



THE Hans India



WOMENIA
Dehydration, headaches and low energy: Why women are more vulnerable in summer
 Summer heat can be harsh on the body, especially for women. Dehydration happens when the body loses more fluids than it takes in. During hot weather, we sweat more to cool down. **P11**

EDIT
Life must be protected, not 'pactually' abandoned
 Whether it is the Constitutional law or criminal law, suicide cannot be accepted under any circumstances. Life is for living. No one has the right to die, but rather a duty to live and let others live. **P6**

BUSINESS
Finance Minister asks banks to refocus on core business
 Articulating the strategic vision of the Union Budget while sharply calling out mis-selling by banks, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday urged lenders to refocus on their core business. **P8**

YOUNG HANS
Employer survey signals rise in skills-focused fresher hiring
 Hiring sentiment for entry-level talent has strengthened for the first half of 2026, with 73 per cent of employers indicating plans to recruit freshers, according to the latest Career Outlook Report HY1 2026 released by TeamLease EdTech. **P9**

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WINDOWS
RAMZAN TIMINGS
 IFTAR (Tue) 6.27 PM
 SEHAR (Wed) 5.15 AM



CROSS-BORDER TERROR
INDIA ROLLS OUT ANTI-TERROR DOCTRINE PRAHAAR

NEW DELHI: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs on Monday released India's first comprehensive anti-terror policy, naming it "PRAHAAR", and flagged threats ranging from cross-border terrorism and cyber-attacks to the misuse of drones and emerging technologies. The policy emphasizes that apart from terror sponsored from across the border, "criminal hackers and nation states continue to target India through cyber-attacks." It notes that India faces terrorist threats across water, land and air, and states that capacities have been developed to secure critical sectors of the economy, including power, railways, aviation, ports, defence, space and atomic energy, against state and non-state actors. The strategy document, uploaded on the MHA's website, states that "India does not link terrorism to any specific religion, ethnicity, nationality or civilisation." It adds that the country has long been affected by "sponsored terrorism" from across the border, with "Jihadi terror outfits as well as their frontal organisations" continuing to plan and execute attacks. The policy names global terror groups such as Al-Qaeda and Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), stating that they have sought to incite violence in India through sleeper cells, while violent extremists operating from foreign countries have hatched conspiracies to promote terrorism. It further highlights the use of advanced technologies by handlers across the border, including drones, particularly in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

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Cabinet finalises Budget session, Metro takeover

Budget session of Assembly will begin on March 16

- ▶ Budget presentation on March 20
- ▶ Takeover of metro rail by March 31

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

THE state Cabinet has on Monday finalised the schedule for the Budget session of the Assembly. As per the schedule, the two-week-long session will start on March 16 with the Governor's address on the first day. The Budget presentation is scheduled for March 20. This date may change if Ramzan festival falls on that day. The Cabinet, at a meeting held at Dr BR Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat on Monday, also approved a proposal for takeover of the



Hyderabad Metro Rail before the end of the current financial year on March 31. After the L&T company expressed its intent to exit the venture citing accumulated losses and financial hurdles in running the Metro Rail, the Cabinet decided to take complete control of the elevated rapid transport system. According to the latest agreement, the state government will bear the company's debt of Rs 13,000 crore. The government will also pay Rs 2,000 crore to L&T towards its equity investment. The government hastened the official process to take over the Metro Rail by March 31 this year so as to be in a position to get funds from the Centre for the second phase

of the Metro Rail project in the new financial year. The Cabinet also discussed the arrangements being made by the government to undertake the Census 2027. Arrangements have been made to start the first phase of the house listing operation from May 11 and continue till June 9. As many as 34 question patterns prescribed by the Centre for house listing would be used. A total of 89,000 employees, including enumerators and nodal officers, will be involved in the census process in the state. The second phase of the census will be conducted in February 2027. Briefing the press after the Cabinet meeting, state I&PR Minister P Srinivas Reddy said that the government will introduce a new insurance policy for employees. **Continued on Page 7**

'Leave Iran by any available means'

India's fresh advisory amid 'fear of war' in Middle East
 NEW DELHI

Indians in Iran have been advised to leave amid possible US strikes in the days to come. In its latest advisory, the Embassy of India asked its citizens to "leave Iran by available means of transport, including commercial flights." The advisory applies to everyone in Iran - students, pilgrims, businesspersons and tourists. "The January 14, 2026, advisory is hereby reiterated that all Indian citizens and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) should exercise due caution, avoid areas of protests or demonstrations, stay in contact with the Indian Embassy in Iran and monitor local media for any developments," the advisory read. **Continued on Page 7**

Amul Milk
Amul GOLD MILKY MILK
NATURE'S APPROVED SUPERFOOD
 AMUL DOODH PEETA HAI INDIA

'Heartbroken with status of West Bengal under Mamata rule'

Modi says change of guard inevitable in state
 KOLKATA

IN a public appeal to West Bengal voters, weeks before the declaration of Assembly polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said he was "heartbroken by the deceit and anguish" faced by the cross-section of the state's citizens under the current Mamata Banerjee regime and vowed to correct it by building a "Viksit Paschim Banga". Modi said while a political change was "inevitable", a "judicious choice" by voters could align the state with the accelerated development seen in the rest of the country. In an open letter written in Bengali, which began with the slogan 'Jai Maa Kali', Modi targeted the TMC government on issues ranging from lack of governance and appeasement politics to fake voters, employment deficiency and women's safety. The PM also promised citizenship to refugees through the CAA and



pledged to stop infiltration through state borders as part of his pre-election promises. "Bengal used to be the nation's vanguard in both financial and industrial sectors in post-Independence India. It pains me to witness the brittle and sick state it has turned into. It is impossible to describe the irreversible damage which six decades of misgovernance and appeasement politics have caused," Modi said. "While on the one hand the youth are forced to migrate to other states for lack of employment opportunities, on the other, women of West Bengal are fearful and alarmed due to a lack of security," he added. **Continued on Page 7**

CM's new Camp Office to get high security features

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

CHIEF Minister A Revanth Reddy's new Camp Office will be equipped with high security devices along the compound wall. The state government has decided to construct the new camp office for the Chief Minister at Dr Marri Channa Reddy Human Resource Development Institute of Telangana (Dr MCR HRD Institute) with high security features along with the wall at a cost of about Rs 9 crore. The compound wall will have watchtowers, concertina wire on the top of the wall, heavy gates, furniture,

security arrangements, approach ramp, construction of a road on the west side to reach the VVIP guest house there. All these things are expected to be provided at the new camp office. The Roads & Buildings Department has invited tenders for the construction of the Chief Minister's Camp Office. The deadline for submitting applications for the work worth Rs 9.08 crore is March 4. The R&B Department officials will examine the technical bids on the last day and finalize the company. The officials have set a deadline of two years to complete all the work mentioned in the tender.

Inter exams from tomorrow

- ▶ Exams are scheduled from Feb 25 to March 18
- ▶ 9.97 lakh students to appear across 1,495 centres
- ▶ 28,500 invigilators and multiple squads will be deployed

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

Telangana Board of Intermediate Education (TGBIE) is all set for the Intermediate Public Examinations (IPE), March 2026 (Theory Exams) to be held from February 25 to March 18. Addressing the media on Monday, TGBIE Secretary Krishna Aditya said that the examinations will run daily from 9 AM to 12 noon, covering both first-year and sec-



ond-year students across general and vocational streams. According to official data, a total of 9,97,075 students will appear this year, including 4,89,126 first-year students and 5,07,949 second-year students. The examinations will be conducted in 1,495 centres across Telangana, comprising government, private, and other institutions. To ensure smooth conduct, the Board has deployed 1,495 chief superintendents, 1,495 departmental officers, and 28,500

invigilators. Additionally, 75 flying squads and 200 sitting squads have been constituted to monitor malpractice. District-level committees, including High Power Committees chaired by Collectors, have been formed to oversee arrangements. Security and logistics have been strengthened with CC cameras installed at all centres, integrated into a Command Control Room in Hyderabad equipped with 31 screens and a video wall. **Continued on Page 7**

MISLEADING UPSC 2023 RESULT ADS

CCPA slaps ₹15L penalty on Vajirao & Reddy

NEW DELHI

THE Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a penalty of Rs 15 lakh on Vajirao & Reddy Institute for issuing misleading advertisements related to the UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE) 2023. The authorities found that the institute deliberately concealed important information about the specific courses taken by successful candidates, creating a false



impression of the coaching services provided. **The institute had advertised claims such as:**

- "6 in Top 10 AIR"
 - "35 in Top 50 AIR"
 - "64 in Top 100 AIR"
- These advertisements, coupled with images and names of successful candidates, suggested that all students had enrolled in the institute's regular courses, including GS/Complete Course, Foundation Course, Pre-Foundation Course, Week-end Course, Optional Subject Course, and GS Pre-cum-Mains Course. **Continued on Page 7**



Maha seeks CBI probe into Ajit Pawar plane crash

MUMBAI: The Maharashtra government has requested Union Home Minister Amit Shah to order a CBI investigation into the plane crash that killed Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar last month, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis has said. **Continued on Page 7**

Bill Gates building 'artificial sun' that could replace coal



WASHINGTON regulators. The company is working with the Tennessee Valley Authority, known as TVA. The project is called Infinity One. Bill Gates-backed Infinity One aims to recreate the power of the Sun with a 100 million-degree fusion reactor. Infinity One is not a traditional nuclear plant. It is a fusion reactor. Fusion is the process that powers the Sun. Instead of splitting atoms like today's nuclear fission plants, fusion joins light atoms together. When that happens, it releases large amounts of energy. **Continued on Page 7**

Gold and silver buying not alarming, says FM

CLAIMS HIGH-PITCHED DEMAND APPEARS TO BE SEASONAL

NEW DELHI

THE Union government is closely monitoring gold and silver prices, and the situation is not alarming, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said, adding that the high-pitched demand in the domestic market appears to be "seasonal". Addressing the media after its customary post-budget meeting with the Central Board of Directors of the

Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Sitharaman said, "Almost all the gold that comes to the market is imported. We are an import-dependent country; steps have been taken, but they are not sufficient to meet demand." "Gold is a favoured investment for households. The high-pitched demand in the domestic market appears to be seasonal. We are watching it; it has not reached an alarming situation," she said.



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at a post-budget meeting with RBI's Central Board of Directors

The RBI, she said, is also monitoring the situation. "Most countries today, particularly central banks, are buying gold and silver. International prices of gold and silver are spiking up and down largely due to central bank buying," Sitharaman said. On the US tariff issue, the minister said the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is reviewing the situation. "It is early to comment." The Finance Minister was

also asked about the ongoing strategic disinvestment of IDBI Bank. She said there is "no systemic kind of issue" and added that the government does not comment on individual companies. She further said the RBI has adequate liquidity. RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra echoed the Finance Minister. "We stand committed to providing liquidity for the productive needs of our economy."

Cyberabad civic chief makes a surprise inspection in Kompally

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

CMC Commissioner G Srijana conducted a surprise inspection in the Kompally Circle limits and carried out a comprehensive review of sanitation management, door to door garbage collection, and issuance of trade licences. During the visit, she inspected local conditions in several areas and issued clear instructions to the officials concerned to rectify the identified shortcomings.

The Commissioner directed that Swachh Auto workers must visit every household daily without failing to collect garbage. She instructed officials to strengthen GPS monitoring of collection vehicles and review their performance on a daily basis. She warned that negligence in the attendance and performance of sanitation workers, as well as lack of supervision

by supervisors, would not be tolerated.

In case of staff shortage, immediate replacement measures must be taken to ensure that garbage does not accumulate anywhere. The Commissioner also directed officials to expedite the issuance of trade licenses to commercial establishments and accelerate tax collections. A special drive should be undertaken to recover pending dues.

She emphasised promoting digital modes of tax payment and conducting awareness programmes to encourage compliance.

Furthermore, she instructed that ward level monitoring be strengthened to ensure prompt response to sanitation related complaints. Cleanliness drives should be taken up with public participation. Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners and sanitation staff participated in the inspection.

TGSRTC to install AI powered headlights in buses

- AI headlights for safer nighttime travel
- Pilot project in select long-distance buses
- Automatic light adjustment based on surroundings
- Reduces glare for oncoming traffic
- Improves visibility at curves, potholes, and narrow roads

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) is upgrading its buses with AI-powered

headlights. As part of a pilot project, the system will be installed in select long-distance buses to assess its performance.

The corporation is currently in talks with a private company from Kerala to acquire the necessary technology. A conclusive decision regarding widespread implementation will be made following an assessment of feedback from drivers. According to TGSRTC, the Artificial Intelligence-based system automatically increases or reduces light intensity depending on the surroundings, without driver intervention.

A senior official from TGSRTC mentioned that the latest vehicles are equipped with high-intensity

headlights, which pose a danger to oncoming traffic. The excessive glare can hinder drivers of approaching vehicles from having a clear view of the road. In regions lacking central medians, the risk of accidents rises.

Moreover, drivers must swiftly recognise curves, potholes and narrow sections during nighttime. In these situations, headlights are crucial.

A key feature of the Arti-



cial Intelligence-driven system is its ability to react even before the driver does. When an approaching vehicle neglects to dip its headlights, causing its beam to shine directly into another driver's eyes, visibility becomes compromised. In these situations, the AI system boosts illumination to assist the driver in seeing the road more clearly.

In areas with sufficient street lighting, the headlights automatically dim. This not only conserves battery power but also reduces expenses. At road curves, where the headlights of buses might not adequately illuminate the roadway, the system modifies the lighting to enhance visibility on the sides. It also reacts suitably in situations involving the dipper.

The technology is currently found in select premium vehicles, but it has yet to be implemented in buses. TGSRTC will be the first to install it in its buses.

Officials said the system will be monitored for a few days. Further measures will be implemented only if drivers provide positive feedback.

Ponnam appeals to RTC employees to call off proposed protests

Minister assures RTC workers of welfare commitments amid ongoing protest threat

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

MINISTER for Transport and BC Welfare Ponnam Prabhakar on Sunday appealed to RTC employees to call off their proposed protests, stating that the government is committed to protecting the organisation, ensuring employee welfare and safeguarding passenger safety.

Addressing the media here on Monday, the Minister said the government is positive towards the demands raised by RTC employees and urged them not to resort to agitation. "Under a people's government, we are moving forward with the goal of strengthening the RTC while protecting the interests of workers and passengers," he said.

He noted that under the leadership of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, the government launched the Mahalaxmi scheme within 48 hours of assuming office. RTC employees have been working continuously for the success of the scheme, he said, congratulating and thanking them for their efforts.

The Minister alleged that the previous government had weakened the RTC over the past 10 years and conspired to shut it down.



He claimed that the corporation, which had been incurring heavy losses earlier, has been brought back on the path of profitability after the introduction of the Mahalaxmi scheme. The government, he added, has been releasing funds due to the RTC under the scheme from time to time.

Prabhakar said that the pay scale revision pending since March 2017 was implemented by the present government in March 2024 with a 21 per cent fitment, placing an annual burden of Rs 480 crore on the RTC. He also pointed out that no recruitment was undertaken in the RTC during the previous regime.

The government has now granted permission to fill

3,038 posts, of which recruitment for 2,000 posts is underway. The ongoing recruitment includes 1,000 drivers, 198 supervisors and 746 labourers. The process to recruit another 1,000 drivers will commence soon, he said. Additionally, 1,132 long-pending compassionate appointments have been taken up. The period for compassionate appointments, which earlier extended up to three years on contract, has been reduced to two years before regularisation.

The Minister further stated that bonds worth Rs 280 crore relating to the 2013 pay scale arrears have been cleared. After the formation of the present government, 2,646 new buses have been

purchased. Of these, 152 buses are operating under the CERF scheme, while another 448 buses will be added soon.

On financial liabilities, he said that dues towards CCS stood at Rs 664.5 crore till March 2023 and have now been reduced to Rs 364.1 crore, with Rs 300 crore cleared over the past two years. Similarly, PF dues of Rs 1,355.4 crore as of March 2023 have been brought down to Rs 660.5 crore after payments of Rs 660.5 crore.

He said that earlier, monthly dues of Rs 25 crore towards CCS and Rs 45 crore towards PF were not being deposited regularly. Since assuming office, the government has been paying Rs 25 crore towards CCS and Rs 45 crore towards PF every month while simultaneously reducing outstanding arrears.

Stating that the previous government had pushed the RTC into crisis, Prabhakar asserted that the present government is reviving the organisation through timely financial support under the Mahalaxmi scheme. Reiterating that the government is sympathetic to workers' demands, he urged employees to withdraw their protests to ensure that the public does not face inconvenience.

70 Delhi 'defence' liquor bottles seized at Kacheguda station

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Special Task Force (STF) arrested a man with 70 bottles of Delhi 'defence' liquor worth Rs 1.4 lakh. He was arriving by train at the Kacheguda Railway Station.

According to officials, 'defence' liquor refers to alcohol that is meant exclusively for sale to armed forces personnel through military canteens, often at subsidised rates.

Acting on specific information that liquor bottles were being transported on the AP Sampark Kranti Express, the STF team, along with personnel of the Rail-

way police and Government Railway Police (GRP), conducted checks on the train.

During the inspection, the team intercepted a passenger identified as Shiva, a native of Andhra Pradesh, who is employed in the private sector in Delhi. He was allegedly bringing the liquor bottles to Hyderabad.

Officials said 70 bottles of Delhi defence liquor were recovered from his possession. The consignment included brands - Blender's Pride (23 bottles), Signature (11) and Royal Challenge (12) whisky and Old Monk rum (24), the police said.

The accused and the seized liquor were handed over to the Kacheguda Excise Station for further investigation.

SFI demands action against colleges withholding hall tickets

HYDERABAD: With Intermediate examinations set to begin across Telangana, the Students' Federation of India (SFI) state committee has demanded strict action against private and corporate junior colleges allegedly withholding hall tickets from students who have not paid their fees. In a statement on Monday, SFI leaders argued that denying hall tickets amounts to harassment and a violation of students' constitutional right to education. They pointed out that hall tickets are already being issued online and through WhatsApp, yet colleges are using

fee arrears as a pretext to trouble students. SFI state president S Rajnikanth and state secretary T Nagaraju said such practices are unacceptable and urged the government to intervene immediately. They stressed that students should not be punished for financial difficulties and that education must remain accessible to all. The organisation warned that if the government fails to take action against erring institutions, SFI will launch a statewide agitation to protect students' rights and ensure fair treatment during examinations.

CYBERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION				
JEEDIMETLA CIRCLE-55				
Name of the Work	Start Date & Time	Last Date & Time for receipt of Bid	Tender inviting Authority details with Mobile No.	
Supply and Delivery of View board display and Mac mini desktop computer in Quthbullapur Zonal office, Jeedimetla Circle-55, Quthbullapur zone, CMC	24.02.2026 10.30 A.M	27.02.2026 10.30 A.M	Executive Engineer, Cell no: 9701414306 Head Draughtsman Cell no: 8712034411	

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION				
DIVISION - 31, GHMC				
Sl. No.	Name of Work	Start Date/ Last Date (As in table)	Start Date/ Last Date & Time for receipt of Bids	Name & Address of Officer
06/E.E.30/ GHMC/ 2025-26 (Date: 20.02.2026)	Various Civil Engineering Works Under Division 30, KZ, GHMC	18.50	11.00 AM and Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids 24.02.2026 @ 11.00 AM	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER -31, GHMC 5th floor Abids Parking Complex, Abids, Hyderabad

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED	
TENDER NOTICE NO. P-05/2025-26 OF DEE/OP/HUZURNAGAR	
Tenders are invited from eligible vendors for various electrical works in Huzurnagar Operation Division. Details are available at www.tgssouthernpower.com	
PH. No. 8712472899	
Last Date: 05.03.2026	
Sd/- DIVISIONAL ENGINEER, OPERATION, HUZURNAGAR	
DIPR R.O. No. 15872-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26 Date: 23-02-26	

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	
4 th Floor, Swarnajayanti Commercial Complex, Arneerpet, Hyderabad.	
Public Notification U/s. 15 (4) of HMDA Act, 2008 (G.O.Ms.No. 57 MA & UD Dept., dated: 11.02.2026)	
In exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-Section (1) of Section 15 of Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority Act, 2008 (Act No. 8 of 2008), the Government hereby makes the following variation to the land use envisaged in the Master Plan Hayathnagar zone segment as required by sub-section (3) of the said section.	
The site in Sy.Nos. 102 (P), 103 (P), 105 (P), 115 and 116 of Thattannaram (V), Hayathnagar (M), Ranga Reddy District, to an extent of Ac 3-36G1s, which is presently earmarked for Conservation use zone in the Master Plan of Hayathnagar zone segment is designated as Residential use.	
The details of the above are available in Web sites http://gazette.telangana.gov.in/ and http://hmda.gov.in/ .	
Sd/ Director (YR/CPO/GHT), HMDA	
R.O. No. : 1208-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26 Date: 23-02-2026	

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY	
Follow us on @SCRRailwayIndia Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in	
No. Y/C. e-Auction/HYB/2025-26 Date 20.02.2026	
For and on behalf of the President of India, the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Hyderabad Division, South Central Railway invites E-Auction through E-Auction leasing module of IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in for Awarding of Commercial contracts through Mobile Assets, Misc. Static Service, Parking, Pay & Use Toilets, RDN and Out of Home Category over Hyderabad Division. The E-Auction schedule is detailed hereunder.	
S.No.: 01 Category: Parking Catalogue No.: HYB-Prkg-053 Particulars: Award of Parking lots at 02 locations viz., Dabirpura & Alwal (West side) Railway stations Date of Auction: 02.03.26 Auction Start time: 11:30 Auction closing time: 12:10	
S.No.: 02 Category: ADVT-Intl-202068-2-25-1 (Advertising Train Interior, Full Face) Catalogue No.: HYB-Mixed-058 Particulars: Interior of Train no.12789/12790 Kacheguda-Murdeswar-Kacheguda and 22715/22716 Kacheguda-Madural-Kacheguda Express Date of Auction: 05.03.26 Auction Start time: 11:00 Auction closing time: 11:30	
S.No.: 03 Category: ADVT-HYB-SFX-OH-124-25-1 (Advertising Out Home) Catalogue No.: HYB-Mixed-058 Particulars: Advertising Rights under out of Home category at Safilguda, Dayanand Nagar, Ramakrishnapuram Railway Station Date of Auction: 05.03.26 Auction Start time: 11:10 Auction closing time: 11:40	
S.No.: 04 Category: ADVT-HYB-MBNR. Catalogue No.: HYB-Mixed-OSN-122-25-1 (Advertising -on station premises (Non digital) Particulars: Advertising Rights under RDN category at MBNR, DKC, WPR Date of Auction: 05.03.26 Auction Start time: 11:20 Auction closing time: 11:50	
S.No.: 05 Category: MSS-HYB-DQR-BS-30-23-1 (Misc-Static-Services-Battery Swapping stations) Catalogue No.: HYB-Mixed-058 Particulars: Battery Swapping station in Dabirpura Railway Station Date of Auction: 05.03.26 Auction Start time: 11:30 Auction closing time: 12:00	
S.No.: 06 Category: MSS-HYB-FM-BS-28-23-1 (Misc-Static-Services-Battery Swapping stations) Catalogue No.: HYB-Mixed-058 Particulars: Battery Swapping station in Falaknamma Railway Station Date of Auction: 05.03.26 Auction Start time: 11:40 Auction closing time: 12:10	
S.No.: 07 Category: MSS-HYB-HPG-BS-29-23-1 (Misc-Static-Services-Battery Swapping stations) Catalogue No.: HYB-Mixed-058 Particulars: Swapping station Battery in Huppuguda Railway Station Date of Auction: 05.03.26 Auction Start time: 11:50 Auction closing time: 12:20	
S.No.: 08 Category: MSS-HYB-DYE-BS-95-25-1 (Misc-Static-Services-Battery Swapping stations) Catalogue No.: HYB-Mixed-058 Particulars: Battery Swapping station in Dayanandnagar Railway Station Date of Auction: 05.03.26 Auction Start time: 12:00 Auction closing time: 12:30	
S.No.: 09 Category: MSS-HYB-UR-GZ-115-25-1 (Misc-Static-Services-Gaming Zone) Catalogue No.: HYB-Mixed-058 Particulars: Gaming Zone at Umdanagar Railway Station Date of Auction: 05.03.26 Auction Start time: 12:10 Auction closing time: 12:40	
S.No.: 10 Category: MSS-HYB-MXT-PS-120-26-1 (Misc-Static-Services-Premium Stores) Catalogue No.: HYB-Mixed-058 Particulars: Premium Outlet at Malakpet Railway Station Date of Auction: 05.03.26 Auction Start time: 12:20 Auction closing time: 12:50	
S.No.: 11 Category: Pay & Use Toilets Catalogue No.: HYB-PNU-008 Particulars: Operation and maintenance of Pay & Use Toilets at Nizamabad Railway station (MUE end) Date of Auction: 06.03.26 Auction Start time: 11:00 Auction closing time: 11:30	
A2548 Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Hyderabad	

Cyber Crime police flags AI-based biometric scam

HYDERABAD: CYBER Crime Police has issued a public alert over a new and emerging AI-based biometric scam targeting citizens' identity data rather than just their money.

According to Cyber Crime police, fraudsters are adopting methods to secretly capture biometric details such as facial features and voice samples. The scammers reportedly pose as elderly or middle-aged individuals in crowded public places, including malls, metro stations, and crowded public places. They request 'small help' such as checking pension/subsidy status, fixing an app, or operating their phone claiming they are not tech-savvy.

V Arvind Babu, DCP Cyber Crimes, said their phone may already be on video call or screen recording with permissions enabled, allowing accomplices to capture your face and voice. Within seconds, your biometric data can be recorded and misused to create AI-generated impersonations. "Criminals may attempt to misuse such data for fraudulent activities like impersonation, social engineering, or bypassing verification processes," said the DCP. Cyber Crime urged the citizens not to operate or handle unknown persons' mobile phones, avoid looking into unknown video calls or following instructions from strangers. Be cautious in crowded places when approached for 'quick help'. Educate family members, especially elders and children, about such tactics.

TGCHE offers free IIT Madras certification for SC and ST students and teachers

- Free online training in soft skills, entrepreneurship, and career counselling
- Exclusively for SC/ST students, professionals, and teachers
- Certification issued by IIT Madras Pravartak Innovation Hub

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana Council of Higher Education (TGCHE) has announced a major initiative to support inclusive learning by encouraging SC/ST students and teachers to enrol in free online certification programmes offered by IIT Madras Pravartak Innovation Hub.

On Monday, Prof V Balakista Reddy, Chairman of TGCHE, invited students and faculty across the state to actively participate in these programmes, which are designed to enhance employability, leadership, and entrepreneurial skills among youth while strengthening the professional competencies of teachers. He emphasised that such capacity-building initiatives are vital for empowering marginalised communities with advanced skills and confidence.

For students, two courses are being offered: a 30-hour Soft Skills Training and Certification covering resume preparation, communica-

tion, interview readiness, placement orientation, and personality development; and a 20-hour Entrepreneurship Development Certification focusing on innovation, business planning, and transforming students into job creators.

For teachers, a 20-hour Career Counsellor Certification Course will provide structured training in career guidance, psychometric assessments, and professional growth strategies.

The programmes begin on February 28, 2026, will be conducted online, and are open to SC/ST diploma, undergraduate, postgraduate students, working professionals, and teachers. Successful participants will receive certification from IIT Madras Pravartak.

Prof. Reddy urged all universities, autonomous colleges, and government and private institutions in Telangana to circulate the information widely to ensure maximum participation. He noted that the initiative aligns with the vision of equitable higher education by equipping students and teachers with industry-relevant skills, entrepreneurial capabilities, and structured career guidance.

Eligible candidates can register through the official links provided by IIT Madras Pravartak. This initiative is expected to significantly boost career readiness and professional growth among SC/ST communities in Telangana.



BJP OBC Morcha state president Anand Goud addresses a press conference in Hyderabad on Monday

BJP OBC Morcha slams govt over Kummera tragedy

BJP State unit President to visit family of infant who died at Kummera Jatara

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

BJP state president N Ramchander Rao will visit the family of the infant, who tragically died during the Mallanna Jatara at Kummera village in Nagarkurnool district to express condolences to the bereaved family.

Rao will be accompanied by several senior leaders, including Talloju Achari, a former member of the National BC Commission, Kalyan Naik, BJP state vice-president, Dileep Achari and Dr Solanki Srinivas, BJP state official spokespersons, as well as Vemula Narendar Rao, BJP Nagarkurnool district president. Other local leaders are also expected to join.

The BJP leadership emphasised that the visit is intended to express solidarity with the grieving family and to highlight the need for accountability in the incident that has shocked the state. The party has already de-

manded strict action against those responsible and urged authorities to ensure justice for the victims.

Earlier, addressing the media on Monday, BJP OBC Morcha state president Anand Goud criticised the Telangana government, alleging that the state is functioning under "unofficial emergency-like conditions."

Referring to the tragic incident in Kummera village, Nagarkurnool district, where a two-month-old infant died during the Mallikarjuna Swamy Jatara, Goud described the episode as "heart-wrenching and a reflection of collapsing law and order." He alleged that temple officials demanded money from devotees despite no ticketing system, and when questioned, assaulted a young mother and her family. The infant later died amid the chaos.

Goud accused ruling party-backed individuals of attacking Ganesh, a youth

from the Chakali community, with caste-based abuses and violence. He condemned the police for failing to act despite videos showing women pleading for mercy. "Even after 48 hours of protests by BC and SC organisations, the government moved only under pressure," he said.

The BJP leader demanded immediate arrests of eight persons and called on the Women's Commission to take suo motu action. He warned that justice must be delivered to the victim's family. Goud further alleged that Congress leaders are misusing police power to suppress opposition while shielding ruling party members involved in serious crimes. "This government protects MIM and corruption, while ordinary citizens suffer," he charged.

Senior BJP leaders Taduri Srinivas and Narendar Rao, Nagarkurnool district president, also attended the press meet, vowing to continue the fight until justice is served.



Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N Uttam Kumar Reddy convenes a high-level review meeting on Gauravelli project at his chambers in the Secretariat on Monday

Uttam promises to fast-track Gauravelli irrigation project

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister vows to clear all obstacles before June 2

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

EXUDING confidence that the state would receive the environmental clearance soon for the Gauravelli Irrigation project and overcome all the legal hurdles being faced for the completion of works on it, the Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the land acquisition process would be completed as part of a time bound programme.

Joined by the Minister for Transport Ponnamp Prabhakar, he had a high-level review at his Secretariat chambers on the issues coming in the way of the work progress. Gauravelli project is one of the reservoirs constructed

under the Indiramma Flood Flow Canal (IFFC) project. The reservoir was initially proposed with a storage capacity of 1.41 TMC in Siddipet district. The original project was aimed to create an ayacut of 1.06 lakh acres. It was subsequently enhanced to a capacity of 8.23 TMC.

He assured fair compensation and speedy payments to the farmers parting with land for the implementation of project. He asserted that the land acquisition process would put on fast track.

The government is firm on completion of the land acquisition task by releasing required funds well before June 2. He directed Collectors of Karimnagar, Jangaon and Siddipet, who also participated in the review to pay

focused attention to the land acquisition issues according priority to the project.

Referring to the legal challenges, he directed the advocate general to be ready with the required strategies as the Supreme Court case involving the project will be coming up for hearing in two days.

He expressed the hope that that the state would be able to overcome all the legal hurdles in respect of the Gauravelli project. He said that the project has been pending with the works stalled for many years due to multiple reasons. Stating that the state government remained committed to complete the project, he said funds would be released without further delay.

Police seize counterfeit SKF bearings in Secunderabad

HYDERABAD: The police conducted raids at various shops in Ranigum and seized a large quantity of fake bearings. Following a complaint from SKF Bearings, the Mahankali police carried out simultaneous searches at three establishments. Police seized 1,987 counterfeit bearings, along with 2,780 fake packaging materials of SKF label on Monday. The police arrested three people in connection with the case. The accused were identified as Surender, Manmohan and Jaiswal. According to police, two of the shops, SV Tool and Bearing and Bearing International, were located in Ganji Complex in Ranigum, while A2Z Machinery Store was in Secunderabad. Police said the counterfeit SKF Bearings were sold to customers at these shops. The incident came to light when customers raised complaints with the company regarding the product quality. Following an internal assessment, the firm filed a complaint with the police.

Housing Board lands fetch ₹34.27 cr in record auction

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

HYDERABAD'S real estate market continued its strong momentum as Housing Board properties in key city locations fetched impressive prices at a public auction held on Monday, generating revenue of Rs 34.27 crore. The Housing Board had issued a notification on February 9 to auction 14 properties located in Gachibowli, Bowrampet, Balaji Nagar (Kukatpally), Chintal and other areas.

The auction was conducted at the KPHB Housing Board Community Hall, where around 50 bidders participated. Among the properties sold, most were MIG and HIG category plots, except for one land parcel in Bowrampet and a flat in Bachupally. Strong competition was witnessed for prime plots, particularly in Gachi-

bowli and Kukatpally. A 263 square yard plot in Gachibowli, with an upset price of Rs 50,000 per square yard, ultimately fetched Rs 1.76 lakh per square yard in the auction. Similarly, a 266 square yard plot in Balaji Nagar, Kukatpally, was sold at Rs 1.64 lakh per square yard. Open plots in Chintal also saw good demand, selling at Rs 84,000 and Rs 74,000 per square yard.

Another plot in Gachibowli fetched Rs 1 lakh per square yard. In Bowrampet, a 2,600 square yard land parcel was sold at Rs 61,000 per square yard. In the residential segment, a Siddhi flat in Nizampet, with a minimum price fixed at Rs 15 lakh was sold for Rs 17.70 lakh in the auction. The strong response to the auction reflects sustained demand for well located Housing Board properties in Hyderabad.

Trouble brewing in TG Cong as party netas begin jockeying for RS tickets

- Singhvi, AICC spokesperson in contention for Telangana's Rajya Sabha seat
- BC, SC, ST leaders voice discontent over seat allocation
- Lobbying intensifies as nominations approach
- Jagga Reddy backs BC candidates for Rajya Sabha seats
- CM, TPCC chief to meet high command for final decision

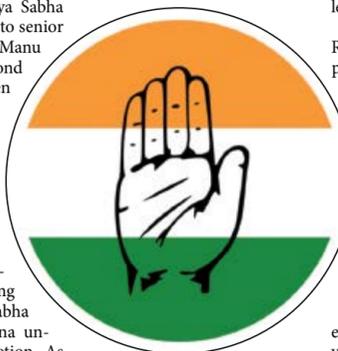
KOLISHETTY
VENKATESHWARLU
HYDERABAD

UNREST is mounting among Telangana Congress leaders amid reports that the party high command is inclined to allocate one of the

two upcoming Rajya Sabha seats from the state to senior leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi and the second to another OC (Open Category) candidate. Of course, Singhvi also belongs to the Open Category.

Meanwhile, reports from Delhi suggest that the party high command is considering taking both Rajya Sabha seats from Telangana under its direct discretion. As per these indications, one seat may go to Singhvi, while the other could be allotted to an All India Congress Committee (AICC) spokesperson.

Although the Congress has not officially finalised the nominees, the circulating "feelers" have triggered dissatisfaction within the state party ranks.



Several Congress leaders have reportedly been expressing their unhappiness privately, questioning the rationale behind the reported allocation pattern. The discontent is particularly visible among leaders from Backward Castes (BC), Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and women

leaders, who feel overlooked.

The notification for the Rajya Sabha elections is expected to be issued on February 26 by the Election Commission of India (ECI), with nominations set to commence the same day. The last date for filing nominations is March 6. Despite the approaching deadline, the party has yet to officially announce its candidates.

According to party sources, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) chief B Mahesh Kumar Goud are likely to travel to Delhi on Tuesday or Wednesday, depending on the Chief Minister's schedule, to hold consultations with the party high command and finalise the Rajya Sabha nominees.

BC leaders have been voicing strong objections, assert-

ing that there would be little justification for conducting a caste survey and promising 42 per cent reservations for BCs if the party fails to allocate at least one Rajya Sabha seat to a BC candidate. They feel the leadership should consider aspirants from all communities rather than limiting representation to specific sections.

With lobbying intensifying, several aspirants are reportedly camping in Delhi, while others are in close touch with the Chief Minister and the TPCC chief in Hyderabad, seeking to secure the coveted nomination.

Meanwhile, TPCC working president T Jagga Reddy is in Delhi battling for senior leader V Hanumantha Rao (BC) and former TPCC working president Jetti Kusuma Kumar (OC-Kamma), urging the party high command to allocate one ticket to either of them.

BJP Mahila Morcha condemns Cong protest at AI Summit

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

BJP Mahila Morcha state president Dr Mekala Shilpa Reddy has condemned the semi-nude protest staged by Youth Congress leaders during the International AI Impact Summit held in New Delhi on February 20. She said the incident was a disgraceful act that tarnished India's reputation before global leaders and technology giants.

"While the world recognises India as a technology leader, an AI hub, and

a knowledge economy, Congress has stooped to cheap politics that insult the nation's dignity," Shilpa Reddy remarked. She added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government is positioning India as a global leader through Digital India and AI missions, but Congress is unable to digest these achievements and resorts to disruptive actions.

In protest against the incident, the BJP Mahila Morcha organised a demonstration at Nampally Exhibition Grounds in Hyderabad on February 23, where Rahul

Gandhi's effigy was burnt. A large number of Mahila Morcha leaders participated, vowing to resist any attempt to undermine India's honour and culture.

The leaders demanded that Congress and Rahul Gandhi issue a public apology to the people of India for lowering the country's image on an international platform. "Our fight will continue against politics that compromise national dignity, women's self-respect, and democratic values," the Mahila Morcha leaders declared.



BJP Mahila Morcha organises a demonstration at Nampally Exhibition Grounds in Hyderabad on Monday condemning the protest staged by Youth Congress leaders at International AI Impact Summit in New Delhi on February 20



BJP to launch protests in Telangana over unfulfilled poll promises

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

UNION Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar has launched a sharp attack on the Congress government in Telangana, accusing Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and his cabinet of neglecting public welfare while focusing on safeguarding positions by allegedly sending funds to the "Gandhi family".

In a statement on Monday, Sanjay questioned why the government has failed to implement its key election promises. He cited delays in providing Rs 2,500 monthly support to women, enhancing Aasara pensions to Rs 4,000 for senior citizens, issuing Rs 5 lakh Bharosa cards for students, and delivering monthly unemployment allowance to jobless youth.

The Minister also highlighted the plight of retired employees denied benefits, noting that 61 have died without receiving their dues. He pointed out that govern-

ment staff and teachers are facing hardships due to five pending DA installments and arrears, while the delay in fee reimbursement has caused distress for lakhs of students and thousands of institutions.

Non-payment of Aarogyasri dues, he added, has deprived poor patients of treatment in corporate hospitals.

Sanjay accused the Congress of ignoring its six guarantees and 420 manifesto promises, despite completing half its five-year term. He demanded that the cabinet announce timelines and financial allocations for their implementation.

Warning of intensified protests, Sanjay declared that the BJP, under the leadership of state president N Ramachander Rao, will launch a mass agitation across Telangana until the guarantees are fulfilled. "We will push the government to fulfill its promises to the people, even if it means applying pressure," he asserted.

Eatata slams govt over poor state of 2BHK houses in Nagarkurnool



BJP MP Eatela Rajender speaking to residents in Muraripalli, Nagarkurnool district, during his visit to the site on Monday.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

BJP MP Eatela Rajender has once again raised concerns over the poor state of double-bedroom houses in Muraripalli, Nagarkurnool district, during his fifth visit to the site.

Speaking to residents on Monday, Rajender expressed disappointment that despite repeated appeals, officials

have failed to respond. He pointed out that the houses lack electricity, drainage systems, drinking water supply, and proper transport facilities. He also noted that lifts remain non-functional and several civil works are still pending, making the houses unsuitable for living.

"Though houses have been allotted, residents are facing severe hardships as basic amenities are missing. This is

not just negligence but a denial of dignity to the beneficiaries," Rajender said.

He demanded that the government resolve these issues within a week, warning that otherwise he and his party would be prepared for direct action. He assured the residents that he would stand by them until the problems were resolved.

Rajender's visit underscored the growing frustra-



tion among beneficiaries of the housing scheme, who continue to struggle due to incomplete infrastructure. He reiterated that the gov-

ernment must act swiftly to ensure the houses are livable and fulfil the promise of providing secure housing to the poor.

Aruna condemns attack on Kamareddy MLA's residence

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD/KAMAREDDY

BJP National Vice-President and MP DK Aruna condemned the attack on the residence of Kamareddy MLA Kattapalli Venkatarama Reddy, accusing the Congress government of deliberately obstructing his work and conspiring against him. Speaking to the media at the MLA's camp office on Monday, Aruna said that despite being elected with people's blessings after defeating former Chief Ministers K Chandrashekar Rao and A Revanth Reddy, Venkatarama Reddy was being de-

nied protocol and excluded from official development programmes. "Ministers attend events without informing the MLA and claim central schemes as their own," she alleged.

Aruna criticised Congress leader Shabbir Ali, stating that he instigated the attack on the MLA's house and spread false allegations. "If there is truth in the charges, come forward for debate. Otherwise, withdraw and apologise," she challenged.

She warned that the BJP will not remain silent against false accusations and political vendetta. "Democracy is being undermined when

ruling party leaders misuse police power and encourage attacks," Aruna said, adding that incidents like the Banswada episode and the Kamareddy attack raise serious concerns about law and order.

Calling on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to take responsibility, Aruna demanded immediate accountability for those behind the attack and urged the government to ensure such incidents are not repeated. "The people of Kamareddy voted for development. It is the CM's duty to fulfill promises and respect democratic values," she asserted.



BJP National Vice-President and MP DK Aruna speaks to the media at the Kamareddy MLA Kattapalli Venkatarama Reddy's camp office on Monday

59 petitions received at GHMC public hearing

HYDERABAD: A total of 59 petitions were received during the public hearing conducted across the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) on Monday, reflecting continued public participation in civic grievance redressal.

Of the total petitions 42 representations and complaints were submitted at the GHMC head office, while 17 petitions were received across the six zones.

