Vinay Chand sworn in as TTD Specified Authority member

Dusi Venkateswara Rao
Tirumala

V Vinay Chand, Secretary to the State Government (Finance Department), was sworn in as a member of TTD Specified Authority at Srivari Temple in Tirumala on Wednesday.

TTD Additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary administered the oath of office and secrecy to Vinay Chand at Bangaru Vakili inside the sanctum complex.

Later, Vedic scholars rendered Veda Ashirvachanam at Ranganayakula Mandapam and presented him with Srivari Theertha Prasadams and a portrait of the deity.

Speaking to media persons outside the temple, outlining his priorities, Vinay Chand pledged to work in close alignment with Specified Authority Chairman M Ravichandra and fellow member Kannababu.

He assured that the authority will maintain seamless administrative coordination to continuously upgrade infrastructure, streamline darshan queues, and ensure maximum comfort and facilities for visiting pilgrims.

CVSO Muralikrishna, Temple Deputy EO Bhaskar, Board Cell Deputy EO Prasanthi, senior administrative and temple officials were present during the ceremony.



TTD Additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary presenting Srivari Theertha Prasadams to AP Finance Secretary V Vinay Chand and his wife at Ranganayakula Mandapam in Tirumala on Wednesday

Intense lobbying for Chittoor ZP chairperson post

- **Four aspirants – Suchitra, Sailaja, Mamatha Sri and Dr Jahnavi are competing for the post**
- **They all belong to same community and have considerable financial influence, complicating TDP leadership's choice**

Pradeep Vennelakanti
Chittoor



Chittoor Zilla Parishad office

TELUGU Desam Party (TDP) leadership is facing a challenging task in choosing the next Chittoor Zilla Parishad chairperson, with four influential party aspirants throwing their weight behind their respective candidates. The competition has intensified after ZPTC election results, with three contenders camping in Amaravati to muster support.

The State Election Commission had initially scheduled elections for Mandal Parishad presidents on November 11 and ZP chairperson on November 12. However, it revised the schedule on Tuesday, postponing MPP elections to November 19 and ZP chairperson election to November 20. The revised schedule is likely to delay the announcement of the party's candidate.

Chittoor ZP chairperson post was reserved for an unreserved woman category through a government gazette notification issued on October 13. Four aspirants entered the race by fielding their family members in ZPTC elections.

NP Jayaprakash from Bangarupalem fielded his wife Suchitra, while Eswar Naidu, also from the same mandal, fielded his wife RM Mamatha Sri from Gudipala. Suchitra's nomination from Bangarupalem left Eswar Naidu with no scope to field his candidate from the same mandal. Chittoor MLA Gurajala Jagan Mohan helped facilitate Mamatha Sri's candidature from Gudipala.

Chittibabu Naidu from Palasamudram fielded his daughter, Dr B Jahnavi Babu, from same mandal. Meanwhile, Dr M Tejomurthy, chairman of Vijayam Educational Institutions from Puthalapattu, entered the race by fielding his wife Sailaja from Puthalapattu.

Suchitra and Sailaja were elected unanimously from Bangarupalem and Puthalapattu, respectively. Mamatha Sri and Jahnavi contested from Gudipala and Palasamudram and won with majorities of 4,821 and 2,737 votes, respectively.

Of the four aspirants, Eswar Naidu, Jayaprakash and Chittibabu Naidu have been staying in Amaravati since the ZPTC results were announced. They are meeting senior party leaders to seek support for their respective candidates. Tejomurthy, meanwhile, has remained in Chittoor, expressing confidence that he has received an assurance from the party leadership.

The NDA alliance has a clear majority in the Chittoor Zilla Parishad, having won 23 of the 27 ZPTC seats. The TDP secured 22 seats and Jana Sena one, while the YSR Congress won the remaining four seats. All four aspirants belong to the same community and have strong financial backgrounds, making the selection a difficult task for the party leadership. Supporters of each contender are also claiming that their respective candidates have received assurances from senior party leaders. TDP leadership is yet to indicate its preference, leaving the contest wide open.

