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Negligence During Municipal Polls: SEC warns officials of suspension, transfers

Amaravati: State Election Commissioner Anil Chandra Punetha on Saturday warned that officials found negligent in maintaining law and order or managing the nomination process for municipal elections would face disciplinary action, including suspension or transfer. In view of multiple reports of clashes and alleged attacks during nominations at several places, the State Election Commission (SEC) has stepped up security measures and directed district authorities to prevent further disturbances and ensure that the elections are conducted peacefully, transparently, and impartially. Learn Hindi Addressing a press conference at the SEC office, Punetha said Collectors, Police Commissioners, Superintendents of Police, Municipal Commissioners and election officials had been instructed to take proactive measures to prevent violations and maintain law and order. On receipt of information about disturbances, the concerned collectors, SPs and police commissioners were alerted immediately to bring the situation under control. The Election Commissioner directed officials to ensure adequate security at nomination centres, enforce election rules strictly, and install CCTV cameras for continuous surveillance. Video coverage and compliance with the High Court's directives were also emphasised. The SEC clarified that only the candidate



and three permitted individuals would be allowed inside nomination centres, in accordance with the prescribed rules. Any violation would invite stringent legal action. Punetha said negligence or laxity on the part of officials would not be tolerated and stressed that all departments must work in coordination to provide a level playing field to candidates and enable voters to exercise their franchise freely. IG B Rajakumari, deputed to the SEC office, said comprehensive police security arrangements had been made across all districts in accordance with the directions of DGP Harish Kumar Gupta. The police have identified certain areas and are deploying additional security at polling stations categorised as “critical”, “hyper-sensitive” and “sensitive”. Special arrangements, including CCTV surveillance, video recording, and adequate police deployment, have been made at nomination centres.

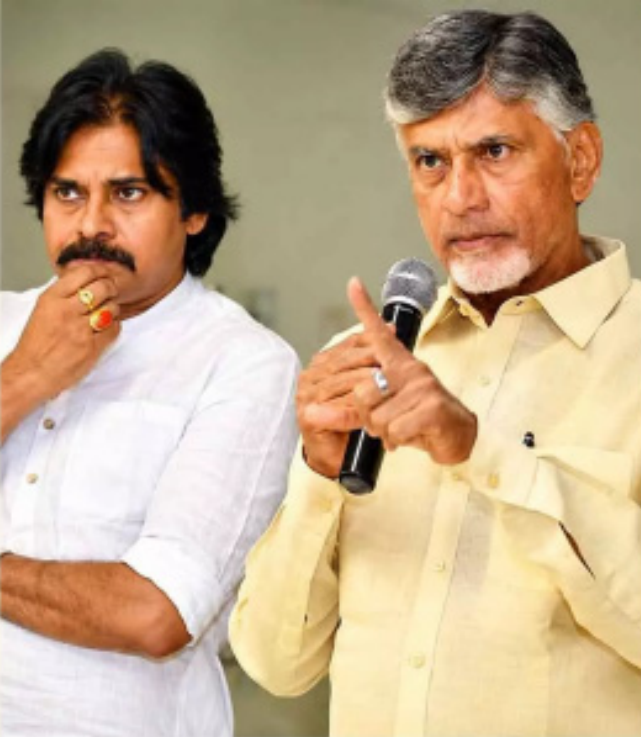
TDP names Guntur and Ongole candidates in 3rd list

Amaravati: TDP president and Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu released the party's third list of 12 candidates for the upcoming municipal elections, finalising nominees for two mayoral posts and 10 municipal chairperson positions. Kovelamudi Lakshmi Aparna has been named the TDP's mayoral candidate for the Guntur Municipal Corporation, while Nallamilli Sri Shilpa will contest for the mayor's post in the Ongole Municipal Corporation. With the latest announcement, the TDP has named candidates for 10 mayoral positions in Visakhapatnam, Kadapa, Kurnool, Nellore, Tirupati,



Vizianagaram, Chittoor, Machilipatnam, Guntur and Ongole. The party has also finalised candidates for 60 municipal chairperson posts, completing its selection of nominees for the key leadership positions in the urban local bodies.

Local Body Polls: TDP, Jana Sena announce candidates as contest gathers pace



Amaravati: The ruling NDA partners have stepped up preparations for the urban local body elections, with the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) releasing its second list of candidates on Saturday, taking its announced tally to 58, while Jana Sena unveiled its first list covering two municipal corporations and 12 municipalities. The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) also announced its second list, intensifying the contest over key mayoral and municipal chairperson posts. Chief Minister and TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu placed considerable emphasis on social representation, women and younger candidates while finalising the party's nominees. Across its two lists, the TDP has fielded 37 women among 58 candidates. As many as 38 candidates belong to BC, SC, ST and minority communities, according to the party's figures. The list includes 22 BC, eight SC, seven minority and one ST candidate, while 20 candidates belong to the open category. The first list covered seven municipal corporations, 26 municipalities and three nagar panchayats. The party named Dr. Mukka Sravani for Visakhapatnam, Avanapu Bhargavi for Vizianagaram, Polaboyina Roop Kumar for Nellore, Mannem Srinivasa Prasad for Tirupati, Katari Hemalatha for Chittoor, Dr. Nellaturi

Suvarna for Kadapa and Vijaya Pratyusha for Kurnool mayoral posts. The second list comprises 22 candidates, including Shaik Abdul Abida for Machilipatnam mayor and 21 nominees for municipal chairperson posts. Eighteen of the 22 candidates are women, while 16 belong to BC, SC or minority communities. Five Muslim candidates feature in the list, four of them women. The TDP has highlighted educational qualifications and youth representation, with 34 candidates across both lists holding graduate or higher qualifications and 18 aged below 40. Meanwhile, Jana Sena president Pawan Kalyan approved the party's first list, naming Vangaveeti Radhakrishna for Vijayawada mayor and Reddappa Naidu for Eluru mayor. Its municipal nominees include Nalla Sridhar for Amalapuram, Thota Raja Rajeshwari for Chilakaluripet, Kothapalli Shailaja for Narasapuram, Dr. Beera Vijay Shekhar for Pithapuram and Thotakura Venkata Ramana Rao for Tenali, among others. The YSRCP's second list includes candidates for 13 urban local bodies. Its nominees include Rayana Bhagya Lakshmi for Vijayawada, Tadikonda Aivelu Venkata Naga Padma Sridevi for Guntur, Yecham Vasu Deva Yadav for Tirupati and Uthakalla Suseela for Kurnool.

Tensions rise amid TDP-YSRCP showdown in AP local polls

Amaravati: The nomination process for the urban local body (ULB) elections, which opened amid sporadic violence on Friday, deteriorated on Saturday with intensified violence; resulting in the police firing six rounds in the air at Pulivendula, clashes across Kadapa district, fresh unrest in Rayachoti, and allegations of nomination papers being torn and candidates being prevented from filing their papers. The incidents reflect the no-holds-barred confrontation between TDP and YSRCP, turning the nomination phase into a test of election security and the administration's neutrality. Pulivendula, the home constituency of YSRCP president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, witnessed stone-pelting between the two parties' cadres near the municipal nomination centre. Police resorted to a lathi-charge, burst tear gas shells and opened six rounds of firing in the air to disperse the groups. Kadapa MP Y S Avinash Reddy alleged that the police

had initially assured YSRCP candidates they could file nominations after 1 p.m., but turned them away when they arrived. Police said TDP candidates were already inside and asked the YSRCP group to wait. After tensions escalated, the district SP directed Avinash Reddy to leave, warning that he would be arrested if he refused. The MP subsequently asked his supporters to disperse. The son of a former YSRCP deputy mayor was also reportedly stabbed, with the party alleging an attempted attack by TDP workers. Violence spread to Rajampet, where TDP activists allegedly attacked the residence of YSRCP MLA Akepati Amarnath Reddy, damaging windowpanes, a car, and furniture. Clashes followed near the municipal office, where YSRCP alleged that TDP workers blocked candidates, tore nomination papers, and assaulted chairperson candidate Nadigadda Reshma and her father as they left after filing



her nomination. Police took YSRCP district president Ravindranath Reddy and Kadapa constituency in-charge Amjad Basha into custody amid the unrest. Several opposition leaders in sensitive areas were also served notices or placed under house arrest. Rayachoti remained tense following Friday's arson, in which five vehicles were gutted and 15 cars damaged.

