commissioner HM Dhyanacha ndra has warned that officials and staff neglecting election duties or failing to enforce the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) would face strict disciplinary action, including suspension. He directed officials to cover statues of political leaders and remove political posters, banners and campaign material from public places as per the prescribed guidelines. The Commissioner instructed officials to complete assigned tasks within deadlines, coordinate across departments and strictly enforce the 100-metre restriction around polling stations.

NDA seat-sharing done for 123 local body polls

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ties, the TDP has been allotted Ichchapuram, Palasa-Kasibugga and Amadalavalasa in Srikakulam district, while Jana Sena will contest in Srikakulam's neighbouring Rajam and Palakonda in Parvathipuram Manyam district. The TDP has been allotted Parvathipuram, while Jana Sena will contest in Salur. Bobbili has gone to the TDP and Nellimarla to the BJP in Vizianagaram district.In Anakapalli district, Yelamanchili has been allotted to the BJP and Narsipatnam to the TDP. In Kakinada district, Tuni and Eleswaram have gone to the TDP, while Gollaprolu, Pithapuram and Samarlakota have been allotted to Jana Sena and Peddapuram to the TDP. In Dr BR Ambedkar Konaseema district, Ramachandrapuram has been allotted to the TDP, while Mummidivaram and Amalapuram have gone to Jana Sena. In East Godavari district, Mandapeta and Kovvur have been allotted to the TDP and Nidadavole to Jana Sena. In West Godavari district, Palakollu, Akiveedu and Tanuku have gone to the TDP, while Narasapuram, Bhimavaram and Tadepalligudem have been allotted to Jana Sena. In Eluru district, Chintalapudi, Jangareddygudem and Nuzvid have been allotted to the TDP. In NTR district, Tiruvuru has gone to Jana Sena, while Kondapalli, Nandigama and Jaggayyapeta have been allotted to the TDP. In Krishna district, Gudivada, Tadigadapa and Uyyuru have gone to the TDP, while Pedana has been allotted to Jana Sena.

Mithun Reddy’s convoy attacked in Punganur amid YSRCP-TDP clashes

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elections.YSRCP alleged that TDP leaders and workers blocked the convoy and tried to stop YSRCP candidates from reaching the nomination centre.Vehicles belonging to YSRCP leaders were vandalised. Police personnel present at the scene failed to stop the attackers or protect the candidates, the party said. YSRCP condemned the attempt on the MP’s life and accused the TDP government of allowing its workers to use violence to silence opposition candidates and disrupt the election process.The party demanded that the State Election Commission intervene immediately, direct the police to register criminal cases and arrest those responsible, and take action against officers who failed to prevent the attack. It also sought protec-



YSRCP moves HC for disclosure of criminal cases against candidates

Amaravati: The YSR Congress Party has approached the Andhra Pradesh High Court again, seeking directions to police officials to disclose details of criminal cases registered against candidates contesting the local body elections within 24 hours of receiving an application. YSRCP MLC Lella Appi Reddy filed the petition, arguing that prospective candidates lack clarity on the criminal cases, if any, registered against them and the police stations where the cases are pending. The petition seeks directions to Station House Officers (SHOs) to furnish the information within 24 hours of an application being submitted. The High Court has permitted the lunch-motion petition to be heard, and the matter is expected to come up shortly. The party has also written to the State Election Commission (SEC), seeking instructions to police officials across Andhra Pradesh to provide candidates with details of cases registered against or pending against them. In his letter, Appi Reddy alleged that the coalition government was using the police to harass prospective YSRCP candidates and obstruct their participation in the elections.He claimed that cases were being registered against YSRCP leaders at various police stations despite their having no direct or indirect connection with the incidents concerned. Such action, he alleged, was intended to intimidate party leaders and discourage them from contesting. He urged the SEC to direct the director general of police to stop the alleged harassment and ensure that candidates received the required information. Meanwhile, the High Court has delivered its order on an earlier YSRCP petition seeking arrangements at every district headquarters to facilitate the filing of nominations for Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency (MPTC) and Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC) elections.

YSRCP announces candidates for 27 ULBs

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Anitha will contest from Narsipatnam under the BC women category, while Boddapu Thulasi has been selected for Yelamanchili under the unreserved women category. Rama Tulasi has been named for Tuni under the BC women category and Manne Padma for Kovvur under the unreserved women category. Chintapalli Nageswara Rao will contest from Ramachandrapuram under the BC category. The party has fielded Nallamothu Tejasiwi for Kondapalli, reserved for SC women, and Maddali Seshachalam for Tenali under the unreserved category. Dr Istharla Sherly has been nominated for Chirala under the SC women category. Rachapudi Venkata Sai Krishna will contest from Badvel and Porreddy Narsimha Reddy from Proddatur, both under the unreserved category. YS Prameelamma has been selected for Pulivendula under the unreserved women category, while Jinka Chalapathi will contest from Madanapalle under the BC category. For nagar panchayats, the YSRCP has nominated Badireddy Asha Latha for Yeleswaram and Paidamukkala Divya for Vuyyuru, under the SC women and SC categories respectively. Polu Veera Reddy will contest from Gurazala under the unreserved category. Puli Shanti Reddy has been selected for Kanigiri, Sheikh Shakila Begum for Buchireddypalem and Marjula Kavitha for Kamalapuram, all under the unreserved women category.

tion for candidates and their proposers, and arrangements for all affected candidates to file their nominations safely and without obstruction.Clashes broke out between workers of the two parties on the first day of filing nominations for urban local body elections.Workers of TDP, which is heading the ruling coalition, and cadres of the main opposition YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) clashed in Punganur municipality.Both groups pelted stones at each other, and a few workers were injured.The clashes broke out when leaders of both parties were on their way to file nominations for the Punganur municipality.The incident triggered tension in the town. Police stepped up security to prevent further violence.This is the first incident of violence since the State Election Commission announced the schedule for local body elections on October 14. The process for filing nominations for urban local bodies began across the state on Friday.

TAHSILDAR CUM JOINT SUB-REGISTRAR, O/ THE TAHSILDAR, VEMULAWADA RURAL, RAJANNA SIRICILLA DISTRICT & ONE PRIVATE PERSON IN ACB NET

AMEER HUSSAIN CRIME BEURO CHIEF: The (AO-1) Sri Md. Abubakar, Tahsildar cum Joint Sub-Registrar, O/o the Vemulawada Rural, Rajanna Siricilla District was caught by the ACB officials, Karimnagar range when he demanded and accepted the bribe amount of Rs. 8,000/- from the Complainant through A-2 Sri. Sankasala Anil Kumar, Private person (Bhu Bharathi Operator), O/o the Vemulawada Rural, Rajanna Siricilla District for doing an official favour "for facilitating the registration of a gift deed in respect of the agricultural land belonging to the complainant's aunt in the name of the complainant's father.