The public hearing at the headquarters was attended by Additional Commissioner K. Satyanarayana, ASP Narasimha Reddy, Joint Commissioners Jayanth and Rajinikanth Reddy and City Planner Uma, among other senior officials.

The officers reviewed the petitions and directed departments concerned to take necessary action as per rules. The Prajavani programme is conducted regularly to provide citizens a direct platform to present their grievances and seek timely resolution from civic authorities.

TGCHE chairman highlights Telangana's Skill Vision at India Skills South Meet

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

PROF V Balakista Reddy, Chairman of the Telangana Council of Higher Education (TGCHE), on Monday participated in the India Skill Competition 2025-26 South Regional Meet held on February 21-23 at Pearl Ground. The event was organised by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

Prof Reddy attended the opening ceremony and later interacted with participants, appreciating their technical excellence and innovative projects showcased at the competition. He held focused discussions with NSDC CEO Arun Kumar Pillai on expanding sector-specific skill programmes in Telangana universities. The talks centred on strengthening internships, embedding industry-recognised certifications within degree programmes, and enabling students to participate in national



Prof V Balakista Reddy attends the India Skill Competition 2025-26 South Regional Meet in Hyderabad and holds discussions with NSDC CEO and Sector Skill Councils on expanding skill programmes

and international skill contests.

On the sidelines, Prof Reddy met CEOs of multiple Sector Skill Councils, including healthcare, electronics, tourism, infrastructure, sports, beauty & wellness, and green jobs, seeking their support for the Rising Telangana 2047 Skillings Initiative. He also engaged with NSDC's CSR and Academy divisions to explore collaborative projects under Future Skills programmes.

Reaffirming TGCHE's commitment, Prof Reddy said align-

ing curricula with industry needs is vital to enhance employability and entrepreneurial capacity.

He stressed that bridging academic knowledge with practical skills will prepare students for emerging technologies, advanced manufacturing, digital services, and green jobs.

TGCHE's initiatives aim to position Telangana as a premier Skill Hub, integrating higher education with industry-driven skilling ecosystems and future-ready competencies, he added.

Chevella MP condemns Banswada violence, urges stern police action

- Konda Vishweshwar Reddy condemns mob attack in Banswada
- Urges Telangana Police and State Government to set a strong example
- Highlights hesitation in acknowledging Ramadan-related violence
- Demands strict measures to prevent recurrence and ensure accountability

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

CHEVELLA MP Konda Vishweshwar Reddy has condemned the violent incident in Banswada where a Hindu woman playing a



devotional song of Goddess Durga in a Reliance store allegedly triggered unrest during Ramadan.

According to reports shared with the MP, a Muslim employee objected, leading to a mob of nearly 500 people gathering and attacking Hindus and their homes.

Sharing his reaction on social media platform X,

on Monday, Reddy tagged @TelanganaPolice, @TelanganaCMO, @BJP4India, @BJP4Telangana, and @BJP4TSMminority, demanding immediate and stern action.

"This non-sense should be prevented by the police, by extremely stern action. Police and the State government should set such an example that these fellows should fear

for their backsides before even thinking of repeating such things in future," he wrote.

Reddy expressed concern that when violence occurs during Hindu festivals, sweeping generalisations are made about the entire community, but when unrest arises during Ramadan, there is hesitation to acknowledge the broader context. He stressed that such double standards must end and that law enforcement should act decisively to restore public confidence.

The MP urged the Telangana government and police to ensure accountability and prevent recurrence of such incidents, emphasising that strong deterrent measures are essential to safeguard communal harmony and uphold the rule of law.

Hans India Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KETHAVETH DEV SINGH S/o. SOMANI NAIK KETHAVATH R/o. SY NO. 249, F.No. 108, ASR HOME KALYAN ESTATES, Krishnareddy, Beeramguda Sangareddy, T.G-502319. Changed My name from **KETHAVATH DEVSINGH** to **KETHAVETH DEV SINGH** For All purposes. (TH_44949)

I, KETHAVETH SUNITHA W/o: KETHAVETH DEV SINGH R/o: SY NO. 249, F.No. 108, ASR HOME KALYAN ESTATES, Krishnareddy, Beeramguda Sangareddy, T.G-502319. Changed My name from **SUNITHA MALOTHU** to **KETHAVETH SUNITHA**. For All purposes. (TH_44949)

I, KETHAVETH ESHA SINGH D/o: KETHAVETH DEV SINGH R/o: SY NO. 249, F.No. 108, ASR HOME KALYAN ESTATES, Krishnareddy, Beeramguda Sangareddy, T.G-502319. Changed My name from **KETHAVETH ESHA SINGH** to **KETHAVETH SUNITHA**. For All purposes. (TH_44949)

I, Service No 26195504M Rank L/NK Name POTHIRAJA S Unit 4 MADRAS (W/L) R/o Thirupuvanam -Vill & PO, Mana Madurai-Teh, Sivagangal Dist, Tamilnadu State, Pin-630 611, I have change my Daughter Name from **ANANYA** to **P ANANYA** Affidavit dated 23-02-2026 before Notary M.Gothandaraman, Sivagangal Dist. (TH_44949)

I, Sabera Begum, Gulshan-E-Afzal, H.No. 1581, Risalabazar, Alwal, Secunderabad Telangana, 500010. Have Changed my name **Saber Pasha** to **SABERA BEGUM** for all official records. (TH_44949)

We, Subrahmanyam Maryadala, S/o Kamaraju, and Manga Puspha Kumari Maryadala, W/o Venkata Subrahmanyam, residing at Door No. 4-39, Meraka Veedhi, Tyajampudi, West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh - 534305, have changed our names to **Venkata Subrahmanyam Maryadala** and **Manga Puspha Kumari Maryadala**. (TH_22049)

I, ARIANA BHATTACHARJEE, formerly known as ARIANA B (as per Gazette of India dated 27 July -2 August 2024) and earlier as ANAMIKA KHANNA, daughter of Late Shri Vimal Kumar Khanna, resident of Flat No. 303, Orange Blooms Apartment, Whitefield, Kondapur, Hyderabad- 500084, have changed my name to **ARIANA BHATTACHARJEE** and shall hereafter be known as **ARIANA BHATTACHARJEE** for all official and legal purposes. (TH_SHIVA KUMAR)

I, MAVURAM RAMU R/o F.No 204, 2nd Flr, Road no.1, Sri Balaji Residency budha nagar Peerzadiguda- 500039 Ts change my name to **MAVURAM RAM REDDY S/o MAVURAM PAPI REDDY** (TH_44949)

I, BEJJIPURAPU RAMYA, D/O. BEJJIPURAPU APPALA NAIDU, R/O 8-2-228/1009/264, OM NAGAR SPR HILLS 500045 TS Changed My Name As **BEJJIPURAM RAMYA NAIDU D/O. BEJJIPURAPU APPALA NAIDU** (TH_44949)

I, Sapana Kumari Khandelwal W/o. Amit Khandelwal R/o. 4-7-102/42, Flat No 603, 6th floor, Eshanya Residency, Sai Enclave Colony, Habsguda, Hyd, TS-500007 Changed My Name As **Sapna Khandelwal** (TH_44949)

I, Madhavi Thotakura, (New Name), R/o. P.No. 121, Road. No.11, Jubilee Hills, Hyd - 500033, TS Changed My from **Madhavi Ramineni** (old Name) to **MADHAVI THOTAKURA** (New Name), W/o.Srikanth Ramineni. (TH_44949)

I, Also Known As FAUZAN USMAN ALI MIRZA FAIZAN ALI BAGI R/o.3-5-782/66, King Kothi, Parda Gate, Hyd, 500029 TS I have Changed my name to **MIRZA FAIZAN ALI BAGI S/o. MIRZA OSMAN ALI BAGI** (TH_44949)

I, BEERAVALLI VENKAT RAMI REDDI S/o. BIRAVALLI GURVAREDDI R/o. F.No. J701, 7 Th Flr, Giridhar Executive Park, Pearam Cheruvu, Gandpet Mid, Hyd, TS - 500091, Changed My Name As **Biravalli Venkatarami Reddy S/o. Biravalli Gurvareddi** (TH_44949)

I, NARUKULA PEDDA POCHAIHAH R/o. 7-1-5, SUBASH NAGAR, SIRCILLA -505301, TS. changed my name from **NARUKULA POCHAIHAH** to **NARUKULA PEDDA POCHAIHAH S/o NARUKULA SAYABU**. (TH_44949)

I, TEJINDER KAUR SAMMI R/O 3-9-42 TO 46/ G3/T N R VAISHNAVI APTS., ASHWINI CLY, WEST MARREDPALLY, SEC-BAD, HYD, TS - 026, Changed My Name as **TEJINDER KAUR VIRODI W/O JAIWANT SINGH VIRODI** (TH_44949)

I, KABIR SATYANARAYAN, R/O.2-2-220/16/1, P.No.16, Rd.No.2, Sai Surya Enclave, Jain Temple Front Street, Alwal, Medchal-Malkajgiri-010, henceforth also known as **GAMPA SATYANARAYANA**. both names belongs to one and the same person names i.e., myself. (TH_44949)

I, GILBERT EMMANUEL JEROMIAS, R/o. 3-6-133/2/A, Bossa Reddy Guda, Bhaskar Rao Gardens, West Marredpally, Hyd-026, henceforth also known as **GILBERT EMMANUEL JEROMIAS**. both names belongs to one and the same person names i.e., myself. (TH_44949)

I, LATHA REDDY GUDIPATI R/O. NO:12-76/1, JULAPALLE, JULAPALLI, RAMAGUNDAM-PEDDAPALLI 505525 TS, have changed my name as **MANJULATHA GUDIPATI w/o PANDU RANGAREDDY GUDIPATI** (TH_44949)

I, NARSIMA MASAPURAM SANDHYA R/o. 8-03-121 AYODHYA NAGAR LOTHUKUNTA, TIRUMALAGIRI, Hyd, 500015, TS have changed my name as **DORAPALLY SANDHYA W/O DORAPALLY LAKSHMAN** (TH_44949)

I, MOTTAL SUSTILA R/O. 4-4-75/3, AMBERPET, JAWAHAR ROAD, OPP DELHI WALA SWEET HOUSE, NIZAMABAD, 503001 T. S. CHANGED MY NAME AS **MOTTADI SUSHILA W/O. MOTTAL SURENDAR**. (TH_44949)

I, MANOJ JAIN, R/O PLOT NO:45, RASOOL PURA, MARGDARSINI COLONY, SECUNDERABAD, HYD-500003, TS. CHANGED MY NAME AS **MANOJ SARDARMAL JAIN S/O SARDARMAL ROOPCHANDJI JAIN**. (TH_44949)

I, SONAL JAIN R/O PLOT NO:45, RASOOL PURA, MARGDARSINI COLONY, SECUNDERABAD, HYD-500003, TS. CHANGED MY NAME AS **SONAL MANOJ BHODATRIA W/O MANOJ SARDARMAL JAIN**. (TH_44949)

I, NISHIT JAIN R/O PLOT NO:45, RASOOL PURA, MARGDARSINI COLONY, SECUNDERABAD, HYD-500003, TS. CHANGED MY NAME AS **NISHIT BHODATRIA S/O. MANOJ SARDARMAL JAIN**. (TH_44949)

I, NOOR JAHA R/O.FLAT NO-101 1st FLOOR Block -13 GANDIMAISAMMA DUNDIGAL MEDCHAL MALKAJGIRI-500043 TG Changed My Name As **NOORJHA W/o. TAJ KHAN** (TH_44949)

I, CODAVALI SATYANARAYANA SHYAM MOHANA R/O FNO 207, SAI SATHYA RESIDENCY, OPP ALWAL PETROL PUMP, ALWAL, SEC-BAD-500010, TS, CHANGED MY NAME AS **CO-DAVALI SATYANARAYANA SHYAM MOHAN S/O. CO-DAVALI SRIRAMULU SATYANARAYANA** (TH_44949)

I, AMIT SINGH R/O. P.NO.20,1ST FLR, SHILPA NAGAR, ROAD NO 1, NAGARAM, MEDCHAL -MALKAJGIRI-500083, TS, CHANGED MY NAME AS **SINGH AMITKUMAR SHAIKLESHKUMAR S/o. SHAIKLESH SINGH**. (TH_44949)

I, GURRAPU NAGARANI R/O 1-21-54/47/1/1, RAMACHANDRAHAH CLY, WEST VENKATAPURAM, ALWAL, MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI-500015, TS, CHANGED MY NAME AS **DASARI RANI W/O DASARI SHYAMRAO RAGHU**. (TH_44949)

I, SUNKARA ASHWINI, R/O. G-16, GROUND FLOOR, SIKARA BLISS, NEAR PILLAR NO.123, ATTAPUR, RANGAREDDY, TS - 500048. CHANGED MY NAME AS **VUTUKURI ASHWINI, W/O. SUNKARA RAGHAVENDRA** (TH_44949)

I, Hafsa Fatima W/O Syed Abrar Ahmed R/O 11-5-294, Red Hills, Hyderabad Telangana. I have Changed my Son's name from **Syed Zaid Ahmed** to **Syed Zaid Abrar Ahmed** (TH_44949)

I KALPANA THOTA R/O H.NO: 22-549, BIR NAGAR, JAWAHAR NAGAR, RACHAKONDA-MEDCHAL, TELANGANA, CHANGED MY NAME AS **HIMABINDU THOTA D/O. SANJEEVA THOTA** (TH_44949)

I, MOHAMMED SAQIB S/O MOHAMMED SABIR (Late) (New Name) R/o. 42-103/1, GANDHI NAGAR, MOULA ALI, HYD, RCK-Medchal-040, TS changed my name from **MOHAMMED SAQIB S/O MOHAMMED SABIR (Late)** (Old Name) to **MOHAMMED SAQIB S/O MOHAMMED SABIR (Late)** (New Name) for all purposes. (TH_44949)

I, CHIVUKULA LAKSHMI NARASAMMA (OLD NAME) R/O. 4-1-18, Rd No 11, OLD POST OFFICE LANE, SNEHAPURI CLY, NACHARAM, ROK-Medchal TS. Changed My Name As **KUPPA LAKSHMI RAVIKUMAR (NEW NAME) W/O KUPPA SRINIVASA RAVIKUMAR**. (TH_44949)

I, THIGULLA LAXMI W/O THIGULLA NARSIMHA REDDY (New Name) R/o.14-03/12, JAWAHAR NAGAR, PHASE-4, Beeraguda Ameerpet, Sangareddy -500032, TS, changed my name from **PANDIRI SARTHIA (Old Name)** to **THIGULLA LAXMI W/o. THIGULLA NARSIMHA REDDY (New Name)** for all purposes. (TH_44949)

I, Gaurav Bharati S/o Ramakant Gaur R/o Marigold-411, ARK Homes, Near Bolarum Railway Station, Bolarum, Secunderabad 500010, Telangana. Changed my name as **Gaurav Gaur** for all future purposes (TH_44949)

I, TANGIRALA KAMALA W/o. Dr. KAMESWARA RAO TANGIRALA R/o. Flat No. 401, Konduru Radhamma Apartments, M.J. Colony, Moulali, Hyd, TG-500040, have changed My Name from **KAMALA** to **TANGIRALA KAMALA**. For All Future Purposes. (TH_44949)

I, Nikkath Fathima W/o. Mohammed Ghouse Baba R/o. 17-1-181/M/132, Darabjung colony, Madannapet, Hyd-T.G, have changed my name as **NIKHAT FATIMA** with immediate effect. (TH_44949)

I, Vishnu Kumar Agarwal S/o Tarachand Agarwal age about 49 years R/o H.No:21-6-334, ghanai bazar, bari alawa, charminar, Hyderabad-500002, I have changed my name from **vishnu Kumar** to **Vishnu Kumar Agarwal** for all purpose. (TH_44949)

I, ASRA SULTANA. (old name) JAWEED SHAH KHAN. R/o H.No.8-2-137, Mailardevpally Village, Rajendranagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana State. to change my name as **ASRA BEGUM**, for all purposes as per id proofs. (TH_44949)

I, Mukolu Raghunandan S/o Makolu Narsimha R/o H.No.3-28, Indriyala Village, Bhoodan Pochampally Mandal, Yadadri Bhongiri, Pin-508284. Have Changed My Name As **MAKOLU RAGHUNANDAN** For Future Purpose. (TH_44949)

I, PUPPALA VIJAY BHASKER RAO, R/O. 10-4-SH/26/1, GURU KRUPA NILAYAM, East Marredpally, Addagutta, Hyderabad - 500026, T.G., Changed My Name as **VIJAY BHASKER PUPPALA, S/O. SATYANARAYANA PUPPALA** (TH_44949)

I, LATEEF UNNISA BEGUM, W/O Mir Baqueer Ali Khan, Residing at H.No.23-1-1091, Panch Mohalla, Moghalpura, Hyderabad. Have change my name to **LATEEF UNNISA** and will henceforth be known as **LATEEF UNNISA** for all Purposes. (TH_44949)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Pratheek Maddhi Reddy S/O Maddhi Divakar Reddy R/O H. No. 3-1-102/1, Santhosh Nagar, Navya Nursing Home, Bhongir, Dist. Nalgonda (Telangana) have changed my name to **PRATHEEK REDDY MADDHI** forever. (TH_TM RAO)

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HYDERABAD: The College of Defence Management (CDM), Secunderabad, the premier tri-service institution of the Indian Armed Forces, will host its Annual Seminar on February 24-25. Partnering with the Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad, as its knowledge partner, the seminar will be streamed online to military and academic institutions across India, ensuring wider participation.

This year's theme, "Multi-Domain Integrated Technologically-Empowered Resilient Armed Forces (MITRA)," highlights the evolving role of military strategies in a complex geopolitical and technological environment. The Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan, will deliver

CDM Secunderabad to host annual seminar on MITRA

the keynote address, while Major General G. Srinivas, Commandant CDM, will open the seminar. Prof Madan Pillutla, Dean ISB, will speak on leadership for future-ready armed forces.

The seminar will be conducted in three sessions. Day 1 will feature discussions on multi-domain operations and integration, lessons from recent military conflicts, and envisioning MDO in 2035. The second session will focus on technology empowerment and Atmanirbharata, covering disrup-

tive technologies, cyber and space strategies, and cognitive warfare. The final session on February 25 will address stress structures, preparedness, and resilience, including organisational design, leadership, and civil-military fusion.

With participation from senior defence officials, scholars, and industry partners, the CDM annual seminar 2026 aims to foster strategic foresight and intellectual discourse, strengthening India's defence preparedness under the MITRA framework.

TSUTF demands exemption of primary school teachers from Inter exam duties

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

THE Telangana State United Teachers Federation (TSUTF) has demanded that primary school teachers be exempted from duties related to the Intermediate Public Examinations (IPE).

TSUTF president Chandra Ravi and general secretary A Venkat said in a statement on Monday that assigning invigilation duties to teachers from Mandal Parishad and government primary schools causes serious disruption to regular classes for two to three weeks. The federation pointed out that primary school teachers belong to the School Education Department, which has no direct connection with the Intermediate Education Department. "It is unreasonable to divert primary teachers for IPE duties," TSUTF said.

Highlighting that over 85% of Intermediate students in Telangana study in private junior colleges,

TSUTF questioned why lecturers from these institutions are not being utilised for invigilation. Instead, school teachers are burdened with responsibilities outside their scope.

On Monday, TSUTF submitted formal representations to School Education Secretary Yogita Rana, Board of Intermediate Education Secretary Krishna Aditya, and Director of School Education Naveen Nicholas, urging them to make alternative arrangements by deploying qualified staff from government, aided, or private junior colleges. Responding to the appeal, Krishna Aditya assured that the department would review district-wise allocations and take necessary steps to arrange suitable alternatives.

TSUTF emphasised that exempting primary teachers from IPE duties is essential to ensure uninterrupted learning for younger students and to maintain the integrity of school education.

New chairman and trustees of Namalagundu Temple take oath

HYDERABAD: The Namalagundu Sri Veeranjanya Swamy Temple witnessed a grand and solemn oath-taking ceremony for its newly appointed Chairman and Board of Trustees. The event, held at the temple premises, was graced by Adam Santosh Kumar, the Congress party MLA from Secunderabad, who extended his heartfelt congratulations to the newly elected committee members.

The Department of Endowments Inspector, Andal, alongside Srinivas, oversaw the election of Kacham Ramu as the new Chairman of the Temple's Board of Trustees. Ramu, after taking the oath, expressed his commitment to working towards the temple's development and enhancing the amenities for the devotees.

The newly inducted Board of Trustees members, including Kailas Arun Kumar, Munnooru Chandu, B Nares, K Sai Kumar, R Pratap, P Pawan Kumar and Shamal Ramani, also took their oaths. They emphasised their collective goal of taking the temple to new heights while ensuring a more comfortable environment for the devotees.

The ceremony was attended by local dignitaries, prominent personalities, and a large number of devotees, all of whom congratulated the new committee. The event concluded with special prayers and the distribution of prasadam to the devotees.



TPSV appeals to CM for boosting govt school enrollment in 2026-27

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

ON Monday, the Telangana Praja Samithi Vidyarthi (TPSV) state president and former MLC Alugubelli Narsireddy, along with state general secretary M Radhe Shyam, wrote to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy urging immediate measures to increase enrollment in government schools for the academic year 2026-27.

