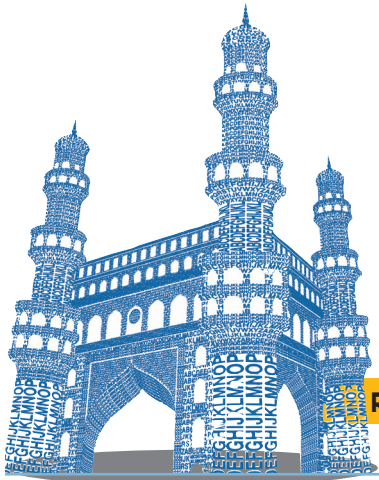




HYDERABAD HEADLINES

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WELFARE TENDERS & STATE DEBT

High-volt drama enfolds Hyderabad over Congress-BRS open challenge

HYDERABAD, JULY 2

Tension situation prevailed at Gun Park and BRS Bhavan in Hyderabad on Thursday, marked by challenges and counter-challenges between Ministers and BRS leaders regarding the location for an open debate about alleged irregularities in welfare department tenders.

Ministers Ponnamp Prabhakar, Adhuri Laxman, and Azharuddin, who had accepted the BRS's invitation for a debate, gathered at Gun Park and accused BRS leaders of not attending. They expressed their willingness to engage in discussions with any former BRS minister who might arrive, extending an invitation to the Somajiguda Press Club for the debate.

In the meantime, former minister Harish Rao began his journey from Telangana Bhavan to Gun Park, which led to heightened tension as the police intervened to stop him. This situation escalated into a heated exchange and a scuffle between BRS supporters and the police. Subsequently, former Ministers T. Harish Rao and V. Srinivas Goud, along with BRS General Secretary RS Praveen Kumar and other party officials, were detained and



prevented from reaching Gun Park.

Harish Rao stated, "I am open to discussing the Congress government's debts. Congress Ministers lack the courage to engage in this debate." In response, Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar remarked that if the statements made by BRS leaders were accurate, they should be willing to participate in discussions. BRS leaders, including KT Rama Rao, Harish Rao, and Praveen

Harish Rao Targets Govt Over Debt, Tenders

Hyderabad, July 2: Former minister and BRS deputy floor leader T. Harish Rao strongly criticised the Congress government, alleging that it had backed out of the public debate it had itself proposed on the issues of State debt and alleged irregularities in Gurukul tenders.

Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan on Thursday, Harish Rao said the government had issued re-

peated public challenges but failed to appear for the debate. He said BRS leaders, including himself and K.T. Rama Rao, were present at Telangana Bhavan, but Congress leaders failed to honour their own challenge. Harish Rao said Minister Jupally Krishna Rao initially alleged that the previous BRS government had burdened

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

anyone can participate in these tenders? They simply cannot accept the progress and well-being of SC, ST, BC, and minority children," Ponnamp Prabhakar asserted.

Adhuri Laxman, the Minister for SC and ST Welfare, accused BRS leaders of misleading the public with untrue claims regarding irregularities in the welfare department tenders.

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Bandi Challenges Rivals, Backs Double-Engine Rule

HYDERABAD, JULY 2

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Thursday challenged the Congress and BRS to a public debate on Telangana's debt, residential school tenders, corruption and governance.

In a post on X, Bandi Sanjay accused both parties of misleading the public and said the BJP was ready to expose the governance failures of their respective administrations. He said the debate's date, time and venue would be decided under the leadership of Telangana BJP president N Ramchander Rao.

The Union Minister also called for a discussion on the welfare schemes and funds provided by the Modi government to Telangana. Mocking both parties, he said people wanted a "double elimination" in the state's political "Big Boss" show and asserted that Telangana was looking forward to a "double-engine government".

CM, Ministers Backed Out of Debt Debate: KTR

Arrest of BRS Leaders Proves Congress Lacks the Guts to Face Democratic Debate

Congress Peddling Fabricated Debt Figures to Hoodwink Public, Contradicting RBI & CAG Data

HYDERABAD, JULY 2

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) launched a blistering attack on Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and his cabinet ministers on Thursday, accusing them of a cowardly retreat from a debate on state debts. KTR stated that the entire state witnessed the "sheer cowardice" of the ruling dispensation, which backtracked after throwing open challenges.

KTR revealed that the party had specially arranged a chair and a shawl at Telangana Bhavan, waiting for over three hours for Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, who had boastfully claimed he would visit the BRS headquarters. "Instead of turning up, the

minister chose to hide, and the government orchestrated high-drama elsewhere," KTR said.

Unlawful Arrests and State High-Handedness*

Condemning the arrests of senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao and other prominent figures who were heading to Gun Park for the debate, KTR termed the action a "shameful display of cowardice." Highlighting the heavy-handed approach of the state administration. Terming it a blatant assault on democratic rights, KTR vehemently condemned the fact that he himself was unlawfully obstructed by police personnel right at the entrance gate when he attempted to proceed to Gun Park on foot.

"This government lacks the spine to face us in a democratic debate. Sitting in safe havens and hurling challenges while using the police force to suppress the opposition exposes the moral degradation of this regime," KTR slammed.

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KAVITHA ARRESTED DURING TRS LAND PROTEST

TRS alleges police used excessive force during the land rights protest

Party claims thousands of protesters were lathi-charged and injured

Alleges repeated attempts to disrupt the land agitation

TRS says the protest at Boduppal drew thousands despite restrictions

TRS chief installs "Telangana Activists' Protection Colony" board on HMDA land

Kavitha and supporters perform traditional rituals at the protest site

TRS stages protest outside Bollaram Police Station



Hyderabad, July 2: A land rights protest organized by the Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) in Boduppal on Thursday led to heightened tensions. According to the party, TRS chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha was treated in an inhumane manner by the police during her arrest. The party alleged that police used excessive force while taking her into custody, causing her to fall onto large rocks and strike

a vehicle door, resulting in injuries. It further claimed that police conducted a lathi-charge on protesters, party leaders, workers, and journalists, leaving several bleeding. Kavitha was taken into custody and shifted to the Bollaram Police Station.

Following her detention, TRS leaders and supporters gathered outside the

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HC Rules PAN, Voter ID Insufficient for Citizenship

GUWAHATI, JULY 2

In a significant judgment reinforcing the legal burden of proving citizenship, the Gauhati High Court has upheld a Foreigners Tribunal's decision declaring an Assam resident a foreigner, ruling that the 16 documents produced by him failed to establish his claim of Indian citizenship.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Kalyan Rai Surana and Justice Shamima Jahan dismissed the writ petition filed by Aminul Hoque, affirming the February 28, 2019 order of the Foreigners Tribunal, Guwahati. The judgment was delivered on June 30.

The Bench observed that under Section 9 of the Foreigners Act, the burden of proving citizenship rests on the individual whose nationality is questioned. It held that although the petitioner had submitted 16 documentary exhibits, they were insufficient to discharge that legal burden.



"Though the petitioner has exhibited 16 documents as exhibits, the same does not help the petitioner to establish that he has been able to discharge his burden... to prove that he is not a foreigner but an Indian citizen," the court observed.

Hoque had relied on extracts from the 1951 National Register of Citizens (NRC), electoral rolls from 1966 to 2017, a 1973 land sale deed, PAN card, voter identity cards, school certificates and other family records to establish that his family had been residing in Assam for generations.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Telangana DSP Booked in DA Case

ACB Raids 16 Locations, Unearths Crores Worth Assets

Hyderabad, July 2: The Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday registered a disproportionate assets (DA) case against Sankireddy Bheem Reddy, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Police Computer Services (PCS), Hyderabad, and carried out simultaneous searches at 16 locations across the State. The raids were conducted at the officer's residence and 15 other premises linked to his relatives, friends, associates and alleged benami holders as part of an investigation into charges that he amassed assets disproportionate to his known sources of income during his service.

According to the ACB, officials recovered documents relating to several movable and immovable properties spread across Telangana and Karnataka. These include a villa in Vessella Meadows at Ibrahim Bagh, a G+2 residential building with a penthouse and a flat in Telecom Nagar, another flat in Gachibowli, two flats in Tellaipur, commercial properties in Manikonda, open plots in Hyderabad,



Patancheru and Vikarabad, agricultural lands in Sangareddy and Karnataka, besides one acre of land at Devanahalli

near Bengaluru.

Investigators also seized documents relating to an investment of Rs.75 lakh in a rock sand minerals firm.

During the searches, the ACB recovered Rs.43.60 lakh in cash, including Rs.3.60 lakh from the DSP's residence and Rs.40 lakh from the residence of an alleged benami. Officials also seized around two kilograms of gold ornaments, 20 kilograms of silver articles, and identified bank deposits worth approximately Rs.19.91 lakh.

The ACB stated that the actual market value of the immovable properties is likely to be significantly higher than their registered value.

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Breakfast Scheme, Musi Project Get Cabinet Nod

HYDERABAD, JULY 2

The Telangana Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Revanth Anumula, on Thursday approved a series of major policy decisions covering education, health-care, employment and infrastructure during its meeting held at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat.

Addressing the media after the meeting, Ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Seethakka, and Adluri Laxman Kumar outlined the key decisions taken by the Cabinet.

Breakfast, Mid-Day Meals Extended to Teachers

In a significant welfare initiative, the Cabinet approved the extension of the Breakfast and Mid-Day Meal Scheme to all government schools and junior colleges across the State. Apart from students, the scheme will also cover nearly 1.5 lakh teachers, lecturers and staff members working in government schools and junior colleges.

Cabinet to Move Supreme Court on VBG Ramji Scheme

The Cabinet held detailed deliberations on the report submitted by the Cabinet Sub-Committee headed by Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy regarding the VBG Ramji Scheme, which replaced the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

The Ministers said the State Government continues to oppose the scheme, contending that it undermines the rights of rural workers. They noted that although the Telangana Legislative Assembly had unanimously passed a resolution oppos-



ing the scheme, the Centre proceeded with its implementation.

The Cabinet decided to challenge the matter before the Supreme Court. However, to ensure that employment guarantee workers are not deprived of wages or livelihood, the State will implement the scheme until the legal issues are resolved.

6,278 Posts Sanctioned for TIMS

To strengthen public healthcare, the Cabinet sanctioned 6,278 posts for doctors, nurses and other medical person-

nel in the upcoming Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences (TIMS) super-specialty hospitals at Sanathnagar, LB Nagar and Alwal, besides the Warangal Super-Specialty Hospital.

The government also resolved to develop these institutions on the lines of NIMS. Patients receiving treatment at these hospitals will be eligible for Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) assistance through the issuance of Letters of Credit (LOCs).

₹7,345 Crore Approved for Musi Riverfront Phase-I

Giving a major boost to Hyderabad's urban infrastructure, the Cabinet accorded administrative approval for the Phase-I development of the Musi Riverfront Project. The first phase will cover a 21-km stretch up to Gandhi Sarovar, with an estimated project cost of ₹7,345 crore. The government announced that the tendering process for the project will commence shortly.

DGP Reviews Long-Pending Police Station Reorganisation



Hyderabad, July 2: Director General of Police, Telangana, Sri C.V. Anand, IPS, chaired a review meeting on Thursday to discuss and finalise the reorganisation of police stations in the jurisdictions of the Hyderabad, Cyberabad, Malkajigiri and Future City Police Commissionerates.

The GO regarding this was passed in late December last year but the execution of some aspects remains incomplete leading to confusion in the various commissionerates .

During the meeting, the Commissioners presented proposals relating to the reorganisation of police stations, territorial jurisdiction, administrative requirements and other related issues. The DGP directed that the reorganisation of police station limits should be carried out in accordance with the Government Orders (GOs), taking into consideration the jurisdictions of municipal bodies, revenue divisions and courts. Emphasising the need for long-term planning, the DGP stated that future urban expansion, population growth and administrative requirements should be taken into account while restructuring

police station jurisdictions. He also instructed officials to consider the views of all stakeholders during the process.

The DGP issued specific directions regarding the determination of police station limits in certain areas of Hyderabad city. He stressed that the new jurisdictional boundaries should be finalised in a manner that avoids inconvenience to the public, government departments and the judiciary. He finalised the disputes and field issues after discussion and got them incorporated in the proposals . Sri C.V. Anand reiterated that the reorganisation of police stations should strengthen people-centric and efficient policing and improve the delivery of police services to the public.

The meeting was attended by Hyderabad Commissioner of Police Sri V.C. Sajjanar, IPS, Future City Commissioner of Police Sri Tarun Joshi, IPS, Cyberabad Commissioner of Police Sri Ramesh Reddy, IPS, Malkajigiri Commissioner of Police Smt. Sumathi, IPS, along with Joint Commissioners and other senior police officers.

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CM, Ministers Backed Out of Debt Debate: KTR

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He further condemned the police for restricting leaders from even visiting those detained at the Kanchanbagh Police Station.

Demand for Special Assembly Session

KTR challenged the Chief Minister to immediately convene a special session of the Legislative Assembly if the government has the courage to face facts. "Give us the floor without abruptly cutting off our microphones, and we will thoroughly expose the two-and-a-half years of hollow governance and corruption of this Congress regime," he asserted.

The BRS working president accused the government of resorting to 'Shikhandi politics' to divert public attention from its administrative failures and the "420 unfulfilled electoral promises." KTR alleged that under the guise of Praja Palana, a "demonic rule" has been unleashed. He claimed the Anumula Brothers are plundering the state, accumulating wealth that allegedly rivals corporate giants.

Citing the resignation of senior IAS officer Rizvi, KTR alleged it was triggered by an internal dispute between the Minister's office and the CM's son-in-law over excise hologram tenders. He mocked Minister Jupally's complete lack of comprehension regarding the GO issued on beer supplies.

Congress Peddling Fabricated Debt Figures to Hoodwink Public

While official RBI and CAG reports clearly state that the previous BRS government's debt stood at ₹2.80 lakh crore, KTR pointed out that the CM and Deputy CM are misleading citizens with contradictory, fabricated numbers.

Congress-BJP Nexus Exposed

Turning his guns on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), KTR questioned their silence on the alleged 'RR Tax' collection in the state, despite the Prime Minister himself publicizing it. He demanded answers from Union Minister Bandi Sanjay regarding the status of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) probe into Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy.

"Why is there no investigation into the massive corruption in AMRUT tenders? How are BJP MPs securing lucrative contracts under a Congress regime? The secret pact and collusion between the Congress and the BJP are now wide open before the people of Telangana," KTR remarked.

Reiterating his party's commitment to the people, KTR stated that the BRS would not let the government off the hook. The party will challenge the government's decision to place nearly one crore acres of land under the prohibited list, which is causing immense distress to farmers.

Challenging Minister Ponguleti, KTR stated, "We built one lakh double-bedroom houses in Hyderabad. If you have the capability, build at least one lakh and one houses to prove your mettle."

BRS will soon launch massive statewide agitations, including Rythu Sangrama Sadassulu (Farmers' Struggle Conventions) and youth-student conventions, to unmask the Congress government's betrayal.

"Even though the Chief Minister and his ministers chose to run away today, we will chase them down and hold them accountable. We will fight relentlessly on behalf of the four crore people of Telangana, and the BRS will tear away the deceptive mask of this corrupt Congress administration in the court of the public," KTR concluded.

Harish Rao Targets Govt Over Debt, Tenders

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Telangana with ₹8 lakh crore of debt but later reduced the figure to ₹7 lakh crore, questioning the credibility of the government's allegations.

Harish Rao said the Congress government prevented the debate by deploying the police and obstructing BRS leaders from reaching the designated venue. He alleged that the government's actions demonstrated its unwillingness to defend its claims in public.

Referring to the alleged irregularities in Gurukul tenders, Harish Rao said he, along with BRS leaders R.S. Praveen Kumar and Koppula Eshwar, had presented documentary evidence regarding alleged irregularities in the procurement process. He alleged that the government's refusal to participate in the debate had effectively exposed the irregularities.

The BRS leader further alleged that tenders for groceries, uniforms, footwear, notebooks and other supplies meant for Gurukul institutions had been manipulated, resulting in substantial financial loss to the State. He claimed that inflated

procurement costs in items such as edible oils, spices and other essential supplies had caused significant loss to the exchequer.

Harish Rao also alleged that procurement orders meant for LIDCAP, which benefits Dalit entrepreneurs, had been diverted in violation of existing government policy. He questioned how the government could deny irregularities when LIDCAP itself had formally represented that it had received such orders during the previous BRS government.

He further alleged that irregularities in notebook procurement were exposed after BRS questioned the introduction of a watermark condition, following which the tenders were cancelled. Harish Rao claimed that this delay had affected the timely supply of notebooks to school students. The BRS leader criticised the transfer of the wife of BRS leader R.S. Praveen Kumar, alleging that it was a retaliatory action taken because he had questioned the government over the Gurukul tenders. He also alleged that the security provided to R.S. Praveen Kumar had been reduced for political reasons.

WELFARE TENDERS...

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He also called for BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao to join the debate. Laxman pointed out that the total value of the tenders was Rs. 1,143 crore, alleging that BRS was wrongly asserting irregularities amounting to Rs. 2,000 crore.

Later, Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, who had previously invited the BRS to a debate on the state's debt at Telangana Bhavan, also arrived at Gun Park while BRS working president KT Rama Rao was at Telangana Bhavan awaiting his arrival.

Krishna Rao accused the former BRS government of accumulating debts amounting to Rs. 8.21 lakh crore over its decade-long term. He contended that former minister KT Rama Rao was misrepresenting the facts by claiming that the debt stood at only ₹3.5 lakh crore.

The Minister clarified that he was relying on figures provided by Finance department officials, highlighting that ₹1.8 lakh crore is being paid solely in interest on debts incurred under KCR's administration, using funds collected from the public through taxes.

MISSION TELANGANA: BJP KICKS OFF 2028 CAMPAIGN, TARGETS CONG & BRS

HYDERABAD, JULY 2

The BJP has formally launched its political campaign for the 2028 Telangana Assembly elections by declaring the state as its "Mission Telangana", with party leaders asserting that the Congress government and the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) are increasingly vulnerable.

In a statement issued on Thursday, Telangana BJP spokesperson PL Srinivas said BJP national president Nitin Nabin's recent visit to Hyderabad marked the beginning of the party's long-term strategy to emerge as the principal alternative in the state.

According to Srinivas, the BJP plans to strengthen its grassroots network through booth-level expansion, organisational restructuring and sustained public outreach ahead of the local body elections, which the party views as a crucial stepping stone to the 2028 Assembly polls. For the BJP, the coming municipal polls are not merely civic contests but the first major political test ahead of the

2028 Assembly elections.

The BJP also accused the Congress government of failing to fully implement its election promises despite being in office for more than two years, while blaming the previous BRS government for leaving Telangana with a heavy debt burden.

Referring to the BJP's organisational growth in West Bengal, Srinivas said the party believes a similar expansion is possible in Telangana through sustained cadre-building and voter outreach.

The BJP's declaration of "Mission Telangana" signals an early start to the battle for the 2028 Assembly elections, with the party aiming to position itself as the main challenger to both the ruling Congress and the BRS. "BJP national president Nitin Nabin's visit to Hyderabad was far more than a routine organisational exercise. It was a carefully scripted political message - to the party cadre, to the electorate, and more importantly, to the ruling Congress and the opposition Bharat Rashtira Samithi", he noted.

Tribal MLAs Urge Revanth to Allocate More Indiramma Houses

Hyderabad, July 2: Adivasi and Tribal MLAs have requested Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to allocate an additional 2,000 'Indiramma' houses to constituencies within Agency regions. The MLAs, led by Panchayat Raj Minister Seethakka, met Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at the Secretariat on Thursday, where they presented petitions addressing various issues. They also emphasised the need for the government to issue land titles (pattas) for Podu lands and to implement the 'Indira Giri Jala Vikasam' scheme. Additionally,

the MLAs called for the upgrade of Tribal Ashram schools to the Intermediate level and the further strengthening of Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs).

Among those present at the meeting were Ashwaropeta MLA Jare Adinarayana, Pinapaka MLA Payam Venkateswarlu, Illandu MLA Koram Kanakaiah, Bhadrachalam MLA Tellam Venkat Rao, and Khanapur MLA Vedma Bojju, along with Ministers Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Adluri Laxman, and Azharuddin.

HC Rules PAN, Voter ID..

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His counsel argued that discrepancies in the spelling of his father and grandfather's names across official records had led to the tribunal's adverse finding. The petitioner, a migrant worker, contended that the inconsistencies were merely clerical errors.