The tainted bribe amount of Rs.8,000/- was recovered from the possession of the A-2 at his instance. Thus, the AO-1 performed his duty improperly and dishonestly to obtain undue advantage. Therefore, the AO-1 & A-2 are being produced before the Hon'ble Principal Special Judge for SPE & ACB cases, Karimnagar for judicial remand. The case is under investigation. The details of complainant are withheld for security reasons. **CELL PHONE NUMBER-1064 (TOLL FREE NUMBER):**

In case of a demand for a bribe by any



Public Servant, the public is requested to contact the ACB Toll Free Number, i.e., 1064, to take action as per Law. ACB Telangana can also be contacted through social media platforms WhatsApp (9440446106), Facebook (Telangana ACB), and X (X/formerly twitter Telangana ACB). The QR Code of ACB is also displayed in all Government Offices and prominent public places to contact ACB, Telangana. The name and details of the victim/complainant will be kept secrets

P.R.O. Anti-Corruption Bureau, T.G., Hyderabad.

DEPUTY TAHSILDAR, VILLAGE REVENUE OFFICER (VRO) O/O THE TAHSILDAR, KEESARA MANDAL, MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI DISTRICT & ONE PRIVATE PERSON IN ACB NET



AMEER HUSSAIN CRIME BEURO CHIEF : The (AO-1) Sri. Amanaganti Sandeep Kumar Reddy, Deputy Tahsildar, O/o The Tahsildar, Keesara mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri district demanded the bribe amount of Rs. 5,00,000/- and accepted the part payment of bribe amount of Rs. 2,50,000/- from the Complainant through A-2 Sri. Kavali Balakrishna, private person for doing an official favour, i.e. for processing and completing the work relating to the removal of agricultural properties standing in the names of the Complainant's mother and their family members from the Prohibited List under Section 22-A of the Registration Act, 1908. Further, pursuant to the instructions of the AO-1, AO-3 Sri. Nannuri Vijay kumar Reddy, Village Revenue Officer, O/o The Tahsildar, Keesara mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri district instigated A-2 to receive the bribe amount from the Complainant. Accordingly, A-2 accepted the part payment of the demanded bribe amount of Rs. 2,50,000/- from the Complainant, caught by the ACB officials of Rangareddy Range. "The tainted bribe amount of

Rs.2,50,000/- was recovered from the possession of the A-2 at his instance. Thus, the AO-1 & AO-3 performed their duty improperly and dishonestly to obtain undue advantage. "Therefore, the AO-1, A-2 & AO-3 are being produced before the Hon'ble Principal Special Judge for SPE & ACB cases, Nampally for judicial remand. The case is under investigation. The details of complainant are withheld for security reasons. "CELL PHONE NUMBER-1064 (TOLL FREE NUMBER): "In case of a demand for a bribe by any Public Servant, the public is requested to contact the ACB Toll Free Number, ie., 1064, to take action as per Law. ACB Telangana can also be contacted through social media platforms WhatsApp (9440446106), Facebook (Telangana ACB), and X (X/formerly twitter Telangana ACB). The QR Code of ACB is also displayed in all Government Offices and prominent public places to contact ACB, Telangana. The name and details of the victim/complainant will be kept secret.

P.R.O. Anti-Corruption Bureau, T.G., Hyderabad.

Ghatkesar CI Balaswamy Suspended!

Ameer Hussain, Crime Bureau Chief: Investigation into allegations of interference in civil disputes, corruption, and negligence of duty. "#### Action reportedly taken following directives from Malkajgiri CP Sumathi; awaiting an official statement.

*Malkajgiri, Crime Correspondent:

* Ghatkesar Police Station Circle Inspector (CI) Balaswamy has reportedly been suspended. This action follows allegations of his interference in civil disputes, involvement in corruption, and negligence in the discharge of his duties. An inquiry into these allegations was conducted under the orders of Malkajgiri Police Commissioner Sumathi. It is understood that he was suspended after the investigation confirmed the allegations. However, no official statement has been issued by the Police Department regarding this matter yet.

A Similar Incident in the Past! Many recall that a previous CI of Ghatkesar was also suspended—coincidentally, around the time of the Dussehra festival. This lat-



est action against another CI has become a topic of discussion within police circles.

Awaiting an Official Statement: The public is always keen to know how police officers perform their duties, how they interact with citizens, and how transparently they address complaints. Against this backdrop, everyone is awaiting an official clarification from the Police Department regarding the full reasons and details behind the suspension of CI Balaswamy.

Attack on NDA cadre in Punganur is heinous: Minister Kondapalli Srinivas flays

Amaravati, 16 October 2026:State MSME, SERP, NRI Empowerment Minister Kondapalli Srinivas strongly condemned attack carried out by YSRCP leaders on NDA alliance leaders and workers during local body elections nominations in Punganur in Chittoor district.He expressed anger that Rajampet MP Mithun Reddy, his followers, YSRCP gangs together carried out cowardly attack on alliance cadre. To this extent he released a press statement from Amaravati on Thursday. He fumed that this incident can be described as trampling democracy, YSRCP leaders are again resorting to rowdiness out of fear of defeat in local body elections. "Mithun Reddy driving into NDA leaders who went to file nominations democratically with his vehicle convoy and indulging in physical attacks, destroying their vehicles, pelting stones and injuring them is most heinous. This is proof of factionism, rowdiness mindset of YSRCP" Kondapalli said.He said it is deplorable that YSRCP leaders who destroyed state with violence, anarchy in past five years rule, still not changing their ways even after people taught them a lesson. He clarified government takes seriously Rajampet MP Mithun Reddy being in responsible MP post taking law into hands and disrupting law and order. Min-



ister said strict action against culprits in this incident is inevitable and there is no place for violence in democracy. He said NDA government is committed to providing protection to every citizen, every political worker. He assured government will stand by alliance leaders, workers injured in Punganur incident. Minister said he has asked police machinery to take strict legal action against every YSRCP goon who created riots in Punganur including MP Mithun Reddy who indulged in these attacks. Minister Kondapalli Srinivas clarified NDA alliance leaders, workers should be brave, will not be intimidated by YSRCP physical attacks, threats, and will face YSRCP anarchies democratically.

Five women drown in reservoir in Andhra Pradesh

Amaravati: Five women drowned in a reservoir in Andhra Pradesh's Sri Sathya Sai district on Friday, police said. The incident occurred in the Gollapalli reservoir near Penukonda.According to the police, one Gayatri (50), resident of Dargapet along with her daughter Ashwini and neighbours Pushpa, Haseena and Maheen had gone to see the reservoir.The group of women accidentally drowned in the reservoir. Locals pulled out their bodies.Ashwini had married recently and she along with her husband were staying in Mumbai. She had gone to her parents for Dasara holidays.Penukonda Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Siva Prasad said that the police have launched an investigation into the incident.The bodies are being shifted for post-mortem examinations.Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has expressed shock over the death of five women. He conveyed his deep condolences to the bereaved families.The Chief Minister inquired with officials about the

incident.Officials said that the women had gone to visit the Gollapalli reservoir, where they slipped and fell into the water. Local fishermen recovered their bodies. They also said that all the victims were residents of Durgapet in Penukonda mandal.Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan also expressed grief over this event. He has asked the District Collector to investigate the reasons behind the accident.He said that the loss of five lives during a pleasure trip has caused profound grief.He conveyed his deepest condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in this incident.Pawan Kalyan assured that the Telugu Desam Party-led coalition government will stand by the families of the deceased.He directed relevant officials to review security arrangements in tourist areas and to ensure the availability of lifeguards in reservoirs and deep-water areas.Former Chief Minister and YSRCP President Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy expressed deep shock over the death of five women.