The letter highlighted concerns over declining student numbers in government institutions. TPSV pointed out that in 2024-25, enrollment stood at 6,87,395 students. However, subsequent re-

- TPSV leaders urge CM Revanth Reddy to address declining enrollment in government schools
- Detailed statistics reveal dropouts across multiple age groups and districts
- Call for infrastructure upgrades, scholarships, and awareness campaigns to strengthen public education

views revealed significant reductions across multiple age groups, with thousands of children between ages 10 and 20 dropping out or shifting away from government schools. The trend continues in higher age brackets, raising alarms about the future of public education.

TPSV leaders stressed that government schools must be strengthened to remain competitive and attractive. They called for

improved infrastructure, adequate teaching staff, modern learning resources, and effective monitoring systems. The letter also emphasised the need for peer group learning, community engagement, and localised campaigns to encourage parents to admit their children to government schools.

To reduce dropout rates, TPSV recommended expanding financial

support, and mid-day meal schemes, especially for economically weaker families. They argued that such measures would not only ensure equitable access to education but also reduce dependence on private institutions, thereby promoting social justice. The appeal requested the Chief Minister to prioritise education reforms in the upcoming academic year. TPSV leaders asserted that revitalising government schools is essential for building a stronger, more inclusive future for Telangana's children, ensuring that public education continues to serve as the backbone of the state's learning ecosystem.

TG Cabinet gives thumbs-up for Directorate tag to TVVP

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

IN a significant step towards strengthening public health-care delivery, the government has decided to convert the Telangana Vaidya Vidhana Parishad (TVVP) into the Directorate of Secondary Health Care (DSH). The State Cabinet, at its meeting held on Monday, approved the DSH Bill, thereby according Directorate status to TVVP, which has been functioning as an autonomous body.

TVVP was originally established in 1986 as the Andhra Pradesh Vaidya Vidhana Parishad and was subsequently renamed following the formation of Telangana State. At present, 184 institutions, including Community Health Centres (CHCs), Area Hospitals, and District Hospitals, are functioning under its purview. These

institutions serve as a vital link between Primary Health Centres and Teaching Hospitals, delivering secondary and select specialty health-care services.

Given its autonomous status, TVVP has been facing constraints in areas such as timely budget allocation, salary disbursement, and administrative processes. Employees have consistently represented for granting Directorate status to address these issues. Post bifurcation, a similar restructuring was undertaken in Andhra Pradesh, which further underscored the need for such a reform in Telangana.

Recognising both the administrative necessity and the long-standing demand of employees, Minister for Health Damodar Rajanarasimha initiated the process for restructuring TVVP. A detailed study was con-

ducted in consultation with the Administrative Staff College of India. Based on the recommendations, the proposal was submitted to the Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, and subsequently approved by the Cabinet.

The transition to a Directorate is expected to enhance institutional efficiency, strengthen administrative oversight, and ensure improved allocation and utilisation of resources. With full government oversight, hospitals under TVVP are expected to function with greater accountability, leading to improved service delivery and patient care outcomes. The reform is also expected to address long-standing employee concerns, facilitate timely resolution of administrative and financial matters, and improve coordination with other departments within the Health sector.

Bhatti gives clarion call to make Rahul PM to resolve key issues

Vikramarka highlights Cong's historical role in social reforms and caste eradication

HYDERABAD/VIKARABAD

DEPUTY Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu on Monday said that the country's problems would be resolved only if Rahul Gandhi becomes the Prime Minister, and called upon district Congress presidents of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to work tirelessly towards that goal.

Addressing a training camp of district Congress presidents held in Vikarabad, he urged party leaders to strive to win the maximum number of Lok Sabha seats in both the Telugu states to strengthen Rahul Gandhi's leadership at the national level.

Speaking on the topic "Caste problems, reservations, and how to fight for the eradication of caste discrimination as a Congressman," Vikramarka said Rahul Gandhi stands with victims of discrimination wherever incidents of untouchability and social injustice occur in the country.



Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka receives a memento at the training camp for District Congress Committee presidents of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states in Anantgiri Hills in Vikarabad district on Monday

He recalled that when research scholar Rohith Vemula died by suicide at the University of Hyderabad allegedly due to caste discrimination, Rahul Gandhi visited the campus, interacted with students and helped shape the course of the agitation. The Deputy CM alleged

that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was conspiring to weaken and eliminate the Congress party, which he said had enacted several revolutionary laws to ensure economic, social and political equality in the country after leading the freedom struggle. He accused the

BJP of attempting to create a "Congress-mukt Bharat" and of seeking changes to the Constitution to sideline the party. Vikramarka said certain political forces want society to remain socially and economically divided. "Caste is a reality in India," he remarked, adding that he, too,

had faced caste discrimination in his life. However, he said such discrimination did not deter him from pursuing his goals with determination.

He stated that the Indian National Congress is not merely a political party but a movement that has, for decades, worked to sensitise society against social evils such as untouchability, child marriage and restrictions on widow remarriage. He noted that the party had simultaneously spearheaded the freedom struggle and social reform movements.

Recalling historical resolutions, he said that social reformer TK Madhavan had moved a resolution at a Congress session in Kakinada demanding the eradication of untouchability and temple entry for all sections of society. He also referred to the Vaikom Satyagraha in Kerala and movements led by BR Ambedkar in Maharashtra as examples of sustained struggles against caste discrimination.



Union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy plants a sapling at NLCIL's Mine-1 in Tamil Nadu on Monday

Kishan Reddy champions sustainable mining at NLCIL

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEVELI/HYDERABAD

The Union Coal and Mines Minister visited NLCIL in Tamil Nadu on February 22-23

UNION Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy undertook a two-day visit to Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited (NLCIL) in Tamil Nadu on February 22-23, reviewing the company's performance, financial status, renewable energy expansion, and sustainable mine closure initiatives.

During the visit, on Monday, the Minister chaired the National Mine Closure Conference themed "Moving Beyond Extraction: Mine Closure and Repurposing." He emphasised that mine closure should not be treated merely as an administrative process but as an opportunity to restore the environment, conserve biodiversity, and generate new livelihood opportunities for local communities. "We are

taking mine closure forward as a new beginning," he said, highlighting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's directive to make sustainable closure a national priority.

Reddy announced that repurposing closed mines would include models such as aquaculture, eco-parks, floating solar plants, data centres, sports complexes, and logistics hubs. He revealed that work has already begun to scientifically close 147 non-operational mines across the country.

At NLCIL's Mine-1, the Minister planted saplings, inaugurated a butterfly park, distributed livestock to beneficiaries, and launched an OB-to-sand manufacturing plant. He praised NLCIL's efforts to convert mined-out

areas into hubs for agriculture, tourism, and biodiversity development.

Later, he met scientists from Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) to discuss rare earth element mining and processing, stressing the need for focused production. He also inaugurated Neyveli's Platinum Jubilee Park and interacted with senior citizens at Anand Illame Old Age Home, distributing fruits and clothes. The Minister's visit underscored the government's commitment to sustainable mining practices and community-centric development, ensuring that mine closure becomes a catalyst for environmental restoration and economic renewal.

HC orders hall tickets for students denied entry due to glitch

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana High Court Single Bench presided over by Justice EV Venugopal on Monday directed the Secretary of the Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education to forthwith issue hall tickets to all students, who had been denied admission to the ongoing Intermediate Public Examinations, 2026, notwithstanding their having duly remitted the requisite fees to their respective institutions.

The court was seized of a batch of writ petitions filed by aggrieved intermediate students challenging the decision of the Intermediate Board to bar them from appearing in the examinations.

The petitioners had contended that they could not be penalised for a failure that was entirely attributable



to their institutions and not to any default on their part, having fulfilled their obligation of paying the prescribed fees in full.

It emerged before the court that owing to a technical glitch in the fee remittance system between the institutions and the Intermediate Board, the fees collected from the students had not been transmitted to the Board, which consequently withheld issuance of the hall tickets. The petitioners' counsel urged that students ought not to be deprived of the opportunity to sit for their examinations for no

fault of theirs.

Justice Venugopal, while passing the directions, observed that errors on the part of the colleges should not deprive students of their right to appear for the examination. The court accordingly directed the Intermediate Board to issue the hall tickets and further ordered the Board to facilitate special practical examinations for the affected students at a later date, given that they had been unable to appear for the regular practicals as a consequence of the same dispute. The matter has been adjourned to March 26 for further consideration.

Karanbagh Colony residents chip in for 32 CCTV cameras

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

IN a significant step towards community policing and urban surveillance, the residents of Karanbagh Colony Saidabad, on Monday formally handed over 32 high-definition CCTV cameras to the Hyderabad City Police under the 'Empowering Your Everyday Safety' (EYES) and 'Donate a Camera' initiative.

The cameras were donated by the Karanbagh Colony Association, led by President Myladri Srinivas and Secretary Sudershan Gaddam, in the presence of Hyderabad City police commissioner VC Sajjanar.

Speaking on the occasion, Sajjanar emphasised "CCTV cameras act as 'force multipliers' for the police department. A single camera can perform the work of a hundred police

officers by providing 24/7 surveillance and unbiased evidence."

Addressing the gathering, he made a sincere appeal to the citizens and corporate sectors of Hyderabad to actively participate in the city's safety mission. He urged everyone to come forward and donate CCTV cameras under their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, emphasizing that collective community contribution is vital to enhancing the security infrastructure and making Hyderabad a safer city for all.

DCPs Khare Kiran Prabhakar and Ch Rupesh, ACP S Venkat Reddy, Chandra Mohan (SHO Saidabad), Ramesh (Inspector IT Cell, Hyderabad) and colony association members G Ravichandra Yadav, N Venugopal Rao, and . Tirumrathulu and others were present.

MIM seeks release of Muslim youth arrested over violence in Banswada

PARTY URGES FAIR REVIEW AND LEGAL EXAMINATION OF ARRESTS, CALLS FOR COMMUNAL HARMONY AND JUSTICE

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) delegation met Telangana Additional Director General of Police Mahesh Bhagwat and Telangana Minority Welfare minister Mohd Azharuddin seeking the release of Muslim youth, who were arrested in Banswada last week for involvement in the alleged communal violence.

AIMIM in its letter said that according to video evidence, the eight Muslim youth, who were arrested were not involved in the violence that took place on February 20. Their arrests appear to be based on false implication, and we believe they are innocent, the party said. They conveyed concerns about the situation and stressed the need for a balanced approach to maintain communal harmony.

The delegation include MLAs Ahemd Bin Abdulh Balala (Malakpet), Mir Zulfqar Ali (Charminar) Kausar Mohiuddin (Karwan), Mohammad Mubeen

(Bahadurpura) and MLCs Mirza Rahmat Baig, and Mirza Riyaz-ul-Hasan Efendi.

During the meeting, the leaders expressed serious concern over the recent clashes between two religious groups in Banswada, which resulted in minor vandalism and tension in the area. Following the incident, certain right-wing organisations called for a bandh on Saturday, which was observed amid heavy police deployment.

The delegation informed the Minister that eight Muslims were arrested in connection with the incident and requested a fair and impartial review of the cases. They urged that innocent individuals should not be harassed and appealed for their release after proper legal examination.

The leaders also raised the issue of alleged looting and

damage to Muslim-owned shops during the violence and requested that adequate compensation be provided to the affected traders and urged to distribute compensation to the affected victims.

Reacting to the violence, the Minister called for a thorough and impartial investigation into the incident and demanded strict action against those responsible for disturbing communal harmony. He emphasised that maintaining peace and protecting the rights and properties of all citizens is the government's priority.

The issue of the reported demolition of Masjid-e-Maulana was also discussed, and concern was expressed over the matter. The Minister assured that the issue would be examined carefully and appropriate steps would be taken as per law.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

HYDERABAD'S real estate market continued its strong momentum as Housing Board properties in key city locations fetched impressive prices at a public auction held on Monday, generating revenue of Rs 34.27 crore. The Housing Board had issued a notification on February 9 to auction 14 properties located in Gachibowli, Bowrampet, Balaji Nagar (Kukatpally), Chintal and

Housing Board land auction rakes in ₹34.27 cr moolah

other areas.

The auction was conducted at the KPHB Housing Board Community Hall, where around 50 bidders participated. Among the properties sold, most were MIG and HIG category plots, except for one land parcel in Bowrampet and a flat in Bachupally.

Strong competition was witnessed for prime plots, particularly in Gachibowli and Kukatpally.

A 263 square yard plot in Gachibowli, with an upset price of Rs 50,000 per square yard, ultimately fetched Rs 1.76 lakh per square yard in the auction. Similarly, a 266 square

yard plot in Balaji Nagar, Kukatpally, was sold at Rs 1.64 lakh per square yard. Open plots in Chintal also saw good demand, selling at Rs 84,000 and Rs 74,000 per square yard.

Another plot in Gachibowli fetched Rs 1 lakh per square yard. In Bowrampet, a 2,600 square yard

land parcel was sold at Rs 61,000 per square yard. In the residential segment, a Siddhi flat in Nizampet, with a minimum price fixed at Rs 15 lakh was sold for Rs 17.70 lakh in the auction. The strong response to the auction reflects sustained demand for well located Housing Board properties in Hyderabad. With competitive bidding across categories, the public auction once again demonstrated investor confidence in the city's growing real estate sector.

LIFE-SAVING 'HELMET BANK' INITIATIVE LAUNCHED IN MALKAJGIRI

- Riders without helmets can borrow one free of cost for 24 hours
- Aims to prevent head injuries, save lives
- Reinforces Telangana Police's "Arrive Alive" road safety campaign

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

IN a unique citizen-friendly enforcement drive, the Malkajgiri Traffic Police has launched an innovative 'Helmet Bank' initiative to improve helmet usage among two-wheeler riders. The programme, introduced under the guidance of the Commissioner of Police, Malkajgiri, and spearheaded by DCP Traffic K Rahul Reddy, is designed to encourage respon-



Traffic police launch 'Helmet Bank' initiative to improve helmet usage among two-wheeler riders in Malkajgiri on Monday

sible riding behaviour while prioritising safety over punitive measures.

As part of the initiative, riders found travelling without helmets are given the option to borrow a helmet free

of cost on the spot by submitting basic details. They are required to return the helmet within 24 hours. This immediate compliance mechanism ensures that riders are protected during their journey

while also instilling the habit of wearing helmets regularly.

The Helmet Bank is being implemented across key traffic junctions in the Malkajgiri zone. Authorities emphasise that the primary objective is

to prevent head injuries, save lives and create lasting behavioural change among riders. By focusing on positive policing, the initiative seeks to build public trust and encourage voluntary adherence to safety norms.

The programme also reinforces the ongoing "Arrive Alive" road safety campaign of the Telangana Police, which stresses that wearing a helmet is essential for every trip, regardless of distance.

The Malkajgiri Traffic Police has appealed to all two-wheeler riders to support this mission by wearing helmets consistently and spreading awareness about the importance of road safety.

Officials believe that this innovative approach will not only reduce accidents but also foster a culture of responsibility and care on the roads.

Sri Lankan Parliament shows the way for India

As far as setting an illustrious example goes, it is a matchless move. With the salaries and perks of MPs and MLAs in India rising at regular intervals, with generous dollops of additional facilities to go along ending with a generous pension to enable them to subsist in their sunset years (base pension of Rs 31,000 per month), what has been undertaken by Sri Lanka deserves loud applause. On February 6, the Supreme Court had determined that the Parliamentary Pensions (Repeal) Bill can be passed in Parliament with a simple majority. Its main aim was to repeal the Parliamentary Pensions Law No 1 of 1977, which had established a

non-contributory lifetime pension to persons who have ceased to be members of parliament. The Sri Lankan government has gazetted the Parliamentary Pensions (Repeal) Act after it was passed by 154 votes in the 225-member House, with only two against. Ostensibly, this move is to fund other essential public services, given the not-so-secure financial status that the island-nation has been embroiled in for nearly five years now.

But beyond tokenism, this move has been highlighted as fulfilling a key campaign promise of President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, who assured to do away with 'unjustified' political perks. In Sri Lanka, a

member of parliament was entitled to a pension after serving a five-year term. In contrast, just look at what is happening in our nation. As an additional service pension, for every year of service beyond the mandatory five-year term, an extra ₹2,500 per month is added to the base pension, including to all former members of either House of Parliament. The salary and pension structure is subject to revision every five years based on the Cost Inflation Index. The perks for former MPs include free train travel in first-class. The recent revision was announced in March 2025, with the changes effective retroactively from April 1, 2023. According to PRS India data,

historically, the average age of the Lok Sabha has risen from 46.5 years in the First Lok Sabha to over 55 in recent sessions, indicating a long-term shift toward older representatives.

The average age of Members of Parliament (MPs) in the 18th Lok Sabha (2024) is 56 years. This reflects an aging trend in Indian politics, with 52 per cent of MPs being over 55 years, while only 11 per cent are 40 years or younger. Even if an MP ceases to be one after a single five-year term, the individual is thus part of the gray train, irrespective of age. Interestingly, with a population share of 11 per cent, senior citizens in India are among the worst

treated ones. In an impassioned speech in Parliament, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut had said that the government should kill all the senior citizens after 65 years because the government is not ready to pay attention to these nation builders and queried if it is a crime to be one. The other side of the picture is that senior citizens in politics are given all the benefits possible to MLAs, MPs or ministers and they also get pension. 'Senior citizens have the right to change the government, do not ignore them. They have a lifetime experience of changing the government. Do not consider them weak,' opined the mercurial MP. But will things change, is the moot question.

LETTERS

Engg education must move with the times

With reference to the article "The new blueprint for Engineering: Skills, speed and specialisation" by Prof Geeta Tripathi (THI Feb 23), I wish to emphasize the essential significance that engineering education must move with the times or risk being left behind in the fast lane of innovation. As Industry 5.0 builds upon AI, robotics, cloud computing and cyber-physical systems, the writing is on the wall: traditional degrees like engineering alone can no longer carry the whole weight of employability. Engineering education must balance theoretical depth with agility, speed and specialisation to build not just job seekers, but job creators.

Raju Kolluru, Kakinada

Galgotias episode is an eye-opener

With reference to the editorial "Upshots of the Galgotias robodog controversy" (Feb 23), the Galgotias University episode at the recent AI summit has rightly drawn attention to deeper issues in private higher education. While the robodog claim caused immediate embarrassment, the bigger concern lies in inflated patent numbers and misleading performance claims that many institutions use for rankings and advertisements. This erodes trust among students and parents, who invest heavily expecting genuine quality. To address this realistically, the UGC and NIRF should tighten verification of patent data—perhaps by giving more weight to granted patents over filed ones—and conduct random audits of self-reported metrics. Private universities must also face stricter oversight on marketing practices. This would strengthen the overall credibility of Indian higher education.

S M Jeeva, Chennai-32

Regulators must get tough post-Galgotias

Propos "Upshots of the Galgotias Robodog Controversy". The editorial makes a fair point that the real victims here are the students, who now carry the stigma of a degree from an institution caught in a fraud. That is deeply unfair to young people who had no say in their university's conduct. NIRF and NAAC rankings are taken seriously by students and parents when choosing institutions, yet as the article notes, neither body adequately captures the gap between private and public universities on critical metrics like patent quality. Regulators must also crack down on misleading advertisements. This incident should become a turning point, not just another forgotten controversy.

A. Myilsami, Coimbatore-641402

Onus on NIRF and NAAC

The Galgotias robodog controversy has raised uncomfortable questions about claims made by private universities and the systems meant to verify them. When exaggerated achievements go unchecked, it is students and parents who pay the price. Regulatory bodies such as NIRF and NAAC should refine their assessment methods, giving greater weight to verified research, patents granted, faculty quality and student outcomes. Periodic third-party audits and strict penalties for misleading advertisements would help restore credibility. Universities, too, must adopt transparent disclosure practices.

M Barathi, Bengaluru-560076

Govt must ensure strict verification

This letter refers to your editorial, "Upshots of the Galgotias robodog controversy," (Feb 23). While the incident itself is embarrassing, the systemic issues it exposes regarding our higher education landscape are a matter of serious concern. The disparity in patent approval rates between premier public institutions and certain private universities suggests that quantity is being prioritised over actual innovation. To address this, the NIRF and NAAC must refine their evaluation metrics to emphasize quality and peer-reviewed impact rather than just raw numbers, while the government should implement stricter verification of technological claims made by universities in their advertisements.

K Sakunthala, Coimbatore-16

Need for a balanced reform agenda

The Galgotias robodog controversy underlines how fragile credibility can be in higher education. While the ridicule faced by students is regrettable, the larger issue is the weak performance of many private universities in research and patent approvals. This gap must be addressed through stronger oversight and transparent evaluation. Ranking bodies should move beyond cosmetic indicators and place greater weight on measurable outcomes such as patents, publications, and employability. A balanced reform agenda—combining stricter regulation with incentives for quality research—can help restore trust and ensure students are not penalised for institutional lapses.

