

Hamalis’ sudden strike disrupts vegetable trade at Nunna market

- Workers demand immediate hike in loading and unloading charges
- Traders warn of market closure if hamalis continue to obstruct operations

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

HAMALIS (loaders) working at the Sri Durga Malleswara Wholesale Vegetable Market at Nunna, near the Vijayawada West Bypass, staged a sudden protest on Thursday night, demanding an increase in their loading and unloading charges (coolie) in view of the rising prices of essential commodities.

The hamalis gathered at the main gate of the market and raised slogans demanding an immediate hike in their charges. The protest was led by CITU Vijayawada City Secretary Seetharamaiah and hamali mestri Sureddy.

The protesting workers refused to unload vegetables arriving in lorries from various districts and also opposed attempts to make alternative arrangements. As



Hamalis staging a protest at the main gate of Sri Durga Malleswara Wholesale Vegetable Market at Nunna on Thursday night, demanding a hike in loading and unloading charges

a result, traders reportedly diverted several lorries to other districts to avoid losses to farmers.

The Sri Durga Malleswara Wholesale Vegetable Market was recently shifted from the Rajiv Gandhi Wholesale Market in Vijayawada to Nunna. The market was established on 5.50 acres of land, with new buildings constructed to facilitate wholesale vegetable trade, particularly due to its proximity to the Vijayawada West Bypass.

The market supplies vegetables to various districts across Andhra Pradesh as well as neighbouring States.

Trading activities generally begin around 7 pm and continue until 7 am the following day, with some operations extending up to noon. Traders expressed concern that the sudden strike could disrupt their daily business and affect the movement of agricultural produce.

Meanwhile, representatives of the Sri Durga Malleswara Wholesale Vegetable Merchants Association held discussions with CITU leader Seetharamaiah and hamali mestri Sureddy in an attempt to resolve the issue.

The association representatives said the market

had only recently shifted to Nunna and that traders had invested crores of rupees in establishing the new market. They assured the hamalis that their charges would be increased within a year. However, the CITU leaders and the hamalis reportedly rejected the proposal and insisted on an immediate hike. According to the association representatives, the hamalis at the Nunna market are currently being paid higher charges compared to workers at several other wholesale markets in the State.

At present, traders pay Rs.17 per 60-kg bag for vegetables meant for export,

Rs.15 per 60-kg bag for incoming produce and Rs.12 per cover. In comparison, the charges in the Guntur market are reportedly Rs 12 and Rs 8 for the respective categories.

Association treasurer R Durga Prasad said the traders were not in a position to increase the hamali charges immediately and reiterated their assurance to consider a hike after one year.

He warned that if the hamalis continued to obstruct loading and unloading operations, the traders might be forced to close the market temporarily until the issue was resolved.

Rain brings relief after months of dry spell

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VIJAYAWADA

VIJAYAWADA and several parts of NTR district received heavy rainfall on Thursday, bringing much-needed relief to people who had been experiencing intense heat for the past several months. The sudden downpour brought the city to a standstill at several places, with roads and low-lying areas inundated by rainwater.

The weather changed around 3.30 pm, with the sky turning dark and gusty winds lashing several areas. Trees were uprooted and fell on roads at some places, causing inconvenience to commuters. Heavy water-logging was reported at Benz Circle, Mahatma Gandhi Road (Bandar Road), Pinnamaneni Polyclinic Road, One Town, Low Bridge and other low-lying areas. Traffic congestion was particularly heavy at Benz Circle.

The downpour coincided with school hours, leaving students returning home caught in the rain. However, instead of being deterred by the showers, many students were seen enjoying the unexpected rainfall. Some students even danced on Pinnamaneni Polyclinic



Rainwater inundated several parts of Vijayawada city as people struggle with the unexpected downpour on Thursday
Photo: Ch Venkata Mastan

Road, expressing their joy after enduring intense heat in recent weeks.

According to officials, NTR district recorded 46.40 mm rainfall, with the district average at 2.32 mm. Vijayawada North mandal received 14.80 mm, followed by Ibrahimpatnam (9.5 mm), Vijayawada Central (7.8 mm), G Konduru (6.8 mm) and Mylavaram (4 mm).

VMC Commissioner HM Dhyanaachandra inspected waterlogged areas at Pinnamaneni Polyclinic Road, Bandar Road, Benz Circle and Nirmala Convent Road in Vijayawada on Thursday evening following heavy rainfall.