The High Court, however, held that while minor variations in the spelling of names were not treated as decisive, the petitioner failed to establish a continuous documentary link connecting three generations of his family across electoral records of the villages of Dobakura, Ghugudoba and Hashdoba.

The Bench noted that the petitioner's case was largely built around electoral rolls and claims that the family had shifted from one village to another over the years. However, no documentary evidence was produced to substantiate the alleged migration or explain the inconsistencies in the records.

The court also declined to rely on a school certificate issued in 2017, pointing out that the headmaster who issued the certificate did not appear before the tribunal to authenticate it, thereby diminishing its evidentiary value.

Although Hoque's father appeared before the tribunal and identified him as his son, the High Court held that oral testimony, in the absence of admissible documentary evidence, was insufficient to establish the claimed family relationship.

The judgment assumes significance in the context of Assam's citizenship verification process. While the updated NRC was completed in 2019 following a Supreme Court-monitored exercise, it is yet to be officially notified by the Centre. The exercise was intended to identify genuine Indian citizens and detect illegal immigrants in the state. With the dismissal of the writ petition, the Gauhati High Court has affirmed the Foreigners Tribunal's order declaring Aminul Hoque a foreigner.

Passenger Safety First: TGSRTC Suspends JBM Electric Bus Services Across Telangana

HYDERABAD, JULY 2

Placing passenger safety above all else, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) has temporarily suspended the operation of all JBM electric buses across the State following a series of high-voltage battery-related incidents.

The decision comes in the wake of another technical incident involving a JBM electric bus, even before the final investigation report into the fire accident near Alugunur in Karimnagar district on June 21 was submitted. The Corporation said the suspension has been ordered as a precautionary measure to safeguard passengers, employees and the general public.



Safety Audit Ordered

TGSRTC has directed JBM to submit a comprehensive report covering the causes of the recent incidents, permanent corrective and preventive measures, battery fitness certification, and compliance with all prescribed safety standards.

The Corporation has also instructed the company to establish a Command Control Centre at Hyderabad Bus Bhavan to facilitate continuous monitoring and ensure prompt response to any technical issues.

Services to Resume Only After Safety Clearance

According to TGSRTC, JBM has begun preparing the required reports. The company's technical team, along with battery experts from China, is investigating the

incidents and formulating recommendations to prevent similar occurrences in the future.

The Corporation said the suspended bus services will resume only after senior officials thoroughly examine the technical reports, verify compliance with all safety requirements, and receive 100 per cent safety certification for each vehicle. Only buses declared "Vehicle Fit for Operation" by the company's technical experts will be allowed back into service.

Reiterating its commitment to safe public transport, TGSRTC stated that it would make no compromise on passenger safety and would continue to take every necessary precaution to ensure secure and reliable bus services across Telangana.

Dr. Kandepi Rani Prasad

The creation was created from the five elements of earth, sky, water, air and fire. Human society considered the five elements as deities. Since women are the ones who give birth and the family develops, they established women as deities. These are called Amma deities. More importantly, the people created village deities to protect their villages. Village deities emerged to listen to their sorrows and desires. Each village has a special deity. Nature began to be considered a force to protect them from bad consequences and to overcome fears and face problems courageously. That force was considered to be the form of a woman, and thus Amma herself became a deity.

There are many village deities like Pochamma, Yellamma, Gangamma, Maisamma, Mallamma, Renukamma, Poleramma, etc. The first thing the villagers did was to establish a female power as their mother, wanting to have a special goddess for all of them. The villagers offered offerings of their choice to their mother. The mother who offered appal was called Appamma, and the mother who offered food was called Bonalamma. They created names for the mothers with their offerings. The way in which the village deities were worshipped varies from village to village, and their worship includes the sun, animals, earth, trees, stones, and idols. The deities are worshipped with songs like bhajans, keerthanas, and dances, and with instruments. The word 'bhojanam' is a variation of bonam. They cook food and offer offerings to the mother and perform pujas. Hence, this festival got the name bonala festival. Women put neem leaves, turmeric, vermilion, and a lighted lamp on a pot, put it on their heads, and go to the mother in a procession. In a newly bought earthen pot, they cook rice mixed with milk and jaggery and offer offerings to the deities. Turmeric, vermilion, bangles, and sarees are taken to the temple and offered to the goddess. The deities receive offerings with names like Maisamma, Pochamma, Yellamma, Maredamma, Ankamma, and Nukamma Peddamma.

Bonala festival is a festival dedicated to the deities of Telangana. This is a Telangana state festival. It is a traditional Hindu festival celebrated in honor of the goddess Mahankali. Bonala festival is celebrated in the cities

BONALA FESTIVAL



of Hyderabad and Secunderabad at the Mahankali Temple in Ujjain, the Jagadamba Temple in Golconda, the Madheswari Temple in Lal Darwaza, the Yellamma Temple in Balkampet, the Pochamma Temple in Chilakaluda, the Maisamma Temple in Katta, and the Mutyalamma Temple. On this special occasion, women wear sarees and ornaments, place bonala pots on their heads, and dance in a procession to the beat of drums.

In the year 1813, a plague broke out in our twin cities. This disease claimed thousands of lives. A battalion of soldiers from the Military Cantonment in Hyderabad was transferred to Ujjain. The Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain has a Shiva temple. This military battalion wanted to save the mother of Ujjain from the plague. The temple in HyderabadAs their families were freed from the plague, the soldiers happily brought the Goddess Mahankali from Ujjain and installed it in Secunderabad. The soldiers happily worshipped and prayed to the Goddess Mahankali. Everyone offered bonalu to the Goddess Mahankali from Ujjain together. Since then, it has become a tradition to happily offer bonalu to the Goddess every year. This custom is still celebrated by the people of the twin cities and has been recognized as a state festival.

It is believed that the spirit of the Goddess resides in the women who carry the bonalu. It is believed that this spirit is aggressive. Therefore, water is poured on the feet of the women who carry the bonalu. During the Bonalu festival, people offer a

bowl called 'thottela' to the gods. This 'thottela' is made of bamboo sticks, colorful papers. Drums are played to ward off evil spirits. In ancient times, a male buffalo was sacrificed. Now, chickens and goats are sacrificed. This festival begins on the first Sunday of the month of Ashada. The time of its commencement is called 'Edurukolu'. This is celebrated to mark the return of the goddess in the form of a ghatam. After that, the Bonala festival is celebrated on the third Sunday. The festivities end on the following Monday with the performance of 'Rangam' and 'Ghatam Saga Namputa'.

The role of Pothuraj in this festival is strong. Pothuraj, the brother of the mother goddess, plays a major role in the procession. A strong man is chosen for this. He comes to the festival wearing a red doti, turmeric on his body, vermilion on his forehead, and bells on his feet. Pothuraj dances to the beat of drums. He beats himself with a whip and throws neem leaves in the air, making the dance exciting. Pothuraj dances in front of the fruit cart. He begins the festivities as the protector of the community.

The next day of the festival is the 'Rangam'. 'Rangam' means divine vision. A woman stands on a clay pot and prays to Goddess Mahankali. She tells the devotees about the future in the coming days. This fortune telling ceremony is held before the procession begins. The women who participate in this divine vision ceremony are the ones who have inherited the fortune from their ancestors.

A ghatam is a copper pot. This

ghatam is decorated in the form of the mother goddess. The ghatam is carried by a priest from the first day of the festival until it is immersed in water on the last day. The priest wears a dhoti and applies turmeric on his body. The ghatam leads the procession on an elephant. The procession includes horses depicting the elder and younger sisters. After the procession, the performances and the pomp, the immersion of the ghatams ends at Naya Pool. The ghatam parade from Lal Darwaza to Naya Pool is magnificently organized. The Ghatas are decorated with magnificent decorations and impress the eyes of the onlookers. Bonalu is celebrated in the month of Shravan in places like Gun Foundry and Jalghuda. During the Bonalu festival, after offering offerings to the goddess, family members and relatives share the offerings. This

After the offerings, goat and chicken meat is cooked and meat is eaten. Although animal sacrifice is prohibited, many chickens and goats are beheaded during the festival of these gods. Many diseases are prevalent in this month of Ashada, which marks the beginning of the rainy season. Smallpox is also called smallpox. It is an infectious disease caused by the virus called Veri Yola. Chickenpox is also a viral disease. It is spread by the virus called 'Varicella Zoster'. Bonas are offered to the village deities to protect them from the burden of infectious diseases that spread like this. When diseases like smallpox and smallpox occur, they rub neem leaves all over their bodies to reduce the inflammation. The villagers believe that such deadly diseases occur because the gods are angry. When these viral diseases spread throughout the village at once, some people lost their lives. That is why turmeric is applied and neem paste is applied all over the body to ward off these diseases. The rituals of the villagers are to worship the village deities to give them health. In the era when knowledge was not developed, the villagers worshipped nature and worshipped the gods and celebrated festivals.

We said that bonam means food, right? They buy a new clay pot and cook bonam in it. Some people cook ordinary yellow rice, while some cook jaggery. Whatever they cook is con-

sidered sacred. Putting a lamp on this pot and carrying it without falling is also a form of knowledge. If you wrap a towel around your head and put the pot in the middle of it, the pot will be protected. Lime is added to this clay pot, turmeric and saffron are applied, and neem mandalas are brought and tied around the pot. Normally, we tie mango leaves as arches for any puja. While worshipping the same village deities, neem leaves and neem mandalas play a major role. Unlike goddesses like Lakshmi, Parvati, and Saraswati, village deities do not even have decorations. Bonalu festival is celebrated collectively by caste or village. In some places, we even see the entire village celebrating it at the same time. All the women wear beautiful silk sarees and adorn themselves with jewellery.

It is a sight to behold when they are adorned with flowers and go about their business. Many people wear red silk sarees. When a colony or a caste celebrates a festival, everyone wears the same type of saree. When they walk around the village wearing the same type of saree and carrying the Bonam Kundalini on their heads, it is not enough to see with two eyes. The acrobatics of the Pothu kings add extra charm to the procession. If they wear lemon garlands around their necks and jump in front of the procession, it seems that the festival is full of joy.

When the Bonal festival is celebrated in villages, there is no 'rangam' to tell the future, but I have noticed that many women get punakals amidst the jumps of the Pothu kings and the sounds of drums. The women who get punakals say certain things as if their mother had told them. The villagers believe that the mother herself came to the women and told them what they wanted to say. The goddess comes to the village and follows the instructions given to her without fail.

The temples of the village deities are also small. But the eyes are big. In the Pochamma temple, which does not have much decoration, women act as priests. They do not know anything like hymns. Yellow saffron is given to all those who come. Coconuts are broken and offered as offerings. The fact that women are the priests of the temples of deities like Renuka, Yellamma, Pochamma can be seen as a proof of female power. It is believed that if the goddess gets angry, the villages will be destroyed. That is why the goddess is worshipped by placing a neem mandala that brings cold.

GITAM Encourages Students to Participate in MSME Idea Hackathon 6.0

HYDERABAD

GITAM Deemed to be University has urged its students and faculty members to actively participate in the MSME Idea Hackathon 6.0, a flagship innovation initiative of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India.

Suggesting the faculty, Vikas Kumar Srivastav, Deputy Director, Venture Development Centre, GITAM, and Coordinator of the MSME Incubation Scheme, appealed to them to identify and mentor promising student innovations, research ideas, classroom projects, and laboratory prototypes for submission to the national-level hackathon.

The MSME Idea Hackathon 6.0 offers financial assistance of up to ₹15 lakh for each selected idea to develop it into a functional prototype, proof of concept, or commercially viable product. The initiative aims to promote

practical, scalable, and technology-driven solutions that address challenges faced by MSMEs and society.

Highlighting GITAM's previous success, Srivastav said that two proposals from the University were selected for funding under MSME Idea Hackathon 5.0. Dr. Satyabrata Dash received Government support of ₹10.2 lakh for developing FlexiHeal, a portable dual-mode burn treatment device, while Chandrakanta Mahanty secured ₹11.9 lakh for COAST-SAFE, an AI-powered smart buoy network for coastal disaster monitoring and sustainable fishing.

He expressed confidence that GITAM could achieve even greater success in the current edition and encouraged students with innovative ideas to seize this opportunity to transform their concepts into funded projects with incubation and mentoring support.

“At Lotus Lap Public Schools, Children Are Taught According to Their Learning Level, Not Their Age”

■ **Level-Based Education, Foundation Courses, and Bridge Programmes Are Bringing a Revolutionary Change in Mathematics Learning**

HYDERABAD

Many students in today's education system are promoted to higher grades without acquiring a strong understanding of fundamental concepts. As a result, they develop fear of subjects like Mathematics, lose confidence, and gradually lose interest in learning, said Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy, Eminent Educationist and Environmentalist, National Advisor of TRSMA, and Chairman of Lotus Lap Public Schools.

To address this challenge permanently, Lotus Lap Public Schools, Dilshuknagar Branch, has introduced a Level-Based Education System, where teaching begins from each child's actual learning level rather than their grade level. He stated that the Foundation Courses and Bridge Courses in Mathematics, conducted over the past four days for students across different grades, have already produced remarkable results.

Learning Level Matters More Than Age

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Komatireddy Gopal Reddy said:

“A child studying in Grade 6 does not necessarily possess Grade 6 conceptual understanding. Some students may still have gaps in Grade 2 mathematical concepts, while others may struggle with concepts from Grades 3 or 4. Teaching Grade 6 mathematics directly to such children only creates confusion and frustration. Therefore, we first identify each student's actual learning level and begin instruction from that point. This is true education. This is Level-Based Education.”

Assessment Before Instruction

At Lotus Lap Public Schools, every newly admitted student undergoes a comprehensive Baseline Diagnostic Assessment to identify individual strengths, learning gaps, and current competency levels.

Instead of grouping students solely according to age or grade, they are guided through learning pathways based on their actual academic readiness.

This enables students to begin learning from a level they understand, gradually progressing towards higher levels with confidence. The approach significantly reduces academic stress while improving motivation, self-confidence, and overall learning outcomes.



Individual Learning Plan for Every Child

Every student is provided with an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) designed specifically to meet their learning needs.

Teachers continuously monitor each student's daily progress, identify areas requiring additional support, and provide targeted interventions. Students receive personalized instruction until they master each concept before progressing further.

Making Mathematics Enjoyable

“Mathematics is not about memorizing formulas; it is about understanding concepts. Once concepts become clear, children begin to think independently, solve problems confidently, and enjoy learning mathematics. Mathematics should never be feared—it should become an exciting intellectual adventure,” said Dr. Gopal Reddy.

Innovative Teaching Methodologies

To make Mathematics engaging and conceptually strong, Lotus Lap Public Schools has implemented several modern instructional practices, including:

- * Concept-Based Learning
- * Hands-on Activities
- * Manipulative Learning
- * Visual Learning Techniques
- * Peer Learning
- * Micro Teaching
- * Daily Concept Reinforcement
- * Real-Life Mathematics Applications
- * Activity-Based Learning
- * Gamified Mathematics
- * Individual Doubt Clarification
- * Small Group Teaching

These approaches ensure that every child develops conceptual clarity rather than rote memorization. Grade 8 and Grade 9 Students Become Learning Mentors

The programme is being conducted under the guidance of Mr. Komatireddy Abhishek Reddy, Director of Lotus Lap Public Schools, and Mrs. Madhavi Sanghi, Vice Principal, with the active support of the teaching faculty. An innovative “Students Teaching Students” initiative has also

been introduced, where specially trained Grade 8 and Grade 9 students serve as mentors for younger learners, offering individual academic guidance and peer support.

Remarkable Progress Within Just Four Days

Within only four days of implementing the programme, students who were previously afraid of Mathematics are now confidently solving problems, asking meaningful questions, participating actively in classrooms, and demonstrating noticeable improvement in conceptual understanding.

Teachers and parents alike have expressed delight at the visible transformation in students' confidence and enthusiasm towards learning. “Every Child Can Learn—Provided We Teach the Right Way”

Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy further stated

“Every child possesses immense potential. When the method of teaching changes, learning outcomes change. Every child is capable of learning. What they need is quality instruction that begins at the appropriate learning level. That is the essence of Level-Based Education. At Lotus Lap Public Schools, we do not teach merely for examination scores—we teach for lifelong conceptual understanding. Our mission is not just to produce successful examination results, but to nurture successful individuals who are prepared for life.”

A Vision Beyond Mathematics

Dr. Gopal Reddy further announced that Lotus Lap Public Schools plans to expand the Level-Based Education System, Foundation Learning Programmes, Bridge Courses, and Individual Learning Plans beyond Mathematics into English, Science, Languages, Reading Skills, Communication Skills, Logical Thinking, Critical Thinking, and Problem-Solving Skills. “Our vision is to ensure that every child acquires world-class competencies through personalized learning pathways, enabling them to become confident, competent, and future-ready global citizens,” he concluded.

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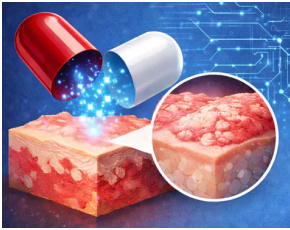


SHORT
TAKES

Tribal MLAs urge Revanth to allocate additional Indiramma houses for agency areas

HYDERABAD: Adivasi and Tribal MLAs have requested Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to allocate an additional 2,000 Indiramma houses to constituencies within Agency regions. The MLAs, led by Panchayat Raj Minister Seethakka, met Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at the Secretariat on Thursday, where they presented petitions addressing various issues. They also emphasised the need for the government to issue land titles (pattas) for Podu lands and to implement the 'Indira Giri Jala Vikasam' scheme. Additionally, the MLAs called for the upgrade of Tribal Ashram schools to the Intermediate level and the further strengthening of Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs). Among those present at the meeting were Ashwaraopeta MLA Jare Adinarayana, Pinapaka MLA Payam Venkateswarlu, Illandu MLA Koram Kanakaih, Bhadrachalam MLA Tellam Venkat Rao, and Khanapur MLA Vedma Bojju, along with Ministers Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Adhuri Laxman, and Azharuddin.

HYD startup develop AI-powered phyto-medicines for psoriasis, diabetic wounds



HYDERABAD: Acubiosys Private Limited, a biotechnology startup incubated at the CDFD Technology Incubator of the BRIC-Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (BRIC-CDFD), has developed AI- and nanotechnology-enabled phyto-medicines for psoriasis and diabetic wound care. The startup has commercialised two patented products - BOCUGL, a topical formulation for psoriasis, atopic dermatitis and melasma, and AZBECO, an advanced wound-care formulation for chronic wounds and diabetic foot ulcers. Both products are manufactured in India under AYUSH and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) standards. The company has filed patent applications in India, China and the United States and is expanding its AI-driven drug discovery platform to develop next-generation phytopharmaceuticals for autoimmune and infectious diseases. Founder and CEO Dr. Srinivas Maddi said the company aims to combine artificial intelligence, nanotechnology and life sciences to develop affordable, evidence-based therapies while strengthening India's biotechnology innovation ecosystem.

Congress Backed Out of Debate Because It Cannot Defend Corruption in Gurukul Tenders: Harish Rao

- The Congress government challenged us to a public debate, but ultimately backed out. They scored an own goal after throwing the challenge."
- The government's refusal to participate in the debate itself proves there were serious irregularities in Gurukul tenders worth nearly Es.2,000 crore."
- Instead of protecting Telangana's handloom workers and Dalit enterprises, the Congress government violated its own policies and favoured private contractors."
- The BRS is fighting for the future of six lakh Gurukul students and the livelihood of SC, ST and handloom communities not for politics."



the previous BRS government had burdened Telangana with ₹8 lakh crore of debt but later reduced the figure to ₹7 lakh crore, questioning the credibility of the government's allegations. Harish Rao said the Congress government prevented the debate by deploying the police and obstructing BRS leaders from reaching the designated venue. He alleged that the government's actions demonstrated its unwillingness to defend its claims in public. Referring to the alleged irregularities in Gurukul tenders, Harish Rao said he, along with BRS leaders R.S. Praveen Kumar and Koppula Eshwar, had presented documentary evidence regarding alleged irregularities in the procurement process. He alleged that the government's refusal to participate in the debate had effectively exposed the irregularities. He further alleged that tenders for groceries, uniforms, footwear, notebooks and other supplies meant for Gurukul institutions had been manipulated, resulting in substantial financial loss to the State. He claimed that inflated procurement costs in items such

as edible oils, spices and other essential supplies had caused significant loss to the exchequer. Harish Rao said the previous BRS government had introduced policies to protect the livelihood of Telangana's handloom workers by ensuring that uniform orders for police, schools and Gurukul institutions were routed through designated State agencies. He alleged that the Congress government ignored these policies and awarded contracts to large private contractors. He stated that the Telangana High Court had repeatedly directed the government to protect the interests of handloom workers and implement the existing government orders. Despite these directions, he alleged, the government failed to comply, forcing handloom societies to approach the High Court once again. Harish Rao also alleged that procurement orders meant for LIDCAP, which benefits Dalit entrepreneurs, had been diverted in violation of existing government policy. He questioned how the government could deny irregularities when LIDCAP itself had formally

represented that it had received such orders during the previous BRS government. He further alleged that irregularities in notebook procurement were exposed after BRS questioned the introduction of a watermark condition, following which the tenders were cancelled. He claimed that this delay had affected the timely supply of notebooks to school students. Harish Rao criticised the transfer of the wife of BRS leader R.S. Praveen Kumar, alleging that it was a retaliatory action taken because he had questioned the government over the Gurukul tenders. He also alleged that the security provided to R.S. Praveen Kumar had been reduced for political reasons. Concluding the press conference, Harish Rao said the BRS would continue its fight to protect the interests of nearly six lakh students studying in Gurukul institutions, as well as the livelihoods of SC, ST and handloom communities, and would continue exposing what it described as corruption and irregularities in government procurement.



