



WOMENIA
Payal Rajput: I may fail, but I won't give up!
 It may be recalled that last year, the actress had penned a post, expressing concerns about favoritism and nepotism overshadowing talent in the film industry.

P11
EDIT
Prioritise rejuvenation of 'Buckingham Canal'
 This historic canal, which used to be bustling with activity, is now ravaged with multiple problems like emitting untreated wastes by the industries and urban populates, encroachment of the canal land, siltation, and damage caused by natural disasters like floods.

BUSINESS
P8
India-US trade deal to boost country's manufacturing: FM
 The breakthrough follows a high-level telephonic conversation between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump. In a reciprocal move, India has committed to reducing trade barriers for American goods.

YOUNG HANS
P9
You can't build Viksit Bharat without innovation: IIT Hyd Director
 At a time when AI is rapidly reshaping careers and Indian students remain caught in a relentless cycle of grades, rankings, Prof. B. S. Murty, Director of IIT Hyderabad, is quietly steering one of the country's boldest experiments in higher education.

Simultaneously published from Hyderabad | Warangal | Tirupati | Vijayawada | Visakhapatnam | Khammam | Kurnool | Delhi

For Advertisement Pl Call: 8096967713 Follow @ / thehansindia / thehansindiaweb / thehansindia / TheHansIndiaWeb / thehansindia Book your Copy: 97055 55551



NASA Artemis II launch put off to March

WASHINGTON: NASA has pushed back the Artemis II mission launch from February to March following technical hurdles during a critical wet dress rehearsal (WDR) of its Space Launch System (SLS) rocket, Administrator Jared Isaacman announced on Tuesday. "With the conclusion of the wet dress rehearsal on Tuesday, we are moving off the February launch window and targeting March for the earliest possible launch of Artemis II," he posted on X. With the conclusion of the wet dress rehearsal today, we are moving off the February launch window and targeting March for the earliest possible launch of Artemis II. The test, conducted at Kennedy Space Center in Florida, successfully filled the core stage and interim cryogenic propulsion stage tanks with liquid hydrogen and oxygen. However, teams paused operations multiple times to address a liquid hydrogen leak at a core stage interface, requiring hardware warming and propellant flow adjustments.

Trust, Reliability & Service
Synonymous with **Kapil Chits**

Visit Us: www.kapilchits.com

KAPIL CHITS

SMALL SAVINGS GROW BIG WITH KAPIL

Turkey ready to host high-stakes US-Iran talks

ISTANBUL: Turkey is preparing to host high-level talks between the United States and Iran in Istanbul this Friday, marking a significant diplomatic effort to ease escalating tensions between the two powers. The discussions are expected to be led by the US special envoy Steve Witkoff and Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, with Turkey playing a central mediating role-Bloomberg reported. According to Turkish officials, the priority of the planned Istanbul meetings is to de-escalate tensions and avoid conflict, as relations between Washington and Tehran have deteriorated in recent months. Several nations, including Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates, have been invited to participate, possibly at the foreign minister level, underlining the broader regional effort to stabilise the situation.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

I know for sure nobody can quote from a book in Parliament. I read it on WhatsApp

'INDIA GOT BEST DEAL'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

UNION Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday hailed the India-US trade agreement as a "tremendous opportunity" for the country, calling it "the best deal" New Delhi has secured compared to its neighbours.

Addressing a press conference a day after the agreement was announced, Goyal said, "This is the best deal India has received. It is a deal for all of us, bringing positive signals for the bright future of our citizens."

Goyal credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and his rapport with US President Donald Trump saying, "We all know that the Prime Minister, leveraging his friendly relationship and close ties with President Trump, has finalised a trade deal with the United States of America that is the best deal India has received compared to all our neighbours, all the surrounding countries, and all the countries that compete with us."

The minister criticised LoP Rahul Gandhi over claims that PM Modi had accepted the India-US trade deal under pressure. "Rahul Gandhi wants to mislead the public, he does not care about India's progress," the minister said.

Continued on Page 7

- Goyal hails trade pact with US
- Credits Modi for landmark deal
- Blasts Rahul for baseless talk



Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal addressing the media on the progress of the India-US trade deal in New Delhi on Tuesday

...in final stages: Goyal

Sheds few details on India-US pact amid unanswered questions

NEW DELHI: Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal appeared on TV on Tuesday evening, purportedly to share some details and clear the air around the India-US trade deal but mainly heaped praises on the agreement. And then he said the final bits are still being worked out. The deal will be formally inked thereafter. "Today, 140 crore Indians are celebrating a trade deal which is under final stages of detailing between the negotiating teams of both countries," Goyal said, hailing the "friendship" between PM Modi and US President Trump. Continued on Page 7

Oppn stages walkout demanding debate on deal

NEW DELHI: Members of several Opposition parties on Tuesday staged a walkout from the Rajya Sabha while raising the issue of the Indo-US trade deal and demanding a discussion on it. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh raised the issue of the Indo-US trade deal soon after the zero-hour ended and alleged that the information about the deal was being received from Washington instead.

Continued on Page 7

PM buckled under pressure to sell out farmers' blood: Rahul

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi buckled under US pressure to finalise a trade deal and "sold out" the hard work of the Indian farmers through the agreement. Continued on Page 7



Congress will sweep municipal polls: CM

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

CHIEF Minister A Revanth Reddy instructed the ministers to be in their respective districts from Wednesday onwards till the end of the municipal elections. The Chief Minister expressed confidence that the party would win all seats in the municipal elections, and the ministers should coordinate with the local leaders to ensure the victory of the party candidates, it is learnt.

The Chief Minister, who held a meeting with ministers and TPCC chief B Mukesh Kumar Goud on municipal elections on Tuesday, analyzed the municipalities that lagged behind in the surveys. He inquired about the details of the district tours. He ordered that meetings be held regularly with the in-charge ministers. The Chief Minister also instructed that daily reports be submitted to him. The Chief Minister advised

- ▶ Holds a meeting with ministers, TPCC chief
- ▶ Instructs in-charge ministers to stay put in their respective districts



that disgruntled leaders be appeased.

Speaking at the meeting, he further said: "We all must work together collectively. The responsibility of ensuring victory rests with the local leaders. We must definitely win all the seats. We must work with coordination be-

tween old and new leaders".

The Chief Minister and TPCC chief also made it clear that the responsibility for victory lies with the in-charge of the respective parliamentary constituency. Until the elections are completed, everyone must stay in their assigned constituencies and monitor the situation. If there are any problems, they should be brought to the attention of the PCC Chief and the war room immediately, they said.

The meeting was held at the Chief Minister's Jubilee Hills camp office. The AICC in charge general secretary Meenakshi Natarajan, ministers and Vem Narendreddy, advisor to Chief Minister, and others took part in the meeting.

The meeting also discussed the former minister T Jeevan Reddy's unhappiness over the distribution of tickets in the Jagtial and Raikal municipalities.

Continued on Page 7



Markets rally on US trade deal

Sensex up 2,073, rupee soars

MUMBAI: Indian equity markets ended sharply higher on Tuesday as investors welcomed the finalisation of the long-awaited India-US trade deal, triggering broad-based buying across sectors and lifting the rupee to its strongest single-day gain in more than six years. The benchmark BSE Sensex surged 2,072.67 points, or 2.54 per cent, to close at 83,739.13, while the Nifty 50 climbed 639.15 points, or 2.55 per cent, to settle at 25,727.55.

No more hosting of GOs on TG's official website

Depts not forwarding GOs for uploading under 'strict orders'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE state government has reportedly stopped uploading Government Orders (GOs) on its official website from February 1. It is learnt that even the General Administration Department (GAD) was not uploading GOs due to various reasons.

Unofficial instructions to all departments against uploading important GOs on goir.telangana.gov.in, that were given five years back, are being strictly followed. In a fresh development, the departments have stopped posting GOs pertaining to



establishment orders. In recent months, Roads and Buildings, Law and Order, Labour and Employment departments were posting only those GOs that were related to release of funds and clearance of pending bills like car and mobile allowances for secretaries of the departments. Not a single GO has been uploaded on the official website in the last four days.

Continued on Page 7

Eight Oppn MPs suspended from LS for 'unruly behaviour'

NEW DELHI

IN escalation of the tussle between the government and the Opposition, seven Congress members and one CPI-M MP were suspended from the Lok Sabha on Tuesday for 'unruly behaviour' after they tore papers and threw them at the Chair. Their suspension from the House for the remaining part of the Budget Session that concludes on April 2 will intensify the face-off with the government

over various issues, including Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi being denied an opportunity to cite an article based on excerpts from an unpublished 'memoir' of former Army Chief M M Naravane on India-China conflict of 2020. The Opposition has also raised concerns about American President Donald Trump announcing the India-US trade deal. As soon as the House met at 3 pm following multiple adjournments, Dilip Saikia,

who was in the Chair, named the eight Oppn members. Subsequently, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju read out a resolution seeking suspension of the eight members for the remaining period of the Budget Session. The suspended members are Gurjeet Singh Aujla, Hibi Eden, C Kiran Kumar Reddy, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Manickam Tagore, Prashant Padole and Dean Kuriakose (all Congress) and S Ventakesan (CPI-M).

You can't play with right to privacy of this country: SC

Tells WhatsApp, Meta to 'exit India if you can't abide by the rule of the land'

NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Tuesday told WhatsApp's parent company Meta that it should leave India if it cannot follow the Constitution and protect users' data privacy.

The court was hearing Meta's plea against a Competition Commission of India (CCI) order that imposed a penalty of Rs 213.14 crore over WhatsApp's privacy policy. A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya

Bagchi and Vipul Pancholi made it clear that "not a single digit" of user data should be shared if it goes against the public interest.

According to a report by Bar and Bench, the top court also questioned the lack of a clear option for users to opt out of WhatsApp's privacy policy. "Where is the question of opting out? Show me on your mobile. This is a decent way of committing theft of private information! You know your commercial interest, and you also know how you have made



consumers addicted to the app," it said.

"Everybody uses it. If the users have a right to opt-out, how will the users know this right exists? Let us see

the option and the situation with the user. When it comes to opting out, the information is in a newspaper. How will a person know?" the Chief Justice asked the

Meta representative. CJI Kant said, "You can't play with the right of privacy of this country, in the name of data sharing. You are making a mockery of the constitutionalism of this country. How can you play with the right to privacy of people like this? People pay you for this. Consumer has no choice you have created a monopoly!"

The Bench suggested that WhatsApp file an affidavit explaining its privacy policy and how data sharing works under it. The court

adjourned the hearing till February 9 and added the Central government as a party to the case.

"For the purpose of issuing interim directions, post the matter for next Monday. On the joint request made by senior counsel, the Union of India is impleaded as a respondent. Union may also file its counter affidavit," the court said. In January 2021, WhatsApp announced updates to its terms of service and privacy policy, to be effective from February 8, 2021. Users were told they

must accept the new terms to continue using the app.

Earlier, WhatsApp's 2016 privacy policy allowed users to opt out of data sharing with Facebook. The 2021 update made data sharing with Meta mandatory.

The CCI investigated the matter and in November 2024 ruled that WhatsApp had abused its dominant position under the Competition Act, 2002. It ordered WhatsApp to stop sharing user data with Meta and its products for five years and imposed the fine.

‘SC orders not a bar on Guv’s quota on MLC appointments’

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the Notice of Public that we, Patri Bhimasena Rao and Jayashree Bhimsen had purchased a Villa No. 108, Palm Meadows, Kompalle, KV Rangareddy, Telangana - 500014 under a registered Sale Deed No. 6304/08 Dated 24/12/2008 and we have been in possession of the said Villa since the date of its acquisition by us under the said Deed. We have now found that we have lost the original Sale Deed somewhere and the same is not traceable despite best efforts. Public is therefore cautioned not to deal with the said Villa or the lost deeds, without the prior consent and approval of both of us. Anyone doing so will be doing at their own risk and he or she will be held responsible for such an act.

Sd/- SEESALA MANOJ SAINATH
B.Com, LL.B
(Advocate)
Lower Tank Bund Road,
Hyderabad-500080
Cell: 9000901239



HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD/NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Tuesday once again clarified that its orders do not pose any obstacle to the appointment of Members of the Legislative Council (MLCs) under the Governor's quota in Telangana. The clarification is expected to pave the way for the Governor to take a decision on the names— Prof M Kodandaram and

- Verdict clears path for Governor to act on Cabinet's recommendations
- Kodandaram and Azharuddin are likely to become MLCs soon

Mohd Azharuddin, recommended by the state cabinet. The apex court observed that it had already made its position clear in its interim order dated August 13 last year, stating that the Governor is free to act in accordance with the recommendations of the state cabinet.

The observation was made by a bench headed by Justice Vikram Nath while hearing a vacate petition filed by former MLC Amir Ali Khan, seeking to lift the orders issued in connection with his election. The court directed that Amir Ali Khan's petition be tagged with the main petition filed by Dasoju Shraavan and adjourned the matter to March 19 for further hearing.

The controversy dates back to 2023, when the Telangana cabinet, chaired by then Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, recommended the names of Dasoju Shraavan and Kurra Satyanarayana for nomination as MLCs under the Governor's quota. However, the then Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan rejected the nominations, citing their political affiliations and stating that they did not fulfil the criteria laid down under Article 171(5) of the Constitution. After the Congress government assumed office in 2024, the state cabinet recommended the names of Prof M Kodandaram and journalist Amir Ali Khan for the two Governor's quota MLC seats, which were subsequently approved by the Governor.

Challenging these appointments, Dasoju Shraavan and Kurra Satyanarayana first approached the Telangana High Court and later the Supreme Court. On August 13, 2025, the apex court set aside the appointments of Kodandaram and Amir Ali Khan, clarifying that the two MLC positions would be filled subject to further orders. While hearing Amir Ali Khan's plea on Tuesday, the Supreme Court reiterated that its earlier directions were not intended to hinder or stall the selection of Governor's quota MLCs in Telangana.

Govt ratchets up efforts to spruce up Mecca Masjid, other mosques in city

Minority Welfare Department secures 2,250 kg of premium dates for iftar while heritage restoration and civic works near completion following public outcry over earlier renovation delays

M M FAROOQUI
HYDERABAD

WITH just two weeks remaining before the commencement of the holy month of Ramzan, the historic Mecca Masjid, Shahi Masjid, and other prominent mosques are being spruced up for the faithful. The authorities have arranged 2,250 kg of high-quality dates for iftar as over 5,000 worshippers are expected to break their fast daily at Mecca Masjid alone. Following reported delays in renovation works that triggered public concern on 31 January, the Telangana State Minority Welfare Department has accelerated all necessary arrangements to ensure a peaceful observance of the month.

According to the department, prayer mats and essential supplies have been secured. Specifically, 1,500 kg of dates have been allocated to Mecca Masjid, with 500 kg for Shahi Masjid and 250 kg for the Secretariat Masjid. District Minorities Welfare Officer Mohammed Ilyas Ahmed confirmed that the supply contract was awarded to Gulzar Cuisine at a rate of



Rs 418 per kg. He noted that high-quality Shukri dates are being provided this year to enhance the experience for the public. Furthermore, existing carpets are being refurbished or replaced with new ones to accommodate the large crowds.

In coordination with the GHMC, water works, and electricity departments, several auxiliary tasks are underway.

Tents have already been installed at Mecca Masjid

and Shahi Masjid to provide shade. While major renovation and conservation works on the four-century-old structure are now fully completed, the reconstruction of the ablution tank and washrooms has also been finalised under the supervision of the Department of Heritage. These projects, which began in 2017, represent a significant investment in preserving the city's religious history.

Additionally, Rs 18 crore

has been sanctioned from Hyderabad MP funds for works at various mosques across the city. These funds will be utilised based on specific requirements and local demands. However, community activists like Mohammed Ahmed have raised concerns regarding sanitation in the surround-

ing areas. They pointed out that roads leading to several mosques still suffer from sewage overflow and poor lighting.

They have urged the GHMC to ensure that cleanliness and infrastructure repairs are completed well before the onset of the holy month to avoid inconvenience to the citizens. As the city prepares for the festivities, the focus remains on balancing heritage conservation with modern civic amenities for the thousands of devotees who will gather for nightly prayers and community gatherings throughout the month.

This ensures that the religious significance of the site is matched by the comfort and safety provided to every individual participating in the spiritual activities during this period of fasting.

The administration remains committed to high standards of hygiene and facility management.

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED
OPERATION/DIVISION/WANAPARTHY

SHORT TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No's T-03/25-26, 04/25-26, 05/25-26, 07/25-26 and 08/25-26
Bids invited from eligible vendors for Tender Notice No: T-03/25-26, Sp.No: W-03/25-26, 05/25-26, Tender Notice No T-04/25-26, Sp. No: 04/25-26, 08/25-26, Tender Notice No T-05/25-26, Sp. No.03/25-26, Tender Notice No T- 07/25-26, Sp. No.01/25-26, Tender Notice No T-08/25-26, Sp. No. 01/25-26 for Various electrical works in Wanaparthi Division & Starting date for sale of Tenders: 04.02.2026 and Last date for receipt of Tenders: 12.02.2026, 13:30 Hrs. For further details regarding Tender Notice please visit www.tpsouthernpower.com.

