

Naidu accuses YSRCP of using courts to stall elections and development in Andhra Pradesh



Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday accused the YSR Congress Party of trying to stall elections and devel-

opment by approaching courts. He also alleged that YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) president and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is plotting acts of sabotage by sitting in Bengaluru. He remarked that only “criminal litigants” like Jagan would conceive of a strategy that involves instigating destruction themselves and then rushing to the

courts. The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief held a teleconference with ministers, MLAs, MPs, candidates, and booth-level party workers and gave them directions to ensure victory of the TDP and its allies in the local body elections. Chandrababu Naidu alleged that when the government dealt firmly with the destructive acts

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NDA will abide by SEC decision on ULB polls

The ruling NDA alliance in Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday night declared that it will abide by any decision taken by the State Election Commission (SEC) on the urban local body elections, even as it accused the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) of attempting to obstruct the electoral process through repeated litigation and alleged acts of violence. Buy Maps In a joint statement issued in the names of Chief Minister and TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu, deputy chief minister and Jana Sena president K Pawan Kalyan, and BJP state president PVN Madhav, the alliance reiterated its commitment

to conducting elections in a peaceful, transparent and democratic manner. It said the three constituent parties would extend full cooperation to the SEC and respect its decision. The alliance stressed that conducting local body elections within the stipulated timeframe was important not only for democratic representation but also for securing funds from the 16th Finance Commission and the Central government. The



NDA leaders alleged that the YSRCP had been attempting to stall the elections from the outset and had approached various courts 59 times in pursuit of that objective. They further accused the opposition party of provoking violence at several places after the electoral process began, including attacks on police personnel and the digging up of roads constructed for public use. The statement contrasted the current election process with local body polls held during the previous YSRCP government. It alleged that opposition candidates had then faced intimi-

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Chandrababu Naidu says law and order key to investment and job creation

Amaravati: Law and order is a must for attracting investment and ensuring development and creation of jobs, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said on Wednesday. Addressing the Police Commemoration Day parade at APSP 6th Battalion Grounds, at Mangalagiri in Guntur district, he said law and order, development, employment, and welfare of the people are all interconnected. Investments flow only where there is confidence in security; this, in turn, creates employment and job opportunities, he said. The Chief Minister said entrepreneurs will not come forward to invest in regions plagued by constant turmoil, unrest, and a sense of insecurity. “For this reason, whenever I am in power, I always prioritise law and order,” he said. He noted that recently, the Andhra Pradesh Counter-Intelligence wing uncovered conspiracies that posed a threat to the nation’s security. This, he said, has further enhanced the reputation of the Andhra Pradesh Police. He commended the state police for playing a pivotal role in national security. The Chief Minister asked the



police force not to tolerate crimes committed under the guise of politics. “Politics must never serve as a shield for criminals. Deal firmly with rowdies who harass the public; show no leniency towards those who act like social psychos.” CM Naidu stated that in police service, humanity is just as essential as courage. “Every individual who walks into a police station does so with the hope that their problem will be resolved. Some arrive in fear, others in tears; their issues must be addressed with a humane approach,” he said. Chandrababu Naidu said the police uniform should serve as a source of reassurance for victims. He remarked that the sight of a police uniform should strike fear into the hearts of criminals, while victims should find a sense of trust and assurance in the police. Stating that the methods used to commit crimes

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have evolved, he called for improving the methods used for investigation. He noted that through a single phone call, a

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YSRCP alleges 76 cases of violence, intimidation during ZPTC, MPTC nomination filing in Andhra

Amaravati: The YSRCP State Coordinator S Ramakrishna Reddy on Wednesday alleged that 76 violent incidents have occurred across 11 districts during ZPTC and MPTC election nominations, including “attacks, arrests, house confinement, threats and destruction of nomination papers”. The YSRCP leader claimed that YSR Kadapa district has witnessed 22 such incidents, followed by Palnadu (18), Annamayya and Tirupati (11 each) while the remaining happened across seven districts, he said in a party press release. He noted that his party will furnish these details to the Supreme Court and seek transfers or removal from election duties of “officials responsible”. Municipal nomination obstruction, arbitrary rejection during scrutiny and threats forcing withdrawals were now

YSRCP hails Supreme Court directions on Andhra Pradesh local body polls

Amaravati: The YSR Congress Party on Wednesday hailed the Supreme Court orders on the conduct of Urban Local Body (ULB) elections in Andhra Pradesh, terming it a victory of democracy and democratic rights of its candidates. YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) Spokesperson, Konda Rajiv Gandhi, said that the Supreme Court direction is a major setback to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Chandrababu Naidu, and his coalition government. The Supreme Court directed the State Election Commission (SEC) to examine allegations that candidates of the Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy-led YSRCP were prevented from filing nominations for Urban



Local Body elections and decide by Thursday whether the deadline should be extended in affected municipalities. A Bench of Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana ordered the state poll panel to keep the final list of contesting candidates on hold until October 25, pending its decision on the representations and evidence submitted by the YSRCP and other candidates. The Justice

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DRI busts Bangladesh-Kolkata-Hyderabad gold smuggling route, seizes Rs 5.84 crore haul

Vijayawada: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has busted a Bangladesh-Kolkata-Hyderabad gold smuggling route with the seizure of foreign-origin gold and foreign currency valued at about Rs 5.84 crore near Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh. Five persons were arrested in the operation jointly carried out by officials of the DRI Hyderabad Unit and the Vijayawada Regional Unit. The agency said on Wednesday that it identified a gang smuggling gold from Bangladesh to Hyderabad via Kolkata. The officials seized 3,147.1 grams of gold, USD



60,000, and Euro 21,500, all valued at about Rs 5.84 crore. The DRI officials intercepted a four-wheeler on the outskirts of Vijayawada and recovered the foreign currency concealed in a secret cavity in the SUV. The two occupants admitted to having delivered the gold and that the

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recurring in local body elections, he claimed. Ramakrishna Reddy alleged that several candidates withdrew under police pressure and threats of fabricated narcotics and other criminal cases. Further, he also welcomed the Supreme Court’s intervention in Andhra Pradesh’s local bodies elections and demanded that the State Election Commission exercise its powers, protect candidates and remove officials allegedly serving the ruling

party. Today, Andhra Pradesh State Election Commissioner Anil Chandra Punetha deferred polls in 19 municipalities across seven districts, citing Supreme Court orders. Meanwhile, the TDP claimed in a post on X that the coalition government had already “anticipated that Jagan (YSRCP supremo) would create chaos and destruction” during the local bodies polls. “The government had already anticipated that Jagan would create chaos and destruction

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All-India prison
administraction
service need of the hour

Discipline without fairness breeds resentment, authority without understanding weakens institutions. The Ajmer woman jailor’s case has reopened a larger debate about the future of India’s prison administration. At CAPT, Bhopal, prison officers are discussing the challenges faced by women working in correctional institutions. The Ajmer incident has brought an uncomfortable reality into focus, behind the uniform are human beings balancing professional pressures, family responsibilities and an often-demanding working environment. The case, however, must be examined in its full facts. Reports and departmental discussions indicate that the accused officer allegedly remained absent for nearly two months, took two inmates out without authorisation, failed to make the required entries in prison records and was found at fault in a preliminary departmental inquiry. If established, these are serious matters involving discipline, security and the lawful custody of prisoners. Her personal circumstances cannot justify such conduct.

Yet, an equally important question remains, was the response proportionate to the misconduct established? Suspension, departmental proceedings and criminal prosecution serve different purposes. Not every service violation requires an FIR, but neither can criminal proceedings be ruled out merely because the accused is a government employee. The relevant legal provisions, evidence and circumstances must determine the course of action. Arrest and detention must also satisfy legal requirements; bail is a matter for the competent court. The concern, therefore, is not whether an officer should be above the law, but whether the law and disciplinary procedures are applied consistently, fairly and without avoidable humiliation. Lodging an accused officer in the very institution where she served inevitably raises questions about dignity, although the legality and necessity of custody must be assessed on their merits. The debate also exposes a longstanding institutional problem. Prison administration is a specialised profession requiring expertise in security, custodial management, correctional treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration. Yet prison officers have often expressed concern that their professional knowledge and experience receive insufficient recognition in wider police and administrative hierarchies. Such perceptions deserve constructive institutional dialogue rather than blanket accusations against individual leaders. The answer lies in clearly defined professional autonomy, transparent accountability and leadership that recognises both operational realities and the dignity of personnel. Credit for success and responsibility for failure must be shared fairly. A broader reform is equally overdue, the proposed Indian Prison and Correctional Service. An All-India Service could strengthen professional standards, career development, national coordination and the recognition of correctional administration as a distinct discipline. However, as officers have rightly pointed out, substantial differences exist among states in service nomenclature, recruitment qualifications, entry levels, cadres and promotion structures. These must be studied and harmonised, while respecting constitutional arrangements and state responsibilities, before a workable national framework can emerge.