‘Outsiders’ detained On Saturday, police detained YSRCP supporters, people from Karnataka and alleged bouncers after a confrontation near a lodge on Madanapalle Road. Police reportedly seized weapons. In a separate development, four men described as belonging to a Punjab-based gang, were arrested with a revolver, a pistol, and 30 rounds of ammunition.

KING
DAILY NEWSPAPER
Time to restore
statehood to J & K

Presently, the central government is facing numerous challenges. The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) is attempting to oust Gyaneshwar Kumar from leadership! Internationally, there are no troublesome situations that push India into more isolation, but one can say the current developments are certainly not as smooth as before at home. The NDA coalition is facing a tough challenge, as the INDIA coalition, under Rahul Gandhi, is cobbling together small parties for a grand effort inside Parliament and beyond. Yet the results do not match their tagline ‘Bharat Jitega’. Still, the alliances across the country are rising in the streets to push Gyaneshwar Kumar to resign. Delhi is watching closely! In such circumstances, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a strong leader, faces the pressing need to tidy up the house after nearly a decade. There is a renewed push from the leaders within J&K, to grant statehood, and they are bringing up another challenge. On September 28, the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly not only approved the resolution to restore statehood for their state but also sent it to the Centre as a demand, creating yet another intricate problem for the NDA government to deal with. Politicians, the media, and observers are keenly watching this development. Opposition parties are making strenuous efforts to shape this issue to their advantage.

Seven years have passed since Jammu and Kashmir became a Union Territory. Previously, the state of J&K was divided into two union territories and its special constitutional status, dating back 70 years, was stripped in 2019 to convert it into a UT. The Centre has said that by taking three steps it would restore statehood. Delimitation, elections, and the status of the state were clarified as part of that process. On this occasion, the proposal to restore statehood was supported by the two ruling parties with alliance ties—J&K National Conference (JKNC) and INC—CM, the Communist Party of India (Marxist), and by opposition parties, including the People’s Democratic Party, J&K People’s Conference, Aam Aadmi Party, and Awami Ittehad Party. Access Services Out of the 90 members in the Assembly, 29 members belonging to the BJP opposed it. The Supreme Court also expressed an opinion that statehood should be restored at the earliest. Modi also gave assurances that this would happen at the right time. However, those who strongly advocate democracy feel that the Centre is delaying the restoration of statehood. There is a view that the Centre shouldn’t have removed statehood, and that such a step has never occurred in the past; it would be better if the democratic-led Centre did not contemplate such an action and instead proceeded without undermining democracy. In truth, the 2024 elections were very peaceful for the J&K leadership. After years of violent unrest and attacks, and the days when Kashmir was seen as a burning tinderbox, the elections saw an unprecedented turnout rate of 63.88 per cent, with voters resisting boycotting calls, signalling that our future India is indivisible. In such circumstances, there is a strong need, as promised by the Prime Minister, to restore statehood. Omar Abdullah and Farook Abdullah are among the first to firmly believe that their party’s future is linked with India.

MP questions police intent after being asked
for identity proof at nomination center

Tirupati: Tensions escalated in Tirupati on Saturday as YSRCP MP Dr Maddila Gurumurthy launched a sharp attack on the police department, alleging severe security lapses and bias during the local body election nomination filing process at the Municipal Corporation office. MP Gurumurthy, accompanied by YSRCP MLC Cipai Subramanyam, arrived at the venue to submit nomination papers on behalf of the party’s mayoral candidate, Vasu Yadav. However, the leaders were reportedly blocked by a large crowd of TDP workers and leaders who had gathered at the nomination center. Expressing deep anguish, Dr Gurumurthy alleged that the police failed in their fundamental duty by remaining silent spectators while opposition workers obstructed public representatives. He stated that TDP activists forcibly snatched the nomination papers right as he was presenting them to police officials. The MP also questioned the rationale of law enforcement officers who insisted that he show his government identification and prove his authorization to file nominations. Terming the incident a direct assault on democratic norms, Dr Gurumurthy emphasized that preventing elected representatives from participating in the electoral process undermines democratic principles. He alleged that



the police force was functioning under ruling party pressure rather than acting independently. Demanding immediate intervention from election authorities, the MP urged officials to guarantee a safe, level playing field for all political parties and instruct the police to maintain strict impartiality, ensuring every candidate can submit their nominations without fear or obstruction.

Candidates told to adhere to expenditure limits

Guntur: District collector and district election officer CM Sai Kanth Varma said that the State Election Commission has prescribed expenditure limits for candidates contesting urban local body elections. Mayoral candidates can spend up to Rs 25 lakh, municipal corporation ward member candidates up to Rs 10 lakh, municipal chairperson candidates up to Rs 20 lakh and municipality ward member candidates up to Rs 7.50 lakh. He said candidates must strictly adhere to the prescribed expenditure limits. He reviewed election arrangements with the

concerned nodal officers at the Collectorate here on Friday and directed officials to ensure strict implementation of the Model Code of Conduct. He made it clear that violations of the election code would not be tolerated. He instructed expenditure monitoring committees, static surveillance teams, video viewing teams and Model Code of Conduct teams to conduct inspections round the clock. He directed the concerned nodal officers to submit reports regularly and ensure effective monitoring of election-related activities. GMC commissioner K Mayur Ashok,



joint collector Ashutosh Srivastava, district revenue officer NSK Khajavali, Guntur RDO K Srinivasa Rao, ZP CEO V Jyothi Basu, District Panchayat Officer BV Naga Sai Kumar, were present.

Eight file nominations

Guntur: A total of eight nominations were filed for the Guntur Municipal Corporation elections on the first day of filing nominations on Friday. Out of these, six nominations were filed by Telugu Desam Party candidates and two by independent candidates. GMC commissioner and Additional Election Authority K Mayur Ashok said the nominations would be scrutinised on October 19. After that the final list of candidates would be announced. Meanwhile, the GMC has made elaborate arrangements at returning officers’ offices for the convenience of the candidates filing nominations. Mayur Ashok on Friday inspected the returning officers’ office and enquired about facilities. He said the police department has made necessary security arrangements at the returning officers’ offices in Guntur city. He further said that the GMC has taken all steps to conduct elections peacefully.



Collector inspects municipal
nomination centres in Gooty

(Anantapur District): District Collector and District Election Officer O Anand stated that nomination process for municipal elections in the district is proceeding smoothly, adding that comprehensive arrangements have been made throughout the district to ensure the process continues without any untoward incidents or law-and-order concerns. On Friday, he inspected the nomination process for municipal elections at Gooty municipal office, strong rooms and counting centers set up at Zilla Parishad Girls’ High School. He interacted with the staff assigned to election duties and inquired about several aspects, including whether they had received training for election duties, if they understood the procedures, documentation required for collection, proper recording of information, materials to be provided to candidates, their prior experience with election duties etc. The Collector instructed officials to thoroughly read the guidelines provided in the handbook and to ensure a clear understanding of all procedures. Emphasising that no untoward incidents or disputes should occur during nomination process, Collector Anand directed that a public address system (microphone) be used on the final day of nominations to announce remaining time, and that a close watch be maintained to prevent any complications. Speaking on the



occasion, Collector Anand said that nominations will be accepted daily between 11 am and 3 pm over a three-day period. There were no issues reported anywhere in the district regarding nomination process, he added. Directives have been given to ensure that caste and income certificates are issued to applicants as quickly as possible, ideally within 24 hours.

Nominations acceptance
till 18th: Collector Vetriselvi

Eluru, October, 17: District Collector and District Election Officer K. Vetriselvi said that nominations will be accepted till 18th of this month in connection with elections to Eluru Municipal Corporation, Nuzvidu, Jangareddigudem Municipalities in Eluru district. She said nominations will be scrutinized on 19th, deadline for withdrawal of nominations will be till 21st, and final list will be released on evening of same day. Collector Vetriselvi informed that elections will be held on 28th of this month, vote counting program on 30th, and results will be declared on same day. Collector informed that foolproof security arrangements have been made for local body



elections, additional security personnel have been deployed for security in problematic, highly problematic polling centres. She said training has been imparted to staff participating in election duties in all aspects.