Sd/- Divisional Engineer Elect.,
Operation/TGS/DC/ Wanaparthi

DIPR.R.O.No.: 14911-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26 Date: 03-02-26

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
SAROORNAGAR CIRCLE-12

Date:02.02.2026

NIT No.	Name of the Work	Estimate Amount	Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids	Name & Address Officer Call No.
NIT No.29/EE12/SNNR/GHMC/2025-26, Dated: 02-02-2026	For (7) No.'s of Work "FOB Maintenance, Catch pit Repairs, RCC Pipeline, Chain link Mesh, Supply and Delivery of foldable MS barricading stands & CC Road Works"	Rs.78.20 Lakhs	10.02.2026 @03.10 PM	Sri V Karthik Executive Engineer, Saroornagar Circle-12, GHMC (W): 9701365519

For further details can be seen at e-procurement @ <http://www.eprocurement.telangana.gov.in/>
Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR.R.O. No.: 14929-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26 Date: 03-02-26 Saroornagar Circle-12, GHMC

आईयार्थील (इंडिया) लिमिटेड
IREL (India) Limited
(Formerly Indian Rare Earths Limited)
Rare Earths Division, Kochi, Kerala, email: purchase-red@irel.co.in
CIN: U5100MH1950GHO08187
AN ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Company
आइयार्थील का अग्रणी
गोद्योग

TENDER NOTICE

IREL (India) Limited, Rare Earths Division, Udyogamandal, invites tender for the following item/job description:

Item/job description	Availability of Tender in GeM Portal
Procurement of Caustic Soda Lye	05.02.2026 (in GeM Portal)
Capacity Augmentation of HPRE Plant	04.02.2026 (in CPP Portal)

For details visit the following websites:
www.gem.gov.in / www.irel.co.in/tender-information / <https://eprocure.gov.in/cpp>
Any corrigendum / extension to above tenders shall be hosted in above websites only.
Sd/-
GM & Head, RED
Date: 29.01.2026
CBC 48145/12/0009/2526

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-III
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD (DRT 1)
3rd Floor, Triveni Complex, Abids, Hyderabad-500001

DEMAND NOTICE
NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961, RC/425/2024
27-01-2026

State Bank of India
Versus
M/s Om Sree Venkatanameswara Prelam Private Limited

To
(CD 1) M/s Om Sree Venkatanameswara Prelam Private Limited, Represented by its Managing Director Sri Nagaraj Goud Katagani, Major, Male, Plot No.68, Flat No.102, Rang Manoh Apartment, Jayabharat Nagar, Nizampet Road, Hyderabad-500072, Medchal, Telangana. Also at: Plot No.D-27, IDA Phase No.1, Road No.6, Jeedimetla, Quthbullapur Mandal, Hyderabad-502055.
(CD 2) Sri Nagaraj Goud Katagani, S/o Sri K.K.Goud, Major, Male, Director of M/s Om Sree Venkatanameswara Prelam (P) Limited, R/o D-155, Vengal Rao Nagar, SR Nagar, Hyderabad, Telangana-500095. Also at: H.No.6-119, Plot No.119, Sy No.51, Road No.1, New Madhurapuri Colony, Almasguda, Saroonagar, Hyderabad-500058.
(CD 3) Sri Nagaraj Goud Katagani, S/o Sri K.K.Goud, Major, Male, Director of M/s Om Sree Venkatanameswara Prelam (P) Limited, R/o D-155, Vengal Rao Nagar, SR Nagar.
(CD 4) Sri Venkatesulu Adoni, S/o Late Vasantha Rao, Major, Male, Director of M/s Om Sree Venkatanameswara Prelam (P) Limited, R/o 8-3-224/11/3C, 1st Floor, Madhuram Nagar, SR Nagar.

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL HYDERABAD (DRT 1) in OA/273/2023 an amount of Rs.1,44,39,892 (Rupees One Crore Forty Four Lakhs Thirty Nine Thousands Eight Hundred Ninety Two Only) along with pendente lite and future interest @ (as per recovery certificate)% Simple Interest Yearly w.e.f. 12/10/2023 till realization and costs of Rs.2,08,610.00 (Rupees Two Lakh Eight Hundred Six Hundred Ten Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/ Fully/Limited).

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.

3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of your assets on or before the next date of hearing.

4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 09/03/2026 at 10:30 a.m. for further proceedings.

5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due. Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: 27/01/2026.

Recovery Officer,
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, HYDERABAD (DRT 1)

CAN FIN HOMES LTD. Branch Address: #5-122, Opp anutex, Canara Nagar, Boduppal Main Road, Medchal Malkajgiri Dist. 500092, Mobile:7625079230, Email: ghatkesari@canfinhomes.com, CIN:L65110KA1987PLC008699
DEMAND NOTICE
under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd., under SARFAESI Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3, issued Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrowers/guarantors listed hereunder (hereinafter referred to as the 'said Borrowers'), to repay the amounts mentioned in the Notice, within 60 days from the date of receipt of Notice, as per details given below. The said Notices have been returned undelivered by the postal authorities/ have not been duly acknowledged by the borrowers. Hence the Company by way of abundant caution is effecting this publication of the demand notice (as per the provisions of Rule 3 (1)). The undersigned has, therefore, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known addresses of the said Borrowers, as per the said Act. As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to the Company by the respective parties as detailed below:

Sl. No.	Name of Borrowers / Guarantors with Address	Amount claimed as per Demand Notice*	Description of the Secured Asset	Date of NPA
1.	Borrower 1: Mrs. Lukka Dhanalakshmi W/o Late Lukka Kali Prasad, Co-Borrower 2: Lukka Venkata Sai Akhil S/o.Late Lukka Kali Prasad, Co-Borrower 3: L V Abhishek , S/o.Late Lukka Kali Prasad, All are at: Flat no 310 LIG-3, Chitrapuri Colony, Lanco Hills, Manikonda jagir, Shaikpet Puppalguda Ranga Reddy, Telangana - 500104.	Total Outstanding: Rs.13,92,191/- (Rupees Thirly Lakhs Ninety Two Thousand And One Hundred Ninety One Only) Demand Notice Dated:02-02-2026	All that the Flat no.310 3rd floor no.8-1/L-03-310,PTIN 1261101244,LIG Block-3,having a super built up area 465.0Sq.feet along with proportionate undivided share of land admeasuring 20.59 Sq.Yards or equivalent to 17.22 Sq.Meters, (out of total admeasuring ac.67-16Gts) in sy no246/1 situated at Manikonda Jagir Village & Municipality Gandipet Mandal,Ranga Reddy Dist, Telangana Bounded by: North: Flat no.309, South: Lift & Open to sky, East: Open to sky, West: Corridor.	29-01-2026

*Payable with further interest at contractual rates as agreed from the date mentioned above till date of payment. You are hereby called upon to pay the above said amount with contracted rate of interest thereon within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the under signed will be constrained to initiate action under SARFAESI Act to enforce theaforesaid security. Further, and against of borrowers/ guarantors is invited to provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available to them to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 02-02-2026, Place: Hyderabad Sd/- Authorised Officer, Can Fin Homes Ltd.

Cong, BRS & BJP brace for civic poll blitz from today

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

AMID a looming rebel threat to all major parties, the ruling Congress, BRS, and BJP have geared up to intensify their poll campaigns for the upcoming municipal elections from Wednesday. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will formally launch the Congress campaign with a major public meeting in Miryalaguda. Meanwhile, BRS leaders have organised a series of rallies across towns for a seven-day stretch, and the BJP is focusing on establishing dominance in the northern districts.

The Chief Minister has instructed District Congress Committee presidents to finalise arrangements for public meetings scheduled until 9 February. Leaders were also told to coordinate daily rallies and door-to-door visits in every ward. TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud is set to oversee coordination with district leadership to ensure a seamless campaign.

Ruling party launches campaign with Miryalaguda public meeting while opposition gears up for intensive rallies and door to door canvassing across Telangana ahead of the 11 February municipal elections

Concurrently, BRS rimnagar, and Mahbubnagar. Union ministers, MPs, and MLAs will camp in these municipalities for the week to bolster the saffron party's presence. With nominations now finalised, all three parties are deploying their full political might to sway urban voters before the state goes to the polls.



GHMC 3-day jt induction trg prog for MSU staff begins

Commissioner Karnan emphasises critical role of frontline health teams in safeguarding vulnerable populations through timely reporting and rapid response as staff from Hyderabad Bengaluru and Thane undergo specialised three day programme

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Commissioner Karnan emphasised the critical role of Metropolitan Surveillance Units as the frontline defence in safeguarding public health in urban environments. During the three-day Joint Induction Training Programme for MSU staff from Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Thane at the MCR HRD Institute in Jubilee Hills, the commissioner underlined that the primary responsibility of personnel is to ensure timely reporting, verification, and effective response to outbreak-prone diseases.

The training programme is scheduled from 3 February to 5 February. Addressing the participants, the Commissioner highlighted key focus areas including the surveillance of water-borne diseases such as Acute Diarrheal Diseases, Cholera, and Viral Hepatitis. He



also noted the importance of monitoring vector-borne diseases like Dengue, Chikungunya, and Malaria, along with emerging threats including food poisoning and zoonotic diseases aligned with the One Health approach. Karnan stressed the need to prioritise vulnerable populations residing in slums, high-density settlements, and migratory clusters where disease transmission risks remain high.

Explaining the progress of the Hyderabad unit, functioning under the Prime Minister Ayushman Bharat

Health Infrastructure Mission, Karnan stated it is emerging as the central hub for urban disease surveillance. Of the 17 sanctioned posts, 14 personnel have already been recruited, with remaining vacancies expected to be filled shortly. The newly appointed staff is currently undergoing departmental orientation. He further noted that laboratory services are operational at the Institute of Preventive Medicine with additional strengthening through procurement of Biosafety Level-II equipment. The Com-

mand Control Centre being established at Harihara Kala Bhavan will further enhance disease monitoring.

Highlighting technological interventions, the Commissioner pointed out that Hyderabad possesses a dedicated Vector Borne Disease application for real-time surveillance, GIS mapping, and coordinated field response. During the programme, participants will undergo hands-on training on the Integrated Health Information Platform, enabling real-time disease reporting through specific

forms along with event-based surveillance. Sessions will cover epidemiological investigations, data security, and risk communication.

Karnan reiterated that public health is a collaborative effort involving health, water supply, and sanitation sectors. He urged participants to strengthen inter-departmental coordination. Additional Commissioner Patil, Raghu Prasad, Zonal Commissioner Priyanka Ala, Joint Director Shubhangi Kulsange, Pradip Awate, and Chief Medical Officer Padmaja attended the programme. This collaborative initiative marks a significant step towards a unified urban health security framework that ensures cities can effectively mitigate risks, manage medical emergencies, and protect the overall well-being of all residents through professional expertise and advanced technological integration within the existing municipal infrastructure and healthcare delivery systems.

Bhongir MP among 8 suspended from Lok Sabha for flinging papers at Chair

The suspensions followed disruptions in the House after Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi raised issues related to Chinese aggression

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

CONGRESS Bhongir Member of Parliament Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy was among the eight opposition MPs suspended from the Lok Sabha on Tuesday for the remainder of the ongoing session.

The other suspended MPs are Hibi Eden, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Manickam Tagore, Gurjeet Singh, Prashant Padole, Dean Kuriakose, and CPI (M) MP S Venkatesan.

The suspensions followed disruptions in the House after Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi raised issues related to Chinese aggression, citing references from the autobiography of former Indian Army chief General MM Naravane, during the discussion on the motion of thanks to the President's address.

Rahul Gandhi said he intended to speak on national security concerns, but proceedings were disrupted when opposition members protested, including tearing papers and flinging them towards the Speaker's chair. Taking serious note of the disorderly conduct, the Speaker suspended eight



Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy

opposition MPs for the remainder of the session. Subsequently, the Lok Sabha was adjourned for the day and scheduled to reconvene the next day.

Speaking to the media after the suspension, Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said the MPs were suspended for questioning the Speaker's decision to cut off Rahul Gandhi's microphone. He alleged that whenever Rahul Gandhi attempts to raise key issues, the proceedings are disrupted in a manner that leads to adjournment of the House.

Chamala accused the BJP of misleading the public by claiming that Congress MPs were responsible for the adjournments. He further alleged that the suspension of

the eight MPs was deliberate and aimed at silencing the opposition.

"When Rahul Gandhi was speaking during the debate on the President's address, his microphone was cut off. We went to the Speaker's podium to question this action. The BJP is trying to suppress our voices," Chamala said.

He added that while the suspended MPs would stage a protest in the Parliament premises on Wednesday, other opposition MPs would continue to raise the issues in the House.

Alleging that microphones were being deliberately switched off during opposition speeches, Chamala accused the BJP of engaging in "petty politics."

Cong leader vents ire over suspension of Opposition MPs

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA Pradesh Mahila Congress Vice President Rekha Boyalapalli on Monday criticised the suspension of Opposition MPs for seeking a discussion on former Army Chief Gen M.M. Naravane's book, describing it as a threat to parliamentary democracy and national security. She said the issues raised in the memoir, including alleged political pressure on military decisions and interference in strategic auton-

omy, were of serious national importance. "The Army is a sacred institution that must remain above politics. Any attempt to silence debate on matters concerning defence endangers the nation," she stated.

Rekha asserted that Rahul Gandhi sought a parliamentary discussion not for partisan reasons but to protect the dignity of the armed forces and ensure transparency in defence decision-making. "Citizens have the right to know whether professional military advice was ignored



Rekha Boyalapalli

and whether national security was compromised due to political considerations," she said.

Criticising the government's response, she alleged that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reacted with aggression instead of providing clarity. Amit Shah avoided the core issue, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi remained a silent spectator to the disruption. Suspending MPs, she added, was an attempt to evade accountability.

A NIGHTMARE FOR COMMUTERS



Though pipeline works were completed three weeks back in Kavadiguda, road is not levelled up to ensure passage of traffic, posing a nightmare to commuters. **Photo: Ch Prabhu Das**

Over 2.5 cr devotees attended Sammakka Jatara: Seethakka

Panchayat Raj Minister elated over hassle-free arrangements at the sprawling Jatara venue

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

PANCHAYAT Raj Minister Dhanasri Anasuya Seethakka on Tuesday stated that over 2.5 crore devotees attended the Sammakka Sarakka Medaram Maha Jatara this year. During an informal interaction with the media, the Minister announced plans to widen roads before the next Jatara to effectively overcome persistent traffic problems. She described the festival as a grand success, noting that arrangements and temple works proceeded smoothly despite false propaganda spread by certain individuals.

The Minister clarified that the event concluded without any untoward incidents, dismissing misinformation regarding a single theft. Seethakka highlighted that

even opposition leaders praised the management. People from all walks of life arrived in large numbers for the darshan of the goddesses. The Tirugu Jatara is scheduled to take place within a day or two.

Furthermore, the Minister confirmed she would soon review ongoing works in the Mulugu district with officials to prepare for the ensuing Godavari Pushkarams. This proactive approach aims to ensure better infrastructure and crowd management for all future religious congregations in the region. The government remains committed to enhancing devotee facilities while maintaining the spiritual sanctity and safety of these massive tribal gatherings across the state of Telangana.



KTR lobs job failure salvo at Revanth; says jobless furious

BRS working president demands apology from Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for failure to provide 2-lakh jobs

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Tuesday demanded an apology by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for not giving 2 lakh jobs as promised two years ago.

Rama Rao warned the Congress government that the anger of the unemployed youth in Telangana was reaching its breaking point after the Chief Minister shamelessly backed out of another guarantee he gave – providing two lakh jobs in the first year itself. Rao said that Revanth, who came to power through dishonest means by promising two lakh jobs in the first year of his term, is now having the PCC chief to claim that it was a five-year promise, and the youth were disgusted by this.

KTR said that if Priyanka Gandhi's words, who came all the way from Delhi to say that the government should be overthrown if it failed to provide two lakh jobs in the first year, had been implemented, this deceitful government would have collapsed a year ago. KTR criticised the Congress government's job recruitment process, stating that the CM, after giving appointment letters for 65,000 jobs that were in the final stages during KCR's tenure and posing for photos, has completely given up on the process, resulting in 'zero recruitment' in Telangana.



It has become clear to everyone that the mudslinging campaign launched by Revanth against the BRS government, which had already filled 165,000 jobs, was all a pack of lies aimed at gaining power through deceit. He said that not only the unemployed youth but also their parents were condemning the incompetent and useless administration that hasn't even issued notifications for ten thousand new jobs.

KTR said that the Telangana society was constantly observing how the Revanth government was filling its pockets through a series of scams after burying the job calendar. He warned that it would be a mistake to think that the four crore people of Telangana would remain silent and forget the deception perpetrated by the Chief

Minister just because he has gone back on his promise of two lakh jobs.

He asserted that there was no question of forgiving the Chief Minister, even if he apologizes profusely or prostrates himself, for deceiving and betraying the unemployed youth of Telangana.

KTR said that all six guarantees were nothing but mere tricks, and all 420 promises were nothing but deception, and that the Revanth government, which had revealed its true nature, will surely face the wrath of the unemployed.

He added that every unemployed person, from Adilabad to Ashok Nagar Chowrasta, was ready to teach a lesson to the government for the deception in the name of Mega DSC and the betrayal regarding unemployment allowance.

CPM sees red over killing of Excise cop; seeks fast-track court for trial

CPM State secretary John Wesley demands strict action against drug mafia

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Communist Party of India (Marxist) State Committee has strongly condemned the brutal murder of Excise Department woman constable Soumya, a resident of Mopal village in Nizamabad district. The officer was allegedly killed by the drug mafia after being run over during a vehicle inspection, an incident initially staged to appear as a car accident. In a statement issued on Tuesday, CPM State Secretary John Wesley demanded that the state government immediately constitute a fast-track court to ensure swift and severe punishment for those responsible for this heinous crime.

The CPM alleged that the influence of the drug mafia has been growing unchecked in Hyderabad and several major district headquarters across Telangana. Referring to frequent drug seizures during police raids in Rangareddy district, the party described the current situation as alarming and indicative of a deep-rooted narcotics network. While Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has stated that drugs will be eradicated from the state, the CPM argued that the ground reality tells a different story. According to the party, the supply and circulation of narcotics continue unabated in every district, exposing a failure to effectively curb the



menace.

The statement warned that drug abuse is pushing youth onto a dangerous path, contributing to social unrest and increased crimes, including sexual violence and atrocities against women. The CPM further alleged that the drug mafia's influence is expanding across the Telugu states, leading to a series of violent incidents and murders. Citing previous cases, the party pointed to the murder of activist Panchalaiah in Nellore and now Constable Soumya as evidence of the growing audacity of criminal networks.

The CPM demanded stringent action to ensure exemplary punishment and called for the complete dismantling of the drug network, rather than limiting action to individual arrests. The party urged senior police officials to go beyond praising the bravery of victims and take decisive steps to eliminate the mafia. As a result of this tragedy, the party insists that unless those entrusted with public safety are protected, the plight of ordinary citizens will continue to worsen under the shadow of organised crime.

CS directs officials to secure maximum central funds in Union Budget 2026-27

Ramakrishna Rao demands systematic action plan to claim Telangana's ₹25,000 crore share from centrally sponsored schemes while prioritising pharma and semiconductor sectors for state development

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

STATE Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao has instructed top officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan to secure pending central funds for Telangana in the Union Government's budget for the 2026-27 financial year. At a meeting with secretaries from all departments, he emphasised that officials must work systematically to obtain the maximum possible allocation from centrally sponsored schemes. He clarified that the central government has proposed a budget of Rs 5 lakh crore under these schemes. Based on population figures, the Chief



Secretary noted that Telangana should receive at least Rs 25,000 crore as its rightful share.

Ramakrishna Rao pointed out that the central budget prioritises the development of the pharma sector, semiconductor manufacturing, and various agricultural aspects, suggesting that the state take appropriate meas-

ures in these directions. He identified a significant opportunity to develop a temple corridor connecting Khammam, Warangal, and Karmannagar districts. With the Mamunoor airport project progressing in Warangal, he highlighted the substantial potential for tourism, industrial, and commercial growth in these specific regions.

Furthermore, the Chief Secretary stated that the state is yet to receive another Rs 10,000 crore during the current financial year. He briefed officials on the 16th Finance Commission, noting that fund allocations are based on 2011 population data alongside criteria such as demographic area, implementation capacity, and fund

utilisation. Priority is given to development-oriented indicators. He suggested that special measures be taken to ensure that surplus unutilised funds remaining with the central government are made available to the state. Secretaries have been directed to make special efforts to ensure no funds are lost due to administrative delays.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HANUMAKONDA

WARADHANAPET MLA K R Nagaraj has criticised the former MLA and leaders of the BJP and BRS, accusing them of indulging in politics based on lies, and said the people of Waradhanapet would teach them a fitting lesson. Speaking at a media conference on Tuesday at the Municipal Election Office, he also announced the names of 12 ward members supported by the Congress Party.

