

SPA partnership set to boost Kondapalli handicrafts, tourism

• NTR district collector G Lakshmisha holds a meeting with SPA Assistant Professors Dr RNS Murthy and Dr D Jagat Kumari

• SPA representatives assure full cooperation, announcing the formation of a special expert committee to prepare a detailed report on the project

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VIJAYAWADA

AS part of its efforts to promote handicrafts and tourism in the Kondapalli region, the School of Planning and Architecture



NTR district collector Lakshmisha holding a meeting with SPA Assistant Professors Dr RNS Murthy and Dr D Jagat Kumari at the Collectorate in Vijayawada on Monday

(SPA-Vijayawada) has come forward to collaborate with the NTR district administration in developing the

Kondapalli Toys Experience Centre. In this connection, NTR district collector G Lakshmisha held a meeting

with SPA Assistant Professors Dr RNS Murthy and Dr D Jagat Kumari at the Collectorate on Monday.

During the meeting they discussed various developmental initiatives aimed at preserving and promoting the world-famous Kondapalli Toys, which have earned national and international acclaim for their artistic excellence.

The meeting also discussed the tourism development of Kondapalli Fort. Lakshmisha requested the SPA team to assist in the architectural design and planning of the Experience Centre Thoranam (Arch), which seeks to showcase the heritage of Kondapalli

Toys and pass it on to future generations.

He said that the collaboration between the district administration and SPA would enhance branding, improve infrastructure, support SHG systems, and foster youth-led innovations in the creative economy sector.

The collector added that steps are being taken under the One District-One Product (ODOP) initiative to uplift the livelihoods of Kondapalli Toys artisans and preserve their craft as a cultural legacy. SPA representatives assured full cooperation, announcing the formation of a special expert committee to prepare a detailed report on the project.

SRM-AP organises IETE Foundation Day celebrations

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AMARAVATI

SRM University-AP hosted the 72nd Foundation Day celebrations of the Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers (IETE), Vijayawada Centre, on Monday.

Dr B Surya Prasada Rao, chairman and Dr Shaik Riyazuddin, Secretary of IETE Vijayawada Centre, addressed the gathering and highlighted that nearly 4,000 engineering students from Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam and Khammam districts are benefitting from IETE's initiatives and expert mentorship in the fields of Electronics, Communication, and Information Technology.

Speaking on the occasion, SRM-AP Vice-Chancellor (I/C) Prof Ch Satish Kumar said, "IETE, with a legacy



IETE Foundation Day celebrations being held on Monday

spanning more than seven decades, has made remarkable contributions to national development. I look forward to building a strong, long-term partnership between SRM-AP and IETE that will foster innovation, research collaboration, and knowledge exchange." Marking the occasion, the "NXTRONIX" Technology Club, designed and developed by ECE students, was inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor, while the club logo was unveiled by

Prof CV Tomy, Dean, School of Engineering and Sciences.

Dr KA Sunitha, Head of the Department of ECE, Dr Sreenivasulu T, NXTronics club faculty mentor, senior IETE members P Kalee Prasad and Dr M Venugopal Rao, Dr Sujith Kalluri, Vice-Chairman, IETE Vijayawada Centre, Dr Geetha Devi, Secretary, IETE Women's Wing, and several faculty members and students from the ECE Department of SRM University-AP also participated.

Chairmen of AP, TG press academies meet Kesineni

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VIJAYAWADA

C. Raghavachary Media Academy of Andhra Pradesh (AP Press Academy) Chairman A Suresh Kumar and Telangana Press Academy Chairman K Srinivas Reddy met Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) at his office here on Monday. During the meeting, the Chairmen, along with several senior journalists and representatives of media organisations, discussed various political developments and current challenges faced by the media sector.

The interaction focused on the changing dynamics of journalism, media ethics, and the need for professional training and support systems



Chairmen of AP and Telangana press academies Suresh Kumar and Srinivas Reddy, along with IJU and APUWJ leaders with Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath at the MP's office in Vijayawada on Monday

for working journalists in both states.

Among those present were IJU National Secretary D Soma Sundara Rao, APUWJ

State President IV Subba Rao, General Secretary K Jayaraju, and senior journalist leaders Chava Ravi and Dasari Nagaraju.

Kartika Samaradhana on Nov 16

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ONGOLE

THE Ongole Town Bhakta Markandeya Padmasali Bahuttama Sangham committee announced the Kartikamasa Vana Samaradhana programme at a meeting held at the Padmasali Aramakshtram here on Monday.

The Sangham president, Kavatarapu Balakrishna Rao, said that the committee members decided to conduct the Kartikamasa Vana

Samaradhana at Sri Vemuri Lakshmana Kalyanamandapam, Opposite Sri Kasi Visveswara Swamy Temple in Kesavaswamy Pet, Ongole, on November 16. He invited the community members to participate in the programme with their families and make it a success.

