

Women's empowerment key to social progress: Komatireddy

Upcoming filling station to include EV charging, cafe, and supermarket

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NALGONDA

MINISTER for Roads, Buildings, and Cinematography, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, said society can progress only when women grow economically along with men. On Saturday, he laid the foundation for a Women Shakti petrol pump near SLBC Colony in Nalgonda, being set up with Rs 5 crore under the joint initiative of District Women's Federation and Indian Oil Corporation.

He recalled facilitating Rs 15 crore loans to Self-Help Groups in 2004 and stressed that the government continues to prioritise women through schemes like free power, free bus travel, Indiramma housing, and subsidised rice. The upcoming pump will include EV charging, a cafeteria, and a supermarket, ensuring success due to its strategic location.

SERP CEO Divya Devarajan noted that Rs 20,000 crore in loans is being extended to SHGs statewide. Collector Ila Tripathi highlighted that this is the third women-run petrol pump in Nalgonda, with more sanctioned.



Minister for R&B Komatireddy Venkat Reddy laying foundation stone for petrol bunk in Nalgonda

Rs 232 cr worth upgrade for police quarters

NALGONDA

MINISTER for Roads, Buildings, and Cinematography Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said the state government has taken up the construction of police officers' and staff quarters with an outlay of Rs 232 crore. On Saturday, he inaugurated AR DSP residential quarters, CI and SI quarters, and Shishu Vihar at Nalgonda

Police Headquarters.

The minister noted that dilapidated quarters across the state are being replaced with new ones. He directed Police Housing Corporation MD Ramesh Reddy to identify and rebuild such facilities. He assured full support to police personnel working round the clock and praised Nalgonda officials' efforts in curbing drug abuse.

Kodangal-Narayanpet LIP displaced farmers to get Rs 20L compensation

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MAHABUBNAGAR

KEEPING in view the future of farmers who are losing their lands for the construction of the Narayanpet-Makthal-Kodangal Lift Irrigation Project, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy announced enhanced compensation of Rs 20 lakh per acre. Expressing their gratitude for the decision, Minister Dr Vakhti Srihari, Narayanpet MLA Dr Chittam Parnika Reddy, and senior Congress leader Kumbham Shivakumar Reddy met the CM at his residence on Saturday.

They conveyed thanks to the Chief Minister for understanding the plight of farmers and ensuring justice by increasing the compensation. They stated that this decision would

Cong leaders thank Revanth



bring great relief to farmers of Narayanpet, Kodangal, and Makthal regions.

They also assured the Chief Minister that steps would be taken to complete the land

acquisition process at the earliest and ensure that compensation reaches farmers without any delay, while expediting the construction works of the project.

Teacher suspended for misbehaving with student

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NAKERKAL (NALGONDA)

A teacher in Nalgonda district has been suspended following allegations of misconduct with a student. The incident took place at Nakerakal Government High School, where Sriniwasulu, an English teacher,

was accused of behaving inappropriately with a Class 10 student. The Education Department conducted an inquiry into the matter and issued suspension orders against the teacher. However, student groups and parents have demanded stricter action, stating that suspension alone is not enough.

SBIT hosts LinkedIn awareness prog for freshers

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KHAMMAM

SWARNA Bharathi Institute of Technology (SBIT) organised a LinkedIn awareness seminar in collaboration with iLearn Training Organisation to promote early professional development among first-year engineering students.

SBIT Chairman Gundala Krishna stressed on the im-



portance of building a digital profile from the beginning of their academic journey. iLearn COO Sriram guided

students on creating LinkedIn portfolios, uploading certifications, and showcasing projects.

NEET ranker fights for 'local' status in TS and AP

"We've lived in Bhadrachalam for over 40 years. My daughter is born and brought up here, yet she is not considered a local,"

- Father of the girl

PV SATYANARAYANA
BHADRACHALAM

EVEN a high score in NEET has not spared a student from the long-standing identity dilemma caused by the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. G Sai Ritika, a resident of Bhadrachalam in Bhadradi Kothagudem district, is fac-



G Sai Ritika, NEET ranker, and resident of Bhadrachalam

The confusion stems from the administrative status of Bhadrachalam post the 2014 bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. Ritihka completed her schooling up to Class 10 in Purushothampatnam, which now falls under Yetapaka mandal of Alluri Sitharama Raju district in AP, one of the mandals merged into AP due to the Polavaram project submergence area

ing an unexpected roadblock in her medical admissions journey being labelled as a non-local in both states' counselling processes.

Ritika scored 438 out of 720 in NEET-2025, securing an All India Rank of 1,41,256 and a Telangana state rank of 2,538. However, during the MBBS counselling registration, her application was categorized as 'non-local,' which could significantly affect her chances of getting a medical seat under the state quota.

This classification has left Ritika and her family distraught. Her father, Ashok Kumar, who has been running a business in Bhadrachalam for decades, expressed deep concern. "We've lived in Bhadrachalam for over 40 years. My daughter is born and brought up here, yet she is not considered a local," he lamented.