The Jagannath Rath Yatra to be held in the streets of Karimnagar City

■ Karimnagar Mayor Kolagani Srinivas
KARIMNAGAR
Mayor Kolagani Srinivas said that huge arrangements are being made for the fifth Jagannath Rath Yatra in the streets of Karimnagar and that people should participate in this Rath Yatra and make their own lives meaningful by pulling the chariot of Jagannath. Speaking today, while releasing Rath Yatra pamphlets along with the Jagannath Rath Yatra organizing committee, he said that it is a good fortune for one crore devotees to pull the chariot of Jagannath in our city on the same day during the auspicious hours of the Jagannath Rath Yatra taking place in the streets of Puri on July 16. He said that the

Rath Yatra will start from Mahashakti Temple at 12:00 noon on July 16 and will continue till St. John's School, Mankamthota Labor Adda, Mankamthota, Telangana Chowk, Bus Stand, Tower Circle, Vaishya Bhavan and will end with the distribution of Prasida after speeches and prayers. He requested the devotees of Karimnagar district to participate in large numbers and make it a success. Committee President Kanna Krishna, Dr. L Rajabhasakar Reddy, Tummala Ramesh Reddy, Captain Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy, Komuravelli Venkatesham and others participated in this meeting. The Mayor assured that the Municipal Commissionerate would make various arrangements for the convenience of the devotees participating in the Rath Yatra.



Kakatiya University initiates MoUs with three German universities

Dr Srinivas Vooradi
WARANGAL
Kakatiya University has initiated the process of signing Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with three universities in Germany to expand academic and research collaborations as part of its internationalisation drive. Vice-Chancellor Prof. K. Pratap Reddy submitted Letters of Intent (LoIs) to the international relations divisions of RWTH Aachen University, Ostfalia University of Applied Sciences and the University of Göttingen during his visit to the institutions on June 1, 2026. The initiative was undertaken in the presence of Higher Education Secretary Dr. Yogita Rana, RUSA 2.0 State Project Officer Dr. Soundarya Joseph, RUSA 2.0 Nodal Officer of Kakatiya University Prof. R. Mallikarjuna

Reddy and Osmania University Vice-Chancellor Prof. M. Kumar, who participated in the discussions. The proposed MoUs are expected to provide Kakatiya University students with opportunities for higher education, joint research, student and faculty exchange programmes, participation in summer and winter schools, and collaborative academic initiatives with the German institutions.

Tenders for Indiramma Houses in the CURE Area to Be Invited Soon

- Land acquisition in the final stage
- Permanent homes for every poor family in a phased manner
- Pilot project to construct 500-1,000 houses each in 19 constituencies
- Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy

HYDERABAD

State Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy announced that the state government will soon invite tenders for the construction of 100,000 Indiramma houses within the Inner Ring Road area under the CURE jurisdiction. He said that, following the directions of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, land acquisition required for the construction of one lakh houses across the three corporations will be completed within the next two to three days. On Thursday, the Minister, along with fellow ministers Ponnam Prabhakar, Mohammed Azharuddin, Adhuri Lax-



man, MP Anil Kumar Yadav, local MLA T. Raja Singh, and others, distributed property title deeds to beneficiaries of the double-bedroom housing project in the Goshamahal constituency. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that, unlike previous governments, the Congress government is committed to achieving the goal of "a house for every poor family." He announced that, under a pilot project, construction of at least 500 to 1,000 houses will begin in each of the 19 constituencies within the CURE area. Additional houses will be sanctioned in the second and third phases. Recalling that 5,500 houses have already been al-

located to each rural constituency, he said that even though urban land is valued between ₹100 crore and ₹200 crore per acre, the government is setting aside commercial considerations to build houses for poor families on the same land and issue ownership titles in their names. The Minister also stated that 125 incomplete houses in the Dhoolpet area, which were left unfinished during the previous government's tenure, are being completed and handed over. He added that the District Collector has been instructed to identify nearby land to provide houses for the remaining eligible poor families, assuring that no one needs to feel disappointed. He

emphasized that the Congress government will not follow a policy of relocating poor families 30 kilometers away from cities to build housing. Instead, the government's commitment is to provide homes close to their livelihoods and within the same constituency. The Minister further claimed that the Congress government would construct more houses in just two-and-a-half years than were built during the 10-year rule of the BRS government. He recalled that he had challenged BRS leaders by stating that if this target was not achieved, he would not contest the next elections, adding that no BRS leader has responded to his challenge so far. Accusing the previous BRS government of prioritizing large infrastructure projects for corrupt gains rather than housing for the poor, he said that the Congress government is instead utilizing those resources to provide homes for underprivileged families. He concluded by stating that the welfare of the people is the government's foremost priority and that the Indiramma Housing Scheme aims to achieve a hut-free Telangana.

Vineet Joshi Committee Recommendations Will Strengthen School Education

- Pave the Way for Viksit Bharat
- Schools Must Become the Primary Centres of Learning Instead of Coaching Culture - Eminent Educationist, Environmentalist and TRSMA National Advisor Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy

HYDERABAD

The recommendations made by the Vineet Joshi Committee, constituted by the Government of India to strengthen school education and reduce students' excessive dependence on coaching centres, are a significant step towards transforming India's education system, said Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy, Eminent Educationist, Environmentalist, nisa life member and National Advisor of the Telangana Recognised School Managements Association (TRSMA).

schools as the primary centres for holistic education deserves appreciation. Over the past several years, the rapid growth of the coaching industry, the emergence of dummy schools, increasing academic pressure on students, and the declining importance of regular school education have become major concerns that require immediate policy intervention. He observed that the Committee's recommendations—including strengthening classroom teaching, aligning entrance examinations with the school curriculum, regulating coaching institutions, curbing misleading advertisements, and prioritising student welfare—would significantly improve the quality and credibility of school education across the country. "Today, many students spend more time in coaching centres than in schools, which adversely affects their physical, mental, emotional, and social development," Dr. Gopal Reddy said. "Schools should not merely func-

tion as examination centres that produce marks. They must become institutions that nurture values, creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, leadership qualities, innovation, and responsible citizenship." He further stated that reducing unnecessary examination stress, restoring confidence in board examinations, and improving the quality of school education would naturally reduce the overdependence on coaching centres. Assessment systems should move beyond marks and focus on competencies, creativity, life skills, and conceptual understanding. Dr. Gopal Reddy emphasised that a strong school education system is the foundation for achieving the national vision of "Viksit Bharat 2047." He said that India can emerge as a global leader in education only by creating an education system that identifies every child's unique potential, promotes research and innovation, and develops socially responsible, future-ready citizens.

He urged the Government of India to implement the Vineet Joshi Committee's recommendations at the earliest and to introduce the necessary policy and regulatory reforms to strengthen school education. He also called upon governments, educators, school managements, parents, and society to work together in creating an education ecosystem where schools regain their rightful place as the primary centres of learning. Concluding his remarks, Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy said that strengthening schools, empowering teachers through continuous professional development, safeguarding students' mental well-being, and ensuring holistic education are essential for building a progressive and knowledge-driven India. He expressed confidence that the implementation of the Vineet Joshi Committee's recommendations would mark the beginning of a new era in Indian school education and significantly contribute to the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Political Power for Bahujans Only Through Unity

- Seats and ministerial posts in the people's government are going only to the Mala community
- There are around 50,000 Madiga voters in every constituency
- Former Minister Motkupalli Narsimhulu
- Madigas can achieve political power with the support of BCs (Backward Classes).
- Call to raise the flag of Madiga Mahashakti.

HYDERABAD

Former Minister Motkupalli Narsimhulu said that only through unity can the Bahujan communities attain political power. He was the chief guest at a media conference organized at the Madiga Mahashakti office under the leadership of Dr. Sagarapu Prasad Rao, with the slogan "Madiga votes for Madigas." Addressing the gathering, he said that even after more than seven decades of India's independence, the lives of Madigas have not changed



significantly. He stated that although there are around 7 million Madigas in the state, upper-caste communities such as Reddys, Kammas, and Velamas continue to dominate political power while treating Madigas and other Bahujan communities merely as pawns and vote banks. He said that if Madigas vote for candidates from their own community, they will realize their collective strength, and the political influence of their votes will make the upper castes take notice. He further claimed that every constituency in the state has more than 50,000 Madiga voters, and if

they vote as a united bloc, Madigas, with the support of Backward Classes (BCs), could establish political power. He called upon people to raise the flag of Madiga Mahashakti and criticized the ruling governments for failing to ensure that the benefits of reservations reach the intended beneficiaries. He also alleged that in the Congress-led people's government, seats and ministerial positions have gone predominantly to members of the Mala community. Leaders including Professor Kanakayya and Munjagalla Vijay Kumar, among others, also participated in the program.

Union Minister, CM and Deputy Chief Minister launch VBG Ram G Mission from Railway Koduru

Tirupati : The Government of India's flagship Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar Ajeevika Mission (VBG Ram G) was formally launched from Andhra Pradesh, marking its nationwide rollout. The historic launch took place at Railway Koduru in Tirupati district in the presence of Union Minister for Rural Development and Agriculture Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan.

Union Ministers Pemasani Chandrasekhar and Kamlesh Paswan released the official promotional song of the mission, while Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan unveiled the mission booklet.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu described the launch of the mission from Railway Koduru as a historic milestone. He recalled that the erstwhile NREGA programme had also originated from the Rayalaseema region and stated that the new mission too began from Rayalaseema region..

The Chief Minister announced that Andhra Pradesh would implement the programme with Rs 7,700 crore from the Centre and an additional Rs 4,000 crore from the State, creating a total outlay of over Rs 11,000 crore. Under the leadership of Deputy Chief

VBG Ram G Mission is a responsibility: Chief Minister
Union Minister assures procurement of Totapuri mangoes under market Intervention scheme
Union Minister hands over sanction letters under PM Awas Yojana and PM Gram Sadak Yojana

Minister Pawan Kalyan, the mission would transform villages across the State, he said.

He explained that the scheme provides 125 days of employment while enabling creation of durable rural assets such as roads, drainage systems, canals and other public infrastructure. The programme will be implemented with complete transparency using technologies such as geo-tagging and biometric authentication.

The Chief Minister also announced that water from the Galeru-Nagari Project would be brought to Koduru and groundwater would be enhanced through the Jaladhara initiative.

Highlighting Andhra Pradesh's achievements under rural employment programmes, he said the State had created a Guinness World Record by conducting Gram Sabhas simultaneously in 13,226 villages. The programme has so far resulted in the construction of 7,000 km of CC roads, 40,000 cattle shelters, 15,500 water troughs, 1.07 lakh farm ponds, 1,373 km of roads in tribal areas and horticulture plantations across 1.66 lakh



acres. A total of 55.44 crore man-days have been generated with an expenditure of Rs 16,695 crore. For the current year, the State has set targets of constructing 10,000 km of gravel roads, 1,500 km of cement and BT roads, 500 km of magic drains and developing horticulture plantations over one lakh acres. The Chief Minister said the present government had restored 93 Centrally Sponsored Schemes, including the Jal Jeevan Mission, which had been weakened by the previous administration. He said projects worth Rs 28,000 crore are currently under implementation and that the government has fulfilled its commitment to revive the State within two years. He thanked the Central Government for its continued support to Andhra Pradesh, particularly for the reconstruction of Amaravati, which is progressing rapidly. The Chief Minister also highlighted major investments and industrial projects coming to the State, including the Google Data Centre, a fighter aircraft manufacturing unit at Puttaparthi, a Hero MotoCorp facility at Satyavedu and a Royal Enfield manufacturing unit in Tirupati. He announced that a Horticulture hub would be established at Madanapalle. Expressing gratitude to Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan for responding promptly to Andhra Pradesh's requests, the Chief Minister thanked the Centre for assistance towards Totapuri mango procurement, rural roads and housing. He said the VBG Ram G Mission would accelerate rural development under the leadership of Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said the Government of India has earmarked Rs 7.5 lakh crore under the VBG Ram G Mis-

sion to accelerate rural development across the country. He announced that Rs 7,700 crore would be released to Andhra Pradesh during the current nine-month period. He said Gram Sabhas themselves would identify and approve development works in every Panchayat. Noting that people in Madhya Pradesh affectionately call him "Mamaji," he remarked that he had now become the "maternal uncle" of Andhra Pradesh as well. He announced 74,212 houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Rs 422 crore for rural road connectivity under PM Gram Sadak Yojana, handing over the sanction letters to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan.

The Union Minister also announced that the Centre would procure 2,16,250 metric tonnes of Totapuri mangoes under the Market Intervention Scheme and presented the approval documents to the Chief Minister.

Union Ministers Pemasani Chandrasekhar and Kamlesh Paswan, Ministers Satyakumar Yadav and Anagani Satya Prasad, MLA Arava Sridhar were present.

Tri-Weekly Special Trains Announced Between Podanur and Chennai Central

CHENNAI, JULY 2:

To clear the extra rush of passengers, Southern Railway has announced the operation of special tri-weekly express trains between Podanur and Dr. MGR Chennai Central from July 3 to August 2, 2026. Train No. 06028 Podanur – Dr. MGR Chennai Central Tri-Weekly Express Special will run on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, departing Podanur at 7.40 a.m. and arriving at Chennai Central at 4.45 p.m. on the same day. The service will operate 15 trips during the period. In the return direction, Train No. 06027 Dr. MGR Chennai Central – Podanur Tri-Weekly Express Special will depart

Chennai Central at 5.45 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and reach Podanur at 3.00 a.m. the following day. A total of 15 return services will be operated. The special trains will consist of one AC Chair Car coach, seven Chair Car coaches, three General Second Class coaches and two Divyangjan-friendly Second Class coaches. En route, the trains will halt at Tiruppur, Erode, Salem, Morappur, Jolarpettai, Katpadi, Arakkonam and Perambur. Railway officials stated that the special services have been introduced to accommodate increased passenger demand and provide additional travel options during the summer season.

2 pregnant women die, Navi Mumbai hospital under fire over negligence claims

Two pregnant women have died and another is battling for life amid allegations of medical negligence at a Navi Mumbai civic hospital. Two pregnant women have died, and a third remains in critical condition after allegedly being administered the wrong injections at a Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) hospital over the past three months, triggering

allegations of medical negligence and demands for accountability. The latest case involves Sonam Dongre, who was eight months pregnant and had been admitted to Rajmata Jijau Municipal Hospital in Airoli. She died during treatment on Wednesday. The deaths have raised concerns over patient safety and treatment protocols at the civic-run facility.

Let Us Restore the Soul of School Education

HYDERABAD:

The Time Has Come to End the Coaching-Dummy School Culture and Re-establish Schools as the True Centres of Learning.. Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy

India's education system is currently passing through one of the most critical phases in its history. At a time when knowledge-based economies are rapidly transforming the world, our education system must evolve to prepare students not merely for examinations but for life itself. Education is not simply about scoring marks; it is about shaping character, nurturing creativity, building responsible citizens, and preparing future leaders who can contribute meaningfully to society and the nation. Unfortunately, over the past two decades, an alarming trend has emerged in Indian education. Coaching centres have gradually overshadowed schools, and institutions that were once vibrant centres of learning are increasingly being reduced to mere attendance and examination centres. For many students, real learning now

takes place in coaching institutes rather than classrooms. This shift has weakened the very purpose and spirit of school education. Today, lakhs of students begin preparing for highly competitive entrance examinations such as JEE, NEET, CUET, and CLAT even before completing their secondary education. As a result, they gradually disengage from meaningful classroom learning. The pressure of coaching often deprives them of childhood experiences, sports, arts, cultural activities, value education, leadership development, environmental awareness, and holistic personality growth. One of the most disturbing consequences of this trend is the rapid expansion of the dummy school system. Many students remain enrolled in schools only to obtain eligibility for board examinations while spending almost the

entire academic year in coaching institutes. This practice is fundamentally against the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which envisages schools as centres of holistic development rather than mere examination venues. A school is not simply a place where students write examinations; it is a sacred institution that builds values, develops character, nurtures curiosity, and lays the foundation for lifelong learning. In this context, the education reform proposals put forward by the National Independent Schools Alliance (NISA) deserve serious attention and appreciation. These reforms are not intended to promote coaching culture but to restore the dignity, relevance, and central role of schools in the education system. Keeping in view the future of millions of students, thousands of schools, and lakhs of teachers



across the country, NISA has presented a comprehensive blueprint that has the potential to redefine Indian school education. At present, admission to higher education institutions depends predominantly on a single entrance examination. Consequently, a student's twelve years of classroom learning, continuous assessment by teachers, project work, laboratory activities, extracurricular participation, and overall academic growth receive inadequate recognition. Allowing a single examination conducted on a single day to determine a student's future places enormous psychological pressure on young learners. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support NISA's proposal to assign at least 50% weightage to Class X and Class XII Board Examination performance in admissions to higher education. Such a reform will encourage students to remain engaged with their schools throughout the academic year, enhance the importance of classroom teaching, strengthen the role of teachers, and restore the significance of school education. Similarly, there should be a minimum six-month gap between the completion of Board examinations and national entrance tests such as JEE, NEET, CUET, and CLAT. This would allow students to com-

plete their school education first and then prepare for competitive examinations without facing the burden of managing both simultaneously. Furthermore, permitting students to apply for entrance examinations only after receiving their official Board mark sheets would significantly reduce the practice of dummy schooling. NISA's recommendations, including mandatory 75% attendance, biometric attendance systems, strict action against dummy schools, a transparent regulatory framework for coaching institutes, protection of students' mental well-being, and greater emphasis on sports, arts, yoga, environmental education, and life skills, will collectively strengthen the quality and credibility of India's education system. Countries such as Finland, Singapore, and Japan have built world-class education systems

not because of coaching centres but because of strong and vibrant schools. If India aspires to become a global knowledge leader, we must invest in strengthening our schools. By integrating Indian values, the Guru-Shishya tradition, modern technology, innovation, research, and experiential learning, we can build an education system capable of realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat-2047. Educational transformation cannot be achieved by governments alone. It requires the collective participation of the Central and State Governments, school managements, teachers, parents, students, educationists, policymakers, and industry leaders. Together, we must create an education ecosystem that is student-centric, value-based, skill-oriented, environmentally responsible, and technologically empowered. As an educationist,

environmentalist, National Executive Member of NISA, and National Advisor to TRSMA, I extend my appreciation to everyone working tirelessly to strengthen school education across the country. Coaching centres can never become a substitute for schools. Schools are the permanent foundation of education, and only strong schools can build a strong India. "It is not a coaching centre that transforms a student's life—it is an excellent school and a dedicated teacher. By strengthening our schools, we can transform India into a global knowledge powerhouse."

