



THE Hans India



Awesome Debut: Diya Pathak's Kathak Arangetram Mesmerises Hyderabad
A graceful celebration of rhythm, devotion, and classical excellence unfolded at Ravindra Bharati as young dancer Diya Pathak marked her Kathak Arangetram.

TG Speaker's order on anti-defection petitions is a tricky constitutional test
It seems like the Anti-Defection Law is a defective law or a totally defective conclusion on the judgment of the Speaker of Telangana, Gaddam Prasad Kumar, on March 11.

Markets rebound over 1% on bargain buying after 3-days fall
Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded by over 1 per cent on Monday after facing a massive drubbing in the past three trading days, driven by value-buying in blue-chip banking counters.

13-year-old Hyderabad student develops multi-system AI architecture
In an unusual example of young innovation, a 13-year-old student from Hyderabad has designed an artificial intelligence ecosystem that is attracting attention in technology and research circles.

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WINDOWS
RAMZAN TIMINGS
IFTAR (Tue) 6:32 PM
SEHAR (Wed) 5:00 AM

OSCAR AWARDS
Jessie Buckley and Michael B. Jordan took home the awards for Best Actress and Best Actor on Sunday night

'One Battle After Another' named Best Picture
NEW DELHI: It was 'One Battle After Another's' night. Paul Thomas Anderson's action-thriller took home six Oscars at the 98th Academy Awards on Sunday, including Best Supporting Actor, Best Directing and Best Picture. The film also won awards for Best Editing and Best Adapted Screenplay, as well as the first-ever Oscar for Best Casting. Upon accepting his award, Anderson — who had previously been nominated for an Oscar around a dozen times — joked, "You make a guy work hard for one of these, I really appreciate it." Sinners also had a big night, bringing home four Oscars, including Best Actor for Michael B. Jordan's role as twins Smoke and Stack.

Political slugfest over transfer of Bengal CS, DGP
NEW DELHI: The Election Commission's move to transfer West Bengal's chief secretary and DGP soon after the announcement of the Assembly poll dates triggered a political slugfest on Monday. While the opposition parties accused the poll panel of acting at the behest of the BJP at the Centre, the saffron party hit back, alleging that the opposition was attempting to malign constitutional institutions. Speaking to reporters inside the Parliament House complex, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav alleged that officers are routinely removed in states where the BJP is not in power. "Whenever elections are held, and if the state government is not run by the party ruling in Delhi, the first thing they do is remove the DGP and the chief secretary."

CM pulls up party legislators
Asks them to take active part in budget session Attendance would be recorded three times a day
GOING BUDGET SESSION OF THE Assembly and the Legislative Council.
According to sources, during the CLP meeting, the Chief Minister advised them to exercise caution while interacting with the media. He advised the legislators to restrict their comments to issues related to their respective constituencies and refrain from speaking on state-level matters as that could lead to unnecessary controversies. He cautioned them against making statements that might place the ruling party in a defensive position similar to that of the opposition.
Revanth Reddy made it clear that attendance in the Assembly would be monitored strictly. He warned them that merely signing the attendance register and leaving the House would not be tolerated. According to him, attendance would be recorded three times a day—morning, afternoon, and evening—to ensure members remain present all through the proceedings. The Chief Minister directed MLAs to come well-prepared to discuss issues concerning their constituencies and to highlight the developmental and welfare initiatives undertaken by the government. He advised them to focus on communicating the positive work of the government, rather than repeatedly criticising the opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi leaders.

PNG and CNG supply uninterrupted: Govt
NEW DELHI: The supply of piped natural gas (PNG) and compressed natural gas (CNG) remains uninterrupted across India, the government said on Monday, while reaffirming efforts to shift households from LPG to piped gas in areas with existing pipeline infrastructure.
If there was no shortage of LPG, as you claimed, why do you want credit for restoring the supply?

CNG, LPG shortage takes toll on autos, cabs
HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD
NOTWITHSTANDING official claims of a rosy situation in India amid pervasive fears of shortage of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and compressed natural gas (CNG) as well as disruption in their supplies; the ground reality is disturbing, with a palpable shortage of CNG and LPG in the city disrupting the livelihood of auto-rickshaw and cab drivers.
Long queues are being witnessed at fuel stations with the supply failing to meet the high demand fuelled by fears. The drivers say they are forced to wait for 6 to 8 hours to fill the fuel and that too with 30 per cent extra charges.
The drivers decried that, instead of focusing on passenger trips, they are spending hours waiting for fuel at the filling stations. However, when we do receive passenger trips, our payment is very low, as our earnings have been negatively impacted by the skyrocketing prices of CNG. "The price of CNG, which was Rs 70 per kg a week ago, is now being sold for Rs 90 and Rs 100 per kg," said a driver waiting at a CNG station at King Kotthi.
A Nagesh Kumar, cab drivers' association leader said: "The ongoing CNG shortage is creating serious difficulties for cab drivers. We are spending long hours in queues at CNG stations, which directly affects our daily earnings and the services we provide to passengers. Authorities must take urgent steps to ensure adequate supply so that drivers are not forced to suffer losses."
Drivers also say reduced earnings. Sathish Kumar, an auto driver, said "Because of the CNG, LPG crisis, auto drivers are losing valuable working hours standing in long lines at fuel stations. Our daily income has come down, while expenses are on the high side. The government should immediately resolve the supply issue and ensure smooth availability of CNG, LPG for drivers."
Telangana Gig and Platform Workers Union (TGPWU) president Shaik Salauddin observed: "The app aggregator companies must temporarily raise fares, as the drivers are currently experiencing financial difficulties due to the fuel short-

GOVERNOR IN ASSEMBLY

'TELANGANA ON CUSP OF MEGA TRANSFORMATION'

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

TELANGANA Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Monday said that the Telangana state was standing on the threshold of an extraordinary transformation focusing on innovation and development to take the state to a \$3-trillion economy by 2047.
The Governor on Monday delivered his maiden address to the Telangana Legislature at the beginning of the budget session. Council Chairman G Sukhender Reddy, Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy escorted the Governor to the Speaker's chair. Starting his speech in Telugu, the Governor read out the paragraphs in the address in Telugu, Hindi and English.
The Governor said that this Budget was not just about financial allocations, but it was about shaping a stronger, more resilient Telangana. It

- Focusing on innovation, development
- Aiming at \$3-trillion economy by 2047
- Every policy aimed at creating opportunities



Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy in the state Assembly ahead of his joint address to the Telangana Legislature on Monday

was a roadmap for progress, a commitment to justice, and a promise to every citizen that their aspirations matter. "The resolve of the government is unshakable. Every policy, every initiative, and every reform introduced is aimed at creating opportunities, empowering people, and driving inclusive growth. The vision is clear, the direction is set, and the momentum is unstoppable."

