

Building Araku into a premier global coffee destination: Chandrababu

AMARAVATI, OCT 1

The Andhra Pradesh government is actively investing in building Araku into a premier global coffee destination, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said on Thursday. On the occasion of International Coffee Day, the Chief Minister noted that for millions around the world, the day doesn't truly begin without that first perfect sip of coffee.

"For me, it starts with Araku - a taste of Andhra Pradesh's rich heritage. This International Coffee Day, we celebrate the incredible journey of Araku Coffee from the vibrant hills of our state to coffee cups across the globe," he said in a post on X. "We are actively investing in building Araku into a premier global coffee destination - empowering our local growers and ensuring Andhra Pradesh takes its rightful place on the world coffee map," he added. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan also greeted people on the occasion of International Coffee Day. Sharing his thoughts on Araku coffee, he said that every cup of Araku coffee "carries the fragrance of the Eastern Ghats, the richness



of its soil and the hard work of our tribal farmers". "On International Coffee Day, I am proud to celebrate Araku Coffee, a distinctive treasure of Andhra Pradesh, grown amidst the magnificent landscapes of the Eastern Ghats. For me, Araku Coffee is not just about its flavour and aroma. It represents the bond between our forests, our tribal communities and their traditional knowledge, transforming the richness of the land into an identity that is finding appreciation across the world. From the valleys of Araku to Parliament in New Delhi, where Araku Coffee has been showcased through dedicated stalls, its journey reflects how a local product rooted in our communities can carry the story of Bharat to a wider world," said the actor-politician.

Fadnavis Launches Invest Maharashtra Platform

MUMBAI: (Oct 1) Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday launched 'Invest Maharashtra' platform and said it would work towards making the state a major investment destination in India and globally, with the government taking responsibility for coordinating land, power, infrastructure, approvals and skilled manpower for projects. The government would work in an integrated manner to meet every requirement of investors after they select a project, he asserted. The platform's identity is "Made for Business", which means the government should understand the value of investors' time, take responsibility for resolving problems and remain with investors from the project stage through its expansion, the CM said.

Rajya Sabha MP Lingamneni Ramesh has urged Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to facilitate prayers and voluntary service activities across the State on October 7 to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi completing 25 years in public service. Ramesh has also brought the proposal to the attention of Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. In a letter to the Chief Minister, Ramesh said October 7, 2026 marks 25 years since Modi assumed office as the Chief Minister of Gujarat in 2001 and began a continuous journey in public office, later serving as Prime Minister of India since 2014. Ramesh suggested that Andhra Pradesh commemorate

the occasion in a manner reflecting its spiritual traditions, cultural diversity and ethos of service and social harmony. He requested the Chief Minister to consider issuing suitable directions to concerned departments and authorities to facilitate such programmes in consultation with respective religious and community institutions and in accordance with constitutional provisions, applicable laws and established procedures. The MP proposed that special prayers for the peace, prosperity and welfare of the people and the nation could be held at prominent temples across the State, including Tirumala, Srisailem, Srikalahasti, Vijayawada, Simhachalam, Annavaram, Kanipakam and Lepakshi. He



also suggested similar voluntary prayer and service activities at prominent dargahs, churches and Gurudwaras across Andhra Pradesh, subject to the consent of the respective institutions and applicable procedures. Among the institutions mentioned in his proposal are Ameen Peer

Dargah in Kadapa, Bara Shaheed Dargah in Nellore, Baba Fakruddin Dargah in Penukonda, Gundala Mary Matha Church in Vijayawada, CSI Cathedral Church in Kadapa, Holy Angels Cathedral in Eluru, Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurudwara in Visakhapatnam and Gurudwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha in Vijayawada. Ramesh said the occasion could be given a broader social dimension by encouraging voluntary service activities alongside prayers and religious observances. He proposed that religious and community institutions across the State could undertake suitable service oriented initiatives for the benefit of society, wherever feasible and in accordance with applicable rules.