AP high court orders CBI probe into Sai Krishna custodial death case

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Friday ordered that the investigation into the alleged custodial death of Gade Sai Krishna be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).A division bench pronounced the order on a petition filed by Vijayalakshmi, mother of Sai Krishna, who died in custody at Krishnalanka police station in Vijayawada.Expressing a lack of faith in the police investigation, Vijayalakshmi had filed a petition requesting that the case be handed over to the CBI.

The High Court has directed that the circumstances leading to Sai Krishna’s death be examined, the responsible officials be identified, and legal prosecution be initiated against them.The court ordered immediate registration of a case by the CBI and directed the CBI Director to entrust the investigation to a senior officer within the agency.Till now, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the State government had been probing the case.The High Court directed the Director General of Police (DGP) to send the case records directly to the CBI Director. It has also issued directives to the State Government to initiate strict departmental action against the officials held accountable for the custodial death.The High Court also directed the state government to pay Rs. 25 lakh as compensation to Vijayalakshmi, mother of Sai Krishna.Sai Krishna, 25, went missing after he was picked up by the Krishnalanka police of the NTR Police Commissionerate on May 6 over his involvement in a crime.He was allegedly tortured by Circle Inspector (Station House Officer) S.S.V.V. Nagaraju and some other police personnel.A habeas corpus petition filed by his mother in the High Court on June 2 brought the case to light.The state government constituted an SIT headed by Inspector General (Law and Order) M. Ravi Prakash to probe the case. It arrested the suspended SHO on June 21.Last month, the SIT filed a chargesheet against Nagaraju and six other accused.Head constables Ashok Kumar and Nani, Nagaraju’s associate Gulivindala Suresh, constables Babu Rao and Sambaiah, and home guard Venkat are the other



accused.Suresh confessed that he had seen Sai Krishna in the police station during interrogation, and later at a private house at Ranigari Thota, where he reportedly died on May 12.Suresh told SIT that Nagaraju, head constables Ashok Kumar and Nani cremated the body to destroy the evidence.Meanwhile, former Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party President Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has welcomed the High Court order transferring the case to the CBI and also directing the State Government to pay 25 lakh to his mother within four weeks.“This judgment is a slap in the face of the Chandrababu Naidu government. A heinous crime committed with no sense of remorse,” Jagan said in a post on ‘X’. “We have consistently demanded a CBI inquiry and a thorough investigation into the role of senior police officials, including the DGP and the Vijayawada Commissioner of Police. Rank and political protection must never place anyone above the law,” he said.YS Jagan alleged that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu sought to bury this case through a State-controlled SIT instead of ensuring an independent investigation.“His government must answer for the lapses in the probe and the failure to adequately examine the role of senior officials, which today highlighted the need for a CBI enquiry. Appointing a SIT cannot become an excuse to shield those who should face scrutiny.” The former Chief Minister said that the CBI must uncover the full truth, establish responsibility and bring everyone involved to justice, regardless of their position.

76 returnable plots allotted to Amaravati farmers



Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) allotted 76 returnable plots to farmers of Penumaka village who had given their lands for the construction of the people’s capital, Amaravati, through an e-lottery system at its office in Rayapudi on Thursday. A total of 26 farmers were allotted 41 residential and 35 commercial plots. The allotments included farmers who had recently surrendered land for capital development, a farmer who had given land for the construction of the Seed Access Road, and

eligible farmers who had sought alternative plots after facing issues with their previously allotted plots. APCRDA Additional Commissioner K Karthik and Penumaka Special Deputy Collector K Sudharani handed over provisional allotment certificates to the farmers who received the plots. Karthik urged the beneficiaries to complete the registration process for their allotted plots at the earliest. He said Geographic Information System (GIS) personnel and village surveyors would assist farmers in identifying the exact locations of their allotted plots.

SRM AP hosts national summit on Post-Quantum Cryptography



Amaravati: CV Sridhar, Managing Director of AP SQM, outlined the vision and roadmap of the Amaravati Quantum Valley initiative at a national stakeholder consultation workshop on Post-Quantum Cryptography and Cybersecurity hosted by SRM University-AP. The workshop, convened by Amaravati Quantum Valley, brought together policymakers, academics, regulators and industry representatives to discuss strategies for developing quantum-resistant digital infrastructure and preparing India’s digital ecosystem for emerging cybersecurity threats posed by quantum computing. Sridhar traced the origins of the Amaravati Quantum Valley initiative, launched last year to develop a strong quantum hardware ecosystem by supporting startups and connecting them with advanced comput-

ing infrastructure, including the IIT Madras quantum network and IBM quantum platforms. SRM AP Vice-Chancellor Prof Ch Satish Kumar, inaugurating the proceedings, highlighted the university’s ambition to emerge as a global research hub. Dr Sudeep Oberai, Chairman of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Expert Committee on Post-Quantum Cryptography, explained the regulatory challenges involved in transitioning to quantum-resistant security systems. During the interactive session, Punjab National Bank representatives shared their progress in developing migration roadmaps under the Reserve Bank of India’s cybersecurity framework, including considerations relating to system latency and implementation challenges.

Goddess Durga appears as Saraswati Devi, CM to present silk robes today



Dasara celebrations are under way in grand style at Indrakeeladri, where Goddess Durga is being worshipped as Goddess Saraswati on the auspicious day of Moola Nakshatra. Large numbers of devotees have gathered, filling all queue lines. VIP and recommendation-based entry arrangements have been suspended for the day, with devotees in every queue

granted free access for darshan. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is scheduled to present *pattu vastralu* (silk garments) to the Goddess at 4.30 pm on Friday evening. The Durga Temple chairman, executive officer, police commissioner and other senior officials have already offered prayers to the Goddess in her Saraswati manifestation.

Over 30 startups come together to develop medical robotics solutions

Visakhapatnam: Bringing together more than 32 startups from different states and over 60 participants to develop medical robotics solutions for India and the world, the Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone (AMTZ) hosted ‘MedTech Robo Sprint 2026’. Organised by RoboMed in collaboration with the Innovation Hub Foundation for Cobotics (IHFC), IIT Delhi, and AMTZ, the two-day programme focused on translating engineering concepts into practical healthcare applications. The inaugural day focused on ideation, prototype development, and refining solutions for clinical needs. Participating teams presented their concepts before an expert jury, which evaluated them on technical feasibility, clinical rel-



evance, originality, and implementation potential. Highlighting India’s medical robotics ambitions, Jitendra Sharma, MD and Founder CEO of AMTZ, mentioned that “India must move from being a consumer of advanced medical robotics to becoming a creator of globally competitive technologies.

