

TIGER TAKES SHELTER IN BANANA PLANTATION

• Forest officials inform that the big cat entered the area around midnight on Saturday, triggering fear among residents of nearby habitations

• Officers deployed trap cameras and drone surveillance and installed cages to capture the tiger

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

PANIC gripped Thorredu and the surrounding villages in East Godavari district after a tiger entered the region via Eluru, reportedly taking shelter in a banana plantation at Thorredu village. Forest officials said the big cat entered the area around midnight on Saturday, triggering fear among residents of nearby habitations.

According to officials, the tiger attacked a cattle shed located beside the main road, killing two cows and a four-month-old calf. The carcasses were dragged into



The tiger's pugmarks near banana plantation at Thorredu of Rajamahendravaram Rural mandal

a nearby banana plantation, where the animal is believed to be resting. The incident came to light on Sunday morning, following which forest department officials rushed to the spot.

District Forest Officer V Prabhakara Rao, Range Officer N David and other officials inspected the area.

Even as officials and local leaders were present, reports emerged that the tiger fled deeper into the plantation, intensifying anxiety among villagers. Forest officials said the tiger is likely to remain inside the plantation for at least 48 hours, as it had fed sufficiently. They cautioned locals against cre-

ating disturbances, warning that the animal could turn aggressive if provoked.

To monitor its movement, the forest department deployed trap cameras and drone surveillance and installed cages to capture the tiger. A joint rapid response team comprising forest, police and revenue officials has been stationed in the area.

Speaking to 'The Hans India', DFO Prabhakara Rao said there were inputs suggesting that two male tigers had migrated from Chhat-tisgarh through Maharashtra forests. One is reportedly located in Vikarabad district of Telangana, while the other could be the animal sighted in East Godavari. He said the tiger was likely below three years of age and capable of covering 25 to 35 kilometres in a single night.

Rajahmundry MP Dag-gubati Purandeswari spoke to forest, revenue and police officials over the phone and instructed them to take immediate steps to safely relocate the tiger to its natural habitat. Rajamahendra-varam Rural MLA Gorantla

Buchaiah Chowdary, Rajanagaram MLA Bathula Balamakrishna and RUDA chairman BVR Chowdary visited the site and assured the affected farmer of prompt compensation.

As a precautionary measure, District School Education Officer K Vasudeva Rao announced a one-day holiday on Monday for all government and private schools in Seethanagaram, Korukonda and Rajah-mundry Rural mandals. He clarified that the decision was taken considering the possible movement of the tiger in these areas.

However, Regional Intermediate Education Officer I Sarada stated that Intermediate practical examinations on Monday were conducted as per schedule and that the holiday would not apply to these exams.

Officials advised parents to ensure children do not venture outdoors unnecessarily and urged residents to keep lights on near cattle sheds at night and avoid moving alone in vulnerable areas.

Call to work for a child marriage-free society

• NTR district collector G Lakshmisha launches a signature campaign against child marriages as part of a large-scale public awareness drive

• Urges all stakeholders to work with commitment to ensure a bright future for children

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

CALLING for collective efforts to build a child marriage-free society, NTR district collector Dr G Lakshmisha urged all stakeholders to work with commitment to ensure a bright future for children.

He said transforming NTR district into a model district free from child marriages requires the active participation of every section of society. The collector on Monday flagged off the Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM) child marriage-free campaign chariot at the Collectorate in Vijayawada. He also launched a signature campaign against child marriages as part of a large-scale public awareness drive. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Lakshmisha appreciated Vasavya Mahila Mandali for taking up the initiative as part of its social responsibility. Emphasising adherence to laws and regulations, Dr Lakshmisha said society must raise its voice firmly against child marriages. He also suggested that the VMM team aim to collect signatures from over one lakh people through the campaign to further strengthen public participation and awareness. The Collector said the awareness chariot would tour both rural and urban areas of the district to educate people on the adverse effects of child marriages and the legal provisions in place to curb them. He informed



NTR district collector Dr G Lakshmisha flagging off the Vasavya Mahila Mandali's child marriage-free awareness campaign chariot at the Collectorate in Vijayawada on Monday

that the Child Helpline (1098) and Women Helpline (181) were available for reporting cases and seeking assistance, and urged citizens to make use of these services whenever necessary. Vasavya

Mahila Mandali President Dr B Keerthi, Project Director Ramanujaya, District Women and Child Welfare Officer Rukhsana Sultana Begum, DCPU member M Rajeswara Rao and others were present.

Budget boosts hopes of sandalwood farmers

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

ALL India Sandalwood (Srigandham) Growers Federation national general secretary Thummala Murali Krishna has welcomed the announcement made by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Union Budget, assuring full support from the Central government for marketing sandalwood cultivated by farmers across the country.

