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Yogi Adityanath Flags "Political Islam", Adds A Halal Certification Warning



Lucknow: Stressing that "political Islam" is a major threat that aims to change India's "demography", Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said our ancestors fought against this threat, but it is hardly discussed now. He said that while British

and French colonialism are often discussed in history, there is little mention of "political Islam". Addressing an event in Gorakhpur to mark the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's centenary celebrations, Adityanath said Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj,



Guru Gobind Singh, Maharana Pratap and Maharana Sanga waged battles against "political Islam". "Our ancestors waged major struggles against political Islam, yet this aspect of history remains largely overlooked," he said. He said

"political Islam" is still working to divide India and referred to the Chhangur Baba case in Uttar Pradesh's Balrampur district. A self-styled godman, Chhangur Baba alias Jalaluddin Shah, allegedly ran an illegal religious conversion racket before his arrest in July. Adityanath said "political Islam" is working through elements such as Chhangur Baba to break up the country. "RSS is trying to unite the society to safeguard against such threats, and its attempts deserve praise," he said.

"Siddaramaiah In Final Phase Of Political Career": Big Statement By Son

Bengaluru: In a statement that will set the cat among the pigeons amid persistent speculation about a leadership change in Karnataka, Siddaramaiah's son has said he is in the final phase of his political career and should become a 'margdarshak' (mentor) to his cabinet colleague Satish Jarkiholi. Even as late as last month, Siddaramaiah had to step in and deny reports that he

would quit as chief minister to make way for his deputy DK Shivakumar. The speculation in this instance had been fuelled by a statement by Congress MP LR Shivaram Gowda, who had called on the party top brass to clear the confusion on the issue. "There's no doubt about Shivakumar eventually becoming chief minister, but the final decision rests with the high command. They understand how to



manage the party and balance both the chief minister and the deputy chief minister. In the end, hard work always pays off," Gowda had

said. "I will be the chief minister for a full five-year term," Siddaramaiah had told reporters for the umpteenth time.

Congress Signals Break from Thackeray Alliance in Maharashtra

Mumbai — The Indian National Congress in Maharashtra has decided to contest the impending civic polls independently, refusing to form an alliance with both Maharashtra Navnirman Sena led by Raj Thackeray and its existing coalition partner, Shiv Sena. The announcement, delivered by former Mumbai Congress president Bhai Jagtap, may herald a fresh fracture within the opposition bloc ahead of strategic elections. In a statement issued on Tuesday, Jagtap affirmed that Congress would not ally with

Raj Thackeray's MNS and indicated the party would fight the municipal polls on its own. The decision was reportedly discussed in a meeting chaired by Maharashtra in-charge Ramesh Chennithala, though the party's national leadership has yet to issue a formal communiqué. This shift comes in the backdrop of growing concern within the state Congress that close collaboration with MNS could alienate key segments of its voter base, especially north-Indian and minority communities. The Congress move signals a



recalibration of its strategy in Maharashtra, one that diverges from the interests of its two alliance partners. The UBT faction, led by Uddhav Thackeray, has been actively pursuing the inclu-

sion of Raj Thackeray and the MNS in the existing coalition known as the Maha Vikas Aghadi, citing the MNS's influence in approximately 70 seats in Mumbai's civic belt.

Ashok Gehlot meets Lalu Yadav amid Bihar Seat-Sharing turmoil

Patna: Senior Congress leader Ashok Gehlot on Wednesday met RJD president Lalu Prasad, apparently with the mandate to defuse tensions with the ally, which has plunged the INDIA bloc into turmoil in poll-bound Bihar. Emerging after the meeting, Gehlot said winning Bihar was "extremely important" for the opposition alliance, after having been drubbed in a crucial state like Maharashtra, but evaded a direct reply when asked whether the Congress was ready to declare the RJD supremo's son and heir apparent Tejashwi Yadav as the chief ministerial candidate.



Severe Weather Warning for AP as Low Pressure Area Approaches

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Oct., 22 : The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) has issued a warning regarding the formation of a severe low pressure area in the southwest Bay of Bengal. Officials report that this low pressure system is expected to strengthen into a depression by this afternoon as it moves towards north Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and the southern coast. APSDMA Managing Director Prakhar Jain has indicated that heavy to very heavy rainfall is anticipated in certain areas, particularly in the Prakasam, Nellore, and Tirupati districts. Additionally, light to moderate rain accompanied by thunderstorms is expected in other regions. Residents along the south coast should prepare for gusty winds, with speeds reaching 35-55 km/h. Authorities advise against seeking shelter under trees or near large hoardings due to the risk of falling branches and debris. Furthermore, individuals in low-lying areas are urged to exercise caution and avoid attempting to cross flooded streams and roads.

Home Minister Anitha reviews on rains, urges officials to be vigilant



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Oct., 22 : The government has heightened its alertness due to a severe low pressure area developing in the Bay of Bengal,

expected to strengthen into a depression within the next 12 hours. It is forecast to move towards the coasts of North Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and the south-

ern coastline, with the potential for further intensification. In light of the situation, Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha convened a review meeting with officials from the Disaster Management Authority to discuss preparations for anticipated heavy rainfall in the southern coast and Rayalaseema regions.

