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"Army Has No Religion, Caste"  
: Rajnath Singh snaps back at Rahul Gandhi



New Delhi: Rahul Gandhi's remarks about '10 per cent of India controlling the Army' was slammed by Rajnath Singh Wednesday. The Defence Minister accused the Congress MP of trying to divide the armed forces and said firmly that "the Army has no religion or caste". Campaigning in Bihar, before voting tomorrow in the first phase of the Assembly election, Singh said, "Rahul Gandhi is trying to create anarchy by demanding reservations in defence forces." Singh hit out at Gandhi for trying to 'drag the Army into politics' and criticised him for comments that have been seen as pushing for quotas for different communities within the armed forces. "There should be a reservation. We (i.e., the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party) are supporters of reservations... we have given to the poor. But the Army?"

RAHUL GANDHI  
ACCUSES EC OF  
VOTE THEFT

New Delhi: Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi addressed the media at the national headquarters of the Indian National Congress in New Delhi, claiming a dossier titled the "H-Files" constitutes proof of large-scale electoral manipulation by the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Election Commission of India. He cited purported data from the EC's own records to contend that the Congress would have won the Haryana assembly election had allegations of voter roll tampering and manipulations of various kinds not occurred.



"BRAZILIAN MODEL VOTED 22 TIMES"  
: Rahul Gandhi's Hydrogen Bomb, BJP Counters



New Delhi: Dropping his much-awaited "H bomb", the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, today alleged massive vote fraud in the Haryana Assembly polls last year. He alleged that 25 lakh votes were stolen in Haryana, which has a total of 2 crore voters. "This means one in eight voters in Haryana are fake, 12.5 per cent," he said. Gandhi said several Congress candidates told them after the election that something was wrong.

Mahagathbandhan Hunts  
EBC Votes to Break NDA Hold



Patna: The Grand Alliance has launched a determined push to attract supporters from the Extremely Backward Castes ahead of the upcoming state election, recognising that this voter segment — esti-

mated at around 36 per cent of the population — could determine which political camp secures control. Traditionally anchored by the ruling coalition, this bloc's disenchantment is being

closely monitored by opposition strategists. For years the ruling alliance maintained strong support among EBC communities through a mix of welfare schemes and caste mobilisation.

Online betting gang  
busted in AP.  
six arrested



Kadapa, November 5: Kadapa District Police have busted a gang operating an online betting app. Six members of the betting gang involved in online cricket betting were arrested here on Wednesday in Poddutur. Bailable cases have been registered against the members of the betting gang. The Kadapa District Police have seized Rs. 6.28 lakh in cash, 8 mobile phones and bank passbooks from six cricket bookies. Kadapa SP Nachiketh Vishwanath revealed the details of this case to the media. The members of the betting gang were detained and interrogated by the police. Sensational things came to light during the police investigation. The betting gang members are committing financial crimes through cricket betting by opening fake current bank accounts on a large scale and linking them to betting websites. The Kadapa SP has warned that they are keeping a close watch on websites and apps related to social activities. Kadapa SP Nachiketh Vishwanath warned that no matter how many betting operators are involved, they cannot escape their surveillance.

Development only happens  
when there is vision: CM



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Nov., 5: Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said that development in any field is possible only if there is foresight, and it is the responsibility of the rulers and today's

generation of industrialists to prepare the right platforms for the future of tomorrow's generation. The prestigious Institute of Directors (IOD) in London presented two awards to his wife Bhuvaneshwari.

Chandrababu delivered a keynote speech at the event. He congratulated the IOD for serving the corporate world for 35 years. He said that various changes are happening in the world and that govern-

ments and organizations need to change their plans accordingly, and suggested that there should be foresight and proper planning to meet the challenges posed by technology. 'Although there were doubts about the future of the IT sector in the 1990s, as the joint AP CM, I invited Bill Gates and took the initiative to establish Microsoft in Hyderabad. Now Indians, especially Telugus, are playing a key role in the global IT sector. Artificial intelligence (AI) is currently expanding very rapidly around the world. The entire future will revolve around it. We are formulating policies and plans in AP accordingly. Google is setting up its largest AI center outside the US in Visakh

apatnam. This will contribute to the development of aspects like innovations, research, and skill development in the state,' the CM said. What else he said was.. Technology should be useful for improving people's lives. Governments should think about providing better services with technology, and we are moving in that direction. During the recent Cyclone Montha that hit AP, we made accurate predictions thanks to the data-driven real-time governance system. We reduced the loss of life and property through predictive analytics. We made more than 700 civil services available directly through WhatsApp to bring governance closer to the people.

Focus on development  
works: Pawan Kalyan

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Nov., 5 : Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has directed the officials to focus on the development works going on in AP. Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan held a review meeting today (Wednesday) at the AP Secretariat on the damage caused by Cyclone Montha and the development of Avanigadda constituency. On this occasion, the Deputy CM issued key instructions to the officials. Pawan Kalyan revealed that a bridge is being constructed to connect the villages on the islands with a high-level bridge over the Krishna River. He explained that a decision has been taken to sanction funds for the SASKY scheme along with



the AP government funds. He said that the outfall sluices in the Avanigadda area have been renovated with the help of the central government. He said that plans are being made to complete the work within the stipulated time frame.

