

# Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav calls on Naidu, Pawan

Amaravati: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Saturday paid a courtesy call on Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu at the latter's camp office in Amaravati, where the two leaders discussed development initiatives being undertaken in the State, including the construction of the greenfield capital city. Naidu briefed Mohan Yadav on the progress of various projects and the State government's plans for Amaravati's development. The meeting provided an opportunity to explain the government's vision for building the capital and advancing Andhra Pradesh's development. Minister for IT Nara Lokesh welcomed Mohan Yadav on his arrival at the Chief Minister's residence. Lokesh presented him with a book documenting his 'Yuva Galam' padayatra and explained vari-



ous aspects of the foot march. Later, Mohan Yadav also met Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party chief Pawan Kalyan at the Jana Sena office and discussed key issues related to the development of both states. Pawan spoke of the need to strengthen tiger conservation efforts in the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve and

urged faster progress on an agreement to reintroduce Indian bison into the reserve. The leaders also discussed wildlife conservation measures to improve the forest ecosystem. Pawan announced that he would soon visit Madhya Pradesh and presented Mohan Yadav with an Uppada silk shawl and a Kondapalli handicraft.

# SEC steps in as nomination centres turn flashpoints

Amaravati: Complaints that candidates were being prevented from filing nominations at multiple centres have forced the state election commission (SEC) to intervene, with state election commissioner Anil Chandra Punetha directly contacting collectors in six locations to avert further escalation on the final day of nominations for municipal elections on Monday. Pulivendula, Rayachoti, Tirupati, Darsi, Rajampeta and Dacheppalli figured in the Commission's review after reports of tense conditions and allegations that candidates were being obstructed from entering the electoral contest. With the nomination deadline approaching, the immediate challenge for



the election machinery is to ensure that eligible candidates can submit their papers without political pressure, intimidation or interference. Punetha spoke to the collectors concerned and issued instructions to bring the situation under control and prevent a repeat of the reported in-

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# YSRCP resorts to attacks out of despair over defeat

## Minister Kondapalli Srinivas

Vijayawada, October 18: The Minister for MSME, SERP and NRI Empowerment lashed out in a statement on Sunday that YSRCP is resorting to attacks out of despair over defeat. The Minister said that people will give a befitting reply with their vote to the anarchical attacks and violent politics being perpetrated by YSRCP cadre in the state. The Minister made it clear that there is no place for violence and intimidation in a democratic system. He fumed that YSRCP has clearly understood in advance that they can-



not win the elections, and that is why they are resorting to such anarchy and attacks during elections out of extreme despair. He commented that no matter how many conspiracies YSRCP leaders hatch and re-

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# Jagan calls for changes to Election Commissioner appointment law

Tadepalli (Andhra Pradesh): Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) President Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy said on Sunday that he regrets supporting the 2023 law on appointment of Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners, saying the ruling Telugu Desam Party-led coalition government should not control the selection process. Addressing a press conference, Reddy added that be it State Election Commissioner or Central Election Commissioner, the ruling TDP should not nominate them. YSRCP had supported

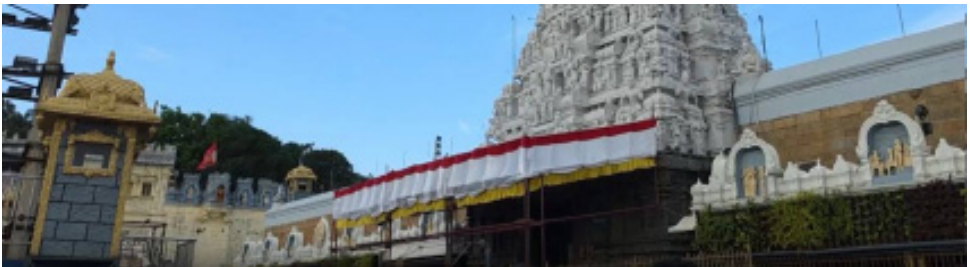


Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023. "Earlier at the

Centre, YSRCP supported the system wherein the ruling party can nominate the Election Commissioner but today we are re-

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# TTD gardens get AI boost in proposed maintenance plan



Tirupati: The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) plans to use artificial intelligence (AI) to improve the development and maintenance of gardens in Tirumala, a temple official said on Sunday. Addressing a press conference at the Media Centre in Rambageecha-2, TTD Garden Deputy Director Srinivasulu said Tirumala has 34 gardens, of which 20 are maintained by donors and 14 by the temple administration. AI-enabled support would help develop the gardens and improve their maintenance, he said.

Srinivasulu said devotees had appreciated the floral decorations arranged in Tirumala during the Srivari Brahmot savams, with around 30 donors coming forward to support the initiative. The decorations used approximately 60 tonnes of flowers, five lakh cut flowers and 80,000 seasonal flowers, he said. The fruit-and-flower exhibition at Kalyana Vedika featured 24 concept-based floral displays designed to kindle children's interest in the Puranas, he added.



Won first place in bathukama competition and gift presented by sutton MP Luke





A Hyderabad family’s loss and a question we must all raise

As Hyderabad celebrates Dasara and Navratri, festivals that honour the power and triumph of the feminine, the killing of Hyderabad-born Nikhita Godishala in the United States on December 31, 2025, raises a sobering question: how do we ensure that women receive justice when violence crosses borders? For Nikhita’s family, the tragedy brought grief, uncertainty and the daunting task of navigating unfamiliar procedures across two countries. For those who stood by them, it exposed a larger gap in how families can be supported when violence against an Indian woman occurs overseas. Our experiences of this case have been different, but they have led us to the same question: can we build a more coordinated, humane and effective framework for cross-border cases of violence against women? The calls that follow grief: There are some phone calls no family can ever prepare to receive. And then there are all the calls that come afterwards. Losing Nikhita was followed not by the silence in which a family might begin to mourn, but by calls, emails, unfamiliar authorities, procedures and the enormous responsibility of bringing her home for her final rites. As her family, we had to understand what had happened while learning how to navigate the systems involved. We were trying to process the loss of a daughter and sister while figuring out whom to contact, what steps to follow and where to turn for answers. Every unanswered call carried a weight that outsiders might struggle to understand. For the authorities, there were procedures to follow. For us, this was never simply a case number or an investigation. This was Nikhita, a person woven into our family’s life and future. The uncertainty was particularly difficult while the person believed responsible had not yet been taken into custody. Mourning and the search for answers became inseparable. There were moments when all we wanted was to sit together and grieve, but another email needed to be sent or another authority approached. No family should have to learn an unfamiliar system while learning to live without someone they love. When a case crosses borders: Supporting Nikhita’s family brought another dimension of the tragedy into focus. Pursuing answers required navigating processes in two countries and reaching out to lawyers, police officers, officials, investigative agencies, public representatives, activists and community members. Some guided the family towards the appropriate procedures; others made calls, established connections and helped the family navigate a situation no one should have to face alone. That collective support mattered enormously. Yet it also raised a fundamental question: how easily can existing mechanisms connect when a case of violence against a woman crosses international borders? A serious crime may involve evidence, digital records, financial trails, witnesses, family members or an accused person connected to different jurisdictions. Each country has its own laws, investigative procedures and judicial safeguards. Coordination can therefore be complex, and not every delay can be avoided. But the urgency of violence against women does not diminish because a case becomes legally complicated. Indian women today study, work, travel, establish businesses and build families across continents.

SEC steps in as nomination centres turn flashpoints

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cidents. The Commission has directed collectors to ensure that adequate police forces are deployed at every nomination centre on Sunday, when a large influx of candidates is expected. Officials have been told to provide security to all candidates, facilitate the filing of valid nominations and ensure that procedural rules are not used to obstruct eligible contestants. Punetha directed officials to act against attempts to disrupt nominations and stressed that the election machinery must guarantee equal opportunity to every candidate. Collectors were instructed to install CCTV cameras at nomination centres immediately, in compliance with High Court directions, to strengthen surveillance and oversight.