During the meeting, Minister Anitha advised that strong gusts of wind are expected, urging the public to avoid travel unless absolutely necessary. She has directed that National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Re-

sponse Force (SDRF), police, and fire services be made ready for immediate relief operations. Minister Anitha emphasised the importance of keeping district control rooms operational 24/7 and called for proactive measures to prevent loss of life and minimise inconvenience to the public. She underscored the necessity of disseminating timely warning messages regarding the weather conditions. To ensure public safety, Home Minister Anitha encouraged citizens to utilise the 24-hour toll-free numbers 112, 1070, and 18004250101 for assistance and information.

Nara Lokesh reacts Tuni Gurukul school minor case

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Oct., 22 : Minister Nara Lokesh has responded to the incident of attempted rape of a minor girl at Tuni Gurukul School in Kakinada district. He said that he was shocked to know that a lustful person named Tatika Narayana Rao had attempted to rape a student of Tuni Rural Gurukul School. As soon as the details of the incident came to light, the police registered a POCSO case against him and arrested him. Minister Lokesh warned that those who commit such incidents will be dealt with with an iron fist. He said that the

victim will be counseled and provided all possible help and support to stay strong. Minister Lokesh has issued orders to the authorities to provide strong security to the students studying in Gurukul schools and welfare hostels. Meanwhile, a man named Narayana tried to rape a student of Tuni Gurukul School, causing a huge stir. The man, who had taken the girl from the school by telling lies, attempted to rape a minor in a deserted area. The accused fled when the locals noticed and stopped him. The police registered a case and arrested the accused Narayana. Responding to the Tuni inci-



dent, Peddapuram DSP Srihariraju said that a POCSO case has been registered against Narayana Rao. Various strict sections under kidnapping and rape have been registered.

Satya Kumar Yadav slams YSRCP over medical colleges

From Our Staff Reporter Vijayawada, Oct., 22 : Minister Satyakumar Yadav has come under fire from former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. Speaking to the media on Wednesday, he clarified that the construction of medical colleges will be done under the PPP model. He criticized the Jagan government for not undertaking the construction of medical colleges in the last five years. He said that only Rs. 500 crore worth of work has been done. Jagan said that he has completed a medical college only in Pulivendula. He announced that 10 medical colleges will be completed under the PPP model in the coalition government. Minister Satyakumar said that no one will succumb to Jagan's threats. He said that Jagan's return to power is a mistake. He made harsh comments saying that YCP is not coming.. is not dead.



He said that if ten medical colleges are completed, 70 percent of the poor students will benefit. He revealed that the entire ownership rights and management will remain in the hands of the government. He said that they are building under the PPP system today because of the previous government's mismanagement. He made sensational comments saying, "Did the donkeys not build during the YCP government?" The minister was furious that the people are still being deceived with lies and

falsehoods. They are also making a fuss about Uddanam.. If they do this, they will not get even 11 seats this time. They accused Jagan of forming a faction because he defeated the people badly. They said that they are obstructing development and welfare in the state. They warned that the people are watching all the issues.. they will be given appropriate advice. Minister Satyakumar Yadav said that they are discussing NTR's medical services.. everything will be arranged.

Double Engine Growth: Under their leadership, AP will receive large-scale investments: Madhav

From Our Staff Reporter Vijayawada, Oct., 22 : AP BJP Chief Madhav said that AP has received an aid of Rs 1.5 lakh crore from the Center. Speaking to the media on Wednesday, he said that the work of the Green Hydrogen Hub is progressing rapidly with an investment of Rs 1.80 lakh crore. He said that funds have been allocated for the development of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant with Rs 11,444 crore. He said that the arrival of \$ 1.25 lakh crore through Google Data Center in Visakhapatnam is a symbol of double engine growth. Madhav revealed that many companies and IT companies are coming to make Visakhapatnam a global growth center. He said that AP has gained recognition worldwide due to the bringing forward of all these projects under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi and the arrival of the Google Data Center in

Visakhapatnam under the leadership of CM Chandrababu and Minister Lokesh. He said that it has become a hindrance to neighboring states like Karnataka. He criticized the Congress governments for playing deceitful politics and exposing their failures. He made comments that because there is a failed government in Karnataka, they are expressing anger on behalf of that party. The AP BJP chief said that Modi and Chandrababu have achieved the impossible and made AP a topic of discussion all over the world. He said that Visakhapatnam will be a platform for many experiments with artificial intelligence. He said that green energy will be produced to use solar, wind and high energy sources under the energy source. He said that AP has opportunities for youth talent in technology, engineering and man-making after China. He said that due