KEESARA POLICE STATION INSPECTOR IN ACB NET

AMEER HUSSAIN CRIME BEURO CHIEF : Case of Disproportionate Assets registered against Inspector of Police, Keesara Police Station, Medchal-Malkaajgiri Police Commissionerate““A case of Disproportionate Assets to the known sources of income was registered by City Range-1 against Sri Arkapally Anjaneyulu, Inspector of Police, Keesara Police Station, Medchal Malkaajgiri Police Commissionerate as he has acquired assets by indulging in corrupt practices and dubious means during his service. As this is an offence punishable under Section 13(1)(b) r/w 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018), preliminary searches were conducted at his house, office, and 4 other places belonging to his relatives, associates, and benamidars.““During the searches, several property documents were found viz., (1) Two plots of 150 Square yards each with old house at Lingojiguda, Saroor Nagar valued at Rs. 30,00,000/- (2) one old house admeasuring 240 Sq. Yards at CR Enclave, Mansoorabad, LB Nagar, valued at Rs. 40,00,000/-; (3) One under construction house admeasuring 180 Sq. Yards situated at Perur village, valued at Rs. 50,00,000/-, (4) Two acres of Agricultural land at Haliya, Miryalguda valued at 80,00,000/-.

Further enquiries revealed that the AO had acquired some more agricultural lands at Haliya, Miryalguda. The market value of the above properties is expected to be much higher than the official value.““approx Furthermore, found cash of Rs.7,00,000/- (5) Gold ornaments weighing 60 Tulas, valued at approximately Rs.5,00,000/- (6) One Maruti Vitara Brezza Zdi+ Bziv Car valued at approximately Rs.6,50,000/-; and (7) household articles and electronic gadgets valued at Rs. 10,00,000/- were found during the searches. Further verification regarding additional assets is underway. The case is under investigation.““Earlier, on 16.09.2026 the AO, while working as Inspector of Police, Keesara Police Station, Malkajgiri Police Commissionerate was caught red handed when he demanded



Rs.8 lakhs and accepted Rs.5 lakhs through his sub ordinate, Sri D.Gyanender Reddy, SI, Keesara for doing an official favour. In this case, the AO was arrested on 17.09.2026, and produced before the Hon'ble ACB Court and presently he is lodged in Chanchalguda Central Prison. In the present case Sri Arkapally Anjaneyulu will be produced before the Court on PT Warrant. The grand total assets of the AO are estimated at Rs.2,28,50,000/-, (Rupees Two Crore Twenty Eight lakhs and Fifty thousand only).““CELL PHONE NUMBER-1064 (TOLL FREE NUMBER); In case of demand of bribe by any Public Servant, the public are requested to contact Toll Free Number of ACB i.e., 1064 for taking action as per Law. ACB Telangana can also be contacted through social media platforms whatsapp (9440446106), facebook (Telangana ACB), X/formerly twitter (@Telangana ACB). The QR Code of ACB is displayed in all Government offices and prominent public to contact ACB, Telangana. The name and details of the victim/complainant will be kept secret.

P.R.O. Anti-Corruption Bureau, TG., Hyderabad.

National SARAS Mela records Rs 2 cr in sales



Vijayawada: National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) additional director Sudhir Kumar said the National SARAS Ajeevika Mela, being organised for the first time in Vijayawada, had been attracting huge crowds and providing a national marketing platform for products made by women self-help group (SHG) members from across the country. He said the exhibition had recorded sales of around Rs.2 crore so far, with daily footfall ranging from 40,000 to 50,000 visitors. Addressing a press conference at the SARAS Mela venue at Punnami Ghat on Saturday, Sudhir Kumar said the event, organised by the Union Ministry of Rural Development with the support of the Andhra Pradesh State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SERP), aimed to promote women entrepreneurs and provide wider market access to products made by rural SHGs. Buy Maps Around 1,500 women entrepreneurs representing 32 States and Union Territories are participating in the exhibition, which features nearly 600 stalls showcasing handlooms, handicrafts and natural food products. A dedicated food court with 50 live food stalls offers visitors an opportunity to sample traditional cuisines from different parts of the country. He said the mela was more than an exhibition, serving as a platform for rural women to improve product quality,

expand their businesses and access wider markets. The Welcome Pavilion near Gate No. 2 houses a help desk, registration counter and lost-and-found centre, while the Convergence Pavilion showcases government schemes and creates awareness among SHG members about available benefits and business opportunities. The Meet and Greet Pavilion conducts daily training sessions with NIRDPR and national-level experts on branding, packaging, export marketing and value-chain management to help women entrepreneurs reach wider markets. The Lakshpati Didi Pavilion highlights the achievements and success stories of women entrepreneurs, while the Demonstration Pavilion allows visitors to watch artisans making their products. SERP administrative director Kalyana Chakravarthy said the mela was receiving an encouraging response during the Dasara festive season. He said the 600 stalls had been allotted free of cost to women SHG members and artisans, while travel, food and accommodation were also being provided free of charge to participating representatives from across the country. Describing the exhibition as a ‘Mini India’, he said the display of regional handlooms, handicrafts, natural food products and traditional cuisines brought the country’s cultural diversity under one roof.

Mahalakshmi avatar draws massive crowds to Indrakeeladri

Vijayawada: The arrival of Bhavani devotees, coupled with the darshan of Goddess Sri Kanaka Durga Devi in the Sri Mahalakshmi Devi Alankaram, led to a significant increase in the rush at Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada on Saturday, the seventh day of the Dasara Saranna varatri festivities. Around one lakh devotees thronged the hill shrine to have darshan of the presiding deity, who is worshipped as the bestower of wealth, prosperity, fortune and happiness. Queue lines extending from the Vinayaka Temple and Kummariapalem Centre were packed with devotees, with the long queues turning red as large numbers of Bhavani devotees thronged Indrakeeladri. The rush continued to swell, resulting in a waiting time of more than two hours for darshan. The temple premises reverberated with devotional chants of “Jai Durga Bhavani” and “Jai Jai Mahalakshmi” as devotees arrived in large numbers from different parts of the state and neighbouring regions. Bhavani devotees, in particular, added to the growing influx, creating a spiritually charged atmosphere on the hill. Goddess Mahalakshmi, seeking prosperity, good health and happiness for their families, abundant harvests for farmers and success in business. The Goddess is revered not only as the bestower of material wealth but also as the source of

courage, wisdom, well-being and auspiciousness. With the increasing number of devotees, temple authorities and the district administration coordinated arrangements to regulate the queues and provide essential facilities. Officials monitored the movement of devotees to ensure smooth darshan and minimise inconvenience. Volunteers distributed drinking water and buttermilk to devotees waiting in queues. Helping Hands volunteers continued distributing milk to devotees arriving through the ghat road, a service being provided since the first day of the festivities. Red Cross and National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers assisted devotees, while medical teams provided first aid. Ambulances were kept ready to meet emergencies. Special battery-operated vehicles were arranged for elderly and differently-abled devotees to facilitate their movement and enable them to have darshan without undue difficulty. Temple Executive Officer VK Seena Naik instructed officials to ensure that special assistance was provided to these devotees. Dr G Lakshmisha coordinated the services of various departments, while Police Commissioner SV Rajasekhar Babu supervised security, crowd regulation and traffic management. Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner HM Dhyanaachandra oversaw sanitation



and the maintenance of the temple surroundings. Andhra Pradesh High Court judge Justice Yedavalli Lakshmana Rao visited the hill shrine with his family on Saturday and offered prayers to Goddess Kanaka Durga. Temple officials welcomed him, and priests later bestowed Vedic blessings and presented prasadam to the judge and his family. Vijayawada West MLA Yalamanchili Satyanarayana Chowdary (Sujana Chowdary) also visited the temple and performed special pujas to the presiding deity, Goddess Durga Devi. Buy Maps As part of the Dasara Sarannavaratri festivities, Goddess Sri Kanaka Durga Devi will bless devotees in the Sri Durga Devi Alankaram on Sunday (October 18), on the auspicious

occasion of Ashwayuja Suddha Ashtami, also known as Durgashtami or Mahashtami, at the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri. In this powerful form, the Goddess is worshipped as the vanquisher of the demon Durgamasura and the remover of all miseries. Revered as “Durge Durgati Nashini”, she symbolises divine protection, courage and the triumph of good over evil. Devotees offer prayers to the Goddess seeking relief from hardships and fears, protection from evil forces and blessings to lead their lives on the path of righteousness. Durgashtami holds special spiritual significance during the Navaratri celebrations, drawing devotees to the hill shrine to seek the blessings of the divine mother.