He directed officials to

regularly inspect drains, culverts, catch pits and other water-discharge points and immediately remove any blockages to ensure the smooth flow of rainwater. He asked staff to identify vulnerable water-logging points in advance and remain alert to clear stagnant water immediately after rainfall. Dhyanaachandra instructed officials to use Airtech machines to remove water accumulated on roads at the earliest and ensure that vehicular and pedestrian movement was not disrupted. He said monsoon response teams would remain available round the clock during rains to address water-logging issues.

Viswanatha Satyanarayana’s birth anniversary celebrated

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FORMER MLA and YSRCP Central constituency in-charge Malladi Vishnu paid floral tributes to the statue of renowned Telugu writer and Jnanpith Award winner Kavisamrat Viswanatha Satyanarayana at Lenin Centre in Vijayawada on Thursday on the occasion of his birth anniversary.

Speaking on the occasion, Vishnu said Viswanatha Satyanarayana’s literary works reflected Indian culture, traditions and the values of the joint family system. He described the writer as a great literary personality whose contribution to the Telugu language and literature would remain memorable.

Vishnu said works such as Veyi Padagalu, Ramayana Kalpavruksham and Andhra Prasasti earned Viswanatha national recognition and established his place among the greatest Telugu literary figures. He said it was a matter of pride for the people of Vijayawada that the Jnanpith and Padma Bhushan awar-



Former MLA Malladi Vishnu and others participating in the birth anniversary celebrations of Kavisamrat Viswanatha Satyanarayana at Lenin Centre on Thursday

dee belonged to the city. He said Viswanatha’s contribution to the development of the Telugu language and revival of literature was unforgettable. Vishnu added that he would take up with YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy the proposal to officially declare Viswanatha Satyanarayana’s birth anniversary as a Literary Day if the party returned to power. Several admirers, former corporator Sarvani Murthy and others participated in the programme.

New product to control paddy pest launched

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

INDOFIL Industries Limited introduced its new patented product Sophon to the farming community in AP at a programme held here on Thursday. The product was launched in the presence of the company’s dealers and representatives. Company officials said Sophon was developed to effectively control various diseases affecting paddy crops and help farmers achieve better crop quality and yield. Sophon contains three active ingredients, Mancozeb, Picoxystrobin and Thifluz-

amide. The combination, developed using advanced technology, provides comprehensive protection against diseases in paddy and supports healthy crop growth, said the company’s Zonal Head Anji Reddy. He said the product was aimed at providing farmers with an effective crop protection solution and improving productivity.

South India Divisional Lead Vidyasagar, Andhra Pradesh Zonal Head Anji Reddy, Fungicide Portfolio Lead Nagendra Kumar, Senior Product Development Manager Sarath Kumar, and others participated.

AP Chambers seeks expansion of air connectivity

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THE Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation (AP Chambers) in an interactive session with a delegation from FLY91, led by Rubaina Shaik, discussed strengthening air connectivity from Vijayawada and other cities across Andhra Pradesh.

The session was led by AP Chambers President Potluri Bhaskara Rao, along with senior office-bearers B Rajasekhara and R Subba Rao. They congratulated FLY91 on the commencement of its proposed services from Thursday and welcomed the airline’s efforts to improve regional connectivity.



AP Chambers president Potluri Bhaskara Rao, along with senior office-bearers B Rajasekhara and R Subba Rao with delegation from FLY91, led by Rubaina Shaik in Vijayawada on Wednesday

FLY91 representatives outlined plans to operate services on routes including Vijayawada-Tirupati, Rajahmundry-Tirupati and Hyderabad-Tirupati. The proposed services are expected to benefit business travellers, tourists and the

general public by improving access between key cities. The AP Chambers delegation urged FLY91 to explore direct flights from Vijayawada to Kochi, Goa, Coimbatore and Shirdi, citing the growing demand for connectivity to these destinations.

SIH 2026 showcases students’ innovative ideas

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHIMAVARAM

THE two-day Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2026 Internal Hackathon organised by Vishnu Institute of Technology concluded here on Wednesday, providing students with a platform to demonstrate their creativity, innovation and problem-solving skills.

A total of 166 teams, including 35 Hardware teams and 131 Software teams, participated in the institute-level hackathon. The teams presented their innovative solutions before an expert jury panel for evaluation.

