

Collector calls for expansion of micro food processing units to boost rural economy

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NANDYAL

CALLING for greater participation in rural entrepreneurship, district Collector G Raja Kumari said Nandyal district possesses enormous potential for the growth of micro food processing industries and MSMEs. Inaugurating SS Dairy Milk and Curd Processing Unit at Vishwa Nagar under Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme on Friday, she encouraged unemployed youth and women to establish value-added food processing units by making effective use of government assistance and locally avail-



Collector G Raja Kumari inaugurating SS Dairy Milk and Curd Processing Unit in Nandyal on Friday

able resources.

The Collector said PMFME scheme offers financial support through government subsidies and credit-linked bank loans,

making it easier for entrepreneurs to establish small-scale food processing industries. The newly inaugurated dairy unit was set up with an investment

of Rs 18.14 lakh, including a government subsidy of Rs 6.35 lakh, bank financing and promoter's own contribution. Highlighting the economic benefits of such ventures, Raja Kumari said micro food processing units can create employment for five to ten people while generating sustainable income for rural families. Efficiently managed enterprises could earn monthly revenues of Rs 2 lakh to Rs 3 lakh, contributing significantly to local economic development. She said that against the district's target of establishing 56 PMFME units, loans had already been sanctioned for 26 units, and directed officials and bankers to expedite the remaining projects

within the next few months.

Emphasising the district administration's vision of 'One Family - One Entrepreneur', the Collector urged officials from Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries departments to identify eligible beneficiaries and promote more micro enterprises based on local resources. She also called upon banks to ensure timely loan approvals, adding that the district plans to encourage entrepreneurship in millet processing, honey processing, floriculture-based value-added products, and dry and fresh fruit processing to accelerate rural industrialisation and enhance economic growth.

RTI COMMISSIONER ISSUES SHOW-CAUSE NOTICES TO 16 OFFICIALS



State Information Commissioner G Adenna inspecting records at Two Town police station in Anantapur on Friday

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ANANTAPUR

STATE Information Commissioner G Adenna conducted surprise inspections across government offices in Anantapur district on Friday and issued show-cause notices to 16 Public Information Officers (PIOs) and other officials for alleged lapses in implementing Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.

The inspections covered Jesus Nagar Secretariat, Anantapur Municipal Corporation, District Court, Two Town Police Station, a government school on Court Road, and government offices in Bukkarayasamudram, Narpala, Atmakur and Kalyandurg. During the visits, the Commissioner reviewed receipt and disposal of RTI applications and examined pending cases.

Addressing officials,

Adenna stressed that the effective implementation of RTI Act is essential for ensuring transparency and accountability in public administration. He directed Public Information Officers, First Appellate Authorities and Assistant Public Information Officers to strictly comply with the provisions of the Act and ensure timely disposal of applications.

The Commissioner said several deficiencies were identified, including the absence of mandatory Citizen Charters and display boards carrying the names and contact details of Public Information Officers and First Appellate Authorities.

Officials found to have failed in fulfilling their statutory responsibilities were issued show-cause notices under Section 19(8)(a) of the Act.

The officials have been directed to submit their explanations within 15 days.

Adenna warned that failure to provide satisfactory explanations within the stipulated period could result in further action based on available records, without issuing additional notices.

Surprise inspections were also conducted at Tahsildar and Panchayat offices in Bukkarayasamudram, Tahsildar and Mandal Educational Officer offices in Narpala, Tahsildar and MPDO offices in Atmakur, and Revenue Divisional Officer's office in Kalyandurg.

During his visit to the government school on Court Road, the Commissioner inspected implementation of mid-day meal scheme and interacted with students. He also reviewed availability of drinking water and directed municipal authorities to complete pending pipeline repair works immediately to ensure uninterrupted water supply to the school.

PVKK IT Diploma College welcomes new batch with 'Orientation-2026'

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ANANTAPUR

PVKK IT Diploma College, Rudrampeta, successfully conducted its 'Orientation-2026' programme for newly admitted diploma students and parents. The event witnessed an overwhelming response with around 800 participants.