Nara Lokesh congratulates Zohran Mamdani,  
calls his campaign masterclass in modern politics



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Nov., 5 : Andhra Pradesh Human Resources Development, Information Technology and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh has congratulated Zohran Mamdani on his election as Mayor of New York City. Lokesh, son

of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, said that Zohran Mamdani's campaign had been a masterclass in modern politics. The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) General Secretary took to 'X' to congratulate Zohran Mamdani on winning the New York City mayoral race. "As a young politician of Indian heritage, his campaign has been a masterclass in modern politics - sharp messaging, smart social media and authentic people connect. Politics evolves, and so must we. Lots of lessons for budding politicians across the world," wrote Lokesh. Democratic socialist Zohran Mamdani has been elected as

the mayor of New York City, defeating former New York governor Andrew Cuomo. The 34-year-old became the first Muslim and first of Indian descent to hold the office. Born on October 18, 1991, in Kampala, Uganda, Mamdani is the son of Ugandan scholar Mahmood Mamdani and acclaimed Indian filmmaker Mira Nair. His early years took him from Uganda to South Africa and then to New York City, where he attended the Bank Street School for Children and Bronx High School of Science. He graduated from Bowdoin College in 2014 with a degree in Africana Studies, where he co-founded a Students for Justice in Palestine chapter. In his victory speech, Mamdani

quoted India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to declare that with his win, the city has stepped out from the old into the new. Mamdani, who is also the youngest to hold the office of New York City mayor, also stated that his victory toppled a political dynasty. "Standing before you, I think of the words of Jawaharlal Nehru - a moment comes, but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends and when the soul of a nation long suppressed finds utterance. Tonight, we have stepped out from the old into the new," he said in his victory speech.

Telugu brothers should work with  
discipline: Palla Srinivasa Rao

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, Nov., 5 : Telugu Desam Andhra Pradesh President Palla Srinivasa Rao has issued orders for Telugu brothers to work with discipline. He warned that strict action will be taken if any leader acts beyond the party line. He suggested that grievances should be held every Friday in every constituency in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Here on Wednesday Palla Srinivasa Rao held a review meeting with party leaders through teleconference at the TDP office in Amaravati. On this occasion, Palla Srinivasa Rao gave direction to the Telugu brothers on several key issues.



An order was issued to complete the appointments from the village level to the constituency committees by the 15th of this month. He ordered the coalition leaders to be united and take government programs to the

people. He showered questions on why grievances were not being handled properly in the Mangalagiri constituency. Palla Srinivasa Rao expressed his anger as to why four thousand people would come to the Praja Darbar of Minister and TDP National General Secretary Nara Lokesh if public issues were being resolved properly. As per Nara Lokesh's orders, grievances should be held in every constituency every Friday from now on. On the same day, a meeting was held with local leaders and instructions were issued to ensure that there are no problems in the constituency.

# EDITORIAL

## The focus in Bihar is on women's votes

While the state of Bihar has been reeling under unemployment for several years, the promises made by leaders and parties during the election campaign are not providing any relief to the unemployed youth. The ruling and opposition parties, who are not paying much attention to this issue, are announcing attractive schemes to loot the women's vote bank. In these circumstances, the question is to what extent women's votes will determine the victory. Immediately after the Election Commission announced the dates for the Bihar Assembly elections, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar transferred a total of Rs. 2100 crores to be deposited directly into the bank accounts of 21 lakh women in the state. This is to provide financial assistance of Rs. 10,000 to each woman voter under the Chief Minister's Mahila Rozgar Yojana. This scheme was launched by Prime Minister Modi at the end of last September. In response, the opposition RJD has promised Rs. 10,000 per month to every woman belonging to the economically weaker and backward classes if they vote for their government to come to power. It is noteworthy that the promise to implement the 'Mai Bahin Maan Yojana' scheme to provide financial assistance of Rs. 2500 is announced.

These two big announcements demonstrate their unwavering commitment to the women of Bihar. In a state steeped in casteism and patriarchy, it is very strange to see women as independent. It is not surprising that every constituency is divided into two. Since 2014, special efforts have been made to win the vote bank with women as the center. This does not mean that women's votes alone determine the chances of victory. Women in Bihar do not even have the freedom to choose their candidate and vote. Nitish Kumar has been running women-centric politics with schemes to attract women since he first became the Chief Minister in 2005. As a result, women voters turned out for the first time in Bihar's history in the 2010 assembly elections. While women voted 54.5%, men voted only 51.1%. This gap was bridged nationally in the 2019 elections. However, it is worth noting that, strangely enough, 16 lakh women voters out of the 47 lakh voters who were not included in the final list of voters in the Special Comprehensive Revision (SIR) this time are missing.

All of them are EBCs and Dalits. Meanwhile, the caste survey conducted by the Bihar government in 2023 has changed political attitudes forever. In fact, no party needs the exact numerical strength of the respective caste groups to decide the candidates to contest the elections. But if we look at the facts that are being revealed, some estimates are coming to the fore. Among the backward classes, the Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) constitute 36 percent of the population, while the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) constitute up to 60%. In this, an adjustment must be made for the 'elders'. If we look at the EBCs, Mukesh Sahni of Vikassheel Insaan (VSIP) K became a must for the post of Deputy CM in the 'Maha Ghatbandhan (MGB). Although he was denied before the caste survey in 2020, he had to be given it later. Based on this, it seems that the decisions of the EBC and OBC communities will play a key role in these elections. The determination to get their seats no matter which government comes is prominent among the EBC and OBC communities. EBC candidate Nitish Kumar in the NDA has been making welfare his priority since he became the Chief Minister in 2005. The NDA will have to realize the popularity of JDU. Despite having to show loyalty to Nitish, the unemployment problem seems to be a serious hindrance. Youth are waiting for government jobs. But paper leaks in the exams conducted for job selection, chaotic conduct of exams, corruption, and delay in notifications are all demoralizing the youth. Recruitment in key government departments has stopped. As a result of exam paper leaks in the first half of 2024 and 2025, recruitment in many government departments including Police, Staff Selection, Revenue has stopped. Now that elections are underway, the delays in these recruitments have increased the disaffection and protest of many young job seekers, who consider them to be government betrayal. Despite frequent government advertisements, many jobs remain informal and unstable. According to the Periodic Labor Force Survey, the unemployment rate in Bihar is over 5%. But labor participation, the proportion of people actually working or waiting for work, is the lowest in the country. Only 28 out of 100 youth between the ages of 15 and 29 are employed. The same number is much smaller among women. The unemployment problem is contributing to the increase in youth depression in villages and cities.