to restrictions in America, all of them are going to stay in India. He announced that five lakh jobs will come to the youth in five years. He said that under the leadership of Narendra Modi and the state government, AP is getting large-scale investments. Madhav said that Vizag - Chennai corridor, Bangalore - Chennai corridor and other corridors are coming towards Rayalaseema. He believed that development will increase further by increasing the connectivity of defense crystals, the largest refinery and national highways to all areas. He said that companies that manufacture electronic vehicles, Jindal companies and power houses are coming to AP.. Rayalaseema will develop in all ways under the auspices of the double engine government. He was angry that development in our capital Amaravati had stopped under the previ-



ous government... they all played with Amaravati and destroyed it. He said that now under the leadership of Modi, 15 thousand crores have been allocated for the construction of Amaravati. He said that national highways are going to be connected from Amaravati to Anantapur. He said that the center has allocated five thousand crores for the construction of Polavaram, the lifeblood of AP. He revealed that the right and left canal works will be completed and the project will be completed soon.

EDITORIAL

What happens when Diwali comes every year?

Every year, Diwali is celebrated in the country as a traditional festival, considering it a victory of light over darkness. On this occasion, the bursting of firecrackers and crackers become special symbols of the festival. According to a recent study by Climate Trends, the air quality in Delhi has deteriorated to the worst in the last five years. No matter how many bans there are, no one cares. The ban on firecrackers or crackers is considered a violation of tradition. This year too, the same happened. Although health problems continue in the surrounding areas of Delhi due to vehicle pollution and crop fires, all of them are forgotten when Diwali comes. Even in 2018, the Supreme Court issued a ban on the sale and use of crackers in Delhi, but the implementation has been null and void. The illegal sale of firecrackers has been banned since 2024. But they are not working. Illegal fireworks and crackers are rampant in border towns. After Diwali, the Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi has become a dangerous zone due to firecrackers. Everyone knows that if the AQI is between 050 and 1000, the air quality is good, and if it increases to 447 points, it becomes severe air pollution. According to this, the air quality levels have declined by more than 400 points since the night of Diwali. It is noteworthy that 36 of the 38 air monitoring stations are in the red zone. The AQI was recorded at 423 in Wazirpur, 417 in Dwarka, 404 in Ashok Vihar, and 404 in Anand Vihar. It can be said that the pollution has increased further this time compared to the 235 AQI recorded on the morning of Diwali last year. On Monday evening, Diwali, at 4 pm, the AQI in Delhi was recorded as 345 in the 'Very Poor' category. The air quality was deteriorating night after night due to the bursting of firecrackers. A week before Diwali, the air quality in Delhi and other areas has reached poor levels. A week ago, the air quality index in Delhi indicated a decline of 300 points. The same situation was seen in Noida and Ghaziabad. The concentration of toxic gases in Delhi is 80 times higher, resulting in an increase in the number of people visiting hospitals with coughs, colds, throat infections and eye irritation. Keeping all this in mind, the Supreme Court has imposed several restrictions on the bursting of firecrackers on Diwali as a precautionary measure, but it is known that the green cockers from various sections of the public representatives have given permission. Orders have been issued to burst crackers only from 6 to 7 am and from 8 to 10 pm. But the court orders have not stopped the festival tradition. Even after midnight, firecrackers are being burst. Crackers are being exploded. Many people are not aware of the dangers of using fireworks and crackers. Many people are not aware that air pollution can cause diseases such as lung cancer, heart attacks, strokes, and others. Reports warn that air pollution alone caused about 1.67 million premature deaths in 2019. Lakhs of workers make a living from the manufacture of fireworks and crackers. Many firecracker factories are still operating in Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu. They are worried that they will lose their jobs due to the ban. Also, people and traders are not fully aware of the benefits of green crackers. Firecrackers that are made without the use of harmful chemicals are called green crackers. The National Green Tribunal has allowed green crackers only in cities with high air pollution. There are indications that if the government distributes green crackers to the public on a subsidy, pollution can be reduced to a large extent. Discussions have been going on for the last decade to improve air quality. Cities and states like Delhi have prepared and implemented Graded Response Action Plans (GRAPs). However, there is a delay in taking action to respond to the challenges. All that needs to be done now is to continue with medium to short-term plans to ensure that the air is clean throughout the year. Funds need to be allocated in large amounts for this. Citizens should also be involved in this. The accountability of the governing bodies should be increased. The National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) currently has a target of reducing air quality PM (Particulate Matter) below 2.5. This target needs to be achieved by at least 20 to 40 percent by 2026. If these targets are not achieved, Delhi and the NCR and other surrounding areas will face a dire situation where no one will be able to live there.