MLA K R Nagaraj alleged that opposition leaders, unable to accept the public support for Congress welfare schemes in Ward No. 12, are spreading falsehoods and baseless propaganda.

He said Congress leaders are campaigning door-to-door and receiving strong backing from residents, focusing on households that have benefited from government welfare programmes. He criticised former rulers for not spending on development during their ten-year tenure and contrasted it with Congress achievements in the past two years.

Highlighting tangible de-



velopment, Nagaraj stated that 143 Indiramma houses and new ration cards have been provided to the poor, and works worth Rs 200 crore, including an Integrated School, a 100-bed hospital, a mini stadium, a Munsif Court, a sub-jail, and a Banjara Bhavan, have been sanctioned. He also reaffirmed that the 100-bed hospital foundation stone was laid based on public opinion and

assured its completion.

The MLA further criticised opposition parties for troubling tribals by merging hamlets into municipalities, while Congress fought to convert them into Gram Panchayats.

He highlighted feeder channel repairs during the rainy season and asserted that Congress is delivering genuine justice to weaker sections through its six

- K R Nagaraj accuses BJP and BRS of spreading false propaganda in Waradhanapet
- Highlights Congress development works including 143 Indiramma houses and Rs 200 crore projects
- Appeals to voters to ensure victory for all 12 Congress-backed candidates

guarantees. MLA K R Nagaraj appealed to voters to reject opposition propaganda and ensure a decisive victory for all 12 Congress candidates in the upcoming municipal elections.

Hans India Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUSHMA BEN B Spouse of Service No. 6943942L Hav VASAVA BHARAT BHAI, R/o. H.No.3/35/481, Valmiki Nagar, East Marredpally, Secunderabad, Hyderabad Dist have changed my name from **SUSHMA BEN B to VASAVA SUSHAMA BEN** vide affidavit dt: 03-02-2026 before G.Ramchander, Advocate at Notary, Secunderabad.

(TH. 44949)

I, AGASTYARAJU TEJOMAYI SHESHAKIRAN (Old Name) R/o.FT.501, Tathajis Creative Heights, Masjid banda Road, Opp. to Aparna Luxor, Kondapur Post, Dist: R.R TS-500084, Changed My Name As **TEJOMAYI AGASTYARAJU** (New Name) **W/o. S. Sheshakiran Jayakumar Agastyaraju**

(TH. 44949)

I, RAMA MOHANA RAO VYTILA H/o.SRI DEVI VYTILA R/o. 1-98/867/71, F.No.203, P.No. 7A, Mahalakshmi Plaza, Madhapur, Cy/bad -R.R-500081. TS Changed my name from **RAM MOHANA RAO VYTILA to RAMA MOHANA RAO VYTILA** For All Purpose.

(TH. 44949)

I, OMER ABDULLA SHAREEF S/o MOHAMMAD ALTAF SHAREEF, FAREEDA BEGUM, R/o Mallapur, Hyderabad-76, Would henceforth my correct data is **OMER ABDULLAH SHAREEF S/o MOHAMMAD ALTAF SHAREEF, FARIDA ALTAF** as in my all academic records. This for my passport reissue applying & for my all record purposes.

(TH. 44949)

I Kavita Kumar, R/o. Villa 47A, Corjita Grand Vie, Gundlapochampally Village, Medchal Mandal, Medchal -Malkajgiri District. Telangana pin - 500100. changed the name of my minor daughter from **EESHA KARTHIK, D/o. KARTHIK CHANDRASEKAR to EESHA KAVITA, D/o. KAVITA KUMAR** Affidavit dated. 19.11.2025, sworn before notary **SHAIK JAKEER HUSSAIN.**

(TH. 44949)

I, Service No. 6943942L Hav VASAVA BHARAT BHAI, R/o. H.No. 3/35/481, Valmiki Nagar, East Marredpally, Secunderabad, Hyderabad Dist hereby declare that my son name is to be changed from **NIKHIL KUMAR to VASAVA NIKHIL KUMAR.**

(TH. 44949)

I, Service No. 6943942L Hav VASAVA BHARAT BHAI, R/o. H.No.3/35/481, Valmiki Nagar, East Marredpally, Secunderabad, Hyderabad Dist hereby declare that my son name is to be changed from **VISHAL BHAI to VASAVA VISHAL BHAI.**

(TH. 44949)

I, Service No. 6943942L Hav VASAVA BHARAT BHAI, R/o. H.No.3/35/481, Valmiki Nagar, East Marredpally, Secunderabad, Hyderabad Dist hereby declare that my daughter name is to be changed from **PAYAL KUMARI to VASAVA PAYAL KUMARI.**

(TH. 44949)

I, RAMA MOHANA RAO VYTILA H/o.SRI DEVI VYTILA R/o. 1-98/867/71, F.No.203, P.No. 7A, Mahalakshmi Plaza, Madhapur, Cy/bad -R.R-500081. TS Changed my name from **RAM MOHANA RAO VYTILA to RAMA MOHANA RAO VYTILA** For All Purpose.

(TH. 44949)

I RAISA BEGUM, D/o. MIRZA GHOSSE BEG aged about 28 years, R/o. HNO: 3-190/1, Kachavani Singaram, Ghatkesar, Medchal Malkajgiri (Dist)- 500088, Telangana. do here by I have changed my name **RAISA MIRZA to RAISA BEGUM**

(TH. 44949)

I, V V NAGA LAKSHMI HARI PRIYA D/o V JANAKI RAMAIAH, R/o.Flat No. 501, Block D, Vazhraa Pratik Apartments, Madhura Nagar, Nizampet, M-M Dist-90, TG Shall henceforth be known as **VEDURUMUDI VENKATA NAGA LAKSHMI HARIPRIYA W/O SUSARLA KRISHNA BHARGAVA.**

(TH. 44949)

I, Pativada Prasanna D/O Thatrajy Satya Narayana W/O R A N Pavan Pativada R/O Flat No-102, Vignesh Sadan, VSN Colony, Cantonnement Vizianagaram, Dist- Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh-535003 have changed my name to **Thatrajy Prasanna.**

(TH.AANCHAL)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Kurram Mallamma, W/o. Late Parendal Narsimha, R/o. H.No.3-99/A, Indira Nagar, Uppal, RR Dist., have changed my name from **KURRAM MALLAMMA to PARENDAL MALLAMMA** for all records purpose.

(TH. 02818)

I, SAIFA BEGUM, R/o. H.No.8-1-523/166, Brindavan Colony, Tolichowki, Golconda, Hyderabad- 500008, T.S. Changed my name as **SAFIA BEGUM W/o. MOHAMMED JEELANI.**

(TH. 44949)

I, Qudrath Unnisa Neha Begum, W/o. Mohammed Abdul Zubair, R/o.17-8-320, Yakutpura, Hyd, TS, changed my name from **Qudrath Unnisa Alias Neha Begum (Old Name) to Qudrath Unnisa Neha Begum (New Name)** for all Purposes.

(TH. 44949)

I, Kadakia Smit Sanjay Kumar R/o. HNo. 10-32 To 37C - 1101, Welkkin Park Old Patigadda, Prakash Nagar, Secunderabad TS-500016 have changed My Name As **Smit Sanjay Kadakia**

(TH. 44949)

I, Amana shaheen R/o H.No.18-7-212/30/6/B/7 Jahangir Nagar Talab katta Charminar Hyd.Change My New Name As **Ameena Shaheen W/o. Mohammed Abdul Waris.**

(TH. 44949)

I, RUHI NAZMEEN, R/O. 2-3-423/158/86/Q10, M.C.H.COLONY, AMBERPET, HYD, TS. CHANGED MY DAUGHTER'S NAME FROM SHAIK NAMEERA (OLD NAME) TO **SHAIK NAMEERA FATIMA (NEW NAME) D/O IRFAN SHAIK NASER.**

(TH. 44949)

I, AISHWARYA DHARA W/O RAKESH DHARA (New Name) R/o. Flat No. 24, SURYA PARADISE, SHIVAM RD, NEW NALLAKUNTA, Hyd- 500044, TS, changed my name from **NAGA AISHWARYA KANDRIGA (Old Name) to AISHWARYA DHARA W/O RAKESH DHARA (New Name)** for all purposes.

(TH. 44949)

I, LAVANIYA LAVANYA, R/O H NO 2-2-49/1, Kalal Gally, Yellareddy, Kamareddy Dist-503122, TS changed my name as **NAGULURI LAVANYA W/O NAGULURI SRINIVAS GOUD**

(TH. 44949)

I MUMTAZ BEGUM R/O.H.No. 2-3-695/11/C LAL BAGH AMBERPET HYDERABAD TELANGANA HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AS **MUMTAZ JAHAN W/O. HAJI MURTUZA.**

(TH. 44949)

I, JAWALKER S SUJATHA, R/o.P.No.33, Jupiter Colony, Gunrock Road, Tirumalagiri, Hyd- 500015, have changed my name from **JAWALKER SUJATHA to JAWALKER S SUJATHA D/o. Suryaprakash Jawalker** for all purposes.

(TH. 44949)

I, ZEHAARUNNISA BEGUM, R/o.H.No.101/C, Bansilalpet, Secbad have changed my name from **ZAHEER UNNIS BEGUM to ZEHAARUNNISA BEGUM W/o. Mohammed Iqbal** for all purposes.

(TH. 44949)

I, VEGDANI SUJAL SALIMBHAI (Old name), R/O. Flat No-410, 4th Floor, Dareidia Signature, Dareidia Road, Kompally, T.G., India, have changed my name as **VEGDANI SUJAL SALIM** (new name) **S/o. SALIM VEGDANI**

(TH. 44949)

I, VEGDANI SMITTABEN SALIM (Old name), R/O. Flat No-410, 4th Floor, Dareidia Signature, Dareidia Road, Kompally, T.G., India, have changed my name as **SMITA SALIM VEGDANI** (new name) **W/o. SALIM VEGDANI**

(TH. 44949)

I, KURA SAMPATH KUMAR S/o KURA NARASIMHA SWAMY, R/o. P. No.30-276/13/32/L, P B Nagar Colony, Salfiguda, Neredmet, Medchal Telangana - 500056, my father's name was wrongly printed in my Passport No. L6962182 as **KURA NARSIMHA SWAMY**, instead of the correct name **KURA NARASIMHA SWAMY** for all purposes.

(TH. 44949)

I, MULPURI LEELEAKRISHNA S/O MULPURI VENKATESWARU R/O. FNO. 111, TOWER NO.4, PRAVEETH PRANAV FLOOR, S/O NO.2272, MEDAK HIGHWAY, DUNDIGAL, CYBERABAD-MEDICAL-500043, TS changed my name from **MULPURI LEELEA KRISHNA to MULPURI LEELEAKRISHNA S/O MULPURI VENKATESWARU** for all purposes

(TH. 44949)

I, GALINKI MANUJIA W/O. GALINKI PERAJAH (NEW NAME) R/O. HNO: 1-3-49/3, ANAND RAO COLONY, OLD ALMAL, SECUNDERABAD-500010, TS changed my name from **BABY DASARI MANUJIA (OLD NAME) to GALINKI MANUJIA W/O. GALINKI PERAJAH (NEW NAME)** for all purposes

(TH. 44949)

NOTICE: Readers are advised to make appropriate enquiries while responding to advertisements in these columns. THE HANS INDIA, (Hyderabad Media House PVT Ltd) does not vouch for any claims made by the/advertisers. Hyderabad Media House PVT Ltd. shall not be held responsible/liable for any consequences in case such claims are found to be false.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my clients 1) **RAKESH JANGIR** S/o. Giridhar Lal Jangir S/o.Kasama Ram & 2) Miss **POOJA HANSRAJ SUTHAR** D/o. Hansraj Suthar W/o: Rakesh Jangir both are R/o: Balanagar, have entered into AGREEMENT OF SALE and paid substantial amount towards part sale consideration with respect to purchase all that the Residential Flat No:1007A, in Block A on 10th Floor of Super built up area 1320 Sft. (Inclusive of Carpet area, Wall area, Balcony area and Common area) and 1 (ONE) Car Parking together with an Proportionate undivided share of Land Admeasuring 36.28 Sq.Yards out of 15572.64 Sq Yards on 4 BLOCKS in Sy.Nos:114, 115 & 116 situated at Jeedimetla Village, Under GHMC Circle & Mandal, Quthbullapur, Medchal- Malkajgiri Dist, Telangana State and bounded within the following boundaries NORTH: Open To Sky And Flat No:1008A SOUTH: Open To Sky And Flat No:1006A, EAST: Corridor, WEST: Open To Sky, from its lawful owner **M/s. BEAMS AND COLUMNS BUILDERS PRIVATE LIMITED** Any person having or claiming any rights interest claim demand or benefit what so ever in respect of the Schedule Property by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, gift, trust, development rights, inheritance, bequest, possession lease, license, tenancy, lis-pendens, lien, charge, maintains, easement or under any agreement or power of attorney what so ever or otherwise how so ever is hereby requested to notify the same in writing with documentary proof thereof the undersigned at the address as mentioned below within 3 days from the date hereof, failing which it shall be construed that either there is no claim demand rights or interest what so ever in or over the Schedule Property adverse to the aforesaid owner or the same has been waived for all intent and purposes and sale shall be completed.

Sd/- Suresh Jain M.com., LL.M. PGAT, PGDCC, ADVOCATE & NOTARY
8-3-254, Market Street, Opp. Market P.S., Secunderabad-03
Cell No: 9885024004.
Date:04-02-2026, Secunderabad.

LOST DOCUMENTS

I, VENKATESWARA RAO TALASILA Son of PURNACHANDRA RAO, Age 60 Years, Occ: Business, Resident of Akshaya 1, # 68B/R/4, Shankar Valley Apartments, Road No.12, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad- 500034. I submit that last month I am renovating and colouring my flat I noticed that Original Documents file is missing and the said file consists of Sale Deed bearing Doc No. 2393/2008, Dated: 25-06-2008, Registered in the office of District Registrar, Hyderabad (South) pertaining to Flat No.103, GHMC No. 8-2-68B/R/4, Akshaya-1, Ground Floor of Shankar Valley, Admeasuring 1370 Sq Feets Shakerpet Village, Road No.12, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad / No. 1293/7 (old), 483 (new) Sale Deed bearing Doc No. BNSD664/2008-09, Dated: 21-04-2008, Registered in the office of Sub Registrar, Banarswadi, Bangalore-60 pertaining to Flat No. 309, NR Greenwood Apartments, Near Marayala Tech Park, Sy No.105/1, Khata No.2160, Rachenahalli, Bangalore. If found, please contact Venkateswara Rao Talasila, Cell: 879903355

(TH. 31193)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHEIK VAHAB (old Name) S/o. SHAIK SUBHANI, R/O. H.No. 4306, 1st floor, Road No.13, New MIG Phase-2, R.C. Puram, Vidyuth Nagar, Sangareddy Dist-502032, T.G. I Have Changed my Name As **SHAIK VAHAB** (New Name). Hereafter My Name is Known as **SHAIK VAHAB** (New Name).

(TH. 216)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHEIK BEEBI (old Name) S/o. SHAIK SUBHANI, R/O. H.No. 4306, 1st floor, Road No.13, New MIG Phase-2, R.C. Puram, Vidyuth Nagar, Sangareddy Dist- 502032, T.G. I Have Changed my Name As **SHAIK BEEBI** (New Name). Hereafter My Name is Known as **SHAIK BEEBI** (New Name).

(TH. 216)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHEIK SUBHANI (old Name) S/o. SHAIK Madeena, R/O. H.No. 4306, 1st floor, Road No.13, New MIG Phase-2, R.C. Puram, Vidyuth Nagar, Sangareddy Dist- 502032, T.G. I Have Changed my Name As **SHAIK SUBHANI** (New Name). Hereafter My Name is Known as **SHAIK SUBHANI** (New Name).

(TH. 216)

Lost of Document

This is to Inform general Public: That I, **M. Sudama S/o Late M. Hanumantha Charya, Age-75years**, Occupation/Retired Employee R/o H.No.3-9-559/1, Plot No-15, Sri Balaji Nagar Colony, Road No-04, Sahara Road, Mansoorabad LB Nagar, Hyd-500068. Have Lost My Original Sale Deed No: 5558/1991. On Dated 29/05/1991. SRO Hayath Nagar. While Traveling From My Residence to Ranga Reddy Court From Then HDFC RK Puram Branch. By Bike In Missing Date:21/01/2026. If Found Anyone Please Call: 9346664435.

(TH. 44949)

HELPLINE

THE HANS INDIA

NEED YOUR FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER

Call: 9705555551



Warangal Member of Parliament Dr Kadiyam Kavya distributes B-Forms to Congress candidates on Tuesday

Congress eyes clean sweep in Station Ghanpur as MP Kavya leads poll campaign

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HANUMAKONDA

WARANGAL Member of Parliament Dr Kadiyam Kavya on Tuesday distributed B-Forms to Congress candidates contesting the Station Ghanpur Municipal elections and asserted that she would personally take responsibility for ensuring the party's victory in all 18 wards. The programme was held at the Congress Party office in Ghanpur town, where she asked candidates to immediately submit their nomination papers to the election authorities.

Addressing candidates and party workers, the MP urged them to take the Congress government's welfare guarantees and development initiatives to every household and seek the blessings of voters. She direct-

ed party cadres to coordinate ward-wise, intensify election campaigning and effectively counter the strategies of rival parties, expressing confidence that Congress candidates would secure a clean sweep in the municipality.

Dr Kavya said the municipal elections should be treated as a prestigious responsibility and highlighted the Congress Party's commitment to urban development and basic infrastructure. She recalled that Station Ghanpur was declared a municipality soon after Revanth Reddy assumed office as Chief Minister and pointed to ongoing works on roads and drainage systems to address flooding issues that previously affected the town. Calling for unity within the party, she appealed to workers and voters to ensure that the Congress flag flies in all 18 wards.



AP deputy CM's wife Anna Lezhneva visits historic Bhadrakali temple

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HANUMAKONDA

ANNA Lezhneva, wife of Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, visited the historic Sri Bhadrakali Ammavari Temple in Warangal city on Tuesday and offered special prayers to the presiding deity. On her arrival, she was accorded a warm reception by temple trustee Thonupuri Veeranna. She first offered prayers at the shrines of Adi Shankaracharya and

Vallabha Ganapati before proceeding to the main sanctum, where she performed special pujas to Goddess Bhadrakali.