Delhi HC asks Kriti Sanon’s counsel to submit research on personality rights

New Delhi: Bollywood actor Kriti Sanon has approached the Delhi High Court seeking protection of her personality and publicity rights against the alleged unauthorised use of her name, image, likeness and other identity attributes, including in AI-generated content and digital impersonation. The matter came up for hearing before a single-judge Bench of Justice Purushendra Kumar Kaurav, who asked the actor’s counsel to place on record a compilation of relevant judgments, research papers and other material on the legal issues surrounding personality rights. The High Court indicated that it would pass a comprehensive order after examining the judgments and other research material submitted before it. The matter has been listed for further hearing on October 29. The development comes amid a growing number of personality rights disputes before the Delhi High Court involving allegations of AI-generated impersonation, deepfakes, fake endorsements and unauthorised commercial exploitation of public figures’ identities. Several high-profile personalities have approached the High Court seeking protection of their personality and publicity rights. In recent months, former cricketers Gautam Gambhir and Sunil Gavaskar, spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, actors Arjun Kapoor, Allu Arjun, Nagarjuna, Varun Dhawan, Kajol, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Abhishek Bachchan and Naga Chaitanya, singer Jubin Nautiyal, filmmaker Karan Johar, podcaster Raj Shamani and Congress MP Shashi Tharoor have secured or



sought court protection against the unauthorised use of their identities, likenesses or AI-generated imitations. Recently, the Delhi High Court issued summons in a suit filed by actor and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut seeking protection of her personality and publicity rights against the alleged unauthorised use and misuse of her identity, including through pornographic and obscene content circulated on digital platforms. The High Court also issued notice on her application seeking an interim injunction. A single-judge Bench of Justice Vikas Mahajan had asked Ranaut’s counsel to identify the defendants against whom a takedown order was being sought. The court indicated that it could consider an appropriate order on the interim injunction application after the details were furnished. It also directed her counsel to file a revised memo of parties after certain defendants were removed from the proceedings.

‘Didn’t want to awaken the Kumbha’: Rajamouli’s birthday message for Prithviraj



Mumbai: Actor Prithviraj Sukumaran celebrated his birthday on Friday, and renowned filmmaker SS Rajamouli marked the occasion by sharing a heartfelt wish for him on social media. The filmmaker behind ‘RRR’ took to X, formerly known as Twitter, and shared a picture of himself with Prithviraj. The actor-director duo appeared to be engaged in a light-hearted conversation against a lush green backdrop. Wishing Prithviraj on his special day, Rajamouli wrote, “Happy birthday Prithvi. Didn’t want to awaken the Kumbha within you today. The Kumbha who is destined to make his mark on the world. (sic)” Responding to the ‘Baahubali’ filmmaker’s post, Prithviraj wrote, “Thank you Sir! Cannot wait for the world to witness your madness! (sic)” Besides Rajamouli, Prithviraj’s wife, Supriya Menon, also wished him on Instagram, sharing a picture and writing, “Happy Birthday to our wonderful Daada! Wish-

ing you the best of health & happiness always! We love you to the moon and back! Meanwhile, S S Karthikeya, one of the producers of the much-anticipated film ‘Varanasi’, told IANS that post-production work on the project was progressing at a brisk pace. He said that, if everything went according to plan, the team expected to complete the work by January next year. Karthikeya also said that only four to five days of shooting remained before the film could be completed. “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,” he told IANS. ‘Varanasi’ features Mahesh Babu as Rudhra, Priyanka Chopra as Mandakini and Prithviraj Sukumaran as Kumbha. The film is scheduled to hit theatres on April 7, 2027.

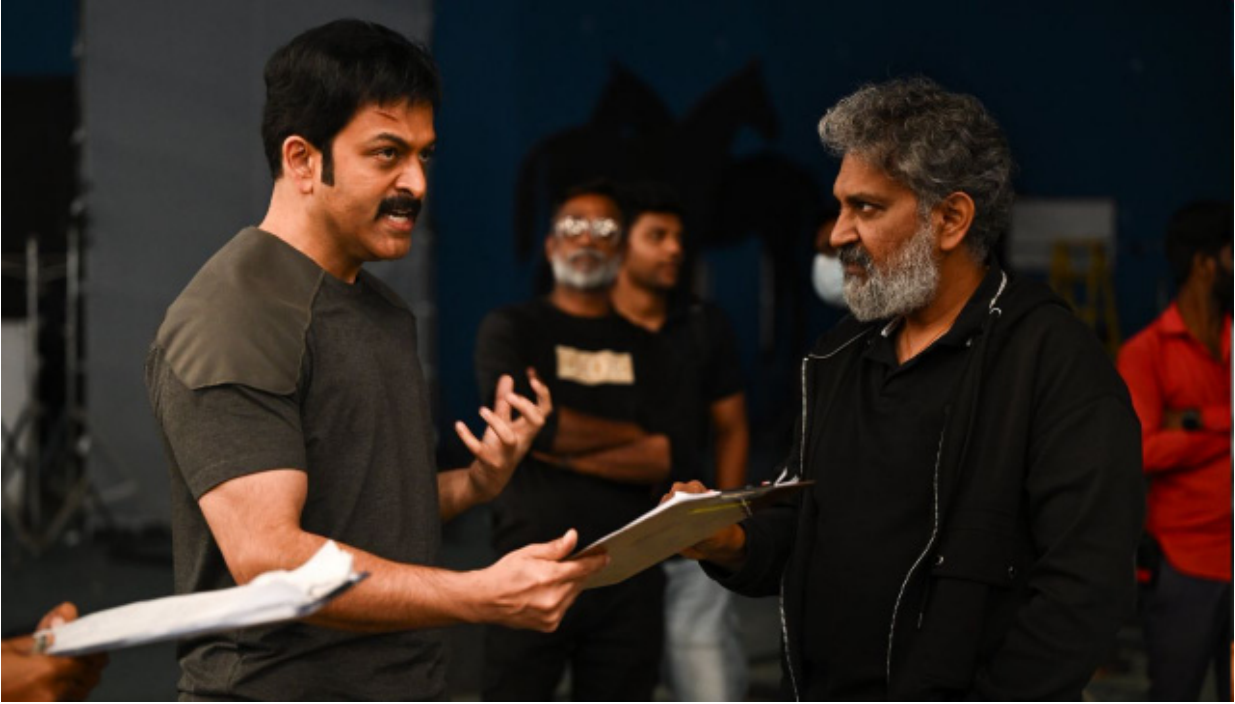
Greta Gerwig Unveils Narnia: The Magician's Nephew Trailer, Opening The Door To A New Adventure