# The Rich Get Fit, And Poor Get 'Lectures' - That's India's Ozempic Problem

India stands on the brink of a metabolic crisis. Nearly ninety million adults, about 10.5% of those aged between 20 and 79, live with diabetes, making ours the world's second-largest diabetic population after China. Obesity, the silent precursor, now afflicts nearly a quarter of Indian adults, while abdominal obesity exceeds 40% among women. Together, these conditions fuel a rising tide of heart disease, stroke, and kidney failure that steadily undermines our public health foundations. Into this landscape arrives Ozempic - Novo Nordisk's semaglutide injection - approved by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) in September 2025 for adults with type-2 diabetes inadequately controlled by diet and exercise. Expected to launch by December and priced between ₹10,000 and ₹20,000 a month, it promises not only superior blood sugar control and weight reduction but also cardiovascular protection.

**Ozempic Is An Achievement**

Crucially, semaglutide exists because companies were free to invest, take risks, and profit from success. It is the outcome of decades of research and innovation - not a product of government decree. We should celebrate, not penalise, the profit motive that drives such progress. Innovation flourishes only when regulation is predictable, approvals are swift, and intellectual property is respected. India's drug bureaucracy, however, often moves at a glacial pace; simplifying approvals, incentivising voluntary licensing, and ensuring transparency would do far more for patients than any heavy-handed price cap ever could. Like any potent therapy, Ozempic carries risks. Nearly 40% of users experience gastrointestinal discomfort - nausea, vomiting, or diarrhoea - sometimes severe enough to discontinue treatment. Rarer complications such as pancreatitis, gallbladder disease, or acute kidney injury have been reported, and the black-box warning about thyroid C-cell tumours prohibits use in those with a family history of such cancers. Emerging evidence suggests that up to 40% of weight lost through semaglutide may be lean muscle mass rather than fat, while prolonged appetite sup-

pression can cause nutritional deficiencies or worsen diabetic retinopathy. Yet, these are not reasons to retreat from progress. Adults deserve the liberty to make informed decisions about their own bodies. The state's duty is not to moralise about "weight-loss vanity" but to ensure accurate labelling, access to safety data, and education about risks. Responsible prescribing, gradual dose titration, and medical supervision must be encouraged, but through professional ethics and patient education - not bureaucratic suspicion.

**When Regulation Goes Astray**

The rise of a grey market in India, where unsupervised doses are sold at exorbitant rates, demonstrates that excessive control merely drives patients underground. Regulation should protect safety, not police choice. Without a balanced approach, we risk replacing one epidemic - obesity - with another: weakness and malnutrition.

The economics, however, expose the sharper moral fault lines. At a cost exceeding ₹10,000 a month, Ozempic remains far beyond the reach of most Indians. Insulin, by contrast, costs barely ₹300 a vial, and 80% of diabetics rely on overstretched public health systems. Ayushman Bharat, India's flagship insurance scheme, does not cover high-cost injectables, while private insurers limit reimbursement to wealthier clients. Eli Lilly's tirzepatide (Mounjaro), priced even higher between ₹14,000 and ₹27,000, is already available in elite pharmacies. A vanity market is emerging in India's metros, where celebrities and affluent professionals use these drugs for cosmetic transformation while rural diabetics struggle to afford essential insulin. If life-saving medicines like Ozempic are to become accessible to ordinary Indians, it will require not bureaucratic diktats but market creativity supported by fair and predictable rules.

**Learn From The World**

Around the world, market-based approaches have expanded access without price caps. In the United States, patient-assistance programmes and tiered pricing reduced costs for low-income users; Brazil's Farmácia Popular model used public-private partner-



ships to offer discounted generics; and Kenya's M-TIBA platform enabled families to prepay for diabetes care through mobile wallets. India can adopt such models - combining tiered pricing, digital health platforms, micro-insurance, and employer wellness plans - to extend access efficiently and sustainably. The state's role must remain limited yet firm: to prevent patent abuse, cartelisation, and anti-competitive hoarding, as US and European regulators have done against evergreening in oncology and HIV drugs. Patients should reward innovation, not perpetuate monopoly rents long after their social purpose is served. True accessibility will emerge not just from price ceilings or compulsory licences, which often deter innovation and reduce supply, but from open competition. India's experience with HIV drugs in the 1990s proves this: liberalising generic production, rather than imposing state control, drove prices down by nearly 90% and saved millions of lives across the developing world. The same opportunity now awaits GLP-1 therapies. Ozempic's patent expires in March 2026, and Indian pharmaceutical leaders like Dr. Reddy's, Sun Pharma, and Cipla are already preparing generic versions that could transform affordability. To realise this potential, the government must clear regulatory bottlenecks, fast-track biosimilar approvals, rationalise taxes on biopharma imports, and ensure patent clarity. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority's reflex to control every rupee must give way to a lighter touch. Price discovery belongs in the marketplace, not

in ministries. Patients benefit most when firms compete on cost, quality, and service - not when innovation queues endlessly for permission.