— **Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy**
Eminent Educationist and Environmentalist | National Executive Member, NISA | National Advisor, TRSMA | Global Green Mentor Award – 2025 (New York, USA) | Chairman, Lotus Lap Public Schools, Hyderabad

Data-driven decision-making will define governance in the future:CM

Tirupati : Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday said that though he studied economics, he learnt more from society and the people than textbooks. He stressed that the true measure of development is not merely higher economic growth figures, but the extent to which that growth improves the lives of the poor. The Chief Minister said the government analyses key economic indicators such as Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) and Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) while ensuring that economic progress translates into improved living standards for people. Addressing the two-day State-level workshop on "Economic Intelligence for Governance," organised by the Planning department here today as part of the Swarna Andhra-2047 Vision initiative, he said data-driven governance, technology and efficient administration are essential to transform Andhra Pradesh into a strong and resilient economy. Recalling the launch of Vision-2020, Chandrababu Naidu said the initiative had initially faced criticism, but it was designed by anticipating future challenges and opportunities. He

Experts praise several innovative governance initiatives being implemented in Andhra Pradesh
Learnt more from Society than economics textbooks:CM



noted that former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam had also emphasised the need for a national vision document. The Chief Minister said the IT revolution had transformed the world into a global village and that Andhra Pradesh had recognised early on the importance of leveraging the services sector for economic growth. Today, he said, data itself has become wealth and data-driven decision-making will define governance in the future. He said attracting private investment is as important as delivering efficient public services and therefore private investment has been made a key pillar of the Swarna Andhra-2047 Vision. He

also announced that the government is creating a State data lake to integrate information from all government departments onto a single platform. The Chief Minister said health records are being fully digitised under the Sanjeevani Project to improve healthcare delivery across the State. The Chief Minister said the P4 initiative was launched to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor. The programme encourages those who have prospered through society's support to contribute back to society. He reiterated that improving the quality of life of every family remains the government's primary objective. Speaking about in-

clusive development, Chandrababu Naidu referred to the lives of Tulasamma and Padamma, whose pensions he had personally distributed in Gudur. He explained how government welfare programmes and DWCR assistance had transformed their families. "The purpose of analysing GSDP and CAGR is not just to monitor statistics but to understand how these numbers are reflected in people's lives," he said. During an interactive session with participants, Chandrababu Naidu said he is never easily satisfied, as complacency leads to stagnation. He encouraged officials to continuously explore new ideas, make effective use of technology and develop indigenous technological capabilities. The Chief Minister said meaningful development can only be achieved when everyone works towards a common goal. He urged participants to adopt the mindset of asking not what the country has done for them, but what they can do for the country. He also announced that Amaravati will soon host a Quantum Com-

puter, adding that the State is taking steps to develop indigenous capabilities to manufacture quantum computing systems in the future. Describing himself as a lifelong student, Chandrababu Naidu urged economists, experts and professionals attending the workshop to offer innovative ideas for improving people's lives.

The two-day workshop featured panel discussions involving Dr. Saurabh Garg, Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India; Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India; Dr. R. Balasubramaniam and Prof. K.V. Raju; Members NITI Aayog and Prof. S. Mahendra Dev, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister.

The experts praised several innovative governance initiatives being implemented in Andhra Pradesh, including the constituency-wise Vision Plans, the P4 programme, village-level data collection and the use of Artificial Intelligence in governance.

Pawan Kalyan Condemns Abuse Targeting Daughters

Pawan Kalyan condemned abusive social media posts targeting his minor daughters as police registered multiple cases. The row has sharpened the debate over free speech, anonymous accounts and criminal online harassment.



A controversy has erupted in Andhra Pradesh after a series of abusive and derogatory social media posts targeting the minor daughters of Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan triggered widespread outrage and police action. The Jana Sena Party chief condemned the attacks, asserting that while criticism of governments is protected under the Constitution, abuse, threats and harassment are criminal offences. The controversy comes in the wake of a recent custodial death, following which several social media accounts allegedly began circulating hateful and defamatory posts directed not only at Pawan Kalyan but also at his minor daughters.

Addressing the issue in a video message shared by the Jana Sena Party on X, Pawan Kalyan drew a clear distinction between the constitutional right to free speech

and online abuse. "Social media has become a powerful platform to express our views, raise public issues and hold governments accountable. Freedom of speech and expression is a fundamental right guaranteed by our Constitution, and our government fully respects that right," he said. "Freedom of speech does not mean the freedom to abuse. You have the right to criticise the government. You have the right to question us. You have the right to disagree with our decisions. This is democracy, and we welcome it. But abusing someone, issuing death threats, spreading false allegations, targeting women, insulting religious beliefs, attacking someone's dignity or provoking violence are not protected under the Constitution. They are criminal offences," he said. The Deputy Chief Minister expressed concern over what he described as the

increasing misuse of anonymous social media accounts to spread abusive content. "People are hiding behind fake accounts to spread filthy language, personal abuse, character assassination, false propaganda, fake allegations without evidence, morphed content, death threats and organised harassment. Women are being targeted with unacceptable abuse. Even our gods and goddesses are being insulted with malicious intent," he said.

POLICE TAKES ACTION

Police have registered multiple cases against individuals from Pithapuram and Eluru over abusive content. Authorities said investigations are underway to identify those operating the social media accounts involved, with further legal action expected based on the findings. In one of the cases, social media activist Prashna Ravani was arrested in connection with alleged derogatory remarks against Pawan Kalyan. Although a local court in Pithapuram granted him bail, he was immediately taken back into police custody in connection with another case registered earlier at the Sarpavaram police station in Kakinada district, police officials said.



EDITORIAL.

Fighting the Fix:
India’s Modern
Drug Battle

India is located between two major drug-producing regions: Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran to the west and Myanmar, Thailand, and Laos to the east. While the West has historically dominated heroin production, the International Narcotics Control Board has said Myanmar has become the world’s leading source of illicit opium while East and Southeast Asia remain major sources of methamphetamine. Officials have said drugs are being received at Gujarat, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu via maritime routes. Similarly, some drugs are produced domestically using illegally diverted pharmaceutical ingredients, aided by the fact that individuals possessing small quantities of heroin can attract up to six months’ imprisonment, whereas drugmakers that cannot account for lakhs of doses often face only slaps on the wrist. The rise of Myanmar, where the territory under ethnic armed organisations is expanding, as a key source is also troubling since it shares a border with India. The Narcotics Control Bureau has noted a dramatic surge in the use of drones to smuggle drugs across borders, especially over Punjab. Traffickers are organising over the darknet and using cryptocurrencies. The pillars of India’s response thus aim to keep the enforcement regime from being out-innovated and improve regulatory certainty.

States are trying to adopt a ‘whole of society’ approach recognising the public health and social dimensions. However, India needs to do more. Physical abuse and forced detoxification are frequently reported from many private centres. Punjab has an extensive network of de addiction centres providing opioid substitution therapy, and some northeastern States to a secondary extent, but most large States have much less access relative to need. Most Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts are located in urban areas whereas the highest density of addicts in Punjab are in border villages and rural pockets. Likewise, relapse is often treated as a moral failure and many addicts avoid government centres fearing social ostracisation, particularly in rural North India. The persistence of criminal records for small-scale possession prevents youth from getting jobs, reducing their odds of escaping the drug-crime cycle. Although the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan has said it has sensitised over six crore women, facilities dedicated to women are scarce and concentrated in urban areas; stigma, caregiving responsibilities, and lack of gender-responsive treatment keep many women from seeking or completing care. Finally, as evidence shows, disrupted supply can drive many users to cheaper alternatives unless accompanied by effective treatment. India must therefore shift public focus from seizures and arrests to the number of lives restored.

THE FIRST GLANCE



Before I knew her face,
I loved the echo of her soul.
A little screen,
no larger than my hand,
became a universe
where two unseen hearts
learned to breathe
through words alone.
Love,
the oldest wanderer,
drew a road
no map had ever found.
So I left
not to measure miles,
but to answer a calling
my heart had heard
long before
my feet began to move.
The road surrendered
to the rails.
My first train.
For years,
its distant whistle
had wandered through my dreams.
Now the rails sang beneath me,
each rhythm carrying
not merely a traveler,
but a hope
too fragile for language,
too fierce for fear.
Outside,
fields hurried past.
Inside,
every horizon
wore only her name.
She, too,
stepped away from home,
guarding truth
behind an innocent excuse.
Two voices,
separated by distance,
refused to be separated
by silence.
Then
the bus arrived.
No music.

No omen.
No applause.
Only an ordinary afternoon
holding
an extraordinary secret.
She stepped aboard.
Without knowing,
she came
to where I waited.
I remained still.
She chose the seat
just before mine.
Two strangers.
One destiny.
Then
she turned.
One glance.
A moment
too small for time,
too vast for eternity.
Her eyes
did not meet mine
they discovered them.
The world fell silent.
Distance
forgot its own name.
Time
loosened its grip.
In that single gaze,
every conversation,
every longing,
every sleepless night
found its meaning.
Her eyes entered my heart
like dawn enters a valley
without sound,
without permission,
never to leave.
Somewhere beyond words,
where distance surrendered
and destiny fell silent,
I felt my soul
quietly
walking
into hers.

... Dr. Peruka Raju ...
National Poet
7810032847



OPINION

One Step That Rewrote
Telangana’s Political History

“History is not rewritten by
giant leaps. It is rewritten by
one courageous step taken
with conviction.”

Every remarkable journey begins with a single step. Every mountain conquered, every dream realised and every chapter of history rewritten starts with that first decisive move. It carries purpose, determination, resilience and an unwavering belief that success is possible despite overwhelming odds. The political journey of A. Revanth Reddy is a compelling testimony to this timeless truth.

From student activism to grassroots politics, from a Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC) member to the Chief Minister of Telangana, Revanth Reddy has scripted one of the fastest political ascents in contemporary Indian politics. As he completes 20 years as an elected public representative on July 4, 2026, his journey stands as an inspiring story of perseverance, political resilience and unwavering public connect.

What makes the story extraordinary is not merely the destination—it is the speed of the journey. From his first electoral victory as a ZPTC Member in 2006 to taking oath as the Chief Minister of Telangana in December 2023, Revanth Reddy climbed every rung of the political ladder in just 17 years.

The Making of a Leader

Born on November 8, 1969, in Kondareddypally village of present-day Nagarkurnool district, Revanth Reddy displayed leadership qualities from an early age. His political consciousness took shape during his student years through the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), where he actively participated in student movements and public causes. Those formative years laid the foundation for a career built on mass politics and grassroots engagement.

Every Challenge Became an Opportunity

Political life rarely follows a straight path. Revanth Reddy encountered electoral setbacks, legal battles, intense criticism and sustained political opposition. Yet every obstacle became another chapter in his evolution. Rather than allowing defeat to define him, he converted setbacks into stepping stones. His 2018 Assembly defeat was followed by a decisive Lok Sabha victory in 2019, proving that resilience often shapes stronger leaders than uninterrupted success.

“It’s a Span of Seventeen Years”

During an interaction with newly recruited government employees, the Chief Minister reflected on his own journey. He recalled approaching senior officials as a ZPTC member seeking development for his constituency and remarked that few could have imagined then that he would one day

Revanth Reddy’s
Extraordinary
Rise from a
Grassroots
Representative to
Chief Minister in
Just 17 Years

THE POLITICAL TIMELINE



occupy the state’s highest office. His words—“It’s a span of seventeen years”—captured the essence of his remarkable rise and have since become symbolic of what perseverance can achieve.

Governance and Development

Since assuming office, Revanth Reddy has pursued an agenda focused on welfare alongside economic growth. His administration has prioritised farm loan waivers, Rythu Bharosa, women’s welfare initiatives, government recruitment, industrial investments, education reforms, healthcare expansion and major infrastructure projects. The government has also accelerated initiatives such as Metro Rail expansion, Future City, the Musi River rejuvenation programme, Warangal Airport and public school reforms aimed at strengthening Telangana’s long-term growth.

Remembering the Beginning

Despite occupying the state’s highest office, Revanth Reddy continues to acknowledge Midjil—the constituency where his political journey began. Choosing Midjil to mark two decades of

public life reflects an emotional connection with the people who first entrusted him with public responsibility.

A Story Beyond Politics

Revanth Reddy’s journey is not simply a political biography. It is a story about persistence over privilege, determination over adversity and belief over uncertainty. For young Indians aspiring to enter public life, his career illustrates that leadership is earned through years of public engagement, resilience and relentless effort. The journey that began with one small electoral victory in Midjil has today become an important chapter in Telangana’s political history.

History is seldom rewritten overnight. Sometimes, it takes just one determined step. And that step changed the course of Telangana politics.

VELICHALA RAJENDER RAO

Congress Party, Karimnagar Assembly
Constituency In-charge.

PLASTIC BAG-ENTRAPPED
LIFESTYLES ARE DEVASTATING THE ENVIRONMENT

The Earth is currently grappling with one of the gravest environmental crises in human history. Alongside climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, plastic pollution has emerged as a formidable global challenge. Once celebrated as a symbol of modern convenience and progress, plastic has now become a curse for human civilization. Single-use plastic bags, in particular, have become so deeply embedded in our daily lives that achieving a clean environment and a healthy future is impossible without freeing ourselves from their dependence. It is with this concern that International Plastic Bag Free Day is observed every year on 3 July. This is not merely a symbolic observance; it is a global wake-up call reminding humanity that if we fail to change our habits today, future generations may never forgive us.

Today, the world produces nearly 400 million tonnes of plastic every year. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), a significant portion of this plastic is discarded after a single use. It is estimated that 11–14 million tonnes of plastic enter the oceans annually. If this trend continues, experts warn that by 2050 there could be more plastic than fish in the oceans by weight. This is not merely a disturbing statistic—it is a stark warning about the future of human civilization. Even more alarming is the fact that plastic is no longer confined to landfills and oceans; it has entered the human body itself. Scientific studies have detected microplastics in the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, salt, milk, honey, human blood, lungs, and even the placenta. Every year, an average person unknowingly consumes thousands of microscopic plastic particles through food, drinking water, and inhalation. These particles are increasingly linked to cancer, hormonal disorders, cardiovascular diseases, reproductive complications, and weakened immune systems.

In today’s lifestyle, plastic bags have become an inseparable part of our daily routine. From buying vegetables and groceries to purchasing clothes, medicines, food, online deliveries, gift packaging, and

household items, plastic bags are used almost everywhere. Their convenience and low cost have encouraged excessive dependence, making our lives virtually captive to plastic. After serving their purpose for just a few minutes, these bags are discarded, posing a serious threat

to the environment, water resources, wildlife, and human health. The need of the hour is to replace them with cloth, jute, or paper bags and commit ourselves to a plastic bag-free future. Plastic is not merely harmful to human health; it is an enemy of the entire ecosystem. It reduces soil fertility, contaminates water bodies, clogs drainage systems causing urban flooding, and leads to the untimely death of countless animals, birds, and marine creatures. Incidents of cows found with several kilograms of plastic in their stomachs have become tragically common. Sea turtles, dolphins, whales, and seabirds often mistake plastic for food, ingest it, and eventually die painful deaths. In this way, plastic is destroying not only the environment but the entire web of life. Ironically, plastic’s greatest attraction is its convenience, and that very convenience has become its greatest danger. A plastic bag designed for only a few minutes of use remains in the environment for hundreds of years. What we use briefly leaves consequences that burden generations. This culture of convenience is rapidly turning into a culture of destruction.

India, too, faces a serious plastic pollution crisis. Every day, thousands of tonnes of plastic waste are generated across the country, much of which is dumped in open spaces or finds its way into rivers and seas. Several states have imposed bans on single-use plastics, but legislation alone cannot change behaviour. Laws become effective only when supported by public awareness and responsible civic action. In recent years, India has launched several significant initiatives, including the Swachh Bharat Mission, the ban on single-use plastics, and the implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)



policies. These are commendable steps, but their success depends upon the collective participation of industries, businesses, local authorities, and citizens alike.

The need today is not merely to ban plastic but to transform our lifestyle. Unless our consumption habits change, plastic usage will continue unabated. Carrying reusable cloth or jute bags, using refillable bottles and containers, avoiding unnecessary packaging, and supporting eco-friendly local products are simple yet powerful actions that can bring about meaningful change. Industry, too, bears a significant responsibility. Businesses must adopt environmentally sustainable packaging, use recyclable materials, and establish efficient systems for collecting and recycling plastic waste. Environmental protection cannot be achieved through profit-driven thinking alone. Industries must embrace the principles of a green economy and sustainable business practices.

Educational institutions also have a crucial role to play. If schools and colleges integrate environmentally responsible living into everyday practice—encouraging students to use cloth bags, maintain plastic-free campuses, and actively participate in environmental conservation—future generations will become more environmentally conscious. Environmental education should not remain confined to textbooks; it must become a way of life. Today, the world is steadily moving towards a circular economy, where reuse, recycling, and responsible resource management are central objectives. This is also the path India must follow. Traditional Indian lifestyles naturally embraced sustainability through the use of cloth bags, earthenware, metal utensils, and the repeated use of natural resources. In the name of modernity, we abandoned these sustainable practices and embraced plastic. The time has come to combine modern scientific innovation with India’s rich ecological traditions to build a more sustainable future. It is equally important to recognise that

plastic pollution is not solely the government’s responsibility; it is the responsibility of every citizen. The day each individual decides not to accept a plastic bag will mark the beginning of a profound transformation. Markets ultimately respond to consumer demand. When the demand for plastic bags disappears, their supply will naturally decline. International Plastic Bag Free Day is not merely a campaign against plastic; it is an opportunity to restore our relationship with nature. It reminds us that the Earth is not an inheritance from our ancestors but a trust we hold for future generations. If we fail to protect it, all our claims of development will lose their meaning. As Mahatma Gandhi wisely observed: “The Earth provides enough to satisfy every person’s needs, but not every person’s greed.” These words are more relevant today than ever before. The uncontrolled use of plastic is not the result of necessity but of an increasingly consumerist culture driven by convenience and excess.

Let us make 3 July more than just another commemorative day. Let it become the beginning of a people’s movement. Let us pledge to eliminate plastic bags from our homes, schools, workplaces, markets, and communities. Let cloth bags become our identity, environmental responsibility our priority, and a clean, healthy planet our legacy. Only when our dependence on plastic declines will nature begin to heal. And only when nature heals can humanity’s future remain secure. This is the true message of International Plastic Bag Free Day, and perhaps the greatest environmental responsibility of our times.



LALIT GARGG
Writer, Journalist,
Columnist





Massive Boulder Damages Gangnani Ganga Temple After Overnight Rain

Priest Seeks Immediate Protective Measures
Heavy rainfall triggers rockfall at Triveni Ghat, raising safety concerns; demand for retaining wall behind the temple

BY SUNIL THAPLIYAL

Barkot, Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand: A massive boulder triggered by overnight heavy rainfall damaged the historic Ganga Temple at Triveni Ghat in Gangnani, Uttarkashi, raising fresh concerns over the safety of the revered pilgrimage site. The incident occurred on Wednesday night when continuous rain loosened the hillside above the temple, sending a large boulder and several smaller rocks crashing into the rear portion of the shrine. The impact damaged the temple's back wall and flooring. Fortunately, no casualties were reported as the incident took place late at night. Residents said the ongoing monsoon has weakened the surrounding slopes, increasing the risk of rockfalls. Small and large boulders continue to descend from the hillside

behind the temple, posing a serious threat to the structure and visiting devotees. Temple priest Harish Dimri said the overnight rain caused the massive boulder to strike the rear side of the temple, resulting in structural damage. He warned that without immediate protective measures, including the construction of a retaining wall and slope stabilization works, the temple could face a much greater risk during the monsoon season. The priest has appealed to the Chief Minister, the local MLA, and other public representatives to sanction urgent protection works to safeguard the temple. Local devotees have also urged the district administration to conduct an immediate inspection and implement long-term mitigation measures to preserve the historic shrine from future rockfall and landslide hazards.

Railways Freight Up 4%, Passenger Traffic Rises Steadily in June

Reinforcing Its Role as the Nation's Growth Engine, Indian Railways carries 142 Million Tonnes in June 2026
Fertilizers Loading Grow by 19.1%, Balance Other Goods by 17.3%, Iron Ore by 9.4% and Coal Supply to Power Plants Rises by 7% in the Last Month
Freight Loading Crosses 419 Million Tonnes in the First Quarter of FY 2026-27, Surpassing the First Quarter Performance of FY 2025-26
Passenger Traffic Reaches Nearly 64 Crore as 164 Vande Bharat and 72 Amrit Bharat Services Serve the Nation During the Summers Delivering Safe, Reliable & Affordable Travel to the Masses

Indian Railways continued its strong operational performance during June 2026, registering steady growth in both freight transportation and passenger services. Higher freight loading, increased passenger traffic and continued augmentation of passenger services reflect Indian Railways' sustained efforts towards supporting economic growth, strengthening logistics and providing convenient travel options across the country.