Natural farming drive held in Vemuru

Hans News Service
Tirupati

A farmers' awareness programme on natural farming was held in Vemuru village on Wednesday under Rural Agricultural Work Experience Programme (RAWEP) of SMGR Agricultural College, Udayagiri.

DPM Sanmugam advised agriculture students to utilize practical field experience to build future agri-entrepreneurship ventures. Progressive farmer Ayappa Naidu highlighted the importance of natural farming, encouraging growers to utilize local natural resources to cut input costs and preserve soil health without sacrificing yield.

Agricultural scientists, extension officers, students, village elders, and local farmers attended the interactive session to learn about eco-friendly farming practices.



DPM Sanmugam addressing farmers, agricultural scientists, and SMGR Agricultural College students during an awareness programme in Vemuru village on Wednesday

Move beyond blood sugar control to diabetes remission: SVIMS Director



SVIMS Director Dr G Jagadesh felicitating Dr S Sethupathy in Tirupati on Wednesday

Pradeep Vennelakanti
Tirupati

SVIMS Director cum Vice-Chancellor Dr Gudaru Jagadesh has stressed the need to focus on diabetes remission through modern medical research, particularly among patients suffering from Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus.

Speaking at 6th Dr B Naganna Biochemistry Chair Oration held on Wednesday, he said diabetes had become one of the major public health challenges worldwide. He stated that medical research should move beyond conventional methods of controlling blood sugar levels and explore ways to achieve diabetes remission.

Dr Jagadesh explained that diabetes is a complex metabolic disorder that can gradually affect several organs and systems in the human body. Insulin resistance, overweight, obesity, lack of physical activity and unhealthy food habits are among the major factors contributing to Type 2 diabetes. Genetic factors and metabolic abnormalities also influence the development and progression of the disease.

He emphasised that creating public awareness and encouraging healthy lifestyle changes are essential for preventing and managing diabetes.Prof Dr S Sethupathy, Head of the Department of Biochemistry, Sri Venkateswara Medical College Hospital and Research Centre, Ariyur, Puducherry, delivered 2026 Dr B Naganna Biochemistry Chair Oration.

CM holds talks with Singapore on Amaravati

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In a meeting with Singapore Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Energy, Trade and Industry Gan Siow Huang, Naidu discussed advancing the AP-Singapore partnership, with particular emphasis on Amaravati's integrated township development, digital governance through RTGS, institutional capacity-building, logistics and international trade. "We discussed taking forward the AP-Singapore partnership, with a focus on advancing Amaravati's integrated township development, strengthening digital governance through RTGS, deepening institutional capacity-building, and exploring new avenues for cooperation in logistics and international trade," he said. The CM also met World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Director General Daren Tang to strengthen the State's innovation ecosystem. Discussions covered intellectual property protection, Geographical Indication (GI) recognition for local products, grassroots entrepreneurship and positioning Amaravati and Visakhapatnam as leading global science and technology clusters.

4 municipal corpns, 23 municipalities to go to polls on Nov 26

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The 23 municipalities going to polls are Amadalavalasa, Rajam, Palakollu, Bhimavaram, Tadepalligudem, Tanuku, Chintalapudi, Gudivada, Tadigadapa, Ponnuru, Narasaraopet, Bapatla, Kandukuru, Podili, Kavali, Gudur, Alluru, Srikalahasti and B Kothakota, among others.

Authorities have already finalised reservation quotas for the municipalities, while the SEC has initiated preparations for conducting the elections.

Elections have previously been held for 13 municipal corporations and 92 municipalities across the state. However, polling in certain urban local bodies was stalled due to legal disputes.

With the court cases now resolved, the SEC has begun taking steps to complete the pending election process.

Rahul Gandhi to visit US for fireside chats at Columbia varsity

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Indian Overseas Congress chairman Sam Pitroda said the visit is built around academic conversations and not diaspora rallies. "He is required here at Columbia University on the 17th and Chicago on 18th November," Pitroda said. "He is here for a fireside chat at Columbia University." He added that Gandhi will then travel to Chicago. Pitroda said the first chat at Columbia will focus on the global student movement and the implications of that on overall global politics. Gandhi will be in conversation with Robert Pape, a political science professor at the University of Chicago, on international affairs and geopolitics.

