

Over 40 overseas buyers share a platform

- AP's vision of 'one family, one entrepreneur' seeks to encourage entrepreneurship at the grassroots level and create wider opportunities for self-employment and enterprise development
- The structured meetings provide MSMEs with an opportunity to showcase their capabilities, assess market suitability and explore exports, sourcing arrangements
- Increased demand for processed and export-oriented products can promote local value addition, reduce post-harvest losses and contribute to better value realisation and enhanced farmer incomes

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MSMEs are the backbone of Andhra Pradesh's industrial economy and play a vital role in employment generation, balanced regional development and inclusive economic growth, emphasised Tammireddy Siva Sankara Rao, chairman of AP MSME Development Corporation.

Delivering the inaugural address at the International Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet (RBSM) hosted as part of the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme, he mentioned that the Government of Andhra Pradesh is committed to creating a supportive ecosystem where entrepreneurs can establish

enterprises, adopt modern technology, improve product quality, access finance and connect directly with domestic and international markets.

The three-day programme, which continues until August 21, brought more than 40 overseas buyers from 25 countries and over 250 MSMEs from across Andhra Pradesh onto a platform for structured one-to-one business meetings aimed at generating export enquiries, commercial partnerships and confirmed business orders.

Organised jointly by the Andhra Pradesh MSME Development Corporation (AP MSMEDC) and the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), the inaugural session was at-



Chairman of AP MSME Development Corporation Tammireddy Siva Sankara Rao along with other officials at the launch of the International Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet organised in Visakhapatnam on Thursday

tended by MSMEDC directors Neelapu Vijayananda Reddy, Mugada Rajarao, Pradhana Vijayaram, PVV Sathyanarayana Murthy, Chinnaraju Gudipudi and N Veera Prasanna Kumar, along with other senior officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Siva Sankara Rao observed that AP possesses considerable strengths in agriculture, food processing, marine products, spices, rice, textiles, chemicals, engineering products and several other manufacturing sectors.

The chairman noted that programmes such as the RBSM reduce the distance

between local enterprises and global markets by bringing credible international buyers directly to the state. He urged participating MSMEs to make effective use of the opportunity, understand the specific requirements of buyers and maintain sustained communication.

AP MSMEDC would continue to support aspiring and existing entrepreneurs through capacity building, market linkages, technology adoption and other facilitation measures, he added.

Addressing the gathering, K Unnikrishnan, Joint Director General, FIEO, said that identifying credible

overseas buyers and establishing direct access to international markets remain among the most significant challenges faced by MSMEs.

The structured meetings provide MSMEs with an opportunity to showcase their capabilities, assess market suitability and explore exports, sourcing arrangements, product development and long-term commercial partnerships. Stronger international market linkages for agricultural and value-added food products are also expected to benefit farmers, Farmer Producer Organisations, food-processing units and rural enterprises.

61st All India Railway Ball Badminton Championship commences



President of South Coast Railway Sports Association (SCORSA) and DRM Lalit Bohra inaugurating Ball Badminton Championship in Visakhapatnam on Thursday

railways of Indian Railways are participating in the tournament.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by P Hariprasad, president of South Coast Railway Sports Association (SCORSA), South Coast Railway, as chief guest. The ceremony was presided over by Lalit Bohra, DRM, South Coast Railway, Visakhapatnam division.

The three-day championship

provides a vibrant platform for railway sportspersons from across the country to showcase their talent, competitive spirit and sporting excellence.

The event reflects the commitment of Indian Railways and South Coast Railway toward promoting sports, fitness, teamwork and a healthy competitive spirit among railway employees. The championship will conclude on August 22nd.

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WITH eight teams competing, the 61st All India Railway Ball Badminton Championship commenced at the Railway Ball Badminton Courts in Visakhapatnam on Thursday. The inaugural ceremony was organised by the South Coast Railway Sports Association (SCORSA), Visakhapatnam Division, while the championship will continue till August 22nd. Eight teams representing different zonal

Search and rescue operation continue for missing fisherman

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THE district administration has intensified its search and rescue operations for a 45-year-old fisherman who went missing after accidentally falling into the sea off the Visakhapatnam coast on Wednesday.

According to officials, the fishing boat carrying a crew of eight had set out from Visakhapatnam on August 16 and was returning to the coast on August 20 when the incident occurred around 12.15 pm.

Appanna, a fisherman from Peda Jalaripeta, reportedly slipped into the sea about 11 nautical miles off the Visakhapatnam coast and was swept away.

The rest of the seven fishermen managed to reach the Visakhapatnam coast safely and alerted the authorities about the incident.