Guv's address a 'roadmap' for the govt: CM

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

CHIEF Minister A Revanth Reddy has observed that the Governor's address to the joint sitting of the State Legislature on Monday, outlining the government's priorities and plans, will serve as a roadmap for the government. "The roadmap we formulate now will serve as the agenda for the upcoming elections," the Chief Minister remarked, while participating in the Congress Legislature Party meeting following the Governor's address on Monday -- the first day of the budget session.

Continued on Page 5

CM pulls up party legislators

- ▶ "Highlight government's achievements during debates"
- ▶ "Be careful with the media; restrict your comments to your seat, don't talk about state-level matters"

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

CHIEF Minister A Revanth Reddy, expressing his strong displeasure over the conduct of some of the party MLAs and MLCs, on Monday issued firm directions asking all Congress legislators to participate actively in the on-

Asks them to take active part in budget session Attendance would be recorded three times a day

going budget session of the Assembly and the Legislative Council.
According to sources, during the CLP meeting, the Chief Minister advised them to exercise caution while interacting with the media. He advised the legislators to restrict their comments to issues related to their respective constituencies and refrain from speaking on state-level matters as that could lead to unnecessary controversies. He cautioned them against making statements that might place the ruling party in a defensive position similar to that of the opposition.
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FAILURE TO ANSWER MLAS' QUESTIONS

Karnataka Speaker raps govt

BENGALURU

IN AN embarrassment to the Congress government, Karnataka Assembly Speaker, UT Khader, on Monday adjourned the House, sharply criticising it for failing to provide answers to unstarred questions of the MLAs despite repeated warnings from the Chair.



Karnataka Speaker UT Khader

Expressing strong dissatisfaction, Khader said the government had been warned multiple times to ensure that replies to legislators' questions were prepared in time.
"If the government fails to answer questions of MLAs, why should they even come to the Assembly? How is this fair? I have already issued strict orders four times, and this is the fifth time," he said.

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Global energy crisis deepens as Iran keeps hold on Hormuz

Allies snub Trump's call to send warships to keep Hormuz open

BEIRUT: Fears of a global energy crisis rose Monday as the war in the Middle East raged on, with more U.S.-Israeli strikes on the Iranian capital and Israel's bombardment of Lebanon. An Iranian drone strike temporarily shut Dubai's airport, a crucial global travel hub, underscoring the threats to the world economy. Since the United States and Israel attacked Iran more than two weeks ago, Tehran has regularly fired on Israel, American bases in the region, and Gulf Arab countries' energy infrastructure with drones and missiles. It has also effectively stopped shipping traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's oil is transported, dramatically increasing the price of oil and putting pressure on Washington to do something to ease the pain consumers are feeling. Brent crude, the international standard, remained stubbornly over \$100 a barrel on Monday. It was at \$104 in early trading, up nearly 45% since the US and Israel attacked Iran on Feb. 28. It has spiked as high as about \$120 during the conflict.



US Prez Trump accuses Iran of spreading lies

Blasts media for disinformation, fake news

WASHINGTON

United States President Donald Trump accused Iran of resorting to 'disinformation' and 'fake news' by using AI and blasted 'radical left-wing' media for spreading 'lies' about the Iran war.
Accusing media outlets, including the Wall Street Journal, of "spreading lies" and using American Airwaves for anti-US propaganda, he said such media outlets should be booked for "Treason."
Trump maintained that Iran is being 'decimated.' He described Iran as "master of media manipulation and public relations," and said that they (Iran) are militarily ineffective and weak but are really good at "feeding" the very appreciative "fake news media" false information.

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INDIA RULES OUT TALKS WITH US ON HORMUZ P5

'DISTORTED PICTURE OF INDIA'

MEA slams US report recommending sanctions on RSS

NEW DELHI

THE Ministry of External Affairs on Monday rejected the annual report of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom for 2026, which recommended targeted sanctions on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Research and Analysis

(USCIRF). We categorically reject its motivated and biased characterization of India.

For several years now, USCIRF has persisted in presenting a distorted and selective picture of India, relying on questionable sources and ideological narratives rather than objective facts. Such repeated misrepresentations only undermine the credibility of the Commission itself," Jaiswal said.



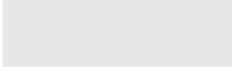
Wing for violations of religious freedom.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, in a statement, said the commission has persisted in presenting a distorted, selective picture of India by relying on questionable sources and ideological narratives rather than objective facts. "We have taken note of the latest report of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom

with selective criticism of India, USCIRF would do well to reflect on the disturbing incidents of vandalism and attacks on Hindu temples in the United States, selective targeting of India, and growing intolerance and intimidation of members of the Indian diaspora in the United States, which merit serious attention," he added.

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Governor, CM unveil Telangana Thalli statue at Assembly



HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

GOVERNOR Shiv Pratap Shukla, along with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, unveiled the Telangana Thalli (Mother Telangana) statue on the premises of Legislative Assembly on Monday. Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukender Reddy, Assembly

Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, along with several Ministers and other dignitaries, were present on the occasion. Earlier, accompanied by the Chief Minister, the Governor paid floral tributes to the statues of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr BR Ambedkar located within the Assembly premises.

Two held within six hours for brutal murder

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

IN a swift breakthrough, Uppal Police of the Malkajgiri Commissionerate arrested two accused within six hours of a brutal murder in Chilkana on Sunday night.

