

Guntur man bids Rs 2.08 cr for fancy vehicle number!

Ultra-rare VIP registration number 'DDC 0001' auctioned on Big Boy Toyz platform



HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

THE craze for fancy vehicle registration numbers in the Telugu states has once again come to light, with a resident of Guntur setting a new national record by purchasing India's most expensive number plate for whopping Rs 2.08 crore.

Kiran Kolpaka of Guntur won the online auction of the ultra-rare VIP registration number 'DDC 0001' (also known as 'DDC 001') for Rs 2.08 crore in January. This is the highest amount ever paid for a vehicle registration number in India. The auction was conducted

by the newly launched auction house platform of Big Boy Toyz (BBT) in its debut event.

The 'DDC 0001' number plate was previously owned by Big Boy Toyz founder Jatin Ahuja, which added to its exclusivity and market value. The plate is considered a rare and premium collectible among automobile and luxury asset enthusiasts.

The Rs 2.08-crore sale has surpassed all previous benchmarks for registration number auctions in the country. In 2025, the 'HR 88 B 8888' plate was auctioned for Rs 1.17 crore, but the deal was later cancelled due

to non-payment. The plate was eventually resold for Rs 26.7 lakh. In comparison, the successful sale of 'DDC 0001' has now become the highest confirmed transaction in this segment.

Experts said the record-breaking sale reflects the rising demand for premium registration numbers as status symbols and collectible assets. Such numbers are increasingly viewed as a mark of prestige among business owners and automobile enthusiasts.

The latest auction is expected to further boost interest in luxury number plates and organized auction platforms across India.

- India's strong democratic framework offers an unparalleled platform for talent to flourish
- Kondapalli Srinivas lauds The Hans India for hosting CEF South
- Says that anything created in Visakhapatnam can now reach the world

VASU POTNURI
VISAKHAPATNAM

CREATIVITY today is not just an idea but a powerful economic driver capable of positioning regions on the global map, MSME Minister Kondapalli Srinivas underlined. Delivering his address at the concluding session of the first edition of Creative Economy Forum (CEF) South organised by The Hans India in collaboration with the CEF along with HMTV as the media partner in Visakhapatnam, the minister stressed the immense economic power of creativity and that innovative thinking has the potential to build strong and sustainable economies. Underlining that

CEF South-Creativity is the new economy

MSME Minister highlights AP's visionary growth model



MSME Minister Kondapalli Srinivas along with Tamil Nadu BJP vice-president Khushbu Sundar, Creative Economy Forum South founder Supriya Suri, among others, at the first edition of the CEF South organised in Visakhapatnam



MSME Minister Kondapalli Srinivas speaking at the CEF South organised by The Hans India and CEF in Visakhapatnam

time governance.

Stressing the importance of ideas in entrepreneurship, the minister said that strong and original ideas naturally attract investment and sponsorship. With multiple funding mechanisms now available, he said, even innovators from remote areas have an opportunity to pitch their ideas. Appreciating The Hans India for organising the prestigious event in Visakhapatnam, the minister described the event as a true representation of South India's dynamic spirit, calling it highly inspiring and impactful.

India's strong democratic framework offers an unparalleled platform for talent to flourish, the minister said. "The state government's progressive journey, the minister attributed credit to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for his visionary leadership spanning over four decades. Between 1995 and 2004, the Chief Minister was among the top leaders in the country to foresee the future of Information Technology, laying a strong foundation through pioneering IT initiatives, modern agricultural

practices, micro-education reforms, and reliable power supply for farming." Highlighting Andhra Pradesh's future-ready governance, he stated that the government has rolled out 23 progressive policies covering key sectors such as Artificial Intelligence, advanced equipment manufacturing, aeronautics and space technology. Despite challenging circumstances, these reforms have helped the state attract substantial investments, with nearly 25 percent of India's total investments in the past year flowing into Andhra Pradesh, Kondapalli Srinivas stressed. Talking about Visakhapatnam's growing role as a global hub for innovation and enterprise, the minister said, "Anything created in Visakhapatnam can now reach the world." After spending 17 years in the IT sector, the Minister shared that he returned to his hometown to actively support government-led initiatives and contribute to educational institutions. The Minister further noted that the Chief Minister's commitment to transparent and efficient administration led to the adoption of real-

Cyberabad Commissioner launches e-office

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HYDERABAD

CYBERABAD Police Commissioner Dr M Ramesh on Monday launched the e-office system at the Cyberabad Police Commissioner's Office, emphasising the shift to a paperless work culture and the importance of digital transformation in government processes. The system is designed to streamline file tracking, enhance accountability, reduce delays in decision-making, and enable secure digital collaboration across departments.