Abbhana Barathi, Chennai-23

thehansreader@gmail.com

BENGALURU ONLINE

Minister launches Amazon's 10th corporate office in state

BENGALURU: Minister for Large and Medium Industries MB Patil on Monday inaugurated Amazon's newly constructed, fully equipped corporate main office spread across 11 lakh square feet (1.1 million sq.ft.) at Vinayaka Nagar near Yelahanka. Speaking on the occasion, he said, "This is Amazon's 10th corporate office in the State. The company, which has shared a two-decade association with Karnataka, plans to invest 35 billion dollars in India over the next four years. This investment is expected to support 15 million small businesses and generate lakhs of employment opportunities. Karnataka will receive a significant share of this investment." He pointed out that Karnataka has an annual per capita income of over ₹3.80 lakh, ranking highest in the country. The State also stands second in annual GST contributions to the national exchequer, contributing ₹1.6 lakh crore.

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

Life must be protected, not 'pactually' abandoned



PROF MADABHUSHI SRIDHAR ACHARYULU

WHETHER it is the Constitutional law or criminal law, suicide cannot be accepted under any circumstances. Life is for living. No one has the right to die, but rather a duty to live and let others live.

The recent Supreme Court's dismissal of the appeal affirms a crucial criminal law principle: surviving a suicide pact does not erase legal responsibility when one has facilitated the other's death. The judgment, delivered by a bench of Justice Rajesh Bindal and Justice Manmohan, not only resolves a long-pending criminal dispute but also clarifies the jurisprudential position on abetment to suicide and the criminality inherent in mutual suicide arrangements.

Right to live under Article 21 cannot be extended to include 'right to die'. This significant case presents a delicate intersection of criminal liability, medical evidence, and the State's constitutional obligation to protect life under Article 21. Life is beautiful, whether killing herself or joining a lover, may be a thrilling cinema, but not in reality. In a pact of dying together, if both die, there may be no criminal case, but all those who abetted will be a criminal offence and culpable.

A beautiful heroine, Pratyusha, ended her life following a mutual agreement (?), while the surviving lover became a criminal.

At a broader constitutional level, the decision reinforces that the State's duty is not merely to punish after death but to create legal and social conditions that discourage suicide, prevent emotional coercion, and protect the sanctity of life.

The tragedy of Pratyusha is therefore not only a criminal case but a societal warning: Love cannot justify self-destruction; despair cannot legalise death; and survival cannot absolve complicity. The law,

ultimately, speaks with a humane yet firm voice: life is inviolable, and any pact to extinguish it invites both moral sorrow and legal consequence.

Analysis of the Pratyusha case:

The recent dismissal of the appeal by the Supreme Court in the 23-year-old case concerning the tragic death of the south Indian actress raises profound questions about criminal abetment, evidentiary evaluation, suicide prevention, and the legal culpability of a surviving partner in a suicide pact.

The judgment also emphasises evidentiary discipline, rejecting sensational claims unsupported by medical proof while upholding culpability grounded in established facts.

Love, opposition and a fatal pact:

It is again a story of love, opposition, and a fatal pact. The prosecution's case, accepted by the courts, was that the actress and Gudipalli Siddhartha Reddy were in a relationship despite opposition by his parents. In this emotionally charged setting, both allegedly consumed poison together. While she succumbed, he survived. He was thereafter convicted for: 1. Abetment to suicide; 2. Attempt to commit suicide.

The trial court imposed five years' imprisonment, later reduced to two years by the Andhra Pradesh High Court in 2004. The surviving accused challenged the conviction, while the victim's mother alleged rape, murder by strangulation, and inadequate sentencing.

The Supreme Court, after examining ocular and medical evidence, rejected allegations of rape and strangulation, holding that death was due to poisoning and that purchase of poison (neurotone) constituted abetment.

Survival as a liability!

The crucial legal principle reaffirmed by the Court is that a surviving partner in a mutual suicide pact can be legally culpable for abetment to suicide. This doctrine flows from Sections 107 and 306 of the Indian Penal Code, which criminalise instigation, conspiracy, or intentional aid to commit suicide. The law does not treat suicide pacts as romantic acts of shared despair but as legally culpable agreements that normalise self-destruction. Thus, survival does not imply innocence. It may instead



The crucial legal principle reaffirmed by the Court is that a surviving partner in a mutual suicide pact can be legally culpable for abetment to suicide. The law does not treat suicide pacts as romantic acts of shared despair but as legally culpable agreements that normalise self-destruction. Thus, survival does not imply innocence. It may instead expose a participant to enhanced criminal scrutiny.

A judicial reasoning:

The oral pronouncement of the bench outlines a layered evidentiary assessment:

- Murder by strangulation ruled out
- Overwhelming ocular and medical evidence proved poisoning
- Rape allegations not established
- Related claims of rape and strangulation rejected
- Accidental consumption defence disbelieved
- Purchase of poison established abetment
- Unprofessional post-mortem report criticised
- Premature publication of medical findings condemned

These findings reflect the Court's reliance on forensic consistency, contemporaneous evidence, and legal causation, rather than speculative allegations emerging decades later.

Distinction between attempted suicide and abetment:

Attempts to commit suicide historically attracted punishment under Section 309 IPC, though contemporary mental health jurisprudence treats survivors with compassion. However, when a survivor is shown to have actively enabled the other's death, the law shifts focus

from mental vulnerability to criminal complicity.

Thus:

Mere survival may invite therapeutic response, while survival with facilitation invites penal consequences

Romantic myth vs criminal reality:

Popular culture often portrays suicide pacts as tragic expressions of love. Criminal law rejects this romanticism for three reasons:

- Suicide is not a private contract:** A pact to die together cannot be legally validated because life is constitutionally protected, the State has an interest in preserving life, and consent cannot legalise self-destruction.
- Power imbalance and emotional coercion:** One partner may be more vulnerable. Emotional dependence can turn a "mutual pact" into subtle coercion.
- Survival distorts the pact:** If one dies and the other survives, the survivor's role must be scrutinised: Was it equal participation, passive presence, or active facilitation? The law, therefore, pre-emptively that survival coupled with preparatory acts (like procuring poison) may constitute abetment.

State's duty to prevent suicide:

The constitutional guarantee of life under Article 21 imposes a positive obligation on the State:

- To protect individuals from self-harm;
- To regulate circumstances enabling suicide;
- To penalise those who facilitate self-destruction

Suicide is not merely a private tragedy; it is a constitutional concern involving dignity, mental health, and social responsibility. Criminalising abetment ensures that despair is not converted into a shared criminal enterprise.

A doctrinal clarification:

This case reiterates a settled but often misunderstood principle—a suicide pact is not a shield against criminal liability. Participation in planning, procuring means, or encouraging the act can constitute abetment if one partner dies. Thus, the law treats suicide pacts not as mutual consent but as shared participation in a legally prohibited act, where survival triggers accountability.

Inclusive governance gets an urban mandate in Telangana

AMARAVAJI NAGARAJU

THE outcome of the recent municipal elections in Telangana has done more than merely redrawing the political map of urban local bodies. It has reopened a substantive debate on representation, caste arithmetic and the evolving grammar of social justice in a rapidly urbanising State.

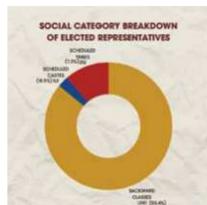
While local elections are often treated as peripheral contests, the scale and pattern of results across the State's 113 municipalities and corporations suggest a deeper political recalibration.

The Congress, which returned to power in the State promising "praja palana" (people-centric governance), has secured control in 90 municipalities. What distinguishes this verdict, however, is not merely the number of urban bodies won, but the social composition of those who now head them.

Approximately, 66 of the 113 municipal chairpersons are from Backward Class (BC) communities, which roughly translates to 61 per cent of the

total. In municipalities secured by the Congress, 51 chairperson posts have gone to BC leaders. Representation extends beyond titular leadership: BCs account for more than 60 per cent of key positions including chairpersons, vice-chairpersons, mayors and deputy mayors. At the ward level too, more than 55 per cent of elected councillors are from BC communities.

At the corporation level, the numbers are equally striking. Four of the seven mayoral positions are now held by BC representatives, marking a notable shift in the social profile of urban power centres. In a State where BC communities constitute a significant share of the population, and are deeply embedded in urban informal economies from small traders and artisans to service providers and lower-middle-class employees, this redistribution of political authority carries symbolic as well as practical weight. The Congress leadership has projected this outcome as validation of its commitment to institutionalising social justice. In the run-up to the Assembly



elections, the party had promised caste enumeration and 42 per cent reservations for BCs in local bodies. While legal and procedural complexities surround the full operationalization of such quotas, the party appears to have moved proactively in ticket distribution. Reports indicate that over 53 per cent of party nominations in municipal elections were given to BC candidates exceeding the stated reservation benchmark.

Critics may argue that candidate selection is ultimately a political calculation rather than a moral gesture. Yet electoral endorsement by voters suggests that the strategy has resonated. Urban constituencies, often perceived as less driven by caste considerations than rural ones, have demonstrated that social

Urban local bodies are not ornamental institutions. They oversee critical functions: water supply, waste management, road infrastructure, public health, urban planning and local taxation. The composition of leadership in these bodies shapes budget priorities and administrative focus. Enhanced BC representation may therefore influence policy choices, particularly in areas like slum upgrading, small enterprise facilitation, market infrastructure and welfare delivery for lower-income households.

identity and representational claims remain potent in towns and cities as well.

Broader implications merit closer scrutiny:

Urban local bodies are not ornamental institutions. They oversee critical functions: water supply, waste management, road infrastructure, public health, urban planning and local taxation. The composition of leadership in these bodies shapes budget priorities and administrative focus. Enhanced BC representation may therefore influence policy choices, particularly in areas like slum upgrading, small enterprise facilitation; market infrastructure and welfare delivery for lower-income households. At the same time, social justice in governance cannot be reduced to numerical dominance.

Telangana's municipal structure also accommodates representation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, minorities and other communities under constitutional mandates. The current distribution appears to reflect a layered inclusion rather than a zero-sum redistribution. Whether this balance endures will depend on the government's administrative prudence.

Politically, the municipal verdict strengthens the Congress's urban foothold at a time when local elections are increasingly interpreted as mid-term referendums. Consolidation among BC voters, a decisive social bloc in Telangana, could influence future Assembly and Parliamentary contests. Yet, as history repeatedly demonstrates, social coalitions are sustained less by symbolism and more by performance.

Naini drops murder bombshell, demands PD Act against former MLA



Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy addressing the media outside the Warangal Police Commissionerate on Monday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HANUMAKONDA

WARANGAL West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy on Monday made sensational allegations against former MLA Dasayam Vinay Bhaskar, accusing him of orchestrating the murder of former BRS corporator Anishetty Murali, Vaddepalli Pasha, Goud and four others in the Warangal West constituency.

The MLA alleged that a series of violent attacks on Congress workers had been carried out at the behest of the former MLA.

Accompanied by senior leaders, Naini met Warangal Police Commissioner Sun Preet Singh at the Commissionerate and submitted a detailed complaint seeking

immediate action.

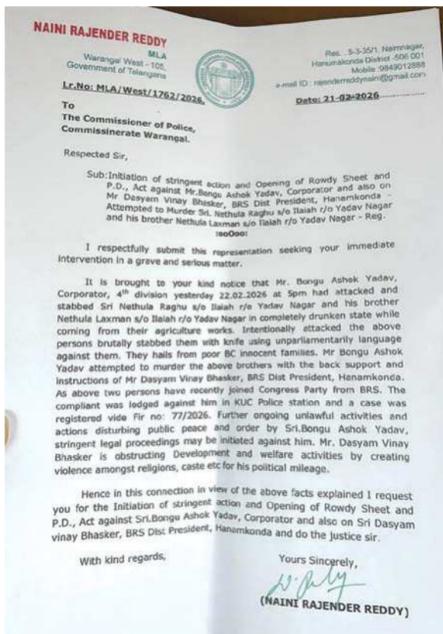
He stated that on Sunday, the 22nd of this month, local BRS corporator Bongu Ashok Yadav and his associates, allegedly under the influence of alcohol, attacked Congress worker Netula Raghu of the 4th Division and attempted to murder him. He further recalled that earlier, followers of Vinay Bhaskar had attacked Congress worker Thota Pawan at Hanumakonda Chowrasta in an alleged attempt to kill him.

Citing repeated attacks on Congress activists, Naini demanded a comprehensive investigation against Vinay Bhaskar within a week. He urged the police to invoke the Preventive Detention (PD) Act against the former MLA and to initiate city external

- Naini alleges former MLA masterminds murders and attacks on Congress workers
- Demand raised for PD Act, city externment and rowdy sheets against accused
- Warning issued of strong action if police fail to act within a week

ment proceedings. He also demanded that rowdy sheets be opened against those involved in the attack on Netula Raghu.

Speaking to the media outside the Warangal Police Commissionerate, the MLA accused certain BRS leaders of behaving like goondas and indulging in violence-driven politics. He alleged that such



behaviour had been consistent even during the Telangana agitation period and criticised what he described as attempts to intimidate political opponents through force.

Clarifying that the Congress government was focused on development and not violence, Naini said they had exercised patience despite provocation. However, he warned that continued attacks on party workers would not be tolerated. "If you touch our party workers, we will not

spare you," he asserted, adding that if the police failed to act within a week, they would not be responsible for the consequences.

He further warned that if such incidents persisted, he would personally confront the former MLA at his residence.

He also alleged that efforts to exploit religious or caste sentiments and misuse Telangana sentiment for political gain would not succeed in the constituency.



Follow ideals of Sant Sevalal Maharaj: DC
HANS NEWS SERVICE
NALGONDA

DISTRICT Collector B Chandrasekhar called upon people to follow the path of truth, honesty, and righteousness preached by Sant Sevalal Maharaj. He was the chief guest at the 287th birth anniversary celebrations held at Clock Tower Chowrasta in Nalgonda on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said Sant Sevalal Maharaj worked to eradicate superstitions among the Lambada and tribal communities and strived for their upliftment. Inspired by his ideals, the government is committed to delivering constitutional rights and welfare schemes to the poor and marginalized sections. He urged people to carry forward the saint's teachings of justice and dharma. The Jayanti celebrations are being organized across all constituencies and mandals in the district. Nalgonda Mayor Burri Chaitanya Srinivas Reddy described Sant Sevalal Maharaj as a spiritual guide who preached service, righteousness, and equality, guiding society through satyans. The meeting, chaired by Praveen Naik, was attended by tribal welfare officials, community leaders, Additional SP Ramesh, Deputy Mayor Ashraf Ali, and others. District officials garlanded the saint's portrait and paid rich tributes.

ONE DEAD, SEVERAL INJURED IN FREAK COLLISION ON HIGHWAY

HANS NEWS SERVICE

KODAD (SURYAPET): A tragic road accident occurred on the national highway near Dorakunta village in Kodad mandal of Suryapet district. A car traveling from Vijayawada towards Kodad suffered a sudden tyre burst, causing the driver to lose control. The vehicle overturned and was flung onto the opposite lane, where it violently collided with another car heading from Kodad to Vijayawada.

Cabinet finalises Budget session, Metro takeover

Continued from P1

If any official during their service dies of natural death, Rs 10 lakh additional apart from the regular benefits would be given. Cashless employees' health scheme would also be introduced covering 3.56 lakh regular employees, 2.88 lakh pensioners and their families. As many as 652 empanelled private hospitals will provide treatment for 1998 diseases through digital health employee cards. For this scheme, the government and employees will make an equal contribution to the trust which will be established with Rs 1,000 crore.

Cabinet also decided to allocate land to Congress in all district headquarters for the

construction of its offices. It also allotted 70 acres of land for JNTU college in Gummadur village in Mahabubabad district. The Cabinet also allocated 20 acres to Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) in Khammam.

It also allotted land for a hi-tech fruit market and new 21 integrated international schools. Further, the Cabinet allotted 120 acres as compensation for acquiring 42 acres of defence land for road widening. The green energy policy up to 300 MW power generation was also approved.

The Cabinet also discussed ZPTC and MPTC polls. The government has no plans to scrap these elections as of now, it is said.

Tamil Nadu SIR complete

Names of 97 lakh voters deleted in draft list

CHENNAI: The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Tamil Nadu has been completed with the state now having a total of 5,67,07,380 voters, comprising 2,77,38,925 male and 2,89,60,838 female and 7,617 third gender voters.

Chief Electoral Officer of Tamil Nadu, Archana Patnaik, released the final electoral roll.

Post the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), the state saw 97.37 lakh voter deletions, with urban constituencies accounting for the bulk of deletions. The total electorate then stood at 5.43 crore, a drop from the previous 6.41 crore. However, after SIR, 34,75,717 applications were received both offline and online, including for inclusion. As many as 27.53 lakh eligible electors were added and 4.23 lakh ineligible electors were deleted during the period for filing of claims and objections from Dec 19 in 2025 to Jan 30.

As per the final electoral roll, the Assembly constituency with the highest number of electors is Shozhinganallur in Chengalpet district, with 5,36,991 electors — 2,62,621 men, 2,74,254 women, and 116 from the third gender. The Assembly constituency with the lowest number of electors is Harbour in Chennai district, with 1,16,896 electors — 58,221 men, 58,620 women, and 55 from the third gender.



Chief Electoral Officer of Tamil Nadu, Archana Patnaik, released the final electoral roll.

The number of electors in the 18-19 years age group stands at 12.51 lakh, of which 7.40 lakh were enrolled during the special drive under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), according to the Chief Electoral Officer of Tamil Nadu. The total number of electors in the state has dropped by 11.5%.

Jeevan Reddy's political future in limbo amid exit buzz

- Internal rift with Jagtial MLA fuels exit speculation
- BJP and BRS reportedly reach out amid Rajya Sabha suspense
- Final decision likely after consultations with supporters



T. Jeevan Reddy

TIRUNAGIRI
VENKATESHWARA SWAMY
KARIMNAGAR

SENIOR Congress leader T. Jeevan Reddy's political future has become a subject of intense debate amid reports of growing differences within the party and invitations from opposition outfits.

A multiple-time MLA and former minister in the government led by Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy, Jeevan Reddy has long been regarded as a loyalist who

stood firmly with the Congress even during its difficult phases in the State. He consistently criticised the previous government when the party was out of power and worked to strengthen the cadre in the Jagtial constituency.

However, tensions esca-

lated after Jagtial MLA Dr Sanjay joined the Congress. Jeevan Reddy reportedly expressed dissatisfaction over not being informed about Sanjay's induction into the party. The internal rift deepened following disagreements over party meetings and local political affairs.

In the recent municipal elections, Jeevan Reddy's faction contested independently and secured several councillor seats, signalling his continued influence in the region.

Despite repeated interventions by the party leadership, differences between the two leaders remained unresolved. A recent phone call from K. C. Venugopal, All India Congress Committee General Secretary, to Jeevan Reddy further

fuelled speculation over his next move.

During a recent media interaction, Jeevan Reddy indicated that he was no longer interested in continuing with the Congress, intensifying rumours of a possible switch.

While some party circles claimed he had been offered a Rajya Sabha seat to pacify him, reports suggested that he had also received calls from leaders of the BJP and the BRS.

It is learnt that Dharmapuri Arvind from the BJP reached out to him, with rumours suggesting that discussions even touched upon the possibility of recommending his name for a gubernatorial post after consultations with Narendra Modi. Meanwhile, sources indicated that K. Chandrashekar Rao and K. T. Rama Rao from the BRS also contacted him.

As two Rajya Sabha seats from Telangana are set to fall vacant, suspense continued over whether Jeevan

Reddy would be accommodated by the Congress. Political observers noted that if a Rajya Sabha berth was not offered, the possibility of his shifting allegiance could not be ruled out.

Jeevan Reddy is expected to hold consultations with his supporters in Jagtial district before announcing his decision.

Meanwhile, his followers continued to hope that the party leadership would accord him due recognition and respect.

'Heartbroken with status of West Bengal under Mamata rule'

Continued from P1

Naming Bengal's political and cultural icons such as Swami Vivekananda, Rishi Aurobindo, Subhas Chandra Bose, Rabindranath Tagore and Shyama Prasad Mukherjee at multiple points in his letter, Modi regretted the "darkness of chaos that grips West Bengal" in current times. "The West Bengal visualised by its iconic forefathers, such as Swami Vivekananda and Rishi Aurobindo, is now riddled with vote bank politics, violence and anarchy. The son of the soil of this state, Netaji Sub-

has Chandra Bose, whose call for freedom had once stirred the whole country, that holy land is now blemished with infiltration and torture of women. Fake voters currently dominate Rabindranath Tagore's 'Sonar Bangla.' "The whole country is worried about the darkness of chaos that West Bengal is sinking into," the PM wrote.

Insisting that the time has come to break the shackles of "silent suffering," the PM said that change is now "inevitable" in Bengal. "How long should we continue to suffer in silence? Change is now in-

evitable. The standard of living has remarkably improved in other states. Smiles have returned to the lips of the poor. Ayushman Bharat has provided health cover, new employment is guaranteed for the youth and women's safety is ensured. Bengal too should be part of this growth and development," Modi said. Stating that he "waited eagerly for a chance to serve the people," the PM quoted Tagore's "Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high" and promised to bring an end to "corruption and mal-governance." "We

will ensure women's safety, curtail migration for work and restore the state's former glory. Religiously persecuted refugee brothers and sisters who took shelter here would be granted citizenship through CAA and we will establish the rule of law by stopping infiltration," Modi said. The letter coincided with the Bengal BJP's ongoing house-to-house 'Griha Sampark Abhiyan' during which party leaders will distribute the PM's communication to households during their grassroots outreach programme.