Hyderabad cinema ““Greta Gerwig’s Narnia: The Magician’s Nephew brings C. S. Lewis’ beloved fantasy world to the big screen, arriving in cinemas on 12th February 2027.”“TELUGU TRAILER LINK: <https://youtu.be/bq5a5gYSzPM?si=7WIRW8BwD9wGuZwD>““ENGLISH TRAILER LINK: <https://youtu.be/1tlzlbnnNmc?si=3rZGZ-f7tTpCKVW>““The highly anticipated trailer for Narnia: The Magician’s Nephew is here, offering audiences their closer look at Greta Gerwig’s new take on one of the most beloved fantasy worlds in literature. Based on C. S. Lewis’ 1955 novel, the film promises a magical adventure filled with mystery, wonder and unforgettable characters, while exploring the origins of the world of Narnia. The film is produced by Netflix and distributed by Sony Pictures Releasing International. “The trailer takes audiences through the world of Narnia, with fans meeting David McKenna as young Digory Kirke and Beatrice Campbell as Polly Plummer, whose journey takes them into the magical world of Narnia. Joining them are Emma Mackey playing the young Jadis, who is playing the White Witch, and Daniel Craig, who is essaying the role of Uncle Andrew. The film also features Carey Mulligan, Kobna Holdbrook Smith and Meryl Streep, bringing together a unforgettable blend of young newcomers and established performers for this new fantasy adventure.”“Greta Gerwig, who directed the global hit film Barbie, brings her vision to C. S. Lewis’ beloved fantasy universe. The trailer was released after Sony Pictures



and Netflix released the first look at the film, which offered audiences a glimpse into the film’s magical world, including a look at Jadis alongside Digory and Polly in a striking red-tinted setting. With the new trailer, audiences can now get a closer look at the characters and the world Gerwig has created for this new chapter of Narnia. “The Magician’s Nephew is the sixth book in Lewis’ Chronicles of Narnia series by publication order, although it is set chronologically before the events of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. The story explores the origins of Narnia and introduces the events that lead to the creation of the magical world.”“Produced by Netflix and distributed by Sony Pictures Releasing International, Narnia: The Magician’s Nephew is slated to release in India on 12th February, 2027, in theatres.

Mahesh Babu calls ‘Varanasi’ co-star Prithviraj ‘Kumbha’ in birthday wish



Hyderabad: Telugu star Mahesh Babu greeted Prithviraj, his co-star in director S S Rajamouli’s upcoming magnum opus ‘Varanasi’, on the latter’s birthday on Friday. Taking to X, Mahesh Babu, while quoting a tweet posted by the film’s official handle, wrote, “Wishing you a very Happy Birthday Kumbha have a wonderful one... lots of love n happiness always... !!!” Earlier in the day, the makers of the film had posted a birthday wish for Prithviraj, who plays the antagonist Kumbha in the upcoming magnum opus. In their birthday message, the makers wrote, “The most complex mind in #VARANASI... Happy Birthday Kumbha!!!” Malayalam actor and producer Tovino Thomas also greeted his friend Prithviraj on his birthday. On Instagram, he wrote, “Happy birthday brother.” Earlier in the day, director S S Rajamouli had wished Prithviraj a happy birthday in his own style. Taking to X, he wrote, “Happy

birthday Prithvi. Didn’t want to awaken the Kumbha within you today. The Kumbha who is destined to make his mark on the world. @PrithviOfficial #Varanasi.” In November last year, Rajamouli had unveiled Prithviraj’s look in the film for the first time. Sharing the first-look poster of Prithviraj as Kumbha, Rajamouli had written, “After canning the first shot with Prithvi, I walked up to him and said you are one of the finest actors I’ve ever known. Bringing life to this sinister, ruthless, powerful antagonist KUMBHA was creatively very satisfying. Thank you Prithvi for slipping into his chair... literally... @PrithviOfficial #Globe Trotter.” Prithviraj had replied to Rajamouli, saying, “It’s been an absolute honour Sir! So looking forward to the rest of this mad mad ride! @ssraja mouli” Prithviraj plays a person with a disability in the film and is seen seated in a wheelchair equipped with robotic arms and legs.

India’s middle order under pressure ahead of fifth T20I against West Indies

Bengaluru: With the West Indies proving unexpectedly feisty, India will need to iron out their batting flaws in what promises to be a high-scoring and closely contested series decider in the fifth T20I here on Saturday. The run feasts in the first four matches have masked several shortcomings in India’s batting unit. The two sides are locked at 2-2 in the series. For the hosts, the problems begin at the top of the order. Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma have had moments of individual brilliance, striking three half-centuries between them. However, their opening partnerships have yielded 29, 42, seven and 60 runs. The 60-run stand in Hyderabad was also somewhat misleading, as Samson scored 56, while Abhishek managed just two runs. Once the partnership was broken, the middle order failed to step up. Ishan Kishan, skipper Shreyas Iyer and Naman Dhir failed to capitalise on the start provided by Samson, highlighting the gradual decline of India’s core batting unit in the series. Iyer scored 102 in the first T20I at Lucknow, but his next three outings yielded 40, one and 16. A defeat in Bengaluru would further dent his standing as captain. After defeats on away tours of Ireland and England, he regained some ground with wins over Zimbabwe and Afghanistan. Although Iyer is in no immediate danger of losing his position, he will face questions about his ability to guide the team through pressure situations against an experienced and aggressive opposition. At No. 3, Kishan showed promise but managed scores of 43, 37 and six. His untimely mistakes against Roston Chase and Keemo Paul prevented him from converting his starts into bigger scores. Dhir, meanwhile, has struggled with the bat, scoring four, 10 and zero. Even Tilak Varma and Nitish Kumar Reddy failed to find a boundary for 18 balls between overs 12.1 and 14.4 in Hyderabad, a serious lapse while chasing a target of 248. They eventually succumbed to the pressure of a rising required run rate and the need to find two or three boundaries every over. Kuldeep, Bhuvneshwar in contention The M Chinnaswamy Stadium is generally a challenging venue for bowlers, with its flat pitch and short boundaries. However, the ground has not hosted an international match since the first Test against New Zealand in October 2024. Since then, it has staged no high-profile matches apart from a handful of IPL fixtures. The relative unfamiliarity with the pitch could level the playing field to some extent. In that context, India might consider including Kuldeep Yadav and newly added squad member Bhuvneshwar Kumar in the playing XI on Saturday. The 36-year-old Bhuvneshwar was added to the Indian squad after fellow pacer



Arshdeep Singh sustained a blow to his bowling shoulder during the fourth T20I in Hyderabad. Bhuvneshwar has been brought in as cover, and a decision on his participation will be taken before the match, depending on Arshdeep’s recovery. Left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep, meanwhile, would bring experience to a bowling unit that has so far relied on Arshdeep and Axar Patel for control and wickets. Kuldeep was benched for the third and fourth matches of the series. Both Arshdeep and Axar have performed well, but the batting-friendly surfaces have blunted their effectiveness to some extent. Prince Yadav, Mayank Yadav, Dhir and Reddy have struggled to contain the Caribbean batters, although the conditions have not made their task easy. Kuldeep’s ability to stem the flow of runs in the middle overs could prove useful, particularly if West Indies skipper Shai Hope and the explosive Sherfane Rutherford bat deep. Hope and Rutherford have been major threats to India, scoring 261 and 221 runs, respectively, to occupy the top two positions in the series batting charts. India will need to dismiss them early to keep the visitors under pressure, as they did during their 14-run win at Indore in the third T20I. Bhuvneshwar’s inclusion could also prove significant, given his familiarity with the venue through his IPL stint with Royal Challengers Bengaluru. A series victory would be an unexpected bonus for the West Indies, who have recently announced several measures to revive cricket in the Caribbean. Ultimately, the contest could come down to which side handles the pressure better on another potentially batting-friendly pitch. India, however, will be under greater pressure to deliver. All this could be disrupted if the autumn rain that has lashed Bengaluru in recent days continues.