YSRCP resorts to attacks out of despair over defeat

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sort to attacks, people are not in a position to be afraid, and in democracy they will teach them a suitable lesson through their right to vote. He alleged that YSRCP leaders, unable to tolerate the development happening in the state, are deliberately trying to create riots. The Minister appealed to all people to exercise restraint and maintain law and order. The Minister assured that the machinery will provide full protection for people to exercise their right to vote fearlessly, without any fear. He called upon all political parties and people to act with restraint and cooperate for the election process in the state to proceed peacefully and smoothly. Minister Kondapalli Srinivas expressed hope that people will soon give a suitable verdict through their vote to the YSRCP culture that believes in attacks and violence and will make democratic values win.

Jagan calls for changes to Election Commissioner appointment law

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greeting the mistake we made by supporting it,” the YSRCP Chief said.He remarked that an examiner cannot be appointed by the student. “No matter, how sincere is the examiner, he has to face the criticism, if appointment is not done by a neutral body,” Reddy said, demanding restoration of the earlier system of appointment of Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners.The YSRCP Chief said the panel comprising Leader of Opposition, Chief Justice of India and Prime Minister should appoint the Chief Election Commissioner.He added that the presence of Chief Justice of India will make it a neutral body.“Currently, Prime Minister and a Minister nominated by the Prime Minister have two votes and Leader of Opposition one vote. Since two votes go in favour of one person, he will be a nominee of the government. This is a flaw in the system. We realised this after we made the mistake,” he said. Calling for reforms to restore the earlier system, the YSRCP Chief added that this was necessary to ensure the credibility of election system.He demanded similar reform for appointment of State Election Commissioner (SEC).He said the Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu or the TDP should not appoint the State Election Commissioner.THE YSRCP Chief was speaking to media after meeting State Election Commissioner Anil Chandra Punetha to complain about the attempts by the ruling TDP-led coalition government to stop YSRCP candidates from filing nominations for the upcoming local body polls.Stating that SEC Punetha is appointed by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, the YSRCP leader alleged that SEC was acting on his directions.

YS Jagan meets Guv, seeks Central forces for municipal polls

Amaravati: YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Sunday took the municipal election nomination controversy to Governor S Abdul Nazeer and State Election Commissioner Anil Chandra Punetha, alleging that the TDP-led coalition was using police and official machinery to prevent opposition candidates from entering electoral contest. He sought Central forces and comprehensive CCTV surveillance, arguing that the election process had been compromised before polling could even begin. After meeting the Governor at Lok Bhavan and the SEC, Jagan said he had submitted evidence of candidates being obstructed, nomination papers snatched and supporters attacked. He claimed Punetha had assured him that anyone seeking to file a nomination would be given an opportunity. Addressing the media in Vijayawada, Jagan accused Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu of resorting to in-

timidation despite being in power. He alleged that attacks, false cases, kidnappings and arson were taking place under police watch, and warned that those responsible would face consequences. The allegations covered multiple centres. Jagan cited Kadapa, Punganur and Tirupati, where he claimed candidates were prevented from filing papers, nominations were refused or snatched, vehicles attacked and supporters assaulted. At Pulivendula, he alleged, police pelted stones and fired into the air to intimidate candidates. He said YSRCP nominees had also been prevented from filing papers in Kamalapuram, Rayachoti, Darsi, Gurazala, Dachehalli, Piduguralla, Badvel and Rajampet. Access Services Jagan questioned how the elections could be considered fair when, according to him, ruling party supporters were



HC rejects YSRCP plea to extend municipal poll nomination deadline

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh High Court has dismissed a YSRCP petition seeking an extension of the deadline for filing nominations for the urban local body elections, holding that it could not intervene in the election process after issuance of the election notification. The deadline for filing nominations ended at 3 pm on Sunday. YSRCP approached the court alleging that its candidates had been prevented from submitting nomination papers in several places and sought additional time to enable them to enter the electoral contest. During the hearing, the State Election Commission (SEC) informed the court that the nomination process had concluded and that scrutiny of nomination papers was scheduled to begin on Monday. Accepting the SEC’s submissions, the court dismissed the plea seeking an extension of the deadline. The ruling came amid allegations by YSRCP that obstruction and intimidation had prevented its candidates from filing nominations in several constituencies. YSRCP advocates told the court that, in some locations, nomination process had allegedly remained incomplete even after the deadline. They cited incidents in Kadapa, Pulivendula, Rajampet, Rayachoti and Kamalapuram, and alleged that some candidates had been taken away by unidentified persons.

Former Minister Maganti Babu meets several MLAs, MPs



Eluru; October 18; Former Minister for Minor Irrigation of combined state and senior parliamentarian Maganti Babu met State Irrigation Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu at Palakollu, APIIC Chairman Mantena Ramaraju, and Rajya Sabha member Bhashyam Ramakrishna, Gopalapuram MLA Maddipati Venkata Raju, Tanuku MLA Arumella Radhakrishna, Tadepalligudem MLA Boliseti Srinivas in a courtesy call. Referring to three-generation association of Maganti family with Zilla Parishad, he sought support as alliance candidate for his wife Smt. Maganti Padmavalli Devi for Eluru Zilla Parishad Chairman post in upcoming local body elections. Several alliance leaders were with Maganti Babu.



allowed to assemble in groups while opposition candidates faced restrictions at nomination centres. He demanded Central security personnel and CCTV coverage across polling stations and counting centres, seeking safeguards beyond the nomination stage. He widened his attack to the preparation of the elections, questioning why the schedule was announced just a day after reservations were declared.

# ED REGISTERS NINE PROPERTIES WORTH Rs103.26 CRORE IN NOWHERA SHAIK CASE

AMEER HUSSAIN CRIME BEURO CHIEF :The Enforcement Directorate’s Hyderabad Zonal Office has completed the registration of nine auctioned properties worth ?103.26 crore in connection with the Nowhera Shaik and Heera Group case. The properties include Karvy Centre and Naina Towers in Banjara Hills. According to the ED, two properties were registered on October 16, 2026, for a combined sale consideration of approximately ?88.23 crore, while the registration of seven other properties was completed on October 5. The total value of all nine properties stands at ?103.26 crore. The auctions were conducted in accordance with the directions of the Supreme Court, with the objective of returning the proceeds to genuine investors and claimants who allegedly lost their money in the Heera Group investment fraud. ““The ED’s investigation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act revealed that the accused entities had collected investments exceeding ?5,978 crore from the public by promising annual returns of more than 36%, but subsequently defaulted on repayments. The agency has issued five provisional attachment orders covering properties valued at ?428.83 crore and filed prosecution complaints before the special PMLA court in Hyderabad. Following the Supreme Court’s



cancellation of Nowhera Shaik’s bail, the ED apprehended her on May 21, 2026. She remains in judicial custody. The proceeds from the property auctions will be transferred to the Serious Fraud Investigation Office, or SFIO, for distribution among genuine victims and claimants in accordance with the Supreme Court’s directions. The ED stated that further auctions of the remaining attached properties would be undertaken to the recovery of money for affected investors. Further investigation in the case is continuing.