Following the completion of the rituals, chief priest Cheppela Venkata Nagaraja Sharma, along with Vedic scholar Pradeep Kumar Sharma, conducted the Mahadashirvachanam at the temple's Snapana Mandapam. The priests later presented the sacred silk garments of the Goddess and offered prasadam to Anna Lezhneva.

Collector's hospital visit exposes gaps in patient care

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KUMURAM BHEEM
ASIFABAD

staff.

She later held a review meeting with the doctors, stressing the importance of punctuality and diligence in duty.

DISTRICT Collector K. Haritha on Tuesday emphasised the need for improved medical services at government hospitals, stating that patients, particularly those from common and tribal communities, must receive respectful and quality healthcare.

The District Collector made a surprise visit to the government hospital at the district headquarters, where she inspected various wards and departments. She interacted with patients undergoing treatment and sought details regarding the medical facilities and services being provided.

During the inspection, Haritha reviewed the functioning of the blood bank and enquired about the services rendered by doctors, nurses and other hospital

She directed hospital authorities to maintain cleanliness in wards and hospital, ensure quality standards in the food supplied to patients and provide clean drinking water. She also instructed doctors and staff to continuously monitor patients' health conditions and avoid any form of negligence.

Stating that government hospitals cater largely to economically weaker sections and tribal populations, the District Collector underlined the responsibility of medical staff to treat every patient with dignity and care.

Hospital Superintendent Praveen, Medical College Principal Subodh Kumar, along with doctors and other staff members, were present during the inspection.

Council LoP flays Revanth for ‘vulgar remarks’ against KCR

BRS MLC says Revanth is running a deceptive government, neglecting implementation of the pre-poll guarantees

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

LEADER of Opposition in the Legislative Council Madhusudhana Chary on Tuesday condemned the vulgar remarks made by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy against BRS president Chandrashekar Rao. Addressing a press conference, Chary stated that the words of the Chief Minister were intended to influence the ongoing SIT investigation. He clarified that Rao has never refused to face the inquiry but merely requested more time due to his current responsibilities regarding the upcoming municipal elections.

“We have faced many investigations in the last two years and are not afraid. Rao is a national leader who brought statehood to Telangana and remains in

the hearts of the people,” Chary said, noting that Reddy had no involvement in the original statehood movement.

The BRS leader alleged that despite advice from Justice Sudarshan Reddy against hateful speeches, the Chief Minister continued making derogatory remarks. He compared the nature of Reddy to a dog’s tail that can never be straightened, alleging the current government is deceptive and neglects implementing its guarantees.

Madhusudhana Chary further alleged that the government miserably failed in conducting the Sammakka Sarakka Jatara. Despite boasts about permanent arrangements, a massive 15-hour traffic jam occurred, proving a lack of basic preparations. He noted that under the tenure of Rao, the festival was

celebrated grandly with superior action rather than empty words.

Chary demanded a public apology to the devotees for the hardships faced. MLC Takkellapalli Ravinder Rao added that the comments of the Chief Minister deeply hurt Telangana society, stating Reddy is not fit to be compared to Rao, who has a history of sacrificing positions for the cause of the state.

Former Corporation Chairman Venkateshwar Reddy was also present at the briefing to support the opposition’s stance on these administrative and political issues.

The leaders concluded that the focus should remain on developmental goals rather than engaging in personal vendettas that distract from the welfare of the common citizens of Telangana.

KTR: Respect ‘rebel’ leaders for pulling out from poll fray

Says Congress party is facing strong public resentment and asked his party cadre to expose the failures of the ruling party

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Tuesday called upon the party leaders in the district to give due respect to the leaders who have withdrawn from the elections and should be warmly welcomed.

Stating that within just two years of coming to power the Congress party was facing strong public resentment and calling up on the cadre to expose the failures of the ruling party and hoist the Pink flag in the municipal elections, Rama Rao said that BRS must register a massive victory in the municipal elections: KTR’s directives to party cadres.

He was speaking during a teleconference held on Tuesday with party constituency in-charges, municipal coor-



dinators, and district presidents. He said that within just two years of the current Congress party coming to power, strong public resentment was being expressed towards it. He said that the people were observing the betrayal of the Congress government and its failure to fulfill its promises, thus deceiving the public. In this context, he expressed

confidence that a favorable atmosphere prevails for the BRS party across the state, and that the people would definitely teach the Congress party a lesson in these elections.

The BRS leader expressed confidence that if all the party cadres work hard in coordination for the next week, a victory with a huge

majority was certain. He recalled that in the last municipal elections, the opposition parties could not stand before the BRS wave, and that the Congress and BJP were then limited to only seven or eight seats. KTR emphasized that coordination was crucial as part of the election strategy. He requested that rebel candidates, who withdrew their nominations in many places, respecting the party’s request, be warmly welcomed. He instructed the candidates to personally visit the homes of every leader who made a sacrifice by adhering to party discipline and to involve them in the campaign. He stated that it is the responsibility of the municipal coordinators to give them due respect and move forward together. Following the conclusion of the nomi-

nation process, he instructed that a comprehensive report on the ground situation be immediately sent to the party headquarters.

Focusing on the final stage of the campaign, KTR called for every minute to be utilized effectively. He directed district presidents and former ministers to assess the chances of victory in the municipalities under their purview and prepare the necessary action plan to ensure the success of the winning candidates. He suggested that leaders should also focus on increasing the voter turnout on polling day, in addition to ensuring the victory of the candidates. He asked the municipal coordinators to remain available in their assigned areas until the completion of the election process.

Polls should be conducted effectively, says DGP

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA State Director General of Police Shivadhar Reddy has emphasised to police officers the critical importance of conducting the upcoming municipal elections in strict accordance with the law.

During a video conference on Tuesday, the DGP addressed Police Commissioners, District SPs, and Station House Officers from regions where the municipal elections are scheduled to take place. With elections set for 7 municipal corporations and 116 municipalities across the state, officers have been directed to ensure smooth proceedings in 414 wards under corporations including Kothagudem, Karimnagar, Mahabubnagar, and Nizamabad, as well as 2,582 wards in the municipalities.

The DGP stressed that adhering to regulations is essential to uphold the reputation of the state police and the government. He made it clear that measures must be implemented to avert complaints or unwanted incidents. During the meeting, Hyderabad Police Legal Advisor Ramulu provided an overview of the laws governing election conduct. Shivadhar Reddy highlighted that under the law, severe penalties are unavoidable for those attempting to sway voters,

Telangana police chief Shivadhar Reddy directs officials to ensure seamless municipal polls across 123 urban local bodies while warning of strict imprisonment for voter coercion or illegal distribution of alcohol

coerce them, or obstruct the nomination process.

Additionally, distributing alcohol to disturb the peace or breaching the Excise Act could lead to imprisonment ranging from six months to two years. Under the Arms Act, individuals with licensed firearms must surrender them to police stations, with non-compliance carrying a prison sentence of one to three years.

The DGP also directed authorities to enforce strict campaign regulations for political parties. He emphasised that using religious institutions for political agendas is a grave offence under the Prevention of Misuse of Religious Institutions Act 1988. Furthermore, individuals engaging in hate speech or inciting division may face up to five years in prison. The conference was attended by high-ranking officials including AIG Law and Order Ramana Kumar, ensuring a unified strategy for a fair and peaceful electoral process across the entire state of Telangana.

Ticket distribution triggers trouble in Jagtial Congress

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD /JAGTIAL

TENSION prevailed within the Congress party in Jagtial on Tuesday after activists staged a spirited protest at the residence of senior leader Jeevan Reddy. The demonstration erupted as supporters expressed deep dissatisfaction over the distribution of tickets for the upcoming municipal elections. According to internal sources, the agitation followed a decision by the party high command to grant preference to local MLA Sanjay Kumar in the allocation process. Protesting workers alleged that tickets were being primarily allotted to leaders who recently defected from the Bharat Rashtra Samithi, effectively sidelining dedicated Congress



loyalists who have served the party for decades.

During the protest, activists conveyed their grievances to Jeevan Reddy, who reportedly expressed his own frustration with the current approach. Sources close to the leader stated that he appeared visibly upset, claiming his views on ticket distribution were being sys-

tematically ignored. Reddy is also reportedly unhappy with the conduct of Sanjay Kumar. Despite this growing unrest, the party high command has not yet taken steps to pacify the veteran leader, leading to speculation that he is being taken lightly by senior leadership.

The rift traces back to the 2023 Assembly elections,

when Sanjay Kumar defeated Jeevan Reddy as a BRS candidate before later joining the Congress. This defection was strongly opposed by Reddy at the time. Since the entry of Kumar, two distinct factions have emerged within the district unit, resulting in frequent clashes. Amid this worsening rivalry, rumours are gaining significant ground that Jeevan Reddy may be considering leaving the party, although no official confirmation has been provided.

The internal crisis now threatens the unity of the party as it prepares for the competitive municipal polls. The high command must act swiftly to prevent a further escalation of this bitter political feud between the two dominant groups.

Speaker asks Kadiyam to attend hearing today

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

IN a significant political development, Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar on Tuesday issued formal notices to Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiyam Srihari, directing him to appear for a hearing at 11 am on Wednesday. The Speaker has now issued notices to all ten members facing defection charges. BRS MLA KP Vivekananda filed the initial complaint alleging that Srihari, who won his seat on a BRS ticket, defected to the Congress party. Notices were also served to Vivekananda, requiring his presence at the same hearing scheduled for tomorrow. The Speaker is set to hear arguments from both Srihari and Vivekananda regarding the allegations.

To date, the Speaker has already granted a clean chit to seven other MLAs, ruling that they had not officially changed parties and remain affiliated with the BRS. While a petition against Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender remains under consideration, the Speaker has reserved orders on the petition against BRS MLA Sanjay Kumar. These proceedings follow a stern



directive from the Supreme Court, which recently issued a final warning to Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar. The apex court has granted a two-week window to decide on the disqualification petitions involving BRS MLAs who allegedly joined the Congress.

A bench comprising Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice AG Masih is currently hearing the case. Previously, on 31 July, the Supreme Court had provided three months for a resolution. BRS leader Kaushik Reddy and others subsequently filed a defamation case after the initial deadline passed without a verdict. Most recently, the Speaker completed a hearing for Nagender after issuing similar notices. This hearing marks a critical phase in resolving the long-standing legal battle over legislative loyalties in the state.

GI Outsourcing launches AI-first GCC in Hyderabad

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

HYDERABAD’S reputation as a premier technology hub has received a fresh boost with GI Outsourcing establishing a new Global Capability Centre at the International Tech Park. The move, announced on Tuesday, is expected to generate 200 professional jobs by 2028 and significantly contribute to long-term income growth for young professionals in the region. The centre has commenced operations with approximately 50 employees and is projected to scale up steadily over the next few years.

Industry observers note

that this expansion coincides with a rising global demand for skilled finance, accounting, and AI-enabled services. By integrating artificial intelligence into routine accounting and knowledge processes, the centre aims to equip youth with future-ready skills, thereby improving their employability and earning potential.

Analysts suggest that such AI-first hubs drive indirect income generation through allied services, training ecosystems, and local businesses. Hyderabad’s deep pool of finance graduates and technology talent makes it an attractive destination for global firms seeking cost-efficient yet high-value de-

livery hubs. This new facility is seen as part of a broader trend where global capability centres are moving beyond traditional back-office roles to become engines of innovation and sustainable employment.

Group CEO Tariq Husain stated that India remains central to the company’s growth strategy, while Siddharth Viswanathan from the British Deputy High Commission noted that the launch reflects the deepening economic partnership between the UK and India. This development further strengthens the city’s vital contribution to the national digital and knowledge economy.



FORMER MIM MLA QUADRI PASSES AWAY

HYDERABAD: ALL India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen General Secretary and former legislator Syed Ahmed Pasha Quadri passed away on Tuesday following a prolonged illness. Associated with the party for several decades, Quadri was among the most trusted confidants of the late Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi, father of current AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi.

A four-time MLA, Quadri represented

the Charminar constituency for three consecutive terms starting in 2004, before shifting to the Yakutpura seat in 2018. Citing health issues, he refrained from contesting the 2023 elections but continued serving the party in his capacity as General Secretary. Over the past few months, his health had deteriorated, necessitating multiple hospital admissions. His passing is widely mourned across the city’s political circles.

ALL INDIA BREAKDOWN

APP-BASED TRANSPORT WORKERS TO GO OFF ROADS ON SATURDAY

Transport unions including TGPWU and IFAT call for mass strike as drivers protest against government inaction on minimum fares and alleged exploitation by major aggregator platforms

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

APP-based transport workers across India, associated with major platforms such as Ola, Uber, Rapido, Porter, and other aggregator companies, have announced a nationwide breakdown on 7 February. The strike serves as a protest against continued government inaction and rampant fare exploitation by digital aggregator platforms. According to the workers’ union, despite the notification of the Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines 2025, companies continue to arbitrarily determine fares in open violation of the spirit of these regulations.

Shaik Salauddeen, Founder President of the Telangana Gig and Platform Workers Union, stated that this unchecked practice has pushed drivers into severe income



insecurity and mounting debt. He noted that commuters are also adversely affected by unpredictable pricing and surge manipulation due to a lack of effective regulatory oversight. Unions have repeatedly highlighted that the

failure of Central and State Governments to notify minimum base fares has allowed platforms to unilaterally slash driver earnings while increasing their own commissions.

The workers’ demands

include the immediate notification of minimum base fares for all services including autos, cabs, and bike taxis finalised in consultation with recognised unions. Furthermore, they seek a strict prohibition on the use of private,

non-commercial vehicles for commercial rides unless they are legally converted in accordance with Motor Vehicle laws.

The union has urged immediate dialogue with elected representatives to ensure fair and sustainable regulation. Salauddeen warned that continued delays will only deepen the economic crisis faced by millions of workers and their families. Prominent union members including Nagesh Kumar, Abdul Rawoof, Ali Baqri, and R K Reddy were present at the announcement, underscoring a united front against what they describe as unsustainable working conditions that make dignified livelihoods impossible. This nationwide action highlights the growing friction between traditional labor rights and the rapidly evolving digital economy across urban India.

Reduction in US tariffs is big relief for Indian economy

Finally, the saga of Trump tariffs has ended on a happy note—at least from India’s perspective. With US President Donald Trump announcing an agreement with India that reduces tariffs on Indian goods from 50 per cent to 18 per cent, the long-standing bilateral trade tensions are likely to subside. He had imposed two tariffs on India: a 25 per cent reciprocal tariff, and later a 25 per cent import duty on account of India’s purchase of Russian crude oil. Trade had spilled over into the political and strategic arena, much to the detriment of the best interests of the world’s biggest democracies. Trump and his officials made remarks about India that they should not have. They got closer to Paki-

stan, which said last month that it had inked a pact with a firm connected to World Liberty Financial, the main crypto business of Trump’s family. The objective is to explore the use of World Liberty’s USD1 stable coin for cross-border payments. The Trump administration also pampered the de-facto ruler of Pakistan-Army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir. He was allowed to indulge in loose talk from American soil, which was very hurtful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Trump repeatedly claimed that he had brokered peace between India and Pakistan during the four-day skirmish last May. Trump should not have said and done the things he did vis-à-vis In-

dia in his second term as President. But, they say, all is well that ends well. With Indian goods to pay an 18 per cent tariff, they suddenly become much more competitive in comparison with the merchandise from other countries. China faces a 37 per cent tariff, Brazil 50 per cent, South Africa 30 per cent, Myanmar 40 per cent, and Laos 40 per cent. We also fare slightly better compared to our neighbours, with Bangladesh and Vietnam facing 20 per cent tariff, and Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, and Pakistan paying 19 per cent. There is also a serendipitous result: India gave up its reluctance to augment trade with the world and went into overdrive to finalise free trade agreements, the

recent one being with the European Union. The India-EU agreement is not just another trade deal; it is a statement of intent. It signals that India is willing to engage seriously with large, demanding markets, accept high standards, and open its economy in a calibrated manner. The EU, with its vast consumer base and technological prowess, offers India access to high-value markets, advanced manufacturing ecosystems, and cutting-edge green technologies. In return, Europe gains a reliable partner in Asia at a time when geopolitical uncertainties are reshaping global supply chains. More importantly, the push towards FTAs reflects a growing realisation in New

Delhi that economic growth, job creation, and strategic influence are deeply intertwined. Trade is no longer viewed merely as an economic activity but as a tool of statecraft. By embedding itself in a dense network of trade agreements, India reduces its exposure to unilateral coercion, enhances its bargaining power, and anchors itself more firmly in the global economic order. If Delhi sustains this momentum—by concluding more FTAs, improving domestic competitiveness, and aligning regulations with global standards, the country could emerge stronger and more resilient from an episode that initially appeared deeply damaging. In India, it takes a crisis to force overdue reform.

Prioritise rejuvenation of ‘Buckingham Canal’



DR D SREENIVASULU

THE rapidity of transformation of human civilization increased manifold ever since inventions were made in transportation modes. Even in India, beginning with the colonial period and after independence, continuous efforts are made to improve the transportation networks in the country connecting the length and breadth of the subcontinent.

Presently, governments are developing road networks, highways, bullet trains, national and international flights. Because of their ease and swiftness, the preceding modes of transport overpowered waterways, which used to play a key role in the economy by providing transportation to goods and services, and people across regions. An outcome of this transformation, coupled with rapid urbanisation, encroachment of water bodies and pollution is the neglect of the several water canals in India which became victims of modernisation. It is the responsibility of the government to promote the waterways through the revival of the canals. One such canal whose plight calls for immediate attention and action by the government is ‘Buckingham Canal’.

Designed by Western engineers, this 19th-century navigation canal passes parallel through the Coromandel coast and connects Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Its construction was taken up in several phases. This is a private

waterway that was planned and executed based on the ‘design-build-operate’ project delivery system. This was the predecessor of the present day much-acclaimed Build-Own-Operate-Transfer Model).

The construction of the canal began in 1806. Initially, the 16.5 km stretch of the canal from Madras Port to Ennore was built by the Basil Cochrane company. In remembrance of this contribution, this canal was called the ‘Cochrane Canal’ in 1806. Later, the British government took interest in extending this canal by stretching it northwards to Madras.

By connecting Kakinada Port via Vijayawada, the canal enabled continuous activity between Madras and Kakinada port. For a while, it was also called Lord Clive’s canal. When the Great Famine hit this region during 1876-78, the British government provided relief for the people through the extension works of this canal. This canal was renamed as Buckingham Canal, after the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, who was governor of Madras presidency at that time.

The 796-km long water navigation canal extending parallel to the Coromandel Coast, one kilometre from the coast, is extended till Villupuram in Tamil Nadu. It also connects with Pulicat Lake and at Chennai, it intersects through the city’s three major rivers- Kosasthalaiyar, Cooum and Adyar. All these aspects make this canal a marvellous engineering creation and multipurpose project.

This canal was initially used for transportation of commodities, people and later, for fishing. Settlements cropped up on the banks for this canal. Many communities formed their livelihood by depending on this canal.