Following the assessment, 50 teams, comprising 45 shortlisted teams and five waitlisted teams, were select-



ed for further proceedings under SIH 2026.

The valedictory ceremony marked the successful conclusion of the event and recognised the efforts of participating students, mentors, jury members, faculty coordinators and student coordinators. The top three teams in both the Hardware and Software categories were

honoured for their outstanding performance with cash prizes and merit certificates.

The gathering was addressed by Principal Dr M Venu, Vice-Principal Prof M Sri Lakshmi, IEDC/IIC President Dr VSN Narasimha Raju and SIH 2026 SPOC Dr S Pragaspathy.

The organisers said the successful conduct of the

hackathon reflected the institute’s commitment to nurturing innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship, teamwork and technology-driven problem-solving among students. The event also encouraged participants to develop practical solutions to real-world challenges through collaborative and technology-oriented approaches.

Postal stamp on ANU golden jubilee released

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AMARAVATI

EDUCATION and IT Minister Nara Lokesh on Thursday unveiled a special postal stamp commemorating the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Acharya Nagarjuna University at the Secretariat here.

The special postal stamp has been designed to mark the university’s 50-year journey and to make the Golden Jubilee celebrations a memorable milestone. On the occasion, officials briefed the minister on various programmes being organised as part of the university’s 50th anniversary celebrations.

The university, established five decades ago, has played a significant role in higher education and academic develop-



Minister Nara Lokesh releasing the special postal stamp in connection with the golden jubilee celebrations of Acharya Nagarjuna University in Amaravati on Thursday

ment in the State. The Golden Jubilee programmes are being organised to commemorate its contributions and achievements over the past 50 years.

Education Department Secretary Syamala Rao, Commissioner of Higher Education Narayana Bharat Gupta, Acharya Nagarjuna Univer-

sity Vice-Chancellor Prof K Gangadhara Rao, Rector R Sivaram Prasad and Registrar G Simhachalam were among those present.

‘Best Teacher’ Aparna honoured

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PROF Dr C Aparna, MD (Pathology), of Government Medical College, Guntur, who was selected for the State Best Teacher Award-2026, was felicitated at Dr NTR University of Health Sciences here on Thursday.

Dr Aparna was selected for the prestigious award from among the medical colleges affiliated with Dr NTR University of Health Sciences in recognition of her contribution to medical education, commitment to teaching and efforts to enhance academic standards.

She received the State Best Teacher Award-2026 from Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and the Minister for Higher Education Nara Lokesh at a programme held here on September 5. On Thursday,



Prof Dr C Aparna being felicitated

Vice-Chancellor of Dr NTR University of Health Sciences Prof Pulala Chandrasekhara and Registrar Dr T Sai Sudheer congratulated Dr Aparna and felicitated her on behalf of the university. The Vice-Chancellor and Registrar said Dr Aparna’s achievement was a matter of pride for the university and its affiliated medical colleges.

Thieves make off with gold jewels

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NARASARAOPET

THIEVES broke open a locked house at Edlapadu and stole 46 sovereigns of gold ornaments, 5 kgs of silver articles and Rs 50,000 in cash, when the inmates of the house went to Hyderabad on Thursday. The total value of the stolen property is estimated at around Rs 75 lakh, according to preliminary information. Based on a complaint,

Edlapadu police immediately reached the scene of the offence and inspected the house. The Clues team thoroughly examined the premises and collected evidence. Police are examining CCTV footage from the surrounding areas and have reportedly identified the movements of the suspects. A special investigation has been launched to identify and apprehend the culprits. Police registered the case and took up investigation.

People urged to educate girls, end child marriages

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STUDENTS, parents, teachers and society at large must work together to prevent child abuse, exploitation and violence against children and strive for the complete eradication of child marriages, speakers said at an awareness programme organised by the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), NTR District Branch, here on Thursday.

The programme, held at Vijaya Institute of Technology for Women, Prasadampadu, focused on “Child Abuse and Prevention of Child Marriages.” Presiding over the programme, IRCS NTR District Chairman Dr G Samaram said youth and students could play



Dr B Keerthi, president of Vasavya Mahila Mandali, interacting with girl participants at an awareness programme against child marriages in Vijayawada on Thursday

a key role as agents of social change. Child abuse and child marriage could not be eliminated through laws alone and required greater social awareness, education, strong family values and responsible civic action, he said.