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of YSRCP, it approached courts to stall the elections. “Whenever their attempts at sabotage are thwarted, they rush to the courts to try and halt the elections. This is how those who lack faith in democracy think,” he said. He also accused the YSRCP of hatching conspiracies to distort even the verdicts delivered by the courts. The TDP chief was apparently referring to the YSRCP’s reaction to the Supreme Court order on its petition in connection with urban local body elections. Calling YSRCP ‘Axe Party’, he said that while the NDA was busy selecting strong candidates for the elections, the president of the ‘Axe Party’ who sits in Bengaluru was plotting acts of sabotage. “As we work on finalising candidates for various municipalities, Jagan is busy hatching conspiracies—planning to bring in goons from other states to target specific areas,” he alleged. He said the YSRCP criticised the voter list and approached the court, demanding that local body elections be halted until a new electoral roll is prepared. He alleged that they also obstructed BC (Backward Class) reservations—filing nearly 60 such petitions across the High Court and the Supreme Court. Chandrababu Naidu also remarked that they are forced to engage in politics with an individual who possesses a ‘twisted’ mindset. “People with such a twisted mentality should be kept far away from politics. If criminal litigants remain in politics, they will create obstacles to development and the delivery of welfare,” he said. The Chief Minister told the TDP leaders that their primary objective must be the victory of the alliance candidates. The election process should be carried forward in coordination with the Jana Sena and BJP, he said. He told them to treat every aspect with seriousness, from the selection of candidates to the final results. “We are selecting strong candidates, prioritising those who have worked hard for the party. The ‘Axe Party’ is fielding destructive individuals as candidates,” he added.

NDA will abide by SEC decision on ULB polls

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dation and obstruction while filing nominations, enabling the ruling party to claim unopposed victories. The alliance also referred to a letter reportedly written by the then state election commissioner to the Central government regarding alleged irregularities in unanimous elections. It said central forces had been deployed following a request for protection from the then SEC. The NDA leaders said their parties had faith in democratic institutions and would support the election process in accordance with the Constitution. They maintained that voters should be able to elect their representatives freely and that local bodies should become effective instruments for delivering development and welfare. Reiterating that the SEC’s decision would be respected, the alliance said its objective was to ensure that the elections were conducted lawfully and peacefully, with the benefits of development reaching people across the State.

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in the areas of YCP (YSRCP) leaders like Avinash Reddy, Mithun Reddy, Peddireddy, and others to disrupt the elections. That’s why it took some precautions and was able to control the riots,” said TDP. It was only Jagan who went to the Supreme Court, citing the very “destruction he orchestrated” as evidence, demanding that the elections be stopped, the ruling party claimed. TDP also accused YSRCP of having a culture of “unleashing thugs who attack TDP candidates who came to file nominations in Punganur with iron rods and stones, spilling blood, questioning, “why such fear of elections?” Jagan fears that he might face the same defeat in the local body elections as the verdict delivered by the people in the previous general elections, TDP claimed. “That’s why, to stall the elections, he got some cases filed accusing no to BC reservations, and some saying elections should be held only after the census process is completed...” In this way, he got around 60 cases filed. “Nevertheless, the elections didn’t stop... The BC reservations didn’t stop either,” TDP added.

Hyderabad traffic diversions announced
for Durga Matha idol immersion

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Traffic Police have announced diversions from 3 pm on Wednesday to 6 am on October 24, in view of Durga Matha idol immersion at People’s Plaza, Garden Point, and baby ponds at Jalavihar and Sanjeevaiah Park. Accordingly, traffic restrictions will be imposed at key junctions, including VV Statue, Old Saifabad PS, Ravindra Bharathi, Liberty, Upper Tank Bund and Nallagutta X Roads, depending on traffic conditions. Similarly, vehicles from Punjagutta and Lok Bhavan Road towards Khairatabad flyover will be diverted at VV Statue towards Niran kari Junction.

DRI busts Bangladesh-Kolkata-
Hyderabad gold smuggling route,
seizes Rs 5.84 crore haul

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seized foreign currency represented part of the sale proceeds from the smuggled gold. Acting on information given by them, police stopped a bus heading towards Hyderabad and arrested three more individuals carrying three gold bars, weighing about 3.1 kilograms. The gold bars were concealed in pouches around their waists. The coordinated operation was carried out based on intelligence inputs that a gang was smuggling foreign-origin gold from Bangladesh and transporting it to Hyderabad via Kolkata. All five accused, allegedly involved in procuring and transporting the gold, were arrested and produced in a court, which remanded them to judicial custody.

DRI said further investigation was underway. This is the second such operation by DRI in Andhra Pradesh this month. Earlier, the DRI officials had seized foreign-origin gold worth Rs 8.98 crore near Visakhapatnam and arrested two persons. The gold hidden under the car seat was being transported from Kolkata to Hyderabad. According to the DRI, it seized 5,832.90 grams of gold worth Rs 8.98 crore in the market from a car travelling from Kolkata to Hyderabad, following a chase and search on the night of October 8-9. The gold had been smuggled into India through the India-Bangladesh border and was being transported to Hyderabad. Officials seized the recovered gold under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962. They arrested and produced both passengers before the jurisdictional magistrate, who remanded them to judicial custody.

Chandrababu Naidu says law and
order key to investment and job creation

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single link, or a single message, cybercriminals are stealing the life savings that people have worked hard to accumulate. Even the educated are falling prey to these scams. He stated that while solving a crime demonstrates competence, preventing crime is the hallmark of the best policing. “CCTV cameras reveal the occurrence of a crime, while data analysis allows for the uncovering of the underlying facts. Drones expand the scope of police surveillance, and AI-driven analysis enhances investigative capabilities,” he said. The CM said the reputation of the Andhra Pradesh Police as a leader in technology should be recognised across the entire nation. “We are working towards a wealthy, healthy, and happy Andhra Pradesh; the role of the police is crucial in this endeavour. The ‘Eagle’ team is doing an excellent job in controlling the menace of ganja (cannabis) and drugs — I commend their efforts.”

Chief Minister Naidu, Home Minister V. Anitha, the DGP, and other senior officials paid their respects at the memorial dedicated to police personnel who lost their lives while on duty. The Chief Minister, Home Minister, DGP, Chief Secretary, and other senior officials observed a moment of silence at the memorial to honour the martyrs. The Chief Minister made a donation to the Police Commemoration Fund and visited exhibitions organised by various wings of the Police Department. He inquired about forensic tools — crucial for criminal investigations — and disaster relief equipment. The officers briefed the Chief Minister on modern weaponry used by various units of the Andhra Pradesh Police, in

YSRCP hails Supreme Court directions
on Andhra Pradesh local body polls

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Bagchi-led Bench said that wherever an extension is granted, candidates must be given at least 48 hours from the publication of the SEC’s decision to submit their nomination papers. “This is a victory for democracy and democratic rights of YSR Congress Party candidates,” the party spokesperson said. He alleged that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu was trying to turn Local Body elections into a one-sided contest. “Our candidates are being attacked, threatened and stopped from filing nominations. Nomination papers are being torn. Police have failed to protect our candidates. We brought this, with all evidences, to the notice of the State Election Commission but unfortunately no action was taken,” he said. Konda Rajiv Gandhi said they had to approach the Supreme Court, which directed the SEC not to publish the final list of candidates until October 25. He said, as directed by the Supreme Court, the SEC will have to receive and examine all kinds of complaints and observations, evidences and CCTV footage. If extension is allowed, minimum 48 hours should be given to candidates to file nominations. He said the Supreme Court also directed the Director General of Police (DGP) to provide enough police protection to candidates. “These directions raise serious doubts about the conduct of Chandrababu Naidu in holding the Local Body elections. Today’s development strengthens our fight and our right. Naidu should conduct elections in a free and fair manner. He should allow everyone to contest. Let people decide who should win. Then only democracy lives forever,” said the YSRCP spokesman.