# Saras Mela.. a platform for self-confidence and economic self-reliance

*Address for collection of rural women products  
Support to traditional arts, handloom, handicrafts  
Utilize the fair.. Encourage arts and artists  
District Collector Dr. G Lakshmisha*

Vijayawada, October 18: District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha called upon people to make use of the national-level Saras Mela and support their economic self-reliance by encouraging and purchasing products of rural women, and give support to traditional arts, handloom, handicrafts. He requested to this effect in a statement on Sunday.He said that the Saras Mela being held at Vijayawada Punnami Ghat till 31st of this month stands as an address for the talent of rural self-help group women. He explained that almost 600 stalls here, each stall is a replica of a skill and talent. He said 50 live food courts are sharing sweet experiences to food lovers. He said this mela being organized by Union Ministry of Rural Development in cooperation with Andhra Pradesh SERP is bringing national-level recognition to skills, creativity, industrial capabilities of rural women besides paving ways for their economic self-reliance. He said this mela is standing as a good platform for self-help group women to introduce products made by them to people and to avail vast market opportunities. He called upon people and visitors to visit the mela in large numbers and cooperate for strengthening their livelihoods by purchasing products made by rural women.Started in 1999 and grown step by step:“He said this programme started in 1999 gradually expanded and developed as a prestigious mela bringing rural producers, artisans, handicraft artists, women entrepreneurs belonging to different regions of the country onto one platform. He said with participation of about 1,500 women entrepreneurs from 32 states and union territories in Saras Mela, handloom clothes reflecting specialties, traditional dresses, handicraft items, home decoration products, hand-made items, food items, rural products are attracting visitors. He said this mela



stands as a platform to know diversity of arts, traditions, products belonging to each region besides recognizing hard work, skill, creativity of women who make them.. and said it helps SHG women to increase income, reach new markets, improve business skills by selling their products directly to consumers.Encourage hard work of rural women:“He said replicas of Telugu handicrafts, Odisha art pieces, Assam bamboo baskets, traditional jewellery, jute bags, brass art pieces in national Saras Aajeevika Mela being held in Vijayawada are attracting visitors. District Collector Lakshmisha requested people, families, youth, buyers to visit and make use of this opportunity. He said by purchasing handloom clothes, handicraft products, traditional handicraft items made by rural women with much hard work, besides encouraging their skills, one can directly contribute to income growth of families. He said by giving priority to local, rural products besides protecting traditional arts, handicrafts, more opportunities can be provided to women entrepreneurs. Collector appealed to make the mela successful with people's participation and provide strong support to self-confidence and self-reliance of rural women.

# CYBER CRIME COPS CRACK DIGITAL ARREST FRAUD CASE TWO ACCUSED

AMEER HUSSAIN CRIME BEURO CHIEF : Cyber Crime Police Crack Digital Arrest Fraud Case – Two Accused Arrested“ The Cyber Crime Police, Hyderabad City, have arrested two accused persons allegedly involved in a Digital Arrest fraud case. The accused were involved in arranging mule bank accounts, withdrawing fraudulently obtained funds, and depositing the amounts into various bank accounts to conceal the money trail. They also allegedly facilitated transactions involving USDT (digital currency) in coordination with cyber fraudsters and earned commissions for their involvement.“Cr. No. 568/2025, under Sections 66(C) and 66(D) of the IT Act and Sections 111(2)(b), 318(4), 319(2), 336(3), 338, and 340(2) of the BNS. **Details of the arrested Accused:** A-1: Mohd Ashfaq Hussain, S/o Mushtaq Hussain, Age: 27 years, Occupation: Business, R/o Ameerpet, Hyderabad.“A-2: Ahmed Najeeb Uddin, S/o Md. Ahmed Uddin, Age: 27 years, Occupation: Business, R/o Ameerpet, Hyderabad.“A-3: Sachin, R/o Bengaluru (Absconding).“ **Facts of the Case:** On 03.03.2025, the complainant, a 63year old retired employee, received calls from unknown persons impersonating officials of the Delhi Police, CBI, and Enforcement Directorate (ED). The fraudsters falsely alleged that he was involved in a money laundering case involving ?68 million and threatened him with arrest. To make their claims appear genuine, the fraudsters sent forged official documents and falsely stated that the complainant's Aadhaar details and fingerprints had been misused in the alleged crime. They obtained his personal and banking details and induced him and his daughter to transfer money under the pretext of verification, assuring them that the amount would be refunded. The fraudsters further threatened them with arrest and instructed them to maintain secrecy in the name of national security. Believing their claims, the complainant and his daughter transferred a total amount of ?29,17,668/-. When the amount was not refunded, the complainant realized that he had been cheated and approached the police for necessary legal action. Based on his complaint, a case was registered case “Arrest of the Accused: Based on the technical evidence collected during the investigation, on 17-10-2026 Sri K. Narayana Reddy, Inspector of Police, and team apprehended two accused persons, A-1: Mohd Ashfaq Hussain and A-2: Ahmed Najeeb Uddin, at Ameerpet,



Hyderabad, and brought them to the Cyber Crime Police Station, Hyderabad City, for further investigation. During interrogation, it was revealed that A-1 and A-2 were facing financial difficulties and had come into contact with Sachin , a resident of Bengaluru (A-3), through WhatsApp. A-3 allegedly devised a plan to route money obtained from victims of Digital Arrest fraud through multiple bank accounts using Cash Deposit Machines (CDMs) to conceal the money trail and make it difficult for investigating agencies to trace the transactions. As part of the plan, A-1 collected the bank account details from A-2 and shared them with A-3. Subsequently, A-3 transferred the fraudulently obtained funds into the bank account provided by A-2. A-1 and A-2 then withdrew the money through cheques and deposited the cash into various bank accounts using CDMs, as instructed by A-3. Thereafter, A-3 allegedly used the deposited funds to purchase USDT cryptocurrency and subsequently sold it online in exchange for Indian rupees. In return for facilitating these transactions, A-1 and A-2 received commissions from A-3. During the arrest the Cyber Crime Police seized two Apple iPhones from the possession of A-1 and A-2. The investigation further revealed that approximately 16 cases have been registered across India in connections with the alleged fraudulent activities. The arrested accused persons were produced before the competent court in Hyderabad. Further investigation is underway to trace and apprehend the absconding accused, examine the financial transactions, and identify the involvement of other persons connected with the fraud. The operation was conducted under the guidance of Sri S. Chaitanya Kumar, IPS, Deputy Commissioner of Police, CCS, DD, Hyderabad City, and under the direct supervision of Sri R. G. Siva Maruthi, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Cyber Crime Police Station, Hyderabad City. Sri K. Narayana Reddy, Inspector of Police, Monmohan Goud SI, G.Sivakumar SI and his team . **Sd/-“M. SRINIVASULU, IPS., Addl. Commissioner of Police Crimes & Sit Hyderabad City.**

# Appointment of M. SivaPrasad, IFS as NTR District Election Expenditure Observer

Vijayawada: October 18: The State Election Commission has issued orders appointing APSRTC Joint Managing Director M. Sivakumar, IFS as NTR District Election Expenditure Observer to monitor the general election process of local bodies and urban local bodies, MPTC, ZPTC, Gram Panchayats to be held in the state in October, November, December 2026 months. On this occasion, District Election Expenditure Observer M. SivaPrasad met District Collector G. Lakshmisha in a courtesy call at the Collector's Camp Office on Sunday and discussed the conduct of local body elections.District Election Expenditure Observer M. SivaPrasad will thoroughly check and monitor from time to time the election expenditure registers maintained by the candidates in the election fray regarding their daily expenses, bank account transactions, keep strict vigil at field level so that no candidate violates the rules and expenditure limits prescribed by the Election Commission, tour across the district and identify expenses of rallies, public



materials (flexis, posters etc) conducted by candidates and compare them with officially submitted accounts. Also, till the end of election process, progress of expenditure observation, details of candidates' expenses will be submitted directly to State Election Commission from time to time through official email prescribed by Election Commission observers. apsec@gmail.com. Coordination will be done with district level flying squads, static surveillance teams, video surveillance teams, accounting teams to prevent cash, gifts, liquor distribution happening to lure voters in elections.