After 20-Year Left Rule, Bolivia Elects Centre-Right Rodrigo Paz As President

After two-decade-long rule by the left-wing Movement for Socialism (MAS) party, Bolivia elected the centre-right candidate Rodrigo Paz as the new President in the run-off elections held on October 19. Son of a former president, Paz promises “capitalism for all” and has announced his programme of having good relations with the United States and collaboration with the Trump administration. With 97 percent of ballots counted, Paz had won 54.5 percent of the vote in Sunday’s run-off race, well ahead of right-wing former interim President Jorge “Tuto” Quiroga, with 45.4 percent of the vote, according to the country’s Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE). Paz, 58, followed his father, former left-wing President Jaime Zamora, into politics. After studying economics in the United States, Paz returned home to Bolivia, where he went on to become a city councillor and mayor of the southern city of Tarija, before becoming a senator for the region in 2020. He has pledged a “capitalism for all” approach, promising tax cuts, tariff reductions, and the decentralisation of the national government. After the results were announced, Paz’s vice-presidential running mate, Edmand Lara, made a call for “unity and reconciliation”. “We must ensure the supply of diesel and gasoline. People are suffering. We need to stabilise the prices of the basic food basket, and we must put an end

to corruption,” Lara said. Sunday’s run-off came after the incumbent MAS party suffered a major defeat in August’s preliminary election, after former left-wing President Evo Morales was barred from running and outgoing President Luis Arce, who had fallen out with Morales, opted out of the race. Courts had ruled against Morales’s candidacy over term limits and technicalities related to party affiliation. Luis Arce, the incumbent President, a former Morales loyalist did not contest the elections after the MAS was split and his popularity dipped a very low level as a result of deep economic crisis in the country.

The MAS was vertically split between the Morales supporters and his rival group led by Luis Arce. The Presidential candidates of MAS factions fared so badly in the first phase of elections in August this year that the run off on October 19 was limited to two right candidates. This was something unprecedented in the history of Bolivia as even when the Left lost the elections in the last century, they were very much in the reckoning. Before this 2025 Presidential elections, in all other Presidential polls since 2006, MAS won in the first round requiring no need for run off. But Evo Morales, President for most of the years under MAS rule, did not show any sign of defeatism. He told newsmen after the election results were out that the winning candidate Rodrigo Paz does not



represent the interests of the Bolivian people- he said that the people including the indigenous movement would soon launch agitations focusing on their demands to the new government. Morales talked of offering stiff opposition to the new government in the coming days. For the Trump administration, the outcome of the presidential elections in Bolivia is a good beginning since Trump is now focusing his attention on Latin America. Earlier, there were problems in relations with the MAS government, but now, with a friendly President in office., the USA is expected to offer more economic aid and other assistance to the Paz regime. Only last week, Trump sanctioned US\$ 20 billion urgent economic aid to its friendly regime

Argentina in tiding over the country’s serious economic crisis. Bolivia also has been struggling through an economic crisis, including annual inflation of almost 25 percent and critical shortages of US dollars and fuel. Bolivians took to the streets to protest high prices and hours-long waits for fuel, bread and other basics in the lead-up to the August 17 general election. Apart from split within MAS, the high rise of the essential commodities including fuel led to the anger of the voters which was reflected in this round of presidential polls.

Bolivia had enjoyed more than a decade of strong growth and Indigenous upliftment under Morales, who nationalised the gas sector an channelized the proceeds into social

programmes that halved extreme poverty during his stint in power between 2006 and 2019. But after Morales, chose not to expand the country’s gas sector, energy revenues fell from a peak of \$6.1bn in 2013 to \$1.6bn in 2024. The advantage of oil revenues was lost and the MAS govt of Arce had to face the wrath of the people. Now the new Government of Paz is also facing the dilemma of whether they will continue with the fuel subsidy given to the consumers by Arce govt or this will be withdrawn to show a healthy budget of the govt. Morales is waiting for the next steps of this Paz government to work on future actions. New President Rodrigo Paz will take oath on November 8 this year.

Indian Marvel BrahMos Among World’s Fastest Supersonic Wonders

When Defence Minister Rajnath Singh called Operation Sindoor a “trailer” and declared that every part of Pakistan now lies within India’s striking range, he was not merely issuing a warning. He was announcing the coming of age of India’s most formidable conventional weapon, one that has fundamentally altered the strategic balance in South Asia. Standing beside Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on October 18, as the first batch of BrahMos missiles rolled out from the new Lucknow facility, Singh’s message was unmistakable: India’s military capabilities have entered a new era, and the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile is at its heart.

The journey of this remarkable weapon system began not in the glare of geopolitical tensions, but in the quiet corridors of scientific collaboration. In 1993, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, then DRDO Secretary, travelled to Russia on what would become a historic visit. There, he discovered a half-finished supersonic engine project gathering dust, abandoned after the Soviet Union’s collapse left Russia struggling with funds. What others saw as a failed venture, Kalam saw as opportunity. Five years of negotiations later, on February 12, 1998, he and Russia’s Deputy Defence Minister NV Mikhailov signed the agreement that created BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture with India holding 50.5% and Russia 49.5%. The name itself, combining the Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers, symbolized this east-meets-west partnership.