The accused, Banothu Santosh alias Santhu (28), a Rapido rider, and Podishetty Tarun (22), a car driver, both residents of Uppal, allegedly stabbed Paruvula Sudheer Kumar to death following a dispute.

According to police, the incident occurred on March 15 around 7.30 pm after Santosh and Tarun called Sudheer to the Chilkana ground to settle an ongoing quarrel. Sudheer arrived on a motorcycle with his friend Imran Khan. During an argument, Santosh allegedly took out a knife and stabbed Sudheer.

As the victim tried to flee, the duo chased him and stabbed him multiple times, killing him on the spot before fleeing.

Police registered a case under Sections 103(1) read with 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at Uppal Police Station.

Acting swiftly, police teams tracked down and apprehended both the accused on March 16. Officers recovered the knife used in the crime, two mobile phones, an Activa scooter, and the clothes worn during the offence.

Police said the accused and the deceased were long-time friends, and the murder was triggered by a recent quarrel related to a housewarming function and heated exchanges over phone and WhatsApp. The operation was carried out under the supervision of DCP Uppal K Suresh Kumar, along with senior officers and teams from Uppal Police Station and the Special Operations Team.

'Science must drive future healthcare'

HANS NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD: Dr Reddy's Laboratories hosted the fourth edition of the "Dr Anji Reddy Memorial Lecture" here on Sunday, commemorating the 13th death anniversary of its founder Kallam Anji Reddy. Renowned cell biologist Guido Kroemer of Université Paris Cité delivered the lecture on "A Tissue Stress Hormone Driving Pathological Aging". He highlighted the role of Acyl-CoA Binding Protein (ACBP), also known as Diazepam Binding Inhibitor (DBI), a molecule now identified as a "gerogene" that drives aging and could help predict several diseases. Prof. Kroemer noted that understanding and targeting ACBP/DBI could pave the way for innovative anti-aging therapies and prevention of age-related diseases.

Uttam rolls out roadmap to achieve 90 LMT paddy procurement target

- Minister projects paddy cultivation across 54.48 lakh acres, yielding an estimated 152.03 lakh metric tonnes
- Uttam assures farmers that every grain will be procured at the government-fixed MSP without any distress sales

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

MINISTER for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N Uttam Kumar Reddy unveiled a comprehensive action plan to achieve unprecedented paddy procurement target of 90 lakh metric tonnes during the ongoing Rabi season.

Addressing officials, including additional Collectors, district civil supplies officers, and district managers of the Civil Supplies Corporation at a preparatory meeting for Rabi season here on Monday, the Minister projected paddy cultivation across 54.48 lakh acres, yielding an estimated 152.03 lakh metric tonnes.

The Telangana State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited has set an ambitious target of procuring 90 lakh metric tonnes—60 LMT coarse and 30 LMT fine—at the government-fixed Minimum Support price.

To facilitate seamless, farmer-friendly operations, the state will establish 8,251 paddy purchase centres operated by IKP, PACS, and others, equipped with modern tools, adequate storage, transport, and weather vigilance measures, he said.

Emphasising zero distress sales, the Minister assured full procurement of every grain, backed by robust monitoring, godown identification, and on-ground



support to safeguard farmers' interests.

He assured farmers that every grain will be procured at the government-fixed MSP without any distress sales.

There will be unprecedented network of 8,251 paddy purchase centres in Telangana. This massive decentralised network is designed

to minimise hassles for farmers and enable on-the-spot procurement with modern facilities, Uttam Kumar Reddy said. The Minister reiterated the MSP rates fixed for the season at Rs 2,389 per quintal for Grade A and Rs 2,369 per quintal for common variety.

These rates, the Minister stressed, will provide a sig-

nificant boost to farmers' income and act as a safety net against market fluctuations.

Sufficient gunny bags (gunnies) have already been positioned across centres. Officials have been directed to arrange adequate vehicles well in advance for seamless movement of paddy from PPCs to rice mills.

Govt backstabbing farmers while offering Rs 1K crore to RaGa: KTR

- Alleges that the Congress government has deceived every section of society by failing to fulfil the promises it made
- Criticizes the government's alleged plan to allocate Rs 1000 crore to Rahul Gandhi while neglecting farmers in the state
- BRS leaders demand the immediate implementation of the promises made by Congress government, particularly the Six Guarantees

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

BHARAT Rashtira Samithi (BRS) working president and former minister KT Rama Rao strongly criticised the Congress government in Telangana for what he described as a betrayal of farmers and the people of the state.

He alleged that the Congress government has deceived every section of society by failing to fulfil the promises it made before coming to power.

KTR said that the BRS will raise these issues forcefully during the ongoing Assembly budget session and expose what he called the Congress party's betrayal of Telangana.

He particularly criticised the government's alleged plan to allocate ₹1000 crore to Rahul Gandhi while neglecting farmers in the state.

Continuing the tradition of paying homage to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the formation of Telangana, the BRS Legislature Party visited the Telangana Martyrs' Memorial (Gun Park) before attending the Assembly session. BRS MLAs and MLCs paid tributes to the martyrs and staged a protest at the memorial, raising slogans against the Congress government.

During the protest, BRS leaders demanded the immediate implementation of the promises made by the Congress government, particularly the Six Guarantees. They also demanded that the government grant legal status to these guarantees and allocate adequate funds in the state budget for their implementation.

KTR pointed out that the



Congress party had promised to implement the Six Guarantees within 100 days of coming to power and had even declared that legal status would be granted to these guarantees in the very first Cabinet meeting after assuming office. However, he said that even after two and a half years in power, the government has failed to provide legal backing to the Six Guarantees.

KTR criticised the government for failing to implement key welfare schemes for farmers. He said that during the BRS government led by K. Chandrashekar Rao, Rythu Bandhu funds used to be credited to farmers before the sowing season. In contrast, he said, farmers are now completing harvests without receiving any support from the government, and there has been no clarity from the state

on when the assistance will be released.

He said the BRS will question the government during the Assembly session on why it is prioritising political expenditures while neglecting farmers. "This is why we are raising the slogan - 'Not Rahul Bandhu, give Rythu Bandhu; ₹1000 crore for Rahul, but a betrayal for farmers,'" he said.