# Sun rays pierce clouds during Tirumala Surya Prabha Vahanam Seva



Hyderabad: Sri Malayappa Swamy, adorned with a bright red Ixora garland in his original form, blessed devotees while riding the divine Surya Prabha Vahanam on Sunday. The Surya Prabha Vahanam symbolises Lord Surya, revered as the giver of energy, vitality and well-being to all living beings. According to scriptures, the Sun is the source of light in nature and the force that illuminates even the Moon. Devotees firmly believe that having darshan of Sri Malayappa Swamy on the Surya Prabha Vahanam bestows good health, longevity, happiness, prosperity and noble progeny. The celestial procession commenced under cloudy skies with light drizzle as it moved

along the four Mada streets. Amid the rhythmic chanting of Surya Mantras from the Taittiriya Upanishad, the Sun's rays pierced the dark clouds just as the Vahanam reached Pushkarini Point. The divine sight filled devotees with religious fervour, prompting them to chant "Govinda! Govinda!" with great enthusiasm. Sri Pedda Jeeyar Swami, Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swami, TTD Executive Officer Sri Muddada Ravichandra, Additional Executive Officer Sri Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary, Board Members Sri Nannapaneni Sadashiva Rao and Smt. Janaki Devi, CVSO Sri Muralikrishna, SVBC CEO Sri Sridhar Verma and other officials participated in the morning Vahana Seva.

# NDA eyes unanimous wins as nominations close for ULBs



Amaravati: The nomination process for elections to 100 urban local bodies (ULBs) in Andhra Pradesh ended on Sunday amid clashes, allegations of intimidation, and a major setback for the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) in several of its strongholds. Thousands of candidates filed nominations on the final day, with the NDA alliance likely to secure unopposed victories in areas where the opposition party failed to field nominees. By Maps Elections will be held for 13 municipal corporations, 77 municipalities, and 10 nagar panchayats. Nominations will be scrutinised on Monday, withdrawal closes on October 21, polling is scheduled for October 28 and counting on October 30. The YSRCP's difficulties were particularly evident in Kadapa district. It failed to file nominations in 16 of Pulivendula municipality's 40 wards, 19 wards in Proddatur, and 54 wards in the Kadapa Municipal Corporation. Its candidates could not file nominations for chairperson and councillor posts in Yerraguntla and Kamalapuram. In Rajampet and Badvel, chairperson candidates filed papers, but no nominations were submitted for ward

councillor seats. Also Read Jana Sena TDP leaders join YSRCP Advertisement Discover more News Subscription Service Telangana News Updates Andhra Pradesh News YSRCP leaders alleged that house arrests and police restrictions prevented candidates from reaching nomination centres before the 3:00 pm deadline. Police were deployed near the residence of Kadapa MP Y S Avinash Reddy and around party premises in Pulivendula. The setback extended to other districts as well. In Punganur, Chittoor district, former minister Peddireddi Ramachandra Reddy announced the YSRCP's withdrawal, accusing the TDP of intimidation and unlawful actions. In Palnadu district, the party filed no nominations for chairperson or councillor posts in Gurajala and Piduguralla. In Dachepalli, only one chairperson nomination was filed. In Darsi, Prakasam district, the YSRCP failed to field candidates for the chairperson's post. It also alleged that TDP leaders prevented nominations in four wards in Tadipatri. Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy said NDA candidates had won unopposed in Rayachoti.

# General Observer appointed by the State Government



Eluru, October, 18: General Observer appointed by the State Government for supervision of Eluru district local body elections and Secretary of State Labour, Factories, Boilers, Insurance Medical Services Miryala Venkata Seshagiribabu directed officials to take strong measures for protection of law and order in local election process. Seshagiribabu reviewed with various department district officials on Sunday in Gautami meeting hall in Eluru district Collectorate along with District Collector K. Vetriselvi, SP K. Pratap Sivakishore on arrangements for conduct of local body elections in the district. Speaking on this occasion, election observer Seshagiribabu said officials should prepare advance plans to conduct local body elections in Eluru district in a peaceful atmosphere. He said problematic, highly problematic areas in the district should be identified in advance and strong security arrangements should be made with additional forces in those areas to prevent any untoward incidents during elections. He said video shooting along with CC cameras should be arranged at nomination, polling, counting centres. District Collector K. Vetriselvi said that all measures have been taken to conduct local body elections in the district in a peaceful atmosphere. She said polling will be held on 28th of this month in 130 wards in Municipal Corporation, Municipalities in the district, counting of votes will be held on 30th, in this regard first phase training programmes have

been conducted for election staff, second phase training programmes will be conducted between 23rd to 25th of this month. She said control room has been set up in district Collectorate for registration and resolution of complaints from public during elections. District SP K. Pratap Shiva Kishore said that strong security arrangements have been made for local elections in the district, 376 polling centres have been set up in Eluru Municipal Corporation, Nuzvidu, Jangareddigudem Municipalities, out of which 297 are ordinary, 46 problematic, 33 highly problematic polling centres have been identified. He said additional security arrangements have been made with special striking forces in problematic, highly problematic areas. District Joint Collector Dr. M.J. Abhishek Goud, Assistant Collector CH. Sravan Kumar Reddy, Incharge DRO M. Mukkanti, Zilla Parishad CEO M. Krishnamohan, District Panchayat Officer Mallikarjunarao, RDO Lakshmiprasanna, SDC Devakidevi, Transport Dept Deputy Commissioner Karim, RTO Sekhar, DEO Venkatalaks hamma, Eluru Municipal Corporation Commissioner A. Bhanupratap, DSP Sravan Kumar, Panchayat Raj SE Z. Ramesh, Swarnagrama, Ward Nodal Officer G. Venkatanaidu, LDM Satyanarayana, MEPMA PD Rajababu, Social Welfare Dept JD Vishwamohan Reddy, RTC RM Shabnam, Housing Dept Officer Satyanarayana, officials of various departments participated.

# Avanapu Bhargavi files nomination as Vizianagaram Mayor candidate

Vizianagaram, October 18: Avanapu Bhargavi has filed nomination as alliance party candidate for the post of Mayor of Vizianagaram Municipal Corporation. After performing special pujas at the temple of North Andhra's presiding deity Sri Paidithalli Ammavaru on Saturday morning, a huge rally was organized from Paidithalli Devasthanam to Municipal office. Workers and fans participated in large numbers in this rally. After that, Avanapu Bhargavi handed over her nomination papers to the Returning Officer at the Municipal office. State Minister for MSME, SERP, NRI Empowerment Kondapalli Srinivas, local MLA Aditi Vijayalakshmi Gajapathiraju, Vizianagaram MP Kaliseti Appalanaidu, alliance leaders participated in this programme. Minister Kondapalli Srinivas comments..Speaking, Avanapu family has long political experience in Vizianagaram town..Avanapu family is a family that is always in touch with people..We are extensively developing Vizianagaram town through many schemes coming from Central and State Governments..Many



years old problems in the town are today moving towards solution..Town people should give a resounding victory to the Mayor candidate supported by the alliance party..Today it is happy that young leaders are coming forward..The goal of the alliance government is to increase living standards of city people..At present city has 20 MLD drinking water requirement, while only 10 MLD is being supplied, we are formulating permanent plans to meet remaining shortage..We will not compromise anywhere on drinking water quality..To avoid frequent power interruptions, we have set up a new sub-station and strengthened power connection system..We are going ahead with the aim of providing quality electricity to industries and homes..You all have seen how development happened in the past..We have seen how TITCO houses, layouts giving lands to poor people in the past were laid..We have seen in the past a government that could not do even a single work properly..We are seeing that every fruit that should be received by poor people from government is delivered by clearing mistakes made in previous government..