MASSIVE BLOW TO TERROR

Armed forces eliminate 7 dreaded ultras

SRIANGAR: The Indian Army on Monday said that it dealt a massive blow to the terror network in Jammu & Kashmir, a day after security forces gunned down three members of the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), including most wanted terrorist Saifullah, in an encounter in Kishtwar district.

In a post on X, the Army's White Knight Corps said that it conducted a relentless and painstaking high-altitude joint operations over 326 days in the Kishtwar region.

'Leave Iran by any available means'

Continued from P1

Indians in Iran have also been advised to have their travel and immigration documents, including passports and IDs, readily available with them. They are requested to contact the Indian Embassy for any assistance. The Indian Embassy has also issued emergency numbers and email: +989128109115; +989128109109; +989128109102; +989932179359. Email: cons.tehr@mea.gov.in. Indian nationals in Iran are also asked to register with the Indian Embassy. The advisory comes after new anti-government protests erupted in Iran on Saturday following 40-day memorials for people killed in January during anti-government rallies. According to Iran's state news agency, students protested at five universities in the capital,

Tehran and one in the city of Mashhad on Sunday.

A video geolocated by the news agency AFP of what appeared to be the demonstration at Sharif University showed a large crowd chanting anti-government slogans as they thronged around students waving the flag of the toppled monarchy. The US and Iran will hold their next round of nuclear talks on Thursday in Geneva. Oman's foreign minister, Badr al-Busaidi, confirmed the talks. Oman previously hosted the indirect talks on the Islamic Republic's nuclear program and facilitated the latest round in Geneva last week.

The Trump administration on the other hand has ramped up the movement of military aircraft towards the Middle East, as negotiations over a potential nuclear deal with Iran remain fragile.

Bill Gates building 'artificial sun' that could replace coal

Continued from P1

The exact model Type One Energy intends to build is known as a stellarator. A stellarator is a device that utilises very strong magnetic fields to keep plasma, which is heated to extreme temperatures, in a confined space.

Plasma is a gas that has been heated to such a high temperature that it becomes a sort of fourth state of matter. In a fusion reactor, the plasma needs to be heated to a temperature of approximately 100 million degrees Celsius.

At such high temperatures, atoms have the ability to fuse. Perhaps you have come across tokamaks, which are basically doughnut-shaped fusion machines being developed by other nations. A stellarator essentially serves the same function as a tokamak but differs in its design.

Instead of a simple ring shape, it makes use of twisted, finely engineered magnetic coils. These are intended to maintain the plasma in a stable state for extended periods of time. Tokamaks can struggle with stability problems. Stellarators aim to reduce those issues, though they are harder to build.

Maha seeks CBI probe into Ajit Pawar plane crash

Continued from P1

The Mahayuti government will ensure that all doubts regarding the plane crash are cleared, Fadnavis said at a press conference on Sunday on the eve of the budget session of the Maharashtra legislature. "I had received a letter from the NCP (an ally of the BJP) seeking a CBI probe into the air crash and spoke with Home Minister Amit Shah. Along with investigations by DGCA and state CID, there will be a probe by the CBI," he added.

Ajit Pawar and four others onboard a chartered plane

were killed when it crashed while attempting to land near Baramati in Pune district on January 28.

The late NCP chief's nephew and NCP (SP) leader Rohit Pawar has raised several allegations regarding the plane crash circumstances and suspected foul play.

On Saturday, Rohit Pawar wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, demanding that Civil Aviation Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu be asked to resign till the inquiry into the incident is completed.

CCPA slaps ₹15L penalty on Vajirao & Reddy

Continued from P1

The CCPA highlighted that the specific courses undertaken by successful candidates constitute material information for UPSC aspirants. Concealment of this information misleads prospective students regarding the efficacy and scope of the institute's programs, violating consumer rights under Section 2(9) of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

During the investigation, the Authority examined enrolment records and found that 431 forms lacked course details and submission dates, and many others indicated enrolment only in "Inter-

view Guidance Programmes" or mock interviews. This showed that several candidates had cleared the preliminary stages independently and approached the institute solely for final-stage guidance.

The CCPA noted that Vajirao & Reddy Institute had previously been penalised Rs 7 lakh for similar violations related to the UPSC CSE 2022 results. The recurrence of misleading advertisements warranted a higher penalty this time.

The Authority also emphasised the scale of impact, noting that approximately 11 lakh candidates appear for

the UPSC exams annually. Misleading claims can distort expectations, influencing students and parents who invest significant time, effort, and money in competitive exam preparation.

So far, the CCPA has issued 57 notices to coaching institutes for misleading advertisements, imposing penalties totalling Rs 1.24 crore on 29 institutes.

The Authority has directed coaching centres to ensure truthful and transparent disclosure of material information in their advertisements, enabling students to make informed academic decisions.

For decades, India has been recognised as the pharmacy of the world, and today, under the present government, the country is transitioning toward becoming the innovator of the world, with healthcare security, manufacturing resilience and scientific excellence at the centre of the national development, he said

- J P Nadda, Union Minister

BIZ BRIEFS

Amazon unveils office in B'luuru

Amazon announced the opening of its second largest office in Asia in Bengaluru. The 1.1 million square feet, 12-storey campus will support over 7,000 employees across e-commerce, operations, payments, technology, and seller services in India. Built on a five-acre site approximately 15 kilometres from Kempegowda International Airport, the corporate building was officially inaugurated by Dr. M.B. Patil, Minister for Large & Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development, Government of Karnataka.

Apollo opens 1,000th store

Apollo Pharmacy, a pharmacy network, announced the opening of its 1,000th store in Andhra Pradesh in Visakhapatnam. With this launch the store now operates across 15 districts of Andhra Pradesh, employs over 7,000 people, and provides access to over 50,000 genuine medicines. P Jayakumar, added: "Reaching 1,000 stores in Andhra Pradesh is a significant milestone in our journey to build India's most trusted and accessible pharmacy network. We are strengthening our presence across the state."

ITC inaugurates hotel in Mohali

ITC Hotels announced the launch of its 30th Welcomhotel in Mohali, Chandigarh. The hotel with 113 keys, expands its portfolio and its presence in fast-growing Tricity region comprising of Chandigarh, Panchkula and Mohali. Anil Chadha, MD, ITC Hotels Limited, said: "The launch of Welcomhotel Mohali reflects our commitment to strengthening our presence in high-growth urban markets while delivering enriching experiences rooted in our renowned service excellence."

SBI Life's new branches

SBI Life Insurance, a private life insurer, has strengthened its presence in Telangana with the inauguration of three new branches in Bhupalapalli, Khammam, and Nagarkurnool districts. The branches were inaugurated by Abhishek Kar Majumdar, Regional Director - Telangana, SBI Life Insurance. This expansion underscores the company's continued commitment to enhancing insurance accessibility and delivering need-based financial solutions to individuals and families across the state.

Sankara Eye hospital's fete

Sankara Eye Hospital, Hyderabad, has successfully restored vision for two elderly patients through modern cataract surgery. Dr. Sriram Simakurthy, CMO, Sankara Eye Hospital, Hyderabad, said: "Cataract remains one of the leading causes of vision impairment among the elderly, but it is also one of the most treatable conditions today. With advanced technology and skilled surgical expertise, patients can undergo safe procedures with minimal discomfort."

Olectra secures order for 1,085 e-buses from TGSRTC

Hyd roads to go abuzz with e-buses making city more environment friendly

HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

OLECTRA Greentech Ltd., electric commercial vehicle manufacturer and a pioneer in advanced urban mobility solutions, has secured a Letter of Intent (LOI) issued by the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) through Evey Trans Pvt. Ltd. for 1,085 electric buses under the PM E-DRIVE initiative, led by Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), aimed at accelerating the adoption of electric public transport across Indian cities.

The electric buses will be deployed in Hyderabad, further strengthening the city's clean, efficient, and sustainable public transport ecosystem. The company has firmly established itself as India's leading electric commercial vehicle brand, consistently holding the No. 1 market share in electric buses both year-to-date and in the last financial year. Headquar-



tered in city, Olectra has been at the forefront of India's electric mobility transition, delivering not only electric buses but also electric tippers that support sustainable urban infrastructure development. With over 3,600 electric vehicles deployed across the country and an order book exceeding 10,000 vehicles, the company is building a comprehensive zero-emission mobility ecosystem. Having clocked more than 500 million green kilometres, the company combines scale, indigenous engineering, operational reliability, and continuous innovation to drive India's shift towards

clean and future-ready transportation.

Mahesh Babu, Managing Director of the company said, "This is a defining moment for the Olectra family and a significant milestone in our journey of powering India's electric mobility transformation. Our continued commitment to the Make in India vision and to building world-class electric buses has received strong reinforcement through this prestigious order under the PM E-DRIVE programme. We are proud to bring our advanced, reliable, and indigenously developed electric mobility solutions to Telangana."

Finance Minister asks banks to refocus on core business

Nirmala Sitharaman slams insurance push, mis-selling by banks

- RBI draft norms mandate refunds and compensation for mis-selling
- Public feedback on guidelines open till March 4; rules effective July 1
- FM flags regulatory gap between RBI and IRDAI



NEW DELHI: Articulating the strategic vision of the Union Budget while sharply calling out mis-selling by banks, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday urged lenders to refocus on their core business and place customers at the centre of financial intermediation.

Addressing the 621st meeting of the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Sitharaman outlined the roadmap of the Union Budget 2026-27,

saying it was inspired by the three Kartavyas and aimed at advancing the goal of Viksit Bharat. She underlined the role of the financial sector in supporting sustainable growth amid global uncertainty and domestic challenges.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Sitharaman came down heavily on banks for mis-selling financial products, particularly insurance, to customers who often

do not need them. "Banks should concentrate on their core business... you're spending more time selling insurance when it is not required," she said, describing mis-selling as a long-standing concern.

She pointed to a regulatory grey area where mis-selling fell "between two stools", with the RBI earlier assuming such practices were overseen by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority

of India (IRDAI), while the insurance regulator viewed banks as outside its direct ambit. This gap, she said, left customers exposed.

Her remarks come close on the heels of the RBI's draft guidelines issued on February 11 to curb mis-selling. Under the proposed framework, banks would be required to refund the full amount paid for a mis-sold product and compensate customers for losses suffered. Public feedback has been invited until March 4, with the norms slated to take effect from July 1. "The message should go to banks that you cannot afford to mis-sell," Sitharaman said.

She cited instances of loan-seeking customers being compelled to purchase insurance despite already having adequate cover, stressing that banks must assess actual customer needs rather than push unnecessary products.

Prism plans to add 300 hotels

HANS BUSINESS
HYDERABAD

PRISM, the parent brand of OYO, has announced plans to add 300 company-serviced hotels across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, with a strategic focus on Hyderabad, Warangal, Karimnagar and Khammam.

Prism said Telangana's improving infrastructure, strong air connectivity and growing domestic tourism make it a key expansion market. Ashish Saurabh, Regional Head, Prism, said: "Telangana is one of the most structurally strong hospitality markets in the country. Business hubs like Hyderabad continue to generate consistent corporate demand, while rising aspirations and improving connectivity are unlocking new leisure corridors. We are building a network that is not just larger, but stronger and more reliable for guests."

The announcement was made at a hotel partner summit in Hyderabad, outlining a 360-degree growth roadmap centred on supply expansion, improved quality standards and enhanced guest experience.

Sebi mulls relaxations in reporting requirements for stock brokers

Brokers who are banks or primary dealers will be required to report only those bank accounts that are used for stock broking activities

NEW DELHI: To boost ease of doing business, markets regulator Sebi on Friday proposed additional relaxations to reporting norms for stock brokers, including exempting certain demat accounts held by brokers who are also primary dealers from tagging requirements. Further, brokers that are banks or primary dealers will be required to report only those bank accounts that are used for stock broking activities, Sebi proposed.

"All demat accounts maintained by stock brokers should be appropriately tagged. Further, this shall not be applicable for the demat account which are used exclusively for activities other than stock broking activities by stock brokers, which are also primary dealers. "Stock broker which is also bank or primary dealer, shall be required to report to the stock exchanges only those bank accounts that are used for their stock broking activities," Sebi said in its draft circular.

Under the current rules,



brokers are required to maintain properly named and tagged bank and demat accounts and report the opening and closure of such accounts to stock exchanges. Certain exemptions were earlier provided to brokers that are banks.

In its draft circular inviting public comments on proposed relaxations, Sebi suggested that the earlier requirement regarding reporting of certain demat accounts by brokers has been deleted. Instead, depositories will share details of demat accounts opened or closed

by stock brokers directly with the concerned stock exchanges, as per a mechanism jointly decided by them.

Stock brokers should continue to ensure that all new bank and demat accounts are appropriately named as per the prescribed nomenclature. Details of newly opened bank accounts should be reported to stock exchanges within one week of opening, and closures must also be reported within one week.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has sought public comment till March 6 on the proposals.

Sudarshan Pharma stock slips 3% amid GST action

MUMBAI: Shares of Sudarshan Pharma Industries slipped over 3 per cent on Monday after the Goods and Services Tax (GST) department initiated an inspection and search operation at the company's registered office.

The stock fell 3.06 per cent on the BSE to hit an intraday low of Rs 25.62 per share. The shares were trading at the same level, down 3.06 per cent. Over the past one year, Sudarshan Pharma's stock has declined around 19 per cent, according to the official data.

The decline in the company's share price came after it informed exchanges that the GST department had initiated an inspection, search and seizure operation at its registered office on February 21, 2026. In its regulatory filing, the company said it is in the process of collating information and responding to the authorities.

It added that the final report related to the search and seizure will be concluded as per the prescribed procedures. Despite the recent development, the company had reported improved financial performance for the December quarter.



For Q3FY26, Sudarshan Pharma posted a net profit of Rs 4.15 crore, slightly higher than Rs 3.9 crore reported in the same quarter last year. Revenue from operations rose sharply to Rs 168 crore, compared to Rs 115.65 crore a year ago.

Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) stood at Rs 23.4 crore, up from Rs 16.6 crore in the year-ago period. However, the EBITDA margin declined to 22.8 per cent from 39.9 per cent year-on-year.

In its filing, the company said it is focusing on increasing exports and expanding manufacturing sales. It also highlighted efforts to improve profit margins from the resale of active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) in domestic markets. According to the company, these initiatives helped it achieve substantial growth in profit after tax during FY25.

Bullion prices rise around 3%

NEW DELHI: Precious metal prices climbed 3 per cent in the national capital on Monday, with silver surging to Rs 2.7 lakh per kilogram and gold advancing to Rs 1.6 lakh per 10 grams, due to strong safe-haven demand amid growing global trade uncertainties after the US Supreme Court ruling against Trump's tariffs. According to the All India Sarafa Association, silver jumped Rs 8,000, or 3.03 per cent, to Rs 2,72,000 per kilogram from Friday's closing level of Rs 2,64,000 per kg. Gold of 99.9 per cent purity also increased by Rs 3,300, or 2.06 per cent, to Rs 1,62,800 per 10 grams. It had settled at Rs 1,59,500 per 10 grams in the previous market session.

Silver and gold extended bullish momentum on Monday, with both metals trading at a three-week high, supported by renewed safe-haven demand. The rally came following a landmark US Supreme Court ruling against Trump's tariffs, which triggered sharp cross-asset volatility and prompted investors to seek safe-haven assets, Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

Mkts extend gains driven by improving global cues

Investors favoured domestic themes, with banks, power, FMCG, and consumer discretionary stocks gaining traction

Improved Sentiment

- BSE-Sensex rose 479.95pts or (+0.58%) to 83,294.66
- NSE-Nifty advanced 141.75pts or (+0.55%) to 25,713
- Fills offloaded Rs934.61-cr; DIs purchased Rs2,637.15-cr



MUMBAI: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed higher on Monday, tracking gains in PSU bank, auto and financial stocks, as investors' sentiments improved after the US Supreme Court struck down the Trump administration's sweeping tariffs.

Extending its winning streak for a second consecutive session, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 479.95 points, or 0.58 per cent, to settle at 83,294.66. During the session, the benchmark jumped 671.44 points, or 0.81 per cent, to hit an intraday high of 83,486.15. A total of 2,435 stocks declined, while 1,894 advanced and 168 remained unchanged

on the BSE. The 50-share NSE Nifty advanced 141.75 points, or 0.55 per cent, to close at 25,713. In the intraday session, it appreciated 200.2 points, or 0.78 per cent, to hit a high of 25,771.45.

"The US Supreme Court's ruling against Trump's reciprocal tariff policy was welcomed by domestic markets. Investors are awaiting more clarity on Trump's revised strategy and the scope of renegotiations with other nations. A weaker US dollar and declining 10-year Treasury yields may add near-term caution in the global market," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said.

Adani Ports was the biggest gainer from the Sensex pack, rising 2.98 per cent, followed by Kotak Mahindra Bank, UltraTech Cement, PowerGrid, Hindustan Unilever, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India, Titan, Mahindra & Mahindra and Larsen & Toubro were the major gainers. On the other hand, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Trent, HCL Technologies, Bajaj Finserv, Tata Consultancy Services, ITC, Bharat Electronics Ltd, Eternal, Tata Steel, and IndiGo ended in losses.

"Sentiment improved largely in reaction to the US Supreme Court striking

down earlier import tariffs, temporarily easing trade-related concerns and boosting risk appetite across global markets. "Overall, the ongoing tussle in the index reflects prevailing uncertainty on the global front, while domestic cues remain largely muted," Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

The broader indices ended on a mixed note, with the BSE Smallcap Select Index gaining 0.41 per cent, while the Midcap Select Index declined 1.56 per cent.

"Sectorally, the IT index faced pressure from unresolved concerns over AI-driven disruption. Nonetheless, investors favoured domestic themes, with banks, power, FMCG, and consumer discretionary stocks gaining traction on expectations of resilient demand and economic recovery," Nair said.

Among the sectoral indices, PSU Bank increased the most by 1.4 per cent, followed by Services by 0.97 per cent, Hospitals by 0.89 per cent, Healthcare by 0.76 per cent, Power by 0.72 per cent, Auto by 0.71 per cent, Financial Services by 0.65 per cent, FMCG by 0.54 per cent, and Utilities by 0.52 per cent.

Small caps lead India Inc. earnings growth in Q3: Report

SMALL CAPS DELIVERED A ROBUST 22% YEAR-ON-YEAR EARNINGS, OUTPACING MID-CAPS AT 15% AND LARGE CAPS AT 14%

NEW DELHI: India Inc's earnings momentum remained resilient in Q3 FY26, with small-cap companies posting the strongest growth, a report said on Monday.

The report from Equirus Securities said small caps delivered a robust 22 per cent year-on-year earnings surge, outpacing mid-caps at 15 per cent and large caps at 14 per cent, signalling a broadening of the corporate earnings recovery. Revenue grew 10 per cent YoY, while EBITDA and PAT rose 14 per cent and 15 per cent respectively, ahead of market expectations, across companies under its coverage, the report said.

Around 36 per cent of companies saw earnings per share (EPS) upgrades, reflecting improving business fundamentals and demand resilience across multiple industries. The upgrades were led by auto, banks & NBFCs, consumer durables, FMCG, and IT, while downgrades were concentrated in building materials, cement, infrastructure, chemicals,



realty and retail, the report said. The trend indicates growing investor confidence and improving forward earnings visibility across market capitalisation segments, it added. Increasing number of firms from tier 2 and tier 3 towns have been tapping the capital markets, as founders look to grow and scale their businesses, said Ajay Garg, Managing Director, Equirus group.

"Looking into Q4FY26, key monitorable include the pace of NHA order awards for construction companies, the summer season demand cycle for consumer durables, US market dynamics and RBI rate decisions that

could influence BFSI NIM trajectories," said Maulik Patel, Director & Head of Research, Equirus Securities. Price hikes and demand momentum in cement offer near-term support, though new capacity additions may pressure utilisation rates, while logistics remains supported by EXIM recovery and Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) connectivity improvements, he added.

In the third quarter, financial services companies demonstrated steady asset quality trends and loan growth momentum, while consumption-linked sectors benefited from improving discretionary spending patterns.



JEE Main 2026 session 1: Toppers share preparation mantras

HIGHLIGHT HOW DISCIPLINED ROUTINES, MOCK-TEST ANALYSIS, AND STEADY FOCUS SHAPED THEIR PERFORMANCE

ARTI ADKE

The National Testing Agency (NTA) recently announced the results of JEE Main 2026 Session 1, with several candidates securing above the 99 percentile, underscoring the intense competition for admission to premier engineering institutions across the country. Among the high achievers, Shreyas Pai secured 99.23 percentile, Bharath Madhusudhan Gudi scored 99.87 percentile, and Sughosh Joshi achieved 99.776 percentile. The results mark a significant milestone for thousands of aspirants who appeared for the first session of one of India's most competitive entrance examinations.

Structured preparation key to success

For Shreyas Pai (99.23 percentile), disciplined daily study routines played a decisive role. Balancing college hours from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., he dedicated four to five hours each day to focused preparation. His strategy revolved around practising module questions and extensively solving Previous Year Questions (PYQs).

"I followed a question-wise analysis after every mock test," Shreyas said. He maintained an "error book" where he documented mistakes and revised incorrect answers to avoid repeating them. Addressing his biggest weakness — exam nervousness — he relied on repeated practice to build confidence. On exam day, his mantra was simple: remain calm and focus solely on attempting questions without worrying about the outcome.