The financial commitment was substantial but balanced. Russia invested \$123.75 million (₹10,766 crores at present conversion rates) while India put in \$126.25 million (₹10,984 crores), and work began immediately in the specialized laboratories of both DRDO and NPOM. The first successful test launch on June 12, 2001, from Chandipur in Odisha, marked the arrival of the world’s only operational supersonic



cruise missile. Flying at Mach 2.8 (3,430 km/h), the BrahMos was faster than anything else in its class. More importantly, it combined this blistering speed with precision and a “fire and forget” capability, meaning once launched, it required no further guidance to find its target. But speed and autonomy were only part of the story. The BrahMos operates on a two-stage propulsion system that gives it remarkable versatility. A solid-fuel booster provides the initial thrust for take-off, detaching after launch. Then a ramjet engine kicks in, using specialized fuel to sustain Mach 3 speeds (3,675 km/h) while allowing the missile to fly anywhere from 15 km high to a mere 10 metres above ground. This ability to hug terrain makes it extraordinarily difficult to detect on radar, and nearly impossible to intercept. Combined with its massive kinetic energy at impact, the BrahMos became a weapon that could overwhelm any defence system. The most challenging adaptation came when India decided to make the missile air-launchable. Former DRDO Di-

rector General S.K. Mishra recalls that fitting the BrahMos onto a Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter jet was considered nearly impossible. The Russian company Sukhoi quoted ₹1,300 crore for the redesign work. Instead, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd took up the challenge and completed it for just ₹88 crore, a stunning example of Indian engineering prowess and cost efficiency. This air-launched version, reportedly used during Operation Sindoor in May to strike deep inside Pakistan, has proven to be a game-changer, giving the Indian Air Force the ability to launch devastating attacks from standoff distances. The missile’s range has grown steadily as India’s strategic environment evolved. Initially capped at 290 km due to Missile Technology Control Regime restrictions, the range jumped to 450 km after India joined the MTCR in June 2016. Now, an 800-km variant is in advanced testing, with upgrades to the ramjet engine and navigation systems. What makes this particularly significant is that existing 450-km versions can be upgraded to the longer range

through software modifications alone, changes to the fire-control systems and related interfaces, without major hardware overhauls. This means the Indian Navy’s 20 warships already equipped with BrahMos can gain extended reach relatively quickly and inexpensively. The international validation of the BrahMos came in 2022 when the Philippines signed a \$375 million deal (₹32,625 crores at present conversion rates) for the missile system, marking India’s first export of such advanced military hardware. The second batch was delivered in April 2025, and countries like Argentina have expressed interest. As Mishra noted, while other nations shopped around comparing different systems, the Philippines chose BrahMos as superior to all alternatives. For a country that has traditionally been an arms importer, becoming an exporter of cutting-edge weapons technology represents a fundamental shift in global perception. The numbers tell the story of India’s commitment to this platform. In March last year, the Defence Ministry signed its largest-ever deal worth ₹19,519 crore for over 220 BrahMos missiles for the Navy.

After Operation Sindoor demonstrated the weapon’s battlefield effectiveness, the Defence Acquisitions Council gave initial approval in August for the Air Force to acquire 110 more air-launched variants worth about Rs.10,800 crore. The new Lucknow facility, which Singh inaugurated, will produce about 100 missiles annually, generating ₹3,000 crore in turnover and ₹500 crore in GST revenue. But beyond the impressive specifications and production numbers lies a deeper strategic reality. The BrahMos represents India’s move toward genuine self-reliance in critical defence technology, even while maintaining valuable partnerships. The Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme started in 1983 laid the groundwork, and the BrahMos partnership with Russia showed that collaboration need not mean dependence. The involvement of private sector companies like PTC Industries in creating the Strategic Material Technology Complex in Lucknow demonstrates that India is building an entire ecosystem, from raw materials to finished components, within its borders.

41 kg of Ganja Seized – One Arrested Rs.80,000 Cash and Car Confiscated



Gudem Kotha Veedhi, Pen Power, October 22: Police in Gudem Kotha Veedhi of Alluri Sitarama Raju district have intensified their crackdown on illegal ganja transportation.

During a recent operation, they seized 41 kilograms of ganja and arrested one accused. While conducting vehicle checks at Derala Junction, the police stopped a suspicious car

bearing registration number AP 39 KM 4224. Upon inspection, they found 41 kg of ganja packed in bags inside the vehicle. The accused, Kalidindi Nukaraju (son of Srinivasarao) from

Darakonda village, was reportedly transporting the ganja to plains areas. The police also seized ₹80,000 in cash, a mobile phone, and the car used in the offense. The operation was successfully led by Sub-Inspector Suresh of Gudem Kotha Veedhi police station. Speaking about the case, SI Suresh said, “A special vigil is being maintained against ganja smuggling networks across Alluri district. Those violating the law will not be spared. Investigation is underway to trace other suspects involved.” The arrested accused will be produced before the court, he added.