According to Ramesh, marking 25 years of public service through prayers and acts of seva would give the occasion a meaningful social purpose rather than limiting it to ceremonial programmes. He said a Statewide commemoration involving different religious and community institutions would also reflect Andhra Pradesh's traditions of spiritual diversity, cultural coexistence and social harmony. Ramesh requested the Chief Minister to consider the proposal and facilitate appropriate prayers, religious observances and service oriented programmes across Andhra Pradesh on October 7, 2026, in coordination with the concerned departments and respective religious and community institutions.

Southern Railway observes month-long Special Cleanliness Campaigns

General Manager launches the Swachhata Pakhwada Special Cleanliness Campaign today

CHENNAI, OCT 1

Shri U. Subba Rao, General Manager, Southern Railway launched the Swachhata Pakhwada-2026 Cleanliness Campaign today, 1st October 2026 at Southern Railway Headquarters. The General Manager administered the Swachhata Pledge to the Officers and Staff and later participated in Shramdaan and tree plantation drives. The General Manager felicitated the Safai Mitras for their valuable contributions and distributed health kits. Shri Vipin Kumar, Additional General Manager, Southern Railway, Shri R. Mukund, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer and other Principal Heads of Departments of Southern Railway, Officers and over 300 Staff participated in the event. **Swachhata Hi Seva - 2026** Swachhata Hi Seva -2026, the special cleanliness campaign focusing on intensive cleanliness across various railway stations, offices, colonies, tracks and trains, was carried out across Southern Railway from 17th September to 1st October 2026. During the drive, Southern Railway has undertaken a comprehensive range of Swachhata activities across its Divisions, Workshops, Railway Hospitals and other establishments during this period, cov-



ering cleanliness, waste management, public participation, youth engagement, environmental awareness and Safai Mitra welfare. The campaign has been implemented across more than 300 stations, with a strong focus on converting cleanliness initiatives into sustained behavioural and environmental practices. More than 9000 Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs) have been cleaned, with 70,650 participants actively involved in CTU cleaning activities. Under "Swachh Paathsaala - Yuva for Swachhata", 181 events were conducted with the participation of 4,211 students and 92 stakeholders, including schools, educational institutions and NGOs, thereby creating awareness among the younger generation on cleanliness, waste management and environmental responsibility. The campaign placed special emphasis on Jan

Bhagidari, with more than 650 advocacy campaigns conducted on initiatives such as Say No to Plastic, Green Festivals and Zero-Waste Sports. 98 campaigns on SWM Rules and four-way source segregation further strengthened awareness on scientific waste management at source. The welfare and safety of sanitation personnel remained a key focus, with 161 Safai Mitra Suraksha evan Samman Shivir and Health Camps conducted, benefiting around 4,500 Safai Mitras and their families through health, safety and welfare interventions. This reinforces the commitment to ensuring dignity, safety and well-being of those engaged in maintaining railway premises clean. Under "Swachhata Se Samridhhi", 94 events and exhibitions were organised to promote reuse, recycling and productive utilisation of



waste. Heritage site celebrations were conducted across Southern Railway highlighting the importance of maintaining the cleanliness and heritage value of iconic railway locations. A significant quantity of 45 tonnes of plastic waste was also removed during the campaign. Southern Railway Organized Ek Din, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath (One Day, One Hour, Together!) Mass Shramdaan across all divisions and units with massive participation of more than 16000 participants. **Swachhata Pakhwada -2026** Southern Railway will continue the Swachhata campaign through a focused Swachhata Pakhwada from 1st to 15th October 2026, covering stations, offices, colonies, yards and other railway establishments. The programme will include mass Shramdaan, Swachh Bharat Diwas

celebrations, deep cleaning of major stations, track-side and legacy waste removal, removal of unwanted posters and gutka stains, and intensive cleaning of passenger areas, kitchens and toilets. The concluding phase will focus on four-way waste segregation, identification of Bulk Waste Generators, strengthening of waste-processing facilities and preparation of unit-wise Solid Waste Management Action Plans. Collectively, these activities will help sustain the cleanliness gains achieved during September, prevent re-accumulation of waste, improve the visual and hygienic environment of railway premises, and strengthen scientific waste management at source. The programme will also reinforce staff and public participation, environmental responsibility and a sustained culture of cleanliness across Southern Railway.

