Fourth Edition of Panel Discussion Series for the StandWithHer Campaign

HYDERABAD, JUNE 14

"I'm grateful to all those men in my life who have given me opportunities and held my back when I needed it the most" said Charu Sinha IPS during the Fourth Edition of Panel Discussion Series for the #StandWithHer Campaign on the topic "Public Spaces as Shared Spaces – Presence of men and their Behaviour (sexual harassment in public spaces)"

The #StandWithHer campaign hosted the fourth edition of its panel discussion series on Saturday at We-Hub, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, Hyderabad, bringing together voices from diverse sectors to discuss the theme "Public Spaces as Shared Spaces – Presence of men and their Behaviour (sexual harassment in public spaces)"

The discussion focused on how public spaces are often experienced differently by women due to behaviours such as staring, catcalling, unwanted comments, harassment, and intimidation. The panel examined how these actions restrict women's freedom, mobility, and sense of safety, while emphasizing that public spaces belong equally to everyone. The conversation highlighted the importance of respectful behaviour, bystander intervention, and collective responsibility in creating safer and more inclusive environments for women.

The panel featured distinguished voices from the fields of cinema, journalism, and law enforcement. The speakers included filmmaker Sekhar Kammula, Resident Editor, The Hindu Businessline Richa Mishra, actor-director Rahul Ravindran, and journalist Uma Sudheer, who moderated the discussion.

Speaking during the discussion, Charu Sinha, IPS, stressed that safety in public spaces is a shared responsibility and begins with individual behaviour. "Your presence is a choice; you have to make it safe for women around you," she said, underscoring the need for men to be mindful of how their actions impact women's sense of security.

Filmmaker Sekhar Kammula noted that creating safer spaces for women requires a collective effort from society. "It's not so simple, but we have to create an environment that will make women feel safe," he said, emphasizing the importance of fostering a culture of respect and accountability. Actor, writer and director Rahul Ravindran highlighted the role men can play in encouraging open conversations.

"As men, we should make it comfortable for women to come and open up to us," he said, stressing the importance of empathy, trust, and active listening.

Resident Editor, The Hindu Businessline- Richa Mishra challenged traditional notions of masculinity and advocated for allyship. "A supportive man is not weak. A man who is standing by his women is not weak. He is much stronger than other men," she said, calling for greater solidarity and support for women in both public and private spaces.

Moderating the discussion, journalist Uma Sudheer urged men to take an active stand against discrimination and harassment. "Be a man, stand up for women," she said, reinforcing the message that creating safer and more inclusive spaces requires courage, responsibility, and action.

#StandWithHer is an ongoing year-long initiative designed to promote dialogue on gender equality by creating spaces where men and women can engage in honest and constructive conversations. Through a different theme each month, the campaign seeks to inspire understanding, raise awareness, and encourage positive social change. The discussion on "Public Spaces as Shared Spaces" explored how everyday behaviour in public settings can shape women's experiences of safety and belonging. The panel emphasized that creating inclusive public spaces requires not only stronger systems and policies, but also greater awareness, respect, and responsibility from individuals and communities alike.

New payment mechanism sparks row

HYDERABAD, JUNE 14

According to the industry bodies, the Telangana government introduced a revised payment mechanism from June 1 under which payments for alcoholic beverages supplied to Telangana State Beverages Corporation Ltd. (TGBCL) during May 2026 were released after 15 days, with an early-payment cash discount of 2-2.75 per cent deducted from suppliers' bills.

The associations contend that while such a cash discount forms part of tender conditions, it is intended to be availed at the request of suppliers and not imposed by the buyer.

Rs 3,725 crore pending since December

In their joint letter, the associations said payments have been cleared only up to the first week of December 2025.

Dues amounting to Rs 3,725.73 crore for supplies made between the first week of December 2025 and the first week of April 2026 are yet to be paid. They argued that releasing payments for recent supplies while leaving older undisputed dues unpaid runs contrary to established commercial norms and could attract scrutiny from auditors.

Fear of rising bad debts

The industry bodies also expressed concern that the government may increasingly prioritise payments for current supplies to avail the cash discount, while older dues continue to accumulate.

Over time, they warned, the outstanding receivables could turn into bad debts, imposing a significant financial burden on manufacturers and increasing risks for the sector.

Industry seeks chronological settlement

Urging the government to release payments in chronological order, the associations said the proposed system was 'disturbing and against the principles of normal commercial transactions' and fraught with non-compliance with accounting standards.

"We urge you to kindly release payments based on chronological order and not implement any such proposals," the associations said in their letter.

Associations represent 80% of market

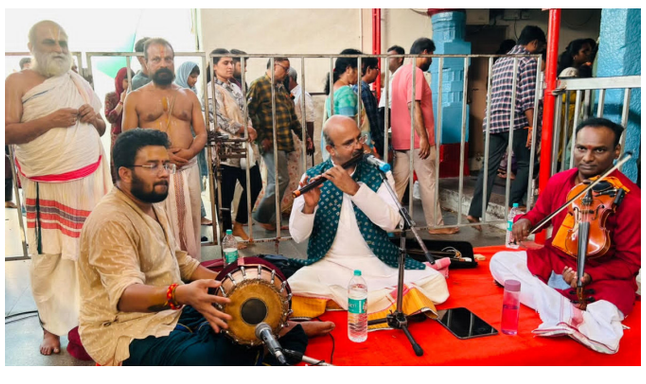
BAI, ISWAI and CIABC collectively represent more than 80 per cent of the liquor, beer and wine sold in the country.