Telangana records 5% growth in Jan GST collections

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

concludes will help increase total revenue during February and March. Officials stated that while collections have increased slightly over the last four months, the overall growth rate remains low. This trend is expected to impact state revenues in the coming days, despite government hopes for a strong performance in the final quarter of the 2025-2026 financial year. Commercial taxes officials noted that growth remained slow due to the ongoing implementation of rate rationalisation. However, they expect that the collection of pending with commercial taxes and GST officers soon.

Municipal polls: 615 nominations received in RR district

ESA BIN ABDUL REHMAN
RANGAREDDY

FOLLOWING the last date for filing of nominations for the forthcoming municipal elections in Ranga Reddy district, a total of 615 nominations were received from different parties. Also, there are over four dozen independents trying their luck, according to official figures.

Although 886 nominations have been received, of

officials approved 615 of them after scrutiny on January 31. However, candidates can withdraw by February 3, the last date fixed by the State Election Commission. The final list of candidates left in the poll battle will be released on the same day.

As many as 227 nominations have been filed from Indian National Congress, while 170 from the BRS party followed by BJP with 132. Ten nominations came from

the Jana Sena Party, four each from the All India Forward Bloc and three from the Communist Party of India.

The highest number of 224 nominations has been filed from Shadnagar municipality that spreads in 28 wards followed by Ibrahimpatnam (192), Chevella (133), Amanal (109), Moinabad (108), Shankarpally (100).

The district will witness municipal elections in six Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)-

Moinabad, Chevella, Ibrahimpatnam, Shadnagar, Amanal and Shankarpally, where a total number of 126 wards give mandate on polling day scheduled on February 11. All the ULBs have a total of 176,023 voters that include 87,478 men and 88,542 women electors.

Meanwhile, the government on Monday released the gazette notification revising the property tax in poll-bound areas under Chevella municipality. The notification includes 12 gram panchayats—Chevella, Kandiwada, Palgutta, Mallareddyguda, Pamena, Damaragidda, Ramannaguda, Ibrahimpatnam, Urella, Devuni Yarravalli, Malkapur and Kesaram. As per the gazette, a rate of 0.25% tax was fixed for residential buildings and 0.40% on commercial establishments. The taxable slab shall come into effect from April 1, 2025.

'Corrupt' KCR can't be father of Telangana: CM

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"How can a person who neglected the people of Telangana and tortured Telangana activists become the father of the state?" he questioned. He also alleged that phone-tapping indeed took place during KCR's regime and said the former chief minister must answer for it.

The Chief Minister also referred to activists like Ravi Narayana Reddy, who, he said, lost everything for the cause of Telangana. "Those who accumulated positions and assets worth thousands of crores cannot claim to be activists," he remarked.

Criticising the BRS leadership for blaming the people for their electoral defeat, Revanth Reddy said democracy does not permit such arrogance.

"If people reject you, you must introspect. Had you accepted your mistakes gracefully, at least some dignity would have been preserved. Saying that the people made a mistake by defeating BRS

movement. "Was he not a Telangana protagonist? Was it not during your rule that his doors were broken and he was arrested? Did you remember Telangana protagonists then?" he asked, adding that police notices and questioning could not be equated with oppression.

Quoting Dr BR Ambedkar, the Chief Minister said that in a democracy, those who choose the wrong path must face investigation. He pointed out that leaders like former Jharkhand chief minister Shibu Soren had faced police inquiries in the past and asserted that no one was above the law.

"We are not divine beings. The era of medieval emperors who equated their suffering with that of the kingdom is over. In a democracy, those who commit mistakes must face investigation," he said.

Revanth Reddy also said that the SIT had served notices in the phone-tapping case as wrongdoing had taken place. "How can anyone demand that the SIT conduct an inquiry by visiting wherever KCR stays? Everyone is equal before the law and must answer for the mistakes committed," the Chief Minister asserted.

Iran Prez orders resumption of nuclear talks with US

TEHRAN

IRANIAN President Masoud Pezeshkian on Monday ordered the start of nuclear talks with the United States, according to reports. "Iran and the United States will hold talks on the nuclear file," the reports said, without specifying the date.

The move signals a de-escalation after Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei issued a stern warning on Sunday to the US, stating that if the latter starts a war, it will turn into a regional war.

However, Trump had, even after Khamenei's strong remarks, reiterated his hope that the US and Iran could strike a deal. While responding to questions related to Iran's Supreme Leader's remarks, the US President said that he was hopeful both the

nations will make a deal. "Hopefully, we'll make a deal. If we don't make a deal, then we'll find out whether he was right," Trump said while talking to reporters.

Even though Iran and the United States have been at odds for quite some time, the recent escalation in tensions between the two nations was triggered by the anti-government protests in Iran during which, thousands of people reportedly died during crackdown on demonstrators, which prompted the US President to intervene and warn Iran against taking action against protesters.