Mass Shramdaan and Plantation Drives Undertaken Across NFR under

MALIGAON, 01 OCTOBER, 2026:

As part of the ongoing Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 campaign, a Mass Shramdaan programme was organised across Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) on 1 st October 2026, with enthusiastic participation of officers and staff. The initiative aimed at strengthening the culture of cleanliness, environmental responsibility and public participation across railway premises. All five divisions of NFR — Katihar, Alipurduar, Rangiya, Lumding and Tinsukia conducted

cleanliness drives and awareness programmes at railway stations, offices and other railway premises. Senior officials and staff actively participated in Shramdaan, pledge-taking and awareness activities. Plantation drives were also organised at various locations, adding an environmental dimension to the campaign and encouraging the creation of greener and cleaner railway surroundings. Passengers and members of the public were also encour-



aged to participate in the campaign and contribute towards maintaining clean and hygienic railway premises. Through awareness activities and public engagement, the campaign sought to reinforce the message that cleanliness is a shared responsibility and can be sustained only through collective participation. At Guwahati Railway Station, officers and staff of NFR Headquarters and Guwahati Station participated actively in the Mass Shramdaan programme. Principal Executive Director (Rolling Stock), Railway Board, joined NFR officials and railway personnel in the cleanliness activities. The



programme witnessed enthusiastic participation, with officers and staff collectively undertaking Shramdaan and contributing towards strengthening cleanliness and sanitation at the station. A plantation drive was also undertaken, promoting the message of environmental sustainability alongside cleanliness. The NFR Construction Organisation also participated in the Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 campaign. Mass Shramdaan, awareness and plantation activities were organised at various offices and project locations under the Construction Organisation, with officers and staff

actively contributing towards cleaner, greener and more sustainable railway surroundings. The initiatives undertaken across NFR reaffirmed the commitment of the railway fraternity towards cleanliness, environmental sustainability, public awareness and community participation. The campaign encouraged railway officials, staff, passengers and members of the public to actively contribute to cleanliness efforts and carry forward the spirit of Swachhata, Seva and collective responsibility, thereby promoting greater public awareness and participation in the Swachhata Hi Seva campaign.



Mega Shramdaan Held at Headquarters, Gorakhpur under 'Swachhata Hi Seva-2026' on the Theme 'One Day, One Hour, Together'

GORAKHPUR, OCTOBER 1, 2026:

The 'Swachhata Hi Seva-2026' campaign is being organized across Indian Railways from September 17 to October 2, 2026. As part of the campaign, a mega Shramdaan (voluntary community cleanliness drive) was organized on October 1, 2026, at the Railway Cricket Ground at the North Eastern Railway Headquarters in Gorakhpur, on the theme 'One Day, One Hour, Together', under the leadership of Shri Vinod Kumar Shukla, Additional General Manager, North Eastern Railway.

The programme commenced with Additional General Manager Shri Vinod Kumar Shukla administering the cleanliness pledge to the officers and employees present. Thereafter, a collective cleanliness drive was undertaken at the ground, during which bushes, garbage and other unwanted materials were removed and disposed of at designated locations. On the occasion, Shri Ravish Kumar, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer; Dr. Sushma Bhaskar Mate, Principal Chief Medical Director; Shri Ambrish Prakash Pandey, Chief Mechanical Engineer/ENHM; Shri Anand Rishi Srivastava, Chief Works Manager/Mechanical Workshop; senior railway officers, supervisors, employees, sportspersons, Civil Defence volunteers and Safai Mitras were present. In addition, students, teachers and non-teaching staff participated in cleanliness activities at the N.E. Senior Secondary School, Gorakhpur. Through this mega Shramdaan, railway officers and employees conveyed the

message that cleanliness is not merely the responsibility of government departments or sanitation workers, but a collective responsibility of every citizen and employee. Collective participation in cleanliness drives not only ensures cleanliness in railway premises but also fosters a sense of responsibility, participation and ownership towards cleanliness among people. Through the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign, special emphasis is also being laid on promoting the concept of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle in railway premises, ensuring proper disposal of waste and creating awareness about environmental protection, along with maintaining cleanliness.