**Let The Customer Decide**

Front-of-pack labelling by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, voluntary reformulation by industry, and nutrition education can empower consumers to make healthier choices. Entrepreneurs - fitness startups, health-food producers, and wellness coaches - can do what ministries often cannot: make healthy living aspirational. Public policy should focus on enabling this ecosystem, through transparent labelling, fair competition, and better urban design that prioritises cycling lanes, walkable spaces, and community fitness, rather than micromanaging diets or imposing punitive taxes. India's 2026 bio-pharma roadmap, which promises incentives for local GLP-1 manufacturing, will succeed only if the state acts as facilitator, not manufacturer. Subsidies and public monopolies rarely deliver efficiency; what the industry needs is clear rules, low compliance costs, and open trade. The goal should not be patent races but affordable peptide production that can serve both domestic and global demand. If Indian firms such as Biocon, Dr. Reddy's, and Sun Pharma can produce high-quality semaglutide at scale, they could supply not only India but also emerging markets across Asia and Africa, reviving the promise of India as the pharmacy of the developing world. But to achieve this, India must resist its reflex to over-regulate. Every unnecessary form, every

ambiguous guideline, adds cost that ultimately punishes patients.

**The Class Divide Is Real**

Imagine tier-two and tier-three clinics dispensing generic semaglutide at ₹3,000 a month, paired with nutrition counselling and fitness incentives under PM-JAY. Endocrinologists could act as gatekeepers against misuse, and Indian biosimilar innovators could once again demonstrate that affordability and innovation are not opposites but complements. Critics who dismiss Ozempic and its analogues as "lazy medicine" overlook the truth: for the fifty million Indians who fail oral therapy, semaglutide is not indulgence - it is salvation. Its cardiovascular protection rivals statins, and its potential to halve India's non-communicable disease burden - estimated at ₹3 lakh crore annually - is immense. Yet, unless equitable access is ensured, this medical revolution risks deepening social divides, where metropolitan elites thrive, while the villages of Bihar, Jharkhand, and Odisha fade further into neglect. As Ozempic pens begin reaching Indian pharmacies, regulation must not lag behind enthusiasm. The government should mandate national registries to monitor long-term safety, expand pharmacovigilance to study how Indian genotypes respond, and integrate GLP-1 therapies into national diabetes guidelines. Training ASHA workers to improve adherence and funding public trials that combine GLP-1 therapy with traditional practices like yoga and dietetics could yield uniquely Indian models of care rooted in both science and culture.

# The Mamdani Moment: A Political Earthquake In America's Largest City

When the polls closed at 9 p.m. on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, it took less than 40 minutes for the Associated Press to call the race. Zohran Mamdani, a 34-year-old democratic socialist and state assemblyman from Queens, had accomplished what many considered impossible just a year earlier: he defeated Andrew Cuomo—twice—to become New York City's 111th mayor, its first Muslim mayor, and its youngest in over a century. Mamdani, son of famous Ugandan immigrant parents Professor Mahmood Mamdani and Mira Nair, the noted film maker of Hollywood, represents the aspirations of the new generation in the USA. His success gives a beleaguered democrats a new face, a new voice, to fight the behemoth Trump and his billions and donors to fight the ensuing New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia elections, which could be teaser for the more challenging 2026 November mid-terms where the democrats hope to retake the house of representatives. At present Congress is precariously placed in favour of the Republicans: House 220 Republican and Democrats 215,

Senate Republicans 53 and Democrats 47. 2026 is now the major battleground against Trump, with Gen Z against him in the East and West coasts, a new challenging factor in buddy billionaire Elon Musk who could cut into Trump's popularity and GOP vote bank. Zohran's margin was decisive. Mamdani defeated Cuomo, who ran as an independent after losing the Democratic primary, by approximately 9 points, with Republican Curtis Sliwa trailing far behind. More than 2 million votes were cast, the highest turnout since 1969, suggesting that Mamdani's message resonated far beyond his progressive base. Mamdani's victory wasn't accidental—it was methodical, strategic, and built on a foundation that many establishment Democrats have forgotten: talking to voters about what actually matters to them. In a city where the median rent for a one-bedroom apartment exceeds \$3,500 and where working families struggle to afford basic necessities, Mamdani stayed laser-focused on one issue: making New York affordable. His platform included rent freezes on rent-stabilized units, free bus

service, universal childcare, city-owned grocery stores, and 200,000 new affordable housing units. It was ambitious, yes, but it spoke directly to the lived experiences of millions of New Yorkers. His campaign announcement exemplified this focus. On January 1, 2025, Mamdani participated in the annual polar plunge at Coney Island, standing in frigid water to declare: "I'm freezing... your rent as the next mayor of New York City." The video went viral, capturing both his message and his personality in one memorable moment. Mamdani understood something that many established politicians miss: the power of authentic, creative digital communication. His campaign produced smart, funny videos that frequently went viral, reaching voters where they actually are—on their phones. One memorable video showed him eating halal food on a cold night near Wall Street, explaining how the city's arcane permit system inflated prices for what should be cheap street food. These weren't slick, expensive productions. They were real, relatable, and effective. While Cuomo had backing from billionaires and corporate

interests—with anti-Mamdani PACs raising over \$40 million—Mamdani mobilized tens of thousands of volunteers. This grassroots energy, particularly among young voters, created a ground game that money couldn't match. Exit polls showed voters under 45 favored Mamdani over Cuomo by 43 points. Despite predictions that Mamdani's progressive platform would only appeal to a narrow slice of voters, NBC News exit polling revealed he won across all racial demographics—white, Black, Latino, Asian, and other races all backed his candidacy. This wasn't a victory of one demographic group; it was a broad coalition unified by economic concerns. Mamdani's victory speech struck a defiant tone against President Trump, declaring "In this moment of political darkness, New York will be the light." But rhetoric aside, he faces formidable obstacles. To implement his most ambitious proposals—particularly tax increases on corporations and wealthy individuals earning over \$1 million annually—Mamdani needs approval from Governor Kathy Hochul and the state legislature. While