## Kareena Kapoor recalls family’s reaction to her Harvard summer course

Mumbai: Did you know that before becoming one of the most celebrated actresses of her time, Kareena Kapoor was once a student at the prestigious Harvard. However, fate had other plans for Bebo. Recalling her Harvard days during one of the episodes of ‘Rendezvous With Simi Garewal’, Kareena revealed how her family reacted to her acceptance into the prestigious university. Simi said, “Your going to Harvard, for the Kapoors, was bigger than you winning an Oscar”. To this, Kareena responded, “Oh God! It was the biggest thing ever.” Bebo shared that her family was extremely excited for her and there was even a big celebration. “Oh God! It was the biggest thing ever. Everyone was reacting that my niece, my this, my that has gone to Harvard. Kapoor girl, no brains, has gone to Harvard. They all were overreacting. No one could believe that I had gone to Harvard. They all celebrated,” she said. “Honestly, Harvard was just like to have a good time and have a blast. My mom and sister would never allow me to go abroad, to America, live alone there



for three months”. The “K3G” actress also revealed that she filled out all the forms and was also responsible for making all the preparations as she went on to study Microcomputers and Information Technology. Sharing her experience at Harvard, Kareena said, “I thought it would be a party. I used to sit up till 4 in the morning trying to get my assignments done. I made my parents buy me a computer, but I never touched it.” Talking about her film journey, Kareena made her debut back in 2000 with ‘Refugee’, alongside Abhishek Bachchan. Since then, she has been a part of many blockbuster projects, including ‘Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham’, ‘Omkar’, ‘Chameli’, ‘Khushi’, ‘Jab We Met’, ‘Heroine’, and ‘3 Idiots’, to name just a few.

## Harshita Gaur recalls playing Sita as a child during Dussehra celebrations in Delhi

Mumbai: Actress Harshita Gaur, known for portraying Princey in Waiting Hai, Dimpy Pandit in Mirzapur and Sanyukta in Sadda Haq, has recalled her memories of Ravan Dahan in Delhi and said that Dussehra in the National Capital has a charm of its own.

As a child, she would often play Sita in the plays organised during Dussehra, making the festival a cherished part of her childhood and her early connection with Indian traditions. Harshita said in a statement: “Dussehra in Delhi has a charm of its own, especially when you look back at it through childhood memories. I remember the excitement around the huge Ravan effigies and how the entire city came alive during the festive season.” She added: “As a kid, I used to play Sita in the plays that would happen in school or on our society grounds during Dussehra, and those memories have stayed with me. Going out with family, being part of the celebrations and experiencing that sense of togetherness made the festival so special.” Dussehra celebrates the triumph of good over evil. Looking back, the actress said that the memories stay forever. “Today, when I look back, it’s these simple moments that I cherish the most. The memories stay with you long after childhood.” Beyond acting, Harshita’s love for Indian culture finds expression in her passion for dance and



Kathak, an art form that celebrates rhythm, expression and storytelling. On the work front, the actress was last seen in Mirzapur: The Movie is a gangster drama film directed by Gurmeet Singh. It stars Pankaj Tripathi, Ali Fazal, Divyenndu, Jitendra Kumar and Ravi Kishan. It acts as an interquel set during the first season of the Amazon Prime Video television series Mirzapur. In the OTT front, she was seen in Waiting Hai, a crime drama directed by Sameer Vidwans. It stars Divyenndu, Bhuvan Arora, Kumud Mishra, Harshita Gaur and Sunita Rajwar.

## Himesh Reshammiya says reinvention is key to an artist’s success

Mumbai: Music composer and singer Himesh Reshammiya believes being a judge is not just about recognising a good voice and added that reinvention and the willingness to evolve are essential for an artist to sustain a successful career. As a Superstar Judge in ‘Indian Idol Legends Return’, Reshammiya is looking forward to seeing established singers return to the stage with renewed energy and showcase their growth as performers. Reshammiya said in a statement: “Being a judge is not just about recognising a good voice; it is about recognising potential, individuality and the courage it takes to stand on a stage and be heard. Having lived the journey

myself, I understand the highs, the challenges of reinvention and the constant need to evolve.” “That is why I look beyond technique when I listen to a contestant. I look for originality, hunger and that rare quality that makes an artist unforgettable.” “My own journey has taught me that reinvention is not just about changing the way people perceive you; it is about constantly challenging yourself and keeping your passion alive.” Reshammiya said that it has reminded him that no matter “how much an artist achieves, there is always room to grow, explore and create something new.” “The most exciting part is that, even after thousands of block-

## Kangana Ranaut celebrates Navratri in traditional attire, shares BTS video



Mumbai: Actress Kangana Ranaut celebrated the spirit of Navratri by embracing India’s indigenous traditional craft and cultural heritage. Taking to Instagram, the ‘Queen’ actress shared behind-the-scenes (BTS) moments from the photoshoot and expressed her joy at wearing traditional attire that reflects the country’s rich cultural heritage. “It is such a joy to wear our own indigenous traditional craft and cultural heritage. Also lovely to be in Chhattisgarh for garba festivities. Here’s a lil BTS of the photo shoot,” she wrote. Ranaut also shared a heartfelt message about the significance of Navratri and Garba, highlighting the festival’s connection with feminine energy and the divine feminine. “Navratri is the celebration of feminine and Garba is the dance of life. And at the center of it all is Devi (Shakti). Navratri ki shubhkamnaen,” she added. Kangana also shared a video from the photoshoot, in which she is seen striking different poses and dancing while showcasing her traditional outfit. The

‘Tanu Weds Manu’ actress wore a heavily embellished multicolored lehenga choli, which she paired with black bangles and silver jewelry, adding to her festive look. Kangana also added the song “Nagada Sang Dhol,” composed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali and sung by Shreya Ghoshal and Osman Mir, with lyrics by Siddharth-Garima, to the video. Notably, several of her friends and colleagues from the film industry took to the comments section to react to her post. Anupam Kher commented, “You are the bestest.” Orry dropped heart emojis. On a related note, Sharad Navratri began on October 11, with Ghatasthapana, and will conclude on October 20, with Vijayadashami, also known as Dussehra. Interestingly, Kangana Ranaut takes pride in her Himachali roots and often expresses her faith during Hindu festivals, especially Navratri. The actress and BJP MP, who hails from Bhambla in Himachal Pradesh’s Mandi district, often celebrates festivals by following traditions and visiting temples.

## Kashmera Shah begins second directorial as independent filmmaker

Mumbai: Actress-filmmaker Kashmera Shah has embarked on a new chapter in her career as she begins work on her second directorial venture as an independent filmmaker. Kashmera took to Instagram, where she shared glimpses of her journey from Greece and added that filming in the European country is not just a location choice but also a character in the story. Kashmera took to Instagram, where she wrote in the caption section: “Starting this new chapter with my second directorial as an independent filmmaker feels exhilarating and honestly, I wouldn’t have it any other way. I feel proud seeing my dream unfold.” Kashmera mentioned that she believes in “dreams coming true.” “Do believe in dreams, they do come true. It happens when you open your eyes, step outside your comfort zone, and have faith. Filming in Greece isn’t just a location



choice; it’s a character in our story. Grateful for this crew, this moment, and the courage to tell stories my way. @realkaranmehra @tannazirani @iankitraaj @krushna30 @bulletmicrodrama @zeetv @zee5 #kashmerashah #greece #kavala #filmmaking #microdramas.

buster hit songs, my passion remains as strong as it was when I started. And I continue to approach every new musical journey with the curiosity and enthusiasm of a newcomer. That is exactly what I want to see in every artist on Indian Idol Legends Return.” As a Superstar Judge, he is excited to be part of the “biggest season, bringing back voices that have already made their mark but now have another opportunity to prove how far they have come.” “Because I have always believed that winning once is not enough; the real achievement is to keep growing, to reinvent yourself and to win the audience’s heart all over again. The real fun lies in continuing to work with the same passion and excitement, no matter how many milestones you have achieved.” “This season is about showing India what these artists are capable of today, and who they can become



tomorrow.” Indian Idol Legends Return brings celebrated singers from across seasons together as 12 competing duos. Returning as Superstar Judge is Reshammiya, while Aditya Narayan takes on hosting duties.