Freight Loading Registers Robust Growth

Indian Railways loaded 142.21 million tonnes of freight during June 2026, compared to 136.71 million tonnes in the corresponding month last year, registering a growth of 4 per cent. Freight earnings also recorded healthy growth, generating an additional revenue of about ₹430 crore, an increase of 3 per cent over June 2025. Several major commodities registered encouraging growth during

the month. Fertilizer loading increased by 19.1 per cent, Balance Other Goods by 17.3 per cent, Iron Ore by 9.4 per cent, Domestic Coal by 4.9 per cent, Total Coal by 3.6 per cent, and Clinker by 7.2 per cent, reflecting sustained demand from core sectors of the economy.

The strong performance in June 2026 builds upon the sustained growth recorded during the first quarter of FY 2026-27 (April-June). During the quarter, Indian Railways loaded 419.08 million tonnes of freight, compared to 413.05 million tonnes during the corresponding period of FY 2025-26. The quarter also witnessed encouraging growth across several key commodity segments, with Iron Ore loading increasing by 7.44 per cent, Clinker by 6.54 per cent and Balance & Other Goods by 12.16 per cent over the corresponding period of the previous year.

To meet the increased requirement of thermal power stations during the extended summer season, Indian Rail-

ways stepped up domestic coal transportation, supplying 7 per cent more coal to power plants during June 2026 compared with the corresponding month last year, thereby supporting uninterrupted power generation across the country.

Passenger Traffic Continues to Grow

Passenger mobility also witnessed steady growth during June 2026. Indian Railways carried 63.81 crore passengers, compared to 62.37 crore passengers during the corresponding month last year.

The Non-Suburban segment, covering short and long-distance travel, recorded a growth of 3.9 per cent, with passenger numbers increasing from 28.90 crore to 30.04 crore. The Suburban segment also registered positive growth of 0.9 per cent, increasing from 33.46 crore to 33.77 crore passengers.

Expansion of Modern Passenger Services

Indian Railways continues to modernise passenger ser-

vices with the expansion of premium train operations. The number of Vande Bharat services has increased to 164, including the recently introduced Vande Bharat Sleeper service between Howrah and Kamakhya. The number of Amrit Bharat train services has reached 72, with four new services inaugurated during June 2026, further strengthening affordable and modern long-distance connectivity across the country.

The continued growth in freight loading and passenger traffic reflects Indian Railways' commitment to providing efficient logistics, reliable passenger services and modern railway infrastructure. Through sustained capacity augmentation, improved operational efficiency and customer-centric initiatives, Indian Railways remains committed to supporting India's economic growth while delivering safe, reliable and passenger-friendly transportation services across the nation.

Say No to Plastic Bags for Environmental Health

(On the occasion of "International Plastic Bag Free Day" on 03 July)

Plastic is an organic polymer macro molecule having wide range of applications in all walks of life from small bags to pvc pipes. Though plastic bags are very convenient, they pose life threatening risks for mankind, animals and plant life, both land and marine life. Single use plastic bags are very dangerous to environment and hence discouraging their use can restore the damage already done to land, water, and air. Plastic is significantly used in the form of carry bags which require at least 100 to 500 years to degrade biologically. Plastic bags are harmful to wildlife and marine animals, clog drainage systems, pollute our oceans/rivers/soil, and they disrupt recycling processes. We are making 5 trillion plastic bags annually around the globe, one million bags per minute, average person uses a plastic bag per 25 minutes, and unfortunately plastic bags kill around 1 lakh marine animals per year.

International Plastic Bag Free Day:

International Plastic Bag Free Day is celebrated on July 03 annually with the aim of raising awareness about the harmful effects of plastic bags on our environment and also to encourage people to stop using plastic bags and find Eco-friendly alternatives. The theme of International Plastic Bag Free Day-2026 is "Breaking

Free from Single-Use Plastics : Toward a Sustainable Future" to demand global initiatives to check the dangerous plastic menace for restoring health of environment thereby mankind. This day will also promote zero-tolerance to plastic waste, and plastic-free movement. On this day let's say no to plastic bags, propagate the harmful effects of plastic bag waste, organise clean-up program in your area, and choose eco-friendly alternatives to plastic bags like cotton/jute/hemp/recycled materials. The most common plastic polyethylene was accidentally created in England in 1930s. Plastic bag for shopping was invented in 1960s, they became popular worldwide during 1970s - 1980s. There are some easy ways to use less plastic in your daily life like carrying a reusable water bottle, using cloth bags for shopping, say no to plastic straws, reuse the available plastic bags, buying items with less packaging, reusing containers for food storage, and choose natural materials over plastic as frequently as possible. By using fewer bags, we can successfully protect wildlife and marine life, enable clean oceans and rivers, reduce pollution in our communities, save energy used to produce plastic bags, and decrease the amount of waste in landfills.

Haryana to Play a Leading Role in Realising the Vision of Viksit Bharat- Chief Minister

CHANDIGARH, JULY 2-

Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini on Thursday said Haryana will play a leading role in realising Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat-2047. Addressing a programme in Gurugram, he said that since the formation of Haryana in 1966, every government has contributed to the state's development in its own way. However, the pace of development and work culture have undergone a remarkable transformation over the past nearly 11 years. He said Haryana has today established itself as one of the country's leading states, and

the government's objective is to further accelerate this momentum of development. Industries Minister Rao Narbir Singh and Co-operation Minister Dr. Arvind Sharma was also present.

The Chief Minister said the Haryana Government is taking every section of society including youth, farmers, women and the poor along the path of development. He said the double-engine government has, over the past several years, established a transparent and people-centric governance system that has strengthened public confidence. This trust, he said, will serve as the foundation for taking Haryana to new



Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini addressing the gathering during a programme organised at Gurugram on July 2, 2026.

heights of economic, social and industrial development. **Transparent policies and improved infrastructure strengthening investors' confidence**

The Chief Minister said the present State Government is promoting industrial growth through a participatory policy framework. He said that, for the first time, the State has in-

troduced the practice of holding extensive consultations with industry representatives and stakeholders from various sectors before preparing the Budget, so that their needs and suggestions can be incorporated into policymaking.

Following the same approach, the government studied best practices from different Indian states and

abroad before drafting the new Industrial Policy. Several rounds of consultations were then held with industry associations, and their recommendations were incorporated into the policy, making Haryana's Industrial Policy more effective and aligned with investors' expectations. The Chief Minister said the government has set a target of attracting Rs 5 lakh crore in investment through the new Industrial Policy. Receiving investment proposals worth Rs 1.10 lakh crore on the very day the policy was launched, he said, reflects the growing confidence of the industrial sector in Haryana. To facilitate investors, he said that

the government has further simplified and strengthened the single-window clearance system so that all required approvals can be granted within 14 to 15 days. He added that work has begun on developing 10 new Industrial Model Townships (IMTs) across the state, with several projects already progressing rapidly. Referring to his recent visit to Japan, the Chief Minister said Haryana also received investment proposals worth thousands of crores during the tour. The government's objective, he said, is to provide world-class infrastructure and make Haryana the country's most preferred destination for industrial investment.

NFR Extends Santragachi-Naharlagun Special To Clear Extra Passenger Rush

MALIGAON, 2 JULY, 2026



To clear the extra rush of passengers, Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has decided to extend the services of one special train with the existing days of run, timings, stoppages and coach composition. Train No. 08047/08048 (Santragachi-Naharlagun-Santragachi) Special has been extended for another 05 trips in each direction from 03rd July to 01st August, 2026. The extension of this special train will provide enhanced connectivity and additional travel convenience for passengers travelling between West Bengal, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh during the peak travel period.

Accordingly, Special Train No. 08047 (Santragachi - Naharlagun) will depart from Santragachi every Friday at 18:00 hours from 03rd July to 31st July, 2026 and will reach Naharlagun at 20:50 hours on the

following day. In the return direction, Special Train No. 08048 (Naharlagun - Santragachi) will depart from Naharlagun every Saturday at 23:55 hours from 04th July to 01st August, 2026 and will arrive at Santragachi at 04:15 hours on Monday. The extension of these train services will benefit wait listed passengers of other trains running in these directions. The details of stoppages and timings of these trains are available at IRCTC website and are also being notified in various newspapers and social media platforms of N. F. Railway. Passengers are requested to verify the details before undertaking their journey.

Madrasa Teacher Convicted to 20 Years Rigorous Imprisonment in POCSO Case

by Hon'ble XII ASJ Court, Nampally

HYDERABAD: In a significant judgment towards ensuring child safety, the Hon'ble XII Additional Sessions Judge (POCSO Court) at Nampally, Hyderabad, has convicted a Madrasa teacher to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for sexually assaulting an 11-year-old minor boy. The judgment was pronounced today on 02-07-2026 by the Hon'ble Judge Ms. Archana Kumari M.

Brief Facts of the Case:

On 23-03-2022, the complainant (father of the victim) lodged a complaint at PS Balapur stating that his 11-year-old son was regularly attending Madrasa Jamia Noorul Anwar in Shaheen Nagar. Observing that his son had stopped going to the Madrasa for a week and looked highly disturbed, the father questioned him. The child revealed that about a month prior, his Madrasa teacher, Syed Nadeem, forcibly took him to his house, stripped him, and committed unnatural sex. The accused also threatened to kill

the boy if he disclosed the matter to anyone.

Investigation and Trial:

Initially, the FIR was registered at PS Balapur, later re-registered and investigated at PS Chandrayangutta where the charge sheet was filed, and subsequently transferred to PS Bandlaguda in the PT stage.

Upon successful trial in SCPC.No.258/2022 (Vide Cr.No. 346/2022), the Hon'ble Judge Ms. Archana Kumari M. found the accused, Syed Nadeem (22, Madrasa Teacher), guilty and awarded the following sentences:

Under Sec 3 r/w 4 of POCSO Act: 20 Years Rigorous Imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 10,000/-.

Under Sec 506 IPC: 2 Years Rigorous Imprisonment.

Appreciation of the Team:

Senior Police Officers highly appreciated the efforts of the Investigation Officers and the prosecution team for securing the conviction and ensuring justice for the minor victim.

History-sheeter held for stealing Rs 2 cr MSRTC 'Shivshahi' e-bus from Nagpur

AMRAVATI: (JUL 2)

A man was arrested by Amravati police for allegedly stealing a Rs 2 crore electric bus belonging to Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation, an official said on Thursday.

The 'Shivshahi' e-bus was stolen from Imamwada stand Nagpur on Wednesday night when the vehicle was being charged, Rajapeth police station inspector Sandip Chavan said. A case was registered at Ganesh Peth police station in Nagpur and the information was relayed to other police units as well.

"A probe was initiated after the theft and a team found the bus a little away from Rajapeth stand. Soon, a man was seen getting into the bus. He was immediately taken into custody. The man has confessed to stealing as many as 20 buses across Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra," the official said.

The film Jai Mahishmati is being shown for free

DR.BHUPENDRA VIKAL

Shivpuri.The superhit film Jai Mahishmati, which is full of emotional miracles of His Holiness Raj Rajeshwar Lord Sahastrabahu Arjun Ji and gives special inspiration to the youth and fills positive thinking in the society, is making waves these days.

In the same sequence, this two and a quarter hour film was shown free of cost at Shiv Mandir Cinema on June 280 in Kalarbagh with the help of Ravindra Shivhare, former Municipal President Kolaras and his team of energetic social workers. On June 30 and 26, it was shown free of cost at Kajal Talksies in Gwalior with the help of Suresh Shivhare and his team. It has happened and this sequence is continuing. Film critics say that social issues have been raised very strongly in the film and the glory of Lord Sahastrabahu Arjun has been shown which is praiseworthy which should have been shown long ago due to the lack of which the society, especially the youth, is right about the character of Lord Sahastrabahu. Due to lack of information, the young Lord



Sahastrabahu remained unaware of the glory of Arjun ji, a genuine effort has been made to overcome this deficiency by the film director, writer and actor Ram Shankar Shivhare Bhopal. The film was produced by Dr. L. of Bhopal. N. Malviya has done this and has also acted as an artist in the film. All the actors of the film have breathed life into their performances. From child actors to elderly actors, the film has given strong performances which are being praised and discussed loudly in the society because the film director Ram Shankar Shivhare has

presented the film in a new style, which no one had imagined. The story of the film is based on true events and the film is inspired by the devotees' own experiences. It has been told in the film how some cunning people, for their own selfish reasons, conspired to keep the glory of Rajarajeshwar Lord Sahastrabahu Arjun hidden from the public and an attempt was made to mislead the people of the country by adding fabricated false facts in the biography of Lord Sahastrabahu Arjun.

Today when the public is getting to know the real life

character and glory of Lord Sahastrabahu Arjun. □ has started moving towards.

In the Shivpuri program, Dr. Ramkumar Shivhare, lifelong patron of the society, Ravindra Shivhare, former Municipal President Kolaras Baba Maharaj Rajesh Shivhare, DrMahendra Mahajan, social worker Lalji Shivhare Dada, Santosh Shivhare (Hans Building), Pawan Shivhare Nitin Choukse, Sontu Shivhare, Manoj Shivhare Rai Sarpanch, Rambabu Shivhare Sarpanch, Harcharan Lal Ji Shivhare, BJP leader Mrs.

Seema Shivhare, Gajendra Shivhare, Pawan Shivhare "Hero" Shera Shivhare, Mrs. Renuka Shivhare, Mrs. Hemlata Choukse, Ms. Lali Apoovra Shivhare, Mrs. Sangeeta Shivhare, Mrs. Bharti Shivhare, Mrs. Poonam Shivhare, Mrs. Rano Shivhare, Mahendra Rai Human Rights Organization, OP Shivhare, Manoj Shivhare, Bhagirath Shivhare, Hukum Chandra Shivhare, Media In-charge There was a dignified presence of Vipin Shivhare, Radheshyam Shivhare, Girraj Shivhare, Bharat Shivhare, Dashrath Shivhare, Vinod Shivhare, Laxman Shivhare, Shailu Shivhare, Mohit Choukse, Ajay Shivhare, Deepak Shivhare, Suresh Shivhare, David Shivhare, Garv Shivhare, Saransh Shivhare, and all the respected officials and workers of the three cells. Social worker Radheshyam Shivhare made arrangements for distribution of snacks, thandai etc. to the present audience. Hundreds of spectators including journalist Shaukeen Ahmed, Ms. Manika Sharma, Yusuf Patan were present in the program.

India and Japan vow to enhance defence equipment and technology cooperation

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday welcomed Japan's review of the three principles on the transfer of defence equipment and technology and hoped that it would further deepen the defence partnership between both countries.

According to the Joint Statement issued after the 16th India-Japan Annual Summit, which was held in New Delhi and attended by PM Modi and his Japanese counterpart Sanae Takaichi, both sides expressed deep satisfaction that bilateral defence and security cooperation is on an upward trajectory. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to deepening cooperation based on the Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation, adopted at the last Annual Summit.

"They directed their Ministers to hold the fourth round of the 2+2 Ministerial Meeting in Tokyo by the end of this year. They welcomed the progress made in the cooperation among the respective services,

including the successful conduct of the naval exercise JAI-MEX 25, supported by the two services on the Japanese side," the Joint Statement detailed.

India welcomed Japan's participation in the International Fleet Review 2026 held in Visakhapatnam. Both sides concurred on deepening maritime security cooperation through enhanced exercises, maritime domain awareness using satellite capabilities, naval maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) cooperation, and defence equipment and technology cooperation under the framework of 'Make in India'.

"The two Prime Ministers expressed satisfaction that an agreement has been reached in principle on the remaining technical details regarding the Unified Complex Radio Antenna (UNICORN) project. They expressed their expectation for an early conclusion of the project and concurred on exploring ways to materialise other projects in the field of defence equipment and technology," the statement added. The two leaders



also welcomed the steady progress under the Quad framework and reaffirmed their shared commitment to enhancing practical cooperation.

"They underscored the importance of Quad collaboration across the four pillars of maritime and transnational security; economic prosperity and security, including critical minerals; critical and emerging technologies; and humanitarian assistance and emergency response," the Joint Statement highlighted. They noted that growing bilateral cooperation in these areas would further strengthen and

complement the Quad efforts and reaffirmed their commitment to cooperating towards an early convening of the next Quad Leaders' Summit. PM Modi and Takaichi express serious concern over situation in East and South China Sea.

New Delhi, July 2 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Sanae Takaichi on Thursday expressed their serious concerns over the situation in the East and South China Sea.

According to the Joint Statement released after their meeting in New Delhi, both leaders reiterated their strong opposi-

tion to any unilateral actions that endanger the safety as well as freedom of navigation and overflight and attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion. "They shared their serious concerns over the growing militarization of disputed features. They reaffirmed that maritime disputes must be resolved peacefully and in accordance with international law, as reflected in UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea)," the statement mentioned.

They also shared serious concern over North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes and reaffirmed their commitment to the complete denuclearisation of North Korea in accordance with relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. Both leaders stressed the importance of addressing continued concern regarding the proliferation of nuclear and missile technologies to and from North Korea in the region and beyond.

They also urged all UN Member States to abide by

their international obligations under the UNSC resolutions to implement sanctions, including the prohibition on the transfer to North Korea or procurement from North Korea of all arms and related material. They reconfirmed the necessity of immediate resolution of the abductions issue.

"The two Prime Ministers remain concerned over the situation in Myanmar and its regional impact. They reiterated their call for the immediate cessation of hostilities and creation of a conducive environment for an inclusive dialogue among all stakeholders for a Myanmar-led, Myanmar-owned peaceful and durable solution," the Joint Statement added. They also reiterated their commitment to sustainable peace and stability in the Middle East. Regarding the situation surrounding Iran, they stressed the importance of securing free and safe navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, maintaining stable supply chains for energy and other essential goods.

Iran warns of 'decisive, swift' response to any US interference in Hormuz Strait



TEHRAN

Iran's main military command, Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, on Thursday warned that any US interference in the Strait of Hormuz will be met with the Iranian armed forces' "decisive and swift" response.

In a statement carried by Iranian media, the headquarters stressed that the strait is not the "aggressive US playground," but the territory of Iran's "undisputed sovereignty," with its security and stability considered a red line for the Iranian military, Xinhua news agency reported.

It stressed that all oil tankers and commercial vessels seeking to pass through the strait must use routes designated by Iran, warning that any non-compliance and use

of other routes, or disregard for Iran's navigation protocols, will be met with the Iranian armed forces' "immediate and decisive" response, and endanger the violating vessels' safety.

The headquarters said that Iran considers any US attempt to interfere in security affairs or cause disruption in the Strait of Hormuz as a threat against its national security, and will respond to it "swiftly and decisively."

It emphasised that the continued presence of US manned and unmanned fighter aircraft over the waterway will cause insecurity, adding that Iran will not hesitate to take the necessary actions to "crush any aggression" by the US forces and their supporters to protect its sovereignty over the strait.

Struck several Ukrainian military targets: Russian Defence ministry



MOSCOW

The Russian Armed Forces struck military industry enterprises and fuel and energy facilities in Ukraine, especially in and around region, using long-range precision weapons from air, land, and sea, as well as strike drones, the Russian Defence Ministry said Thursday.

The Russian forces also targeted military airfield infrastructure in the Dnipropetrovsk, Poltava, Cherkasy, Chernihiv, and Kyiv regions, local media reported. Russia's air defence systems shot down 11 aerial bombs and 631 Ukrainian Armed Forces aircraft in the past 24 hours, Russia's state-owned Tass media reported.

According to the Ministry of Defence, Russian troops struck launch sites for Ukrainian long-range drones, as well as temporary deployment sites for Ukrainian Armed Forces units and foreign mercenaries in 153 districts in the last 24 hours.

"Operational-tactical aviation, strike unmanned aerial vehicles, missile forces, and artillery of the Russian Armed Forces' troop groups struck transport infrastructure facilities used by the Ukrainian Armed Forces, launch sites for long-range unmanned aerial

vehicles, and temporary deployment sites for Ukrainian armed forces and foreign mercenaries in 153 districts," the ministry said.

According to Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova, the military targets in Ukraine, which the Russian Armed Forces attacked overnight, were used by the Kyiv regime to kill civilians, local media reported.

"Even Klitschko was able to articulate it clearly this time: 'It was a terrible night for Kyiv. The largest attack ever.' I can only add one thing: not against peaceful Kyiv, but against the military-strategic targets used by the Kyiv regime to kill civilians," the Russian diplomat wrote on her Telegram channel.

According to Russian Presidential Press Secretary Dmitry Peskov, the Russian Armed Forces' massive retaliatory strike targeted exclusively military and paramilitary targets in Ukraine. The Kremlin spokesman reported that Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, Valery Gerasimov, reported on Thursday morning to Russian President Vladimir Putin on the results of the Russian Armed Forces' massive retaliatory strike against targets in Kyiv and other populated areas.