NDA seat-sharing sparks rebellion as TDP, JSP clash over poll tickets

Amaravati: The NDA’s seat-sharing exercise for the urban local body elections is opening fissures within the ruling alliance, with disputes between the TDP and Jana Sena over candidate selection, competing claims to key posts and the threat of rebel nominations threatening to complicate the contest. With the nomination deadline approaching, alliance leaders are struggling to reconcile local political ambitions with the seat-sharing formula agreed upon by the partners. The strains are visible elsewhere. In Vizianagaram, Jana Sena leader G Radhika has filed her nomination as a rebel candidate for mayor. Jana Sena leader Gurrana Ayyalu has accused the alliance partners of failing to honour the spirit of the coalition and disregarding his party’s interests. In Salur, the selection of G Vijaya Kumari as the Jana Sena candidate has angered sections of the party, who object to a ticket being given to a recent entrant from the YSRCP instead of a loyal party worker. The dispute has been compounded by the chairperson’s post being reserved for a BC woman. TDP leader Harshavardhan’s reported plans to contest were affected by the reservation, while the subsequent allocation of the seat to Jana Sena further unsettled local aspirants. Also Read Local Body Polls: TDP, Jana Sena announce

candidates as contest gathers pace Advertisement Agriculture minister Atchannaidu reportedly approached Jana Sena MLC Nagababu to seek a reconsideration of the allocation, proposing that Salur be given to the TDP in exchange for another municipality. The proposal was not accepted at that stage. Buy Maps Parvathipuram has become another point of negotiation following the reservation of its chairperson’s post for a woman in the general category. Former MLC Dwarapareddy Jagadish, who recently joined Jana Sena, is reportedly seeking the ticket for his wife, Sridevi, a former chairperson. A possible compromise involving the TDP retaining Salur and Jana Sena securing Parvathipuram is being discussed, though no final decision has been announced. In Tiruvuru, the chairperson’s post was allotted to Jana Sena, which nominated Madhavi. TDP MLA Koliki pudu Srinivasa Rao, however, is backing Naga Sravani and has publicised plans for her nomination rally, creating an open disagreement over the alliance’s official choice. It is understood that differences have emerged among the TDP, Jana Sena, and BJP regarding corporator seats in Visakhapatnam. The Jana Sena is reportedly unwilling to accept the divisions being offered by the TDP. SVizayawada has



emerged as the biggest test of the TDP-Jana Sena understanding. Although the mayoral post has been allotted to Jana Sena, negotiations over corporator divisions in the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation remain unresolved. The expansion of the corporation from 64 to 86 divisions has increased the number of available seats, but has done little to ease competition among aspirants from the three alliance partners. TDP MP Kesineni Sivanath, MLAs Bonda Uma and Gadde Rammo han, Jana Sena leaders Vangaveeti Radha and Samineni Udayabhanu, and BJP leaders have held discussions, but a final division-wise formula remains elusive. Jana Sena has reportedly sought 30 divisions- 10 in each of the three Assembly constituencies falling under the corporation. The TDP has offered 17 and is understood to be considering an increase to 20, while Jana

Sena is insisting on at least 25. Follow Politics The TDP’s reported proposal allocates seven divisions in Vijayawada East and five each in Central and West. Jana Sena is pressing for a larger share, particularly in Central and West, while the BJP is seeking 10 seats and could receive five or six. The dispute is particularly sensitive because Jana Sena has been allotted the mayoral nomination for Vangaveeti Radha despite having no elected representative in NTR district. TDP aspirants, who had hoped to secure the mayoral post, are now seeking a larger share of corporator tickets. With some aspirants already filing nominations ahead of a final agreement, both parties face the prospect of rebels entering the fray. The disputes underscore the central challenge facing the NDA: translating a seat-sharing agreement at the leadership level into acceptance on the ground.

After 7 years, over 1,200 RINL executives get promoted across grades

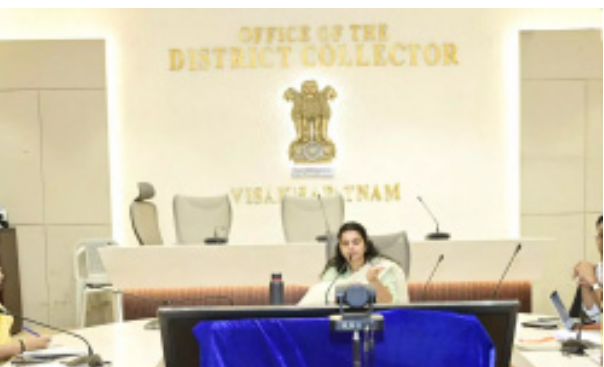
Visakhapatnam: In a major boost to the workforce, over 1,200 executives of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, have been promoted across various grades. Getting promoted after a wait of nearly seven years brought renewed enthusiasm among the executive cadre at the plant. Since 2019, there were no promotions for the RINL executives. However, this latest development marks an important milestone in the cadre’s career progression. The long-pending promotions were made possible through the proactive initiative of RINL management and the support of the Ministry of Steel. Their concerted efforts helped resolve this long-standing issue and provide a much-awaited career advancement opportunity



to the executives. The promotion process was carried out in accordance with the prescribed criteria and procedures, giving due importance to merit and eligibility. Welcoming the move, several executives expressed happiness over the development and conveyed their gratitude to the Ministry of Steel and RINL management for their concern towards their career progression.

Nominations for MPTC, ZPTC polls commence from Oct 21st

Visakhapatnam: Nominations for the MPTC and ZPTC elections will be accepted from October 21, while polling is scheduled for November 3 and vote counting on November 5, Joint Collector G. Vidyadhari informed. The joint collector reviewed election arrangements at the Collectorate on Friday and said nodal officers were appointed to ensure the elections run smoothly. Revenue Divisional Officers (RDOs) will supervise arrangements at the divisional level, while Mandal Parishad Development Officers (MPDOs) will serve as assistant authorities. A total of 203 polling stations have been set up for the purpose. The Panchayat Raj Superintending Engineer has been directed to ensure that all polling stations are equipped with required facilities. The joint collector said that the Model Code of Conduct would come



into effect immediately. In compliance with election guidelines, photographs and flexi banners of political leaders must be removed, while statues of political leaders must be covered. She informed that election materials and polling personnel were arranged and directed officials to organise training sessions for polling staff without any delay. Zilla Parishad CEO O Narayana Murthy, Deputy CEO Sandeep, RDO Dileep Chakravarthy and DEO N Prem Kumar attended the meeting

Union Bank of India to waive off processing charges

Visakhapatnam: Union Bank of India announced a complete waiver of processing charges on home and vehicle loans in view of the festive season. This special offer will remain valid until December 31. Union Bank of India appeals to eligible customers and the general public to take advantage of this benefit and avail themselves of the home and vehicle loan facilities offered by the bank. Speaking on the occasion, Simhachalam, regional head of the Visakhapatnam regional office, Union Bank of India, urged customers to make the best use of this special privilege extended by the bank during the festive season. The bank advises interested individuals to contact their nearest Union Bank of India branch for further details.



‘Flavours of Vizag-Star Chef Challenge 2026’ bring out distinct coastal cuisine

Visakhapatnam: ‘Pedda meesala royyala kothimeera vepudu’ served by Dolphin Hotel, ‘Pandumirchi royyala vepudu’ by Daspalla Hotel and ‘Jalaripeta miriyala pithala pidupu’ by Best Western Plus Tej Vivaan stood out as the top three traditional seafood starters, respectively, in the best traditional seafood starters category at the second edition of ‘Flavours of Vizag – Star Chef Challenge 2026.’ Organised by the Hotels and Restaurants Association of Andhra Pradesh (HRAAP), in association with the Andhra Pradesh Star Hotels Association (ASHA) and the Chefs Association of Telangana and Andhra (CATA), the competition took place at the Sun International Institute of Tourism and Management, Beach Campus, on Friday. Chefs from 16 star hotels showcased Visakhapatnam’s and Andhra Pradesh’s rich culinary heritage through traditional seafood preparations. In the best traditional seafood main course category, ‘Chanduva Chapa with Andhra Podi Annam’ by Sun Ray Resorts, Bhogapuram won the top prize, ‘Ammaama kobbari royyala kura, samalu pulav’ by



Green Park Hotel bagged the first runner-up and ‘Bheemunipatnam royyala iguru’ by SVN Lake Palace secured the second runner-up. Also Read Star Chef Challenge 2026 in city today Advertisement Discover more News Subscription Service Telangana News Updates Andhra Pradesh News The programme aimed to promote Visakhapatnam as a leading seafood tourism destination by highlighting its coastal cuisine, local seafood varieties and traditional cooking techniques.