ON POLICE COMMEMORATION DAY
TELANGANA CHIEF MINISTER PAID
TRIBUTES TO POLICE MARTYRS



AMEER HUSSAIN CRIME BEURO CHIEF : Vacancies in the Telangana Police Department will be filled by 2028 through phased recruitment, ensuring there is no staff shortage, Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri A. Revanth Reddy announced. Special measures are being taken to strengthen the Police Department to tackle emerging crimes and challenges, including cybercrime, online fraud, drug trafficking and food adulteration. The Chief Minister called upon everyone to honour the sacrifices of police martyrs, uphold their ideals and work towards building a peaceful, safe and developed Telangana.

On Police Commemoration Day, the Chief Minister paid tributes to police martyrs at a programme held at Goshamahahal Stadium in Hyderabad. After receiving the ceremonial salute, he outlined the importance of law and order and the measures taken by the government for the welfare of police personnel.

“Police Commemoration Day is an emotional occasion. This year, 154 police personnel across the country lost their lives in the line of duty. I extend my heartfelt condolences to their families. The government will stand by them.”

Law and order is vital for Telangana’s development and for the growth of industries, IT and tourism. That is why our government gives the Police Department the highest priority.

By October 2025, we had recruited around 16,000 constables and Sub-Inspectors. In 2026, approval was given for additional recruitment, including 7,437 posts across the Police, Fire Services and Prisons departments. We also recruited 112 DSPs and appointed transgender per-

sons as traffic assistants.

We enhanced ex-gratia payments for police personnel who die in the line of duty, with compensation ranging from ₹1 crore for constables and Head Constables/ASIs to ₹2 crore for SPs and IPS officers. Eligible family members of martyrs will receive government jobs, house sites, educational and medical assistance. The ex-gratia for Home Guard families will be increased from ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh.

We established the Young India Police School on 44 acres at Manchirevula to support the education of police personnel’s children. Initiatives such as the EAGLE Force, TG SAFE, SHE Teams, Stand With Her and Spandana teams strengthen efforts to tackle drugs, food adulteration and women’s safety.

Police personnel must handle cases involving women and children sensitively and ensure timely justice. Women’s safety is everyone’s responsibility. The families of martyrs are not alone; the government, Police Department and society stand with them. Discipline and integrity must guide every police officer. Personnel should treat ordinary citizens with friendliness and deal firmly with criminals, carrying forward the spirit of the martyrs,” the Chief Minister said.

#CMRevanthReddy #PoliceCommemorationDay #PoliceMartyrs #TelanganaPolice #PoliceRecruitment #WomenSafety #EAGLEForce #SHETeams #TGSAFE #TGTMARS #YoungIndiaPoliceSchool #GoshamahahalPoliceStadium #Hyderabad #RevanthReddy #CVAnand

Arranging Biksha for Swamis is
Purvajanma Sukrutam

Kamavarapu Kota, October 21, “Members of Sri Veerabhadra Swamy Annadana Committee Friend Circle said that they consider it as Purvajanma Sukrutam (virtue of previous birth) to arrange Biksha for Swamis who have taken Maladharana at local Veerabhadra Swamy Temple for the past ten years. On Wednesday they started Swamis Biksha programme. They said this Biksha programme will be conducted from Wednesday till December 3rd with cooperation of Guruswamis, Swamis, donors. They expressed thanks on behalf of Annadana Committee to everyone who is directly, indirectly cooperating to arrange Biksha for Swamis. Many praised services of Annadana Committee members saying that arranging Annaprasadam for those who have taken Maladharana with discipline shows the devotion in them. In this



programme former AMC Chairman Koneru Venkata Subbarao, former ZPTC Kadimi Ramesh, former Upa Sarpanchs Nekkallapu Suryanarayana, Meduri Rangababu, TDP leaders Nuthi Ratalu, Koneru Mohan, Eluri Hari, CPI leader TVS Raju participated and served Annaprasadam to Swamis. On first day Tokala Prasad, Tokala Rajesh family members acted as donors. Annadana Committee members Kadipi Paparao, Bollu Venkata Satyanarayana, Veeramalla Madhu, Nanduri Prabhakar, Tammiseti Satyanarayana, Vasu, Nanduri Bhanu, Kanuri Satish, Munnangi Srinivasa Rao and others participated.

Battle of Valour.. Devaragattu

Banni Festival at Devaragattu
Pujas to Malamalleswara Swamy
Stick Fight at 12:15 AM midnight
Bandobust with 1000 policemen
Surveillance with Drones, Night Vision Cameras



Banni festival has started at Devaragattu in Kurnool district. The stick fight conducted after Malamalleswara Swamy Kalyanotsavam on the occasion of Dasara every year has started at midnight on Wednesday this time due to Thithis, Nakshatras. As part of tradition coming for generations, people of ten villages participate in this festival. However, as clashes, injuries occur in this celebration every year, officials have focused specially on conducting without scope for violence this time. After Malamalleswara Swamy Kalyanam on Devaragattu hill, Utsava idols are brought in palanquin to Simhasanam Katta area. At this time people of various villages form into two groups to take idols to their village and clash with sticks. Several Sthalapuranas are in vogue locally behind this tradition. However, as in this fight in the name of custom heads are broken and many get injured, and in the past even lost lives, concerns are expressed every year over security. In this background District Collector Siri, SP Vikrant Patil conducted review with villagers and gave several suggestions. Tight bandobust has been arranged with about thousand policemen.

Bindover action has been taken against 190 persons including those who indulged in clashes earlier, illegal liquor sellers. In 40 cordon search operations about 300 sticks were seized. To make surveillance more stringent five checkposts, ten police pickets have been set up. Besides taking up monitoring with 110 night vision CC cameras, ten drones, 700 LED lights have been arranged for lighting in night time. A 30-bed temporary hospital has been readied to provide immediate medical treatment to injured and number of ambulances increased. In the background of local body election nominations, special arrangements have been made to avoid disruption to traffic. SP warned that stern action will be inevitable if attacks with sticks are resorted due to personal enmities. Collector appealed to villagers to respect tradition and stay away from violence. Officials who arranged huge police bandobust, surveillance with modern technology have aimed to conduct festival without any untoward incidents this time. It has become interesting whether Devaragattu Banni festival, which every year becomes venue for injuries, bloodshed, will end peacefully at least this time.

Women entrepreneurs should be encouraged: Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha

Collector's visit to National Saras Mela“Stalls inspection..
Face-to-face with consumers, sellers



Vijayawada: NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha inspected the National Saras Mela being held at Punnami Ghat on Wednesday. He visited various stalls and enquired about quality, prices, sales details of products made by Self Help Group women, artisans. He talked to consumers, sellers and enquired about business opportunities, manner of sales. Collector said that National level marketing opportunities are being provided for products made by women besides Saras Mela helps for their economic

self-reliance. He inspected mobile ATMs arranged for convenience of visitors and instructed bank officials to provide continuous services so that difficulties do not arise in cash transactions. He directed officials to take up continuous monitoring on sanitation, drinking water, security, other basic facilities in Mela premises. He requested people to visit Mela and purchase products to encourage rural women, artisans. In this programme NTR District DRDA Project Director Nanchararao and others participated.

First unanimous in Vijayawada.. Bonda Uma congratulates TDP candidate Lalitha Kishore

Vijayawada: In Municipal Corporation elections TDP candidate Veeramachaneni Lalitha Kishore in 64th Division was elected unanimously. As rival candidates along with two independent candidates withdrew nominations, her election became unanimous. Returning Officer handed over election confirmation certificate. On this occasion Govt Whip, Vijayawada Central MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao congratulated Lalitha Kishore. He said this unanimous victory is evidence of positivity among people towards development, welfare programmes being taken up by coalition government. He suggested her to keep up people's trust and work for development of division, solving problems. On this occasion TDP leaders, activists celebrated.