Teams (from)

India: Shreyas Iyer (c), Abhishek Sharma, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Ishan Kishan (wk), Sanju Samson (wk), Tilak Varma (vc), Shivam Dube, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Naman Dhir, Ravi Bishnoi, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Arshdeep Singh, Prince Yadav, Mayank Yadav, Bhuvneshwar Kumar. West Indies: Shai Hope (c), Jewel Andrew, Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Shimron Hetmyer, Akeal Hosein, Shamar Joseph, Gudakesh Motie, Keemo Paul, Kamil Pooran, Rovman Powell, Sherfane Rutherford, Quentin Sampson, Romario Shephard, Shamar Springer. Match starts at 7 pm.

Four players share lead after seventh round in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: In a day of upsets, several higher-rated players, including top two seeds Jval Saurin Patel of Gujarat and Madhvendra Pratap Singh of Madhya Pradesh, lost their seventh-round games at the 52nd National Sub-Junior Chess Championship organised by the Telangana State Chess Association here. Badole Shaunak of Maharashtra, Parambrata Sarkar of West Bengal, S Madhesh Kumar of Puducherry and Christy George of Kerala shared the lead with 6.5 points each. In the girls’ section, FM Prishita Gupta of Delhi emerged as the sole leader with 6.5 points after de-



feating Shanmathi Sree of Tamil Nadu. There were several draws on the next five boards. Sai Vijaysinh Patil of Maharashtra and Archita Agarwal of Uttar Pradesh were joint second with six points each.

Eight franchises gear up for Centre Court Pickleball League Season 2



Hyderabad: The Centre Court Pickleball League (CCPL) will begin its second season in Hyderabad on Sunday, October 18, with eight franchises competing across seven league match days ahead of the playoffs on December 5 and the championship final on December 12. Chargers will host the opening day at Centre Court Pickleball Arena, The League, in the Financial District, with matches scheduled across two courts. Defending champions Mavericks will face Titans on Centre Court at 4 pm, while Dasos Dynamos take on The Raptors on the second court. At 8 pm, Chargers will meet Starry Smashers on Centre Court, while All Stars face Keerthi Warriors on the second court. The eight franchises enter the new season with a mix of returning players and pre-auction signings. Defending champions Mavericks will be captained by Sreekar Mothukuri, while Sameer Varma will lead All Stars and Nikhil Tummalapalli will captain Titans. Nikit M Reddy will lead Chargers, Karunesh Reddy The Raptors, Vivek Reddy Priyadarshini Dasos Dynamos, Abhaya Vemuri Starry Smashers and Gopinath Reddy Keerthi Warriors. More than 200 players registered for Season 2, with 73 bought at auction and seven pre-auction signings completing an 80-player field comprising 53 men and 27 women. The purse for each franchise has doubled from ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh this season. Teams were also allowed to sign one player before the auction for ₹3 lakh, add-

ing another strategic dimension to squad building. “The larger purse gave franchises more room to build their squads, and the auction showed how differently each team approached that opportunity. Established players attracted strong bids, but teams also invested in emerging talent. The opening weekend is our first chance to see how those decisions translate on court,” said Vikrant Rao, co-founder of Centre Court Sports and Entertainment. Since its launch, the league has attracted prominent figures from Indian sport and Telugu cinema to its franchise ownership groups.

Olympic bronze medallist Saina Nehwal has joined Keerthi Warriors as co-owner, while former badminton world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth has joined Nandi Chargers as an investor and partner. Actor Sushanth Anumolu is the owner of All Stars, while filmmaker and actor Tharun Bhascker Dhaassiyam has joined The Raptors as co-owner alongside Kaushik Mane palli and Divya Priyanka Reddy. “Hyderabad is where we began, and Season 1 gave us a lot to build on. People came for the matches, followed particular teams and returned through the season. For Season 2, we’ve put more thought into the full match-day experience, from the competition to the music and food, so there’s a reason to spend the evening at the league,” said Yashwanth Biyyala, co-founder of Centre Court Sports and Entertainment.

Hyderabad’s Saatvic Singh shines at IGU Gujarat Junior Boys Championship

Hyderabad: Hyderabad’s Saatvic Singh finished third at the IGU Gujarat Junior Boys Championship 2026 held at Kensville Golf Club in Ahmedabad. The Class 10 student of Delhi Public School in Hyderabad has enjoyed a consistent season in the under-15 boys’ category and is set to be ranked No. 1 in the Order of Merit so far. Saatvic will move to a higher category for his next IGU event in Jharkhand. “Practising at HGA and Boulders Hills helped me understand the different courses during tournaments,” said a visibly pleased Saatvic.



Rupee rises for sixth straight session, closes at 94.92 against dollar

Mumbai: The rupee extended its gains for the sixth consecutive session on Friday, settling 7 paise higher at 94.92 (provisional) against the US dollar, supported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) measures to curb spot dollar demand. However, elevated crude oil prices and foreign fund outflows capped the currency's gains, according to forex traders. At the inter-bank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 94.75 against the US dollar. During intraday trade, it touched a high of 94.71 and a low of 95.06 before settling at 94.92 (provisional), up 7 paise from the previous close. On Thursday, the rupee had appreciated 18 paise to close at 94.99 against the US dollar. "The rupee is now approaching a crucial support zone around 94. Persistent pressure from elevated crude oil prices, rising US Treasury yields and continued foreign equity outflows had prompted the RBI to intensify its intervention to limit the impact of currency weakness on domestic inflation and broader financial stability," said Kaveri More, commodity technical analyst at Choice Broking. The RBI has reportedly deployed around USD 75-80 billion through spot dollar sales and dollar-rupee swaps since its special measures to attract foreign currency inflows came



into effect on June 8, More said. "Going forward, the rupee's near-term direction will depend on the effectiveness of RBI intervention, movements in crude oil prices and US bond yields, and the pace of foreign investor flows. While continued central bank support may help stabilise the currency, sustained external pressures could limit further appreciation," More said. The dollar index, which measures the US currency's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.41 per cent lower at 101.445. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 0.34 per cent lower at USD 105.56 per barrel in futures trade. On the domestic equity market, the Sensex climbed 413.66 points to settle at 74,729.27, while the Nifty rose 148.80 points to close at 23,146.15. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) sold equities worth Rs 5,285.37 crore on a net basis on Thursday, according to exchange data.