Dr Palle Venkata Krishna Kishore, Chairman of Balaji Educational Institutions, urged students to combine technical skills with discipline, communication, and personality development to secure top positions in government, private, and IT sectors.

He praised the college for providing quality techni-



cal education and building strong foundations for students' futures.

Principal Dr GNS Vaibhav highlighted diploma courses, higher education options, campus place-

ments, industry training, and advanced laboratories. The complete filling of all 420 seats this year reflects the strong trust placed by students and parents in the institution, he stated.

BEST Innovation University hosts CFTeAI 2026

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BENGALURU

BEST Innovation University successfully organised 'Co-Creating the Future of Tech with Academia and Industry (CFTeAI) 2026' conference at JW Marriott, Bengaluru. The event brought together policymakers, scientists, industry leaders, venture capitalists and representatives from 24 Technology Innovation Hubs (TIHs) to explore the future of technology, innovation, and talent development.

Chancellor Dr Rupa Vasudevan outlined University's vision through its Centre for Future Technologies (CFT) and School of Global Leadership (SOG), focusing on

building globally competitive talent. Dr Ekta Kapoor highlighted the progress of NM-ICPS mission, while Dr Ashutosh Sharma and Dr Akhilesh Gupta emphasised multidisciplinary research, collaboration and DST initiatives for technology commercialization. Industry leader Subhrajit Dey stressed practical academia-industry partnerships. Engaging panel discussions and networking with 12 venture capitalists fostered meaningful exchanges. In closing, Chairman Bharat Lal Meena and Vice-Chancellor Dr K Nagajyothi reaffirmed the need for sustained collaboration to drive India's innovation ecosystem and prepare future technology leaders.



Market Yard Chairperson Balla Pallavi visiting a stall at AP State Kala Mahotsavam-2026 exhibition in Anantapur on Friday

Lepakshi handicrafts expo begins in Anantapur

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ANANTAPUR

ANANTAPUR Market Yard Chairperson Balla Pallavi on Friday called upon the public to support handloom weavers and handicraft artisans, after inaugurating Andhra Pradesh State Kala Mahotsavam-2026 exhibition organised by AP Handicrafts Development Corporation Limited (Lepakshi) at GR Garden here.

She said the exhibition showcases State's rich cultural heritage and traditional craftsmanship through a wide range of handcrafted products and provides artisans with a valuable platform to display and market their creations directly to the public.

Pallavi said the government has been taking measures to promote handloom and handicrafts sectors, including providing 200 units of free electricity to handloom weavers and 500 units to powerloom families.

The exhibition features a variety of traditional handicrafts, including Kondapalli toys, leather puppets, Lepakshi handicrafts and other artisan-made products from different parts of the state. Pallavi visited all 17 stalls set up by artisans and interacted with exhibitors, appreciating their craftsmanship.

Lepakshi Deputy Manager Thimmaiah, along with Suresh, Amarnath, Nagarjuna, Suhasini, Purnima and several handicraft artisans, participated in the inaugural programme.

MLA inaugurates food court in Puttaparthi

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PUTTAPARTHI

PUTTAPARTHI MLA Palle Sindhura Reddy, along with District Collector Shyam Prasad, SP Sathish Kumar, Joint Collector Mantri Mourya Bharadwaj, and former Minister Dr Palle Raghunatha Reddy, inaugurated a new Rs 20 lakh CSR-funded Food Court on Chitravathi Road here on Friday. Built with support from Sai Pradeep Builders, the facility aims to provide quality dining and recreation for devotees, tourists, and locals.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA stated that the food court was established to provide better dining facilities for devotees,



MLA Palle Sindhura Reddy along with Collector Shyam Prasad, SP Sathish Kumar and former Minister Dr Palle Raghunatha Reddy inaugurating Food Court in Puttaparthi on Friday

tourists, and local residents visiting Puttaparthi. She noted that the venue offers a pleasant atmosphere for devotees from across the country and abroad

to enjoy quality food and tea, alongside recreational opportunities. She emphasised the coalition government's focus on developing essential public infrastruc-

ture. The Collector and SP appreciated the beautification efforts, which also include a children's park.