Foolproof arrangements should be completed for Municipal elections conduct

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha inspects polling stations, strong rooms, counting centers

Nandigama: October 21, 2026. District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha directed concerned officials to complete all arrangements needed for Municipal elections conduct foolproof. District Collector suddenly visited polling stations, strong rooms, counting centers in Nandigama Municipal limits on Wednesday and inspected arrangements. First, Collector inspected polling stations set up at Nandigama ZP High School and ordered to set up clear indicator boards so that voters can easily identify their polling booths. Afterwards Collector inspected strong rooms, counting centers being prepared at Nandigama KVR College and suggested to close windows in strong rooms completely with bricks and not with wood. He ordered to set up separate entry routes for public and staff into counting centers besides setting up necessary indicator boards clearly. Collector directed RDO, Municipal Commissioner, MPDOs to provide comprehensive training to officials, staff participating in elec-



tion duties. He suggested to take stringent measures so that there is no scope for violations of election code of conduct and to create complete awareness on code to representatives of political parties, public. Collector clarified that all department officials should work in coordination and complete arrangements related to elections timely and take measures so that elections are held in peaceful atmosphere. In this tour Nandigama RDO G. Anil Kumar, Municipal Commissioner Lovaraju, Nandigama, Chandarlapadu MPDOs, Nandigama Rural CI, Survey Department officials, Municipal staff and others participated.

Rs.7 crore business in National Saras Mela

Huge patronage for Self Help Group women products across country
Visit Mela with family and support women empowerment
NTR District DRDA Project Director A.N.V. Nanchararao

NTR District DRDA Project Director A.N.V. Nanchararao said that National Saras Mela-2026 being conducted from 13th of this month to 31st at Punnami Ghat in Vijayawada is getting huge response from people. He revealed that about Rs.7 crore business has happened in Mela so far. “He said it is special that National level Saras Mela generally conducted in areas like Delhi, Noida, Gurgaon is being conducted for first time in Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh. He said Self Help Group women, artisans belonging to various states across country are participating in this Mela and displaying and selling their products. “Various types of products in 587 stalls “Nanchararao said total 587 stalls have been set up in Mela premises. He said 210 stalls have been allocated for Self Help Group women belonging to Andhra Pradesh. He said handicrafts, handloom textiles, textiles, various types of food products made by women are attracting visitors. “He said by allocating stalls free of cost to Self Help Group women to sell their products we are providing them better marketing opportunities. He explained that National Saras Mela is helping for economic self-reliance of women, providing wide publicity to rural products. “Special Food Court with 50 stalls “He said a Food Court has been

set up specially with 50 stalls under Kudumbashree to introduce traditional tastes of various states to people. He said special food items belonging to various regions in country are available here. He said visitors have opportunity to enjoy food cultures of various states in same premises. “Better facilities for visitors “Nanchararao said all types of arrangements have been made so that people coming to Mela do not face any inconvenience. He said 470 sanitation staff have been appointed for cleanliness of premises. He explained that necessary arrangements are being monitored in coordination with Fire, Electricity, Medical, Police, RTC and other departments. “He said there is no entry fee for Mela, and all people can visit free of cost. He said cultural programmes are being conducted for two hours daily in evening from 21st to 31st of this month. “People should cooperate for women empowerment Nanchararao requested city residents, people of surrounding areas to visit National Saras Mela along with their family members. He called upon to support their economic development by purchasing products made by Self Help Group women. He said women empowerment can be strengthened by encouraging talent of rural women, providing patronage to local products.

One entrepreneur should grow from each family

Women entrepreneurs should be encouraged
NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha



Vijayawada, Date: 21: NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha called for encouraging at least one from each family in rural, urban areas to grow as entrepreneur. He instructed officials to provide necessary opportunities for women to achieve economic self-reliance through self-employment besides growing as successful entrepreneurs. As part of National Saras Mela-2026 being conducted at Punnami Ghat in Vijayawada, “as part of Entrepreneurship Development Acceleration Program, District Collector met with women entrepreneurs, artisans from various districts in Enterprise Development Stall (Buyer-Seller Meet Gallery) on Wednesday under MEPMA, SERP. On this occasion he keenly observed various types of products made by them and enquired about manufacturing process, quality, marketing opportunities, sales details. “Collector observed handicraft products like bags, wooden dolls, veenas made of wood made by women and appreciated artisans' skill, quality of products. He said there is need to provide wide marketing opportunities to women who are showcasing their talent by creating innovative products. Speaking on this occasion Collector said, with



goal of "One Family - One Entrepreneur" women in rural, urban areas should be further encouraged towards business sector. He said providing better marketing facilities for products being made by women, ensuring direct business relations with buyers, providing necessary cooperation to expand their businesses is crucial. He ordered officials to work in coordination towards nurturing women entrepreneurs double the present number by next year Saras Mela. He suggested to provide appropriate guidance to women in aspects like skill development, business management, quality improvement of products, marketing. Collector said when women achieve economic self-reliance then only living standards of their families will improve, thereby society will achieve comprehensive development. He said platforms like National Saras Mela besides bringing recognition to women groups' products, help for their business development. In programme Vijayawada RDO V. Srinivasa Rao, Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) AP Directors Sheela Srinivas, Bhavya Sharma, SERP Additional CEO R. Sriramulu Naidu, NTR District DRDA Project Director Nancharao and others participated.

""Tholisari Mimmalni Choosindi Modalu" Movie Poster Launched by MLA Naveen Yadav on Vijayadashami

Bhargav, widely recognized as 'Supreme Star' in the Kannada film industry, is playing the lead role and directing a new film titled 'Tholisari Mimmalni Choosindi Modalu'. Featuring Aariya Menon as the female lead, the film is being made simultaneously in Telugu and Kannada languages. Bandi Nagaraju is producing the film under the banner of Kosala Creative Works Pvt. Ltd., while Maddineni Ramesh serves as the Executive Producer. The movie is currently undergoing regular shooting, with 70% of the filming already completed. On the auspicious occasion of Dussehra, the movie poster of 'Tholisari Mimmalni Choosindi Modalu' was launched at the hands of MLA Naveen Yadav. ""Speaking on the occasion, MLA Naveen Yadav said: "I am very happy to launch the poster for this movie. Three-fourths of the shooting has already been completed, and the film is set to hit the screens in December. My best wishes to hero-director Bhargav, producer Nagaraju, and the entire team working hard for this movie. I wish the film completes without any hurdles and achieves great success upon its release." Producer Bandi Nagaraju said: "I am very happy that MLA Naveen Yadav garu garu launched our movie poster today and extended their best wishes to us. We are producing this film with high quality without compromising anywhere on the production values. Our movie contains all the elements that the audience expects. Youth as well as family audiences can enjoy this film. We will bring our movie for a grand theatrical release in December." Director and Hero Bhargav said: "I am coming before the Telugu audience as a director and hero with the movie



'Tholisari Mimmalni Choosindi Modalu'. My thanks to our producer for providing this opportunity. With the support of our entire team, I am making a good youthful and family entertainer. The shooting is progressing smoothly as planned. We are very satisfied with the movie's quality and output. After completing all formalities, we will release our film in December." "" Cast: Bhargav, Aariya Menon, Sai Kishore N.G, Yashana Sannappanavar, Chhatrapati Shekhar, Sujatha Rudravarapu, Prema Sagar, Bangalore Rajini, Mysore Sujatha, Balaraj Wadi, Killi Kranti, Tasty Teja, Gaddam Naveen, Jabardasth Santha kumar, Lungi Mama (K-Ramp fame), and others. Technicians * DOP: Sai Krishna * Co-Director: K.P. Aravind * Music: Peddapalli Rohit * Lyrics: Vishnuvardhan, Venigalla Rambabu * Publicity Designer: Viva Reddy * Digital: Laabha digital media "" PRO: Chandu Ramesh * Banner: Kosala Creative Works Pvt. Ltd. * Executive Producer: Maddineni Ramesh * Producer: Bandi Nagaraju * Script & Direction: Bhargav B. V.