In his work ‘History of the Buckingham Canal Project’ (1898), A S Russell writes that the construction of the canal



This historic canal, which used to be bustling with activity, is now ravaged with multiple problems like emitting untreated wastes by the industries and urban populates, encroachment of the canal land, siltation, and damage caused by natural disasters like floods. The mega prawn farms situated at the banks of this waterway dump their diseased and dead stock directly into the canal. Cyclones, against which this canal acted as a buffer zone, have damaged the canal and only a few attempts have been made towards the reconstruction and maintenance of the canal

has placed erstwhile Madras Presidency “in cheap and easy communication with no less than five districts, and with the large and important towns of Cocanada, Bezwada, Masulipatam, Ongole and Nellore”.

This canal earlier was “a dreary waste of sand, but much of this barren and arid country has been greatly developed and improved owing to the remarkably cheap means of communication afforded by the canal; cultivation has been brought into existence or extended, owing to the facilities given by the canal for the drainage of low-lying land; numerous casuarina and other plantations have been formed along its entire length; a great increase in the wealth and prosperity of the population has taken place”.

Beyond bringing prosperity for the people in the region, this canal has the potential to protect people against natural disasters like floods and tsunamis. The canal has mitigated the effects of the 2004 Tsunami by acting as a buffer zone for 310-km long coastal regions

from Pedaganjam in Prakasam district to Chennai, saving the lives of hundreds of fishermen and coastal villages.

Scientists believe the canal has the potential to act as a barrier to allow tidal waves to merge into the ocean in ten minutes.

This historic canal, which used to be bustling with activity, is now ravaged with multiple problems like emitting untreated wastes by the industries and urban populates, encroachment of the canal land, siltation, and damage caused by natural disasters like floods. The mega prawn farms situated at the banks of this waterway dump their diseased and dead stock directly into the canal. Cyclones, against which this canal acted as a buffer zone, have damaged the canal and only a few attempts have been made towards the reconstruction and maintenance of the canal. The advent of faster modes of transportation contributed to the deterioration of the canal. In some areas, the canal is filled with filth and debris, while at

some places, it completely disappears and will be visible after some distance. The need of the hour is the immediate restoration of this age-old canal. Whenever a huge hurricane or flood hits any region, the government releases millions of rupees in the form of relief. But if steps were taken to develop infrastructure to mitigate these disasters, loss of people and property could be easily mitigated. This canal offers an opportunity in that direction, and to provide for the livelihoods of many communities living across the canal. The restoration of the canal with medium- and long-term plans should be the priority of the governments of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, along with the Union government.

It is a matter of great relief and hope that the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has announced its intention for the revival of the Buckingham canal by declaring it as National Waterways 4 (NW-4). Established in 1986, IWAI aims at the development,

maintenance and restoration of Inland Water transportation on national waterways. Rejuvenation of Buckingham canal is placed under NW-4, which covers waterways from Kakinada to Kalapet in Pondicherry in three phases. But the rejuvenation plans under NW-4 are jeopardized due to the shifting of survey works in Phase-1 to Phase-2 and Phase-3. Despite the ambitious plan, the implementation works are going at a snail’s pace. Governments have a responsibility to change the order of priority and expedite the work on this national canal waterway in the first place. The role of the State Water Resources Department is crucial for this.

Reviving Buckingham canal requires a concrete and swift plan of action, which involves dredging, removal of numerous bridges that were built on the route of the canal, recovering the encroached lands, and reconstruction of the walls wherever required. It is also necessary to check on the pollutants and untreated wastes that are being released into the canal throughout its stretch. Rejuvenation of the multipurpose canal would ease the environment-friendly transportation of commodities and people between states, reduce traffic woes, irrigation, provide for the livelihood for millions of people, fishing, and boating. It can also open the opportunity for developing more cordial relationships between Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, which can share the benefits of this project by recognising dual responsibility for the states to protect this national heritage. A relentless resolve by the governments can ensure that the otherwise ‘forlorn’ Buckingham canal will start bustling with activity, like in the good old days.

(The writer is a retired IAS Officer)

LETTERS

Let us join hands to tackle cancer

World Cancer Day is observed every year on February 4 to raise awareness about the devastating impact of cancer and to encourage collective action against this deadly disease. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), it accounts for nearly 10 million deaths annually. In many regions, including in India, lack of modern medical facilities, limited access to early detection and low public awareness worsen the situation. The World Cancer Day urges governments, health organisations and individuals to promote preventive measures, support patients and invest in healthcare infrastructure and research. This year’s theme, “United by Unique,” reminds us that while every patient’s cancer journey is different, our collective action—supporting patients, funding research, and advocating for affordable treatment—is essential. Early detection is our strongest tool. Let us stand united to ensure that no one faces the burden of cancer alone.

Jubel D’Cruz, Mumbai

Quality health ensures longevity

Your editorial ‘Interesting insights emerge on human lifespan’ aptly calls for adding life to years and not the way round. Undoubtedly, life expectancy has risen due to advances in medical science and breakthroughs in disease management. Today’s challenge lies elsewhere—sedentary lifestyles, excessive junk food consumption, rising obesity, and lifestyle-related ailments affecting the heart and other vital organs. Emerging trends like cancer, dementia and Parkinsonism are perturbing trends. Longevity, therefore, must now be matched with quality health and responsible living.

K V Raghuram, Wayanad

Need to focus on preventive health

THE “Interesting insights emerge on human lifespan” editorial (THI, Feb 3) rightly highlights how public health improvements have extended life expectancy in India. But as we cross 70 years on average, the focus must shift to quality of life in older age. Longevity without adequate geriatric care, social support, and financial security can strain families and systems. We need more investment in preventive health, age-friendly infrastructure, and pension coverage, especially in rural areas. Genetic research is valuable, but practical steps—clean water, nutrition, and accessible clinics—still make the biggest difference.

S M Jeeva, Chennai-32

Protect all vulnerable groups

THIS refers to the editorial “Interesting insights emerge on human lifespan”. It reminds us that longevity is shaped not just by genes but by living conditions that often hide genetic potential. For India, this has practical implications. While genetic research deserves support, policy attention must stay firmly on basics that still vary widely across regions. Clean air, safe roads, infection control, and early-life nutrition can reduce avoidable deaths that distort lifespan outcomes. Adding years to life is meaningful only if public systems ensure those years are healthier and more productive, especially for vulnerable groups.

M Barathi, Bengaluru-560076

Healthy longevity: Onus on govt

Apropos “Interesting insights emerge on human lifespan” (THI, February 3). The editorial highlights an important global study showing that genetics may account for over 50 per cent of human lifespan once extrinsic factors like accidents and infections are properly accounted for. The findings underscore the need to focus on controllable extrinsic risks. While genes play a larger role than thought, public health measures—improved sanitation, vaccination drives, road safety, and access to timely medical care—can still add meaningful years, especially in rural and lower-income groups. Policymakers should continue investing in these areas alongside emerging genetic research to maximise healthy longevity.

A Myilsami, Coimbatore-402

Old-age homes and eroding humane values

THIS pertains to “Interesting insights emerge on human lifespan” (THI Feb3). Paradoxically, even as human longevity improves, new and unfamiliar diseases continue to haunt and claim lives. Added years of life carry meaning only if accompanied by empathy, compassion, and a fellow feeling. Mushrooming of old-age homes and neglected parents is a sobering reminder that longevity without humane values reduces life to self-centred existence, marked by unfulfilled desires rather than shared fulfilment.

K R Parvathy, Mysuru

thehansreader@gmail.com

BENGALURU ONLINE

Paperless property registration through Kaveri 2.0 now...

BENGALURU: Property buyers in Karnataka will no longer need to stand in long queues at sub-registrar offices for registration work. The Department of Registration and Stamps has launched a major reform by introducing a fully paperless property registration system. With the upgraded Kaveri 2.0 software platform, all registration procedures will now be carried out digitally, eliminating the need for physical documents.

Kaveri 2.0 is an advanced online property registration platform developed by the Karnataka government. It is an improved version of the earlier Kaveri software and is integrated with multiple government portals such as Bhoomi, E-Swathu, Khajane-2 and Sakala. The system enables citizens to complete the entire registration process within 10 minutes in a transparent and hassle-free manner without the involvement of middlemen. While digital e-stamping was already in use, the entire registration process has now been converted into a digital format. After successful registration, citizens will no longer receive physical documents. Instead, they will be provided with a login ID and password through which all property-related records can be accessed securely online.

Read more at
<https://epaper.thehansindia.com>

The two faces of equity: Navigating the UGC Regulation 2026

DR BHASKAR NATH BISWAL

THE Indian higher education landscape is currently witnessing a tectonic shift with the notification of the University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026. This landmark framework, notified last month, replaces the 2012 guidelines, marking a transition from advisory norms to a strictly enforceable legal mandate. The genesis of these regulations lies in a painful history of systemic failure and tragedy.

Following the heart-wrenching suicides of scholars like Rohith Vemula and Payal Tadi, their mothers petitioned the Supreme Court, seeking a robust mechanism to end the pervasive culture of caste-based exclusion. In response and under judicial pressure to address a staggering 118 per cent rise in discrimination complaints over the last five years, the UGC has introduced a framework designed to hold institutional leadership directly accountable for the social climate of their campuses.

At its core, the 2026 Regulation aims to institutionalise empathy through structural reform. One of its most significant merits is the expansion of the protective umbrella to explicitly include Other Backward Classes (OBCs), alongside Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). By

mandating the establishment of Equal Opportunity Centres (EOCs) in every university and college, the UGC is attempting to create a ‘standard operating procedure’ for social justice. These centres are not merely symbolic; they are backed by Equity Committees and ‘equity squads’ proactive units tasked with monitoring ‘vulnerable spots’ on campus to prevent discrimination in real-time. Furthermore, the regulation introduces a revolutionary time-bound grievance redressal system.

The requirement for an Equity Committee to meet within 24 hours of a complaint and submit a full report within 15 days is a direct attempt to combat the ‘delay and deny’ tactics that have historically silenced victims. For the first time, institutional heads are liable and non-compliance carries the heavy threat of losing UGC funding or even derecognition.

However, the very stringency that makes the regulation promising has also exposed significant demerits that threaten to undermine its legitimacy. The most contentious issue is the ‘unidirectional’ definition of victimhood. Regulation 3(c) defines caste-based discrimination exclusively as acts committed against members of SC, ST, and OBC categories. Critics argue that this phrasing creates a legal vacuum where students from the ‘General Category’ are effectively deemed incapable of being victims of bias. This



perceived exclusion has turned a tool for social harmony into a lightning rod for division.

Additionally, the broad and somewhat vague definition of ‘indirect discrimination’ has raised concerns among faculty that routine academic evaluations or disciplinary actions could be misconstrued as bias, potentially leading to a ‘race to the bottom’ where merit is sacrificed to avoid litigation. The removal of a previous draft’s clause that penalised ‘false or malicious complaints’ is another glaring demerit, as it leaves the system vulnerable to weaponization for settling personal scores or campus politics.

This perceived lack of balance has sparked widespread resistance, particularly among student groups from

unreserved categories. The pushback, often coalescing under digital movements like #UGCRollback, is rooted in the fear of ‘reverse discrimination’. Students argue that the current structure of Equity Committees, which mandates representation from reserved categories but remains silent on the inclusion of general category members, lacks the appearance of neutrality required for natural justice.

There is a palpable anxiety that campuses are being transformed into zones of surveillance. The deployment of ‘equity squads’ is seen by many as an intrusive overreach that could chill everyday social interactions, replacing organic peer bonding with a culture of suspicion. Resistance is not necessarily against the principle of equity but against a design that many

feel presumes guilt based on identity rather than evidence.

As we look toward the future of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), it is clear that the UGC Regulation 2026 is a necessary but imperfect instrument. The intent to purge campuses of the ancient poison of casteism is noble and constitutionally mandated.

However, for any regulation to be effective, it must be perceived as fair by all stakeholders it governs. To ensure the long-term success of these guidelines, the UGC should consider critical amendments. Reintroducing a safeguard against demonstrably false and malicious complaints would go a long way in building trust. Furthermore, the definition of discrimination should be made ‘caste-neutral’ in its language, ensuring that any student, regardless of their background, has a pathway to redressal if they face identity-based harassment. Equity should be a bridge that connects the campus community, not a wall that segregates it into silos of permanent grievance and fortified privilege. Only by balancing accountability with due process can we create a truly inclusive academic environment that honors both social justice and individual merit.

(The writer is a former college principal and founder of Supporting Shoulders)

BJP BANKS ON YOUTH, EDUCATED CANDIDATES

- The party promises to make the non-functional 100-bed govt hospital operational
- Also promises permanent solution for roof collapses due to Singareni coal mine blasting
- Assures that mineral water plants would be set up in every ward

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SATHUPALLI (KHAMMAM)

THE Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has given priority to youth and educated candidates in the Sattupalli municipal elections, party leaders said on Tuesday. Khammam Parliament Convenor Namburi Ramalingeswara Rao distributed B-Forms to 22 BJP candidates contesting the municipal polls. Later, he participated in election campaigning along with Rajiv Nagar candidate

Namburi distributes B-Forms to 22 candidates in Sattupalli



Achanta Tulasi and NTR Colony candidate Merugu Lakshmi.

Addressing party workers and residents, Ramalingeswara Rao alleged that development in Sattupalli had come to a standstill due to the negligence of the previous BRS government

and the present Congress government. He further claimed that Singareni safety funds were being misused by a few individuals instead of being utilised for public welfare.

He said that if the BJP is given an opportunity, the party would make the non-

functional 100-bed government hospital operational, which he alleged was neglected by the ruling party despite being constructed. He also promised a permanent solution for houses affected by roof collapses due to Singareni coal mine blasting and assured that

mineral water plants would be set up in every ward to address drinking water issues. Ramalingeswara Rao alleged that people's problems were ignored despite their trust in both the previous BRS government and the current Congress government.

He said public support was now shifting towards the BJP and asserted that the party would ensure that the benefits of development under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership reach the people of Sattupalli.

Several BJP leaders, including district general secretary Naidu Raghava Rao, district vice-presidents Bhaskarni Veeram Raju and Sudarshan Mishra, district secretary Naga Surender Reddy, in-charge Padigala Madhu, town president Banavath Vijay, state council members Naresh, Nagaswamy, Lakshmi Narayana and Seshagiri, were present during the programme.

Congress distributs B-Forms in Edulapuram

- Minister urges candidates to reach out to voters by highlighting the guarantees implemented
- Ponguleti advises candidates to work in coordination with party workers at the ward level

HANS NEWS SERVICE
EDULAPURAM (KHAMMAM)

THE Congress party launched its election campaign for the Edulapuram Municipal elections with the distribution of B-Forms to its candidates.

Revenue, Housing and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy handed over the B-Forms to party candidates on Tuesday and directed them to immediately file their nominations with election authorities.

With this, the Congress campaign gathered momentum across the municipality, with the party setting its sights on hoisting the Congress flag in all wards.

Addressing the candidates, the Minister called upon them to reach out to voters



by highlighting the people-centric governance of the Congress government and the guarantees being implemented for public welfare. He urged the candidates to seek the electorate's blessings by effectively communicating the government's achievements.

Ponguleti also advised candidates to work in close coordination with party workers at the ward level

and counter the strategies of rival parties. Expressing confidence, he said Congress candidates would emerge victorious in all wards of Edulapuram Municipality.

Candidates who received the B-Forms expressed renewed enthusiasm and immediately stepped into campaign mode, intensifying outreach activities across their respective wards.

New baggage rules come into effect

NEW DELHI

THE Central government has introduced the Baggage Rules, 2026, along with the New Customs Baggage (Declaration and Processing) Regulations, 2026 and a Master Circular. The new rules came into effect from midnight on February 2 and replace a decade-old baggage rules.

The key points are: Duty-free allowance for foreign tourists increased from Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000 and duty-free jewellery allowance for returning residents is 40 grams for female passengers and 20 grams for others. Jewellery, for the purpose of this rule, means articles of adornment ordinarily worn by a person, made of gold, silver, platinum or such other precious metals,



whether studded or not.

Also, the government has raised the limit for passengers bringing duty-free imported goods into India from Rs 50,000 to Rs 75,000. Under the new rules, a resident or a tourist of Indian origin arriving in India other than by land, shall be allowed clearance free of

duty articles, up to Rs 75,000, if such articles are carried on the person or in the bona fide accompanied baggage of the passenger.

A tourist of foreign origin, not being an infant, arriving in India, shall be allowed duty-free clearance of articles up to the value of Rs 25,000.

Utilise help desk at govt hospital: DMHO

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NAGARKURNOOL

DISTRICT Medical and Health Officer Dr K Ravikumar has urged pregnant women, lactating mothers, and ASHA workers across the district to make use of the Help Desk services set up by the Health Department at the Government General Hospital. On Tuesday, Dr Ravikumar conducted a surprise inspection of the Help Desk at the hospital. During the inspection, he instructed the Help Desk staff to extend full cooperation and guidance to pregnant women, lactating mothers, women patients and ASHA workers arriving from various parts of the district.

He reviewed the daily records being maintained at the



Help Desk and emphasized the importance of identifying high-risk pregnant women and providing them with special care and attention.

Dr Ravikumar also directed that all pregnant women visiting the hospital should mandatorily undergo antenatal check-ups and delivery-related services under the

supervision of qualified gynecologists.

The District Medical Officer further stated that pregnant women and lactating mothers should be encouraged to utilize free ambulance services through 102 and 108, and awareness should be created among beneficiaries regarding these facilities.

Cong party candidate elected unanimously

HANS NEWS SERVICE
YADAGIRIGUTTA

THE Congress party candidate from Yadagirigutta Municipality's 10th Ward, Gundlapalli Vani Bharat Goud, has been unanimously elected as Councillor. The election turned unanimous after the BRS candidate, Avula Mamatha Sai, officially withdrew her nomination from the race. Initially, two nominations were filed for the 10th Ward, but with one candidate stepping back, the ward election was concluded without the need for polling. This development is being seen as a significant boost for the Congress Party in Yadagirigutta municipal-



ity. Earlier, Government Whip Beerla Ailaiah had already announced Gundlapalli Vani Bharat Goud as the Congress candidate for the post of Municipal Chairperson. Party leaders and supporters have welcomed the unanimous verdict, expressing confidence that her leadership will contribute positively to the development of the ward and the municipality.

‘FATHER OF ALL DEALS’

NEW DELHI

FORMER Ambassador of India to Poland Dr Deepak Vohra on Tuesday described the India-US trade deal as a significant diplomatic achievement, highlighting India's patience, strategic restraint and firm protection of key domestic sectors during negotiations and termed it the "father of all deals".

Speaking on the agreement, Dr Vohra said there were a few key takeaways from the development. He claimed that the American establishment had been strongly critical of India in recent years, but New Delhi maintained restraint.