Brokerages flag capital risks for Yes Bank after SC order; stock falls nearly 4 pc

New Delhi: Shares of Yes Bank on Friday traded nearly 4 per cent lower as analysts have turned cautious after the Supreme Court upheld the quashing of its Rs 8,415-crore Additional Tier-1 (AT-1) bond write-off, warning of pressure on capital and book value. Analysts at global brokerage Citi maintained their sell rating on the banking stock and cut target price to Rs 17.50. Similarly, Morgan Stanley retained its underweight rating with a target of Rs 17 following the verdict by the apex court, which triggered a sharp sell-off in the stock. The Supreme Court has dismissed appeals filed by Yes Bank, the Reserve Bank of India and the Centre against the Bombay High Court's January 20, 2023 judgment that quashed the write-down of AT-1 bonds which were extinguished during the lender's rescue in March 2020. According to Citi, the reversal of the AT-1 bond write-down reopens capital-related concerns. The brokerage estimates the development could lead to a 250-basis-point reduction in Yes Bank's Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) capital ratio to 11.5 per cent, based on principal amount alone, assuming coupon payments are discretionary and non-cumulative. The brokerage also expects the potential liability to erode the bank's book value by 13-14 per cent, potentially necessitating a capital raise to restore capi-



tal buffers. The extent of final impact will depend on implementation of the ruling and treatment of outstanding bonds. In addition, Morgan Stanley described the order as prima facie negative, saying it awaits clarity on what percentage of AT-1 bonds would ultimately be allowed to be written off. It estimates the post-tax amount of Rs 6,300 crore would represent around 12 per cent of Yes Bank's net worth and could reduce its current CET1 ratio of 14 per cent by about 190 basis points. The brokerage said the AT-1 bond issue had remained an overhang for the stock and it will watch for any review petition and further clarification from the bank. A key question of Morgan Stanley is whether the decision fundamentally challenges the loss-absorption feature of AT-1 bonds or is primarily related to the process followed by the administrator during Yes Bank's reconstruction. Meanwhile, Yes Bank shares declined as much as 3.85 per cent to Rs 17.45 on the BSE by 12:30 pm on Friday. The banking stock hit the lower circuit of Rs 18.03 on the BSE on Thursday.

Govt raises petrol export duty to Rs 2.5 per litre, slashes for diesel

New Delhi: The government has raised the windfall tax on exports of petrol to Rs 2.5 per litre and cut the duty on diesel, effective from Friday. As per the Finance Ministry notification, the export duty on petrol was raised to Rs 2.5 per litre from Rs 0.5 per litre. While the duty on diesel exports was cut to Rs 8.5 per litre from Rs 16 per litre, effective October 16, according to the ministry's order. In addition, the export duties are

reviewed every fortnight and adjusted in line with movements in international crude oil and petroleum product prices. The latest revision follows several changes to petroleum export duties in recent months amid volatility in international oil prices and geopolitical tensions. In September, the government had reduced the windfall tax and export levies on petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) as part of its fortnightly review. The duty on petrol ex-

Mutual fund houses halt fresh gold ETF FoF investments ahead of festive season

New Delhi: Several mutual fund houses have temporarily suspended fresh investments into gold exchange-traded fund fund-of-funds (Gold ETF FoFs), effective from Friday, as per multiple reports. The restrictions cover fresh lump-sum investments, new systematic investment plan (SIP) registrations and additional contributions through existing SIPs, including top-up facilities. Some fund houses have also curtailed switch-in transactions and fresh systematic transfer plan (STP) registrations, they said. According to investor communications, the measures are temporary and will remain in force until further notice. Moreover, one of the fund houses stated that the curbs were being implemented following instructions communicated through industry channels after regulatory consultations. However, the restrictions were said to apply to fresh subscriptions, new SIP registrations and step-up requests under existing SIP mandates. The notices issued by asset managers also clarified that existing SIP and STP instalments registered before the effective date would continue to be processed. However, investor redemptions and switch-out requests would also remain unaffected. Similarly, another fund house stated that applications submitted after the prescribed cut-off time on Thursday could be rejected



with funds returned to investors, according to the reports. Existing systematic transactions registered before the restrictions took effect will continue without interruption. Reports noted the notices did not provide a specific reason for the move, while redemptions remained open to investors. The restrictions come at a time when demand for gold typically strengthens ahead of the Dussehra and Diwali festivals. In addition, India relies heavily on imports to meet domestic bullion demand and higher gold imports can influence the trade deficit and exert pressure on the rupee. Earlier in the year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged citizens to avoid buying gold for a year to conserve foreign exchange reserves during global economic uncertainty and the West Asia conflict. PM Modi said that for a year, at any function, we should not buy gold jewellery. In the national interest, we must resolve not to purchase gold for a year, he added.

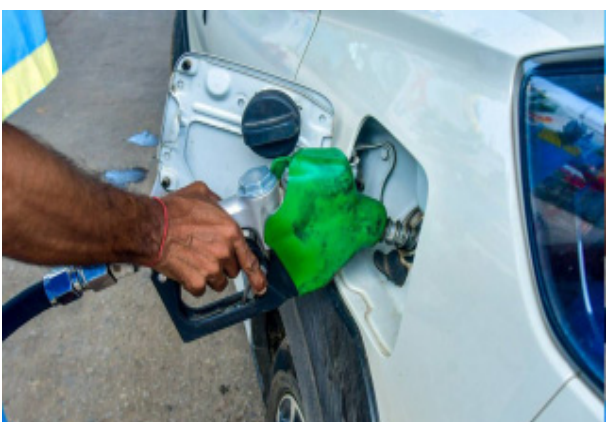
Welcome competition in satellite communications, including Starlink: Reliance

Mumbai: Reliance Industries Ltd (REL) on Friday said that India's rules apply equally to domestic and foreign companies in the field of satellite communications, amid Elon Musk's criticism of the regulatory hurdles facing Starlink in the country. In a statement, the company said, "we welcome competition in satellite communications, including Starlink." "Every player, Jio included, must serve the people of India and abide by the laws and policies of the land," said REL in its statement. "In light of recent remarks about Reliance and the Indian market, we wish to place the facts on record. Like every Indian enterprise, Reliance has grown in an India that welcomes investment and innovation, homegrown or international, that improve the lives of the people," the company added. It further stated "that openness rests on the rule of law. As the Government of India has stated, it applies the same process to every applicant, Indian or foreign. Jio's own satellite services await clearances". At Reliance, "we have never feared competition. We see it as the truest test of who serves the customer best. Jio itself entered India's crowded telecom market in 2016 as the newest player, with not a single customer",



the company noted. In just 10 years, Jio has earned the trust of over 530 million customers and given Indians some of the best digital infrastructure and most affordable data in the world. 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. Last week, Musk took a 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.

ports was cut to Rs 0.5 per litre, comprising Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED) of Rs 0.5 per litre. In the previous revision effective September 1, the government had reduced the export levy on diesel to Rs 1 per litre from Rs 3 per litre and cut the windfall tax on diesel exports to Rs 19 per litre from Rs 24 per litre. In August, the government had raised the export duty on petrol to Rs 3.5 per litre from Rs 2.5 per litre. The total duty on diesel was increased to Rs 25.5 per litre from Rs 15.5 per litre, while the ATF export levy was raised to Rs 22 per litre from Rs 14.5 per litre. The government first imposed windfall taxes on fuel exports in July 2022 to capture super-nor-



mal profits earned by refiners when global crude prices surged following the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Earlier, the government reintroduced the tax in March 2026 after crude prices jumped during the US-Israeli war on Iran.