‘Rudravanam PS’ Trailer Unveils a Dark Crime Mystery as ZEE5 Original Premieres on October 30

A missing man, a headless corpse, and an investigation that leads into the darker corners of power and prejudice set the stage for Rudravanam PS. The trailer of the upcoming ZEE5 Telugu Original is out now, offering a glimpse into a crime thriller where disturbing discoveries raise more questions than they answer. Starring Naresh Agastya as SI Sivakumar, the series is set to premiere on ZEE5 on October 30, 2026. ""Hyderabad cinema ""Set against the backdrop of a police station grappling with unsettling cases, the trailer introduces a reported robbery involving gold worth 25 lakh before hinting at a far more disturbing chain of events. References to multiple killings and the discovery of a body in the forest deepen the mystery, drawing the investigation into territory where the truth may be more complicated than it first appears. As the clues begin to accumulate, the question is no longer simply who committed a crime, but what connects the incidents and what remains concealed. Rudravanam Trailer ?? https://youtu.be/eauy_w3N7dE At the centre of the investigation is SI Sivakumar, played by Naresh Agastya, whose role places him amid a web of unanswered questions and conflicting circumstances. Joining him in the police station's investigative setup are Banerjee as CI Venugopal, Shiva Alapati as ASI Madhav, Sugali Siloni as ASI Nirmala, and Ramesh Konambhotla as Head Constable Sundar. Together, the ensemble brings the police procedural dimension of the story into focus as the investiga-

tion unfolds. ""Directed by Sasidhar Munnangi and produced by Dr. Surya Kanthi Kuchibhotla and Ramesh Puppala, Rudravanam PS builds its atmosphere through a combination of investigative tension and ominous visual storytelling. Cinematographer Ashkar lends the trailer a dark visual texture, with shadowy forests, flashlight-lit searches, tense exchanges, and glimpses of disturbing crime scenes reinforcing the uncertainty surrounding the case. The contrast between the police station and the surrounding wilderness adds to the sense that the answers may lie beyond the obvious leads. ""Rather than revealing its central mystery, the trailer gradually expands the scale of the investigation, leaving viewers to piece together the clues. The missing man, the disturbing discovery in the woods, and the suggestion of deeper power dynamics establish a narrative in which each revelation could alter the direction of the case. The result is an investigative thriller that builds anticipation through unanswered questions rather than easy explanations. ""With Rudravanam PS, ZEE5 Telugu adds another crime-driven original to its slate, bringing together a police investigation, an unsettling mystery, and a story shaped by the relationship between crime and power. ""Rudravanam PS premieres on *ZEE5 on October 30, 2026*. With its trailer now unveiled, the series invites audiences into a world where the search for answers may expose far more than the crimes themselves.

‘Vibhrama’ Movie Launched Grandly on the Auspicious Occasion of Dasara



Hyderabad cinema: Vibhrama’ Begins with Traditional Pooja Ceremony at Swayambhu Kalabhairava Swamy Temple Hyderabad: Marking the auspicious occasion of Dasara, the launch ceremony of ‘Vibhrama’, an upcoming film under the banner of Siri Varaha Films, was held grandly. The film commenced with traditional pooja rituals at the Swayambhu Kalabhairava Swamy Temple. Members of the film team participated in the ceremony and extended their best wishes for the film’s success. ""The film is directed by S. Rocky Rajinikanth, produced by Narendra Denuka, and co-produced by S. Shirisha Rocky. “ The movie features Tiger Naresh, Siddharth Roi Chandrakala

Chinni, and Anu in prominent roles. Launched on the auspicious occasion of Dasara, the team expressed hope that ‘Vibhrama’ would captivate audiences and bring recognition to everyone associated with the film. The film unit will announce further details about the project soon. Movie Details Movie Title: Vibhrama Lead Cast: Tiger Naresh, Siddharth Roi, Chandrakala Chinni, Anu Production House: Siri Varaha Films Director: S. Rocky Rajinikanth Producer: Narendra Denuka Co-Producer: S. Shirisha Rocky PR & Digital : Colorfull Digital Media

Star Director Boyapati Srinu Unveils Trailer of Varun Sandesh and Swetha Basu Prasad’s aha Original _Naa Wife Missing

Naa Wife Missing” Web Series Premieres on October 22

Hyderabad cinema:aha OTT, which continues to engage subscribers with exciting and diverse content, is now bringing another intriguing web series to audiences. Starring Varun Sandesh and Swetha Basu Prasad in the lead roles, the aha Original “Naa Wife Missing” is all set to stream from October 22. The series will be available to subscribers in both Telugu and Tamil. Produced by Shiva Kantepudi under the Lighthouse Cine Magic banner, the series is directed by Swati Prakash Mantripragada. ""The trailer of “Naa Wife Missing” was unveiled today by star director Boyapati Srinu. The trailer introduces Balu, also known as Balasubrahmanyam (Varun Sandesh), who approaches the Amalapuram police station to file a complaint about his missing wife, Swapna (Swetha Basu Prasad). However, the fact that Balu waits an entire day before reporting his wife’s disappearance raises suspicion among the police, who begin investigating him as a potential suspect. ""Meanwhile, Balu also tries to find out what happened to his wife. The trailer reveals that Balu shares a close friendship with another woman, which leaves Swapna distressed. As the investigation progresses, the mystery deepens, culminating in the police arresting Balu.



The intriguing sequences raise several questions: Who is responsible for Swapna’s disappearance? Is her husband Balu involved in the case? What really happened to Swapna? With its suspenseful premise and gripping investigative elements, the trailer builds curiosity about the mystery at the heart of “Naa Wife Missing”. Cast: Varun Sandesh, Swetha Basu Prasad, Praveen, Satya Sri, and others. Technical Crew Editor: Saibabu Talari Director of Photography: N.S. Satish Kumar Music: Sai Karthik Story: Umarji Anuradha Created By: Srinivas Mandal Banner: Lighthouse Cine Magic Producer: Shiva Kantepudi Director: Swati Prakash Mantripragada PRO: Suresh (SK Media)



Bhuvneshwar Kumar’s experience makes him ideal for New Zealand conditions, says Pujara

New Delhi: Cheteshwar Pujara believes Bhuvneshwar Kumar should be India’s first-choice new-ball bowler in New Zealand, as the conditions there would be ideal for the experienced pacer’s swing bowling. Bhuvneshwar’s ability to exploit movement in the air and off the pitch makes him well suited to conditions in New Zealand, where Shreyas Iyer will look to lead India to a series victory. The five-match series begins on Thursday in Christchurch. “In New Zealand, he should be the first choice with the new ball, based on the conditions, because of the skill he possesses of swinging the ball. If the ball won’t swing in New Zealand, where else will it swing? The conditions there are ideal for him,” Pujara said on JioHotstar’s ‘Out or Not Out’. “If there is a little help from the pitch, he can extract that movement from the pitch very well with the new ball,” he added. Pujara also said a victory in New Zealand would provide a significant confidence boost to both the captain and the team, given the challenges of performing in overseas conditions. “When you go to New Zealand and defeat the New Zealand team, it’s a big achievement. Performing well in overseas conditions for the Indian team in any format, whether it is ODIs, T20Is or a Test match, boosts your confidence,” he said. “If you do well there as a captain or as a team, your confidence goes up, knowing that you can perform well not just in Indian conditions, but anywhere in the world.” Former India assistant coach Abhishek Nayar pointed out that Bhuvneshwar had excelled in the IPL despite the absence



of seam-friendly conditions, bowling both with the new ball and at the death over the last two seasons. “In the IPL, there aren’t seaming conditions; there are flat pitches. Yet, for two years, he has been bowling two overs at the top and two at the back end, the toughest phases of the game,” Nayar said. “To do that, you need experience, you need a bowler who understands the conditions and can extract the best out of those conditions, and there has never been a question about Bhuvneshwar Kumar.” Nayar said he was pleased to see the experienced pacer return to the national set-up. He also said success in New Zealand would help Iyer establish his credentials as a captain, particularly given the comparisons with Suryakumar Yadav, who previously led India in T20Is. “It’s not about whether he’s worthy or not in comparison to Surya, because at that time, India played a lot of series in India. They didn’t travel a lot. After Shreyas Iyer took up captaincy, they’ve gone to England, and now they’re going to New Zealand,” he said.