# Sunil Gavaskar says Hardik Pandya is irreplaceable, urges India to strengthen bowling



New Delhi: India legend Sunil Gavaskar, while discussing key takeaways from the T20I series against the West Indies, stated that Team India sometimes get a little bit carried away with trying to find a replacement for Hardik Pandya. The West Indies’ wait for a first bilateral series win in India since 2002 continues, as the final T20I between India and the tourists was called off after 46 balls of the India innings due to rain. Gavaskar suggested that India need to play with at least four full-time bowlers, with the fifth and sixth being the all-rounders. The T20I series against the West Indies was an opportunity for India to test their bench strength. Mayank Yadav and Prince Yadav made their case with the ball, but Naman Dhir emerged as the tour’s most interesting find. In Bengaluru, a six-ball cameo offered a glimpse of his batting potential. Until then, it had been Dhir’s off-spin that had made the stronger impression. “We didn’t get to see the bowling. It would have been interesting to see how the Indians bowled in this nine-over game. The takeaway

from the series is that, in their bowling, they have to play with at least four regular bowlers. A fifth bowler and a sixth can be your all-rounders, somebody who can bat as well,” Gavaskar said on JioStar. “Somebody like Naman Dhir, who’s more of a batter but who can come in and bowl two or three overs. Axar Patel, who can bowl his four overs. We sometimes get a little bit carried away with trying to find a replacement for Hardik Pandya. Hardik Pandya is irreplaceable. If you can’t find somebody of his calibre, then go with somebody who will do a slightly different job,” he added. In a rain-marred 9-over-a-side game in Bengaluru, Naman Dhir hit three sixes in his six balls, helping India to 118/5 at the 7.4-over mark, before rain stopped play. “Naman Dhir is doing that job. He’s bowling his overs well, and look at the way he batted in this game. So, that is what India need to do because the moment you go with batting up to number eight, you weaken your bowling, and that’s where you get beaten,” said Gavaskar.

# Cheteshwar Pujara praises Naman Dhir’s six-ball blitz, urges India to back spinners

New Delhi: Former India batter Cheteshwar Pujara has praised Naman Dhir for his blistering unbeaten 24 off just six deliveries in India’s rain-hit T20I decider against the West Indies in Bengaluru, highlighting the preparation required to deliver such an impact in a high-pressure situation. He also stressed the need for the team management to identify and consistently back its spin options for the coming years, naming Kuldeep Yadav and Ravi Bishnoi among the candidates to be considered alongside Varun Chakravarthy. Dhir’s late assault showcased his ability to make an immediate difference with minimal time at the crease. In a match reduced by rain, the Mumbai Indians batter’s six-ball effort offered a glimpse of the value of having a designated finisher capable of clearing the boundary from the outset. Pujara believes the ease with which Dhir found the ropes should not be mistaken for a lack of effort behind the performance. “It’s the ease he’s batting with. You face only six deliveries, and there were just two singles. All the other deliveries went for fours and sixes. He’s batting at a strike rate of 400 in a game that is limited to nine overs. So, to walk in and start hitting each and every ball for a four or a six, that needs a lot of preparation. “When you look at him batting, you might think, ‘Oh, he’s making batting look so easy,’ but it’s not that easy. When you’re batting in that position, you have no time to think. So, to have faced just five or six deliveries and to have reached a score of 24, I think that is phenomenal,” Pujara told JioStar. Beyond the batting display, Pujara also addressed a



longer-term selection question for Indian cricket: how to maintain a settled group of spinners despite the changing demands of T20 conditions. He pointed to factors such as ground dimensions and the pressure of conceding runs in a format where one expensive spell can quickly affect a bowler’s confidence. “You will have to identify players and continue backing them. If the boundary size is small, Kuldeep may not play every game. So, you also need to give the players clarity that they will continue to be part of the Indian team. They may or may not be part of the playing XI regularly, but they are there in the larger setup. That is the message that needs to be communicated to the spinners especially because they can lose confidence pretty quickly in a shorter format. “If you concede 40 to 50 runs in your four-over spell, you start to lose confidence, and that has happened with Kuldeep in the past. So, after Varun, it’s important to identify your spinners, whether it’s Kuldeep or Ravi Bishnoi. Bishnoi hasn’t been bowling really well, so we might have to look at another option. It’s important to identify whom you want to see in the team over the next couple of years and try to give them enough opportunities,” he added.

# Daren Sammy says West Indies have regained confidence after India T20I series

Bengaluru: West Indies head coach Daren Sammy believes his side has made significant progress after sharing the five-match T20I series 2-2 with India, with the decisive fifth match abandoned due to rain. Reflecting on the visitors’ performances against the reigning world champions on their home turf, Sammy highlighted the return of confidence and competitive belief within his team, while stressing the need for greater financial support to sustain West Indies cricket. Sammy feels the series was about more than the final scoreline. West Indies arrived in India facing doubts about their ability to challenge the hosts, but their performances across the contest offered encouragement as they continued building towards their long-term ambitions. “It’s a true reflection of how all the teams have played, especially for our guys. I’m pretty sure when the series started, we probably didn’t have a chance. But that was just the opinion of others. We would want to win because of something we’ve not done forever in India, so it would have been nice. I think the cup still is in our favour because we won the home leg the last time we played (in 2023) 3-2,” Sammy told reporters in the post-match press conference. The series result also reinforced Sammy’s belief that the Windies are moving in the right direction, particularly after competing against a side that has established itself among the leading teams in international T20 cricket. He pointed to the progress made during the contest as evidence that his players are beginning to close the gap. “We understand what success means to us; we don’t ever take for granted where we are as a team and the challenges that we face. We just look to make those strides, and I think after this series we’ve taken a massive step. We played against the defending champions, and we’ve matched them (and) in certain areas we’ve outplayed them, especially in their backyard,” he added. He also used the occasion to underline the wider significance of West Indies cricket and the



support required to secure its future, saying, “You heard the CEO spoke about things that happened in 1997 that kind of has us in this situation, but I think it’s important to understand what West Indies cricket means, not only to the region but to the world and to the game. I’ve heard the stories of guys (from past West Indies teams) spending three-four months in a place touring, playing warm-up matches, spreading their talent by the way they played and the fanbase that they created, and the revenue they generated for so many people.” He stressed that the responsibility to support West Indies cricket extends beyond the team’s immediate results, suggesting that its legacy and continued presence on the international stage should matter to those in a position to help the regional game. “I think it’s important; my mom always says you must have a care factor. No matter what you do in life, the human nature should never lose that care factor. I think we’re in a position where we need somebody to put a (hand around the shoulder) of the West Indies cricket. Financially, that is, and series like this, here in India, against the best team in the world, puts us in a conversation closer to that,” he said. “All the guys in the dressing room, they’ve gone out there and played with intent and I think what was good to see is that the swagger is back, the confidence is back. It started during the World Cup and you could see guys enjoying, and there was a willingness to win. That’s where it starts; the belief that we belong where we are, and to have the performances that says you belong there. Hopefully, right now it’s just been consistent,” he added.