The protests, which started on December 28, 2025, over the declining economic condition of the country soon turned into an agitation against the current Iranian regime. However, Iran

described the protests as "riots" stoked by the United States and Israel.

On Sunday, Iran's foreign minister Abbas Araghchi said that he believes the US President was "wise enough to make the correct decision," even though he was concerned about "miscalculations."

Araghi said that the Islamic nation does not have trust in the United States as a negotiating partner anymore while some nations in the middle east were trying to mediate and rebuild that trust.

"So I see the possibility of another talk if the US negotiation team follows what President Trump said: to come to a fair and equitable deal to ensure that there is no nuclear weapons," he told CNN in an interview.

Air India grounds flight after fuel switch moves from 'run' to 'cutoff'

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Following the incident, a Boeing spokesperson confirmed they are in touch with Air India and are "supporting their review of this matter."

Air India said it has informed the civil aviation regulator DGCA about the matter concerning the fuel switch. "At Air India, safety of our passengers and crew remains top priority," the spokesperson said.

After an Air India Dreamliner

crashed in Ahmedabad in June 2025, killing 260 people, the Tata-owned airline had checked the fuel control switches on all Boeing 787 aircraft in its fleet.

The airline had reported it found no issues. In July 2025, a preliminary report from investigators who looked into the Ahmedabad Dreamliner crash showed that seconds after take-off, the plane's engine fuel control switches were switched off briefly, starving them of fuel.

Epstein files reveal hidden ties

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The documents show Musk exchanging a handful of emails with Epstein over the years about potential travel or social events. One email even mentions a part of Epstein's private island. Last year, Musk claimed he never visited Epstein's island and even posted on social media that the serial sex offender tried to get him to go to his infamous place, but he refused.

The files, though, suggest that in November 2012, Musk seemed curious about the island, sending Epstein an email asking, "What day/night will

be the wildest party on your island?" After the documents came out, Musk clarified on social media that he only had a few emails with Epstein and has repeatedly denied visiting his island, or flying on his private plane, nicknamed the "Lolita Express."

He also said that some of the emails could be misinterpreted and used by people trying to damage his reputation. "I was well aware that some email correspondence with him could be misinterpreted and used by detractors to smear my name," he added.

Massive showdown over ex-Army Chief's memoir

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"Naravane ji has written about the Prime Minister and Rajnath Singh ji clearly in his book, which has appeared in an article, and I am quoting from that article. They are scared because if it comes out, the reality of Narendra Modi ji and Rajnath Singh ji will be revealed. What happened to the 56-inch chest when China was before us and advancing?" Gandhi said. Congress and its leaders also shared on social media

Parl begins debate on President's Address

NEW DELHI: The Rajya Sabha has taken up discussion on the motion of thanks on the President's Address to the joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament. A total of 16 hours has been allotted for the discussion. Moving the motion, Nominated Member C Sadanandan Master said, President Murmu in her address has articulated a clear and confident vision of India's continued progress.

HMDA rakes in Rs 1,000 cr from high-rise permits

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The unlimited floor space index (FSI) offered by the government is said to be the main reason for the developers opting for skyscrapers which invariably put immense pressure on infrastructure, power and natural resources like water. The tallest building in the city and also in the southern part of India will be coming at Osman Nagar it will have 70 floors. Officials said that the project is coming up in an area of about seven acres and would have three towers with over 870 units. Similarly, another tallest building for which permission was given in 2025 is a 63- floor building on a 2.17-acre land in Kokapet. According to the official, in recent times, the HMDA has given permission for high-rise buildings with about 60 floors and over 206 meters in height. Among the top ten building permissions given recently, there is a 59-floor building coming up at Kokapet with a height of 206.75 meters, a 50-floor building with a height of 158.4 meters at Tellapur, a 39-floor building with 119.7 meters height and another 37-floor building at an height of 134.35 meters, both at Kollur, and a 35-floor building with a height of 108.06 meters at Bachupally.

ICC mulls suspending Pakistan as T20 WC 'India boycott' row deepens

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"The ICC hopes that the PCB will consider the significant and long-term implications for cricket in its own country as this is likely to impact the global cricket ecosystem, which it is itself a member and beneficiary of," the global body said in a statement.

Pakistan on Sunday announced a boycott of its high-profile men's T20 World Cup group league match against India. "The Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan grants approval to the Pakistan Cricket Team to participate in the ICC World T20 2026, however, the Pakistan Cricket Team shall not take the field in the match scheduled on February 15 against India," the government posted on social media. "While the ICC respects the roles of governments in matters of national policy, this decision is not in the interest of the global game or the welfare of fans worldwide, including millions in Pakistan," the ICC further stated.