Rashid Khan retains top bowling rank as Sediqullah Atal climbs in ODI rankings

Hyderabad: Afghanistan players Sediqullah Atal and Rashid Khan have made major gains in the ICC Men’s ODI Player Rankings after helping their team secure an impressive 158-run victory over Zimbabwe in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Tri-Series in Abu Dhabi on Monday. Left-handed batter Sediqullah struck 102 as Afghanistan posted a total of 294 after electing to bat. His Player of the Match effort helped him gain 12 slots and reach 20th position even as Rashid’s haul off four for 17 that included the prize scalp of Sikandar Raza, has helped him consolidate his position at the top of the bowling rankings, taking him a good 80 rating points ahead of Abrar Ahmed. Bangladesh batter Tanzid Hasan’s knock of 46 in the opening match of the UAE Tri-Series which they lost to Zimbabwe, sees him move up three places to 21st while fast bowler Taskin Ahmed is up nine places to a career-best 12th place after a haul of three for 44 in the loss. There is a jostling of places on the table there with the slots from 11 to 20 covered by just 28 points. Others to gain after matches of this tri-series include Afghanistan’s left-arm fast bowler Fazalhaq Farooqi (up 12 places to 46th) after grabbing two for 15 against Zimbabwe and Zimbabwe’s Brad Evans, who took seven wickets in two



matches, progressing 19 places to joint-65th. The latest rankings update, that also takes into account performances in the Pakistan Tri-Series, England opener Tom Banton’s knock of 57 off 53 deliveries has helped him move up 16 places to 66th position. Pakistan’s Salman Ali Agha’s score of 107 in a 37-run win over Sri Lanka has helped him inch up one place to 12th position while Sri Lanka’s Pavan Rathnayake (up 34 places to 75th) is another one to move up the batting table. Pakistan fast bowlers Haris Rauf (up two places to 20th) and Naseem Shah (up four places to 45th) and upcoming Afghanistan spinner A.M. Ghazanfar (up seven places to 31st) have moved up the ODI bowling rankings. Others to make notable gains include the Nepal pair of Rohit Paudel (up six places to 82nd) and Dipendra Airee (up seven places to 87th) in the batting rankings, following their performances in the ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup League 2 tournament.

Lxme becomes title sponsor of Indian Women’s League

Hyderabad: Lxme, a financial platform built exclusively for women, has joined as the Title Sponsor of the Indian Women’s League (IWL), marking a significant step in its commitment to advancing women’s financial independence and creating greater opportunities for women to participate, lead and excel across different spheres of life. The partnership also marks the first major sponsorship milestone following Capri Sports’ 15-year commitment to Indian women’s football, underscoring the importance of sustained investment in building a stronger ecosystem for the sport. Speaking on the partnership, Ms. Jinisha Sharma, Director & Promoter, Capri Sports, said, “We’ve always believed that women’s sport is good business. It needs investment, attention, and the same commercial ambition that has helped build successful sporting properties around the world. When we committed to 15 years of building the Indian Women’s League, we did so because we see the potential to create something of real value for clubs, players, fans and brands. Having Lxme come on board so early in that journey is particularly meaningful because they un-



derstand this philosophy. They’ve built their own business around recognising and investing in the economic potential of women.” Priti Rathi Gupta, Founder of Lxme, said: “At Lxme, we have always believed that women’s financial independence deserves to be taken as seriously as every other aspect of their empowerment. Our mission has been to challenge the notion that women’s financial futures can take a backseat. We see a similar need in sport, where women athletes continue to deserve greater visibility, investment and opportunity. Our partnership with Capri Sports is a natural extension of this belief that women’s potential should never be limited by how much space they are given.

Indian Racing Festival 2026: F4 title battle and IRL season opener head to Chennai

Hyderabad: The Indian Racing Festival (IRF) 2026 heads to the Madras International Circuit (MIC) on October 22–23, with a closely contested F4 Indian Championship title race and the opening round of the Indian Racing League (IRL) set to bring two days of action to Chennai. Two championships, one circuit, and a weekend that will set the tone for the rest of the season. With just five points separating championship leader Aris Kyriakou of Kichcha’s Kings Bengaluru and Goa Aces JA Racing’s Luviwe Sambudla, Round 3 of the F4 Indian Championship could prove crucial in the title race. The weekend will also mark the start of the new IRL season, as six city-based teams begin their campaign for the championship. Chennai has already delivered competitive racing in the previous season. At the MIC in 2025, Sachel Rotgé won three races, while Shane Chandaria of Chennai Turbo Riders secured a race victory, underlining the circuit’s potential to produce close contests. With the F4 title battle now taking shape and the IRL returning to action, the Chennai round promises an important weekend for the championship. F4 Indian Championship: Kyriakou and Sambudla Set for Title Battle Kyriakou heads into Chennai with 93 points after a consistent showing in the opening rounds, but Sambudla is close behind on 88 points. The South African driver enjoyed a strong Round 2 at Kari Motor Speedway in Coimbatore, winning Kyriakou, meanwhile, continued to collect valuable points, including podium finishes across all three races, to maintain his championship lead. With 25 points available for a race win, the five-point gap leaves little room for error for either driver. Hyderabad Blackbirds’ Bhuvan Bonu, who won Race 2 in Coimbatore after starting from reverse-grid pole, sits third in the standings on 51 points. Mahlori Mabunda (46) and Aaron Mehta (42) complete the top five and will be looking

to close the gap in Chennai. Ntiyiso Mabunda also arrives with momentum after securing two podium finishes in Round 2, while Swarnav Das and Chennai Turbo Riders’ Sai Aditya will be looking to make their mark. Aditya impressed in Coimbatore with a charge from 10th on the grid to finish strongly in Race 3. With three more rounds to follow after Chennai, the championship remains open. Qualifying, reverse-grid races and the ability to convert opportunities into points will all be important as the drivers look to gain an advantage in the title race. Indian Racing League: Defending Champions Begin Their Campaign The Indian Racing League returns with six city-based franchise teams competing in India’s only four-wheel racing league and the world’s first gender-neutral racing championship series. Goa Aces JA Racing will begin the season as defending champions after securing the 2025–26 IRL title. Led by Raoul Hyman and Fabienne Wohlwend, the team will be looking to carry forward the form that helped it finish ahead of its rivals last season. Hyman has been a key figure in the team’s success, while Wohlwend made headlines with a feature-race victory at the Goa Street Circuit in February 2026. Chennai Turbo Riders will have the advantage of racing on home soil, with local support adding to the occasion. The team will be aiming to make a strong start to its campaign against a competitive field that includes Kichcha’s Kings Bengaluru, Hyderabad Blackbirds, Kolkata Royal Tigers and Speed Demons Delhi. The IRL brings together Indian and international drivers, including women racers in every team’s line-up, in a format designed to broaden the appeal of circuit racing in India. With the opening round taking place alongside the F4 Indian Championship, the Chennai weekend will offer fans the opportunity to follow both emerging single-seater talent and the city-based team competition.

Sensex, Nifty rise nearly 1 per cent in early trade on global cues

Mumbai: Indian equity benchmarks traded higher in early trade on Wednesday with gains of nearly 1 per cent each tracking positive global cues and buying in IT stocks. In morning trade, Sensex was trading 0.94 per cent or 695 points higher at 74,548.69, hitting an intraday high against previous close of 73,852.90. Similarly, Nifty surged 0.86 per cent or almost 200 points to 23,086.95 from previous close of 22,888.95. Earlier in the day the benchmarks opened higher, with the Sensex opening at 74,337.93, up 485.03 points or 0.66 per cent. Nifty opened at 23,016.00, up 127.05 points or 0.56 per cent. Sector-wise, Nifty IT, Nifty PSU Bank, Nifty Cement, Nifty MidSmall IT & Telecom and Nifty Oil & Gas increased up to 1.97 per cent. However, Nifty Media and Nifty Chemicals were trading in the red. According to market experts, as Brent crude prices and US bond yields remained elevated, the market is likely to remain under pressure and the sell-on-rally construct will continue in the near-term. However, improving earnings growth, fair valuations of large-caps and strong do-



mestic liquidity will support the market on declines, they said. IT and banking which have performed well in Q2 and are attractively valued, will see strong DII-led accumulation on corrections, the experts said. Notably, the Q2 results season has started on a positive note and market action going forward will be more stock-specific and results-sensitive, experts noted. In the last trading session on October 19, FIIs remained net sellers, offloading equities worth approximately Rs 1,148 crore, while DIIs continued to support the market with net purchases of around Rs 3,200 crore. In addition, Asian shares traded higher following gains in US stock futures after upbeat earnings from major AI-linked companies renewed investor interest in technology shares.

