

TG Cabinet gives thumbs-up for Directorate tag to TVVP

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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

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NEVELI/HYDERABAD

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

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

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

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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

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All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimin (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 Abdullah 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.

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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

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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.