Addressing a press conference at the Federation's office on Mahatma Gandhi Road in Vijayawada on Monday, Murali Krishna expressed happiness over the Centre's commitment to support sandalwood farmers, particularly in marketing their produce. He stated that keeping in view the challenges faced by sandalwood cultivators, the Union government had taken a positive step by addressing marketing issues



All India Sandalwood Growers Federation national general secretary Thummala Murali Krishna addressing the media in Vijayawada on Monday

in the Budget, as per the directions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Recalling that Indian sandalwood once enjoyed huge global demand, Murali Krishna said the sector had fallen behind in recent years. He said the assurance given by the Centre to restore the glory of Indian

sandalwood and ensure justice to cultivators had boosted the confidence and morale of farmers.

Federation president K Amar Narayana, Vice-president Garapati Poornachandra Rao, member Kotapati Narasimha Rao, and others were present.

Amaravati Centralised Hackathon organised

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GUNTUR

AMARAVATI Centralised Hackathon-2026 was held grandly at Chalapathi Institute of Technology, Mothadaka on Monday organised by CSE-AI with FEBE. Leaders highlighted AI's industry relevance. The 24-hour event featured coding, innova-

tion challenges, DJ Night, Robo Race, and Tech Treasure Hunt, with enthusiastic multi-college participation, involving students from various colleges.

Chairman of the engineering college Dr YV Anjaneyulu, FEBE director Monica RK, founder Mahan, college principal Kolla Naga Srinivas were present.



Amaravati Centralised Hackathon-2026 held at Chalapathi Institute of Technology, Mothadaka on Monday. The college chairman Dr YV Anjaneyulu is also seen

Centre eases unmanufactured tobacco tax

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

RAJAHMUNDRY MP Dag-gubati Purandeswari has drawn the attention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the mounting distress among FCV tobacco farmers in the state following the proposed sharp increase in cigarette excise duty. In a detailed letter, she highlighted the dependence of thousands of farmers in the East Godavari region on FCV tobacco cultivation, carried on for decades in the absence of profitable alternative crops.

The MP referred to the notification issued on December 31, 2025, proposing a 73 per cent excise duty hike on cigarettes, effective February 1, 2026. She stated that the announcement caused anxiety among farmers, farm workers, women labourers and tribal communities in her constituency.

She argued that FCV tobacco used in cigarette manufacturing was being taxed disproportionately compared to bidis and chewing tobacco, even though several studies have found these products to be more harmful to health.

Purandeswari pointed out that cigarettes already attract far higher

taxes per kilogram than other tobacco products, and the proposed revision would widen this gap further. She warned that steep taxation would reduce demand and production, directly impacting farmers' incomes. As per industry estimates cited by her, growers could face a price drop of Rs 50 to Rs 70 per kg, amounting to a 20-25 per cent loss, making it difficult to recover cultivation costs.

She also raised concerns that excessive taxation would fuel the illegal and smuggled cigarette trade, which already accounts for about 26 per cent of the Indian market. Smuggled cigarettes, sold

at much lower prices, do not use Indian tobacco, resulting in livelihood losses for domestic farmers while benefiting illegal operators.

In a positive development, the Union Budget has addressed one key concern. As per Gazette Notification No 04/2026 issued on February 1, 2026, excise duty on unmanufactured tobacco that is unbranded and not packed for retail sale has been fixed at nil.

Welcoming the decision, Purandeswari said the clarification would provide much-needed relief to tobacco farmers and reinforce confidence in the agricultural sector. She expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for their responsive and farmer-friendly approach.

Seer completes Alipiri 180tz –Tirumala Padayatra

• Chinna Venkanna Babu Swamiji, Peethadhipathi completed his 180th barefoot pilgrimage from Alipiri to the Tirumala shrine

• He has been involved to promote Sanatana Dharma through sustained padayatras and long-distance spiritual journeys

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

CHINNA Venkanna Babu Swamiji, Peethadhipathi of the Sri Mahalakshmi Same-the Chinna Venkateswara Swamy Peetham at Gadala village on the Rajamahendravaram Airport Road, completed his 180th barefoot pilgrimage from Alipiri to the Tirumala shrine on Sunday.



Chinna Venkanna Babu Swamiji along with devotees at Dwaraka Tirumala temple

Swamiji recalled that his first foot pilgrimage from Alipiri to Tirumala was undertaken in 1993 along with his grandfather, the late Dantulururi Suryanarayana Raju, popularly known as Abbayi Raju, and Chavakula Srinivasa Rao. What began as an act of personal devotion later evolved into a lifelong spiritual discipline. From 2006 onwards, Swa-

miji has completed the Alipiri-Tirumala foot journey 180 times, a practice he said would continue in the years to come. His stated goal is to complete 365 such pilgrimages in his lifetime.

Swamiji was accompanied on the latest yatra by his 18-year-old daughter Poornima Raj, Pippala SGR Educational Institutions chairman G Sudheer Kumar

Raju, and other devotees. Throughout the journey, devotees joined in chanting the Lord's name, turning the trek into a collective act of faith.