RIL's stock climbs 2 pc as Jio Platforms IPO achieves full subscription in just 100 minutes



New Delhi: Shares of Reliance Industries climbed 2 per cent on the stock exchanges on Wednesday as its digital arm Jio Platforms' Rs 30,213-crore initial public offering achieved full subscription in just 100 minutes of opening, setting a record for the fastest subscription of a public issue. The scrip of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) jumped as much as 1.96 per cent to Rs 1,225.60 apiece on the National Stock Exchange (NSE). In intraday trade, it gained 2.68 per cent to hit a high of Rs 1,234.30 apiece. The scrip of RIL was traded higher by 1.83 per cent at Rs 1,224.85 apiece on the BSE. It jumped 2.64 per cent to hit a high of Rs 1,234.60 apiece in the intraday session. The Rs 30,213 crore offering of Jio Platforms, priced at Rs 1,065 to Rs 1,119 per share is poised to become India's largest public issue, surpassing Hyundai Motor India's Rs 27,870 crore offering in 2024. The issue, which closes on October 23, comprises a fresh issue of up to 27 crore shares, and no offer-for-sale component. At the upper end of the price band, Jio Platforms is valued at around USD 108 billion. Investor appetite was evident from the opening minutes, with the portion reserved for Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) fully subscribed within 10 minutes and nearly twice subscribed in under 30 minutes. The QIB portion subsequently received 2.86 times subscription, while the overall issue

crossed full subscription within 100 minutes, after initially attracting bids for 83 per cent of the shares, according to BSE data. On Monday, the company allotted shares worth about Rs 8,110 crore to 212 anchor investors at Rs 1,119 apiece, the top end of its price band. Bids for the anchor allocation exceeded Rs 2.5 lakh crore, more than 30 times the amount available, according to people familiar with the matter. One person put total demand at about USD 26 billion. Jio Platforms is betting that its technology, artificial intelligence and cloud ambitions will drive growth beyond telecom, Managing Director Akash Ambani said on Tuesday, pitching the Reliance Industries unit as a technology company ahead of what is set to be India's biggest-ever initial public offering. "There is no either-or at Jio: the network is our technology," Ambani said in an interview with PTI, highlighting the company's in-house 5G core, cloud-native radio access network and software platform serving 533.3 million customers. "Connectivity was the first product we built on that platform. Digital services, AI and cloud are what we are layering on top of it now," he said. The IPO comes as investors assess whether the country's largest telecom operator can convert its vast customer base into higher-margin revenue from digital services, enterprise technology and AI, as subscriber growth alone becomes a less powerful driver of expansion.

SBI data breach: PSU bank confirms 3,897 customer records exposed on dark web



New Delhi: State Bank of India (SBI) — India's largest lender — on Wednesday clarified that it experienced a data breach with 3,897 customer records found exposed on the dark web. According to the bank, it has received communications from its Threat Intelligence Service Provider, the Defence Cyber Agency and CERT-In regarding an alert concerning suspected exposure of customer data earlier in the week. During preliminary analysis of approximately 375,000 records available on the dark web, 3,897 customer records containing Personally Identifiable Information (PII) were identified, the bank said in an exchange filing. The exposed information reportedly included customers' registered mobile numbers, dates of birth, names, gender, email addresses, residential addresses, branch and CIF identifiers, lead IDs and metadata associated with loan/lead records and other related files, it added. The state-owned bank further noted that it promptly activated its cyber incident response and containment protocols and engaged an independent CERT-In-empanelled cybersecurity agency to conduct a comprehensive assessment and investigate the nature and extent of the alleged compromise. The bank said a detailed investigation is underway to establish authenticity and com-

pleteness of the exposed data, determine potential source and extent of exposure and assess associated risks. The incident does not have any material impact on its core business operations, financial performance or business continuity and core functions continue to operate normally without disruption, the bank said adding that appropriate remedial and preventive measures are being implemented. Shares of SBI on Wednesday traded on a flat note at Rs 970 at around 10 am on the BSE.

The banking stock recorded a 52-week high of Rs 1,234.80 and a 52-week low of Rs 891.55, according to the exchange data. In the last one-year horizon, it declined 12 per cent but gained over the last five years. Earlier in the week, an unidentified hacker group operating under the name 'Siriusim' claimed to have obtained confidential customer information allegedly linked to the State Bank of India (SBI), including personal details, loan applications and account-opening documents. The claim was highlighted by cybersecurity monitoring account CyberPulse56 in a post on social media platform X. The group purportedly possesses 3.75 lakh data entries in CSV format and 2,722 PDF documents associated with the country's largest public sector lender, as per the post.

Gold above Rs 1,47,000, silver near Rs 2.10 lakh on Dussehra

Mumbai: Gold and silver prices in India are in focus on Tuesday, as the country celebrates Dussehra. The Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) remains closed during the morning session due to the festive holiday, with trading in gold, silver and other commodities scheduled to resume at 5 p.m. In the previous session on Monday, MCX gold futures for December delivery declined by Rs 618, or 0.42 per cent, to settle at Rs 1,47,300 per 10 grams. Meanwhile, silver futures for December delivery remained largely unchanged, closing at Rs 2,09,825 per kilogram. According to bullion.co, 24-karat gold in Mumbai was priced at Rs 1,47,340 per 10 grams, while 22-karat gold stood at Rs 1,35,062 per 10 grams. Despite recent fluctuations, precious metals have delivered strong returns over the past year. Gold prices in India have climbed more than 25 per cent since Dussehra last year, while silver has outperformed gold, generating returns of approximately 45 per cent over the same period. International gold prices remained under pressure as elevated crude oil prices intensified inflation concerns and strengthened expectations that the US Federal Reserve could raise interest rates further. Spot gold edged up 0.1 per cent to \$4,144.15 per ounce, while spot silver advanced 0.6 per cent to \$57.44 per



ounce. Higher US Treasury yields also weighed on gold, which does not generate interest income. A recovery in US technology stocks reduced demand for government bonds as safe-haven assets, pushing Treasury yields higher and making non-yielding precious metals relatively less attractive to investors. Investors are closely monitoring the Federal Reserve's monetary policy outlook as policymakers attempt to contain inflation. Expectations of higher interest rates have emerged as a key factor influencing the direction of gold prices in international markets. Gold has largely remained above \$4,100 per ounce during October, recovering some stability after falling more than 6 per cent in September. This consolidation has continued despite a stronger US dollar and elevated bond yields. However, the precious metal remains around 20 per cent below its levels before the US-Iran conflict began in late February.