Acting swiftly on the information, a search and rescue (SAR) operation was launched on the directions of District Collector M Abhishikth Kishore. A boat from the Coast Guard and a private boat were deployed to search for and trace the missing fisherman.

Visakhapatnam Revenue Divisional Officer Dileep Chakravarthy is closely monitoring the search and rescue efforts and reviewing the operations periodically. Officials and rescue teams are continuing their efforts to trace Appanna and bring him back safely.



AINU performs city's first robotic boari flap reconstruction surgery

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THE Asian Institute of Nephrology & Urology (AINU), Vizag, performed the city's first robotic Boari flap reconstruction surgery, saving the kidney function of a 50-year-old woman suffering from a severe long-segment ureteric stricture.

Led by Dr Amit Saple, Dr G Ravindra Varma, and Dr

P Sridhar, the surgical team used a section of the patient's bladder tissue to reconstruct her damaged ureter through keyhole incisions.

The minimally invasive procedure offered high precision, minimal blood loss, and rapid recovery, allowing the patient to be discharged within three days.

AINU continues to set benchmarks in advanced robotic urology.

'Pranaam' to strengthen elder-friendly healthcare



City Commissioner of Police Shankhabrata Bagchi along with hospital officials during the launch of the 'Pranaam' in Visakhapatnam

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ON the eve of the 'World Senior Citizen Day', observed on August 21, Care Hospitals launched 'Pranaam' in Visakhapatnam on Thursday.

A comprehensive elder-care initiative designed to make healthcare more accessible, personalised and reassuring for senior citizens, the initiative aims to go beyond hospital treatment.

The programme focuses on continuity of care, preventive health, emotional wellbeing, caregiver support and healthy ageing.

Inaugurating the initiative, City Commissioner of Police Shankhabrata Bagchi

said senior citizens have contributed immensely to their families and society, and it is a shared responsibility to ensure that they are treated with care, dignity and respect. "As people grow older, they may need greater support, particularly when it comes to their health and day-to-day needs.

Pranaam in Visakhapatnam aims to provide dedicated support to senior citizens. Such initiatives can give elderly people and their families greater confidence and reassurance," the CP underlined. The initiative was inaugurated in the presence of Shalabh Dang, president, sales & marketing, Aster DM Quality Care Limited, G Sukesh Reddy, Chief Operat-

ing Officer, Care Hospitals, along with senior doctors, healthcare professionals, staff and senior citizens.

With India's senior citizen population crossing 150 million and expected to grow significantly over the coming decade, there is an increasing need to make healthcare systems more responsive to the specific needs of older adults.

For many senior citizens,

particularly those living alone or dependent on family members and caregivers, navigating hospital visits, investigations, multiple specialist consultations and follow-up appointments can be challenging.

Pranaam has been designed to make this healthcare journey simpler, more comfortable and more supportive, the hospital management explained.

IIFSE Group director bags 'Asia Pride Award-2026'

VISAKHAPATNAM: Institute of Industrial Fire and Safety Engineering Group director Srinu Mahanti was conferred with the 'Asia Pride Award-2026'. Srinu Mahanti, who has been rendering outstanding services in industrial fire safety, security, skill development and safety awareness, received the award from Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagade at an award function organised in Aurangabad, Maharashtra.

The award recognises the efforts of IIFSE Group in developing skilled human resources to meet industry requirements, creating public awareness about fire and safety and promoting a safe industrial environment. Srinu Mahanti described the recognition as an important milestone for the IIFSE Group. Expressing gratitude to the organisers of the Asia Pride Awards-2026, Srinu Mahanti dedicated the honour to the entire team.

Civic chief holds discussions with World Bank representatives

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GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg underlined the need for formulating long-term development plans to strengthen infrastructure in line with the city's growing population and expanding industrial and economic activities, while also ensuring improved civic services for residents.

The civic chief highlighted it when World Bank representatives Jones, Abhijit Roy and Jyoti Nayak met him



GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg with the World Bank representatives in Visakhapatnam on Thursday

at the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation chamber on Thursday. In line with the development of the

Visakhapatnam Economic Region (VER), the Commissioner held detailed discussions on various develop-

ment-related issues with the World Bank representatives. Also, the Commissioner discussed several developmental initiatives proposed in the GVMC limits, including infrastructure creation and major projects aimed at directly benefiting the public while addressing future urban requirements with the delegation. Additional Commissioner (Finance) SS Varma, Smart City CEO Anand, Visco consultant KVN Ravi, and other officials participated in the meeting.

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