"The first takeaway is that despite repeated criticism from the American establishment since 2023 and 2024, India has not reacted. We have been very patient and very resilient," he said.

Explaining India's diplomatic approach, Dr Vohra

referred to what he described as "duck diplomacy". He said the concept reflects calmness on the surface while intense efforts continue behind the scenes.

"If you look at a duck on the surface, everything appears calm and quiet, but beneath the surface its feet are paddling furiously. That is how India has handled the negotiations," he said.

Drawing a historical comparison, Dr Vohra likened US President Donald Trump's leadership style to that of Roman Emperor Caligula, quoting the Latin phrase "Oderint dum metuant" (Let them hate, so long as they fear)." According to him, President Trump prioritises respect and popularity over being loved. He said India responded to this leadership style with restraint and strategic engagement.

Dr Vohra added that India has largely achieved its core objectives in the trade agreement without compromising sensitive sectors.

Congress will sweep municipal polls: CM

Continued from P1

On this occasion, the Chief Minister directed the in-charge ministers to take the elections seriously and ensure the victory of the party candidates as the elections are being held on party symbols. Later speaking to the media, TPCC Chief B Mahesh Kumar Goud said that there is no trouble from rebels as they have withdrawn everywhere except one or two places.

The TPCC chief further said, "We are looking into the Jagtial issue; the problem will be resolved by tomorrow. The Gadwal issue was sorted out on Tuesday only".

He said the party is going to win 90 per cent of the seats. "We have no competition in these elections; we will win majority seats in all municipalities and corporations.

No more hosting of GOs on TG's official website

Continued from P1

Top officials said that some GOs issued by the R&B department created political nuisance, mainly orders releasing funds for repairs of ministers' quarters, IAS officers' residences drew strong criticism from the opposition parties. These orders were extensively circulated in the social media. It may be mentioned that the Telangana

High Court has instructed the state government to immediately upload all Government Orders, circulars, rules and notifications on official websites and to strictly follow existing guidelines in December last year. Information obtained under the Right to Information Act, 2005 showed that (between December 7, 2023, and January 26, 2025), 19,064 GOs

were issued by various departments, but only 3,290 were available online. The court observed that the failure to upload GOs deprived citizens of access to information and affected transparency and accountability.

When contacted, GAD officials maintained that the High Court orders are being implemented and the GOs are being uploaded regularly.

‘India got best deal’

Continued from P1

"Rahul Gandhi ko kya mirchi lagti hai? (What is Rahul Gandhi's problem)". The Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha "will have to answer to the people about what he wants to achieve with his negative mentality," Goyal said.

"I saw some Opposition leaders asking, 'Why did Donald Trump announce the deal?' The US imposed reciprocal tariffs on India, so it should have announced the removal," he added.

"Friends, we all know, and the entire country knows, how the Prime Minister consistently cares for the welfare of our farmers, our brothers and sisters involved in animal husbandry, and the dairy sector. He protects their interests at every step," he told the media. Describing the broader impact of the agreement, Goyal said the agreement unlocks unprecedented opportunities for farmers, MSMEs, entrepreneurs, and skilled workers to Make in India for the world, Design in India for the world, and Innovate in

India for the world," he said, adding that it would also help India access advanced technology from the US.

"It is not just a trade deal – it is a historic turning point that will reshape India-US relations and accelerate our journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047," he added.

The minister also took a swipe at the Congress, recalling India's decision to stay out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). "We also remember the large-scale trade deal, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which Congress had pushed India into in 2011.

The Congress committed a grave mistake in negotiating an FTA with China, but PM Modi protected the country by refusing to join the RCEP. That decision brought relief across the nation," he said.

Goyal said the government had intended to make a statement in Parliament on the deal but was unable to do so due to disruptions. "Normally, we would have wanted to speak about this in Parlia-

ment, but we all witnessed that disgraceful scene," he said, strongly criticising the Opposition's conduct and adding that it forced the government to brief the media instead.

The India-US agreement comes a week after New Delhi signed a landmark trade pact with the European Union. PM Modi on Monday confirmed the breakthrough after speaking with Trump.

"Wonderful to speak with my dear friend President Trump. Delighted that Made in India products will now have a reduced tariff of 18%," Modi said in a post on X, thanking Trump "on behalf of the 1.4 billion people of India."

Trump, in a social media post, said India would "likewise move forward to reduce their Tariffs and Non-Tariff Barriers against the United States, to zero," and claimed that PM Modi had agreed to significantly increase purchases of American goods, including energy, technology, agricultural products and coal.

PM buckled under pressure to sell out farmers' blood: Rahul

Continued from P1

Addressing reporters in the Parliament House complex after he was not allowed to speak in the Lok Sabha, Gandhi also said that it is for the first time in history that

the Leader of Opposition has not been allowed to speak on the President's address. In a post on X, Gandhi said, "PM Modi is Compromised. PM is too afraid to let me speak in Parliament about Naravane,

Epstein Files and how he has surrendered on Tariffs." Gandhi said the issue is not Naravane's statement, "that is a side show", but the main thing is that "our Prime Minister has been compromised".

India pledged zero-tariff barriers in US deal: Trump

Continued from P1

A lot remains unclear about the terms of the deal, but Trump said New Delhi has agreed to several measures, including stopping Russian oil trade, reducing tariffs and non-tariff barriers to "zero", and buying over \$500 billion of US goods, including energy, technology, agricultural products, and coal.

Tariff barriers are taxes levied on imported goods, making them more expensive to protect local

industries. Non-tariff barriers, meanwhile, are indirect restrictions like quotas, subsidies, licensing, standards, and labelling rules that limit trade without direct taxes, often through complex regulations, costs, or delays, affecting quantity, price, or market access.

Both aim to support domestic economies, but tariffs are explicit taxes, whereas non-tariff barriers use policy and procedures, making them more subtle and complex.

Trump's claim that India has agreed to "reduce tariffs and non-tariff barriers against the United States, to ZERO", has not been confirmed by New Delhi. Moreover, both parties have not explained on which lines the barriers would be reduced, if at all, to zero. Largely, Trump's language signifies an in-principle commitment to lower or phase out duties on selected US products rather than an immediate elimination of all import duties.

...in final stages: Goyal

Continued from P1

"We will be shortly issuing a joint statement by both countries along with the details, which we will be shortly inking between the United States of America and India. And as soon as the final understanding of the deal is inked, and the joint statement is finalised,

technical processes are completed, full details will be shared" he added. "But I can assure every Indian that the details of this deal will make every Indian proud," he further said. He did not share a timeline, but a government source said the joint statement is expected within this week.

Oppn stages walkout demanding debate on deal

Continued from P1

As Opposition members started protesting in the House, Leader of the House J P Nadda said the US President was informed about the reduction in tariffs on Indian goods through a post on social media and also spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Nadda alleged that the Opposition's frustration was coming out, and it had started seeing bad even in good things. "I want to assure the house that the government is ready to discuss the Indo-US trade deal and provide all minute details of the deal. The government will come out with a

suo motu statement on the trade deal.

As the Opposition members continued raising slogans alleging that the interests of the country were being bartered, Chairman C P Radhakrishnan said, when the government is making a statement, and they should listen. He said the government is ready to discuss, but the opposition members are creating an uproar. Opposition members were on their feet, raising slogans against the government, as they moved towards the front row. Nadda said the government will come out with a suo motu statement today itself.

YOU CAN'T BUILD VIKSIT BHARAT WITHOUT INNOVATION: IIT HYD DIRECTOR

ARTI ADKE

At a time when AI is rapidly reshaping careers and Indian students remain caught in a relentless cycle of grades, rankings, Prof. B. S. Murty, Director of IIT Hyderabad, is quietly steering one of the country's boldest experiments in higher education. From fractal academics and artists-in-residence to deep-tech startups and AI-powered engineering programmes, his vision challenges long-held assumptions about how engineers should be trained—and what success truly means.

"If somebody comes to me and tells me they have never failed in life," Prof. Murty says, "I tell them they have probably never learned anything—or never experimented enough."

That belief underpins the transformation unfolding at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT Hyderabad). In an education system often criticised for rigidity, exam obsession and placement-centric thinking, the institute has emerged as a striking outlier—prioritising freedom, creativity and skills over conformity and fear. Here, students are encouraged to explore across disciplines, build products, create enterprises and think beyond conventional career paths.

In a wide-ranging conversation, Prof. Murty tells *The Hans India* about the future of jobs in the age of AI, why India must evolve from a service economy into a product nation, and how nurturing skills, innovation and purpose is central to building a truly Viksit Bharat.

EXCERPTS:

Q: You have often described Indian education as rigid. What do you believe is fundamentally wrong with it?

Education in India has been quite straitjacketed for decades. Students are told what to study, how to study and often what they should become in life. But the current generation does not want to fit into such a structure. They want freedom. They want flexibility.

If you look at older IITs and engineering colleges, the curriculum is very straight. Even electives are often not real electives. Many times, only one elective runs. That means the student is forced to take it—it becomes a core course in disguise. There is no real choice.

When I studied B.Tech, we faced the same issue. That experience stayed with me. We felt it was time to break away from this model and create an environment where students can genuinely explore different interests.

Q: You repeatedly stress the need for deep-tech innovation. Why is this so critical for India?

India is currently known more as a service economy. We provide services to the world. But no country has ever become developed by being only a service economy.



Every developed nation—big or small—is known for its products. India must also be known for its products. Software and apps are important, I do not deny that, but deep-tech innovation is essential.

For me, Viksit Bharat is the day I go to a place like Tokyo or Melbourne and buy a product labelled "Made in India"—because it is high quality, globally competitive and reasonably priced.

Q: Will degrees lose relevance in the coming years?

I am sure that in the years to come, people will not care much about your degree. They will care about your skills. What matters is what you can do, what problems you can solve. Institutions must create environments where skills and ideas are nurtured. The success of our startups already shows that this shift has begun.

Q: You frequently speak about Viksit Bharat. What does that term mean to you personally?

For me, Viksit Bharat is not a slogan—it is a practical vision. A developed nation is one that is known for its products, technology and innovation. Today, India is largely known as a service economy. We provide services to the world, which is good—but it is not enough.

No country in the world has become developed by being only a service provider. Every developed nation—whether it is Germany, Japan, South Korea or the United States—is known for what it makes. For India to become Viksit Bharat, we must become a product nation.

Q: How do student startups fit into the Viksit Bharat narrative?

Startups are not just about valuation—they are about value creation. When a 19-year-old student tells me he has paid salaries to five employees, that is nation-building in action. That is economic activity, confidence and leadership. In six years, IIT Hyderabad students have created 330 startups with ₹1,500 crore in revenue. These are not just numbers—they represent ideas

becoming reality. If every IIT produces job creators instead of only job seekers, India's transformation will accelerate.

We introduced something called Fractal Academics, which is a very unique system in India. Typically, a full semester course is a three-credit course—about 42 hours of teaching spread over 14 weeks. We divided the semester into six segments. This allows us to offer courses worth 0.5 credits, one credit, 1.5 credits, two credits and, of course, three credits. A 0.5-credit course is about seven hours of teaching. A one-credit course is around 14 hours. In the first year especially, we encourage students to explore many such short courses. I compare it to tasting food at a restaurant—you sample different dishes before deciding what you like. Once students discover a subject they enjoy, they can take full three-credit courses and go deeper. This kind of academic freedom—we are the first in the country to offer it at this scale.

Q: IIT Hyderabad has made liberal arts and creative courses mandatory for engineers. Why was that mandatory?

If India has to become Viksit Bharat, innovation is essential. And for innovation, intuition is just as important as intelligence. Engineers are trained to calculate everything. Out-of-the-box thinking does not come easily. Artists, on the other hand, think intuitively. That is why we decided that about 10% of a B.Tech student's total credits—out of roughly 130—must come from liberal arts and creative arts. These include anthropology, psychology, philosophy, music, dance, painting and even martial arts. We are now introducing sports as credit-based courses—cricket, tennis, hockey—where students study, practise and are evaluated. When students balance left-brain logic with right-brain creativity, you get far better innovation.

Q: You strongly advocate student choice. Why does this matter?

At 17 years of age, we allow citizens to decide who becomes the Prime Minister of India. Then why can't they decide what they want to become?



I want IIT Hyderabad to be remembered as a place where innovation flourished

Prof B S Murty, Director, IIT Hyderabad

Why should someone be told, "You must become a mechanical engineer"? Many students later realise this is not what they wanted in life. Education should expand freedom, not curtail it.

When parents ask me, "What kind of job will my child get?", I ask them—why should every B.Tech graduate get a job? Let them create jobs. India needs job creators, not just

job seekers. We need leaders.

Parents often measure success only through salary packages. How do you respond to that mindset?

I understand parental anxiety. It comes from concern for their children's future. But salary should not be the sole measure of success.

A student who builds a startup, creates employment, files patents or works on deep-tech innovation may

not earn the highest salary in the first year—but they contribute far more to the nation in the long run. At IIT Hyderabad, we have students who chose not to sit for placements because they are building companies, pursuing research or working on socially relevant technologies. That is also success.

We must broaden our definition of achievement beyond the first job or first salary slip.

Recent and upcoming academic and institutional launches

New academic programmes with AI integration

This year, the institute is set to launch a new M.Tech programme in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Chemical Engineering. IIT Hyderabad already offers an M.Tech in Integrated Computational Materials Engineering (ICME), where AI and ML are applied to the design of advanced materials such as new-generation steels, alloys, and functional materials with enhanced properties. These programmes reflect the institute's academic approach of integrating AI across core engineering disciplines, rather than limiting it to computer science alone.

Digital transformation initiatives

As part of its move towards deeper digital integration, IIT Hyderabad has created the position of Dean of Digital Transformation. In the coming months, the institute plans to roll out a ChatGPT-based digital system designed to provide quick access to information related to research activities, faculty expertise, patents, startups, and technology transfers. The system is expected to help students, faculty, and industry

stakeholders gain a clearer understanding of the institute's work in areas such as quantum technologies, materials science, artificial intelligence, and clean energy within a short time.

Integration of arts and humanities

The institute is also preparing to announce the association of Padma Vibhushan and Padma Bhushan award-winning performing artists as distinguished professors. In addition, an Artists-in-Residence programme is being introduced, under which eminent artists will spend one to two weeks on campus interacting with students. The initiative aims to expose students to creative disciplines alongside technical education, encouraging broader perspectives and sensitivity beyond conventional engineering training.

Student-led innovation through BUILD projects

IIT Hyderabad has implemented BUILD projects—Bold and Unique Ideas Leading to Development—to encourage student innovation. Under this initiative, students submit brief proposals, sometimes as short

as half a page, which are evaluated by a committee for support. Over the past six years, students have launched around 330 startups, collectively generating approximately Rs 1,500 crore in revenue. A significant number of these ventures were founded while the students were still enrolled at the institute.

BHARATI programme for engineering excellence

The institute has also introduced the BHARATI programme—Bold-Hearted Aspirants Raising to Transform India. The programme seeks to reinforce the importance of engineering excellence and product development, encouraging students to focus on building and creating solutions rather than viewing education solely through the lens of placement outcomes.

The initiative aligns with broader national goals of strengthening India's technological and manufacturing capabilities.

Together, these initiatives highlight IIT Hyderabad's focus on interdisciplinary learning, innovation, digital access, and the development of well-rounded professionals.

Today is Global School Play Day

Encouraging creativity with screen-free childhood experiences

The idea behind learning through play is to give children the freedom to explore, imagine, and discover at their own pace. When children are placed in unstructured and spontaneous environments, they naturally develop creativity, problem-solving abilities, and social skills. Free play allows learning to happen organically, without pressure, rules, or predetermined outcomes.

Unstructured play encourages children to think independently and make their own choices. As they build, pretend, explore, or invent games, they learn to experiment, take risks, and solve problems in real time. These experiences strengthen cognitive development while fostering curiosity, confidence, and resilience. Without constant adult direction or digital distractions, children gain a deeper sense of ownership over their learning.

Social interaction is another key benefit of free play. When children play together, they learn essential life skills such as sharing, cooperation, communication, and conflict resolution. These interactions help build emotional intelligence, empathy, and teamwork—skills that are just as important as academic



knowledge in later life.

Promoting screen-free play is especially important in early childhood. Excessive screen exposure can limit physical activity, imagination, and attention span. In contrast, play-based learning supports movement, sensory exploration, and hands-on experiences that contribute to healthy physical and emotional development.

Ensuring access to pre-school education through play for every child is vital for inclusive growth. Play-based learn-

ing environments create equal opportunities for children from all backgrounds to explore, express themselves, and build foundational skills. They also help children develop a positive relationship with learning, making the transition to formal schooling smoother and more meaningful.

By encouraging unstructured, screen-free play, we nurture confident, creative, and socially aware individuals—laying the foundation for lifelong learning and well-rounded development.

How startups are adapting to GenZ workforce trends

A conclave Neev 2026 Chapter 2 examined how startups are responding to changing expectations of Gen Z and Gen Alpha, focusing on talent, workplace culture, and the future of work

The Indian Institute of Management Kashipur hosted Neev 2026 | Chapter 2 – The Startup Conclave, a discussion-driven event that examined how startups and emerging organisations are adapting to changes in workforce expectations, particularly among Gen Z and Gen Alpha. The conclave focused on themes of startup talent, workplace evolution, and the future of work in fast-growing environments.

Industry leaders, startup founders, and human resource professionals discussed how younger professionals are reshaping organisational cultures. Speakers noted that today's



youth place greater emphasis on purpose-driven work, flexibility, continuous learning, and meaningful engagement, rather than viewing compensation as the sole measure of career success.

Harsh Kumar Sarohi, Senior Vice President – Technology at TradeIndia, highlighted the growing demand among young professionals for clarity of purpose and structured mentorship. He spoke about the role of organisational values and leadership in career development, while underlining the importance of soft skills

such as communication, negotiation, and conflict management in professional growth. Startup founder Mukil Vannan, Founder of Kplor, observed that while Gen Z professionals are comfortable with artificial intelligence and emerging technologies, foundational skills remain essential. He stressed the importance of communication, creativity, and problem-solving, advising students to focus on building core capabilities rather than being driven by job titles. Shilpa Arora, Co-founder and COO of

Insurance Samadhan, spoke about changing attitudes toward work-life balance and flexibility. She noted that younger professionals tend to be more intentional in career planning and place value on meaningful work, customer engagement, and long-term relevance.

From an HR perspective, Sumedh Singh, AVP and Head of Human Resources at EPack Durable Limited, highlighted the analytical strengths of the new generation while pointing to the need for flexible work models, transparent communication, recognition, and continuous skill development.

The session was moderated by Gokul Ramanan Radhakrishnan, Manager – Business Strategy at Medinious. Faculty members and students attended the conclave, which reflected ongoing discussions around preparing youth for evolving workplace realities.