The industry bodies alleged that the state's decision appeared to be driven by financial considerations and its dominant position as the sole purchaser of alcoholic beverages in Telangana.

The latest dispute comes at a time when Telangana remains one of India's largest liquor markets, with the government relying heavily on excise revenues for its finances.

Chilkur Balaji Temple Hosts "Venu Nadam" on Jyeshta Amavasya to Invoke Copious Rains

HYDERABAD, JUNE 14



In an auspicious spiritual initiative dedicated to the welfare of society and nature, the historic Chilkur Balaji Temple hosted "Venu Nadam," a divine flute recital offered as a prayer for timely and abundant rainfall.

The special musical offering was presented on 14 June 2026, coinciding with the spiritually significant confluence of Jyeshta Amavasya and Rohini Nakshatra, a combination traditionally associated with prayers for agricultural prosperity and ecological balance.

The recital featured acclaimed flautist Anantha Krishna, whose soulful performance captivated devotees. He was accompanied by Venkata Naga Sai Sharma on the mridangam and Pavan Singh on the violin, creating a deeply devotional atmosphere that resonated throughout the temple premises.

Conducted as a Nishkama Prarthana (selfless prayer), the event was organized without any commercial elements, sponsorships, or entry fees. The offering was dedicated to seeking divine grace for the benefit of farmers, replenishment of water resources, and relief from prolonged heat and dry conditions affecting many regions.

Speaking on the occasion, temple representatives emphasized that Sanatana Dharma has long regarded music as a sacred medium of prayer and communion with the Divine. Through "Venu Nadam," devotees collectively offered prayers for harmony between humanity and nature, invoking blessings for plentiful rains, agricultural prosperity, and the well-being of all living beings.

The event concluded with special prayers for "Sarve Jana Sukhino Bhavantu" — may all beings be happy and prosperous — reflecting the temple's enduring commitment to spiritual service and societal welfare.

RTI Commissioner Borreddy Ayodhya Reddy Visits Arutla Telangana Public School

ARUTLA, JUNE 14

RTI Commissioner Borreddy Ayodhya Reddy visited the Telangana Public School (TPS) being established in Arutla and inspected the arrangements being made on the campus. During his visit, he reviewed the classrooms, science and computer laboratories, playgrounds, dining halls, other infrastructure facilities, and the overall school environment. He also sought details from the officials regarding the ongoing preparations.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Ayodhya Reddy stated that Telangana Public Schools would mark the beginning of a new era in the state's education sector. He appreciated the state government's objective of providing corporate-level quality education to students from poor and middle-class families. He expressed the view that the government's decision to establish 100 Telangana Public Schools across the state would usher in revolutionary changes in the education sector. He noted that, in addition to providing quality education from nursery to intermediate level on a single campus, the government is committed to the holistic development of students by providing breakfast, lunch, and evening snacks within the school premises.

Ayodhya Reddy further stated that Telangana Public Schools, being developed according to international quality standards, would significantly enhance opportunities for students in the state to compete at the global level. He praised the government's efforts to strengthen the education system and initiate comprehensive reforms. On this occasion, Telangana Education Commission Chairman Aakunoori Murali, along with members Charakonda Venkatesh and Joshna Shiva Reddy, briefed the Commissioner on the school's unique features, educational approach, infrastructure, and the arrangements being undertaken.

They expressed confidence that the Arutla Telangana Public School would become a model for government education in the state and serve as a center for shaping the future of students.