To prevent burnout, Shreyas divided his workload into manageable daily targets, ensuring he did not leave large portions



Bharath Madhusudhan Gudi

for the last moment. He focused on rigorous practice during the initial months, reserving the final phase for revision and repetition. Leisure time, including playing cricket with friends, helped him maintain balance.

Learning from mistakes

Bharath Madhusudhan Gudi (99.87 percentile) attributed his success to consistency and discipline in his daily study plan. "I ensured that no backlog spilled over to the next day," he said. Conceptual clarity came from attentive classroom learning and thorough revision of notes, but he emphasised that practice was indispensable. Weekly tests served as checkpoints to track progress.



Shreyas Pai

Bharath described his error book as a powerful self-reflection tool. "Realising your mistakes gives the greatest confidence," he said, adding that poor performances in some tests did not deter him emotionally but instead became learning opportunities.

He identified agitation, overthinking, and exam-day anxiety as personal weaknesses. With conscious effort, guidance from parents and teachers, and cultivating contentment with his preparation, he overcame these challenges.

On the day of the exam, Bharath ensured sufficient sleep and mental relaxation. He followed a structured CPM order — allocating 45 minutes to Chemistry, one hour to Physics, and the remaining time



Sughosh Joshi

to Mathematics. Prioritising accuracy over speed, he maintained composure even when faced with difficult questions.

To manage stress, he maintained a balanced routine combining reading and problem-solving. Time spent with friends and supportive teachers further eased the pressure.

Discipline and patience pay off

Sughosh Joshi (99.776 percentile) followed a rigorous schedule stretching from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. In the initial phase, classroom sessions focused on building conceptual foundations, followed by self-study to bridge gaps and gradually increase the level of problem difficulty. In the final month, intensive mock tests boosted his

confidence.

Sughosh analysed every mock test on the same day, using an error log to identify weak areas. This systematic revision helped him avoid repeating mistakes in the final examination.

He acknowledged speed and patience as early weaknesses. Timed practice improved his speed, while tackling challenging, multi-directional questions strengthened his persistence and conceptual depth.

With his exam scheduled in the afternoon session, Sughosh consciously avoided last-minute revision on the day of the test. Treating the examination like any other mock test helped reduce anxiety. "Being in the present and focusing on the current question was crucial," he noted.

Stress management, he emphasised, was a continuous process supported by parents, teachers, healthy peer competition, sufficient sleep, and daily relaxation time.

Gateway to premier institutes

JEE Main serves as the qualifying examination for admission to National Institutes of Technology (NITs), Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), and other centrally funded technical institutions, besides acting as a gateway to JEE Advanced.

With Session 1 results now declared, aspirants are gearing up for Session 2, determined to improve their scores and secure seats in leading engineering institutions. The journeys of these 99-percentilers underscore that structured preparation, self-analysis, and emotional resilience remain the cornerstones of success in one of India's toughest academic challenges.

Employer survey signals rise in skills-focused fresher hiring

Hiring sentiment for entry-level talent has strengthened for the first half of 2026, with 73 per cent of employers indicating plans to recruit freshers, according to the latest Career Outlook Report HY1 2026 released by TeamLease EdTech. The figure marks a three-percentage-point increase over the previous half-year, pointing to renewed employer confidence alongside a sharper focus on applied skills.

The report is based on responses from 1,051 employers surveyed across India between November 2025 and January 2026. It highlights sustained demand for early-career professionals while underscoring a gradual shift from degree-based screening to skills-driven hiring practices.

Retail, start-ups and manufacturing lead demand

Sector-wise, Retail recorded the highest hiring intent at 91 per cent, followed by E-commerce and Technology Start-ups at 90 per cent, and Manufacturing at 85 per cent. Retail employers are seeking roles such as dark store assistants and inventory management assistants. Start-ups are recruiting digital sales associates and junior web developers, while manufacturing firms are hiring inventory and logistics coordinators and battery assembly technicians.

The survey also points to a sharp surge



in select sectors compared to the same period last year. Retail hiring intent rose from 41 per cent in HY1 2025 to 91 per cent in HY1 2026, a 50-percentage-point increase. Travel recorded a 51-point rise to 77 per cent, while Power and Energy climbed 50 points to 72 per cent, indicating recovery momentum and expanding opportunities for young professionals.

Applied skills gain priority

Commenting on the findings, Shantanu Roop, Founder and CEO of TeamLease EdTech, described the trend as a "structural reset" in how early-career talent integrates into the workforce. He noted that while opportunities are in-

creasing, hiring is becoming more selective. The report identifies a widening gap between candidates who possess demonstrable skills and those who rely solely on academic qualifications. Employers are increasingly favouring applicants with internships, live projects and work portfolios. Freshers able to showcase hands-on experience are moving more quickly into career tracks, while degree-only candidates face longer job search cycles. Overall, the survey suggests that although the hiring landscape is expanding, success for first-time job seekers will depend significantly on their ability to demonstrate practical, job-ready competencies in a competitive market.

How to stay calm and focused during exam

Examinations can be stressful, often bringing anxiety and self-doubt even for students who have prepared thoroughly. However, success in an exam depends not only on knowledge but also on the ability to remain calm and focused under pressure. Managing emotions inside the examination hall plays a crucial role in clear thinking and effective time use. With simple strategies such as controlled breathing, structured planning, and positive self-talk, students can improve concentration and perform at their best.

Practise controlled breathing

One of the simplest and most effective techniques is controlled breathing. Before the question paper is distributed, take slow, deep breaths—inhale for four seconds, hold for four seconds, and exhale for four seconds. Repeating this process for a minute helps slow the heart rate and relax the mind, reducing immediate stress. If anxiety returns during the exam, pause briefly, place both feet firmly on the floor, and repeat the breathing cycle. Even a short reset can restore concentration.

Start with familiar questions

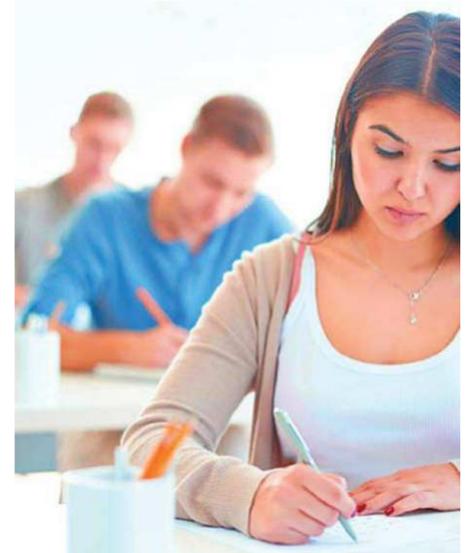
Confidence also plays a major role in maintaining calmness. Instead of worrying about difficult questions, remind yourself that you have prepared consistently and are capable of solving the paper step by step. Begin by answering questions you find familiar or easier. Early success builds momentum and boosts confidence, making it easier to approach more challenging sections later. Avoid comparing your progress with others in the hall; each student works at a different pace.

Plan your time wisely

Another important strategy is staying mentally organised. Spend the first few minutes reading the entire paper carefully and planning how much time to allocate to each section. A clear plan reduces panic and ensures that no question is left unanswered due to poor time distribution. If you encounter a question you cannot solve immediately, mark it and move forward instead of losing valuable minutes worrying about it.

Use positive self-talk

Positive self-talk is equally helpful. Replace thoughts such as "I may forget every-



thing" with "I will attempt each question calmly." This small shift in mindset improves emotional stability and prevents unnecessary stress. Keeping your posture relaxed, stretching your fingers occasionally, and sipping water when allowed can also help maintain physical comfort and focus.

Finally, remember that an examination is only one step

in a longer academic journey. Viewing it as an opportunity to demonstrate learning rather than a moment of fear helps reduce pressure. By practising breathing techniques, planning answers wisely, and maintaining steady confidence, students can remain calm, focused, and perform to the best of their abilities during the examination.

Youth innovation takes the lead, turning ideas into action

10th edition of SolveCon 2026 sees 1,700 youth changemakers collaborate, build, and commit to real-world solutions

The 10th edition of SolveCon '26 brought youth innovation to the forefront, with nearly 1,700 young changemakers gathering at PES University, Bengaluru, to collaborate on practical solutions to real-world challenges. Hosted by Reap Benefit, the event also saw participation from representatives of 88 organisations spanning civic engagement, education, climate action, mental wellbeing, and the arts.

Throughout the day-long event, participants worked in teams to map local climate risks, design mental health awareness campaigns, debate public policy issues, and initiate cross-city



collaborations. The format encouraged hands-on problem-solving and peer learning rather than passive participation.

Organisations such as Giving Tuesday India, Science Gallery Bengaluru, TinkerHub, Teach For India, Azim Premji Uni-



versity, NIMHANS and SELCO Foundation were among those that engaged with participants. The event was supported by

partners including Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies, Rainmatter Foundation, NetApp and the MacArthur Foundation. The

gathering featured interactive sessions with leaders from diverse fields. Among them were Kailash Nadh, Chief Technology Officer at Zerodha and board member at Rainmatter Foundation; Priyanka Francis, IAS, Director of the National Gallery of Modern Art; Ashwini Hiremath, Founder of Wild Wild Women; and Deepak Dhananjaya, Founder of the Prabhava Institute of Inclusive Mental Health. Instead of traditional keynote speeches, speakers engaged in open dialogue with students. Kailash Nadh highlighted the importance of human skills in a technology-driven world, noting that curiosity, clarity of thought, and articulation re-

main essential even as artificial intelligence tools become widely accessible.

Kuldeep Dantewadia, Co-founder and CEO of Reap Benefit, said the national edition reflects a broader shift in youth engagement. He emphasised that the platform enables young people to question, experiment, and translate ideas into action when given the space and trust to do so.

Organisers observed strong interest in continuing engagement through follow-up programmes, indicating that the event functioned not merely as a one-day gathering but as a catalyst for sustained, youth-led innovation and collaboration.

Having seen how Brevis and Miller built their partnership, that was the approach needed from the Indian batters. The Indian batters did not do that. They came out with overconfidence, threw their bat at everything and lost wickets. South Africa clearly outsmarted India and it was a well-deserved win for them - **Batting legend Sunil Gavaskar**

Overconfident Indian players must shed ego: Gavaskar

◆ 'You have to learn from the opposition. If they have scored well on a tricky surface like this, you have to get rid of your ego, observe and adjust.'

◆ Tilak Varma has been a very street-smart batter. But I was disappointed with his approach in this game'

AHMEDABAD

INDIA needed to take a cue from South Africa's innings, shed their ego and adapt to the conditions instead of walking out with overconfidence and throwing their bats at everything in their T20 World Cup clash, feels batting legend Sunil Gavaskar. South Africa snapped India's

12-match unbeaten streak at the T20 World Cup, handing the defending champions a heavy 76-run defeat.

"Having seen how Brevis and Miller built their partnership, that was the approach needed from the Indian batters," Gavaskar said on JioStar. "The Indian batters did not do that. They came out with overconfidence, threw their

bat at everything and lost wickets. South Africa clearly outsmarted India and it was a well-deserved win for them."

"You have to learn from the opposition. If they have scored well on a tricky surface like this, you have to get rid of your ego, observe and adjust." India lost their top three -- Ishan Kishan (0), Abhishek Sharma (15) and Tilak Varma



(1) -- inside the power play to slip to 26/3. "Tilak Varma

has been a very street-smart batter. But I was disappointed with his approach in this game. Ishan Kishan lost his wicket in the first over. The required rate was around 9.5 runs per over, not 15.

"So, Tilak could have given himself more time. At the other end, Abhishek Sharma had back-to-back ducks. So, the responsibility was on Tilak

to stick around, build a partnership, and get past the first six overs, but he failed to do that. "You don't always need to score 70 runs in the Powerplay. Even 55-60 runs would have been a good platform. But the reckless approach of the Indian batters led to their downfall in Ahmedabad." India next take on Zimbabwe and Gavaskar said he would

like to see Axar Patel return to the playing XI after missing the previous two games, with the team management opting for Washington Sundar. "I would look at bringing Axar Patel back into the playing XI, keeping in mind the lack of too many left-handed batters in Zimbabwe's line-up. You could possibly bring him in place of Arshdeep Singh.

At least one out of form batter to be dropped

◆ The team management might have to revisit the performances of Abhishek (15 runs in four games) and Tilak (107 runs in five games at strike rate of 118)

◆ Not to forget, the designated finisher Rinku Singh's aggregate of 24 runs in 29 balls at a disastrous strike rate of 82.75 is embarrassing to say the least



g's aggregate of 24 runs in 29 balls at a disastrous strike rate of 82.75 is embarrassing to say the least.

"If head coach and team management feels we need to do something different we will do things differently. Definitely a thought now comes if we have to change, what do we change and how do we change," batting coach Sitanshu Kotak didn't make bones about the fact that the team is indeed in a spot. "Now we have reached a point where we need to think if we need to do something different or stick with same combination," Kotak said.

Ten Doeschate was a bit more forthcoming when he admitted that it is indeed a "concern" that there are no back-up specialist batters in

the squad and Sanju Samson, despite his wretched form, might be back in the mix.

The logic could be bringing in a right hander to break the monotony. "You stick with the guys who you feel have performed really well over the last 18 months and maybe shy of a few runs now? Or do we twist and bring Sanju, who's also a fantastic player and obviously helps tactically with having a right hander at the top of the order," Ten Doeschate also echoed Kotak's sentiments but with more definitive answer that changes could be on cards. "I'm sure that (Samson's inclusion) will be a talking point over the next few days going into these two very important games (Zimbabwe and West Indies)."



Hetmyer hammers 85 as WI post huge win

Gudakesh Motie (4/28) and Akeal Hosein (3/28) shared seven wickets for Windies

MUMBAI: Shimron Hetmyer blasted a scintillating 85 off 34 balls as West Indies defeated Zimbabwe by 107 runs in a T20 World Cup Super Eights fixture here on Monday. Sent in to bat, Hetmyer produced the fastest fifty in T20 World Cups for West Indies, smashing seven sixes and seven fours to power WI to the second-highest team total in the history of T20 World Cup, a massive 254-6. In reply, Zimbabwe folded for 147 in 17.4 overs with No. 8 batter Brad Evans top scoring with a 21-ball 43. Gudakesh Motie (4/28) and Akeal Hosein (3/28) shared seven wickets for WI. Earlier, Shimron Hetmyer went on a rampage, smashing a 34-ball 85 before Rovman Powell's 59 propelled West Indies to a mammoth 254/6, the second-highest total in T20 World Cup history. Aided by a couple of lifelines, West Indies' No. 3 Hetmyer peeled off a second fifty of the tournament by pummeling seven sixes and as many fours while recording the fastest half-century off only 19 balls, bettering his own record set earlier (off 22 balls) in the tournament.

BRIEF SCORES
West Indies: 254-6 in 20 overs (Shimron Hetmyer 85; Richard Ngarava 2/47).
Zimbabwe: 147 all out in 17.4 overs (Brad Evans 43, Gudakesh Motie 4/28, Akeal Hosein 3/28).



Spinners in focus as England, Pak eye crucial Super 8 points

PALLEKELE: On a surface expected to assist slow bowlers, both England and Pakistan will lean heavily on their spin resources in their Super Eights clash in the T20 World Cup here on Tuesday. England may not have hit top gear yet, but the two-time champions have found ways to win.

They kicked off their Super Eights campaign with a commanding 51-run victory over Sri Lanka, a result that significantly boosted their net run rate and took them to the top of the standings. Defending a modest total against Sri Lanka, England played according to the conditions perfectly.

Their spinners did the bulk of the work along with pacer Jofra Archer to trigger a dramatic Sri Lankan batting collapse. The ever-reliable leg spinner Adil Rashid and left arm spinner Liam Dawson have combined well to get the wickets. Meanwhile, Will Jacks has emerged as an unlikely match-winner. His off-spin has been handy, but it is his contributions with the bat, 39 against Nepal, 16 against Scotland and 53 versus Italy, that have repeatedly bailed England out of trouble. Opener Phil Salt returned to form with a match-winning knock against Sri Lanka, as he batted beyond the powerplay for the first time in the tournament. However, Jos Buttler's form remains a concern. But the veteran batter has got the backing of his captain Harry Brook, who himself is yet to find runs.



GCPE triumphs in OU Kho Kho C'ship

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

Siddartha. In the third-place match, A.V. College defeated Govt. City College 9-6 with Janiki, Srinath and Narasimha emerging as the star performers for the latter.

Prof Rajesh Kumar, Dean, Faculty of Education, OU and Dr Rajalingam, Principal, A V College, Shailender, philanthropist distributed prizes. Dr. Ramavath Prakash, Org. Secy. welcomed the guests warmly.

WINNERS OF HYD SUB-JUNIOR TENNIS



Winners and runners-up pose with their trophies at the Hyderabad District Sub-Junior Tennis Program 1st leg held at Lake View Tennis Academy. Champions Adhya Reddy Gujja (Girls U10), Ayaansh Kasarla (Boys U10), Aleeza Simra (Girls U12) and Ayanish Gadhraju (Boys U12) are joined by finalists Krishvi Ratna, Suryansh Reddy, Swecha Devarakonda and Aarav Bagavathula after impressive performances.

Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas Sabka Prayas ?

Ex-BJP MP takes back blanket from Muslim woman after asking her religion

Congress condemned his action, saying religious discrimination is a violation of constitutional rights. Several Congress leaders shared a video of the incident in which Jaunpuria is seen purportedly saying that those who abuse PM Narendra Modi have no right to take the blanket

JAIPUR

FORMER BJP MP Sukhbir Singh Jaunpuria kicked up a row during a blanket distribution event at Rajasthan's

Tonk, when he allegedly took back a blanket given to a Muslim woman after asking her religion.

The Congress condemned his action, saying religious discrimination is a violation

of constitutional rights. Several Congress leaders shared a video of the incident in which Jaunpuria is seen purportedly saying that those who abuse PM Narendra Modi have no right to take the blanket.

According to locals, blankets were initially handed out to women present at the event, but it was later taken back from a Muslim woman.

He also said that the programme was his personal ini-



tiative and not linked to any government scheme. Meanwhile, a Youth Congress leader went to the vil-

lage and distributed blankets to Muslim women, and accused the BJP of doing politics of division. Villagers, along with Congress workers, also held a protest on Monday. Leader of Opposition in the Rajasthan Assembly, Tikaram Jolly, alleged discrimination and condemned the act.

"A former MP asking a poor woman her religion and then taking back the blanket is highly condemnable," Ju-

lly said. Congress MP from Tonk-Sawai Madhopur Harish Chandra Meena said that the treatment meted out to Muslim women by the former MP was the result of a "disruptive" mindset that destroys the social fabric of this country.

"Giving blankets to poor and helpless women, then asking their names and taking them back based on their religion, this is a deeply shameful and inhumane act,"

he said. "Politics is a medium of service, not of insult and discrimination. The public elects representatives so that they treat every class, every religion and every needy person equally, and not to mock anyone's poverty and helplessness," he added.

Meena asked whether the prime minister told the former MP that no one should help those who do not vote for Prime Minister Modi or his party.

Sisters died of poisoning ahead of wedding in Raj

According to the police, the two sisters worked at a private school and were believed to be unhappy with their alliances. Their bodies were found hours before the wedding processions were scheduled to arrive

JODHPUR

THE post-mortem report of two sisters who died at Manai village has confirmed poisoning as the cause of death, police said on Monday.

The victims, identified as Shobha (25) and Vimla (23), were set to be married on Saturday, and the preparations for their weddings were in full swing on Thursday night, when the incident occurred.

According to the police, the two sisters worked at a private school and were believed to be unhappy with their alliances. Their bodies were found hours before the wedding processions were scheduled to arrive.

Soorsagar Police Station House Officer (SHO) Harishchandra Solanki said that the medical board confirmed the death due to poisoning. No poisonous substance was recovered from the scene. "Viscera samples have been preserved and sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory to identify the



exact substance consumed," Solanki said, adding that there is also suspicion of a drug overdose. As part of the investigation, the police have seized the mobile phones of both sisters to examine chats, call records and social media activity.

Police also questioned their father, Deep Singh, to ascertain if the deaths were a case of suicide or involving other factors such as family disputes or external pressure. The sisters were earlier engaged to members of a family in Bhnimal through their maternal uncle.

Fake medicine factory unearthed in Bihar

Massive haul of spurious drugs

NEW DELHI

DELHI Police has unearthed a factory involved in manufacturing and repackaging spurious medicines and psychotropic substances near Patna, an official said on Monday. The action was taken during investigation of an FIR registered under the NDPS Act at the Crime Branch police station, he said. Po-

lice said the breakthrough came days after two similar illegal pharmaceutical units were exposed in Bihar.

Acting on information gathered from previous arrests and the interrogation of an accused identified as Arun, a team of the Crime Branch zeroed in on another suspect, Brijesh, who was allegedly running an illegal manufacturing and repackaging unit, a senior police officer said. The officer said Arun was earlier found coordinating the illegal manufacture and distribution of opioids

and operating a clandestine medicines unit. Based on his disclosure, the team with the local drug department raided the unit.

"It was found to be operating without a valid manufacturing licence and in the absence of mandatory technical staff, including manufacturing and analytical chemists. Legal proceedings have been initiated as per due process," he added. The team has seized a massive haul of spurious tablets, syrups, machinery and packaging material from the premises.