Hochul eventually endorsed him, many Democratic leaders in Albany were not enthusiastic supporters. Uniting these leaders will be his first major test. His biggest challenge is to bring Bill Clinton, the most popular Democrat president on board, who was Cumo's god father. Obama may pitch in while Clinton may not, but Obama matters today more than Clinton. Many City Council members didn't eagerly line up behind Mamdani during the campaign. Building working relationships with them while maintaining his progressive vision will require political skill and compromise—qualities not fully tested during his campaign. Critics have questioned whether Mamdani's proposals are financially viable. He plans to raise corporate tax rates to match neighboring New Jersey's and impose a 2% flat tax on incomes over \$1 million. But will these revenue sources be sufficient? And will wealthy residents and corporations simply leave, shrinking the tax base further? President Trump has already threatened to withhold federal funding to New York City under a Mamdani administration, calling him a "communist."

# Maternal and Infant Deaths Must Be Reduced – ITDA PO Thirumani Sri Pooja



**Paderu, Pen Power, November 5:** ITDA PO and In-charge Joint Collector Thirumani Sri Pooja directed district health officials to remain vigilant to prevent maternal and infant deaths in the Paderu ITDA region. She emphasized increasing the

number of sickle cell screening tests to help reduce preventable deaths. Speaking at a video conference held at the ITDA office, she instructed officials to ensure proper registration of pregnant women on the PHC portal and provide all government healthcare

services. Antenatal check-ups should be conducted to identify health issues early and offer timely treatment. She stressed administering MMR vaccines to protect children from measles, mumps, and rubella. Anganwadi centers were directed to ensure

nutritious food for pregnant women and lactating mothers. Special focus should also be placed on adolescent girls' health in government and ashram schools. CDPOs were asked to inspect Anganwadi centers regularly, verify vaccination records, and ensure proper implementation of the nutrition menu. Emergency ambulance services (Feeder, 108, 104) must be available 24/7, and adequate medicines and test kits should be maintained in all health centers. Sri Pooja also instructed officials to intensify fogging and spraying to make the district malaria-free, prevent water stagnation, and promote the use of mosquito nets. Birth certificates and Aadhaar cards for newborns should be issued promptly. Officials including ITDA APO Venkateswarlu, DM&HO Krishnamurthy Naik, ICDS PD Jhansi Rampadal, and District Malaria Officer M. Tulasi participated in the meeting.

# Focus on Quality Teaching Methods in Schools: Collector Keerthi Chekuri

**Rajamahendravaram, Nov 5 (Pen Power)** District Collector Keerthi Chekuri emphasized the need for teachers and officials to identify and enhance students' learning abilities. Reviewing the functioning of School Education, Intermediate, Vocational, SSA, and ICDS departments, she instructed preparation of proposals to provide pending infrastructure facilities. She directed that students struggling with reading and writing should receive special evening classes under the

“Vidya Sakthi” program and that efforts be made to prevent school dropouts. Welfare education assistants were told to enroll migrant children in nearby schools. The Collector ordered immediate creation of Apar IDs for 6,000 students who do not yet have them and suggested using Atal Tinkering Labs to promote practical learning. She reviewed pending Thalliki Vandhanam payments, mid-day meal quality, and instructed collection of data on students who passed Class 10 but did not join

Intermediate. She suggested exploring IIT-oriented training from Class 8, ensuring proper use of school grants, and identifying meritorious students in government colleges for special encouragement. The Collector also reviewed measures to reduce students' stress through counseling and noted the ongoing recruitment of 69 vocational teachers. Infrastructure works in 26 schools are nearing completion, with ₹3.45 crore released for six more schools. She further directed ICDS of-



officials to propose merging low-enrolment Anganwadi centers with nearby government schools.

# Foundation Stone Laid for One Stop Center in Nandyal

**Nandyal, Pen Power, November 05 –**

State Minister for Law and Minority Welfare N.M.D. Farooq announced that a One Stop Center (OSC) has been sanctioned for Nandyal district. On Wednesday, the minister, along with District Collector G. Rajakumari and MP Baireddy Shabari, laid the foundation stone for the OSC building to be constructed on the premises of the Government General Hospital at a cost of ₹60 lakh. Speaking on the occasion, the minister said the government is establishing One Stop Centers across the country to ensure protection, support, and rehabilitation for women. He ex-



pressed pride that Nandyal district has now joined this initiative. Collector Rajakumari stated that construction responsibility has been assigned to APMSIDC, and the center will offer five integrated ser-

vices — medical aid, legal support, psychological counseling, temporary shelter, and police assistance — all under one roof for women and girl victims of violence. The minister and collector also flagged off a

vehicle dedicated to emergency services and victim transportation. Officials from the Women and Child Welfare Department and other district authorities participated in the event.

# Many Benefits Through Natural Farming

**Kurnool, Pen Power, November 5:** District Collector Dr. A. Siri stated that natural farming offers multiple benefits and urged farmers to adopt this method for sustainable cultivation.



During her visit to Pedda Tekuru and Tadakanapalle villages in Kallur mandal as part of the “Polam Pilusthondi” program, the Collector inspected various crops and interacted with farmers. She explained that natural farming reduces costs, enhances soil fertility, and minimizes the harmful effects caused by excessive use of chemical pesticides. She suggested farmers grow low-cost crops like vegetables in irri-

gated lands for better income. In Kallur mandal, 16,934 farmers are cultivating crops in 42,033 acres, mainly cotton and onion. The Collector also interacted with farmer Kottayya, who is growing chickpeas on 2.5 acres, and another farmer Dastagiri,

who is cultivating maize on 6 acres. She advised farmers to grow two to three types of crops to avoid losses if one fails. Later, Dr. Siri inspected the cattle hostel in Tadakanapalle, which houses 40 cows producing 500 liters of milk daily and around 100 kg of milk kova.