‘I will forever be a fan’: Rashmika lauds Vijay Deverakonda’s work



Mumbai: Actress Rashmika Mandanna said she had been, and would forever remain, a fan of her husband Vijay Deverakonda’s work following the release of their period drama, ‘Ranabaali’. Rashmika, who essays the role of Jayamma in the film, said her character taught her what it truly means to be a woman. Expressing her joy over the love the film has received, she wrote on social media, “Jayamma!! A woman whose love is so pure!! She spoke to me about what being a woman is truly about. Standing up for her people, protecting her people, loving her people with all she has (sic).” “There is so much love pouring in for Ranabaali and Jayamma, and I feel so overwhelmed and happy. The film speaks about the strength we have as a community, our belief in God, our strength to celebrate the little things even in the darkest of times, and how we all stand as one when someone from outside tries to in-

tervene. We don’t just stand and watch — we fight, and that’s what Ranabaali is about! We all fight together for the same cause!” the ‘Animal’ actress added. Praising Vijay, Rashmika wrote, “@theverakonda — I told you and I keep telling you that I am a fan and I will forever be a fan of your work. Today, seeing everyone appreciate you and your hard work (which you always put in), and seeing your work being appreciated, brings me a great sense of joy, peace and happiness. My heart is happy, happy for you!” The ‘Pushpa’ actress also described director Rahul Sankrityan as “one of the most BEAUTIFUL storytellers we have in our country today”. “I really hope his storytelling is always and always protected, and I truly am glad he’s seeing all of his hard work being appreciated by you loveliest people,” she added. She also thanked everyone who helped bring ‘Ranabaali’ to the screen.

Rajinikanth pays tribute to music director Deva, calls him ‘a person of pure gold’

Chennai: Tamil Superstar Rajinikanth on Saturday paid glowing tributes to late music director Deva, saying that he was a man without lies or deceit and that he was “a person of pure gold”. Rajinikanth, who visited the residence of the late music director to pay homage to Deva, put out a video clip soon after in which he paid rich tribute to the much liked music director. In his video, Rajinikanth said, “The sudden demise of my dear friend, music director Deva, is both shocking and sorrowful. He has scored music for three of my films — ‘Annamalai’, ‘Baasha’ and ‘Arunachalam’. All three films were very big successes.” Rajinikanth then went on to say, “When my friends insisted on opting for A R Rahman while making ‘Padaiyappa’, I went to Deva and told him that I was opting for A R Rahman, he stood up, held my hand and said, ‘Please, by all means, do so.’ I told Deva that I did not want him to mistake me. He replied, ‘I am saying this with happiness, please go ahead. That boy (A R Rahman) is coming up well. Please do well. I am very happy. It is my good fortune that I have done three films with you.’” Citing this instance, Rajinikanth said, “Deva was a person of pure gold who was without lies or deceit. He has struggled a lot in life. He had four younger brothers and used to perform in concerts and at weddings to take care of them. Even after he became a star in the film industry, he did not let go of his brothers and kept them with himself. He was such a wonderful family man and a good human being.” The Superstar observed,



“Even when Ilaiyaraaja was ruling the roost, Deva created a style for himself and succeeded big time.” Recalling that when Deva visited him two-and-a-half years ago, he had said, “Everyone is doing concerts. I too would like to do concerts. You must come and inaugurate my concert,” Rajinikanth recalled, “I very happily went and participated in that event.” “Deva then did concerts abroad and was very successful. He came after going on a tour to meet me. Three months ago, he came after going to either Canada or Australia and said, ‘I am very happy. Youngsters are welcoming me so happily. I am feeling so happy Rajini sir. With this happiness, I will live for another 10 to 15 years,’” Rajinikanth recalled. The actor said, “Maybe God thought Deva was a very nice person and that he should come to him when he was happy itself and therefore called Deva to him. May his soul rest in peace. My deepest condolences to his family members.” For the unaware, Chennai, well known Tamil music director Deva, who has scored music for over 400 films in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada, passed away at a private hospital here on Saturday.

Naga Vamsi Once Again Confirms Adarsha Kutumbam Release Date



Tollywood’s much-awaited movie Adarsha Kutumbam was scheduled to hit the theatres on 9th October on the occasion of Dussehra festival. But the makers had to postpone the release date due to the delay in the post-production works. But they missed a golden chance to capitalize the long holiday season. Of late, Tollywood’s ace producer Naga Vamsi who is also distributing Rajinikanth’s Jailer 2 in the Telugu states once again spilled beans on Adarsha Kutumbam release date by doling out, “Last time our journalists mentioned one date (October 30). The movie is arriving on that date only. I don’t want to announce it myself after all the fuss.” He also stated that Jailer 2 is doing better than the prequel and heaped praises on the movie team. He also confirmed Junior NTR and Nelson Dilipkumar’s movie but stated that it will take time as Tarak is busy with Dragon and then he needs to move with Trivikram’s God Of War. Well, the makers already unveiled the teaser of Adarsha Kutumbam and introduced the main characters of this movie.

Going by the teaser, Venky is seen vexed by his daily household chores as Chitti Babu. The makers highlighted his son Sarva’s poor academic performance and his wife Swarna’s habit of lending money. Amid all this chaos, Chitti Babu completes all the household work but always reaches the office late. On the other hand, his problems get doubled up when he loses his job.

However, his fate takes a turn when he suddenly becomes rich. Although Venky’s family appears happy in their new bungalow, the makers also offer a glimpse of a mysterious death and Venky’s involvement in it. On the whole, the film might appear to be a comedy-drama, but the death mystery adds thriller elements to the story. Chitti Babu family’s unique, Gen Z-inspired characterizations in the movie are expected to generate the fun. Even Nara Rohith is essaying a prominent role in this family drama. This Trivikram directorial is being produced by S Radha Krishna under the Haarika & Hassine Creations banner.

Rashmika Mandanna Pours Her Heart Out for Ranabaali and Jayamma

It is well known that Tollywood’s cute couple Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna’s most-awaited movie Ranabaali released yesterday and is running successfully in the theatres with positive word of mouth. Well, the movie minted more than Rs 15 crores on day one. Being long Dussehra holiday season, the makers are expecting it to cross Rs 50 crores by this weekend. On the other hand, Rashmika Mandanna who essayed the role of Jayamma in this movie is all happy with her screen presence and also penned a heartfelt note on social media showing off her gratitude towards the director and the whole team of Ranabaali. This post reads, “Jayamma !! A woman whose love is so pure!! She spoke to me about what being a woman is truly about. Standing up for her people, protecting her people loving her people with all she has. There is so much love pouring in for Ranabaali and Jayamma, and I feel so overwhelmed and happy. The film speaks about the strength we have as a community, our belief in God, our strength to celebrate the little things even in the darkest of times, and how we all stand as one when someone from outside tries to intervene.. we don’t just stand and watch - we fight, and that’s what Ranabaali is about! We all fighting together for the same cause! Watching Ranabaali is an experience that shouldn’t be missed in the theatres.. I don’t say this cz it’s my film.. but I say this because when there is a good film that’s made.. it’s important that it should be experienced fully! @rahulsankrityan is one of the most BEAUTIFUL storytellers we have in our



country today and I really hope his storytelling is always and always protected.. and I truly am glad he’s seeing all of his hard work being appreciated by you loveliest people.. @theverakonda - I told you and I keep telling you that I am a fan and I will forever be a fan of your work.. today seeing everyone appreciate you and your hard work (which you always do) and your work brings me one great sense of joy and peace and happiness.. my heart is happy happy for you! The whole team has come together so beautifully to complete this film together!! Thankyou to each and every one of you who’s made this film what it is today! And to everyone who’s already watched the film - biggestttt bone-crushing hugs to you! THANK YOU!!! Seeing you all love the film and love Jayamma means more to me than I can explain in words!! I hope Ranabaali stays with you long after you leave the theatres!