# Bengaluru rain delay cuts India-WI series decider to nine overs a side

Bengaluru: The rain-hit fifth and final T20I between India and the West Indies at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Saturday has been reduced to a nine-overs-a-side contest, with the toss scheduled for 9 pm and play set to begin 15 minutes later. The powerplay in the truncated game will last just 2.4 overs. The toss was originally scheduled for 6.30 pm, but steady rain kept the covers on and both teams in their dressing rooms. The breakthrough came around 8.30 pm, when ground staff rushed out and began removing the covers. The sheet over the square was taken off to loud cheers from the crowd, which had been waiting patiently. Reserve umpire Virender Sharma then walked out to the middle, where Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) president Venkatesh Prasad and vice-president Sujith Somasundar were inspecting the pitch and conditions. On-field umpires Nitin Menon and Rohan Pandit soon joined them. The game will be played on the central strip, which looked dry once uncovered. The covers over the bowlers’ run-ups were also removed, while a super sopper got to work on the outfield. “The surface looks dry enough, but I can’t see what’s underneath. Bound to be some moisture, which will mean there could be some hold on the surface thanks to the rain,” former West Indies pacer Ian Bishop said on the broadcast. India’s throwdown specialist Raghu was the first to emerge with the kit



bag, followed by veteran pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar, whose appearance drew a huge roar from the stands. The shortened contest will decide the winner of the series, which is currently tied 2-2. India, the reigning T20 World Cup champions, will be keen to avoid a second consecutive bilateral series defeat to the West Indies after their 2-3 loss in August 2023. West Indies skipper Shai Hope has been the standout batter of the series, scoring 261 runs, including two centuries in winning causes. With the M Chinnaswamy Stadium known for its short boundaries, a nine-over contest promises plenty of fireworks. It is also the venue’s first international fixture since the India-New Zealand Test in October 2024. The stadium had been out of the reckoning for international matches following the stampede during Royal Challengers Bengaluru’s IPL title celebrations in June 2025.

# Market outlook: Q2 earnings, FII flows, global yields to drive Dalal Street next week

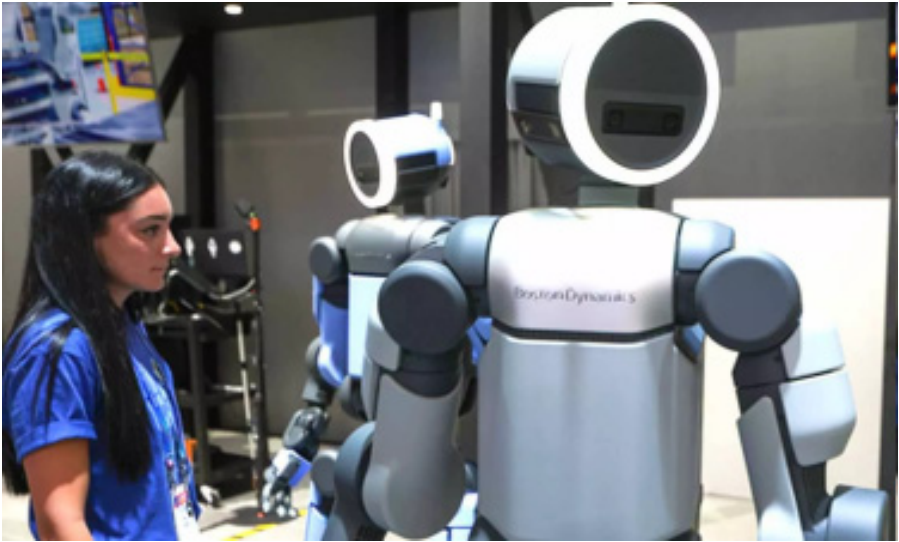
Mumbai: Indian stock markets are likely to take cues from September-quarter earnings, foreign institutional investor (FII) flows, global bond yields and crude oil prices in the coming week, as investors assess whether the recent recovery can sustain its momentum after a strong weekly rally. The Nifty rose 2.77 per cent during the week, while the Sensex gained 3.11 per cent, supported by renewed buying in information technology (IT) stocks, easing pressure from global bond yields and sustained inflows from domestic institutional investors (DIIs). Both benchmark indices extended their gains for a second consecutive session on Friday, strengthening hopes of a recovery following the recent market correction. The Sensex advanced 413.66 points, or 0.56 per cent, to close at 74,729.27, while the Nifty 50 climbed 148.80 points, or 0.65 per cent, to settle at 23,146.15. For the week, the Sensex gained 2,256.94 points, while the Nifty added 625.7 points. Market participants will now focus on the September-quarter earnings season to assess whether the recovery can broaden beyond IT stocks. Results and management commentary from banking, consumption and industrial companies will be closely monitored for signs of stronger revenue growth, improving margins and sustained demand. Also Read HDFC Bank Q2 profit rises 5 pc, misses estimates on higher provisions Advertisement Discover more News Subscription Service Telangana News Updates Andhra Pradesh News Corporate guidance for the coming quarters will also be impor-



tant in shaping investor expectations. Strong earnings and positive business outlooks could support market sentiment, while disappointing results or cautious commentary may limit further gains. Foreign institutional investor flows will remain another key factor influencing market direction. Although overseas portfolio outflows have moderated, sustained selling by foreign investors could weigh on equities. Continued buying by domestic institutional investors, however, is expected to provide support to the market. Global bond yields and expectations surrounding monetary policy will also remain in focus. Any renewed rise in yields could put pressure on equity valuations by making fixed-income investments relatively more attractive. Conversely, easing yield pressures may support risk appetite and encourage investors to increase their exposure to equities. Crude oil prices and geopolitical developments will be additional factors to watch. A sustained rise in international oil prices could increase India's import bill, add to inflationary pressures and complicate the outlook for corporate margins. Any escalation in geopolitical tensions could also trigger volatility in global financial markets.

# Hyundai Motor steps up physical AI push amid Chinese competition, stock slump

Seoul: Seeking to remain competitive against fast-growing Chinese automakers and find new sources of growth amid a sharp retreat in its share price, Hyundai Motor Group is stepping up its push into robotics and physical artificial intelligence (AI). The



move comes as the world's third-largest automotive group faces growing pressure to improve profitability in its conventional carmaking business amid intensifying competition in the global electric vehicle (EV) market, particularly from lower-priced Chinese models. Investors are also questioning when the group's heavy investments in robotics will start to pay off, reports Yonhap news agency. Hyundai Motor Co.'s shares more than doubled after its U.S. subsidiary Boston Dynamics unveiled its Atlas humanoid robot at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in January, reaching a record closing high of 755,000 won (US\$565.2) in June. But the stock has since fallen sharply to near pre-CES levels, closing at 312,000 won Friday, as enthusiasm over robotics has faded amid weak earnings and growing concerns about how soon the technology can turn profitable. Speculation about a delayed initial public offering of Boston Dynamics has added to the uncertainty. The U.S. robotics company reportedly incurred cumulative losses of around 1.7 trillion won over the past five years. The sharp drop in stock price

shows the challenge facing Hyundai: turning excitement over its robotics business into actual profits while keeping its core automotive operations competitive. "Shares of Hyundai Motor have fallen sharply amid weakness in its core automotive business," Lee Sang-soo, an analyst at iM Securities, said. "Growing concerns over potential delays in Boston Dynamics' business plans have also fueled calls for lower valuation multiples." Against this backdrop, Hyundai is developing AI-powered factory systems, logistics robots and automated vehicle inspection technologies to boost productivity and reduce manufacturing costs at its Uiwang Research and Development Center, south of Seoul. The company is working with U.S. chip giant Nvidia Corp. on Polaris, an AI-powered manufacturing platform that helps factory workers access information, analyse production data and handle daily tasks more efficiently. It is also developing AI-based inspection systems that can automatically spot defects on vehicle exteriors, reducing reliance on outside suppliers and cutting costs.