Former Minister Dr Palle Raghunatha Reddy thanked those involved in the beautification of Chitravathi area, which included construction of a check dam, children's park and the food court and urged public to utilise them.

Later, the dignitaries performed bhoomi puja for a new Rythu Bazar, which will enable farmers to sell produce directly to consumers at fair prices.

The MLA also conducted a surprise inspection of Anna Canteen, directing staff to maintain high standards of hygiene and food quality.

PhD for research on Hindi writings



Pamishetti Rajeshwari Devi

SRI Venkateswara University, Tirupati, has been awarded Ph D in Hindi to Pamishetti Rajeshwari Devi, who works as a Hindi junior lecturer at Government Junior College (Old Town) in Anantapur. She received the doctorate for her research on 'Familial Dysfunctions in Stories Written by Female Hindi Authors in the 21st Century'. She expressed special gratitude to her research supervisor Prof Narayana, Head of the Department of Hindi and a member of Board of Studies, and to Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati.

JSP accuses YSRCP of inciting religious tensions



AHUDA Chairman TC Varun

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ANANTAPUR

TC Varun, AHUDA Chairman and Jana Sena Party president for combined Anantapur district, alleged that YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and YSRCP are conspiring to incite religious clashes in the State to regain political relevance amid the alliance government's good governance.

Criticising 'Dalit Christian Shankharavam' meeting in Eluru, Varun claimed the event ignored welfare issues

of Dalits and Christians and focused solely on attacking Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan with objectionable language. He described it as a targeted campaign against the Jana Sena chief, who champions national unity and Sanatana Dharma. He warned YSRCP of serious consequences if they continued disrupting law and order or making baseless allegations. He also demanded transparency on alleged financial links involving Tadepalli Palace and certain individuals, including actor Prakash Raj.

'Youth population holds key to nation's progress'

Dr Chitti Narasamma calls for sustaining fertility rate



Participants at a debate competition organised at Kurnool Medical College on Friday

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KURNOOL

THE Department of Community Medicine at Kurnool Medical College on Friday conducted a debate competition on the theme 'Role of youth population and fertility rate in national development' as part of World Population Day celebrations. The event, held at New Lecture Gallery, engaged third-year Part-I MBBS students on the critical link between youth empowerment and sustainable national growth.

Addressing the gathering, Kurnool Medical College Principal Dr K Chitti Narasamma described India's youth as a valuable national asset. She emphasised that skilled, knowledgeable, and healthy young people can drive economic and social progress, while a balanced fertility rate is essential for sustainable development.

Students actively participated in the debate, discussing youth contributions to economic growth, healthcare, technology, skill development, health awareness, and the importance of

appropriate marriage age for population balance.

Vice-Principal and Head of Community Medicine Dr Sindhya Shubhprada highlighted the importance of such programmes in fostering social responsibility among youth. Programme Nodal Officer Dr Pushpalatha and senior resident Dr Bryan coordinated the event. Students also displayed informative posters and conducted an awareness rally promoting healthy families, youth empowerment, and balanced population growth.

SP extends financial assistance to kin of deceased police personnel

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KADAPA

DISTRICT SP Shelke Nachiket Vishwanath on Friday handed over financial assistance of Rs 2.5 lakh each to the families of two police personnel, who recently passed away due to illness while serving the department.

The SP presented the cheques to Priscilla, wife of late ASI S Ratna Raju and Bala Ganganna, father of late Constable Bala Vasu. The financial assistance was provided from

Police Welfare Fund. The beneficiaries included family of late Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) S Ratna Raju, who was serving at Kadapa Police Control Room, and family of late Police Constable Bala Vasu, who was posted at Kalamalla police station.

Interacting with the bereaved families, Shelke Nachiket Vishwanath expressed his profound condolences and enquired about their welfare. He emphasised that the welfare of police personnel and their families remains

one of the department's high-priority and assured the family members that police department would continue to stand beside them during difficult times and extend every possible support and assistance available under the welfare schemes.

Police Officers' Association district president Doolam Suresh, State Vice-President Uppu Shankar, DPO Superintendent P Suresh, Clerk D Ramesh and other police personnel were present.