The confusion stems from the administrative status of Bhadrachalam post the 2014 bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. Ritihka completed her schooling up to Class 10 in Purushothampatnam, which now falls under Yetapaka mandal of Alluri Sitharama Raju district in Andhra Pradesh, one of the seven mandals merged into AP due to the Polavaram project submergence area. She pursued her Inter-

mediate education in Hyderabad, Telangana, but her earlier schooling in what is now Andhra Pradesh has seemingly impacted her eligibility under the 'local' category in Telangana's medical counselling process.

In Andhra Pradesh, non-local candidates are still eligible for 15% of medical seats under an unreserved quota as per government orders. Telangana, however, does not provide a similar provision, making Ritika's case even more challenging.

However, even over a decade after the bifurcation, clarity on domicile and local status remains elusive, leaving many students in limbo.

Notably, Local MLA Tellam Venkata Rao has raised the issue with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, urging that students from Bhadrachalam be considered under Telangana's local category. A proposal under GO 33 has been put forth, requesting a humanitarian exception for students caught in this bureaucratic grey area.

Ashok Kumar has appealed to the authorities to ensure justice for his daughter. "She worked hard, cleared NEET with a good score, and now her dream is being shattered due to administrative confusion. All we ask is fair treatment."

Nalgonda hosts Telangana's second-largest dog adoption drive

49 dogs were adopted during the event



Supreme Court has taken cognisance of the issue. He said officials estimate that around 40,000 dogs live in Nalgonda district and stressed the need for scientific and humane measures to address the problem.

"Countries like the United States treat dogs with dignity, giving them the same respect as humans. There is no need to kill dogs or earn needless blame. Adoption and vaccination are the right solutions, and programmes

like this deserve full government support," Komatireddy said.

He pointed out that Nalgonda hosted the second-largest dog adoption and vaccination drive in Telangana after Hyderabad and

"There is no need to kill dogs or earn needless blame. Adoption and vaccination are the right solutions, and programmes like this deserve full government support,"

-Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy

urged district authorities to intensify public awareness campaigns on sterilisation, vaccination, and safety precautions to prevent dog bites. "People must also be educated on first-aid measures if a dog bite occurs," he added.

District Collector Ila Tripathi added that dog, monkey, and cat attacks are increasing due to leftover food being dumped in public places. She reminded that killing dogs is illegal and highlighted that 49 dogs were adopted during the event.

Rajnath Singh to attend TG Liberation Day celebrations

BJP's Ponguleti pays tributes to Shoaibullah Khan

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KHAMMAM

"UNION Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will participate as the chief guest in the upcoming Telangana Liberation Day celebrations," announced BJP national leader and Tamil Nadu-Telangana co-incharge Dr Ponguleti Sudhakar Reddy. Addressing a gathering in Subledu village, Tirumalayapalem Mandal on Saturday, Reddy underscored the BJP's commitment to honouring Telangana's history of resistance and sacrifice.

The event, organized as part of the BJP's week-long Telangana Liberation Day campaign, saw Reddy unveil the statue of freedom fighter Shoaibullah Khan, who was martyred for his journalism against the Nizam's rule. "Khan's ideals must be included in school



textbooks. He upheld journalistic values and laid down his life for truth," he said.

Marking the occasion, Reddy contributed Rs 10,000 towards a rural journalists' welfare fund, highlighting the party's support for grassroots journalism.

Coming down heavily on the ruling Congress government in Telangana, he accused it of mismanaging the urea supply crisis, leaving farmers stranded. "It's

tragic that farmers, despite no festive rush or weather challenges, are queuing up day and night for fertilizers. The government has failed them," he said. He also held the State Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwar Rao responsible for the crisis. "Instead of serving the people, ministers have become contractors and contractors are acting like ministers. This is the height of Congress-style business politics," he alleged.

BC Welfare Association marks MP Krishnaiah's birthday



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KHAMMAM

THE Khammam District BC Welfare Association commemorated the 71st birthday of senior Backward Classes leader and Rajya Sabha MP R Krishnaiah at the district office on Saturday.

Prominent BC leader Dr Gongura Venkateshwarlu described Krishnaiah as the voice of the voiceless and a crusader for BC rights over the last 45 years. He called on the community to unite in support of Krishnaiah's long-standing demand for 50% political reservations for BCs in legislative bodies, stating that justice for BCs is incomplete without adequate representation in

law-making institutions.

"Until a Bill ensuring political reservations is passed in Parliament, the struggle must continue. Only then will true empowerment of BCs in education, employment, and governance be achieved," Dr Venkateshwarlu said after cutting a cake to mark the occasion.

Association President Pindiprolu Ramamurthy stressed the need for reservation in promotions for OBC government employees and extended full support to Krishnaiah's advocacy in the Rajya Sabha on the issue.

"Khammam stands firmly behind Krishnaiah garu's efforts to bring lasting change for the backward classes," he said.



Sarvagnya The School at VDO's Colony in Khammam celebrated Hindi Diwas on Saturday in which Chairman RV Nagendra Kumar participated. Competitions were held in elocution, quiz, and essay writing

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