Glory of Indian culture in National Saras Mela-2026

State-wise cultural programmes at Punnami Ghat from Oct 21 to 30



Vijayawada | 20 October 2026“Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), with co-operation of Andhra Pradesh Govt is organizing first national level Saras Mela-2026 at Punnami Ghat in Vijayawada. Women artists of Self Help Groups (SHG) from 35 States, Union Territories across country, rural women entrepreneurs are participating in this Mela. Total 630 stalls have been set up and products of various regions, traditional handicrafts, handloom textiles, rural products are being displayed.“As part of this Mela to introduce culture, traditions, folk arts of various regions of India to people, state-wise cultural programmes will be organized daily at 6.30 pm in Saras Mela premises at Punnami Ghat from October 21 to

30.“In these programmes folk dances, music performances, devotional songs, classical dances, drama performances will be main attraction. Visitors will get opportunity to enjoy artistic wealth of various regions of country on same stage.“Performances reflecting diversity of Indian culture“Artists belonging to Ladakh, Punjab, Goa, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Nagaland, Maharashtra, Meghalaya states besides Andhra Pradesh will display their traditional art forms. Artists belonging to Andhra Pradesh will entertain audience with Kuchipudi dance, devotional songs, folk arts, drama performances.“Cultural programmes schedule“Date | Cultural performances“21 Oct | Devotional songs;

NABARD Creates Awareness on Scaling Up SHGs into Rural Enterprises at National SARAS Ajeevika Mela 2026

Vijayawada | 20 October 2026“The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Andhra Pradesh Regional Office, conducted an awareness and knowledge-sharing session at the Learning and Knowledge Pavilion of the National SARAS Ajeevika Mela 2026 on 19 October 2026. The session was led by Shri N. Satyanarayana, Assistant General Manager, NABARD, with a focus on scaling up Self-Help Groups (SHGs) into sustainable rural enterprises and strengthening women-led livelihoods.“During the session, Shri Satyanarayana explained various NABARD initiatives and support mechanisms designed to enhance the entrepreneurial capabilities of SHG members, promote enterprise development, improve access to markets, and facilitate sustainable income generation. He highlighted key programmes such as the Micro Enterprise Development Programme (MEDP), Livelihood and Enterprise Development Programme (LEDP), Skill Development Programmes, m-Suwidha, and support for Community Resource Entities.“The session also covered NABARD’s support for marketing SHG products through both physical and digital platforms, financial inclusion, exhibitions, Rural Haats, Rural Marts, food cafés, stalls in shopping malls, Gram Vihar, Small Artisan Group Empowerment, and Rural Enterprise Producer Organisations. The Kudumbashree model of Kerala was highlighted as an important example of promoting women-led community enterprises and strengthening rural livelihoods. Participants were also sensitised to opportunities for expanding their businesses through digital platforms and formal enterprise registration, including the process of onboarding eligible SHG enterprises on the Udyam Registration Portal. The discussion emphasised the importance of capacity building, market

linkages, enterprise formalisation, and institutional support in transforming SHGs from subsistence-level activities into viable and growth-oriented rural businesses.“The session provided valuable insights into the range of opportunities available to SHGs through NABARD’s programmes and initiatives, encouraging women entrepreneurs to explore suitable interventions for expanding their enterprises and accessing wider markets.“NABARD Conducts Training Programme on “Scaling SHG Enterprises through Finance” at National SARAS Mela 2026 to Lakshpati Didis.“The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), in collaboration with the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) team and SERP, Andhra Pradesh, is conducting a training programme on “Scaling SHG Enterprises through Finance” at the National SARAS Mela 2026 in Vijayawada.“The programme aims to strengthen the financial literacy of Self-Help Group (SHG) women and enhance their capacity to develop and expand sustainable micro-enterprises. It focuses on access to finance, direct lending support, enterprise development, and opportunities for SHG members to scale up their business activities.“The training also highlights NABARD’s support for rural enterprise promotion through initiatives such as Rural Haats, Rural Marts, textile shops, and food stalls, providing SHG women with opportunities to market their products, expand customer reach, and improve their income.“The programme reinforces the importance of financial inclusion, institutional credit, and market linkages in transforming SHG activities into viable rural enterprises and strengthening women-led livelihoods.“NABARD expressed its sincere gratitude to SERP, NLM, and the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.



Kuchipudi dance under Natya Tarangini Dance Academy – Andhra Pradesh“22 Oct | Ladakh traditional songs, dances; Vocal by K. Madhusudhana Rao; Seetampeta Savara art form – Prabhavati – Andhra Pradesh“23 Oct | Giddha, Bhangra – Punjab; Kalaratna Bhagavatula Soumya Kuchipudi dance performance – Andhra Pradesh“24 Oct | Fugdi dance – Goa; Bhakti Gana Lahari – Andhra Pradesh“25 Oct | Dhimsa, Sambalpuri dances – Odisha; Srinivasa Kalyanam drama performance by Abhinaya Art, Vijayawada“26 Oct | Shriram Maddela Baja – Chhattisgarh; Rajasthani folk dance, Kathputli puppet show – Rajasthan; Busura Educational Society singing performance – Andhra Pradesh“27 Oct | Kai Silambattam, Thudumbattam – Tamil Nadu“28 Oct | Ajey Hoi Velo – Nagaland; Sri Nritya Arts Academy Kuchipudi dance – Andhra Pradesh“29 Oct | Gavlan folk performance – Maharashtra; Kalakshetra Dance Academy Kuchipudi dance – Andhra Pradesh“30 Oct | Ka Chad Plieang (Plate dance) – Meghalaya; Kalakshetra Dance Academy Kuchipudi

dance – Andhra Pradesh“Enjoy country's culture on same stage“These cultural programmes besides promoting art traditions, folk heritage, regional diversity of country also provide opportunity for artists to display their talent before wide audience. Besides product displays, sales in Saras Mela, cultural programmes conducted in evening will give special experience to visitors.“While there is opportunity to purchase products made by Self Help Group women across country in daytime, traditional art forms of India can be enjoyed in evening.“Therefore organizers are inviting people, families, art lovers, cultural enthusiasts, visitors from Vijayawada as well as various regions of Andhra Pradesh to visit National Saras Mela at Punnami Ghat daily at 6.30 pm from Oct 21 to 30 and enjoy cultural diversity of India on same stage.“Venue: Punnami Ghat, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh“Cultural programmes dates: 21-30 October 2026“Time: Daily at 6.30 pm“National SARAS Mela-2026: Encouragement to rural women – Strengthening livelihoods – Grand stage for Indian culture.

National SARAS Mela 2026 Records Rs 3.71 Crore in Cumulative Sales““Over 50,000 Visitors Despite

The National SARAS Mela 2026, being organised at Punnami Ghat, Vijayawada, from 13 to 31 October 2026 by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, in collaboration with the Andhra Pradesh State Rural Livelihoods Mission (APSRLM/SERP), continues to attract an encouraging response from the public, despite at the venue.““As of 19 October 2026, the Mela has recorded cumulative sales of ₹3.73 crore, covering approximately 1.51 lakh products made and marketed by women members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) from across the country. These figures reflect the growing popularity of SHG products and the increasing recognition of rural women entrepreneurs in wider markets.“₹86.59 Lakh in Sales on 19 October“On 19 October 2026, the National SARAS Mela recorded sales worth ₹88.89 lakh, with 32,080 products sold. Despite at Punnami Ghat, the Mela attracted more than 50,000 visitors. The adverse weather slightly affected sales; however, the impressive footfall and substantial sales reflected the continued enthusiasm of visitors and strong public interest in products crafted by rural women entrepreneurs.“The day was further distinguished by the visit of the Hon’ble Wife of the Governor of Andhra Pradesh, whose presence added prominence to the event and highlighted the importance of supporting women-led enterprises and rural livelihoods.““Dr. P. Krishnaiah (IAS Retd.), Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB), visited the stalls at the National SARAS Mela 2026 and interacted with the women members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs). He appreciated their entrepreneurial skills, creativity, and commitment to developing women-led enterprises, and encouraged them to further strengthen their businesses and ex-

pand their market opportunities“A National Platform for Women Entrepreneurs“The National SARAS Mela provides a valuable marketing platform for rural women entrepreneurs to showcase and sell their products directly to consumers. Women-led Self-Help Groups from different States and Union Territories are displaying a wide range of products, including handloom textiles, traditional handicrafts, natural and processed food products, household articles, and region-specific specialties.“The Mela brings together producers, artisans, consumers, and other stakeholders, enabling SHG members to expand their market reach, understand consumer preferences, establish business connections, and explore new opportunities for enterprise development.““Strengthening Rural Livelihoods and Women’s Economic Empowerment“The encouraging sales and substantial visitor turnout, even in adverse weather conditions, underscore the importance of organised marketing platforms in promoting rural entrepreneurship. By creating opportunities for women to market their products at the national level, the Mela helps strengthen their income-generating activities, supports traditional skills and craftsmanship, and promotes sustainable rural livelihoods.“With the Mela continuing until 31 October 2026, participating SHG members and rural entrepreneurs will have further opportunities to connect with consumers, increase sales, and build stronger market linkages.“The National SARAS Mela 2026 continues to demonstrate how collective enterprise, market access, and public participation can contribute to the economic empowerment of rural women and the growth of women-led businesses across India.““Issued by : Media centre “National Saras Mela.