KTR further accused the Congress government of deceiving multiple sections of society. He said the government had promised a budget allocation of Rs 1 lakh crore for weaker sections over five years. With two budgets already presented and the third underway, at least Rs 60,000 crore should have been allocated by now, but there is no clarity on this commitment, KT Rama Rao said. (NSS)

Allocate Rs.60,000 cr for BC welfare: BC leaders

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

AN all-party meeting of BC intellectuals and political representatives demanded Rs.60,000 crore allocation for Backward Classes welfare in the upcoming Telangana budget.

Addressing the meeting, Dundra Kumara Swamy, Chairman of the BC Reservations Struggle Coordination Joint Action Committee (JAC) and National President of BC Dal, said budget allocations must reflect the 'population share of Backward Classes'.

With the state budget expected to exceed Rs.3 lakh crore, he urged the government to earmark substantial funds for education, employment, self-employment and economic empowerment of BC communities.

Kumara Swamy also called for caste enumeration and implementation of promises made in the Kamareddy Declaration, stating that population-proportionate budgeting is essential for social justice. Several BC leaders and intellectuals attended the meeting and resolved to intensify their efforts until equitable budget allocations are ensured.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public in General are hereby informed that Sri Peddi Narayana, S/o. Bheemalingam R/o. H.No. 2-10-740, Jyothinagar Karimnagar City, has approached the STATE BANK OF INDIA, RAS-MECC, Karimnagar, for availing loan stating that he has purchased the schedule property from Madadi Praveena under Regd Sale Deed bearing Doc No. 4005/1998 dt:27-07-1998. on the file of SRO Karimnagar.

The Applicant informed that he has lost the original Link Regd Sale Deed bearing doc No:3938/1998 dt:31-07-1997 while travelling. In this regard, he lodged a complaint before the Inspector of police PS II Town Karimnagar informing the same and has issued a certificate No.1520100326193622239 dt:12-03-2026 stating that efforts were made to trace out the missing document, but could not be traced.

Description of schedule property All that the House bearing Door No: 2-10-556/B (old) 2-10-740 (New) with an area measuring 201.42 Sq Yds Situated at Jyothinagar locality of Karimnagar City, within the limits of Municipal Corporation, Karimnagar, bounded by: East: 30 feet wide Road, West: House of Komuriah, North: House of V. Ramulu, South: House of V. Rajah.

Therefore, all general public, private and public sector institutions are hereby informed that they may raise objections if any within (7) days from the date of this publication to the following address with documentary proof, if they got any objections regarding the above property. After expiry of stipulated period the said borrower will not be responsible for the objection raised if any and my client's bank will proceed further.

Sd/- J. VENU GOPAL RAO
SBI PANEL ADVOCATE
H.No.2-8-176,Behind Circus Ground,
Mukampura, Karimnagar
Cell No: 9849293031

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE DEPARTMENT

DISTRICT COLLECTOR LAND ACQUISITION DEPARTMENT
ADILABAD

FORM-VI (PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION)

(As per state rule 19(1) and Sec 11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act-2013(Central Act 30/2013) Collector File No. G1/816/2018 Date: -02-2026 RDO File No. B/105/2022 Date -02-2026

Where as it appears that an extent of AC. 15.16 Gts of Land situated at 1) KARANJI, 2) NARAYANAPUR and 3) SANGIDI Villages of Jainadh Mandal of Adilabad Districts is required on public purpose i.e. Construction of (D1) Distributory DL-19 Main 4L Canals of Inter State Lower Pen Ganga Project. Hence Notification is issued for the Lands detailed in the Annexure and social impact study Report is not required for Irrigation Department Projects as per sec 6(2) of the (Act 30/2013).

And chapter II and III of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 is exempted vide Government orders Department date: 25-07-2017 vide Govt. Ordere G.O.Ms.No. 58 I & CAD (LA,R&R/AZ) to this Inter state Lower Pen Ganga Project.

Therefore, Preliminary Notification is issued to Start Land Acquisition works for an extent of AC. 15.16 Gts of Land situated at 1) Karanji, 2) Narayanapur and 3) Sangidi Villages of Jainadh Mandal of Adilabad District, whose details are given below

SCHEDULE

Villages: Karanji & Mandal: Jainadh/ District: Adilabad

Narayanapur & Sangidi

No. Sl. No. Survey No. Area in Sq Yds. Name of the Patta/Father Name of the Patta/Father Trees/Bore well/etc.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

1 45/2 45/2 1.03 Patta/Dry 0.26 Sama Abhiram Reddy S/o Sama Reddy Own Nil Under Ground Pipe Line

2 45/2 45/2 0.08 Patta/Dry 0.08 Sama Linga Reddy S/o Sama Reddy Own Nil

3 45/2 45/2 0.07 Patta/Dry 0.07 Sama Ashish Reddy S/o Sama Reddy Own Nil

4 45/2 45/2 0.01 Patta/Dry 0.01 Sama Ashok Reddy S/o Naaranna Reddy Own Nil

5 45/2 45/2 0.00 Patta/Dry 0.00 Sama Anil Reddy S/o Sama Reddy Own Nil

6 46/2 46/2 0.08 Patta/Dry 0.08 Yelma Rajnikanth Reddy S/o Sama Reddy Own Nil

7 47/2 47/2 1.01 Patta/Dry 0.29 Sama Meenashi W/o S/o Prabhakar Reddy Own Nil

8 47/2 47/2 0.12 Patta/Dry 0.12 Samavath Guvathur Reddy S/o Sama Reddy Own Nil

9 50/2 50/2 0.03 Patta/Dry 0.09 Yello Naveen Reddy S/o Vittal Reddy Own Nil

10 50/2 50/2 0.24 Patta/Dry 0.24 Gangam Ram Reddy S/o Shiva Reddy Own Nil

11 51/2 51/2 0.01 Patta/Dry 0.01 Thamma Gangai Bai W/o Pochiram Own Nil

Total 3.06 3.06

2-Narayanapur Village Bela Mandal (DL-19, 4L Sub-Minor, 13 L, Minor)