She said this model should inspire other farmers to strengthen their families' finances through dairy farming alongside agriculture. Officials Varalakshmi (Agriculture Officer), Anjaneyulu (Tahsildar), and Sarpanch Saherabi participated in the program.

# Youth Play Key Role in Nation's Development – MP Baireddy Shabari, Collector Rajakumari Gania



**Nandyal, Pen Power, November 5:** District Collector G. Rajakumari said youth festivals are a golden opportunity for youngsters to showcase their talents and skills. She inaugurated the District Youth Festival organized by the Youth Welfare Department at

Ramakrishna Degree and PG College in Nandyal. Collector Rajakumari urged students to take inspiration from Swami Vivekananda and actively participate in essay writing, elocution, painting, dance, singing, and folk arts competitions. She emphasized that students should

use every opportunity to grow and contribute to society, especially those from agrarian families. She also encouraged every family to produce at least one entrepreneur, aligning with the Chief Minister's vision. MP Baireddy Shabari highlighted that youth have a vital role in the

nation's progress. He called on them to preserve traditional values while embracing modernity and cited the recent Women's Cricket World Cup victory as an inspiration for young achievers. Cultural performances by school students captivated the audience.

# Home Tourism to Be Promoted in the District Plan to Establish 40,000 Home Stays with 35% Subsidy – District Collector A.S. Dinesh Kumar



**Paderu, Pen Power, November 5:** District Collector A.S. Dinesh Kumar called upon officials to make home tourism a success in the district. Speaking at a coordination meeting with home stay operators at the ITDA office in Paderu, he said per-

missions have already been granted for 150 home stays under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and PM Jugal scheme. Plans are underway to set up 40,000 home stays across the district to promote tourism in the Araku region and improve the livelihoods of tribal communi-

ties. The government is providing financial assistance and subsidies to overcome setup challenges. Home stays will be treated as MSME units, eligible for a 35% subsidy under the PM Employment Guarantee Scheme, and an additional 5% government incentive

for approved projects. The Collector said the investment in home stays can be recovered within two tourist seasons. Training programs will be organized to improve management skills, and home stays will be categorized as Silver and Gold based on facilities. Safety committees will be formed at the village, mandal, and district levels. ITDA PO Thirumani Sri Pooja and State Nodal Officer for Home Stays Y. Prasanna Lakshmi highlighted that online registration is open and a technical team will assist applicants. District tourism officer Dasu and DRDA PD Murali also attended the meeting.

# Nandyal Government Hospital to Be Developed as a Model Institution – Minister N.M.D. Farooq | Collector G. Rajakumari Gania | MP Baireddy Shabari

**Nandyal, Nov 5 (Pen Power):** Minister for Law and Minority Welfare N.M.D. Farooq announced that the Nandyal Government General Hospital, which serves nearly 1,500 patients daily, will be developed into a model hospital in the district with all modern facilities and advanced medical equipment. Speaking at the hospital development committee meeting chaired by District Collector G. Rajakumari Gania, the Minister directed officials to resolve long-pending infrastructure and staffing issues on a war footing. He said the government is committed to upgrading hospital infrastructure and ensuring quality treatment. The Minister emphasized reducing unnecessary C-section deliveries and promoting normal childbirths, directing strict action against mis-



use. He also instructed the municipal authorities to permanently fix drainage issues around the hospital. Collector Rajakumari Gania said steps are being taken to strengthen sanitation and security and fill vacant medical and technical posts. Funds from the NTR health scheme, CSR, and MPLADS will be utilized for hospital development. MP

Baireddy Shabari stressed maintaining cleanliness and raised concern over increasing female fetus abortions, urging strict measures to prevent them. **Key Decisions Taken:** Approval of expenditure details since April. Payment of pending diesel bills worth ₹97,500. Installation of an RO plant in the MCH Block with

Rotary Club support. Proposal to fill vacant staff posts. Procurement of medical equipment: below ₹5 lakh from Collector's funds, above ₹5 lakh from MPLADS funds. Provision of mortuary vehicles through concerned agencies. Allocation of a “Thriпти Canteen” to the Nandyal Government Hospital.

# University Hostels Inspected



**Kadapa, Pen Power, November 5:** Yogi Vemana University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Bellamkonda Rajasekhara conducted a surprise inspection of the boys' and girls' hostels on Wednesday morning. He interacted with students to check the quality and taste of the food being

served and personally examined the breakfast and hostel surroundings. The VC also visited the dining hall and spoke to students during breakfast. He advised hostel staff to perform their duties responsibly and stated that such surprise inspections would continue.

# Follow Rules or Face Action: SP Harshavardhan Raju



**Ongole, Pen Power, November 5 –** District SP V. Harshavardhan Raju directed a special drive across all police station limits on Wednesday to inspect school buses, private travel buses, lorries, vans, and other vehicles. A total of 39 teams conducted thorough checks, verifying vehicle documents and safety equipment as per the Motor Vehicles Act. The SP warned that strict legal action will be taken against those violating the rules.