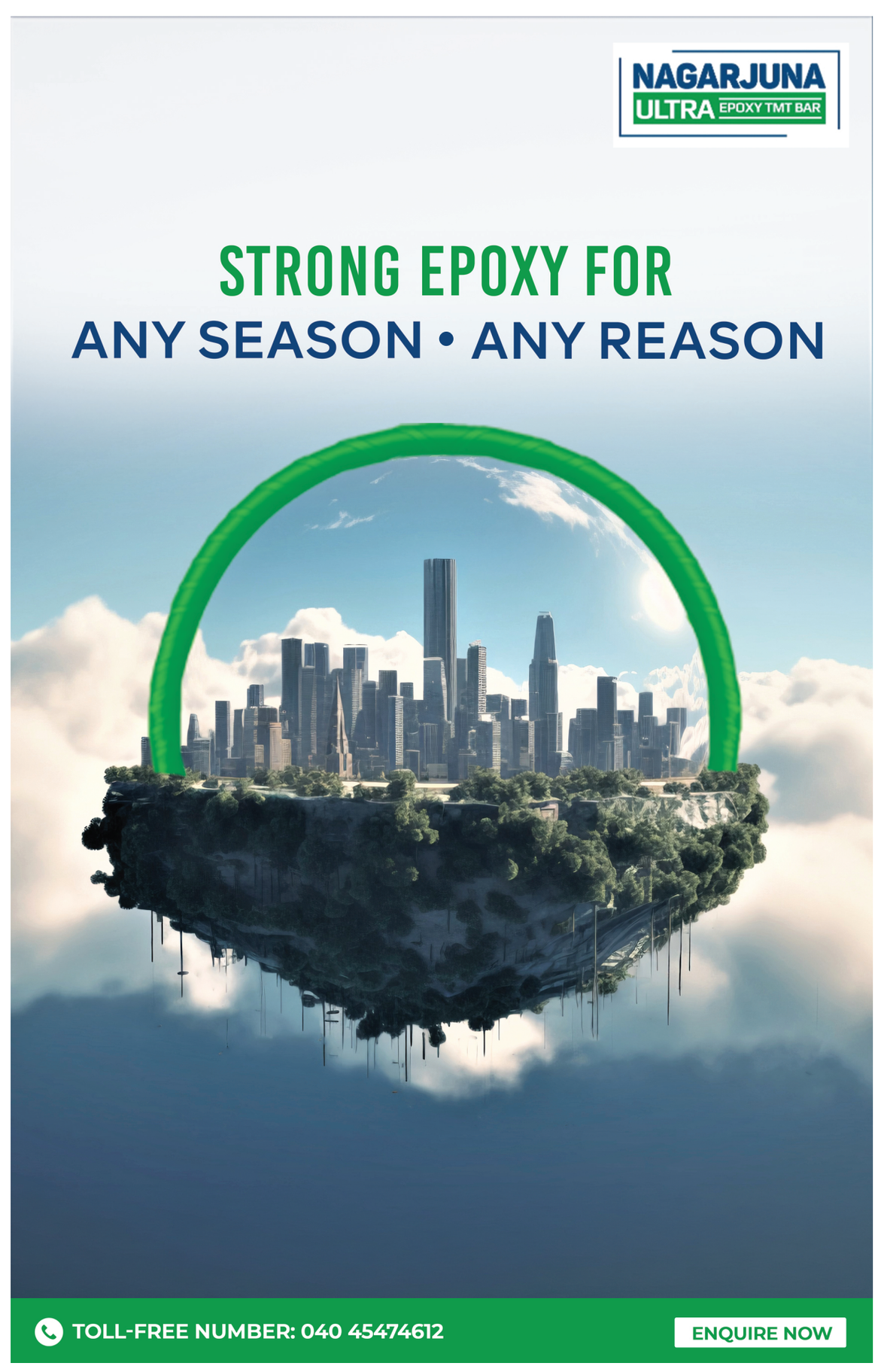
Centre Prioritizes Telangana's Development, says Dr. K. Laxman

HYDERABAD, JUNE 14

BJP Rajya Sabha Member and OBC Morcha National President Dr. K. Laxman on Sunday stated that PM Narendra Modi had set a new record in India's history by surpassing former PM Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's tenure by becoming the only Prime Minister to serve the nation democratically for over 4,399 days.

He described it as a remarkable milestone for a leader from an ordinary background to serve as an unblemished public representative for nearly 25 years—comprising 13 years as the Chief Minister of Gujarat and 12 years as the Prime Minister of the country. He highlighted the creation of the world's largest transparent welfare system through the Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) framework, which has enabled the direct transfer of ₹51 lakh crore in Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) funds to beneficiaries' accounts nationwide, eliminating the need for middlemen. Dr. Laxman explained that the Central Government had demonstrated its unwavering commitment to Telangana's development by prioritizing the state and added that this includes providing a tax share of ₹1.18 lakh crore and sanctioning key institutions such as AIIMS Bibinagar, the Sammakka-Sarakka Central Tribal University and the National Turmeric Board.

Speaking at a press conference held at the BJP Telangana state office, Dr. K. Laxman noted that people across the country were celebrating and welcoming the historic record achieved by Prime Minister Modi. He stated that achieving this feat by winning the people's mandate three consecutive times stands as a testament to the strength of Indian democracy. He remarked that the fact that a common person can rise to the highest office—shattering the notion that politics is the exclusive domain of a few families—highlights the greatness of democracy. He criticized the Congress party for its inability to accept this victory while noting that Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's comments reflect their frustration. He lashed out at the Congress leaders for spreading false propaganda against the BJP regarding "seat theft" and "vote theft" in the Rajya Sabha elections. He asserted that it was the Congress party—specifically Jawaharlal Nehru—that committed the very first "seat theft" in Indian politics

Laxman recalled that shortly after independence, despite a clear majority of support for Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel during the vote to select the country's first Prime Minister, democratic norms and opinions were completely disregarded to hand the position to Nehru.

He argued that this marked the Congress party's original act of the seat theft. He remarked that it was ludicrous for a party with such a history to lecture others on democracy and seat theft today. He emphasized that the people's verdict was supreme in a democracy and alleged that the Congress party was attempting to mislead the public by criticizing a leader elected by the people merely to mask its own failures. He added that their refusal to stop criticizing, even after the Supreme Court upheld the Election Commission's decisions, was a clear sign of their desperation.