1 42/2 42/2 1.09 Patta/Dry 1.09 Sama Vidya Rani S/o Sama Reddy Own Nil Drip/Under Ground Line

2 16/2 16/2 2.34 Patta/Dry 0.19 M.Narasimha Reddy S/o Venkat Reddy Own Nil

3 16/2 16/2 0.18 Patta/Dry 0.18 Tirupathi Reddy S/o Sama Reddy Own Nil

4 16/2 16/2 0.20 Patta/Dry 0.20 M. Kamanna S/o Sama Reddy Own Nil

5 16/2 16/2 0.20 Patta/Dry 0.20 M. Deva Reddy S/o Venkat Reddy Own Nil

6 16/2 16/2 0.37 Patta/Dry 0.37 M.Narasimha Reddy S/o Sama Reddy Own Nil

7 28/2 28/2 1.13 Patta/Dry 0.27 Nakkhar Narayana S/o Devanna Own Nil

8 28/2 28/2 0.26 Patta/Dry 0.26 M.Narasimha Reddy S/o Sama Reddy Own Nil

9 29/2 29/2 1.16 Patta/Dry 1.16 Pramodh Kumar S/o Lohith Reddy Own Nil

10 32/2 32/2 1.02 Patta/Dry 1.02 1. Gaidam Ramdas G.Rohidas S/o Davu Nil

2. Gyanan Das S/o Davu Nil

3. Rohi Das S/o Varlu Nil

4. Kavalidas S/o Davu Nil

5. Gandan S/o Hunya Nil

6. Mothian S/o Nanaji Nil

7. Gangaram S/o Vithu Nil

8.21 (8.30-10.09-8.21)

11 33/2 33/2 0.27 Patta/Dry 0.13 Yello Govathani Reddy S/o Shuma Reddy Own Nil

12 33/2 33/2 0.13 Patta/Dry 0.13 Yello Jayashanth Reddy S/o Shuma Reddy Own Nil

Total 8.21

3-Sangidi Village Bela Mandal (DL-19, 4L Sub-Minor, 13 L, Minor)

1 128/2 128/2 0.33 Patta/Dry 0.33 Kunta Rama Sai S/o Ganesh Reddy Own Nil

2 130/2 130/2 0.24 Patta/Dry 0.24 Kunta Rama Sai S/o W/o Raghu Reddy Own Nil

3 131/2 131/2 1.11 Patta/Dry 1.11 Hema W/o Madhusudan Reddy Own Nil

4 133/2 133/2 0.39 Patta/Dry 0.39 Kunta Bharathi W/o Rajashekar Reddy Own Nil

5 134/2 134/2 0.02 Patta/Dry 0.02 Gohankar Prabhakar S/o Vaaru Own Nil

Total 3.29 3.29

Grand Total 15.16 15.16

This Notification is issued to inform concerned people as per Sec 11 (1) of the Right to Fair compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

Chapter-II and III Social impact provisions will not applicable to Inter state lower pen Ganga Project Construction. Plan of the Lands may be inspected in the office of the District collector (Land Acquisition) Revenue Divisional Officer during working hours on any working day. The Government of Telangana / Collector-cum-appropriate Government is pleased to authorize Officers, employees and his staff to enter upon and survey Land, take levels of any Land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work to determine the Land to be acquired as per section-12 of the said Act. Under section 13(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction of Land/Create any encumbrance on Such Land from the date of Publication of Preliminary Notification without prior Approved of the Special Collector After issuance of this Preliminary Notification.

Objections to the acquisition if any, in writing may be filed by Such persons within (60) days from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section 15 of the Act before Land Acquisition officer.

Sd/- Sd/- Sd/-

Rev.Div.Officer and Adil. Collector Dist. Collector

Land Acquisition Officer, Adilabad Adilabad

Adilabad DIPR No.1291/LA/PP/Adv/PUB/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public in general are hereby informed that Sri Sudagani Sarvaiah, S/o. Rajahai, R/o. Ramnagar, Karimnagar made an application for sanction and release of Mortgage loan before M/s. IDFC First Bank Ltd, Karimnagar Branch and offered the property House bearing H.No. 10-1-556/a, measuring 300.66 Sq. Yards in Sy. No. 1147, situated at Ramnagar, Karimnagar Town & Municipal Corporation. The said Sri Sudagani Sarvaiah has got said house land from Sri Sudagani Narayana, S/o. Rajahai, R/o. Ramnagar, Karimnagar through Registered Gift Deed No. 8952/2008. It is represented by Sri Sudagani Sarvaiah that he was lost one of its link document i.e. Original Registered Gift Deed No. 9475/2010 and the same was not traceable. Therefore general public are hereby informed that if anybody has got any claim or right over the above said document they may submit his objections with documentary evidence within one week from this notice to the undersigned. Later, M/s. IDFC First Bank Ltd, Karimnagar Branch will initiate the loan proceedings.

Sd/- Sana Chandra Mohan
Sana Akhil
Advocates Flat No. 303, Sree Sai
Avenue, Mukampura, Karimnagar
Mobile: 96660 77777, 77996 69999

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA ROADS & BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

1) Online tenders are invited under e-procurement platform for the work of 1 No of Building work in Khammam District vide Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle, Khammam e NIT No.14/SE/R&B/KMM/2025-26 Date: 13.03.2026.

2) The interested bidders can download the tender schedule from e-market place i.e. www.tender.telangana.gov.in. The last date of receipt of tenders is on or before 30.03.2026 up to 3:30 PM.

3) Further details can be seen at e-procurement market place www.tender.telangana.gov.in

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (R&B)Circle:Khammam
DIPR.R.O.No.: 17096-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26 Date: 16-03-26

HARISH Rao, BRS Deputy Floor Leader and former minister, launched a sharp attack on the Congress government in Telangana, accusing Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy of failing to safeguard the state's water rights in the Krishna River and Godavari River basins.

Addressing a press conference at the Assembly Media Hall here on Monday, Harish Rao alleged that the Congress government had adopted an "irresponsible and shortsighted" approach, allowing injustice to Telangana in river water allocations.