Probe launched into toddler's death

Kerala family alleges medical negligence

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

POLICE have launched a probe after a two-and-a-half-year-old child died and her family alleged medical negligence against a private hospital in Kattakada here, officials said on Monday. The deceased has been identified as Aisha Fathima, daughter of Sidique and Fasilath of Punal, Perumkulam here.

According to police, on February 18, the child developed physical discomfort, including breathing issues and swelling near her eyebrow. She was first taken to the government hospital in Aryanad. The next day, after similar symptoms recurred, her parents took her to a private hospital in Kattakada, where, after medication, her condition improved, and she returned home, police said.

On February 20, the parents took her to an ophthalmology centre as the swelling near her eyebrow persisted. Police officials said that on Sunday, however, the symptoms re-emerged and the child was again taken



to the private hospital in Kattakada. After being given nebulisation and injections, she was referred to another private hospital, officials said.

However, upon reaching the hospital, she was declared dead after preliminary treatment, police said. The family has alleged medical negligence against the private hospital and filed a complaint at Aryanad police station on Sunday. Police officials said a case of unnatural death has been registered, and the cause of death will be ascertained after the post-mortem examination scheduled for Monday.

The father of the deceased claimed on Monday that his daughter's condition worsened after injections were administered at the private hospital in Kattakada.



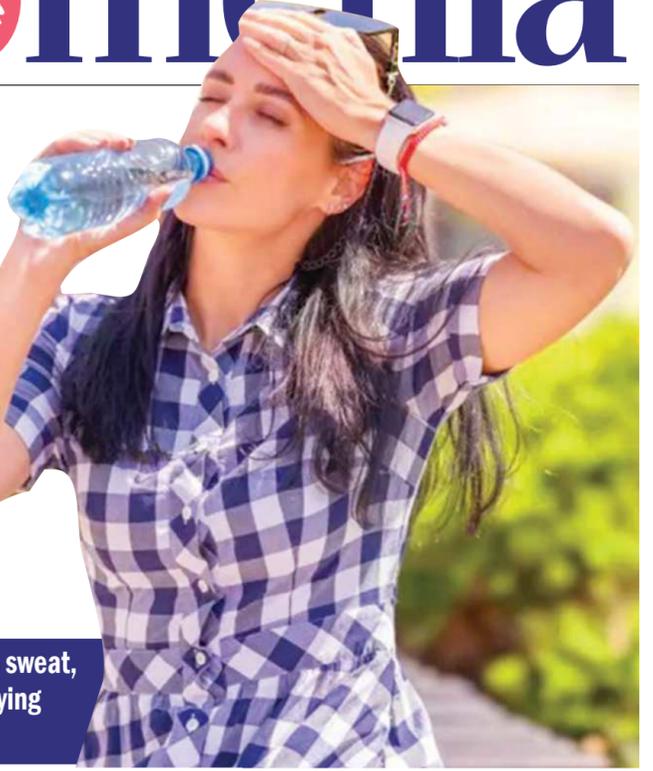
Army rescues 46 tourists stuck in snowy Sikkim

SIKKIM: Indian Army troops have rescued 46 tourists stranded due to heavy snowfall in high-altitude areas of Sikkim's East district, a defence statement said on Monday. Several tourist vehicles got stuck along vulnerable road stretches in East Sikkim district on Sunday during sudden and intense snowfall in sub-zero temperatures, exposing tourists and locals to harsh climatic conditions, it said.

On learning about the situation, Army troops moved promptly to the affected areas and initiated rescue and relief measures, the statement said. "A total of 46 tourists were safely rescued and shifted to the nearest Army camp, where they were medically examined and provided with warm shelter, hot meals, heating arrangements and essential relief materials to mitigate the effects of extreme cold and altitude-related stress," it said.



Dehydration, headaches and low energy: Why women are more vulnerable in summer



As temperatures rise, dehydration becomes a common yet overlooked health risk for women. Fluid loss through sweat, hormonal changes, and daily responsibilities can quietly drain energy levels. Recognising early signs and staying consistently hydrated is essential to prevent headaches, fatigue, and serious heat-related illness

DR ANURADHA H K

Summer heat can be harsh on the body, especially for women. Dehydration happens when the body loses more fluids than it takes in. During hot weather, we sweat more to cool down. Sweating leads to loss of water and important minerals like sodium and potassium. If these fluids are not replaced, the body cannot function properly. Many women do not realise they are dehydrated until symptoms become strong. Mild dehydration can start with dry mouth, tiredness, and reduced urination. If ignored, it can become serious and lead to heat exhaustion or even heat stroke.

Why Women Are More at Risk

Women are often more



vulnerable to dehydration because of biological and hormonal reasons. The female body usually has a slightly lower percentage of water compared to men.

This means women may feel the effects of fluid loss more quickly. Hormonal changes also play a major role. During menstruation, pregnancy, or menopause,

hormone levels fluctuate. These changes can affect how the body regulates fluids. Some women experience bloating during certain phases of

the menstrual cycle, but this does not mean the body is well hydrated. In fact, dehydration can still occur even when bloating is present.

Pregnant and breastfeeding women need extra fluids because their bodies are supporting another life. If they do not drink enough water, they may feel dizzy, weak, or develop headaches more easily.

The Link Between Dehydration and Headaches

Headaches are one of the most common signs of dehydration. When the body loses fluids, blood volume decreases slightly. This reduces the supply of oxygen and nutrients to the brain. As a result, a person may experience a dull or throbbing headache. Many

women already suffer from hormonal headaches or migraines. Dehydration can trigger these headaches or make them worse. Sometimes, a simple glass of water can reduce headache intensity if dehydration is the cause. Ignoring repeated summer headaches can affect daily productivity and mental focus. It is important to consider hydration as a possible reason before taking medication.

Low Energy and Fatigue

Low energy is another common problem during hot months. When the body lacks enough fluids, the heart works harder to circulate blood. This makes a person feel tired and weak. Even small daily tasks can feel exhausting. Women who balance work,

household duties, and childcare may overlook early warning signs. Feeling unusually sleepy, dizzy, or irritable during summer could be linked to poor hydration.

Iron deficiency, which is common among women, can make this fatigue worse. When dehydration combines with low iron levels, the body struggles even more to maintain energy.

Simple Steps to Stay Hydrated

Preventing dehydration is simple but requires regular attention. Women should drink water throughout the day, even if they do not feel thirsty. Keeping a water bottle nearby can act as a reminder. Including natural fluids like

coconut water, lemon water, and buttermilk can help maintain electrolyte balance. Eating water-rich fruits such as watermelon, cucumber, and oranges also supports hydration. Wearing loose cotton clothes and avoiding direct sun during peak afternoon hours can reduce fluid loss. Limiting caffeine and sugary drinks is also important, as they can increase dehydration. If symptoms like severe headache, fainting, very dark urine, or rapid heartbeat occur, medical help should be taken immediately. Staying hydrated is one of the simplest ways women can protect their health and energy during the summer season.

(The writer is a Lead Consultant - Neurology, Aster CMI Hospital, Bangalore)

Shilpa Shetty inspires fitness fans with high-intensity full-body workout video

Actress and fitness icon Shilpa Shetty continues to motivate fitness enthusiasts with her powerful workout routines, regularly sharing inspiring fitness content across her social media platforms. Known for her disciplined lifestyle and commitment to health, the actress once again caught attention with a new video showcasing an intense full-body compound workout designed to strengthen and stabilize the entire body.



as highly effective due to their ability to activate multiple muscle groups simultaneously. Sharing the clip, Shilpa captioned it, "Full body fired up, no muscle left behind," perfectly capturing the intensity of the session. She further elaborated on the long-term benefits of the exercise, noting that it is a high-intensity movement that combines

synchronized muscle engagement with explosive propulsion. According to her, the workout is ideal for short, time-efficient fitness routines and can be performed either in repetitions or timed intervals. With consistent practice, the exercise helps build overall endurance, strength, coordination, and power.

The Dhadkan actress has become a major source of motivation for fitness lovers, often pushing her limits and encouraging netizens to do the same. Her fitness journey is not just about aesthetics but also about building functional strength and long-term wellness.

Recently, Shilpa also shared another fitness video featuring the supine contralateral stability drill, an advanced exercise that improves core stability and neuromuscular coordination. Highlighting the importance of control in strength training, she wrote, "Strength

without control is incomplete." She explained that the drill challenges core stability, inner thigh engagement, pelvic control, and overall neuromuscular coordination, proving that even minimal equipment can deliver high-impact results when performed correctly.

The Sukhee actress continues to inspire people across age groups by promoting a balanced approach to fitness that focuses on strength, flexibility, control, and consistency. Through her videos, Shilpa Shetty not only showcases advanced workout techniques but also sends a strong message about discipline, self-care, and sustainable fitness.

With every post, she reinforces her status as one of the most influential fitness role models in the entertainment industry, motivating millions to prioritize health and embrace an active lifestyle.

Riya Munjal opens up about standing against eve-teasing

Actress Riya Munjal, who is currently earning praise for her performance in the popular television show Lakshmi Niwas, has spoken candidly about a powerful personal experience that reflects the strength of the character she portrays on screen. The actress recently opened up about standing up against eve-teasing during her college days, revealing how those real-life moments shaped her outlook and confidence.



The show is presently featuring an engaging storyline revolving around Bhoomika and Raj Bundela. Bhoomika, the youngest daughter of Srinivas and Lakshmi, is portrayed by Riya Munjal as a lively, affectionate, and emotionally expressive young woman. Her life takes an unexpected turn when millionaire Raj Bundela enters her world. Instantly drawn to Bhoomika, Raj approaches her family with a marriage proposal on the very first day they meet. His consistent support to the family during difficult times gradually earns their trust, prompting Srinivas and the rest of the family to seriously consider the alliance.

However, Bhoomika's journey is not just a romantic narrative. The character is shown navigating complex emotions and situations she is not fully prepared for. While she appears cheerful and carefree on the outside, Bhoomika's internal struggle reflects the pressure of family expectations, personal fears, and the process of finding her own voice. The ongoing track highlights her emotional maturity and

quiet resilience, making her character deeply relatable to many viewers.

Speaking about her real-life experiences, Riya shared that during her college days, she often encountered situations involving eve-teasing and inappropriate behaviour, either directed at her friends or herself. She revealed that she was never someone who could ignore such moments. Her instinct, she said, was always to speak up and confront the situation, even if she later reflected on the risks involved. According to her, in those moments, standing one's ground feels more important than fear.

Riya further explained that this instinctive courage is what connects her deeply to Bhoomika's character.

She described Bhoomika as someone who may seem bubbly and emotional but possesses a strong core of self-respect and inner strength. While the character takes time to process her emotions, she never compromises when it comes to dignity and standing up for what is right.

The actress believes that every girl carries this instinct within herself — the strength to resist, question, and stand firm — and that sometimes all it takes is the courage to act on it. With both her on-screen role and real-life voice, Riya Munjal is emerging not just as a promising performer, but also as a strong, relatable young woman audiences can connect with beyond the screen.

CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 4 A small, smooth stone (6)
 - 7 Ultimate (8)
 - 8 Finally (2,4)
 - 10 Instruments of torture (5)
 - 13 Rebuff (4)
 - 14 Jet-set jet (4)
 - 15 Kinds, types or sorts (4)
 - 16 Genetic material (3)
 - 17 Taj Mahal locale (4)
 - 19 Self-satisfied (4)
 - 21 Language of Kerala (9)
 - 23 Prefix for one thousand (4)
 - 24 Wild goat (4)
 - 26 Colourful Japanese carp (3)
 - 27 Painter Magritte (4)
 - 29 Notion (4)
 - 32 Microsoft's search engine (4)
 - 33 Affected grin (5)
 - 34 Menace (6)
 - 35 Dr ___ Prasad : First President of India (8)
 - 36 Attractive (6)

DOWN

- 1 Found in an oyster (5)
- 2 Birthplace of Mohammed (5)
- 3 OE letters (4)
- 4 Piece of wood (5)
- 5 Incandescent lamp (4)
- 6 Being bested? (6)
- 9 Fight or wrestle (6)
- 11 Roman bronze - "sea" change? (3)
- 12 South African pen (5)
- 13 Murdering (7)
- 15 Lyricist Gerstwin (3)
- 16 Strange or odd (3)
- 18 "Oil rag" anagram for a girl (6)
- 20 Principle of conduct (5)
- 21 1002 in Roman numerals (3)
- 22 Abraham's pet name (3)
- 23 Legitimate (6)
- 25 Always in verse (3)
- 28 Way in (5)
- 30 Electronic valve (5)
- 31 Mogul emperor called the Great (5)
- 32 Not straight (4)
- 33 Procedure part (4)



Solution to February 23

SUDOKU



Solution to February 23



'Aura of Ustaad' song launch turns into a grand celebration of PSPK's legacy



The launch of the song "Aura of Ustaad" from the upcoming film Ustaad Bhagat Singh turned into a spectacular celebration of star power, music, and fandom, as the team behind the project unveiled what many are already calling a defining anthem for fans of Pawan Kalyan. The powerful hook line — "Nenu Meda Muttukunte, Toda Kottinatte" — has instantly gone viral, symbolizing the actor's iconic screen presence and unmatched mass appeal. Director Harish Shankar described the song as more than a tribute, calling it a musical festival crafted from deep understanding rather than admiration. He revealed that the line was inspired by Pawan Kalyan's signature body language, a mannerism he has carried for over two decades. The lyrics were penned by Chandrabose, who completed the song in a single day, giving the track both literary depth and emotional power. Music composer Devi Sri Prasad added that the song is a timeless tribute to Pawan Kalyan's personality, values, and aura. He credited the director's vision and the lyricist's writing for shaping a composition that feels both celebratory and iconic, stating that the track represents the true "Aura of Pawan Kalyan." Chandrabose described the song as an expression of "Pawanism," reflecting the actor's principles, journey, and influence across generations. The event concluded on an emotional and festive note, with the team expressing confidence that the song and the film will strike a deep chord with audiences. Ustaad Bhagat Singh is being produced by Naveen Yerneni and Y. Ravi Shankar under Mythri Movie Makers and is scheduled for a grand theatrical release on March 26.

'Aaya Sher' promo from 'The Paradise' sets the internet ablaze



Ahead of Natural Star Nani's birthday celebrations tomorrow, excitement among fans has reached a fever pitch with the release of the promo for the first single "Aaya Sher" from his much-anticipated pan-world film 'The Paradise'. As promised by the makers, the full song will be unveiled on his birthday, making it a special gift for fans across the globe. The fiery promo features Rockstar Anirudh Ravichander delivering a high-octane, adrenaline-charged composition driven by thunderous beats and a powerful, roaring chorus. Visually, the promo plunges viewers into a gritty, intense world filled with sweat, smoke, chaos, and raw energy, perfectly capturing the massive scale and mood of the film. Nani's transformation has emerged as the biggest talking point. Sporting a striking red jacket, blazing eyes, and an intimidating rugged look, the actor appears in a fierce, commanding avatar that has instantly electrified fans. Standing amid frenzied crowds, he embodies the image of a lion reclaiming his throne, with the promo's final

moments delivering a strong dose of mass elevation and cinematic high. Director Srikanth Odela has been widely praised for his larger-than-life vision and the powerful way he translates it onto the screen. Choreographer Sudhan Master also hints at a full-scale mass spectacle, suggesting that the complete song will be a swagger-filled visual carnival. Backed by producer Sudhakar Cherukuri's SLV Cinemas, 'The Paradise' is shaping up as a global-scale cinematic event. The film is scheduled for a grand worldwide theatrical release on August 21, further heightening anticipation for what promises to be one of Nani's most ambitious projects yet.

Wedding of VIROSH: Rashmika and Vijay Deverakonda make it official



Ending months of speculation and fan curiosity, star couple Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda have officially announced their wedding, putting an end to the long-running suspense around their relationship. The couple took to Instagram to share the happy news, confirming that they are entering wedlock and beautifully christening their union as the "Wedding of VIROSH" — a name lovingly given to them by fans. Sharing a heartfelt message, both actors posted the same story on Instagram, expressing gratitude to their supporters for naming their bond long before they did. In their emotional note, they wrote that even before they made plans for themselves, fans had already given them the identity of "VIROSH," and they were now honouring that love by officially naming their wedding after it. The announcement instantly went viral, with fans and celebrities flooding social

media with congratulatory messages. Wedding festivities have already begun and are being kept strictly private. The families have reportedly departed for Udaipur, where the ceremonies are scheduled to take place. According to sources, the haldi ceremony will be held on February 24, followed by the sangeet on February 25, and the wedding on February 26. The venue is said to be a secluded hill resort on the outskirts of the city, most likely The Mementos by ITC Hotels, ensuring privacy and exclusivity for the intimate celebrations. While the wedding itself will be a private affair, the couple is planning a grand reception for the film fraternity and distinguished guests. The lavish reception is scheduled for March 4 from 7 PM onwards at Taj Krishna, where several prominent personalities from the film and political circles are expected to attend, making it one of the most anticipated celebrity events of the year.



Alia Bhatt shines at BAFTA 2026 Awards, debuts as presenter in London

Bollywood star Alia Bhatt made a stunning international statement by attending the BAFTA Awards 2026 ceremony in London, where she marked her debut as a presenter. Her appearance quickly became one of the most talked-about moments of the prestigious event, drawing attention from fans, fashion critics, and

global media alike. For the red carpet, Alia chose a custom silver sequinned gown by Gucci, which reflected a soft, elegant shimmer under the lights. The outfit featured a subtle glow that enhanced her presence without being overpowering. She paired the gown with a light wrap to stay warm in the London weather and opted for minimal styling, keeping her hair neatly done and her makeup soft and refined. The understated elegance of her look was widely praised for its sophistication and international appeal. Social media was abuzz soon after her appearance, with fans applauding her classy fashion choices and confident

presence on such a major global platform. Many admired how she avoided heavy jewellery and excessive styling, allowing the gown and her natural grace to take center stage. Her red-carpet look was hailed as a perfect blend of glamour and simplicity. On the professional front, Alia Bhatt continues to stay busy with major film commitments. She is currently working on her upcoming projects Alpha and Love & War, keeping fans excited about what lies ahead. Balancing global appearances with big-ticket film projects, Alia continues to strengthen her position as one of India's most influential and globally recognised stars.

Saiyami Kher embraces vulnerability in Vikram Phadnis' upcoming social drama

Actress Saiyami Kher is set to surprise audiences with a softer and more emotionally driven performance in filmmaker Vikram Phadnis' upcoming yet-untitled social drama, where she will be seen exploring a more vulnerable side of her acting journey. The film, which also stars Tahir Raj Bhasin, marks a shift from the physically demanding roles she has been known for in recent years. Speaking about the project, Saiyami shared that the film attracted her because of its emotional depth and internal storytelling. She described the role as "softer and more emotional," adding that it focuses more on inner journeys rather than external action. According to the actress, portraying vulnerability can often be more challenging than action-heavy performances, and that challenge motivated her to take on the project. On the work front, Saiyami recently wrapped up shooting for Haiwaan, directed by Priyadarshan and starring Akshay Kumar and Saif Ali Khan. The film, also featuring Sharib Hashmi, marks the reunion of Akshay and Saif after 18 years and was shot across Kochi, Ooty, and Mumbai. She was last seen in Jaat, directed by Gopichand Malineni, alongside Sunny Deol and Randeep Hooda. From her Telugu debut Rey to Hindi projects like Mirzya, Ghoomer, and series such as Special OPS, Saiyami continues to evolve with diverse and challenging roles across cinema and streaming platforms.



'Killer' teaser gets a grand launch

The teaser of the upcoming Telugu film Killer was officially launched at a grand event in Hyderabad, generating strong buzz among film circles and audiences. Starring Jyoti Poorvaj and Poorvaj in the lead roles, the film also features Manish Gilada, Chandrakant Kollu, Vishal Raj, Archana Ananth, and Gautham Chakradhar Koppishetty in key roles. The project is produced by Poorvaj and Padmanabha Reddy A under the banners Think Cinema and AU & I Studios, with the blessings of Dhyanam Nannagaru and presented by Urvish Poorvaj. Directed by Poorvaj, the film is gearing up for a grand theatrical release soon. Speaking at the event,



line producer Sitarama Rao said the entire team worked tirelessly on the project and expressed confidence that audiences would extend the same love to the film as they did to the teaser. Line producer Dasarath Madhav described Killer as a content-driven film blending emotional brother-sister

sentiment with strong storytelling, adding that despite being a small film, it has the potential for big success. Actors Manish Gilada, Gautham Chakradhar, Vishal Raj and others praised the film's technical quality and Jyoti Poorvaj's surprising transformation and action performance. Jyoti Poor-

vaj revealed that the film marks her shift from routine television roles, calling it a dream opportunity where she plays multiple characters and performs intense action sequences inspired by iconic women-centric roles like those of Vijayashanti. Director Poorvaj stated that the script was conceived years ago and blends artificial intelligence, emotional drama, revenge, subconscious identity, and brother-sister bonding into a multi-layered sci-fi thriller. He added that the teaser reveals only part of the story, with much more to be unveiled in the upcoming trailer. The teaser launch was supported by director Anil Ravipudi, marking a confident start for the ambitious project.