AP eyes ₹12-lakh cr investments

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Central Ministers Nitin Gadkari, Sarbananda Sonowal and Chirag Paswan will lead sectoral discussions.

The overseas delegation includes UAE Economy and Tourism Minister Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri, Slovak Finance Minister Ladislav Kamenický, Singapore Minister of State Gan Siow Huang and Canada's International Trade Minister Maninder Sidhu. Ministers from Nepal, Mauritius, Guatemala, Cambodia, Myanmar and Tanzania, along with WIPO Director General Daren Tang, are also expected.

The agenda spans artificial intelligence, satellite technologies, ports, shipbuilding, energy, aviation, defence, food systems and infrastructure, alongside country sessions on Japan, the UAE, Russia, Europe and Africa. Space technology, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, skills, tourism and energy resilience will feature prominently. A fireside conversation with Naidu will focus on P4 and the government's zero-poverty objective.

The summit comes at a critical stage in Andhra Pradesh's industrial strategy: converting investment announcements into operational projects, manufacturing capacity and sustainable employment.

Since June 2024, the state has attracted investment intent for 714 projects worth Rs 22.6 lakh crore, with the potential to create 19.3 lakh jobs. Of these, 526 projects worth Rs 17.2 lakh crore have been converted, while 303 projects involving Rs 7.1 lakh crore have been grounded or are being grounded, according to figures available at the end of October 2026.

The NDA government has made industrialisation and employment generation central to its development agenda. Its 'Speed of Doing Business' approach seeks to accelerate approvals through digital governance, deregulation and land reforms. A Group of Ministers has been constituted to pursue the target of 20 lakh jobs by 2029.

Naidu has also assured investors of no political or bureaucratic interference, with incentive payments backed by sovereign-backed escrow arrangements.

Five regional investment conferences have already attracted 194 MoUs worth Rs 86,522.07 crore, potentially creating 1,47,951 jobs. Another 68 projects worth Rs 5,714.06 crore were grounded or inaugurated, foundations were laid for 15 MSME Parks and 10 provisional allotment orders were issued.

The 2025 summit attracted more than 3,000 delegates from 62 countries and recorded investment commitments exceeding Rs 13 lakh crore.

A parallel Women & Growth Summit featuring Smriti Irani will be held at Novotel on November 12 and 13. The AP Pavilion will showcase industrial parks, Amaravati, tourism, culture and heritage, while the MSME exhibition will feature enterprises selected through regional conferences. The exhibition will remain open to the public on November 14.

Cabinet nod for ₹62,370-cr rabi fertiliser subsidy

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The approval comes against the backdrop of the government's nutrient-based subsidy (NBS) framework, under which phosphatic and potassic fertilisers are supplied to farmers at subsidised prices.

Under the scheme, the Centre fixes subsidy rates for different nutrients for each cropping season, considering prevailing domestic and international prices of fertilisers and their inputs.

The subsidy is paid to manufacturers and importers to support the availability of fertilisers at affordable prices.

For the preceding rabi season of 2025-26, the government had approved a subsidy requirement of approximately Rs 37,952 crore.

The Cabinet subsequently cleared about Rs 41,534 crore for the kharif 2026 season. The government's fertiliser subsidy programme covers key agricultural inputs used in cultivating crops, including wheat, pulses and oilseeds.

In another decision, the Cabinet approved a Rs 5,000-crore credit guarantee fund under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana. Launched in April 2015, the scheme facilitates institutional credit for small businesses and microenterprises through banks, non-banking financial companies and other eligible lending institutions.

The existing Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units, administered by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company, provides protection to eligible lenders against defaults on covered microenterprise loans. The government's credit guarantee mechanism is intended to support collateral-free lending to eligible small borrowers.