He claimed the state's interests had effectively been

HARISH RAO SLAMS GOVT OVER TELANGANA WATER RIGHTS

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

- Notes that projects totalling about 400 TMC were taken up during the BRS tenure to utilise the state's share
- Claims the state's interests had effectively been "mortgaged" to neighbouring government in Andhra Pradesh
- Alleges that the Congress government had adopted an "irresponsible and shortsighted" approach, allowing injustice to Telangana in river water allocations

"mortgaged" to neighbouring N Chandrababu Naidu's government in Andhra Pradesh.

The BRS leader contrasted the current situation with the previous BRS regime under former chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao, stating that the earlier government had worked extensively to secure Telangana's share of river waters.

He said the BRS government ensured protection of Telangana's rights under the Bachawat Tribunal award and pushed major irrigation projects to utilise the allocated share. He claimed that out of the 1,400 TMC of water available in the Godavari basin, 968 TMC had been secured for Telangana, while Andhra Pradesh was allocated 518 TMC.

He also noted that projects

totalling about 400 TMC were taken up during the BRS tenure to utilise the state's share.

Accusing the Centre of siding with Andhra Pradesh, the BRS leader alleged that the BJP-led Central government was supporting attempts to divert Telangana's water. Referring to a meeting of irrigation officials from both states held in New Delhi on January 30, Harish Rao said Andhra Pradesh had proposed arguments claiming there were no specific state-wise allocations in the Godavari basin. He criticised the Telangana government for failing to respond to the meeting minutes even after more than a month, questioning whether the government had effectively conceded Telangana's share.



Harish Rao also questioned the role of the Central Water Commission and the Godavari River Management Board in revisiting tribunal allocations. He pointed out that approvals for multiple projects in the Godavari basin were granted based on the tribunal award.

The BRS leader further alleged that Andhra Pradesh

was now seeking nearly 775 TMC of Godavari water and warned that Telangana's rights were under threat.

Demanding immediate action, Harish Rao urged the Congress government to respond strongly to the Centre and ensure protection of Telangana's water rights in both the Krishna and Godavari river basins. (NSS)

Summer relief measures rolled out for devotees at Bhimeshwara Swamy temple

- Water centres, fans and shade tents arranged across premises
- WhatsApp service launched for easy access to temple information

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAJANNA SIRCILLA



IN view of the rising summer temperatures, the temple administration introduced a series of relief measures for devotees at Sri Bhimeshwara Swamy Temple, an affiliated shrine of Sri Rajarajeshwara Swamy Devasthanam. The arrangements were implemented under the supervision of temple Executive Officer L. Ramadevi, who has been taking a keen interest in improving facilities for visiting devotees.

As part of the initiative, the temple administration introduced a WhatsApp information service to help devotees access details about temple rituals, services and facilities. Visitors can obtain complete

information by scanning the QR code installed on the temple premises or by sending a "Hi" message to 8736936969.

To provide relief from the summer heat, two large fans were installed within the temple premises, while additional fans and lighting arrangements were made at several locations to improve comfort for devotees waiting in queues. Two drinking water centres named "Rajanna Jalaprasadam" were also set up, and drinking water taps were installed along the queue lines for easy access.

Volunteers were deployed through Cool Bubbles to

distribute drinking water to devotees at different points across the temple premises. In addition, shade tents were erected to allow devotees to rest comfortably while waiting for darshan.

A dedicated water plant was also established at Bhimeshwara Sadan, from where drinking water was supplied to devotees as well as temple offices.

Temple officials stated that the arrangements were part of the temple administration's efforts to ensure that devotees experienced a comfortable and hassle-free darshan during the summer season.

CPI stages protest in Naspoor against rise in LPG gas prices

- CPI leaders stage protest at Telangana Talli statue centre in Naspoor
- Party demands rollback of LPG price hike and reduction in essential commodity prices
- Leaders accuse Centre's policies of burdening common people and hurting small businesses

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MANCHERIAL

LEADERS and activists of the Communist Party of India (CPI) staged a protest in Naspoor on Monday condemning the Central government over the recent increase in cooking gas prices and the rising cost of essential commodities. The demonstration was organised under the leadership of the Naspoor Mandal Committee at the Telangana Talli statue centre.



Leaders and activists of the Communist Party of India condemning the Central government over the recent increase in cooking gas prices and the rising cost of essential commodities

During the protest, CPI leaders raised slogans against the price hike and demanded that the government immediately reduce the prices of domestic LPG cylinders and other essential goods. They alleged that the sudden increase had placed a heavy burden on common people already struggling with ris-

ing living costs. The party leaders also criticised the international policies of the United States and alleged that global political developments were creating instability. They accused US President Donald Trump of acting like a global dictator and claimed that unilateral actions in collaboration with

Israel against Iran were contributing to global crises. They further alleged that India's sovereignty was being compromised, claiming that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had been forced to seek approval from the United States even in decisions related to oil purchases. According to them, such devel-

opments were detrimental to India's independent economic policy.

The CPI leaders expressed anger over the sudden increase of Rs.60 in the price of domestic gas cylinders, stating that it had caused severe hardship for ordinary citizens.

They said that small hotels and hostels were particularly affected by the hike and some establishments were facing closure due to rising operational costs.

Condemning what they termed as the Central government's "irresponsible policies", the protestors demanded that the price hike be rolled back immediately. They also urged the government to take strict action to prevent black-market practices and ensure the availability of cooking gas to the public at reasonable prices.

Collector inspects Gurukul School, stresses quality education

Chitra Mishra reviews facilities and directs officials to ensure better amenities for students

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KARIMNAGAR

DISTRICT Collector Chitra Mishra conducted a surprise inspection of the Mahatma Jyothiba Phule Gurukul Girls School at Thimmapur on Monday and directed officials to ensure quality education and proper facilities for students.

During the visit, the Collector inspected classrooms and interacted with students to enquire about their studies, hostel facilities and the quality of food being served. Students informed her that the arrangements were satisfactory.