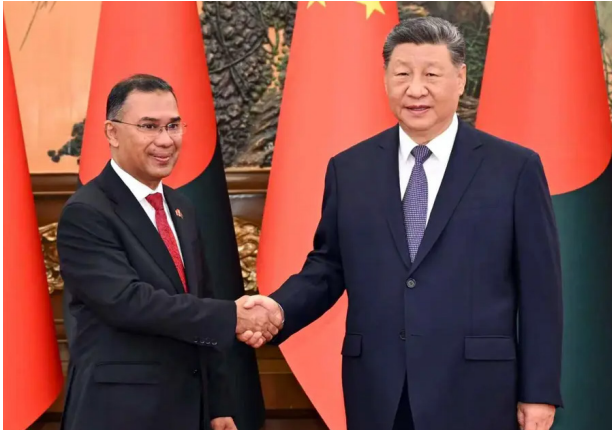
'China's willingness to take risks in Myanmar, Afghanistan despite setbacks in Pakistan go beyond economic cooperation'

NEW DELHI

How feasible the proposed China-Myanmar-Bangladesh Economic Corridor (CMBC) will be is a question being raised by certain sections in Dhaka, as per reports. China has already involved itself in infrastructure projects under the ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Afghanistan in the region, where progress has been mixed. Beijing is facing credibility issues due to unfulfilled promises and local resistance. The CMBC has introduced another contention.

A recent article in Bangladesh's The Daily Star newspaper has argued that the CMBC project looks attractive on paper, but may not be a possibility right now. It cited Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman's statement on June 27, when speaking to the media, that Bangladesh was "currently examining" the proposal and had "taken no position" on it.

The article noted that the



core problem lies in Myanmar's Rakhine State, where the junta has lost effective control. According to the analytical piece, the minister also said that any overland connectivity through Myanmar would remain explicitly conditional on the restoration of peace and stability in Rakhine State.

While maintaining that the CMBC remains a potentially important long-term initiative, the article noted: "For now, however, its prospects

are shaped less by diplomatic agreements than by the realities inside Myanmar".

The article also emphasised that "Until those conditions change, Bangladesh's immediate priorities are likely to remain the bilateral projects that can move forward today while continuing to evaluate the corridor as a longer-term possibility rather than a near-term development strategy".

The Arakan Army, an ethnic armed organisation in the

Rakhine State seeking greater autonomy and now controlling most of the region, including 14 of 17 townships, leaving the military clinging to Kyaukphyu, Sittwe, and Manaung, it stressed, adding that Kyaukphyu, the proposed deep-sea port site, is under siege, with skirmishes going on within two kilometres of the junta's naval bases.

Following the recent visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, China has reportedly proposed to connect Myanmar's Rakhine State to the Chittagong and Cox's Bazar regions through road and railway networks. But the region now lies largely outside the effective control of Myanmar's military government. Chinese-backed projects have already been dismantled or suspended due to insecurity, illustrating the operational risks. "Taken together, these constraints suggest that the corridor is unlikely to become operational in the foreseeable future.

South Africa rejects Ghana's claim of xenophobic killing during anti-immigrant protests

CAPE TOWN

South African police on Thursday rejected claims by Ghana's foreign ministry that the killing of a Ghanaian national in Cape Town was linked to anti-immigrant protests on June 30, saying the incident was instead being investigated as an extortion-related murder.

In a statement, the South African Police Service (SAPS) in the Western Cape said the victim was shot on Monday in Nyanga and that preliminary findings pointed to extortion as the motive, Xinhua news agency reported. "Official crime scene reports indicate that

the deceased male person, later identified as 35-year-old Mr. Kwabena Boagen, was shot at the Nyanga Terminus in front of NTG hair salon and shoe repairs at approximately 15:45 on Monday in circumstances that point to the crime of extortion by yet-to-be-arrested gunmen," read the police statement.

He was declared dead at the scene, and a murder docket was opened for investigation by Nyanga detectives, the provincial SAPS said. Police added that they were in contact with the victim's relatives and expressed condolences, noting that "Nyanga detectives

are hard at work investigating the murder with a view to apprehending the perpetrators."

SAPS also disputed claims made by Ghana's Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the killing was connected to violence during anti-immigrant demonstrations that swept across the country on June 30. "The South African Police Service bears no record of the Khayelitsha murder, hence an earnest plea is made to the authorities in question to provide details of the Khayelitsha incident to the SAPS in order for the matter to be probed further," the statement said.



Overlooking terrorism, Pakistan making futile attempts to promote false narrative on IWT

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's decision to host a so-called 'international summit' on the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in Islamabad recently was an attempt to gain global support while threatening India. However, Pakistan's narrative overlooked terrorism that has resulted in India placing the IWT in abeyance.

Only a few prominent foreign participants attended the event, despite the summit being promoted as 'international', according to a report in StratNews Global. Reportedly, foreign participants included water security and foreign policy experts from the US and China.

Pakistan Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar delivered the keynote address, Climate Change Minister Musadik Masood Malik, Information Minister Attullah Tarar, former Foreign Ministers - Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Hina

Rabbani Khar delivered remarks at the event.

During the event, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said, "Pakistan's Nuclear Bombs are not for ceremonial purposes. If all efforts fail to restore the Indus Water Treaty, Pakistan must explore the nuclear option."

In his address at the event, Musadik Malik said that Islamabad would "cut off those hands" that want to control the Indus water.

"Yet after listening to the discussions, one question lingered. How many of the speakers had actually examined the treaty in detail or objectively assessed the implications of India's decision? The treaty's own preamble states that it was signed in a spirit of goodwill and friendship. India argues that Pakistan's continued use of terrorism as an instrument of state policy has eroded that very foundation," Nitin Gokhale wrote in StratNews Global.

Following the heinous terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam in April 2025, India had exercised its rights as a sovereign nation under international law and placed Indus Water Treaty in abeyance until Pakistan stops its support for cross-border terrorism.

Pakistan is now trying to convince international community that India's decision regarding Indus Water Treaty sets a dangerous precedent for nations that share transboundary rivers. A few months back, Pakistan Prime Minister Asif Ali Zardari held a meeting with selected Pakistani influencers and senior bureaucrats to gain international support on the issue. Pakistan also attempted to shape global opinion through institutions like London's Chatham House and Brussels-based Centre for European Policy Studies, StratNews Global report detailed.

Residents in Punjab province face power outages amid heatwave

ISLAMABAD

Residents in Pakistan's Punjab province are facing hardships due to unannounced power outages amid scorching temperatures, local media reported on Thursday.

Business owners and residents said that they were facing power cuts for several hours amid the heatwave. Residents have also reported that their electronic appliances like air conditioners, refrigerators, televisions and water motors have been damaged due to repeated power outages, low voltage and power fluctuations, leading Pakistani daily The Express Tribune reported.

People living in the Gulberg, Green Town, Johar Town, Baghbanpura, Township, Garden Town, China Scheme,



Anarkali and Baghbanpura said that they were facing persistent power interruptions and unstable voltage and long time was taken to restore power supply. Residents of sub-

urban areas and other cities served by the Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) also reported unscheduled power outages.

Several residents have ques-

tioned LESCO over power outages despite the utility's assurance that there is adequate electricity available to meet the demand. LESCO has claimed that there is no declared or undeclared load-shedding in Lahore. It stated that power cuts were limited to scheduled shutdowns for development work and high-loss feeders instead of electricity shortage.

However, separate reports cited a shortfall ranging between 500MW and 800MW, indicating that electricity demand had reached to over 4,750MW while supply from the National Power Control Centre was at approximately 4,200MW, with rise in technical faults due to the severe heat. Earlier in June, residents in Pakistan's Karachi faced difficulties due to electricity out-

ages during Ashura.

K-Electric had claimed that it has exempted several areas from scheduled loadshedding till Muharram 11. However, people in many areas had to use alternate options to ensure electricity during religious gatherings, Pakistan-based daily Dawn reported.

Large parts of the city, including Saddar, Burns Road, Lyari, Clifton, Defence Housing Authority, Federal B. Area, North Karachi, Liaquatabad, Malir, Korangi, Shah Faisal Colony, Orangi Town, Keamari and Baldia Town faced prolonged power cuts.

Although K-Electric claimed that the power supply remained "uninterrupted" as per schedule, however, local residents complained of power outages in several areas.





Will petrol, diesel prices be cut? Hardeep Puri says here's when it's possible

Puri explained that although international crude oil prices have fallen in recent weeks, oil companies are still refining crude that was purchased when prices were much higher during the West Asia conflict. State-run oil marketing companies suffered losses of Rs 74,781 crore after selling petrol, diesel and LPG below their cost price during the period up to June 30, Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Thursday.

He explained that although international crude oil prices have fallen in recent weeks, oil companies are still refining crude that was purchased when prices were much higher during the West Asia conflict. As crude oil is usually bought around two months in advance, the fuel being processed now comes from purchases made in April and early May, when global prices had surged. Many consumers are expecting petrol and diesel prices to fall as global crude oil prices have eased. However, Puri said it would be reasonable to discuss a price cut only if crude prices remain low for the next few weeks. Crude prices started declining only in the second half of June after the United States and Iran reached an agreement to end the conflict.

MONEY MATTERS

Aster Quality Care begins operations with a mission

to expand advanced healthcare beyond India's metros
Operations to begin with 39 hospitals across 28 cities, with a focus on expanding specialist care, advanced treatment and medical technology beyond the metros

BENGALURU, JULY 01, 2026

Aster DM Quality Care Limited today commenced operations following the successful completion of the merger between Aster DM Healthcare and Quality Care India Limited (QCIL), bringing together four trusted healthcare brands - Aster DM, CARE Hospitals, Evercare and KIMSHEALTH. More than the combination of two leading healthcare organisations, the merger creates a stronger platform with a shared purpose: expanding access to world-class healthcare by bringing specialist expertise, advanced treatment and cutting-edge medical technology closer to patients across India. In the new combined entity Dr. Azad Moopen will continue as Executive Chairman and Mr. Varun Khanna will lead the business as Managing Director and Group CEO.

With a strong footprint across South and Central India, Aster Quality Care will have a significant presence in several underpenetrated fast-growing healthcare centres beyond the metros. These centres will play an increasingly important role in the group's long-term strategy to decentralise affordable and advanced healthcare by expanding specialist services, investing in cutting-edge technologies and strengthening centres of excellence closer to where patients live.

Commenting on the Day 1 operations of the merged entity, Dr. Azad Moopen, Executive Chairman, Aster DM Quality Care, said, "The coming together of Aster



and Quality Care as a single enterprise marks a defining milestone in our journey to build one of India's most trusted and future-ready healthcare institutions. More than the combination of two healthcare networks; it is the convergence of shared values, clinical excellence, deep medical expertise and an unwavering commitment to patient care. Together, we are creating an institution that is stronger, more resilient and better positioned to address the evolving healthcare needs of India."

On the strategic priorities for the combined organization, Mr. Varun Khanna, Managing Director and Group CEO, Aster DM Quality Care said, "Aster Quality Care brings together highly complementary institutions, strong clinical ecosystems and teams united by a shared ambition to strengthen healthcare delivery in India. At Aster Quality Care patients and their families will be at the centre of every decision, with digitally enabled solutions and a strong bias

across India's tier 2 and tier 3 cities including Nagpur, Aurangabad, Vijayawada, Gun- tur, Bhubaneswar, Raipur, Nagercoil, Kolhapur, Kannur, Kasaragod, and Kottakkal, reducing the need for patients to travel to metropolitan centres for complex healthcare.

This commitment is a reflection of a vision both organizations have consistently pursued over the years - taking advanced healthcare capabilities to emerging cities. From introducing the first LINAC-based radiation therapy system in Nagercoil to expanding robotic surgery programmes across Raipur, Trivandrum, Kolhapur and soon Guntur and Vijayawada - these investments are not only bringing advanced clinical care closer to patients but also supporting the attraction and retention of high-quality clinical talent in non-metro cities. Building on this foundation, the combined entity will accelerate investments in advanced technologies such as Gamma Knife, stereotactic radiosurgery systems (like ZAP), 10 robotic surgical platforms, and other next generation clinical capabilities, while simultaneously making advanced cancer care more accessible through the addition of 12 LINAC-based radiation therapy systems across tier 2 and tier 3 cities. The group's combined bed strength is expected to grow to over 15,000 beds over the coming years, helping expand access to affordable care across the country. With more than 45,000 healthcare professionals, the combined entity brings together one of

India's most extensive clinical ecosystems, enabling greater collaboration among doctors, nurses and caregivers while strengthening access to high-quality care across the network. As the network grows, the platform is expected to create thousands of additional employment opportunities for doctors, nurses, allied healthcare professionals and support staff, further strengthening the healthcare ecosystem in the communities it serves.

About Aster DM Quality Care Limited

Aster DM Quality Care Limited is one of India's leading integrated healthcare providers, formed through the merger of Aster DM Healthcare Limited and Quality Care India Limited. The merged entity will bring together four leading healthcare brands - Aster DM, CARE Hospitals, Evercare and KIMSHEALTH, creating a scaled and diversified healthcare platform with a network of 39 hospitals across 28 cities and over 10,600 beds. With a strong presence across South and Central India, the merged entity will deliver comprehensive healthcare services spanning primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary care, supported by centres of excellence across key specialties including oncology, cardiac sciences, neurosciences, gastro sciences, orthopaedics, nephrology, organ transplantation, mother and child care, and critical care. Name change subject to receipt of Certificate of Incorporation pursuant to the merger. Currently named Aster DM Healthcare Limited.

S Brothers Launches most awaited Aashadam Challenge KG Sale

with upto 70% Discounts & more...

HYDERABAD, JULY 2:



The highly anticipated shopping extravaganza of the season has arrived across the Telugu states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, as well as Maharashtra, starting today on July 3 as RS Brothers officially launches its legendary Aashadam Challenge KG Sale . Fashion lovers and families across the region can now experience a unique shopping experience where premium sarees and apparel are measured and sold by weight in KGs. This special seasonal event brings an unparalleled opportunity for shoppers to upgrade and refresh their wardrobes with thousands of varieties and styles to choose from, ensuring there is something perfect for every taste and occasion with massive savings. The highlight of the event is the massive *discounts up to 70% off* on clothes, making high-quality fashion accessible at a fraction of its original price. From bridal wear sarees to grand bridal collections, the revolutionary weight-based pricing model promises to completely redefine value-for-money shopping & saving. It is the perfect time for patrons to shop now and stock up for upcoming special occasions, grand festive events, and the upcoming wedding season at unbeatable prices. Stepping up the excitement this year, this campaign features exclusive star endorsements that perfectly embody the grace, tradition, and modern elegance that RS Brothers represents. As a true complete family shopping mall, it eliminates the need to visit multiple stores; everything the entire family

needs is right here under one roof. Customers visiting the mega shopping malls will be greeted with an overwhelming, fresh stock comprising thousands of varieties, lakhs of stunning designs beautifully curated across three dedicated sections:

Women's Wear: An unparalleled collection featuring exquisite traditional pattu sarees, high-end fancy sarees, contemporary designer sarees, and elegant lehengas for premium occasions.

Men's Wear: A sophisticated range spanning regal ethnic wear, sherwanis, sharp casuals, and all the latest trending street and formal styles.

Kids' Wear: A vibrant mix of adorable ethnic outfits, durable casual wear, and all the newest trending styles and designs that children love. "We are immensely grateful for the decades of trust and loyalty our customers have placed in the RS Brothers family, and to honor that deep connection, this year's "Aashadam Challenge KG Sale" is curated to deliver our biggest savings yet, blending an expansive variety of lakhs of fresh designs with unbeatable price cuts that celebrate our shoppers,"_ stated the management during the launch. The spectacular "Aashadam Challenge KG Sale" is now live across all RS Brothers outlets. Shoppers are encouraged to gather the entire family and visit early to grab the best designs for all upcoming weddings and family events from the freshly unveiled inventory before stocks run out.

Sensex Soars 579 Points, Nifty Tops 24,175 on IT Rally

The BSE Sensex climbed 579.48 points, or 0.75%, to close at 77,502.12, while the NSE Nifty50 gained 169.85 points, or 0.71%, to settle at 24,175.70.

IT STOCKS STEAL THE SHOW

Markets opened with gains and remained positive throughout the session, led by a sharp rebound in IT stocks. Infosys emerged as the top performer, rising 5.64%. Other major IT companies also posted strong gains, with Tech Mahindra advancing 4.32%, TCS climbing

4.28% and HCLTech adding 4.12%. Bajaj Finance was another notable gainer, ending 3.25% higher. On the other hand, a few heavyweight stocks closed lower. Larsen & Toubro slipped 0.78%, while Maruti Suzuki and Axis Bank fell 0.43% and 0.33%, respectively.

SECTORAL INDICES END MOSTLY HIGHER

Among sectoral indices, Nifty IT was the biggest gainer of the day. It was followed by gains in the auto, FMCG, financial services and metal indices. Broad-



er markets also finished on a positive note. The Nifty Midcap 100 rose 0.48%, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 gained 1.25%. Meanwhile, India VIX, often referred to as the market's fear

gauge, fell 7.21%, indicating that investors were less worried about near-term market volatility.

LOWER OIL PRICES AND GLOBAL CUES LIFT SENTIMENT

According to Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments Limited, lower crude oil prices and positive global developments helped improve investor confidence. "Indian markets ended higher as easing tensions around the Strait of Hormuz pushed crude prices lower, while dovish remarks from the Fed Chair re-

inforced expectations of moderating inflation and a supportive global rate environment," he said. Nair added that expectations surrounding the India-Japan Summit also lifted market mood. "Sentiment was further aided by optimism surrounding the India-Japan Summit, with investors anticipating deals on trade, defence, semiconductors, AI cooperation, a proposed rupee-yen settlement framework and deeper bilateral capital flows," he said. Nair said the rally in IT stocks was driven not only by short covering but

also by growing confidence in the sector's long-term prospects.

"The standout performer was the IT sector, which, supported by short covering, also rallied following the strengthening view that Indian IT firms will remain a key enabler of enterprise AI adoption," he noted.

WHAT SHOULD INVESTORS WATCH NEXT?

Market participants will now keep an eye on a series of domestic and global developments that could influence trading in the coming sessions.

Airtel and Jio Shock Users... Tariffs May Increase by 20%!

New Delhi, July 2: India's two largest telecom operators, Reliance Jio and Airtel, are reportedly planning to increase the prices of their recharge plans by more than 20%. These telecom giants invested hundreds of billions of rupees to acquire licenses in the 5G spectrum auctions and build advanced 5G networks. However, because they have been offering unlimited 5G services at no extra cost under existing 4G plans for the past few years, their profits have not met expectations. To recover their massive investments and significantly increase

the average revenue earned per customer (ARPU), the companies are reportedly preparing to implement a major hike in tariff prices. Along with the price increase, Jio and Airtel have also made significant changes to their existing plan structures to encourage customers to switch to more premium plans. Earlier, even basic plans offering 1.5 GB of data per day included free access to unlimited 5G data. Under the current policy, however, customers must recharge with plans that provide at least 2 GB of data per day to be eligible for unlimited 5G services.



RBI tells Par panel that virtual digital assets like cryptocurrency a threat to economy
NEW DELHI: (JUL 2)

The Reserve Bank of India on Thursday told a parliamentary panel that virtual digital assets like cryptocurrency are a threat to an emerging economy like India and such assets should not be legalised in the country. The RBI also told the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance, headed by BJP member Bhartruhari Mahtab, that China and Qatar are among the countries that have banned such financial activities, while Europe has allowed virtual digital assets in a very stringent, regulated manner. The committee held the meeting with the representatives of the RBI on 'A Study on Virtual Digital Assets (VDAs) and Way Forward'.