Dan Evans backs Emma Raducanu to win Wimbledon one day

New Delhi: Former British tennis star Dan Evans has claimed that compatriot Emma Raducanu will “some day” win the prestigious Wimbledon title. Raducanu, 23, won her maiden Grand Slam in 2021 when she cruised to the US Open title as a qualifier. Injuries have hampered her career as she has now slipped outside the Top 100 in the world ranking after giving the SW19 and Flushing Meadows a miss due to a stress fracture in her right leg. However, Evans feels that she will some day get her hands on the Wimbledon title. “She’s good, and I think – I’m saying this in as nice a way as possible – I think she thinks she’s good,” Evans, who retired at Wimbledon 2026, told The Telegraph. “Not in an arrogant way, but when she plays big matches, she’s like ‘Whatever. This is just another match.’ And yeah, I just think one day she’ll get it.” Apart from injuries, Raducanu has also faced commitment questions; however, Evans believes that the 2021 US Open winner is putting in the hard yards for her goals. “There’s no doubt she needs to have a racket in her hand a bit more,” he said. “I’m sure she’s getting pushed side-to-side by endorsements, and there’s a bit of tug of war on what she needs to do, what she doesn’t. “I admit I’ve not watched her practices very often, but from what I’m told she’s a good trainer: she works for two, three hours in a row with hardly any break.” Meanwhile, he also spoke on his low-key retirement at the SW19, where



he was denied a wildcard for the singles and played his last doubles match on Court 15, and not on the main court. He hit out at Leon Smith, Great Britain’s Davis Cup captain and the head of men’s tennis for the Lawn Tennis Association, for not allowing him to play as a wildcard in the events. “My gripe is that there’s no connection made between what people have done for British tennis, by playing in the Davis Cup, and the wildcards,” Evans added. “Because the amount of times I probably didn’t want to play Davis Cup, but I did it... and then I couldn’t get a wild card into the Ilkley Challenger. “I just think it’s a lack of respect, but that’s what you come to expect from the Davis Cup captain. Once he doesn’t need you, that’s what you get, isn’t it? So, you know, he won’t be on my Christmas cards this year, and he didn’t respond to my message I sent him after (retirement),” he added.

‘A different kind of pride’: Niki Prasad on scoring winning runs for India

New Delhi: India debutant Niki Prasad said scoring the winning runs in her first international match was a special feeling, as she and Deepti Sharma rescued the hosts from a dramatic top-order collapse to secure a four-wicket victory over Zimbabwe in the opening women’s T20I. India were reeling at 19/4 while chasing a target of 115 at the



Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium on Friday. However, Niki remained unbeaten on 39, while Deepti scored 49, as the duo shared an 82-run partnership off 63 balls to help India seal the chase in 15.4 overs and take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. Speaking after the match, Niki said representing India for the first time and finishing the game with a winning boundary made the occasion even more special. “I think it’s a very good feeling. To go there and play the first match for India. It’s a great pride, plus it’s a different kind of pride to score the winning run,” she said in a video released by the BCCI on X. Coming in during a difficult situation, the young batter said she remained calm and focused on building a partnership rather than rushing to score runs. “I think I have been in this situation for a long time. So I was very calm inside. And I just wanted to make a partnership with a batter. So the run will be changed easily. And that was the mindset I had inside,” Niki said. The 20-year-old credited Deepti’s attacking

approach for giving her the confidence to settle into her innings. While Deepti took on the Zimbabwe bowlers, Niki concentrated on rotating the strike and ensuring the partnership continued to grow. “You (Deepti) played very well in the innings. And even after seeing you, I felt that I could also take a risk by hitting between two and three boundaries. So I think this partnership — I think you were playing aggressively and attacking. And that gave me a lot of confidence to stay there,” she added. Niki also acknowledged the role of the Women’s Premier League (WPL) and other domestic tournaments in preparing her for the demands of international cricket. “I think WPL and playing on other big platforms helped me a lot. Because I have already played in that pressure situation. And I have made all my mistakes. So coming here, I don’t feel so much pressure because of WPL and other tournaments that the BCCI does. So I think it’s a very good platform that I have got from the last 2 years,” she said.

Krunal Pandya to captain India at Hong Kong Sixes 2026 as Bhuvneshwar Kumar earns national call-up

Hong Kong: India will have a new captain at the Hong Kong Sixes 2026, with all-rounder Krunal Pandya taking charge of the seven-member squad after Bhuvneshwar Kumar received a call-up to the national team for the upcoming tour of New Zealand, beginning October 22. Gujarat Titans pacer Kulwant Khejroliya has been named as Bhuvneshwar’s replacement for the tournament, which will be held from October 30 to November 1. Krunal will lead a squad comprising Shashank Singh, Rahul Tewatia, Nitish Rana, Rahul Tripathi, T. Natarajan and Khejroliya. The lineup combines IPL experience with batting depth and all-round options suited to the fast-paced six-a-side format. Bhuvneshwar’s return to the national setup after four years marks a significant development in the experienced pacer’s career. His international recall means he will miss the Hong Kong event, prompting a change in both the squad’s composition and leadership. The senior pacer earned a recall to India’s T20I squad for the five-match series against New Zealand, marking his return to the national side after nearly four years, as the BCCI announced the Shreyas Iyer-led team earlier this month. Moreover, he was also added to India’s squad for the decisive fifth and final T20I against the West Indies, set to be played on Saturday, after Arshdeep Singh suffered a blow



during the fourth T20I in Hyderabad. Commenting on the development, Anuraag Bhatnagar, Director of Commercial and Marketing at Cricket Hong Kong, China, said, “While we will certainly miss Bhuvneshwar Kumar at the Hong Kong Sixes 2026, we are delighted to see him earn a call-up to the national team. His return to international cricket after four years is a special milestone, and we wish him every success on India’s tour of New Zealand. We look forward to welcoming him back to the Hong Kong Sixes in the future.” India squad: Krunal Pandya (c), Shashank Singh, Rahul Tewatia, Nitish Rana, Rahul Tripathi, T. Natarajan and Kulwant Khejroliya.

Niki, Deepti guide India to four-wicket win over Zimbabwe in first T20I

Raipur: Debutant Niki Prasad held her nerve to hit an unbeaten 39 while Deepti Sharma played a counter-attacking 49 as India recovered from a dramatic top-order collapse to beat Zimbabwe by four wickets in the first women’s T20I in New Delhi on Friday. After being sent in to bat first in Raipur, hosting its first women’s international cricket game, Zimbabwe reached 60/1 at the halfway mark, with Kelis Ndhlovu (42) looking particularly fluent, and aided by some sloppy Indian fielding. But India’s bowlers squeezed the scoring through the middle overs. Sree Charani returned with 1-14 from her four overs, while Nandni Sharma had Nyasha and Michelle stumped off successive balls in the final over to finish with 2-11. Sharne Mayers provided late impetus with an unbeaten 43 to lift Zimbabwe to 114/5. Chasing 115 at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium, India got home with 26 balls to spare, but were made to work far harder than expected in Smriti Mandhana’s first match as full-time captain. After the first four wickets fell quickly, Deepti and Niki shared an 82-run partnership off 63 balls for the fifth wicket to help India survive an almighty scare. The duo were adept at placing their shots through the gaps while rotating the strike well and helped the hosts take a 1-0 lead in the three-game series. Smriti began the chase with two boundaries in the opening over, but her dismissal sparked a stunning slide. Medium pacer Nyasha Gwanzura struck with her very first ball, inducing a leading edge from Mandhana’s attempted lap shot, and then had Anushka Sharma caught at point three deliveries later. Michelle Mavunga had Harmanpreet Kaur caught off a tame flick in a wicket- maiden over, while Nyasha held on to a sharp return catch to dismiss Shafali Verma in the fourth over. At 19/4, India had lost their first four wickets inside four overs for the first time in a women’s T20I. Zimbabwe, who had lost all 18 of their T20Is this year, suddenly sensed an extraordinary upset. But Deepti and debutant Niki had other ideas. Deepti,



the experienced left-hander, counter-attacked, stepping out to loft Nyasha for two boundaries in the sixth over, while Niki showed remarkable composure for a player in her first international innings. The pair took 15 runs off Olinder Chare in the 10th over and punished Michelle for three fours in the 14-run 12th over to take the game away from Zimbabwe. Deepti fell agonisingly one run short of a half-century when she swept to short fine leg off Chare. Richa Ghosh hit a six before falling to Beloved Biza, but Niki fittingly capped off the chase by driving Tendai Makusha for four to seal the win. Earlier, Zimbabwe relied almost entirely on Kelis (42) and Sharne (43 not out) for their runs, as the pair contributed 85 runs of the team’s final total, though the visitors played out 67 dot balls. Zimbabwe lost Beloved in the first over, trapped lbw by Kranti Gaud for a four-ball duck. Kelis, though, set the early tempo, cutting and driving with authority. Initially, India did not help their cause on the field. Anushka Sharma’s wild throw at the stumps in the first over ran away for four overthrows, and another missed run-out in the sixth over cost four more as Kranti failed to back up. Both chances could have accounted for Kelis’ partners. Zimbabwe reached 60/1 at the halfway mark, but struggled to build on that platform as India’s spinners tightened their grip. Charani, the leading wicket-taker in women’s T20Is this year, struck in the first over after the drinks break, taking a simple return catch to dismiss Modester Mupachikwa for 16. India lost a review in the same over when Charani’s LBW appeal against Kelis was shown to be missing leg stump.