She later examined the staff room, kitchen, store room and dormitories, and reviewed the stock of food items while instructing officials to check expiry dates



Collector Chitra Mishra interacting with students

regularly and ensure meals are served according to the prescribed menu.

The Collector also stressed the need to maintain sanitation, monitor drinking water supply and complete pending works at the institution at the earliest. She assured that steps would be taken to address the monkey menace reported on the campus.

District Backward Classes Welfare Officer Anil Prakash, Gurukul Principal Sarita and other officials were present during the inspection.

Arvind Dharmapuri seeks immediate maize procurement centres in Nizamabad

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NIZAMABAD

MP Arvind Dharmapuri urged the District Collector to immediately establish maize procurement centres in the district to safeguard farmers from financial losses. In a letter addressed to the Collector, the MP highlighted that farmers in Nizamabad had harvested a large maize crop this season but were facing difficulties due to the delay in opening government purchase centres.

He said that although the Central Government had fixed the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for maize at Rs 2,400 per quintal, the absence of procurement centres had forced farmers to sell their produce to private traders at much lower prices ranging



between Rs 1,700 and Rs 1,800 per quintal.

The MP stated that as a result, each farmer was suffering an estimated loss of around

Rs 20,000 to Rs 25,000. He requested the District Collector to take immediate steps to set up maize procurement centres and ensure that farmers could sell their produce at the MSP.

Arvind Dharmapuri also suggested that all necessary arrangements be made to facilitate a smooth procurement process so that farmers do not face any inconvenience and maize purchases could begin without further delay.

EO inspects prasadam preparation unit at Sri Bhimeshwara Swamy Temple

- EO reviews quality, weight standards and hygiene practices in prasadam preparation
- Officials instructed to ensure safety measures and maintain cleanliness in temple kitchen

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAJANNA SIRCILLA



TEMPLE Executive Officer Ramadevi inspected the laddu prasadam preparation centre at the Sri Bhimeshwara Swamy Temple, an affiliated shrine of the Sri Rajarajeshwara Swamy Devasthanam, in Vemulawada of Rajanna Sircilla district on Monday.

During the inspection, she reviewed the laddu prasadam preparation process and verified the weight and quality standards being maintained at the centre. She instructed officials to ensure that prasadam distributed to devotees strictly adheres to

hygiene and quality norms. Ramadevi also examined whether kitchen staff were following proper cleanliness protocols, including wearing head caps while preparing the prasadam. She further inspected the availability and condition of fire extinguishers kept for emergency situations and issued several directions to officials regarding safety measures at the facility.

Temple staff and employees accompanied EO Ramadevi during the inspection.

Collector Ila Tripathi directs speedy resolution of public complaints

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NIZAMABAD

COLLECTOR Ila Tripathi directed officials to ensure the speedy resolution of public complaints during the weekly Public Complaints Programme held on Monday at the conference hall of the Integrated District Offices Complex. She emphasised that public grievances must be given top priority and resolved without

unnecessary delay. The programme was attended by Sub-Collectors Vikas Mahato and Abhigyan Malviya. In-charge Additional Collector Dilip Kumar, DRDO Saigaud, RDO Rajendra Kumar and Bodhan ACP Srinivas, who received complaints from members of the public. A total of 80 complaints were registered during the session and were subsequently forwarded to the respective depart-



ments for necessary action. During the programme, the Collector expressed concern over the delay of several officers in attending the public grievance meeting. She directed all officials to strictly adhere to time management and instructed them to ensure their presence by 10:30 am, the scheduled time for the programme to begin. Officers from various departments participated in the grievance redressal session.

Congress consolidates power in Dharmapuri with Adluri Laxman Kumar at the helm

- Congress strengthens its position in Dharmapuri after winning 15 municipal wards
- Adluri Laxman Kumar plays key role in removing constituency from BRS influence
- Development plans prepared for Dharmapuri ahead of Godavari Pushkarams

THIRUNAGARI
VENKATESWARA SWAMY
KARIMNAGAR

MINISTER Adluri Laxman Kumar has been steadily making his mark in the Dharmapuri constituency after the Congress party secured a significant victory in the Dharmapuri municipal elections. The minister, regarded as a loyal Congress leader and grassroots worker, played a key role in ensur-

ing the party's success, with Congress winning 15 wards in the municipality.

Political observers said the result marked a major shift in the region's political landscape. Dharmapuri had long been considered a stronghold of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS). However, under the leadership of Adluri Laxman Kumar and with the support of the state leadership led by A. Revanth Reddy, the constituency witnessed a notable political turnaround, with Congress now consolidating its position.

From the state Congress leadership to political analysts, the victory has been widely discussed as a sign of changing political equations in Dharmapuri. Observers described the result not merely as an electoral win but as a reflection of growing public trust in the Congress leadership in the region.



Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar

Dharmapuri constituency, which emerged after the re-organisation of constituencies, had for years remained under the influence of rival parties, particularly the BRS.

Many political watchers had initially doubted whether the Congress could regain its footing in the region. However, the 2023 Assembly elections altered the political

trajectory when Adluri Laxman Kumar secured victory as MLA.

After entering the Assembly, the minister reportedly strengthened his political base by maintaining direct contact with the public and focusing on resolving local issues. His approach of engaging with grassroots concerns helped the party expand its support base across the constituency. The Congress party's growing influence was also reflected in local body elections, where 108 Congress-backed candidates reportedly secured victories in 149 gram panchayats within the Dharmapuri constituency. Political observers considered this outcome a significant achievement for the minister and an indication of the party's expanding organisational strength in rural areas.

Adluri Laxman Kumar began his political journey as a

student leader and gradually rose through the ranks. His career path, starting from local body politics and advancing to district-level leadership before entering the Assembly and becoming a minister, has been viewed by many as an inspiring political journey.

Local residents said the minister had been focusing on both development initiatives and the implementation of welfare schemes in the constituency. Plans were also reportedly being prepared to enhance the development of Dharmapuri town in view of the upcoming Godavari Pushkaralu, which attracts large numbers of devotees and visitors.

Observers believed that the recent electoral victories and developmental focus could further strengthen the Congress party's presence in Dharmapuri in the coming years.