# Unorganised Sector Workers Urged to Use Legal Services

**Ongole, Pen Power, November 5:** District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Secretary and Senior Civil Judge Sheikh Ibrahim Sharif urged unorganised sector workers to make use of free legal aid services provided by the DLSA and Mandal Legal Services Committees. Speaking at a legal awareness seminar held at Bapuji Market Complex, he advised workers to approach the DLSA for assistance with labour cards, child labour issues, and other legal matters. He also expressed concern over the rising number of child marriages in the district, calling on citizens to act responsibly and help prevent such incidents. Sharif further encouraged parties with pending cases to resolve them amicably during the National Lok Adalat on



December 13. Union representatives, Deputy Legal Aid Counsel P.V. Raghava Rao, and officials from the Labour Department attended the event.

# Students Should Excel in Both Academics and Sports: District Collector Rajababu



**Ongole, Pen Power, November 5:** District Collector P. Rajababu emphasized that students should not only focus on academics but also excel in sports, as it contributes to their overall development and provides opportunities to bring pride to the nation. He presented certificates to students who achieved Black Belts and Master Degrees in Taekwondo during the Black Belt Grading Examination organized by Grand Master B.V. Ramanaiah under the aegis of the International

Taekwondo Federation. The event was held at the Collector's Chamber in Ongole. District Sports Authority Officer Kunti Rajeshwari, A.P. Chairman of the All India Port Trust Workers Federation Sheikh Khalifathulla Basha, International Taekwondo Coach and Fifth Dan Champion Sheikh Kareemulla, BJMC Prakasam District President Pathan Sajid Khan, and Adil Group of Business Managing Director Sheikh Adil participated in the program.

# People No Longer Believe Jagan's Dramas: Minister Vasamsetti Subhash



**Kakinada, Pen Power, November 5:** State Labour Minister Vasamsetti Subhash criticized former CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, saying people have stopped believing

his "political dramas." Speaking at a media meet in Ramachandrapuram, he alleged that while farmers are suffering heavy cyclone losses, Jagan is busy doing "street shows." He mocked that after the "J-brand," now there's a "JR-brand" with Jogi Ramesh joining in. The minister accused the previous government of corruption, fake liquor sales through government outlets, and misuse of caste politics. He claimed SIT officials arrested Jogi Ramesh with solid evidence and added that under Jagan's rule, the state plunged into debt and darkness. Subhash questioned Jagan's concern for people, saying he didn't send "even a single water packet" to cyclone-hit farmers. He also alleged Jogi Ramesh's involvement in land grabs, illegal liquor trade, and AgriGold land scams. "Jagan's tenure saw nine cyclones, yet no help for farmers. Now he's back to acting again, but people won't fall for it anymore," the minister warned.

# District Collector Urges Further Development of Kadapa Government General Hospital



**YSR Kadapa, Nov 5 (Pen Power):** District Collector and Hospital Development Society (HDS) Chairman Sridhar Cherukuri emphasized the need to further advance the Kadapa Government General Hospital (GGH) to provide the best medical services to the public. Presiding over the 51st HDS meeting at RIMS Medical College, the Collector approved ₹3.5 crore worth of medical equipment proposals for various departments. He commended doctors for the hospital's outstanding performance in state-level public service reviews and warned strict action against any staff demanding money from patients. He directed department heads to focus not only on treatment but also on equipment maintenance and management. The Collector noted that GGH has evolved into a medical hub for Rayalaseema, offering super-specialty, cancer research, ophthalmology, and psychiatric services. Officials were instructed to expedite ongoing development works and ensure corporate-level healthcare standards in government hospitals. The meeting was attended by MLA Madhavi Reddy, Municipal Commissioner Manoj Reddy, DM&HO Dr. K. Nagaraju, GGH Superintendent Dr. K.S.S. Venkateswara Rao, and other senior officials.

# Five Arrested in Rs.91 Lakh Job Scam – Vizag Police Bust Fake Employment Racket

**Visakhapatnam, Nov 5 (Pen Power):** Gajuwaka police arrested five persons for duping a young couple of Rs.91.36 lakh under the pretext of providing permanent jobs in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. The accused — Machha Sajini (37), Machha Venkata Narayana (40), Seerapu Shanmukh Aditya Kumar (20), Seerapu Ram Prasad (24), and Seerapu Anita (41) — allegedly collected money through PhonePe, bank transfers, and cash from complainant Sinagam Alekhya (24) and her husband Vinayaka Rao, who had filed a complaint on September 30, 2025. Police said Sajini and her husband promised jobs if the victims paid Rs.50 lakh each, assuring both employment and interest on the money. After collecting Rs.91.36 lakh between April 2023 and August 2024, the accused switched off their phones and went into hiding. Investigation revealed they used the funds to buy houses and lorry trailers in Sriharipuram and Pedagantyada. All five were arrested on November 4, and their mobile phones were seized. Eight more suspects are yet to be caught. Inspector E. Partha Sarathi warned that demanding money for government jobs is illegal and urged the public to report such frauds immediately.

# Changes Needed in NH-65 Expansion Plans : Elevated Corridor Proposed as Best Solution



**Machilipatnam, Nov 5 (Pen Power):** NTR and Krishna district collectors Dr. G Lakshmi Sha and D.K. Balaji have suggested modifications to the proposed expansion of NH-65 from Vijayawada to Machilipatnam into a six-lane highway. During a review meeting held at the NTR District Collectorate with public representatives, NHAI, and Metro Rail officials, Dr. Lakshmi Sha instructed officials to prepare three alternative designs in coordination with Metro authorities. She noted that the current design doesn't address the heavy traffic congestion between Benz Circle and Chinagirra and emphasized the need for more vehicle underpasses. Collector D.K. Balaji said that

an elevated corridor would be the best solution to tackle the growing traffic, especially with the expected increase from suburban and port-related vehicles. He also pointed out drainage issues and advised against linking NH-65 expansion with ORR and Metro projects.

