



Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar receives a replica of the Goddess during his visit to Bhagyalakshmi Temple near Charminar on Tuesday

City's Bhagyalakshmi Temple will be developed, a la Golden Temple: Bandi

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HYDERABAD

UNION Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar declared that the Bhagyalakshmi Temple near Charminar is "very powerful" and vowed that once the BJP comes to power, it will be developed on the lines of Punjab's Golden Temple.

Addressing the media, along with corporators and councillors from Karimnagar parliamentary constituency, on Tuesday, he said the blessings of Mahashakti and Bhagyalakshmi Amma had enabled the BJP to withstand conspiracies and secure the mayor's post in Karimnagar.

Sanjay emphasised that his visit was to fulfil vows and

seek divine strength, noting that the temple has always been a source of protection for Hindus in the Old City. He accused the Congress and BRS governments of failing to respond to repeated attacks on temples across Telangana, including incidents at Mutyalamma Temple in Secunderabad, Bhoolakshmi Temple in Santosh Nagar, Pedamma Temple in Banjara Hills and Shamshabad temple.

He alleged that perpetrators were being shielded while innocent Hindus were targeted with false cases and arrests. Warning the police to stop illegal detentions, he demanded immediate action against those responsible,

particularly MIM-linked groups. He pledged to visit Banswada to stand as a "protective shield" for Hindus if authorities failed to act.

Highlighting his 1,640 km-long Praja Sangrama Yatra, Sanjay said it was completed with divine blessings despite government attacks. He criticised the Congress regime for neglecting welfare promises, failing to deliver pensions, unemployment benefits, and employee dues, while prioritising vote-bank politics. Sanjay asserted that the BJP would contest the GHMC elections with the twin agenda of Hindutva and development, promising to expose Congress and MIM's failures across Hyderabad.



BJP state unit president N Ramchander Rao addresses the gathering after consoling the family of Ganesh in Kummera village, Nagarkurnool district, on Tuesday.

BJP chief calls Jatara tragedy a 'disgrace'

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NAGARKURNOOL/HYDERABAD

"THIS incident is heart-wrenching and a disgrace to society," said BJP state unit president N Ramchander Rao, as he consoled the family of Ganesh in Kummera village, Nagarkurnool district on Tuesday.

The family was subjected to a brutal assault during the Mallanna Swami Jatara, leading to the tragic death of a two-month-old infant and severe injuries to Ganesh.

Rao expressed anguish that a religious fair, meant to be celebrated peacefully,

turned violent due to the alleged arrogance of local leaders and the negligence of authorities. He criticised police and revenue officials for failing to uphold their responsibilities, accusing them of registering false cases against the victims instead of punishing the perpetrators.

He emphasised that temples are sacred spaces for all castes and communities, warning that caste discrimination at such sites tarnishes Hindu dharma itself. Stressing equality before the law, Rao urged respect for the Constitution, which he described as "the true deity for

all citizens."

The BJP leader demanded immediate compensation and full security for the victim's family, while calling for the arrest of those responsible, who are reportedly absconding. He assured that BJP legislators would raise the issue both inside and outside the Assembly until justice is delivered.

Reaffirming the party's commitment, Rao declared that the BJP stands firmly with the victims and will continue to fight against caste-based discrimination and injustice, ensuring that such inhuman acts are not repeated in Telangana.

Tea powder adulteration racket busted

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IN a significant crackdown on food safety violations, the Hyderabad Commissioner's Task Force Jubilee Hills Zone and Sanath Nagar police have busted a sophisticated tea powder adulteration racket. The joint team conducted a raid at a premises within Sanath Nagar limits and apprehended a person involved in adulterating tea powder using harmful synthetic chemicals. Police arrested Jagannath Bishnoi and seized 120 kgs of colour-mixed tea powder, 30 kgs of natural tea powder, and 138 kgs of cocopeat mix. Officials also confiscated a weighing machine, synthetic food colours, and twelve boxes of jaggery.