Apart from the Tirumala pilgrimages, Chinna Venkanna Babu Swamiji has been actively involved in promoting Sanatana Dharma through sustained padayatras and long-distance

spiritual journeys. On as many as 20 occasions, he led groups of devotees on foot from Rajamahendravaram to Dwaraka Tirumala. Since 2001, he has also been undertaking a padayatra every Amavasya from Rajamahendravaram to the Mathrusri Gadi Bapanamma temple at Sitapalli of Alluri Sitarama Raju district where special Abhishekams and rituals are performed without fail.

His spiritual journey formally began in 2001 with a foot pilgrimage from Pedapuram Dargah Centre to the Sri Datta Kshetram at Pithapuram. In Tamil Nadu, Swamiji has completed 89 Giripradakshinas around Arunachaleswara at Tiruvannamalai since 2008, marking another significant chapter in his devotional pursuits.

At Daksharamam, Swamiji undertook the chal-

lenging darshan of the 121 Shiva temples known as the Bhimasabha cluster for three consecutive years within record timeframes. In 2015, the entire circuit was completed in 82 hours, followed by a faster 78-hour completion in 2016, and 72 hours in 2017, drawing the attention of devotees and spiritual observers alike.

Peetham representatives Matala Ramesh and Mahitosh said that for over two decades, the Chinna Venkanna Babu Peetham has played a key role in nurturing spiritual awareness among devotees through continuous padayatras and discipline-based devotional practices. They noted that Swamiji's journeys have become a source of inspiration for many, blending personal austerity with collective participation in faith-based traditions.

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CHANGE OF NAME & D.O.B. I, SUJATHA, legally wedded wife of Ex No.2596814H Ex HAV, Late NALLAVULA SUBBA RAO, R/O H.No.5-145, Somaraju Palli Village & Post, Singarayakonda Mandal, Prakasam District, (A.P.) PIN-523101, have changed my Name from SUJATHA to NALLAVULA VENKATA SUJATHA and D.O.B. from 21.05.1978 to 01.02.1973 vide affidavit dated 30.01.2026 at Ongole (TH_BSR)		CHANGE OF SURNAME I, PITCHUKA KIRAN KUMAR, (Old Name) S/o. PITCHUKA VITTALESWARA RAO, resident of D.No. A11, VIDYA NAGARA 2ND LANE, POLICE QUARTERS, Guntur District -522007, A.P, India Hence I have Changed My Surname to PICHUKA KIRAN KUMAR (New Name) hereafter My Surname is Known As (New Name) (TH_44949)	
CHANGE OF NAME I, VATHSAVAYI SUMATHI, W/o Srinivasaraju, D.No. 104-4-256/2, Karthikeya Nagar, Morampudi, Rajahmundry Rural, E.G. District. A.P., Pin: 533107, I have changed my name from VATSAVAYI SUMATHI (Old Name) to VATHSAVAYI SUMATHI (New Name). Hence forth I am being called VATHSAVAYI SUMATHI, W/o. Srinivasaraju, for all purpose. (TH_KKD)		CHANGE OF NAME I, GUDALA GANDHI PUSHKARUDU, (Old Name) C/O-GUDALA SRI RAMA MURTHY, resident of D.No.57-1-28 KARANAM GARI BAZAAR SAI TOWERS PATAMATA VIJAYAWADA, N T R Dist. 520010, A.P, India Hence I have Changed My Name to GUDALA GANDHI PUSHKARUDU (New Name) hereafter My Name is Known As GUDALA GANDHI PUSHKARUDU (New Name). (TH_44949)	
CHANGE OF NAME I, VENKATESWARLU MUNDIRINTI (Old Name) S/o. UPPARA MUNDIRINTI CHINNA NARASIAH, R/o. 3/2355-7, Shilpa Estate-3, Yemiganur Town & Mandal, Kurnool Dist. A.P, have changed my name as (New Name) UPPARA MUNDIRINTI VENKATESWARLU, S/o. UPPARA MUNDIRINTI CHINNA NARASIAH. Hereafter my name is known as (New Name) UPPARA MUNDIRINTI VENKATESWARLU, S/o. UPPARA MUNDIRINTI CHINNA NARASIAH. (TH_44949)		CHANGE OF SURNAME I, MADDASANI POORNACHANDU, (Old Name) C/O-NAGA PRASAD, resident of D.No:65-110, JANINITYAN-JAYA NAGAR, 3RD LINE SUDDAPALLI DONKA OLD GUNTUR, GUNTUR Dist-522001, A.P, India Hence I have Changed My Name to VIPPATAPU POORNA CHANDU (New Name) here after My Name is Known As VIPPATAPU POORNA CHANDU (New Name). (TH_44949)	
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