Jio eyes growth from 2G upgrades, broadband, AI ahead of Rs 30,213-cr IPO

Hyderabad: Jio Platforms Limited (JPL) is already India’s largest digital connectivity company. Brokerage research suggests its next phase of growth may be bigger still. Ahead of the Rs 30,213 crore JPL IPO, which opens on October 21, IPO notes from GEPL Capital, Ventura Securities and SMC Global point to several growth engines: 2G-to-4G/5G upgrades, home broadband, enterprise cloud and AI, and the sale of Jio’s own technology to overseas telecom operators. Jio’s subscriber base reached 533.3 million in June 2026, and a large pool of potential customers remains. GEPL Capital notes: “With 261.0 million users still on 2G networks as of June 30, 2026, the Company has a substantial opportunity to drive subscriber additions through affordable offerings such as the Rs 799 JioBharat phone, bundled with digital services.” Customers are also spending more. Average revenue per user (ARPU) rose from Rs181.7 in FY24 to Rs 215.6 in Q1FY27, and monthly data use per customer climbed to 43.7 GB. GEPL says the company “plans to improve average revenue per user (ARPU) through periodic tariff rationalisation, greater adoption of premium plans and the bundling of OTT entertainment, cloud storage, gaming and AI-based services.” As for home broadband headroom, Jio had 28.6 million JioFiber and JioAirFiber subscribers as of June 2026, and analysts see plenty of room to grow. According to GEPL, “Home broadband is another key growth driver, with JioFiber and JioAirFiber positioned to capitalise on India’s low fixed broadband penetration of approximately 21 per cent in FY26, which is projected to reach around 46% by FY31.” SMC Global adds that “the expansion of JioAirFiber, its fixed wireless access service, is expected to support broadband adoption in locations where conventional fibre deployment may be difficult or costly. Increasing penetration in underserved markets could broaden Jio’s addressable customer base.” Further, analysts repeatedly describe JPL



as a technology platform as well as a telecom operator. Ventura Securities, which rates the issue “Subscribe”, notes that “Jio has developed an end-to-end proprietary 5G standalone stack and filed 7,220 patent applications across 4G, 5G, 6G, AI and digital technologies. Its proprietary AI platform, JioBrain, is being deployed across network operations and forms part of its broader technology monetization strategy.” JPL also plans to sell its home-grown technology to other countries. GEPL notes that “international expansion through partnerships with telecom operators and the monetisation of its proprietary 5G core, cloud-native RAN, OSS/BSS and fixed wireless access technologies could create additional revenue streams beyond domestic connectivity services.” It further states that “Jio Platforms plans to extend its JioBrain AI platform and autonomous network capabilities to global telecom operators and other industries.” SMC Global says this model could let Jio “expand beyond India without replicating its entire domestic infrastructure footprint.” A growing digital economy These engines sit within a fast-growing market. SMC Global describes the Indian telecom and digital services industry as “one of the fastest-growing globally, driven by surging data consumption, aggressive 5G rollouts, and expanding fiber broadband penetration.” Industry data in GEPL’s note projects India’s mobile broadband ARPU rising from Rs 199.5 in FY26 to Rs 326.4 by FY31.

HDFC Bank Q2 results: Net profit rises 5.2pc to Rs 19,610 crore, misses estimates

New Delhi: India’s largest private lender, HDFC Bank Ltd, on Saturday posted a net profit of Rs 19,610 crore for the second quarter of FY27 that missed analysts’ expectations. The bank’s higher provisions and softer-than-expected net interest income weighed on performance even as the lender posted robust growth in loans and deposits, according to the NDTV Profit report. The lender’s net profit rose 5.2 per cent year-on-year to Rs 19,610 crore in the quarter ended September 30. However, key operating metrics came in below analysts’ expectations, the report added. Meanwhile, net interest income (NII), the difference between interest earned and interest paid, increased 9.7 per cent from a year earlier to Rs 34,619 crore below analysts’ estimate of Rs 34,991.51 crore. Net interest margin (NIM), measured against total assets, stood at 3.16 per cent. Apart from that, provisions climbed 2.1 per cent year-on-year to Rs 3,574 crore from Rs 3,501 crore in the corresponding quarter last year. Asset quality improved during the quarter. The gross non-performing asset (NPA) ratio declined to 1.11 per cent as of September 30 from 1.24 per cent a year earlier, while the net NPA ratio improved to 0.37 per cent from 0.42 per



cent. In addition, HDFC Bank’s average advances under management grew 14.1 per cent year-on-year to Rs 31.87 lakh crore. Gross advances at the end of September rose 16.3 per cent to Rs 32.20 lakh crore. Retail loans increased 11.7 per cent from a year ago, while lending to small and mid-market enterprises grew 23.5 per cent. On the liabilities side, average deposits rose 16.8 per cent year-on-year to Rs 31.66 lakh crore. Average current account and savings account (CASA) deposits increased 10.7 per cent to Rs 9.71 lakh crore. Shares of HDFC Bank on Friday ended on a flat note at Rs 728.10 on the BSE. In the last one-year horizon, the banking stock has declined about 10 per cent and 12 per cent year-to-date.

India posts 5 years of 7 pc plus growth, forecasts raised: Top economist



New Delhi: Nearly all major forecasters -- including IMF, ADB and World Bank -- have recently raised their growth forecasts for India to above 7 per cent for this year and next, top economist Kyunghoon Kim has said. In a post on X, Kim said the upward revision is remarkable in itself and even more so when viewed against India's recent performance. Learn Hindi Recapping growth, he said after contracting by 5.8 per cent during the pandemic, India's economy rebounded by 9.7 per cent in 2021, then grew by more than 7 per cent in each of the next four years. Many economists -- including himself -- repeatedly revised forecasts upwards as quarterly GDP figures came in. "That makes five consecutive years of growth above 7 per cent, matching the 2003-2007 run, when India attracted global attention as one of the BRIC economies. If current forecasts hold, India will surpass that streak," he said. Simple average annual growth in 2021-2025 was 7.83 per cent, the second-highest five-year average in data going back to 1960, just behind the 7.89 per cent recorded in 2003-2007, he

noted Sustaining such momentum over several years deserves attention, according to the economist. "India is operating on a very different scale today. Its GDP was just over \$1 trillion in 2007; now it is nearly \$4 trillion. The same 7 per cent growth rate therefore represents a much larger expansion," Kim said. "Many challenges remain, but this economic performance of a country of 1.4 billion people deserves celebration. I hope economists at major institutions and I will once again be adding a few decimal points to our forecasts when the next quarterly GDP figures arrive," he added in the thread. Earlier in October, the IMF expected that India poised to become the world's fourth-largest economy in 2027, overtaking Japan in nominal GDP terms. It underscored the diverging economic trajectories of Asia's two largest democracies. Learn Hindi The IMF has forecasted that Japan is expected to retain the fourth position this year but India is projected to move ahead by 2027 with an economy valued at about \$4.5 trillion.

FSSAI proposes science-based pesticide residue limits for tea

New Delhi: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has notified draft amendments proposing maximum residue limits (MRLs) for two pesticides in tea -- 20 mg/kg for Acetamiprid and 50 mg/kg for Imidacloprid -- an official statement said on Saturday. The statement from the Ministry of Health and Family Wel-



fare said the proposal reflects FSSAI's approach towards reviewing pesticide residue standards in light of scientific assessments, relevant international practices and the requirements of Indian agriculture. The draft Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Amendment Regulations, 2026, published in the Gazette of India on October 16, 2026, set out the proposed limits to provide clear regulatory benchmarks for pesticide residues, facilitating compliance, monitoring and enforcement of food safety requirements. The proposed MRL of 20 ppm for Acetamiprid in tea is lower than the corresponding limits of 30 ppm in Japan and 50 ppm in the United States of America. The proposed limit for Imidacloprid has also been formulated with reference to international Codex standards, the statement noted. Maximum Residue Limits specify the maximum legally permitted concentration of pesticide residues in food commodities and are established on the basis of

scientific assessments, taking into account pesticide residue data, dietary exposure and relevant safety considerations. Earlier regulatory measures also included the delisting of 13 pesticides identified as having higher toxicity, reflecting the continuing emphasis on appropriate regulatory safeguards and consumer protection, the ministry said. These standards provide a measurable regulatory basis for monitoring pesticide residues and ensuring compliance with prescribed food safety requirements. The proposed standards also recognise the importance of effective pest management in agricultural production. India's comparatively low average pesticide use provides an important perspective on the country's agricultural practices. India's average pesticide use at less than 0.5 kg per hectare, is significantly below the estimated global average of 2.38 kg per hectare. It is also lower than the levels reported in several countries, including Colombia, Brazil and the United States of America.