Also, the CCEA also approved Rs 3,230 crore for developing the Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum by converting the historic North and South Blocks in New Delhi. Vaishnaw said the museum would showcase India's civilisational journey and would be larger than the Louvre in Paris.

The proposed museum will cover approximately 1.79 lakh square metres and is being designed to accommodate nearly 30,000 visitors daily.

The project was first announced in May 2023. In February 2026, the Cabinet endorsed the transition of government offices from North and South Blocks to new administrative buildings, clearing the way for their conversion into a museum.

According to the Ministry of Culture, development will take place in phases between FY27 and FY31. The first gallery, focusing on adornment, is expected to open in late 2027. The ministry has identified approximately 18 lakh objects from museums and other collections for potential display.

Anthropic CEO claims cancer will be history in 10 years

Continued from front page

Pharmaceutical leaders emphasise that speeding up initial molecule discovery does not bypass clinical trials, regulatory reviews, or biological testing in animal and human models-a phase that makes up the vast majority of the 10-to-12-year drug development pipeline.

Finding a molecule that looks promising on a computer screen is only the beginning.

It still has to be tested in laboratories, animal models and eventually human clinical trials to establish whether it is safe and actually works.

AI may speed up the search for potential treatments, but it cannot simply make these steps disappear.

Critics such as cognitive scientist Gary Marcus, and cardiologist and digital medicine expert Eric Topol point out that current AI models lack the deep causal and biological understanding required to reliably yield breakthrough cures, and as of 2026, no AI-designed drug has achieved full clinical adoption.

There is also a history of medical breakthroughs being promised on timelines that never materialised. The 1970s 'war on cancer' is one example. Experts warn that such ambitious predictions risk raising public expectations far beyond what science can currently deliver.

Stolen Olympic gold of hockey star recovered

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The suspects broke into Somaya's house in late October while the family was away in Kodagu and were unaware of the significance of the cluster of metallic prizes they picked up as they swept up cash and jewellery worth Rs 3.5 lakh.

Police said the suspects sold a gold medal and a silver medal to a firm in Rajajinagar.

"This was one of the most challenging cases for us because we did not have any clues. We finally managed to detect the case and recover the stolen articles. The two accused have been involved in similar crimes earlier. We will ensure that they do not repeat such acts," police commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said, announcing a Rs 1 lakh reward for the police.

Naidu sets June deadline for restoration of 789 LI schemes

Continued from front page

He also suggested appointing a chief engineer or superintending engineer in each district, wherever necessary, to supervise their functioning. He stressed that all repairs must be completed by June. Officials informed the Chief Minister that 4,061 acres out of the 5,565 acres available with the Water Resources Department had been identified for solar power projects, with a potential capacity of 877.3 MW. Another 110 acres at 84 locations under the Irrigation Development Corporation could generate 25.8 MW. Altogether, 4,171 acres have been earmarked for solar power plants with a combined generation potential of 903.1 MW.

Naidu suggested exploring solar power generation over irrigation canals and the potential for hydropower. He also directed officials to prepare a plan for uninterrupted electricity supply to lift irrigation schemes during the cultivation season and explore selling surplus power to the grid.

The Chief Minister asked officials to examine the establishment of a Water Regulatory Commission on the lines of the Electricity Regulatory Commission to regulate water utilisation across agriculture, industries, power generation and transport. Naidu assured that funds would be released immediately for 36 priority irrigation projects and directed officials to complete all of them within the next two-and-a-half years, without allowing financial constraints to delay the works.

Murmu's bodyguard shot over firecracker dispute

Continued from front page

Police said the disagreement soon escalated into violence as Dheeraj allegedly pulled out a country-made pistol and opened fire. The bullet first struck a wall before hitting Saurabh in the head.

The accused also allegedly assaulted Vineet and threatened the family with dire consequences before fleeing. Family members rushed Saurabh to a hospital, where doctors performed surgery and removed the bullet. His condition is now reported to be stable.

Police registered an FIR against Dheeraj and Monu on charges of attempt to murder. Circle Officer Anshu Jain said, "Efforts are underway to trace and arrest the accused."