T20 WC BOYCOTT ROW

Broadcasters may move court against PCB

KARACHI/NEW DELHI

THE ICC has warned the Pakistan Cricket Board that it faces the prospect of legal action from T20 World Cup's official broadcasters JioStar for boycotting its February 15 game against India, a PCB source said on Tuesday.

Pakistan decided to boycott the match in Colombo on February 15 on instructions of their government but haven't yet officially specified the reasons to ICC. As reported by PTI, there is a possibility that the ICC will withhold the entire annual revenue share of Pakistan, which is around USD 35 million and pay the broadcasters from that purse.

A PCB source informed that although chairman Mohsin Naqvi had taken advice from the board's legal experts before briefing PM Shehbaz Sharif on the issue last week, the board is bracing for some serious consequences.

"If Pakistan doesn't relent and play against India, not only will they face financial penalties, perhaps a lawsuit from broadcasters but also any efforts to go to the ICC Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) are likely to fail," a PCB source told PTI.

ICC's DRC is an internal committee which doesn't hear appeals against the decisions made by its own board. "The PCB might face problems regardless of their government directive to not play India as they are playing all their matches at a neutral venue (Sri Lanka) as per their wishes and not in India," another PCB source said.

"Secondly, while the In-



ICC, PCB open 'back-channel talks'

NEW DELHI: Pakistan's decision to boycott their T20 World Cup group match against India has reportedly prompted "back-channel talks" between the International Cricket Council (ICC) and the Pakistan Cricket Board amid concerns over potential financial fallout.

Pakistan's boycott decision could reportedly cost world cricket more than 250 million dollars.

As per The Dawn report, a few other cricket boards have also extended support to the ICC in its attempt to reach an understanding with PCB.

It is currently unclear whether Pakistan will be sanctioned for the move, with the ICC urging the PCB to consider the significant and long-term implications if the boycott were to go ahead.

"While the ICC awaits official communication from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), this position of selective participation is difficult to reconcile with the fundamental premise of a global sporting event where all qualified teams are expected to compete on equal terms per the event schedule," the ICC said.

dian government has not given permission to its team to play in Pakistan, it has not stopped them from playing against Pakistan at neutral venues in Asia Cup or ICC events even after the May conflict," the board source, who tracks Naqvi closely, added.

"When the ICC signed its four year deal with the broadcaster for all ICC events, the contract included Pakistan and India matches based on

which the broadcaster made the payments to the ICC," the source explained.

"So the broadcaster will be within its rights to take the PCB and ICC to court over a major breach of the contract." It is reliably learnt that the PCB approached other members boards for support on the matter but failed to find any backers.

There is a school of thought that Naqvi, who is also the interior minister of his coun-

T20 WC: Ticket sales of third stage begin

NEW DELHI: The BCCI announced the commencement of the third stage of ticket sales for the upcoming T20 World Cup following the two successful ticketing windows, with Phase 1 launched on December 11, 2025, and Phase 2 on January 14, 2026.

This latest phase provides fans with a further opportunity to secure seats for matches across the tournament, which will bring together the world's leading teams, the BCCI said in a release.

The T20 World Cup, starting on Saturday, will be staged at some of India's most recognised cricketing venues, creating an environment where fans can witness elite international players and the intensity that defines the T20 format throughout the competition.

As preparations across host cities move into final stages, the BCCI, in close coordination with the stakeholders, continues to focus on venue readiness, operational planning, and match-day experience.

try, might just make a U-turn once the general elections are held in Bangladesh on February 12 and a democratic government takes charge instead of the present one headed by Mohammed Yunus.

"There would still be two days before the India game and things could just change. Else he knows that Pakistan could be ostracised," another source tracking Pakistan cricket said.

ICC Under-19 World Cup

India favourites against Afghanistan in semis clash
Unbeaten Men in Blue in pursuit of record 6th U-19 WC title

HARARE: Unbeaten so far in the tournament, a confident and all-round India will be overwhelming favourites against Afghanistan in the semifinal of the ICC Under-19 World Cup here on Wednesday. India are the most successful team in the history of the event, having annexed the title five times (2000, 2008, 2012, 2018, 2022), followed by Australia, who have won the trophy four times. Come Wednesday, India will look to take one step forward towards a record sixth title.

India have had a great run in the tournament, having won all their five matches quite comfortably, including a 58-run win over arch-rivals Pakistan in the Super Six stage.

Afghanistan too has had a fairly good tournament, winning four out of their five games, their only loss coming against Sri Lanka by four wickets.

Going by form and overall composition, India will hold an edge over the Afghans in the knock-out game. Wicket-



Match starts at 1 pm IST

keeper batter Abhigyan Kundu has been the star performer for India with the bat as the left-hander has so far amassed 199 runs from five games with two half centuries to his name.

Big-hitting opener Vaibhav Suryavanshi (196 runs in 5 matches with 2 fifties) too has been in good form but the team management would want him to convert his half-centuries into three-figure scores.

All-rounder Vihaan Malhotra (172 runs from 5 games) is the other Indian batter to look out for. He struck the lone century (109 not out) against Zimbabwe in group stages. Skipper Ayush Mhatre has been consistent with the ball in hand, picking up six wickets with his off-break

from five games but there is room for improvement on the batting front. He managed just 99 runs from five games with 53 being his highest. Opener Aaron Geroge's form, however, is a cause of concern for India as the right-handed batter could manage only 46 runs from three outings.

TEAMS

India U-19: Aaron George, Abhigyan Kundu, Harvansh Pangalia, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Vedant Trivedi, Ayush Mhatre (c), Vihaan Malhotra, RS Ambrish, Kanishk Chouhan, Khilan Patel, Deepesh Devendran, Henil Patel, Mohamed Enaan, Udhav Mohan, Kishan Singh.

Afghanistan U-19: Mah-boob Khan (c), Azizullah Miakhil, Faisal Shinozada, Khalid Ahmadzai, Osman Sadat, Uzairullah Niazi, Abdul Aziz, Aqil Khan, Khatir Stanikzai, Nazifullah Amiri, Nooristani Omarzai, Roohullah Arab, Salam Khan, Wahidullah Zadran, Zaitullah Shaheen.

Vasavi College of Engg wins OU inter-college chess title

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

Vasavi College of Engineering emerged champions at the OU Inter-College Chess Championships, organised by Vivekananda Government Degree College, Vidy-anagar, here on Tuesday. The two-day tournament was conducted in a Round Robin League format and witnessed keen competition among leading city colleges.

Vasavi College topped the standings with 15.5 points, with Varshith, Sainath, Shar-



ath, Shyam and Sai Vardhan delivering consistent performances.

Dr B.R. Ambedkar College finished runners-up with

14.5 points, led by strong outings from Akshay Kumar, Nelson, Nikhil, Manish Kumar and Kumar Raj Thota. C.B.I.T. secured third

India to host next year's Asian Rifle/Pistol C'ship

NEW DELHI: India will host next year's Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship in Delhi where eight quota places for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics will be up for grabs, marking a historic first for the country's shooting calendar which already features an Olympic qualifier in the World Cup. The eight slots in the Asian competition will be in addition to the 12 quota places that will be on offer in the World Cup (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun) from April 21 to 30 next year, also to be held in Delhi. The allotment of the Asian event was confirmed by the Asian Shooting Confederation in a letter to the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) president Kalikesh Singh Deo. The NRAI stated that the dates for the Asian qualifier will be finalised in due course. "We congratulate National Rifle Association of India for winning the hosting rights of Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 2027 where eight Quota Places will be distributed for the LA 2028 Olympics.

"We are confident that, under your leadership, the championship will be organised to the highest standards and will be a great success," the letter, which is in PTI's possession, stated.

Punitive demolitions persist in UP despite SC ban on bulldozer action: Allahabad HC

PRAYAGRAJ

TAKING a stern note of alleged demolition drives in Uttar Pradesh, the Allahabad High Court has observed that punitive demolition of structures continues to take place in the state despite the Supreme Court's November 2024 ruling that "bulldozer justice" is simply unacceptable under the rule of law.

A two-judge bench of Justices Atul Sreedharan and Siddhartha Nandan

also asked the state government whether demolishing a structure immediately after the commission of an offence was a colourable exercise of executive discretion.

The bench observed that it came across various cases in which the notice for demolition was issued to the occupants immediately after the commission of an offence. Thereafter, the dwelling places were demolished after the ostensible fulfilment of statutory requirements, it said.

Therefore, bearing in mind the "overarching" nature of the case, spanning the right of the state to demolish a structure and the rights of its occupants under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India, the court fixed February 9 as the next date for hearing.

In the order passed on January 21, the court observed, "Preliminary submissions have been made by both sides. The case of the petitioners appears to be that

though the petitioners are not co-accused in the FIR, the respondents issued a notice to Petitioner No. 2, who owns the residential house in which they dwell, immediately after the commission of the offence and registration of the FIR." The court said the respondents have sealed a commercial property registered in the name of Petitioner No. 3 as 'Indian Lodge', and a saw mill, the licence of which was renewed in the name of Petitioner No.

2 on February 11, 2025, and its renewal is pending. The petitioners have expressed an apprehension that their properties have been marked for "destruction by mechanical means" (a euphemism for bulldozer action).

"The obvious primary prayer is judicial intervention to prevent the anticipated destruction of the properties," the court said. The bench was hearing a petition filed by Faimuddeen and others, who claimed that their relative,

Aafan Khan, was booked under various sections of the BNS, POCSO Act, IT Act and the UP Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Act. The petitioners claimed that though they were not co-accused in the FIR, they were targeted by a mob allegedly in collusion with the police.

The Uttar Pradesh government, however, termed the petition "premature" and said the petitioners must respond to the notices issued to them.



MP cough syrup deaths

4-yr-old dies months after being in coma

BETUL

A four-year-old boy died at AIIMS-Nagpur, months after he fell critically ill and slipped into a coma after allegedly consuming Coldrif cough syrup in Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara district, an official said on Monday.

According to the official, Harsh, from Tikabbari village of Betul district bordering Chhindwara district, had been in a coma for more than four months and was admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU), but died during treatment on Sunday night. Betul Chief Medical and Health Officer (CMHO) Dr Manoj Hurmade confirmed the child's death and said the post-mortem examination was conducted in Nagpur on Monday, and the body was handed over to the family.

The cause of death would be ascertained after the post-mortem report, Dr Hurmade said. Harsh's uncle, Shyam Yadav, said over the phone that the child's last rites were performed on Monday evening.



Yadav said his nephew was undergoing treatment under Dr S S Thakur in Parasia, Chhindwara, and the child's condition deteriorated after consuming the cough syrup prescribed by him.

Harsh remained admitted at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) for months, his uncle said. In October 2025, children in Parasia town of Chhindwara district began falling ill after consuming Coldrif cough syrup, with complaints of vomiting, inability to urinate and fever. Investigations revealed that the syrup contained diethylene glycol, a toxic chemical that causes kidney failure.

Around two dozen children from Chhindwara and Betul districts had died in the incident, following which the Drug Controller General of India also conducted a probe.

US-India trade deal

BJP attacking farmers again, govt must answer: Akhilesh

LUCKNOW

SAMAJWADI Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday slammed the government over the India-US trade deal, saying opening Indian markets to American agricultural produce amounted to "betrayal" of nearly 70 per cent of the country's population dependent on farming. His remarks came after India and the US agreed to a trade deal under which Washington will bring down the reciprocal tariff on Indian goods to 18 per cent from a total 50 per cent.

Yadav claimed that the BJP and its associates were "agents of foreign interests" even before Independence and continued to be so today.

Targeting the ruling party, the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said BJP leaders should explain to the public how much "commission" they had earned by compromising the country's economy.

Yadav said such policies would not only harm farm-



ers but also adversely impact the lower middle class and middle class by encouraging profiteering in foodgrains and agricultural products and creating a new class of middlemen, leading to a rise in prices. He alleged that the BJP would also collect donations from corporate entities, making food items even costlier.

These steps would gradually reduce farmers' income, forcing them to sell their land to wealthy individuals and corporates, Yadav said. "Capturing the ultimate objective of the BJP and its associates," he alleged.

Referring to the proposed Seed Bill, Yadav described it as "fatal for Indian agriculture" and alleged that it was

the product of an anti-farmer mindset of the BJP government. He accused the ruling party of bringing land acquisition laws, humiliating people by forcing them to stand in fertiliser queues every year, and promoting corporate interests linked to seeds, pesticides, storage silos, crop insurance and agricultural trade.

Yadav called for organised resistance against such policies, asserting that farmers already troubled by issues such as stray cattle would no longer tolerate the government's actions. He alleged that the BJP had been, and would remain anti-farmer, and said it was time to "remove BJP, save fields, farming and farmers."

Relief for our exporters': Abdullah welcomes US' tariff cut

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday welcomed the US government's decision to bring down reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods, saying this would bring relief to many exporters in the country who were facing difficulties in view of the increased tariff.

US President Donald Trump on Monday announced that India and the US have agreed on a trade deal under which Washington will reduce the reciprocal tariff on Indian goods to 18 per cent from the current 25 per cent.

The announcement is crucial for India as the US imposed a steep 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods entering American markets from August 27, 2025. "These tariffs were proving to be quite burdensome for us, and we also know very well why these tariffs were imposed. The United States was not happy with the fact that we buy oil from Russia. Trump announced that the Indian government has now stopped purchasing oil from Russia, and because of that, the tariffs will no longer be imposed on us," the chief minister told reporters in the Assembly lawns here.

Sabarimala gold case

Uproar in Kerala Assembly as UDF alleges CMO interference

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

DRAMATIC scenes unfolded in the Kerala Assembly on Tuesday over the Sabarimala gold loss issue after a Congress MLA tried to climb onto the Speaker's Chair that forced an adjournment, the opposition declaring non-cooperation in the House and the government calling it "unfortunate" and "deplorable." Alleging interference by the Chief Minister's office in the SIT probe into the Sabarimala gold loss cases, the Congress-led UDF opposition boycotted Assembly proceedings, declaring that it would no longer cooperate with the House.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan termed the opposition conduct as "unfortunate" and "deplorable". Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, V D Satheesan, informed Speaker A N Shamseer about the UDF's boycott decision as the House proceedings commenced. As the opposition protest continued in the House amidst the question hour, Congress MLA Anwar Sadath sud-



denly attempted to climb onto the Speaker's dais, leading to Shamseer stopping the proceedings for around 30 minutes and leaving for his chamber. Satheesan alleged that there was government interference in the probe and that even the Kerala High Court observed there was delay in filing of charge sheet in the Sabarimala gold cases by the Special Investigation Team (SIT). He said that the High Court also observed that there was a "laxity" in the SIT probe.

The LoP claimed that conditions were being created so that the accused in the two cases can come out on statutory bail and thus, "stone-wall" the investigation. He said that if the accused are released from jail, there was every possibility that the evidence in the cases would be destroyed.



Today is World Cancer Day 2026

A simple vaccine, lifesaving impact

World Cancer Day highlights the urgent need for prevention as much as treatment, especially against cancers caused by the Human Papillomavirus (HPV). Often silent and symptomless, HPV is linked to cervical, throat, and anal cancers that can turn deadly if detected late. Health experts say timely vaccination and regular screening could prevent up to 90% of these cases, making awareness the first line of defense

D VAISHNAVI

World Cancer Day serves as a powerful reminder that many life-threatening diseases can be prevented with timely awareness and action. Among them is Human Papillomavirus (HPV), a silent but widespread infection linked to several cancers that often go unnoticed until it is too late. On February 4, radiologist-oncologist Dr. Sandeep Kumar Tula is urging families to take prevention seriously, calling vaccination and early screening the strongest weapons against HPV-related cancers.

Drawing from over four years of frontline cancer care, Dr. Tula says the biggest danger with HPV is how quietly it spreads. "People think of it as just another infection, but HPV is actually responsible for multiple cancers. High-risk strains like 16 and 18 alone cause nearly 70% of cervical cancers worldwide. These viruses silently integrate into cells and trigger mutations that lead to cervical, vaginal, vulvar, penile, anal, and throat cancers."

He explains that transmission is easier than most people assume. "Sexual contact is the primary route, and even a single exposure can transmit the virus. Smoking, weak immunity, poor diet, alcohol use, and obesity further increase the risk because the body struggles to fight the infection."

What makes the disease especially dangerous, he adds, is the absence of early warning signs. "Most HPV infections don't show symptoms initially. That's why it's so deceptive. By the time patients notice abnormal bleeding, unusual discharge, throat hoarseness, difficulty swallowing, or anal discomfort, the disease may already be advancing."



Dr. Tula highlights the dramatic difference early detection can make. "If we catch cancer at Stage 1, survival can be close to 90%. But by Stage 4, it drops sharply to around 15–20%. That's why screening is critical."

He recommends regular Pap smears and HPV DNA tests for women, especially after the age of 30, along with routine health check-ups for everyone. "Follow the screening guidelines every three to five years. Detect it early, and we can treat it effectively with surgery, radiation, or chemotherapy before it spreads."

For him, however, the most powerful tool remains prevention through vaccination. "The HPV vaccine is essentially a shield. It produces antibodies that neutralize the virus before it can infect you."

Explaining the options available in India, he says, "Gardasil protects against four strains and costs around Rs 3,800 per dose, while Gardasil 9 covers more strains at about Rs 10,300 per dose. Government programs are increasingly offering it free, though availability differs by region."



Vaccination at the right age, he stresses, offers maximum protection. "Children between 9 and 14 need just two doses. After 14, three doses are required. And it's not just for girls — boys must take it too because it prevents anal and throat cancers and reduces transmission. There's no strict upper age limit, but earlier vaccination works best."

Beyond medical advice, Dr. Tula has also been leading community outreach efforts to spread awareness. Since Republic Day this year, he and his volunteers have conducted campaigns

at public spaces, traffic signals, villages, and colleges to educate families and students about HPV risks. "We want awareness to reach people who may never walk into a hospital for preventive care. Education at the grassroots level can save thousands of lives," he says. As World Cancer Day spotlights prevention, Dr. Tula leaves people with a straightforward message: "Quit smoking, practice safe habits, eat healthy, screen regularly, and vaccinate early. HPV-related cancers are up to 90% preventable. We have the tools — we just need to use them."

Mental well-being tips for people living with breast cancer

World Cancer Day reminds us that healing from cancer isn't only physical — it's deeply emotional too. For women facing early breast cancer, fear, uncertainty, and stress often accompany treatment decisions. Prioritising mental well-being can be just as important as medical care in navigating the journey

ASKARI JAFFER

World Cancer Day is a reminder that cancer care goes beyond treating the body — it also means nurturing the mind. For women diagnosed with early breast cancer, one of the most common cancers in India, the journey often brings emotional uncertainty alongside medical decisions, including fears about recurrence and quality of life. While advances in early detection and treatment have significantly improved survival rates, many patients continue to face anxiety, stress, and emotional vulnerability throughout treatment and recovery. Supporting mental well-being is therefore essential to helping women regain confidence, control, and resilience.