Collector Reviews Panchayat Raj Development Works

Rajamahendravaram, Pen Power, October 22:

District Collector Keerthi Chekuri directed officials to ensure strict quality standards in all Panchayat Raj development works and to conduct mandatory quality audits for road construction. Reviewing the progress of Panchayat Raj Engineering and MGNREGS projects at the Collector’s camp office, she said a total of 922 works worth ₹238.14 crore have been sanctioned in the district. Of these, 47 works are completed, 68 are in progress, and 808 are yet to start. The Collector instructed officials to build durable roads in areas with heavy vehicular movement. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana



(PMGSY-III), two works worth ₹7.12 crore are in progress. Under the NABARD scheme, 13 works worth ₹24.62 crore were sanctioned, with 10 currently underway. One major project worth ₹45 crore is progressing under

the APPR scheme. In Gopalapuram constituency, seven welfare hostel repair works worth ₹1.24 crore were approved. Under MGNREGS, 869 works costing ₹152.05 crore were sanctioned, and 22 works worth ₹6.25 crore

under the MP LADS scheme. Eight works worth ₹1.85 crore have been completed under the District Mineral Fund. District Panchayat Raj Engineer K. Balakrishna, DWMAAPD B. Ramprasad, and others attended the meeting.

Strict Action Against Those Roaming Aimlessly at Night: SP Vakul Jindal



Guntur, Oct 22 (Pen Power): Guntur District SP

Vakul Jindal has ordered strict enforcement against

those loitering on roads at night without valid reasons. As part of a “Special Drive” conducted from October 15 to 21, police registered 637 cases under the Town Nuisance Act against 639 individuals found wandering unnecessarily during late hours. The SP stated that some individuals, especially youth, were roaming around at night, creating nuisance, consuming alcohol publicly, and disturbing public peace. He warned that such behavior will not be tolerated and that rowdy and anti-social activities have no place in Guntur

district. SP Jindal emphasized that maintaining law and order and ensuring public safety are top priorities. He directed all police stations to intensify night patrolling, monitor movements of rowdy-sheeters and suspects, and take firm action against violators. The SP also urged citizens to avoid unnecessary night movement, and those traveling for legitimate reasons — such as from hospitals, pharmacies, or theatres — should cooperate with police during inspections by showing relevant documents.

Plants Are the Lifeline of Humanity – Minister Vasamshetty Subhash



Ramachandrapuram, Oct 22 (Pen Power):

State Labour Minister Vasamshetty Subhash said that trees are essential for human survival and everyone must protect them. He participated in a tree plantation drive from Pasalapudi Junction to VSM College, organized on the birthday of Vasamshetty Satyam, Chairman of the Satyam Vasamshetty Foundation. The Minister urged people to plant and nurture a tree on their birthdays to reduce pollution and build a greener Andhra Pradesh.

Around 70 saplings were planted with tree guards. Foundation Chairman Satyam Vasamshetty said their goal is to support environmental protection through regular plantation drives and other service activities like meal donations, fruit distribution to patients, and book distribution to students. Local leaders, officials, and women activists also participated in the event, which began with tributes to Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao’s statue at Pasalapudi Junction.

NH-16 Expansion to Six Lanes — MP Daggubati Purandeswari

Rajamahendravaram, Pen Power, October 22: MP

Daggubati Purandeswari said the expansion of national highways will improve people’s living standards. She reviewed the progress of widening works of the Anakapalli–Annavaram–Diwan Cheruvu section of NH-16 into a six-lane highway at a meeting held at the Collectorate. Purandeswari emphasized the importance of timely land acquisition, approvals, and inter-departmental coordination, considering the 2027 Godavari Pushkaralu. She said the project will boost economic growth in East Godavari, Kakinada, and Anakapalli districts, reducing travel time and increasing economic benefits. Collector Keerthi Chekuri stated that about 11 km of the project



passes through East Godavari district. NHAI Project Director B. Krishnamurthy explained that the project covers 160.245 km, ending at Diwan Cheruvu. Public representatives including MLC Somu

Veerraju and MLAs Battula Balaramakrishna and Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy gave several proposals on alignment, underpasses, and alternative routes. They also stressed the need to address black

spots, culvert quality, Morampudi flyover lighting, and drainage systems. Officials from various departments and consultancy firms participated in the meeting.

Complete Vadarevu–Chilakaluripet NH-167A Works Quickly: Collector Dr. V. Vinod Kumar



Bapatla, Oct 22 (Pen Power):

District Collector Dr. V. Vinod Kumar directed officials to expedite the completion of the Vadarevu–Chilakaluripet

National Highway 167A works. During a review meeting held at the Collectorate on Wednesday, he expressed concern over the delay in construction. Officials informed him

that 92.38% of the work is complete, with 2.6 hectares of 3D mapping still pending. The Collector instructed that this should be finished within a week and emphasized safety

measures and plantation along the highway. He also reviewed progress under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 project, noting that the Central Government sanctioned ₹97.52 crore for developing Suryalanka Beach. Despite orders to begin work on the 16th, it had not yet started—officials were told to speed up and report daily progress. Dr. Vinod Kumar said the Integrated Aqua Park, to be developed over 192.42 acres, would significantly boost the aquaculture sector. He instructed officials to immediately start work on both the Aqua Park and the Nizampatnam Fishing Harbour, ensuring swift completion. Officials from the National Highways, Fisheries, Tourism, and Forest Departments, along with APTDC representatives and local Tahsildars, attended the meeting.