ARA Bridge MD Sihyung Park Visits BLW

VARANASI:

On July 2, 2026, Mr. Sihyung Park, Managing Director of the reputed South Korean company M/s ARA Bridge Ltd., visited the Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) alongside officials from M/s RITES Ltd. to assess the facility's capacity for manufacturing standard-gauge locomotives. He was accompanied by Mr. Vishwa Vasu Gupta, Managing Director of M/s JCL Infra India. The delegation was welcomed by Mr. Ram Janam Chaubey, Chief Mechanical Engineer-Production & Marketing. RITES General Manager Mr. Sanjay Kumar and Assistant Manager Mr. Rohit Kumar, along with other officials, were also present on the occasion. The visit began with a meeting held in the Hall of Fame' (conference room) at the Administrative Building. During the meeting, CME/ Production & Marketing Mr. Ram Janam Chaubey and Chief Design Engineer/Diesel Mr. Praveen Kumar delivered a Power Point Presentation detailing BLW's achieve-



ments, technical advancements, locomotive production, global exports, modern manufacturing capabilities, and various technical aspects of the locomotive manufacturing process. BLW officials, including Deputy Chief Marketing Manager Mr. Arvind Kumar, attended the meeting. Subsequently, the delegation toured various production units, including the Truck Machine Shop, Loco Frame Shop, Loco Assembly Shop, Loco Test Shop, Light Machine Shop, Sub-Assembly Shop, Engine Erection Shop, and Engine Test Shop. During the tour, they were apprised of the various stages of locomotive manufacturing, state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities, and BLW's design and production capabilities.

The delegation appreciated BLW's modern production infrastructure, technical expertise, and high-quality manufacturing facilities. This visit is viewed as a significant step towards potential future industrial and business opportunities.

During the visit, the delegation also paid a courtesy call to Mr. Vivek Sheel, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer of BLW. At the conclusion of the program, Chief Mechanical Engineer -Production & Marketing Shri Ram Janm Chaubey honored Shri Sihyung Park by presenting him with a locomotive model as a memento.

South India Shopping Mall Kicks Off 15th Aashadam Kilo Sale

Hyderabad, July 2: South India Shopping Mall proudly launches its legendary 15th Blockbuster Aashadam No. 1 Kilo Sale across both the Telugu states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, as well as Karnataka. Starting today, this magnificent retail event marks a historic milestone of fifteen years of kilo sale celebration. Announcing the launch, the management stated, _"We are deeply grateful to our customers for fifteen years of incredible trust, and we are thrilled to celebrate this milestone by bringing you our biggest designs and grandest savings yet."_

Bringing an unparalleled shopping experience with an extraordinary *discount of upto 66% off* on an entirely fresh, newly arrived stock of garments.

True to its vibrant theme, _"E Aashadamlo Shopping Kilolo! Santhosham Tanulalo!"_, which beautifully promises that you will shop in kilos and take home happiness in tons, this mega-sale is specially curated to be the ultimate shopping paradise. As South India's trusted fashion



destination and pioneer of the kilo sale concept, the brand is pulling out all the stops for its fifteenth anniversary.

Showrooms are fully stocked with lakhs of stunning designs and thousands

of premium clothing varieties across three dedicated categories to cater to every family member, style, and occasion.

For women, the collection features breathtaking traditional Pattu sarees, high fan-

cy sarees, exquisite designer sarees, and elegant lehengas.

Men can explore a sophisticated range of sharp ethnic wear, stylish sherwanis, smart casuals, and all the latest trending outfits. Kids are also in for a treat with an adorable, vibrant selection of festive ethnic wear and comfortable casual wear featuring all the trending styles and modern designs. This makes it the perfect opportunity to shop now and stock up for all upcoming special occasions, festive events, and grand weddings. This campaign guarantees unmatched fabric quality at completely irresistible price points. The management warmly invites families and fashion enthusiasts to join this massive retail celebration starting today. Do not miss this exclusive opportunity to upgrade your wardrobe with the latest festive trends at the biggest discount of the season. Rush to your nearest South India Shopping Mall showroom today to experience this blockbuster phenomenon and take home tons of joy before the best designs sell out.



Raw or Cooked

What's the Best Way to Eat Garlic for Better Blood Sugar Control?

Garlic has been valued for thousands of years as both a flavourful cooking ingredient and a traditional remedy for a wide range of health conditions. Found in almost every Indian kitchen, it adds a distinctive taste and aroma to curries, dals, soups, chutneys, stir-fries and pickles. Beyond its culinary appeal, garlic has gained attention from researchers and health experts for its potential role in supporting heart health, immunity and blood sugar management.

In recent years, scientific studies have suggested that garlic may help improve insulin sensitivity and support healthy blood glucose levels. While it is not a cure for diabetes or prediabetes, experts believe that including garlic in a balanced diet may offer additional benefits for people trying to manage their blood sugar naturally.

One common question, however, is whether garlic should be eaten raw or cooked to maximise these health benefits. Nutrition experts say the answer lies in understanding the unique compounds found inside garlic and how they react during preparation.

Why Garlic Is Considered Beneficial for Blood Sugar

The health benefits of garlic are largely linked to a natural sulphur-containing compound called **allicin**. Interestingly, whole garlic cloves do not actually contain allicin. Instead, they contain another compound called **alliin**.

When a garlic clove is crushed, chopped or minced, an enzyme known as **alliinase** becomes active. This enzyme converts alliin into allicin, the compound responsible for many of garlic's medicinal properties. Allicin is believed to possess antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial effects while also supporting metabolic health.

Clinical nutritionist Rupali Datta explains that garlic and its active compound, allicin, have shown promising effects in reducing fasting

blood sugar levels. According to findings from several studies and meta-analyses, allicin may improve insulin sensitivity and enhance insulin secretion, helping the body use glucose more efficiently.

Insulin is the hormone responsible for transporting sugar from the bloodstream into the body's cells, where it is used as energy. When insulin does not function properly, blood sugar levels begin to rise, increasing the risk of diabetes and its complications. By improving the body's response to insulin, garlic may help support better glucose regulation.

Researchers also believe that garlic's antioxidant properties help reduce oxidative stress and inflammation, both of which play important roles in the development and progression of diabetes. Chronic high blood sugar can damage blood vessels, nerves and organs over time, and

antioxidants may help protect against some of this long-term damage.

Raw Garlic vs Cooked Garlic

Although garlic offers health benefits in both raw and cooked forms, experts generally recommend consuming it raw or only lightly cooked if the goal is to maximise allicin intake.

The reason is simple. Allicin is highly unstable and sensitive to heat. Prolonged cooking or frying garlic at high temperatures can significantly reduce the amount of allicin that remains available.

If chopped garlic is immediately added to very hot oil, the enzyme responsible for producing allicin may be destroyed before enough of the beneficial compound has formed.

Nutrition experts therefore recommend crushing or chopping garlic first and allowing it to rest

before cooking. This short resting period gives the alliinase enzyme enough time to convert alliin into allicin before heat is applied.

Rupali Datta advises that garlic is best consumed raw and crushed whenever possible. However, if cooking is preferred, she recommends crushing the garlic first and allowing it to sit for a few minutes before adding it to food.

Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator Archana Batra also supports this approach. According to her, crushing or chopping garlic and letting it rest for about five to ten minutes activates the enzyme responsible for allicin production. Once the compound has formed, moderate cooking causes less damage compared to immediately exposing freshly cut garlic to high heat.

This simple step helps preserve more of garlic's beneficial compounds without requiring major changes to cooking habits.



Do You Have to Eat Raw Garlic?

Many people assume they must eat raw garlic every day to gain health benefits, but that is not necessarily true.

Raw garlic generally contains the highest levels of allicin and may therefore provide stronger metabolic benefits. However, not everyone enjoys its pungent taste or strong smell. Some people also experience stomach irritation after eating raw garlic.

Fortunately, cooked garlic still retains several beneficial nutrients and sulphur compounds, although some allicin may be lost during heating.

Experts recommend choosing the form that best suits your digestion and eating habits. If raw garlic is difficult to tolerate, lightly cooked garlic prepared correctly remains a healthy option.

The key is to avoid excessive frying or prolonged cooking at very high temperatures whenever possible.

Ways to Include Garlic in Daily Meals

Adding garlic to everyday meals is both easy and practical.

Freshly crushed garlic can be mixed into homemade green chutneys, yoghurt-based dips or hummus. It also pairs well with fresh salads when combined with lemon juice and olive oil.

Garlic can be stirred into soups after cooking is complete, allowing the residual heat to soften its flavour while preserving more of its active compounds.

It can also be added to dals, vegetable dishes and stir-fries towards the end of cooking rather than being fried for extended periods.

When preparing curries or sabzis, simply crush or chop the garlic first, allow it to rest for five to ten minutes, and then add it during the later stages

of cooking.

These small adjustments require very little effort yet may help retain more of garlic's natural health-promoting compounds.

Much Garlic Should You Eat?

Despite its many health benefits, consuming excessive amounts of garlic is not recommended.

According to Archana Batra, one to two garlic cloves per day are generally sufficient for most healthy adults.

Increasing intake far beyond this amount does not necessarily provide additional health benefits and may instead lead to digestive discomfort.

Possible Side Effects

Although garlic is considered safe for most people, consuming large amounts may cause certain side effects.

Some individuals experience stomach irritation, acidity, heartburn, gas, bloating or indigestion after eating too much garlic, particularly in its raw form. Its strong sulphur compounds can also contribute to persistent bad breath or body odour. People with sensitive stomachs may find lightly cooked garlic eas-

ier to tolerate than raw garlic. Garlic can also interact with certain medications. Because it may have mild blood-thinning effects, people taking anticoagulant medicines or those scheduled for surgery should consult their doctor before significantly increasing garlic intake. Medical supervision is especially important for individuals already receiving treatment for diabetes, as combining supplements or large quantities of garlic with diabetes medication could potentially affect blood sugar levels.

Like many foods with medicinal properties, garlic works best when consumed regularly in moderate quantities as part of a balanced diet.

Garlic Is Not a Replacement for Diabetes Treatment

While research into garlic continues to produce encouraging findings, experts strongly emphasise that garlic should never be viewed as a substitute for professional medical care. Archana Batra points out that garlic is not a standalone treatment for diabetes or prediabetes. Instead, it should be considered one component of a healthy

lifestyle. Effective blood sugar management depends on several factors working together. These include eating a balanced diet rich in fibre and protein, engaging in regular physical activity, maintaining a healthy body weight, managing stress, getting adequate sleep and following prescribed medications when necessary.

For people diagnosed with diabetes, continuing medical treatment and regular blood sugar monitoring remain essential.

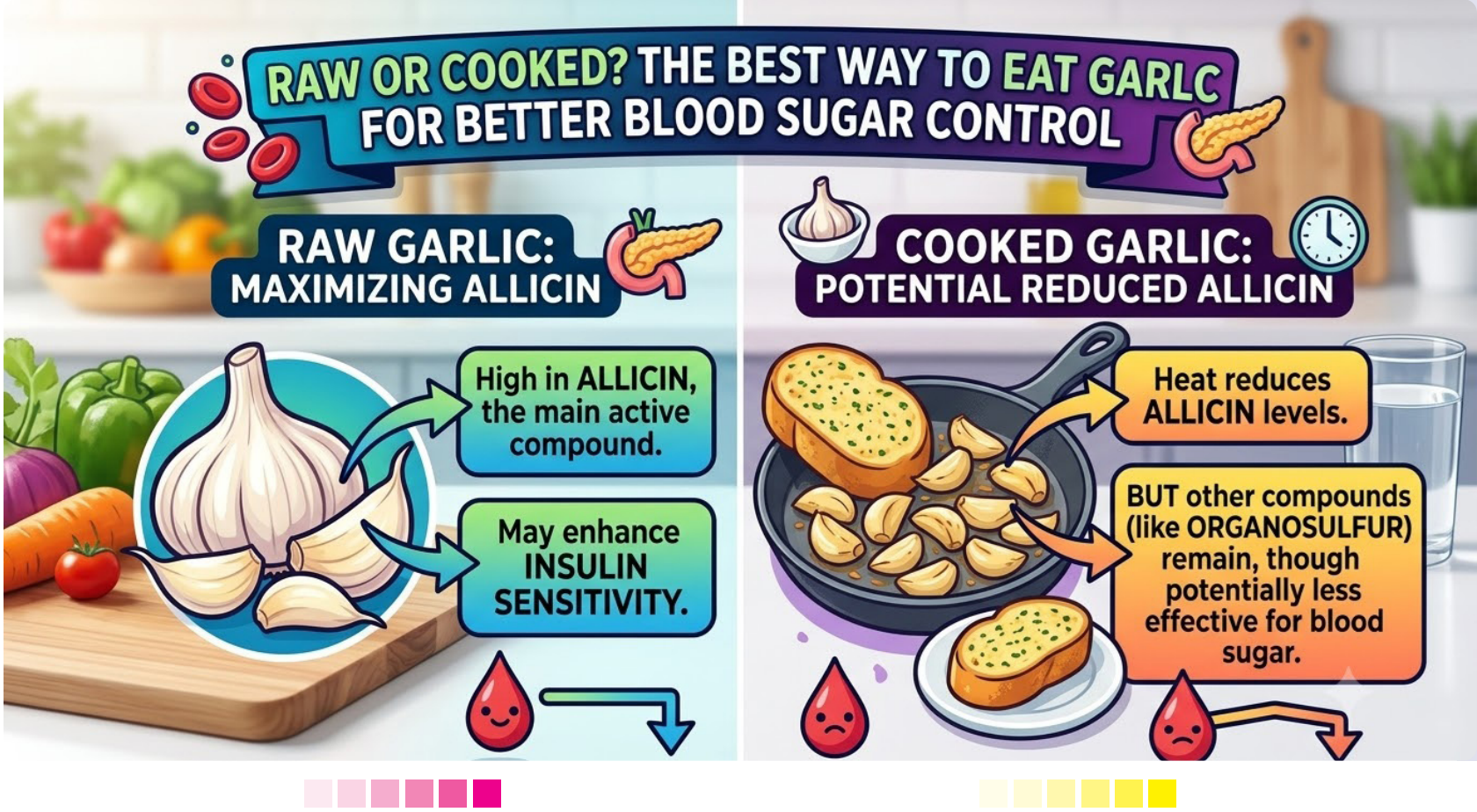
Garlic may complement these efforts, but it cannot replace insulin therapy, oral diabetes medications or medical advice.

The Bottom Line

Garlic remains one of the most nutritious and versatile ingredients available in everyday cooking. Its active compound, allicin, has shown considerable promise in improving insulin sensitivity and supporting healthy blood sugar levels.

To obtain the greatest benefit, experts recommend crushing or chopping garlic and allowing it to rest for five to ten minutes before eating or cooking. Raw garlic generally preserves the highest amount of allicin, but lightly cooked garlic can also be beneficial when prepared correctly.

Including one or two cloves of garlic daily as part of a balanced diet may contribute to better metabolic health while also supporting heart health, immunity and overall well-being. However, garlic should always be viewed as a supportive dietary ingredient rather than a cure for diabetes. The best approach to blood sugar control continues to be a combination of healthy eating, regular exercise, quality sleep, stress management and appropriate medical treatment under the guidance of healthcare professionals.





Wimbledon: Improving Swiatek downs Pliskova to reach third round

Wimbledon

Bouzkova, Navarro advance to third round with contrasting wins

LONDON: Marie Bouzkova and Emma Navarro, who met in the final of the Nottingham Open two weeks ago, advanced to the Ladies' Singles third round of Wimbledon 2026 with contrasting victories at the All-England Club in London on Thursday. While Bouzkova overcame Italian qualifier Tyra Caterina Grant in straight sets, Navarro rallied past Oksana Selekhmeteva in three sets as both advanced to the next stage. No. 21 seed Bouzkova recovered from an early break in the opening set to defeat Grant 7-5, 6-3.

BASKETBALL

Ahmedabad hosts India's key FIBA World Cup qualifiers

AHMEDABAD: Ahmedabad has added another international sporting event to its calendar with the hosting of the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2027 Asian Qualifiers – Window 3, where the Indian men's basketball team will play two crucial qualification matches against Qatar and Lebanon at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex in Naranpura between July 2 and 5. India opened its qualifying campaign against Qatar on Thursday, and will face Lebanon on July 5. Both fixtures are considered important in the team's bid to progress in the Asian qualification pathway.

LONDON

Despite still not being at her absolute best, six-time Grand Slam champion Iga Swiatek made it to the third round at Wimbledon with a 6-1, 6-3 second-round victory over 2021 runner-up Karolina Pliskova at the All-England Club in London on Thursday.

Though the scoreline on Thursday looked a lot more assured than in the previous round, it was an improvement for the defending champion on the difficulties of her opener against Taylor Townsend on Tuesday. On Thursday, the former World No.1 from Poland did not concede a set, and there were also no juddering tears of relief. It helped that the pre-match danger threatened by Pliskova's career-long grass-court smarts materialised only fleetingly.

It was also a big relief for Swiatek as she held break points in every Pliskova service game. Still, the Pole stacked up 18 unforced errors in this match, at times in unseemly clumps. Any repeat in upcoming rounds could create a disaster, with the quality of opposition improving in the upcoming rounds. "I'm feeling more stable today, and that's good," said Swiatek while addressing the Centre



Court crowd after her victory. "The first round was really emotional, but today felt like another day in the office. I needed to be ready, be sharp, and make good decisions.

"It's always better when you're able to think like that. I was consistent and had a good level of focus. I just believed I could be the most solid player on the court. I try to be the

best player I can be." Pliskova will surely be disappointed not to have generated more damage. But merely by the fact of playing here again, the 34-year-old was achieving something of a miracle.

Almost two years ago, she ruptured all the ligaments and both tendons in her left ankle. After initial surgery, an infection set in so se-

verely that she was forced to go under the knife again. It left her sufficiently incapacitated that not only was tennis impossible for a while, but merely walking was too. Having started this year ranked No.1,054, she has rocketed back up to No.73 and will be around ten places higher when the new post-Championships rankings are released.



Wimbledon: Eala recovers to power past Joint into third round for first time

LONDON

Alexandra Eala of the Philippines continued her onward march at Wimbledon, scoring a fine comeback victory over Maya Joint to secure a maiden entry into the third round at the All England Club in London on Thursday. In the opening stages of the match, Australia's Joint took an early lead, looking as sharp as she did during her win against Serena Williams a couple of days back.

But Eala clawed her way back, buoyed by vocal support from fans bearing the Filipino flag. In the deciding set, Eala, 21, scored a crucial early break and powered through to a 3-6, 6-2, 6-0 win in just under two hours.

This win, which means Eala is the first Filipino player to reach the third round at The Championships, was long-awaited revenge after she lost an excruciatingly close battle to Joint in the Eastbourne final last year, which ended 12-10 in the deciding set tie-break. Earlier, Marie Bouzkova and Emma Navarro, who met in the final of the Nottingham Open two weeks ago, advanced to the Ladies' Singles

third round with contrasting victories.

The No. 21 seed Bouzkova recovered from an early break in the opening set to defeat Grant 7-5, 6-3, reaching the third round at Wimbledon for the third time. Her best Grand Slam result came at the All England Club in 2022, when she reached the quarterfinals.

Bouzkova will next face Liudmila Samsonova, last year's Wimbledon quarterfinalist, who upset No. 15 seed Diana Shnaider 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 to reach the third round. Samsonova holds a 3-2 edge in the head-to-head series on the WTA Tour. Driven by Mercedes-Benz, although Bouzkova won their only previous meeting on grass.

Navarro, who fell to Bouzkova in the Nottingham final, rallied past Oksana Selekhmeteva 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 to reach the third round at the All England Club for the third consecutive year. The American reached the quarterfinals in 2024 and the fourth round last year. She has now won 14 of her past 18 tour-level matches and will next face either No. 12 seed Marta Kostyuk or Anna Blinkova.

'CWG is no 'exposure tour,' only those who can perform will be cleared'

NEW DELHI

The government has categorically said that only those who have qualified and can deliver good performance will be cleared by the government for the upcoming Asian Games, said Minister of Youth and Sports Dr Manu- sukh Mandaviya, clarifying that major events, including the Asian and Commonwealth Games, are not "exposure tours".

The Minister's categorical assertion came in response

to a move for inclusion of the Indian football team in the Indian contingent for the Asian Games 2026, starting on September 19.

Dr. Mandaviya made it clear that there would be complete transparency in the selection of the contingent, but, at the same time, there would be strict scrutiny of entries, and travellers would not be included simply to make up the numbers.

"Asian Games or Commonwealth Games are not for exposure; it is a platform



for athletes who can make the country proud. That is why we have the selection criteria saying only the top six in continental rankings would be considered. Exposure can be gained elsewhere; there is enough time

and competition through the years," the Minister said during an interaction in New Delhi on Thursday.

"The ministry will never stop anyone from that. If federations prepare a training or exposure plan for LA 2028 and submit it to us now, they will have our full support for the next two years. Even individual athletes who wish to train anywhere in the world will be assisted. But going to the Asian Games simply for participation means jobs will not be cleared," he declared.