Meera, a 47-year-old



homemaker, remembers feeling overwhelmed after her diagnosis. Balancing family responsibilities with frequent hospital visits left her exhausted and anxious about the future. Gradually, she began prioritising her mental health along with medical care.

She joined a patient support group, practiced simple mindfulness exercises daily, and spoke openly with her doctors about her concerns and treatment choices. These steps helped her feel more grounded and better equipped to cope with uncertainty, restoring a sense of

calm during a difficult phase of life. Studies show that nearly four in ten people living with breast cancer experience significant anxiety or depressive symptoms at some point. Emotional strain is often compounded by treatment side effects, lifestyle disruptions, and fear of recurrence. More than half of patients report some level of anxiety by the end of chemotherapy, highlighting the need for holistic care that addresses both physical and emotional health.

Dr. M Vamshi Krishna, Director and Head of Depart-

ment, Medical Oncology and Hematology at AIG Hospitals, Hyderabad, says, "Breast cancer treatments can take a heavy physical and emotional toll. Visible changes, frequent hospital visits, and uncertainty often intensify anxiety. Advanced therapies, along with counseling, support groups, and mindfulness practices, can ease these burdens and help patients focus on their overall well-being."

Five ways to support mental well-being during early breast cancer:

- **Choose the right treatment:** Discuss options and side effects with your doctor to reduce emotional stress and improve quality of life.
- **Address fear of recurrence:** Stay informed and proactive about therapies that may lower risk.
- **Seek professional help:** Therapists can provide coping tools and emotional guidance.
- **Join support groups:** Sharing experiences reduces isolation and builds strength.
- **Practice mindfulness:** Meditation, yoga, or breathing exercises can calm anxiety and restore focus.

Living with early breast cancer is challenging, but caring for your mental health can make the journey more manageable and empower you to move forward with hope.

CELEBRATING STRENGTH, INSPIRING SURVIVORS



Manisha Koirala with Dr Vijay Anand Reddy, Founder, Cure Foundation, Hyderabad; with young cancer survivors, at the World Cancer Day Celebration- Light the Night & the 23rd Anniversary Celebrations of CURE Foundation; hosted by Cure Foundation; at Boulder Hills Golf & Country Club, Gachibowli

Payal Rajput: I may fail, but I won't give up!

Well known actress Payal Rajput, who has made a name for herself with her impressive performances in films like 'RX100',

'RDX Love' and 'Mangalavaram', has now revealed that there were people who wanted her to quit but that she was not going to give up.

"Taking to her X timeline to pen a post, Payal Rajput said, "They want me to quit, and I find myself questioning whether I should. But then I think about the hard work I've put in over the last 12 years. So I tell myself no. I may fail, but I won't give up. #justthinking."

It may be recalled that last year, the actress had penned a post, expressing concerns about favoritism and nepotism overshadowing talent in the film industry.

Taking to her timeline on the social media platform X, Payal Rajput had then said, "Being an actor is one of the toughest careers out there. Each day starts with the weight of uncertainty, as I step into a world where nepotism and favoritism often overshadow talent."

The actress went on to admit that there were times when she wondered if her hard work and dedication would even get noticed in a world that was dominated by those with privilege.

She wrote, "There are moments of doubt when I question whether my hard work and dedication can truly shine through in a landscape dominated by privilege. I watch as opportunities slip away to those with famous last names or a powerful agent, wondering if my talent is enough to break through."

The actress had also added the hashtag #Struggleisreal to make it clear that the problem indeed existed in the film industry.

Currently, Payal is working on a number of films including the Telugu film titled 'VenkataLachimi', which is being directed by Muni and which the makers intend to release in three languages – Telugu, Tamil and Hindi.

Payal also plays the lead opposite Legend Saravanan in his second Tamil film that is



being directed by well known director R S Durai Senthilkumar.

While Payal Rajput stars opposite Legend Saravanan, the Tamil film will also feature actors Shaam and Andrea in pivotal roles.

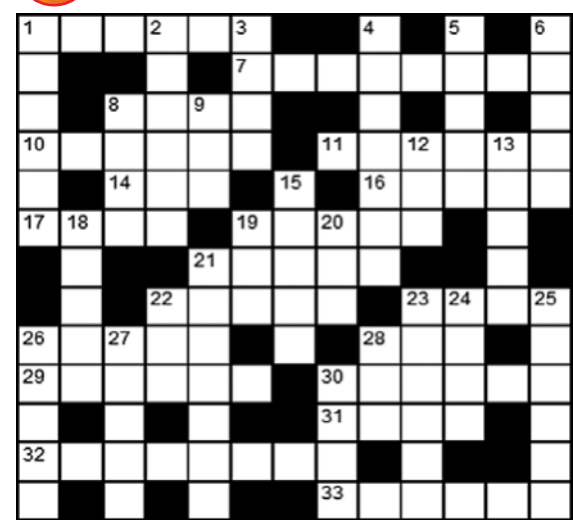
The yet-to-be-titled film is a grand-budget venture directed by R S Durai Senthilkumar, known for his blockbusters like 'Kakki Sattai', 'Kodi', and the recent success 'Garudan'.

The first phase of shooting was completed in Chennai, while the second phase was in and around Panikka Nadar Kudiyruppu in Thoothukudi, which happens to be Legend Saravanan's hometown.

Sources say the new film promises to deliver a thrilling action-packed experience based on real events, set against the backdrop of Thoothukudi.

Music for the film will be composed by Gibran, with cinematography by S. Venkatesh and editing by Pradeep. The art direction is managed by Durairaj, while Ambikapathi is the executive producer.

CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Point a finger at ? (6)
 - Leaves high and dry (8)
 - Horned goddess (4)
 - Most sensible (6)
 - Three-fold (6)
 - Some forensic evidence (3)
 - Absolute (5)
 - Plant part (4)
 - Spells (5)
 - Value (5)
 - Wishful words (1,4)
 - Place of cultivation (4)
 - Harry Potter's professor (5)
 - To free (3)
 - The glasses in spectacles (6)
 - Female foxes (6)
 - Poker declaration (2,2)
 - Chewed the fat (8)
 - Locomotive (6)

DOWN

- Is he trying his best to keep you entertained ? (6)
- Not dispatched (6)
- The orient (4)
- Lie or fib (7)
- Uncertainty or misgiving (5)
- Escort courteously (5)
- Our country, as a prefix (4)
- International Standard Atmosphere (3)
- Aliens? (3)
- Crowbar (5)
- Body of troops (5)
- Of or like sheep (5)
- Jeering cry (3)
- Red Indian tribe (3)
- Like a car or a bus? (7)
- Internet addresses (3)
- Mending or repairing (6)
- South Yemen port (4)
- Royal city in Karnataka (6)
- Injured-arm support (5)
- "In at a" change for a girl's name ? (5)
- Outer edge (3)
- Footnote word (4)



Solution to February 3

SUDOKU



Solution to February 3



Rebel Star Prabhas praises the 'Couple Friendly' trailer, shares it on Instagram

THE trailer of 'Couple Friendly', starring Santosh Soban and Manasa Varanasi in the lead roles, was released recently. Rebel Star Prabhas appreciated the trailer, calling it well-made, and shared it on his Instagram account. He described it as a love story told straight from the heart.

The 'Couple Friendly' team has expressed their happiness over receiving praise from Prabhas for the trailer. This recognition is a huge boost for the entire team and has raised the buzz surrounding the film.

Presented by the renowned production house UV Creations, the film is being grandly produced by UV Concepts in both Telugu and Tamil. Ajay Kumar Raju P. serves as the co-producer, and the film is directed by Ashwin Chandrasekhar. Made as a musical romantic love



story, 'Couple Friendly' is set to release on February 14, on the occasion of Valentine's Day, in both languages. The

film will be distributed in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana by passionate producer and distributor Dheeraj Mogilineni.

Kayadu Lohar returns to Malayalam; New poster of 'Pallichattambi' released

A new poster of 'Pallichattambi', directed by Dijo Jose Antony and starring Tovino Thomas in the lead role, has been released. The latest reveal is a single-character poster featuring the film's heroine, Kayadu Lohar. The poster also confirms the film's release date. Posters have been unveiled in five languages, including Malayalam. 'Pallichattambi' is set for a worldwide theatrical release on April 9. Kayadu Lohar's announcement video as the female lead in 'Pallichattambi' had earlier drawn significant attention. She became a favorite among South Indian cinema audiences following her performance as the heroine in the Tamil superhit film 'Dragon'.

In 'Pallichattambi', Tovino Thomas will be seen in a never-seen-before look. The film is produced by Noufal and Brijesh under the banner of Worldwide Films, along with Chanukya, Chaitanya, and Charan under C Qube Bros Entertainments. It will be released in five languages, including Malayalam. The screenplay has been written by S. Suresh Babu.

Apart from Kayadu Lohar in the female lead, 'Pallichattambi' also features an ensemble cast that includes Vijay Raghavan, Sudheer

Karamana, Baburaj, Vinod Kedamangalam, Prashanth Alex, and several other prominent actors. The film is set in the 1950s-60s period.

The cinematography is handled by Tijo Tomy, while the music is composed by Mollywood's music sensation Jakes Bejoy. Megha Shyam and Thanseer serve as co-producers. Costumes are designed by Manjusha Radhakrishnan, and makeup is by Rasheed Ahmed. Alex E. Kurien is the line producer, Anil Amballur the finance controller, and Rajesh Menon the production controller. Renith Raj and Kiran Raphael are the chief associate directors. Sound design is by Sync Cinema, and art direction is by Rajesh Menon. Casting is handled by Binoy Nambala. Digital marketing is managed by Akhil Vishnu V.S., with PR by Akshay Prakash. Stills photography is by Rishlal Unnikrishnan, and the poster design is by Yellow-tooths.



Ravi Teja cheers Team 'Sumathi Sathakam'

PRODUCED under the Vision Movie Makers banner by Sai Sudhakar Kommalapati and directed by M.M. Naidu, 'Sumathi Sathakam' is a wholesome family entertainer gearing up for a worldwide theatrical release on February 6. The film stars Amardeep Chowdhary and Sayli Chaudhary in the lead roles. Renowned production house Mythri Movie Makers will release the film across the Telugu states.

The first look, teaser, songs, and promotional content of 'Sumathi Sathakam' have already received an encouraging response from audiences. Amardeep Chowdhary's energetic dance moves in the songs have been widely appreciated, while Subhash Anand's music adds strong emotional and entertainment value to the film.

As part of the promotions, the film's team conducted an extensive tour across the Rayalaseema region, receiving an overwhelming response. The trailer launch event held at a college in Tirupati turned out to be a grand success, with students enthusiastically responding to the film's hook steps and youthful content.

Popular actor and Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja, who is widely known as Amardeep Chowdhary's inspiration, watched the teaser, trailer, and other promotional content and shared his appreciation. He said, "I have watched the teaser, trailer, and content of Amardeep's film 'Sumathi Sathakam'. I really liked it. I wish the film great success and hope Amardeep has a bright future ahead."

During the college

promotions, the film's catchy hook steps strongly connected with students, and both the teaser and trailer received a positive response from the youth across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The title 'Sumathi Sathakam' has also created strong recall among audiences.

Adding to its high-lights, 'Sumathi Sathakam' received a U/A certificate with zero cuts, which is considered rare. The Censor Board members appreciated the film, stating that it is a feel-good entertainer that audiences will enjoy after a long time.

The film will be released in the Telugu states by Mythri Movie Makers, while overseas distribution in North America will be handled by Vibrant Cinemas, with releases in Dallas managed by Ravi Kollipara and Jai Pakala.



Ashwath Marimuthu: Title of my film with Simbu will start with 'I'

WISHING actor Silambarasan a happy birthday on Tuesday, director Ashwath Marimuthu has now disclosed that the title of his film with Simbu will begin with the letter 'I'.

Ashwath Marimuthu, who will be directing Simbu's next film after the actor completes director Vetrimaran's 'Arasan', took to his X timeline to pen a birthday wish to the actor. He wrote, "Happy birthday ST(A)R. This year is going to be magnificent for you sir. Cannot wait to start our film post 'Arasan'. To all his fans, 'konjam poruthukonga'. An entertaining film specially for the fans is loading! Title will start with 'I'."

It may be recalled that Ashwath Marimuthu, who delivered a blockbuster called 'Dragon' last year, had said last year that his next film, featuring actor Simbu in the lead, would definitely release next year (in 2026), irrespective of when they began shooting.

Ashwath, had in March last

year, disclosed that the script for the film had already been completed. "It is a script that has already been finished. Only screenplay and dialogues have to be written. Overall treatment is all over," he had said then.

When asked what kind of film his film with Silambarasan would be, Ashwath had replied, "What all you liked in my films 'Dragon' and 'Oh My Kaduvule', you will find in this film. At the same time, this film will also have all that you admired in him. Basically, it will be a vintage STR in my kind of films."

The film is being produced by AGS, the same production house that produced 'Dragon'.

It may be recalled that director Ashwath Marimuthu has already picked a team of assistant directors for his directorial team for his upcoming films #STR51 and



#AGS27. The director had made it clear that all nine members he had picked in his team didn't have any personal connection with him or with anyone he knew and that he had kept the process very clean.

The director, last year, had taken to his X timeline to list all those who had been picked to be his assistant directors. Putting out a poster on his timeline that read, "Team Ashwath Marimuthu. Welcome onboard assistant directors!" he named Srikanth, Mohammed Asif, Arun Kumar, Nithish S. Dhina, Nithish B. Krish, Srinath, Aniruth as his team members. Along with the poster, he wrote, "To all the talented people who applied but couldn't make it, wish you a great future and am sure you will find a better place to work."

Sharwanand's 'Biker' to hit screens worldwide on April 3

THE makers of director Abhilash Kankara's eagerly awaited sports action film, 'Biker', featuring actor Sharwanand in the lead, on Tuesday announced that their film would now hit screens worldwide on April 3 this year.

Taking to its X timeline, UV Creations, the production house producing the film, said, "The engine's revved up. The track is ready. Now, THERE IS NO STOPPING HIM. #BIKER grand release worldwide on April 3rd, 2026. #BIKERMov #GoAllTheWay #BikerOnApril3rd." It may be recalled that the film was originally scheduled to hit screens on December 6 last year. However, in November, the makers issued a statement saying they were postponing the release of the film as they wanted to give audiences not just a film but an "experience like never before."

Taking to its X timeline, UV Creations had, in November last year, said, "Biker stands postponed! A new release date



will be announced soon. A bigger, better experience is being crafted with care and being assembled with passion. #Biker will be releasing in 3D, 4DX, and many more formats."

In its statement, the production house called the film "An experience beyond the screens!" and said that to ready this "beast," the cast and crew had worked hard and were continuing to work hard on countless nights.

"Trust us, this film is much more than the little laps we

showed, and it is bigger than what Telugu Cinema has seen until now! To this kind of an experience, to this kind of a scale," it said, and further added, "We want to give you a product that races in your hearts, pumps up your adrenaline, and makes you breathless! Biker stands postponed, not just to give you a film but an experience like never before. BIKER is coming to theatres in 3D, 4DX and many more formats. Tighten your helmets. You are in for a ride of a lifetime." For the unaware, actor Sharwanand plays a bike racer in this upcoming film, which was initially being referred to as #Sharwa36'. Sources close to the unit of the film say that Sharwanand will be seen as a skilled motorcycle racer in the film.

A source had, in September last year, said that the shooting of the film was going on in Hyderabad and that key scenes related to the race on Sharwanand and the team had been shot. "These scenes are

going to be the highlight of the film," the source had said then. "He (Sharwanand) is going to impress audiences with stunts that will give viewers an adrenaline rush like never before."

Malavika Nair plays the female lead in this film, which will also feature well-known character artistes Brahmaji and Atul Kulkarni in pivotal roles. Produced by Vamsi and Pramod, this high-energy film is set against the backdrop of motocross racing. Sources say it is a thrilling story of a family that is spread over three generations and set against the exciting motocross backdrop of the 90s and early 2000s. Cinematography for the film is by well-known cameraman J Yuvraj. Music for the film has been scored by famed Tamil music director Ghibran. Anil Kumar P is the editor of the film, which has N Sandeep as its executive producer. Rajeevan is the production designer, and A Panneerselvam is the art director.

Sai Pallavi thanks #D55 director Rajkumar Periasamy for his welcome; discloses she is 'nervously excited'

A day after the makers of director Rajkumar Periasamy's upcoming film, featuring actor Dhanush in the lead, welcomed her on board the unit of the film, actress Sai Pallavi on Tuesday thanked the film's director Rajkumar Periasamy and disclosed that she was "nervously excited."

Taking to her Instagram stories to thank Rajkumar Periasamy, the director of Dhanush's upcoming film 'D55', for his post in which he had accorded her a warm welcome to the unit, Sai Pallavi wrote, "Thank you so much sir. Nervous excitement!"

It may be recalled that Wunderbar Films, the production house of actor Dhanush and one of the production houses producing the film, had taken to its X timeline to welcome actress Sai Pallavi on Monday. It wrote, "She's about grace and strength - all at once. Welcoming everybody's favourite @Sai_Pallavi92 on board 'D55'. The hit combo returns to the big screen."

This will be the second time that Sai Pallavi will be working with Dhanush. She had earlier worked with him in director Balaji Mohan's 'Maari 2'.



It may also be recalled that the makers of the film, being tentatively referred to as 'D55', had already welcomed actress Sreeleela on board the unit on January 30 this year. The production house had welcomed Sreeleela, saying, "You didn't see this coming. Welcoming the dazzling damsel @sreeleela14 on board 'D55'."

The makers had also welcomed young music sensation Sai Abhyankkar on board the unit.

Taking to its X timeline to make the announcement, Wunderbar Films had said, "Time's up. The SA1-lence breaks. Excited to have the sensational @SaiAbhyankkar as the music composer for 'D55'. 'D55' - A #SaiAbhyankkar Musical. A brand new collaboration loading."

Sai Abhyankkar responded to the post of the production house, saying, "Super excited and pumped working with @dhanushkraj sir on 'D55'! My dream collaboration @Rajkumar_KP, dear sir thank you so much!! This is gonna be a very special cooking and thank you dear @theSreya anna. @wunderbarfilms @RTakeStudios GIG"

Director Rajkumar Periasamy also welcomed the young music sensation on board the unit of the film, tentatively referred to as 'D55'. Taking to his X timeline, he wrote, "You are a Wonder-kid Sai! Excited to have you on board for 'D55' as the music composer my brother. God bless you dear @SaiAbhyankkar. Thank you dear @DhanushKRaja sir. 'D55' - A #SaiAbhyankkar Musical. @theSreya @wunderbarfilms @RTakeStudios @Shra2309 @azy905 @sandy_sashr @vishurams." The film has triggered huge excitement, as the makers have already disclosed that this film will be a magnum opus. It may be recalled that only a week ago, another production house called R Take Studios had announced that it was joining hands with Wunderbar Films to produce this film.