District Police on High Alert — Prakasam SP V. Harshavardhan Raju

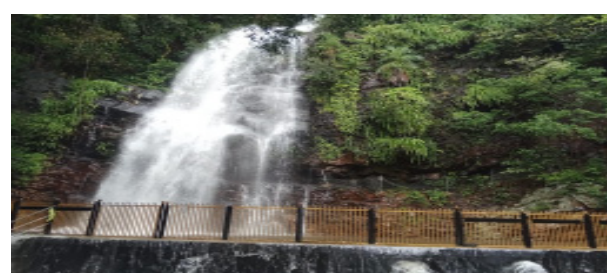
Crime Reporter, Ongole | Pen Power | October 22

In view of the weather department’s heavy rain warnings, Prakasam District SP V. Harshavardhan Raju stated that the police department is fully prepared to respond swiftly to any emergency. Special teams and a 24x7 control room have been set up. Police pickets are being posted near rivers, streams, and low-lying danger zones, with night patrolling intensified. The SP directed officials to keep drone surveillance ready to assess flood damage and rescue operations. Residents in low-lying and riverbank areas are being

alerted, and relief and rehabilitation centers are identified. Coordination is being maintained with Revenue, Fisheries, R&B, Panchayat Raj, Irrigation, and Electricity departments. People are advised to avoid sheltering under trees during rain to prevent lightning strikes. Coastal residents and fishermen are urged to follow official instructions and avoid venturing into the sea. Excavators, ropes, raincoats, lights, and backup power are kept ready for emergency use. For immediate assistance, the public can contact Dial 112, WhatsApp 9121102266, or the nearest police station.



Bhairavakona Waterfalls Draw Crowds Amid Karthika Masam



CS Puram, Pen Power, October 22:

The famous Shaiva pil-

grimage and tourist spot Bhairavakona in Prakasam district is teeming with

devotees and visitors as the holy month of Karthika Masam begins. Continuous rains have turned the waterfalls into a spectacular sight, cascading powerfully through the rocky hills and lush green forests, giving the place a heavenly look. To ensure smooth arrangements, temple trust chairman Muppalla Shyam Sundar Raju and executive

officer D. Vamsi Krishna Reddy have deployed special staff near the waterfalls and temple premises. The spiritual atmosphere at the Bhairaveshwara Swamy temple is enhanced by special rituals, abhishekams, and deepa aradhanas. Devotees are also visiting the shrines of Lord Bhairaveshwara, Trimukha Durga Mata, and several Shiva Lingas.

Venkatesh Joins Chiranjeevi for MSG Shoot

Anil Ravipudi's upcoming film with Chiranjeevi has been one of the most talked-about projects in recent months. The film's glimpse, confirmed that Venkatesh will make a special appearance. Until then, his role was kept a secret. The short teaser not only revealed the title Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu... Pandagaki Vasthunnaru but also featured Venkatesh's voice-over. Anil Ravipudi and Venkatesh have earlier worked together on three successful films, and their collaboration once again has caught attention. The latest update is that Venkatesh has officially joined the film's shoot with Chiranjeevi. The shoot began on Monday, October 21. A short video marking Venkatesh's entry is expected to be released soon by the makers. He is said to be filming for an extended cameo and will participate in a continuous schedule. The plan includes a few talkie scenes and a song sequence featuring both Chiranjeevi and Venkatesh. Meanwhile, Venkatesh has also started work on his next film with director Trivikram. He will be shooting for both projects simultaneously this year. Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu is being produced by Sahu Garapati and Sushmita Konidela under Shine Screens and Gold Box Entertainments. Music is composed by Bheems Ceciroleo. The film is slated for a Sankranti release, with January 12 being considered as the tentative date.



Srinidhi Shetty joins Venkatesh-Trivikram film

It's raining offers for Srinidhi Shetty! The actress has signed yet another big Telugu project. And this time opposite senior actor Venkatesh. The makers of the Venkatesh and Trivikram film officially announced her as the female lead today. This marks the first collaboration between Venkatesh and Trivikram as actor and director, though Trivikram had earlier worked on Venkatesh's "Nuvvu Naku Nachav" and "Mallishwari" as a story and dialogue writer. The film is set to go on floors soon. On the occasion of her birthday, the team extended a warm welcome to Srinidhi Shetty as part of the project. The actress, who rose to fame with the KGF franchise, made her Telugu debut opposite Nani in "HIT 3" and was recently seen in "Telusu Kada." This will be her third Telugu film.



Kalyan Ram gears up for another transformation

Nandamuri Kalyan Ram is known for undergoing complete transformations for the characters he plays. He showcased remarkable variations in his dual roles in "Bimbisara" and later appeared in a rugged avatar in "Arjun Son of Vyjayanthi."