The Sangham members Goli Tirupati Rao, Guddanti Lakshminarayana, Macharla Subrahmanyam, Tatikonda Pavan Kumar, and others participated in the meeting.



Ongole Town Bhakta Markandeya Padmasali Bahuttama Sangham members announcing Kartika Samaradhana programme in Ongole on Monday

Vishnu society achieves hat-trick at TiE U-2025

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BHIMAVARAM

STUDENTS from the Vishnu Institute of Technology (Autonomous), part of the Dr BV Raju Foundation and Vishnu Educational Society, have brought immense pride to the institution by securing the first prize at the prestigious 'TiE U - 2025 Tournament' held recently in Hyderabad. The victory marks a historic moment for the institution, as College Principal Dr Mangam Venu announced that this is the third consecutive year the institute has won the TiE U final competition, achieving a spectacular hat-trick.

The winning team, known as the Smart Synergies IoT



Smart Synergies IoT Solutions Team with the prize

Solutions Team, outperformed competitors from 300 reputed colleges across the region. Speaking on the achievement, Dr Mangam Venu expressed his delight, stating, "Students from 300 reputed colleges participated in this competition. For their innovative project and hard work, the team was awarded a significant cash prize of

₹1,00,000 along with a prestigious trophy.

The Institute Innovation Council's President and mentor of the winning team, Dr VSN Narasimha Raju, was specially congratulated for his "valuable support and guidance" throughout the competition, which proved instrumental in the team's success.

Rs 8,110 MSP for cotton

GUNTUR: Guntur district collector A Thameem Ansariya has urged farmers to register themselves in the CM App. She released a poster prepared by the Agricultural Marketing Department at the Collectorate on Monday. She informed that the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has fixed a Minimum Support Price of ₹8,110 per quintal for cotton. Farmers can sell their produce at the notified ginning mills under CCI purchase.

For this, farmers should contact agricultural assistants at Rythu Seva Kendras, register in the CM App, and use the Kapas Kisan App to select the ginning mill and sale date to book their slot. She advised that farmers who wish to get the MSP must ensure quality standards and maintain moisture content between 8% and 12%.

Dalit leaders pay tributes to Pydi Theresh Babu

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ONGOLE

A memorial meeting in honour of the late Pydi Theresh Babu was held at MCA Bhavan here on Monday. Dalit Hakkula Parirakshana Samiti state president Neelam Nagendra Rao presided over the event, praising Theresh Babu as a multifaceted intellectual who vigorously led the Dalit literary movement. The speakers observed that, under the pen name Pydishri, Theresh Babu worked extensively in cinema and television while serving as an employee of All India Radio. His poetry collection 'Alpapidanam' featured provocative titles that inspired young poets. Dr GV Ratnakar from Hyderabad Hindi University noted that Pydishri galvanised Dalit poetry in the 1990s without for-



Dalit leaders, writers and activists releasing Pydi Theresh Babu commemorative volume at his memorial meeting in Ongole on Monday

mal affiliation to any movement. The event highlighted Theresh Babu's involvement in the movement to abolish the death sentence for Chalapathi-Vijayvardhan and the influential poetry anthology 'Nishani,' co-authored with three other poets. Prominent Dalit poets, teachers' association leaders, and cultural activists participated. Writers Srirama Kavacham Sagar and Baba Rahmatullah released a commemorative volume authored by Dr Ratnakar.

Cyclone Montha: Efforts of officers lauded

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NARASARAO PET

DISTRICT collector Kritika Shukla commended all officers across the Palnadu district for standing united and working efficiently to face the cyclone. She emphasised that collective effort and commitment made it possible to effectively manage the crisis. She expressed confidence that the same unity and spirit would continue during any future emergencies. An appreciation meeting was organised at the PGRS conference hall on Monday evening to honour and felicitate the officers and staff who rendered exemplary services during the recent Montha cyclone.

SP receives 117 petitions

ONGOLE: Prakasam district Superintendent of Police V Harshavardhan Raju conducted the 'Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS)' programme at the district police office in Ongole on Monday, receiving 117 complaints from across the district.

The SP personally met complainants, accepted written petitions, and assured legal resolution of their issues. Through video conference, he directed station officers to investigate promptly and provide justice to victims within stipulated timeframes, emphasising accountability and responsiveness. Most complaints concerned civil disputes, land conflicts, financial disagreements, dowry harassment, job fraud, and cheating cases.