Bishnoi disclosed that he engaged in the adulteration process for illegal profit. He purchased cocopeat, filtered the excess coconut husk, and mixed it with hot jaggery water.

This mixture was dried for several days before adding synthetic food colours Sunset Yellow and Tartrazine Orange. The coloured mixture was dried again before being blended into the final product. Gaikwad Vaibhav Raghunath, DCP Task Force, explained that the accused mixed 450 grams of low-quality tea dust and 500 grams of granules with 50 grams of this colour-mixed cocopeat. This fraudulent powder was sold to local tea stalls at high prices as genuine tea powder.

Police have advised citizens to purchase products only from authorised sellers and report suspected adulteration. Food business operators are warned that such activities pose a serious risk to human life and will attract strict criminal cases. Authorities remain vigilant against those misrepresenting food items for profit. Strict legal action is currently being pursued against the accused to deter such dangerous practices in the local market.

Maoist Devuji to foray into politics

Ex-Maoists vow to pursue people's cause within law

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THE senior Maoist Tipiri Thirupati alias Devuji who surrendered before the Telangana police stated that he has surrendered due to health reasons and is committed to continuing his political journey by joining a political party soon. Following the surrender, on Tuesday Devuji stated that he would dedicate himself to the people while adhering to principles.

He expressed an intention to address public concerns and enter politics shortly to fight for issues affecting the populace. He noted that while he could not respond to all inquiries, he believed his answers

could lead to misunderstandings.

Meanwhile, another senior Maoist Malla Raji Reddy alias Sangram said their goal is to collaborate with the community. He stated they are committed to advocating for the rights of the people and have chosen to engage in this struggle within the framework of the law.

He added that Maoism is a movement that will persist and they intend to address certain issues with the government. On Tuesday, the police brought all surrendered Maoists before the media. The others included Bade Chokka Rao alias Damodar and Nune Narsimha Reddy alias Ganganna. These Maoists surrendered on Sunday.



Senior Maoist Tipiri Thirupati alias Devuji surrenders before the police in Hyderabad on Tuesday
Photo: Ch Prabhu Das

QUICK ACT...

Storm plunges few parts of city into darkness; power restored in 30 mins

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HYDERABAD

UNEXPECTED rain and strong winds lashed Greater Hyderabad on Monday night, causing tree branches to fall on several 11 kV feeders. After nearly six months of dry weather, sudden rainwater seeped into insulator gaps, leading to the failure of weak or damaged insulators in some locations. As a result, power supply was disrupted on 347 11 kV feeders across the city.

Following weather department warnings, Musharrarf Faruqui, Chairman & Managing Director of the Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited, held a teleconference with chief engineers and superintending engi-

neers to ensure preparedness and swift response.

Thanks to the prompt action of field staff, nearly 86% of the affected 347 feeders were restored within 30 minutes, while another 20 feeders were brought back online within an hour. However, in areas such as Chanchalguda, Saleem Nagar, Noor Khan Bazaar, Malakpet, Chandul Baradari, Saibaba Nagar, and Hyderguda, restoration of 27 feeders took between 90 minutes and two hours due to fallen branches and debris causing extensive damage.

In the worst-affected zones, Director (Operations) Dr N Narasimhulu, along with chief engineers, personally supervised the restoration work.



A TSSPDCL worker clears tree branches entangled in overhead power lines atop a transformer following strong winds and rain in Hyderabad on Monday night



A power utility worker climbs a high-tension pole to carry out repairs following rain and strong winds in Hyderabad

Irish Minister eyes India-Ireland tech, education boost

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IRISH Minister for Public Expenditure Jack Chambers has stated that Ireland is keen to collaborate with India in education, technology, and innovation. Speaking during his visit to the Hyderabad offices of Techfynder and Test Triangle, Chambers noted that such partnerships are vital as the European Union and India advance a new trade agreement. He highlighted Hyderabad as a leading technology hub playing a central role in these international discussions. The Minister discussed how Test Triangle helps Telangana businesses scale operations within the Irish technology ecosystem. Praveen Madire, CEO of Techfynder and Test Triangle, said the visit included interactions with local employees regarding innovation-led growth. Furthermore, an event at JNTU Hyderabad provided students and parents with insights into studying in Ireland and future career opportunities abroad. Chambers emphasised that companies rooted in India play a meaningful role in strengthening international collaboration. Ireland remains committed to fostering cross-border business ties to enhance global digital transformation and reform.