Now, the actor is preparing for yet another physical transformation. He is currently training intensely at the gym to achieve a new look.

"Kalyan Ram is gearing up for an epic transformation with his intense focus and unmatched energy," his team shared on social media.

The actor has taken a short break from shooting and will soon announce his next project. True to his image, his upcoming film is expected to be another action-oriented entertainer.

Drunk and Drive Cases in Kakinada – 14 Booked

Kakinada, Pen Power, October 22: As per the directions of District SP G. Bindu Madhav, Kakinada police conducted drunk-and-drive checks to curb road accidents. A total of 14 motorists were booked — 8 were sentenced to jail, and 6 were fined Rs. 10,000 each (total Rs. 60,000) by Special Mobile JFC Magistrate N. Usha Lakshmi Kumari. The cases include 10 from Traffic Station-1 and 4 from Traffic Station-2. Jail terms ranged from one to three days. Officials said such special drives will continue to prevent road mishaps.

Aadhaar Biometric Update Camps in 96 Schools from October 23

Rajamahendravaram, Pen Power, October 22: East Godavari District Collector Keerthi Chekuri announced that special Aadhaar biometric update camps will be held across 96 schools from October 23 to 30. The updates will be free of cost for children aged 5 to 17 years. The collector urged parents to make use of this opportunity, emphasizing that the focus will be on pending biometric updates such as fingerprints, iris scans, and photographs. These updates are essential for availing government schemes, school services, and applying for competitive exams, she said. As per UIDAI guidelines, the biometric data must be updated by September 30, 2026. The collector directed headmasters and education officers to ensure timely completion of the updates in all 96 schools.

No Lapses in R&R Package Implementation : District Collector P. Rajababu

Ongole, Oct 22 (Pen Power)

— District Collector P. Rajababu directed officials to ensure that there are no lapses in the implementation of the Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) package for the Velugonda project. At a review meeting held at Prakasam Bhavan along with Joint Collector R. Gopalakrishna, the Collector reviewed the progress of tunnel works and rehabilitation measures. Project SE Abuth Aleem explained that out of 11 affected villages, beneficiaries are yet to be finalized in two.

The Collector emphasized that the state government's priority is to ensure justice for all displaced families. He instructed officials to make the beneficiary identification process transparent and to interact directly with the villagers.



Rajababu also sought details on funds for canal, tunnel, and R&R works, assuring that he would take related issues to the state government. He urged

officials to report any obstacles immediately to expedite project completion. Officials including special deputy collectors, DEEs, AEEs, deputy tahsildars, and surveyors attended the meeting.

District Collector Urges Public Support for Eco-Friendly Tourism Development



Our Correspondent D.V.R.G.V. Ratnam

A.S.R. District In-charge Paderu, Pen Power, October

22: District Collector A.S. Dinesh Kumar has called on local residents to support eco-friendly tourism development. In a coordination meeting at the District Collectorate, discussions were held regarding the development of Vanjanga Meghala Hills in Paderu Forest Division and Madagada View-

point in Araku Forest Division. Local representatives and residents from Vanjanga, Lagishpalli, Kaderu, and Pakana Gud Panchayats shared their views on tourism development. The Collector emphasized that development plans will be prepared in coordination with Forest, Revenue, and Panchayat departments under the guidance of Vanasamra kshana Samithi, ensuring benefits reach the community. He

urged residents to support community-based eco-tourism initiatives, maintain environmental sustainability, and noted that tourism revenue will help improve local livelihoods. Officials including Joint Collector In-Charge, ITDA Project Officer Thirumani Sree Pooja, Divisional Forest Officer P.V. Sandeep Reddy, Assistant Collector Sahithi, and Panchayat representatives attended the meeting.

Naidu already fearing defeat, claims YSRCP



Pamidi: YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) Anantapur District President Anantha Venkatarami Reddy alleged that TDP Chief N Chandrababu Naidu is already gripped by the fear of defeat, even though the next general elections are still three and a half years away. Addressing a public meeting at Pamidi, as part of the 'One Crore Signatures Public Movement' against the privatization of government medical colleges, Reddy said Naidu is appealing to people "not to play

government of failing within just 18 months, claiming public dissatisfaction was rising. He criticized the alleged "rule of exploitation" under the supervision of ruling MLAs, who were "looting the system for personal gain." He also condemned the decision to privatize ten government medical colleges under the PPP model, calling it a "money-making scheme by Chandrababu." Recalling the initiatives of late Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy and Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, he said the YSRCP government had earlier strengthened public education and healthcare, estab-

lishing 17 new government medical colleges to provide affordable medical education. Reddy urged YSRCP cadres to collect one crore signatures against privatization by November 20, treating it as a people's movement. He also directed the formation of village and ward-level committees to strengthen the party's organizational base and issued identity cards by January. Calling for unity, he asserted that YSRCP would continue to fight for people's welfare and warned citizens not to fear the "arrogance and atrocities" of the ruling coalition.