North Eastern Railway is making efforts to ensure that the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign does not remain limited to a designated period but that cleanliness becomes an integral part of regular work practices, behaviour and lifestyle.

The North Eastern Railway administration has appealed to the general public to actively cooperate in keeping railway stations, railway premises, public places, tourist destinations and historical heritage sites clean and attractive; dispose of waste only at designated places; avoid unnecessary use of plastic; and participate enthusiastically in cleanliness-related activities. Only through collective participation can the goal of 'Clean Railways, Clean Premises and Clean India' be achieved. Similarly, the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign is also being organized on a large scale in the Varanasi, Lucknow and Izatnagar divisions.

Rift in Keralam Congress? Senior MP slams CM Satheesan's working style

The Congress-led United Democratic Front government in Keralam is facing its first major internal rift just four months after taking office, with senior Congress leader and UDF convener Adoor Prakash openly questioning Chief Minister VD Satheesan's style of functioning.



Prakash, who is also a Lok Sabha MP, said key decisions were being taken without consultation, UDF meetings were not being held, and that he was learning about important developments through the media. His remarks have brought differences within the ruling front into the open at an early stage of the government's tenure. Speaking at a press conference at the KPCC headquarters in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday, Prakash said the lack of co-ordination between the Chief Minister, the Congress organisation and coalition partners had become a serious issue and added that he would raise his grievances with the Congress high command. Prakash said the UDF had not met for quite some time and blamed Satheesan, who is also the front's chairman, for not taking the initiative to convene a meeting. "There has been no UDF meeting in the last few days. As UDF chairman, it is the CM who has to take the initiative. Since he has not communicated anything, we have not been able to convene another UDF meeting," he said. He said there were several

matters that required discussion and decisions. "There are many issues that have to be discussed and decisions taken," Prakash said, adding that he was often unable to answer questions from journalists and party workers because he himself had not been informed. "Many of you ask me about various issues in my capacity as UDF convener. But I have not got an opportunity to give proper answers on many of these matters," he said. Prakash said his criticism was not directed at individuals appointed to various posts, but at the manner in which the decisions were taken. The immediate issue was understood to be the reported Cabinet-rank appointments of IUML leader MK Muneer as chairman of the Administrative Reforms Commission and Forward Bloc leader G Devarajan as Keralam's special representative in New Delhi. Prakash said the UDF had not discussed the appointments and that he had not been informed about them. He said he was not suggesting that those chosen were ineligible. "But as UDF convener, I was not informed in any manner about these matters, either through a discussion or even that such

a decision was going to be taken," he said. He said he would take up the matter with the AICC, noting that he had been appointed UDF convener by the party high command. "I have no reason to hide these matters. I am sharing them with you because people should also know about them," he said. "I also want to inform you that I will find a way to convey my displeasure over these matters to the All India Congress Committee," he added. The UDF coordination committee had last met on July 30 and, according to sources, there had been an understanding that such meetings would be held regularly and that policy matters would be discussed in detail. But those plans did not materialise, the sources told news agency PTI. Prakash linked the lack of coordination to the UDF's performance in the recent local body bypolls, saying the front had failed to make the expected gains in some wards and that the issue needed discussion. The UDF won 18 of the 38 wards where bypolls were held. Prakash also referred to the controversy over Satheesan's chartered flight journey to Malappuram and said the chief minister had a responsibility to explain the circumstances to the public. "Whether it is right or wrong is not the issue. The CM has a responsibility to clear the doubts that have been raised over these matters and convince the people," he said. "When such matters come up, the people should be convinced. That is all," he added.