Local Body Polls: YSRCP struggles to find candidates in Kuppam



Tirupati: The political battle for Kuppam is shaping up differently from the last local body elections, when the YSRCP made gains in Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu’s stronghold. With another round of polls approaching, the party is reportedly struggling to find candidates and revive its weakened local network. The YSRCP, which once controlled the Kuppam municipality and several panchayat and parishad bodies, is now facing the challenge of persuading local leaders to contest the upcoming elections. With the poll schedule already out, candidate selection and efforts to keep the cadre together have become immediate priorities. The situation marks a significant shift from the party’s earlier confidence in the constituency. Its victories in the previous local body elections had encouraged it to launch the ‘Why Not Kuppam?’ campaign, projecting the results as a sign that Naidu’s long standing political dominance could be challenged. Buy Maps However, the TDP’s return to power following the 2024 Assembly elections changed the political landscape, leaving the YSRCP with the task of rebuilding its organisation and regaining the confidence of its local leadership. The reported difficulties in identifying candidates have added to concerns over the party’s ability to maintain its grassroots presence. The party’s organisational challenges are also being linked to a perceived lack of

sustained leadership following its Assembly poll defeat. KRJ Bharath, the YSRCP MLC from Kuppam, reportedly stayed away from the constituency very often and was unavailable to local cadres. As preparations for the local body elections gather pace, the YSRCP is reportedly making efforts to convince its leaders to enter the contest. Party sources have alleged that some prospective candidates are facing pressure to stay away from the polls. These claims, however, have not been independently verified. The possibility of some local leaders switching allegiance to the ruling TDP has further complicated the YSRCP’s efforts. Any such defections could weaken its local network and make it more difficult to field candidates across the constituency. Meanwhile, the Kuppam municipality which is reserved now for SC General category, has expanded from 25 to 32 wards, increasing the scale of the electoral contest. The additional wards will require both parties to strengthen their organisational machinery and identify suitable candidates to compete effectively. Get Local Permits For the YSRCP, the forthcoming polls will be a test of whether it can preserve the gains made during its tenure in power and remain a credible challenger in Naidu’s home constituency. Its ability to field candidates, retain local leaders and mobilise workers will offer a clearer picture of its political standing in Kuppam.

Devotees urged not to feed wild animals

Tirumala: TTD is taking special measures to enhance greenery in Tirumala and protect biodiversity and wildlife of Seshachalam forest region, said TTD Forest Range Officer Doraswamy. Addressing the media in Tirumala on Thursday along with DRO Madhusudhan, he said red sanders, sandalwood and medicinal plants are being nurtured in Tirumala forest area. He further said that Nakshatra Vanams are being developed at Paruveta Mandapam, while greening works are under way along ghat roads of Alipiri and Srivari Mettu footpath routes. Flowering and fragrant plants are being raised at Vaikuntam Queue Complex-1, GNC Tollgate, Alipiri and other areas to provide a pleasant ambience for devotees. Wildlife movement, particularly leopard activity, is being monitored round the clock by TTD forest staff. Find Pet



Care The Forest Range Officer said that CCTV, trap and solar cameras, along with drones, are being used for surveillance. Plastic has been banned in Seshachalam forest area to protect biodiversity and wildlife. He advised devotees not to carry plastic bottles or covers into forest zones or else strict action will be taken against violators. Doraswami also appealed to devotees not to feed monkeys and other wild animals along ghat roads, as it alters their natural feeding habits and disturbs ecological balance.

Tirupati Municipal elections: Filing of nominations begins today

Tirupati: Tirupati municipal corporation has completed all arrangements to conduct the upcoming municipal elections peacefully and transparently and a comprehensive plan has been prepared for polling staff, election material, security, law and order and other necessary facilities, said Corporation Commissioner M Jayakrishna. Speaking at a press conference along with DSP Bhaktavatsalam, Deputy Collector Bharat Naik and Additional Commissioner Sharada Devi, here on Thursday, the Commissioner informed that elections will be held in all 66 wards of the city, with 304 polling stations set up. The city has a total of 2,90,492 voters, including 1,47,171 women, 1,43,292 men, and 29 others. Nominations will be accepted from October 16 to 18 between 11 am and 3 pm. A nomination centre has been arranged at municipal corporation office for mayor candidates and 22 centres have been set up across the city for corporator candidates. He added that scrutiny of nominations will be conducted on October 19, and candidates can withdraw their nominations on October 21. The final list of candidates in the fray will be released on the same day evening. Polling is scheduled for October 28. The Commissioner said that returning officers have already been trained and training will be given to presiding officers, as-



sistant presiding officers and other polling staff. Flying squads, static surveillance teams, and other special teams have been formed to ensure strict implementation of the election code of conduct. Commissioner Jayakrishna warned that strict action will be taken as per law against officials, political leaders, candidates, or others, who violate election rules. DSP Bhaktavatsalam said that strong rooms, counting centres, reception centres, and distribution centres have been identified in advance, and security arrangements are being made at these places.

Follow Politics CCTV cameras have also been installed at nomination centres for continuous surveillance. For the convenience of voters, candidates, and public, the corporation has set up help desk to provide assistance to people regarding elections. The Commissioner appealed to all political parties, candidates, and voters to cooperate with the administration and follow the election code for the peaceful conduct of the elections.

Justice Prevails: Three sentenced to life in doctor murder case

Dhone: Delivering justice in a eight-year-old murder case, the Kurnool Fourth Additional District and Sessions Court on Thursday sentenced three persons to life imprisonment for the murder of Dr Pocha Srikanth Reddy, son of prominent medical practitioner Dr Pocha Prabhakar Reddy. Presiding Judge Leelavathi pronounced the verdict after the prosecution convincingly established charges under IPC Sections 120(B) (criminal conspiracy), 420 (cheating), 302 (murder), 201 (causing disappearance of evidence), and 109 (abetment) read with Section 34. The convicts were identified as Murari Narasimha, Murari Chandrasekhar, and Murari Nagaratna. The case dates back to 2018, registered as Crime No. 120/2018 at Dhone Town police station. Then Dhone Town Sub-Inspector Srinivasulu and Circle Inspector Rajagopal Naidu spearheaded a detailed investigation utilizing modern scientific methods before filing a comprehensive charge sheet before the court. Find Grief Support During the trial, Public Pros-



ecutors Prakash Reddy and Srinivasa Bhat effectively presented forensic and circumstantial evidence to seal the conviction. Key contributions in examining witnesses were made by Sub-Inspectors Sharath Kumar Reddy and Narendra Kumar, supported by court constables Alli Peera and Basheer, alongside CMS Assistant Sub-Inspector Ravi Rao and Krishnamohan Reddy. Following the judgment, Nandyal District Superintendent of Police and Dhone Deputy Superintendent of Police commended the investigating officers, prosecutors, and court coordination staff whose meticulous teamwork ensured a conviction and life sentence for the perpetrators of the gravity crime.

Collector orders strict compliance with SEC guidelines for ULB polls

NANDYAL: Nandyal District Collector G. Raja Kumari has directed officials to make robust, foolproof advance arrangements to conduct elections across municipalities and nagar panchayats in a smooth, transparent, and efficient manner. Addressing election officers and additional election officers during an orientation training programme held at the PGRS Hall in the Collectorate on Thursday, the Collector stressed that strict compliance with State Election Commission (SEC) guidelines is mandatory. She stated that every officer assigned to election duties must acquire a thorough operational understanding of statutory rules, procedural stages, duty allocations, and record maintenance. Highlighting advance planning as essential to eliminate



errors and administrative delay, Raja Kumari called for seamless inter-departmental coordination and real-time information exchange. Describing elections as the cornerstone of democratic governance, she emphasized that absolute transparency, political impartiality, and institutional discipline must be maintained at every stage of the electoral process.