MLAs Gadde Rammohan, Bode Prasad, and Varl Kumar Raja urged connecting NH-65 with NH-16 through three new link roads, increasing underpasses, installing streetlights, and resolving waterlogging problems at certain points. Senior district officials, NHAI PD Vidyasagar, Metro Rail representatives, and other department officers attended the meeting.

# Collector Orders Fast Completion of Jonnada Flyover Works



**Amalapuram, Pen Power, November 5:** East Godavari District Collector R. Mahesh Kumar directed officials and contractors to expedite the long-pending Jonnada flyover construction on National Highway 216. Acting on Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's instructions, the Collector, along with RDO P. Srikanth, inspected the site and reviewed progress with National Highway Authority officials and contractors.

He instructed that daily progress reports be shared with him on WhatsApp and ordered completion of the service road first for public convenience. The Collector stated that the earlier contract was canceled due to delays and a new tender had been issued to speed up the work. The project is targeted for completion by February 2026. Officials including Tahsildar K.J. Prakash Babu, MPDO A. Raju, RI Ramayamma, contractors, engineers, and staff participated in the inspection.

# Nine Smugglers Arrested in Srikalahasti



**Srikalahasti, Pen Power, November 5:** Task Force police conducted a combing operation in the Srikalahasti forest area on Wednesday morning. During the operation, they seized 20 red sanders logs and arrested nine smugglers, according to ARSI Eshwar Reddy. Among those arrested, two belong to Tirupati district, he said. The arrested individuals were later shifted to the Tirupati Task Force Police Station for further investigation.

# Rs.2.66 Crore Development Works Launched in Guntur West Constituency – MLA Galla Madhavi



**Pen Power, Guntur, November 5:** Development activities are gaining momentum in Guntur West Constituency, said MLA Galla Madhavi. On Tuesday, she along with Mayor Kovelamudi Ravindra and Janasena State General Secretary Bonaboyina Srinivas Yadav laid the foundation stone for road, drainage, and streetlight works worth Rs.2.66 crore in Bhagyanagar, Vikasnagar, SVN Colony, and JKC Road areas. The MLA stated that Bhagyanagar, once a backward division, is now witnessing rapid progress with improved infrastructure. She inaugurated completed road works worth Rs.63 lakh and emphasized that development and welfare are progressing hand in hand across the constituency. Addressing local issues, she mentioned that heavy vehicle movement in the SVN Colony-JKC Road area is causing problems for residents and students. Traffic control boards have been set up under the supervision of local corporator Vemulapalli Sivarama Prasad, and officials have been asked to deploy a constable or SI for regular monitoring. "Measures will be in place within a couple of days to ease public inconvenience," MLA Galla Madhavi assured.

# Best Teachers to Visit Singapore on November 27: Minister Nara Lokesh

**Amaravati, Nov 5 (Pen Power):** Andhra Pradesh Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh directed officials to send 78 Best Teacher Award winners to Singapore on November 27 for a week-long study tour on advanced teaching practices. During a high-level review meeting at Undavalli, Lokesh instructed the teachers to study classroom environments and modern pedagogical methods in leading Singapore schools and submit a report to improve state education standards. He also ordered preparations for the Student Assembly on November 26 (Constitution Day) and the Mega Parent-Teacher Meeting on December 5, to be celebrated across the state. Lokesh emphasized promoting the LEAP app to help parents track student performance regularly. The Minister directed DEOs and MEOs to visit schools frequently, strengthen the e-office system, and prepare a 100-day action plan for Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) as per LEAP-1 guidelines. He also discussed setting up smart kitchens (Kadapa model), Bhavitha Autism Support Centers, and strengthening public and digital libraries. Officials present included HR Secretary Kona Shashidhar, School Education Commissioner Vijaya Ramaraju, and Samagra Shiksha State Coordinator B. Srinivas Rao.

# Unclaimed Bank Deposits Can Be Retrieved: Collector Shan Mohan



**Kakinada, November 5 (Pen Power) –** District Collector Shan Mohan launched a wall poster at the Kakinada Collectorate as part of the nationwide campaign "My Money – My Right", initiated by the Government of India to help citizens reclaim unclaimed or inactive financial assets. The Collector explained that amounts lying in bank accounts with no transactions for over 10 years can now be reclaimed. The campaign aims to assist people in recovering forgotten deposits, shares, mutual funds, insurance policies, and other financial instruments that often remain unclaimed due to reasons like death of account holders, address changes, or missing nominee details. In Kakinada district, there are 5,88,521 bank accounts with unclaimed funds totaling Rs.101.22 crore, including Rs.83.36 crore in 5,72,938 individual accounts, Rs.12.60 crore in 10,048 institutional accounts, and Rs.5.26 crore in 5,535 government accounts. The Collector urged eligible individuals and institutions to complete e-KYC and submit proper documents to reclaim their funds through the RBI's initiative. Lead Bank Officer C.H.S.V. Prasad and representatives from various banks participated in the event.

# Hockey Centenary Wall Poster Unveiled in Kakinada



**Kakinada, Pen Power, November 5:** District Collector Shan Mohan unveiled a wall poster marking the Hockey Centenary Celebrations at the Kakinada Collectorate on Wednesday. District Sports Development Officer V. Satish and Hockey Andhra Pradesh Kakinada District Joint Secretary V. Raviraj participated. Officials said Hockey India has directed all districts across the country to organize one men's and one women's hockey match on November 7 as part of the centenary celebrations. Accordingly, senior men's and women's matches will begin at 7 a.m. on November 7 at the District Sports Council AstroTurf Hockey Field in Kakinada, followed by a special floodlit match between senior and super senior players at 5 p.m. The officials invited hockey players, physical education teachers, and hockey families to join the celebrations.