The Ministry has also indicated that the Indian contingent for the Asian Games at Aichi-Nagoya is expected to be capped at 560. Dr. Mandaviya said that while all federations had to follow the ministry guidelines for selections, the ministry had the final word in clearing names. "Videography in the presence of a government observer is mandatory. The selected names are then sent to the IOA, which forwards them to the Sports Authority of India for vetting.

TG20 Season 1: Rahul, Hrishikesh score fifties to propel Karimnagar Diamonds to second spot

HYDERABAD

EIPL & eleve Karimnagar Diamonds secured their third win on the trot, registering a 58-run win against Ranga Reddy Risers in Hyderabad Cricket Association's TG20 on Thursday. The win propelled Diamonds to second place on the points table, while Risers dropped down to third spot.

Rahul Radesh, the centurion from the Diamonds' previous match, carried on his fine form with a 37-ball 72, including seven fours and four sixes. He was supported by Hrishikesh Sharma (60 off 38) as the two stitched together a brilliant partnership to help their side post 230/5 on the board.

Narayana Teja led the way with the ball courtesy of his three-wicket haul, while Rathlavath Dinesh (2/25), Shubham Sharma (2/38), Ashish Srivastav (1/19), and B Satish Kumar (1/24) all contributed to ensure Diamonds manufactured a commanding win.

Tanmay Agarwal (29 off 16) was quick off the blocks, smashing Aryan Cariappa for 16 runs in the first over. This set the tone for the Diamonds, with his partner Satwik Reddy (24 off 13) soon getting in on



the action as the two set the platform for their side, scoring 42/0 after four overs.

However, the Risers struck back with Tanay Jaddu bagging the prized scalp of Tanmay in the fifth over. Tanay Thyagarajann got the better of Satwik in the following over, pulling things back for the Risers. They conceded only nine runs in the next fifteen balls as Rahul Radesh and Hrishikesh Simha bided their time to consolidate the innings.

After a lull in the middle, which saw boundaries drying up, both batters broke the shackles in the ninth over. They scored 49 runs in three overs to put the pressure back on the Risers bowlers. Add-

ing to their woes, Rahul was dropped off Nitin Sai Yadav's bowling as he went on to register his half-century in 28 balls.

The onslaught continued as Hrishikesh cruised to his fifty in 31 balls. The pair added 123 runs off 65 balls to build a monumental partnership – the fourth-highest partnership of the tournament – that put Diamonds in the ascendancy. Tanay Jaddu provided the vital breakthrough to dismiss Rahul in the 17th over and bagged his second wicket in the process. Hrishikesh too fell in the next over, with Nitin Sai Yadav getting the better of him. However, the momentum was firmly in the batting side's favour despite losing a couple

of wickets. Chandan Sahani (20 off 10) and Shubham Sharma (17 off 7) chipped in with crucial cameos in the death overs. The pair scored 30 runs off the last two overs to power the Diamonds to 230/5 at the end of 20 overs.

With a high total to chase down, Risers endured an early setback when Rathlavath Dinesh dismissed Avanish Rao (4 off 3) in the opening over. Gnana Prakash Reddy counterattacked with three boundaries in a single over from Harish Thakur before Dinesh got the better of him. Despite the setback, Aaron George found the fence regularly as the Risers recovered to 50/2 after five overs before Shubham dismissed Aaron (19 off 13) to leave the Risers in trouble at 51/3.

Aditya Javvaji (48 off 31) then seized control of the innings alongside Alankrith Rapole. Aditya shifted gears spectacularly with back-to-back sixes off Shubham Sharma in the final over of the powerplay to lead his side to 64/3. He continued to be on the charge against Satish Kumar, scoring 16 runs off an over to help the Risers race to 97/3 at the halfway mark.

'Staying grounded while continuing to evolve is a belief I strongly connect with'

NEW DELHI

Indian wrestling champion and undefeated MMA athlete Sangram Singh believes discipline, consistency, and the willingness to keep improving are the qualities that define every athlete, saying those values are the reason he connected with homegrown brand The Sock Street when he joined it as its brand ambassador.

"Every athlete's journey is built on discipline, consistency, and the willingness to keep improving. Those values have guided me across wrestling and MMA, and they continue to



shape how I approach performance every day. That is why The Sock Street's philosophy feels personal to me. It is about staying grounded while continuing to evolve, and that is a belief I strongly connect with,"

Sangram said. The collaboration comes alongside the launch of The Sock Street's Compression Performance Gear collection, featuring compression socks, arm sleeves, and calf sleeves, as the brand expands

its focus from everyday socks to performance wear for athletes and fitness enthusiasts. Speaking on the launch, Udit Mayor, Co-founder and CEO of The Sock Street, said the company's latest move reflects changing fitness habits in India. "The way people approach fitness today has changed. Consumers do not move through life in just one lane, and they expect the products they wear to keep pace with that reality. The launch of our Compression Performance Gear collection reflects that evolution and marks an important step in our journey," Mayor said.

ETPL completes historic inaugural player draft as six franchises finalize squads for maiden season

DUBLIN

The European T20 Premier League (ETPL) completed its first-ever Player Draft in Dublin on Thursday, marking a major milestone ahead of the tournament's inaugural season. The league's six franchises selected 36 players, 12 each from Cricket Ireland, Cricket Scotland, and the Royal Dutch Cricket Association (KNCB), to finalise their core squads, with Irish all-rounder Jai Moondra and veteran batter Paul Stirling



among the headline picks. The draft saw an even distribution of talent across the six teams, although franchises largely leaned towards players from their respective regions. Am-

sterdam Flames and Rotterdam Dockers selected the majority of the Dutch contingent, while Edinburgh Castle Rockers and Glasgow Cosmic drafted nine of the 12 Scottish players. Dublin Guardians and Belfast Wolves, meanwhile, picked seven of the 12 Irish players. One of the biggest talking points of the draft was Rotterdam Dockers making highly rated all-rounder Jai Moondra their opening selection. Moondra has emerged as one of Ireland's brightest young prospects.

Oriental Cup 2026 set to kick off on July 7 at Ambedkar Stadium

NEW DELHI

The fourth edition of the Oriental Cup, one of Delhi-NCR's leading inter-school football tournaments, will be held from July 7 to July 16 at the Dr Ambedkar Stadium here, with organisers announcing a record prize pool and a ₹2.5 lakh scholarship programme for 10 student-athletes.

The tournament is expected to feature more than 1,500 participants representing over 45 schools from across Delhi-NCR, with more than 50 matches scheduled in the Boys' Under-17 and Girls' Under-19 categories. Announcing the tournament, Oriental Cup founder Fareed Bakshi said the event continues to focus on creating opportunities for young footballers while expanding support for grassroots development.

"Every edition of the Oriental Cup is about creating more opportunities for young footballers. This year, we have more than doubled the tournament's prize pool and introduced a ₹2.5 lakh scholarship programme for 10 deserving student-athletes, reinforcing our commitment to recognising and supporting young talent," Bakshi said.

SRFI PSA Challenger Squash: Tanvi, Senthilkumar stay on course for title

MUMBAI

Indian players Velvan Senthilkumar, the men's top seed, and Tanvi Khanna, the women's third seed, stayed on course, winning their quarterfinals in contrasting fashion at the USD 15,000 SRFI PSA Challenger Tournament, being hosted by the Juhu Vile Parle Gymkhana (JVPG) Club at their air-conditioned courts, in Mumbai on Thursday.

While Senthilkumar overcame a slightly shaky start to account for Egyptian 4th seed Abdullah Hafez in straight games, winning 15-13, 11-4, 11-3, Tanvi dropped a game to Zoe Foo, the 8th seed from Japan, before winning 11-6, 11-7, 8-11, 11-6.

While Senthilkumar will take

on the 2nd seed, Yassin Shohdy of Egypt, for a place in the final, Tanvi will lock horns with the 6th seed, Akari Midorikawa of Japan. Shohdy made short work of 7th seed Tomotaka Endo of Japan, winning 11-8, 11-8-11-4, Midorikawa defeated Shamaena Riaz in four games late on Wednesday.

The other men's semis will pit Malaysian Syafiq Kamal against the Egyptian 8th seed Ziad Ibrahim, while the women's second semis will be an all-Egyptian affair, featuring 2nd seed Farida Walid versus 4th seed Nour Khafagy.

Earlier, Senthilkumar made a winning start to his campaign, even while Om Semwal came up with a spirited performance but



fell short in the end in the USD 15,000 HCL-SRFI PSA Challenger Tournament, being hosted by the Juhu Vile Parle Gymkhana Club at their air-conditioned courts, here, on Wednesday.

Senthilkumar hardly broke a sweat before accounting for Ayan Vaziralli 11-4, 11-9, 11-6. Fourth seed A Hafez and 7th seed Endo also advanced to the quarter-finals with straight game wins. Semwal, who had knocked out the 3rd seed in a five-game thriller, looked on course for another upset win over 8th seed Ziad Ibrahim of Egypt. However, The 22-year-old from Jindal Vashind faltered a bit in the final stages, losing a close decider. Ibrahim prevailed 11-9, 11-13, 11-8, 8-11, 11-9.

Results:

Men's singles quarterfinals: (2) Yassin Shohdy (Egypt) bt (7) Tomotaka Endo (Japan) 3-0 (11-8,11-8,11-4); (1) Velvan Senthilkumar (Indi) bt (4) Abdullah Hafez (Egypt) 3-0 (15-13,11-4,11-3); Syafiq Kamal (Malaysia) bt Salah Eltorqman (Egypt) 3-1 (11-7,6-11,11-5,11-8); (8) Ziad Ibrahim bt Om Semwal 3-2 (11-5,11-13,11-8, 8-11,11-9).

Women's singles quarterfinal: (2) Farida Walid (Egypt) bt (7) Risa Sugimoto (Japan) 3-0 (11-5,11-5,11-6); (4) Nour Khafagy (Egypt) bt (5) Malak Fathy (Egypt) 3-0 (11-1,11-9,11-8); (3) Tanvi Khanna (India) bt (8) Zoe. Foo (Japan) 3-1 (11-6,11-7,8,11-11,11-6); (6) Akari Midorikawa (Japan) bt Shameena Riaz (India) 3-1



Pawan Kalyan's Swag Is Unmissable

Power Star Pawan Kalyan has once again become the talk of social media. A newly released picture of the actor has gone viral, with fans praising his stylish appearance and sharing the image across different platforms. The latest look has created huge excitement among his followers and increased expectations for his upcoming projects. The picture was shared by the team behind OG 2, and within minutes it started trending online. In the photo, Pawan Kalyan is seen wearing a black hoodie along with his signature rugged beard. His calm expression, confident pose, and simple style have impressed fans. Many people believe this is one of his best looks in recent years. As soon as the image appeared online, fan pages began creating posters, edits, and wallpapers. Social media platforms were filled with comments celebrating the actor's new appearance. Fans said that even a single picture of Pawan Kalyan is enough to create massive excitement because of his strong screen presence and loyal fan following. The viral photo has also in-

creased curiosity about OG 2, one of the most awaited Telugu films. The movie is currently in the pre-production stage, and work is progressing steadily. Reports suggest that the film will begin shooting soon. Pawan Kalyan is backing the project, while popular music director Thaman is expected to compose the soundtrack once again. Although only one picture has been released, it has successfully brought the film back into discussions. Fans are eagerly waiting for more updates, including the first look, teaser, and shooting schedule. Many believe that the new look perfectly matches the powerful image expected from the OG franchise. Pawan Kalyan has always enjoyed a special connection with his audience. Whether it is a film announcement, a public appearance, or even a simple photograph, his fans make sure it becomes a trending topic. His latest viral look is another example of his unmatched popularity.



Biggest Task In Front Of Paradise



From losing out on a March release to giving up the August 2026 release date, Nani's The Paradise movie has already lost a chunk of good release dates. Currently, the film is being shot in Hyderabad on specially erected sets, and inside sources revealed that the shoot would take longer than anticipated. However, the big thing is not about wrapping the shoot, but finding the right date again. While July and August are already ruled out by The Paradise itself, they should focus on September, October and November for a good release. Because December and January 2027 are also packed with lots of biggies. However, movies like Vijay Deverakonda's Ranabali, Venkatesh's Adarsha Kutumbam, Tarun Bhaskar's Ee Nagarani Emaindi 2, Rashmika's Mysaa are already looking at big dates. At the same time, biggies like Chiranjeevi's Vishwambhara is eyeing October 16th, while Rajinikanth's Jailer 2 is also coming a couple of days around it. If the likes of Fauzi also seal this year's dates, along with Shah Rukh Khan's King and other films, surely Nani will not be able to find a solo date. Even Nani gets to find a solo release across the nation, quite luckily, there will be only a week window for the ₹200 crore budgeted movie to make it big. That's the biggest worry right now for The Paradise makers as they have to find a solo date and also two weeks window to make it big around 400-500 crores of collection, to the least.

Will NTR's Poster Hurt Suriya?

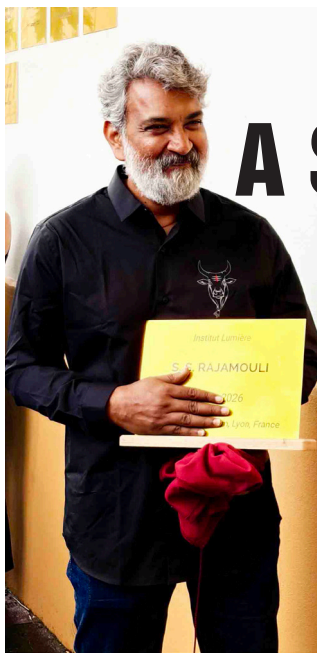


Many Telugu folks are now drawing conclusions that the poster of "God Of War" might affect the chances of Suriya's "Viswanathan and Sons" at the Tamil box office. Because both the films have the same producers making them out. As these discussions are looming in Telugu states now, what exactly is happening in Tamil Nadu is the question now. Produced by Sithara Entertainments' Naga Vamsi and directed by Venky Atluri, "Viswanathan and Sons" is the first ever direct Telugu film featuring Suriya in the lead. Initially, the plan was to cater to Suriya's Telugu market only. However, after the success of "Veerabhadru" in Tamil, which grossed more than ₹300 crores from the Tamil box office alone, the makers of Viswanathan and Sons are planning big for their release on August 14th in Telugu as well as Tamil. Now people are worried if "God Of War" will affect it, but in fact, it won't. Reason is that while Viswanathan and Sons is produced by Sithara Entertainment, God Of War is produced by Haarika & Haasini. Naga Vamsi is just promoting the film, but that doesn't mean he's the creative brain behind it. On the other hand, Suriya's original charm and Venky Atluri's content have to work, but otherwise, why would Tamil folks ignore their own star's movie? For now, there's no such thing as a God of War affecting Suriya's film and soon.

Shriya Saran, who impressed audiences last year with her performance in the Telugu film Mirai, is currently keeping busy on the work front. She has not signed a new Telugu project since the film's success, but her calendar remains packed with other big ventures. The actress is set to appear in Drishyam 3, sharing screen space with Ajay Devgan, Tabu and Rajat Kapoor. The Hindi thriller is scheduled to release on October 2, 2026. Shriya is also attached to an upcoming Tamil film, adding to her packed slate across languages. Amid her busy schedule, Shriya shared a fresh set of pictures online. Dressed in a soft pink saree paired with a heavily embellished blouse, she looked graceful with loose curls and statement earrings completing the look.

SHRIYA Stuns In Pretty Pink

Rajamouli Gets A Surprise & Rare Honour



S Rajamouli has added another global recognition to his career after visiting the Lumière Museum in Lyon, France. The screening room where his films Eega and RRR were showcased to a packed audience became part of a memorable moment for the director. During his visit Thierry Frémaux, Director of the Institut Lumière and Cannes Film Festival, personally introduced Rajamouli and later surprised him with a special gesture. He took him through the historic street where cinema was born, making the moment even more emotional for the filmmaker. The biggest highlight came at the Mur des Cinéastes, a wall that features names of legendary filmmakers like Martin Scorsese, Clint Eastwood, Quentin Tarantino and Francis Ford Coppola. Rajamouli was deeply moved when he discovered that his name has now been added to this prestigious wall, permanently placing him among global cinema legends. The director expressed heartfelt gratitude and said it was a moment he would carry for life. He thanked the Institut Lumière for the honour and described the experience as deeply humbling. With this recognition, Rajamouli continues to strengthen his position as one of the most celebrated Indian filmmakers on the world stage.

'Vanajeevi Ramaiah' Set to Become a Pan-India Feature Film

Hyderabad: The inspiring life story of Padma Shri awardee and legendary environmentalist Daripalli Ramaiah, popularly known as Vanajeevi Ramaiah, is all set to reach a wider audience as the acclaimed short film based on his life will be expanded into a Pan-India feature film. The announcement was made by producer Nidigonda Naresh Kumar Prajapati during the Vanajeevi Haritha Awards ceremony organized by the Vasvik Foundation at Prasad Labs to commemorate the 90th birth anniversary of the environmental icon. The event also honoured environmental activists and volunteers for their outstanding contribution to tree plantation and nature conservation. Speaking on the occasion, Naresh Kumar Prajapati said the feature film aims to introduce Vanajeevi Ramaiah's extraordinary journey and environmental message to audiences across the country. He also appealed to the Telangana Government to name village nature forests after Ramaiah as a tribute to his lifelong service to the environment. Director Vemuganti, who helmed the short film, said Daripalli Ramaiah devoted nearly seven decades of his life to planting and protecting trees and that his remarkable legacy deserved to be preserved through cinema. He expressed



confidence that the feature film would inspire people, especially the younger generation, to become active participants in environmental conservation. Actress Nagarani, who plays a key role in the film, said she felt honoured to be associated with a socially relevant project and thanked the makers for giving her the opportunity to be part of the inspiring story. Music director Ballepalli Mohan described composing for the film as one of the most memorable experiences of his career.

He said the film carries a powerful message on protecting nature and praised the team for bringing Vanajeevi Ramaiah's life to the screen with sincerity. Environmental activists Mokkalasa Satyanarayana and Mokkalasa Venkataiah urged people to plant and nurture trees, saying Vanajeevi Ramaiah's life remains an inspiration for future generations. Mokkalasa Venkataiah was also felicitated during the programme, while several environmental volunteers received the Vanajeevi Haritha

Satyadev proved his versatility starring in many incredible roles. He joined hands with Venkatesh Maha for the highly anticipated psychological thriller Rao Bahadur. He interacted with the media about this visual spectacle and stated that his career will be remembered going forward as before Rao Bahadur and after Rao Bahadur. He revealed that the role of Ramappa fulfilled his long-standing dream of attempting a heavy makeup character, inspired by legends like Kamal Haasan and Vikram. The transformation process was grueling and demanded immense patience. It took five hours every day just to apply the makeup and another hour and a half to carefully remove it. The story, set between 1960 and 1999, follows a traveller who returns to his palace, Bhuvanarayana, triggering a series of intriguing events. The narrative masterfully blends psychological drama with magical realism and dark comedy. Instead of standard action scenes, the film relies heavily on intense performance sequences. The actor even pushed his physical boundaries by learning Salsa for the film and shooting an entire dance number suspended on a rope. He revealed that the visuals will be splendid and VFX came out realistically. Satyadev expressed his great confidence on the film as he watched it. He revealed that Mahesh Babu talked to him for 40 minutes after watching the film and his praises made him emotional. He further thanked Sukumar and Nani for praising the film after watching. The movie is releasing on 3rd July with high expectations. Mahesh Babu is presenting the film with Anurag, Sharath Chandra, Chinta Gopalakrishna Reddy producing it without any compromise.

Awards. The short film has already earned recognition after being selected in the Best Short Film category at the Telangana Government's Gaddar Awards, adding to the anticipation surrounding its feature-length adaptation. Produced by Nidigonda Naresh Kumar Prajapati, the film stars Brahmaji in the title role and is directed by Nandi Award-winning filmmaker Vemuganti. The story is penned by Dr. Kala Ranga, with music composed by Ballepalli Mohan, cinematography by Thota K. Ramana, and lyrics by Ghanayadi. The cast also includes Nagarani, Nagamalla Mahesh, Suresh Babu, KVM Venkat, and Ballepalli Mohan. The event was attended by members of the Vasvik Foundation, retired servicemen, literary personalities, environmentalists, representatives of voluntary organisations and supporters who pledged to carry forward the ideals of Vanajeevi Ramaiah.

Satyadev Cherishes Mahesh's Praise