Naidu sets higher
vote-share target

TDP steps up its hunt for a
strong Mayoral candidate

Amaravati: Chief Minister and TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu has set a higher electoral benchmark for the NDA in the upcoming local body elections, directing ministers, MLAs and other public representatives to secure a greater vote share than the alliance achieved in the 2024 General Elections. Cautioning party leaders against complacency over past electoral victories, he asked them to reach every panchayat, MPTC and ZPTC constituency and municipality to ensure the victory of alliance candidates. During a teleconference with ministers, MLAs and other leaders on the local body elections, Naidu made it clear that the results would depend on grassroots mobilisation rather than confidence generated by the alliance's previous mandate. He called for coordinated campaigning across rural and urban local bodies, with leaders taking responsibility for their respective areas. Explaining the candidate selection process, Naidu said the party had undertaken social re-engineering to provide representation to different communities in proportion to their population. Public opinion and feedback from party cadre were considered while finalising candidates, with priority given to aspirants who secured more than 50 per cent support in the public feedback exercise, he said. He pointed out that the 11 mayoral seats being contested by the TDP had been allocated to candidates from 11 different social groups. The exercise, he said, was intended to provide opportunities to different sections while identifying candidates with public acceptance. Naidu also sought to contain the fallout from ticket distribution, instruct-



ing leaders to explain the reasons behind the selection to disappointed aspirants and resolve disputes amicably wherever possible. Capable local leadership aligned with public aspirations should be encouraged rather than allowing differences over nominations to weaken the party's prospects. Emphasising mitra dharma, Naidu told TDP leaders to respect the sentiments of Jana Sena and BJP and work collectively. Strengthening the alliance was as important as strengthening the TDP, he said, calling for unity among the partners throughout the campaign. The Chief Minister also raised concerns over the possibility of law-and-order disturbances during the elections. Accusing the YSRCP of attempting to create disruptions, he asked party leaders to remain vigilant and alert the government machinery to potential trouble. He urged the alliance to counter any attempts to derail the electoral process. Naidu called on alliance leaders to combine social representation, disciplined coordination and intensive field-level campaigning to secure a decisive victory across the local bodies.

‘Waterman of India’ calls for
protecting water resources in Vizag

Visakhapatnam: Renowned environmentalist and ‘Waterman of India’ Rajendra Singh expressed concern over the potential environmental impact of the data centre project in Visakhapatnam, scarcity of water resources and ecologically sensitive areas. Accompanied by Jal Biradari national convenor and environmental activist Bolisetty Satyanarayana, he visited Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Devasthanam at Simhachalam during his visit to the city. Later, addressing the media, he urged the government to protect the temple’s sacred lands, the surrounding hills, and the city’s water resources. Recalling his earlier efforts to conserve Mudasarlova Reservoir, Rajendra Singh expressed concern over construction activities in the catchment area. He warned that hill cutting, vegetation removal, and soil erosion could lead to silt accumulation, reducing the reservoir’s storage capacity and affecting Visakhapatnam’s long-term water security. “Not a single drop of water from Mudasarlova or Gambheeram Gedda reservoirs should be used for data centres as it would cost dearly to the people, nature and future generations,” he underlined. Rajendra Singh urged the authorities to ensure strict compliance with environmental laws and applicable court directions. He called for an impartial inspection of the construction activities



to determine whether the prescribed environmental safeguards were being followed and to take appropriate action wherever violations were established. He appealed to the government and citizens to work together to preserve Mudasarlova and Gambheeram Gedda reservoirs, protect Simhachalam’s sacred lands and conserve the city’s hills and greenery. Browse Reference Rajendra Singh and Bolisetty Satyanarayana met I Kasi Viswanadha Raju, Chief Conservator of Forests, Visakhapatnam Circle, and explained their concerns regarding the impact of construction activities on the hills, green cover, catchment areas and water resources. They urged the forest authorities to examine the situation and take appropriate measures to protect the environment. Bolisetty Satyanarayana will submit a representation to Deputy Chief Minister and Environment and Forests Minister K Pawan Kalyan, seeking immediate government intervention to prevent environmental damage and protect Visakhapatnam’s natural resources.



Visakhapatnam: The race for the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) Mayor’s post has intensified, with the ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP)-led coalition and the opposition YSR Congress Party gearing up for a high-stakes electoral battle. The YSRCP has already announced the party’s state women’s wing president and MLC Varudhu Kalyani as its Mayor candidate. The announcement of the candidature has put the spotlight on the ruling alliance’s choice of candidate. Get Local Permits With the opposition revealing its nominee, the TDP leadership has intensified consultations to identify a strong candidate capable of not only securing victory but also winning with a substantial majority. Senior leaders began extensive discussions at the party office on Friday, carefully weighing various options before arriving at a decision. Although several leaders have expressed interest in contesting for the prestigious post, the party leadership is keen to avoid any hasty decision. Feedback is being collected from all constituencies,

while the views of corporator aspirants and local leaders are being considered to ensure that the eventual nominee enjoys wide acceptance. The selection process assumes added significance as the TDP, Jana Sena Party and Bharatiya Janata Party are preparing to contest the civic elections as alliance partners. The leadership is focusing on choosing a candidate who can unite the alliance ranks and strengthen the prospects of a decisive victory. All city MLAs participated in the deliberations held under the chairmanship of TDP state president Palla Srinivasa Rao and conveyed their opinions on the candidate’s selection. The meeting also emphasised the need for leaders, party workers and candidates from all three alliance partners to work in close coordination and put in a concerted effort to ensure the alliance’s success. With the Mayor’s post emerging as a prestigious political contest in Andhra Pradesh’s largest urban centre, the TDP leadership is determined to make a carefully calculated choice that will maximise the alliance’s electoral prospects.

TTD Jan quota tickets’
release from tomorrow

Tirumala: The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) will release online darshan tickets and accommodation quotas for January 2027 from October 19. The quota for Srivari Arjitha Sevas, including Suprabhatham, Thomala, Archana and Ashtadala Pada Padmaradhana, will be released at 10 am on October 19. Devotees can register for the e-dip till 10 am on October 21. Those allotted tickets must make payments between October 21 and 23, up to noon. Tickets for Kalyanotsavam, Unjal Seva, Arjitha Brahmotsavam and Sahasradeepalankara Seva will be released at 10 am on October 22, followed by virtual seva tickets and darshan slots at 3 pm. On October 23, Anga Pradakshina tokens will be released at 10 am, followed by Srivani Trust darshan tickets at 11 am. Darshan slots for se-



nior citizens, differently abled persons and chronically ill devotees will be made available at 3 pm the same day. The quota for Rs 300 Special Entry Darshan tickets will be released at 10 am on October 24. Accommodation quotas for Tirumala and Tirupati will be made available online at 3 pm on the same day. TTD has advised devotees to book tickets and accommodation only through its official website, <https://ttdevasthanams.ap.gov.in>, and avoid unauthorised websites.

Sri Malayappa Swamy blesses devotees
as Govardhana Giridhara Sri Krishna

Tirumala: Sacred Tirumala resonated with intense devotional fervor on Saturday evening as Sri Malayappa Swamy, taking the rare incarnation of Govardhana Giridhara Sri Krishna, gave a divine darshan to thousands of devotees atop the majestic Pushpa Vimanam during the ongoing Navaratri Brahmotsavams. Flanked by Sri Devi and Bhudevi in the guises of Rukmini and Satyabhama respectively, the deity moved gracefully along the Four Mada Streets. The procession marked the sixth-day evening celebrations of the Brahmotsavams. Held only once in three years during the auspicious Adhika Masa Navaratri cycle, the Pushpa Vimanam Seva drew immense



pilgrim turnout. The architectural highlight of the procession was the magnificent 24-foot-tall floral chariot, measuring 15 feet in length and width and weighing nearly one tonne. Uniquely fashioned entirely out of coconut-tree leaves, the vimanam was adorned with a vibrant array of traditional flowers, creating a canopy fit for the Lord of the Seven Hills.