Notable complaints the SP received are from a Pullalacheruvu resident



Prakasam SP V Harshavardhan Raju interacting with petitioners as part of grievance programme in Ongole on Monday

who paid EMIs for two years on a Rs 2.30 lakh loan but received no receipts and faces continued threats; a Kothapatnam person whose house documents weren't returned despite repaying a Rs 5 lakh interest-free loan, and a Markapur resident defrauded of Rs 5 lakh in a chit fund scheme. DSP VV Ramana Kumar, multiple Circle Inspectors, and police staff participated in the programme.

Karthika Somavaram rush at temples

VIJAYAWADA: The auspicious second Karthika Somavaram (Monday) was observed with great devotion and spiritual fervour across Vijayawada city besides NTR and Krishna districts on Monday. Thousands of devotees offered special prayers at various temples dedicated to Lord Shiva, marking the sacred occasion of Karthika Masam, considered highly auspicious for performing pujas. From early morning, devotees took holy dips in the Krishna River at Pushkar Ghats in Vijayawada and offered prayers at Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri and Old Shivalayam at One Town in Vijayawada.

Also, devotees performed pujas at Sri Ramalingeswara Swamy Temple at Labbipet, Sri Uma Maheswara Temple at Yanamalakuduru, Sri Kasi Visweswara Swamy Devasthanam and Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati Swamy temple (China Kanchi)



Priests performing puja at Sivalayam during Karthika Masam Second Somavaram (Monday) in Vijayawada
Photo: Ch Venkata Mastan

at Nunna, and other ancient shrines in the region. Temples were beautifully decorated with flowers, creating a divine atmosphere.

Special pujas, Abhishekams, and Rudrabhishekam were performed by temple priests amid chanting of Vedic hymns. Several devotees also observed fasting and participated in Rudra Homams organised at major temples in NTR and Krishna districts. The entire region resonated with devotional chants and temple bells as devotees prayed for health, prosperity, and happiness.

Swarna Panchayat QR code for tax payments

The State govt introduced Swarna Panchayat Portal to enable citizens to easily pay house tax, water tap connection charges, and other Gram Panchayat-related taxes online

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MACHILIPATNAM
(KRISHNA DISTRICT)

KRISHNA district collector DK Balaji launched the 'Swarna Panchayat' wall poster at the Collectorate here on Monday, marking the beginning of a new digital initiative by the state government to simplify tax payments in rural areas. Joint collector M Naveen,



Collector Balaji, along with joint collector Naveen, assistant collector Farhin Zahed, and DPO Aruna, releasing the 'Swarna Panchayat' wall poster in Machilipatnam on Monday

Assistant Collector Farhin Zahed, and District Panchayat Officer (DPO) Dr J Aruna participated in the event. Speaking on the occasion, collector Balaji said the State Government has introduced the Swarna Panchayat Portal to enable citizens to easily pay house tax, water tap connection charges, and other Gram

Panchayat-related taxes online. He appealed to the public to make use of the portal and clear their dues within the stipulated time. He added that as per the new system, taxpayers can now make payments online by scanning QR codes, eliminating the need to visit Panchayat offices or Village/Ward Secretariats.

The system came into effect from Monday, November 3, and aims to make revenue collection transparent and convenient. The collector further informed that wall posters would be displayed at all Gram Panchayats, Sachivalayams, and key public places to spread awareness about the new system.

He said the initiative will make government services more accessible and citizen-friendly under the Swarna Gram Panchayat programme.

Machilipatnam RDO Swathi, KRRC Special Grade Deputy Collector Sridevi, CI Srinivas, and several other officials were also present.

MSPS demands action on attackers

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ONGOLE

THE Madiga Samkshema Porata Samithi demanded that the district collector and SP take strict action against the perpetrators who raided Madigapalle of Bandlamudi village in Chimakurthy mandal, and assaulted people from the Dalit community, on Monday.

The MSPS state president, Kommu Sujan Madiga, explained that the incident occurred when sheep belonging to upper-caste villagers V Srinivasareddy and Ramanareddy damaged the crops of Madiga farmers Kanta Esudassu, Elisamma, and Ramayya. When questioned, the upper-caste individuals allegedly attacked four Madiga residents with deadly weapons in the presence of police, using casteist slurs.

The injured victims were shifted to the Government General Hospital, Ongole, where Sujan Madiga visited



A screen grab of the alleged video of upper-caste people attacking dalits in front of police personnel at Madigapalle of Bandlamudi village in Prakasam district

them. He condemned the attack, noting that caste-based violence persists even 77 years after independence.

Sujan Madiga demanded immediate registration of attempted murder and SC/ST

Atrocities Act cases against the accused. He called for the District Collector and Superintendent of Police to visit the affected village immediately, to instil confidence in the system among the victims' community.