KTR's poser: Why Centre mum on Revanth's ₹1K cr transfer claim?

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BRS working president KT Rama Rao demanded that the Central government clarify its stand on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's claims of preparedness to transfer Rs 1,000 crore to the Congress high command in Delhi.

He questioned the silence of the Central agencies like Enforcement Directorate, Central Bureau of Investigation and Income Tax Department, despite such open statements by none other than the Chief Minister.

Speaking to reporters after visiting party leaders lodged in jail in Adilabad, Rama Rao said that even after Prime Minister Narendra Modi publicly alleged that 'RR tax' was being collected by the Congress government in Telangana, the BJP government at the Centre



had remained silent. He questioned why central agencies had not initiated action if the Chief Minister was openly indulging in corruption. The BRS working president said the Congress government had abandoned governance and was focused on diverting Telangana's resources to Delhi.

He demanded that Revanth Reddy clarify the source of the alleged Rs 1,000 crore, and questioned that if he was ready to transfer such

a huge amount to his party high command, how many thousands of crores of public money might have been siphoned off.

He remarked that Revanth Reddy who was caught red-handed in the Cash for Vote case, was now indirectly acknowledging the corrupt practices of the Congress government.

Rama Rao accused the State government of neglecting farmers' welfare, pointing out that Rythu Bharosa financial assistance, which was earlier credited in December during the BRS rule, had not been released even by March.

He also cited alleged delay in loan waivers and inadequate procurement of crops such as jowar and cotton, leading to distress among farmers. The BRS would continue its fight to safeguard public funds and the interests of Telangana, he asserted.

Govt issues guidelines for upcoming Intermediate and SSC exams

- Students are allowed entry up to five minutes after the exam starts
- Strict security, CCTV and ANM with first-aid kits at all centres
- Hall tickets sent via WhatsApp and available online for download
- QR-coded question papers and clock rooms have been introduced



Chief Secretary K Ramakrishna Rao chairs a video conference with Collectors and SPs, along with senior education officials, in Hyderabad on Tuesday to finalise arrangements for Intermediate and SSC exams

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HYDERABAD

THE Telangana government has announced key measures to ensure the smooth and transparent conduct of the upcoming Intermediate and SSC examinations. Chief

Secretary K Ramakrishna Rao chaired a video conference with Collectors and SPs, along with senior education officials, to finalise arrangements on Tuesday.

The Intermediate exams will begin on February 25, while the SSC exams start on

March 14. In a major relief to students, the government has decided to allow entry into exam centres up to five minutes after the scheduled start time. Rao directed officials to ensure strict vigilance, especially at previously disputed centres and to provide basic

amenities such as drinking water, electricity, toilets and seating arrangements so that no student is forced to sit on the floor.

Security measures include police deployment, revenue coordination and installation of CCTV cameras. Each

centre will have an ANM and first-aid kits. Flying squads and sitting squads will monitor exam centers, with strict action promised against any malpractice.

Education Secretary Yogita Rana revealed that 4,89,055 students will appear for Intermediate first year, 4,53,832 for second year, and 5,28,239 for SSC. For the first time, hall tickets are being sent via WhatsApp and made available online. Question papers will carry QR codes and serial numbers, to be opened only 15 minutes before the exam.

The government has also instructed officials to pay special attention to the construction of Young India Integrated Schools, a flagship initiative. Authorities warned that any irregularities would invite severe disciplinary action.