# Petrol and diesel prices today in Hyderabad, Delhi, Chennai and Mumbai on , 18 October 2026



Petrol and diesel prices today, 18 October, 2026: Petrol and diesel prices today remained stable. Going by the fuel prices at major cities in the country today, the petrol price in Delhi is at Rs. 102.12 per litre and the diesel price at Rs. 95.20. The petrol prices in Hyderabad remained at Rs. 115.69 per litre and the diesel price is at Rs. 103.82 per litre. The petrol price in Chennai per litre is Rs. 107.76 and the diesel is priced at Rs. 99.55 per litre. In Mumbai, the petrol price per litre is Rs. 111.21 and the diesel prices remained at

Rs. 97.83 per litre. Petrol prices today in Bangalore are at Rs. 110.82 per litre while diesel price remained at Rs. 98.78 per litre. India is mainly dependent on crude oil imports for petrol and diesel. Hence crude prices affect petrol and diesel rates. However, other factors such as rising demand, government taxes, rupee-dollar depreciation and refinery concept ratio will also have an impact on domestic fuel prices. The fuel prices mentioned below are due at 6 am and are subject to change at any time.

# Gold rates today in Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam stable, check the prices on 18 October, 2026

News The gold rates today in Hyderabad stable on 18 October, 2026. Going by the rates today, the price of 10 grams of 22-carat gold is Rs. 1,35,350 while the rate of 10 grams of 24-carat gold is at Rs. 1,47,660. While in Visakhapatnam, the gold rates have been same as that of Hyderabad with ten grams of 22-carat gold is Rs. 1,35,350 while the rate of 10 grams of 24-carat gold is at Rs. 1,47,660. While the Silver rate today at Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam is at Rs. 2,30,000 per kilogram. The gold rates in the international market have been fluctuating. Over the past few weeks gold rates have experienced a fall during the wedding season, fluctuating around Rs. 1,40,000 for 10 grams of 24-carat gold and approximately



Rs. 1,50,000 for 10 grams of 22-carat gold. The gold prices mentioned here are due at 8am, the prices could alter at every moment and hence the gold buyers need to track the live prices at a given time. The mentioned prices here are closing prices of yesterday while today's price would begin either with a decrease or increase.

# Gold rates today in Bengaluru and Chennai as stable, check the prices on 18 October, 2026

The gold rates today in Bengaluru and Chennai stable on 18 October 2026. Going by the gold rates today in Bengaluru, the price of 10 grams of 22-carat gold is at Rs. 1,35,350 while the rate of 10 grams of 24-carat gold is at Rs. 1,47,660. In Chennai, the gold rate of ten grams of 22-carat gold is Rs. 1,35,350 while the rate of 10 grams of 24-carat gold is at Rs. 1,47,660. Learn Hindi While the Silver rate today at Bengaluru and Chennai is at Rs. 2,34,900 and Rs. 2,34,900 respectively per kilogram. The gold rates in the international market have been fluctuating. Over the past few weeks gold rates have experienced a fall during the wedding season, fluctuating around Rs. 1,40,000 for 10 grams of 24-carat gold



and approximately Rs. 1,50,000 for 10 grams of 22-carat gold. The gold prices mentioned here are due at 8am, the prices could alter at every moment and hence the gold buyers need to track the live prices at a given time. The mentioned prices here are closing prices of yesterday while today's price would begin either with a decrease or increase.

# 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 Harsha vardhan’s reported plans to contest were affected by the reservation, while the subsequent allocation of the seat to Jana Sena further unsettled local aspirants. Agriculture minister Atchannaidu report-

edly 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 Parvathi puram has become another point of negotiation following the reservation of its chairperson’s post for a woman in the general category. Former MLC Dwarapa reddy 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 Koli kipudi 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. Also Read NTR election observer inspects VMC Mayor nomination process Vijayawada 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 Rammohan, Jana Sena leaders Vanga veeti 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.

## 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.

## Vangaveeti Radhakrishna files nomination for mayor of Vijayawada Municipal Corporation



Vangaveeti Radhakrishna has submitted his nomination as the alliance candidate for the mayor of Vijayawada Municipal Corporation from Jana Sena party. Vangaveeti Radhakrishna was seen arriving at the office of the Returning Officer in a procession comprising alliance leaders and their cadres. Addressing the press after submitting the nomination papers, he said he was hopeful of winning

and that he would develop the city under the guidance of the Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and MLAs of the city. Dr Mukka Sravani has submitted her mayoral nomination for Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation. She was accompanied by MP Sri Bharat, TDP State President Palla Srinivasa Rao, and MLA Velagapudi Ramakrishna Babu

## 850 NSS, Youth Red Cross volunteers serve Dasara devotees

Vijayawada: As many as 850 volunteers from National Service Scheme (NSS) and Youth Red Cross in NTR district have been rendering services to devotees for the past seven days at Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri. On the instructions of District Collector Dr G Lakshmisha, 750 NSS volunteers and 100 Youth Red Cross volunteers from various colleges across the district have been working in three shifts every day to ensure a comfortable darshan for devotees visiting Goddess Kanaka Durga. The volunteers are distributing drinking water, buttermilk and milk to devotees waiting in queues and assisting in annadanam programme. They are also extending support to medical teams, helping elderly and differently-abled pilgrims and assisting officials in managing crowds. Working in shifts and extending assistance throughout the day and night, they have been making efforts



to minimise inconvenience to pilgrims visiting the hill shrine. The volunteers said that serving devotees coming for Goddess darshan gave them immense happiness and personal satisfaction. They expressed gratitude to Collector Dr G Lakshmisha for providing them with an opportunity to participate in public service. They also thanked District NSS Programme Officer and District Tourism Officer Dr Kolleti Ramesh for continuously supervising and guiding their activities.

## Authorities gear up for heavy rush of nominations on final day

Vijayawada: Expecting a heavy rush of candidates across the district on Sunday (October 18), the last day for filing nominations for urban local body elections, election authorities have made elaborate arrangements at designated nomination centres to receive nomination papers and ensure smooth conduct of the process. Nominations are being filed for Mayor posts in Vijayawada and Machilipatnam Municipal Corporations, chairperson posts in Pedana, Vuyyuru, Nandigama, Kondapalli, Tiruvuru, and Jaggayyapet municipalities, and ward member positions in the respective urban local bodies. Returning Officers have made arrangements to facilitate candidates and their proposers and ensure that nominations are received in accordance with election guidelines. Officials are prepared to handle the expected rush on the final day. In Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC), 242 nominations were filed for the 86 divisions on Saturday, taking the total number of nominations for ward posts to 261 over two days. Party-wise breakup of nominations for the divisions was 110 from YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), 85 from Telugu Desam Party (TDP), 40 from Jana Sena Party (JSP), seven from Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), three from Congress, one from CPI and one from Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), besides 14 in-



dependents. For VMC Mayor post, four nominations were filed on Saturday, including one from AAP and three by independents. In Machilipatnam Municipal Corporation (MMC), 129 nominations were filed for the 60 divisions on Saturday, taking the cumulative total to 142 over two days. Of these, 71 were filed by YSRCP candidates and 44 by TDP candidates. In Vuyyuru Municipality, 51 nominations were received for ward member posts. These included 30 from YSRCP, 18 from TDP, one each from JSP and BJP, and two from independents. One nomination was also filed by a YSRCP candidate for the chairperson post. In Pedana Municipality, 25 nominations were filed for ward member posts on the second day, while two nominations were received for the chairperson post. Election officials expect a further increase in nominations on Sunday, the final day, as candidates from various political parties and independents make a last-minute bid to enter the electoral fray.