Hans India Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, LTKIYALA BABA alias SHAIK HUSSAIN, S/o. SHAIK MOHABOOB, R/o. Amberpet, Chenna Reddy Nagar, Hyderabad District -500013 have changed my name to: Name/Surname as **GAJULA LAXMI SHAIK HUSSAIN** for all purposes. (TH_22870)

I, MOHAMMED OSMAN, S/o. MOHAMMED RAFI, R/o. Ashoknagar, Karimnagar District -505001, declare that name of my mother has been wrongly written as NASEEMA BEGUM in my Board Of Secondary Education instead of **NASEEMA PARVEEN** respectively which may be amended accordingly. (TH_22871)

I, GHULAM SAFDAR ALI SIDDIQUI S/O. GHULAM ASGHAR ALI SIDDIQUI R/O.H.NO:5-7-873, HOUSING BOARD COLONY, KARIMNAGAR. I HAVE CHANGED NAME AS **GULAM SAFDAR ALI SIDDIQUI S/O. GHULAM ASGHAR ALI SIDDIQUI** (TH_KMG00D)

I, PENDI RAJANNA S/o PENDI PEDDA RAJANNA R/o:1-64, Dammannapet, Dharapally, Nizamabad Dist.I have Changed My Name/Surname as **PINDI RAJANNA** (TH_44949)

I, PENDI LAXMI W/O PENDI RAJANNA R/O 1-64 Dammannapet Dharpally Nizamabad I have changed my name /Surname as **PINDI LAXMI W/O PINDI RAJANNA** (TH_44949)

I, Tankasala Nareesh S/o Pedda Narsaiah R/o:2-96, Muniapally, Jakranpally, Nizamabad Dist.I have Changed My Name/Surname as **TANKASALA NAREESH REDDY S/o Pedda Narsaiah** (TH_44949)

I, Tankasala Vanetha W/o Tankasala Nareesh R/o:2-96, Muniapally, Jakranpally, Nizamabad Dist. I have Changed My Name/Surname as **TANKASALA VANITHA W/O TANKASALA NAREESH REDDY** (TH_44949)

I, Golla Chinnalaih S/o Samburu Gangaram Golla R/o:1-44/1, Venchiryal, Mupkal, Nizamabad Dist.I Have Changed my Name/ Surname as **ETTEPU CHINNA CHINNAIAH** (TH_44949)

I, Golla Navaneetha W/o Golla Chinnalaih R/o:1-44/1, Venchiryal,Mupkal, Nizamabad Dist.I Have Changed my Name/Surname as **ETTEPU NAVANEETHA W/O ETTEPU CHINNA CHINNAIAH** (TH_44949)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Gajula Laxmibai W/o Gajula Gangaram R/o:4-34, Ankapur,Armoor, Nizamabad Dist.I have Changed My Name/Surname as **GAJULA LAXMI GAJULA CHINNA GANGARAM** (TH_44949)

I, Gajula Gangaram S/o Gajula Mallaiiah R/o:4-34, Ankapur, Armoor, Nizamabad Dist.I have Changed My Name/Surname as **GAJULA CHINNA GANGARAM** (TH_44949)

I, Gajula Mallaiiah R/o:4-34, Ankapur, Armoor, Nizamabad Dist.I have Changed My Name/Surname as **GAJULA CHINNA GANGARAM** (TH_44949)

I, SAYANMA W/o GAJULA MALLAIAH R/o:4-34, Ankapur,Armoor Nizamabad I have changed my name/ Surname as **GAJULA LAXMI GAJULA CHINNA GANGARAM** (TH_44949)

I, TUMMANAPELly REVATI, W/o. Ramadugu, Karimnagar, TS, Have changed my name as **THUMMANAPELly VANAJA, W/o. ANJANEYULU** (TH_44949)

I, TUMMANAPELly ANJANEYULU, S/o. NARAHARI, R/o.5-23, Vedira, Ramadugu, Karimnagar, TS, Have changed my name as **THUMMANAPELly ANJANEYULU, S/o. NARAHARI** (TH_44949)

LOST

Peddala Raju S/o Peddala Pentayya R/O 4-36, Dacharam, Bejanki Mandal Siddipet. Have lost my passport (passport No:A2723307) When I was Traveling from Dacharam to Bejanki on the Bike. If anyone find please cont: 905999093 (TH_44949)

I, JILLA MEGHANA, D/o.10-2-726, Vidhya nagar, karimnagar, TS, I lost my original valid indian passport bearing no:U8559928, Issue date:19/01/2021, issued at HYD, while travelling by bike at Vidyannagar area, if anybody found pl contact- 9032690320 (TH_44949)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Nalla Shoba Rani W/o Ex No. 618887L, Sgt, Shaga Eshwara nath (Late), R/o H. No.17-9-532, Chowni nada ali bagh, Yakutpura, Charminar Dist: Hyderabad Pin-500023 Telangana State, I have changed my name from Shobha Rani to Nalla Shoba Rani. (TH_ODELU)

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BRS slams Guv's speech, says govt 'forced false claims'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

BRS leaders on Monday strongly criticised the Governor's address at the start of the Telangana Assembly Budget session, alleging the Congress government forced the Governor to present misleading claims.

Former minister Vemula Prashanth Reddy said the speech delivered by Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla was "hollow" and failed to reflect the realities in the state.

Addressing the media at the Assembly, he alleged that the Congress government compelled the Governor to present falsehoods while ignoring key election promises such as the party's "Six Guar-



antees" and "420 promises". Prashanth Reddy said the Governor's address contained no reference to welfare promises, including the Rs.2,500 monthly financial

assistance pledged to women. He also claimed that issues concerning farmers, unemployed youth, the elderly, widows and persons with disabilities were completely

absent from the speech.

The BRS leader further accused the government of misleading the public about employment, alleging that while it claimed to have

provided 60,000 jobs, only around 12,000 posts had actually been filled.

Echoing the criticism, BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy said the Governor's speech did not mention the Six Guarantees even though the Congress government was presenting its third budget since coming to power under Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.

He alleged that the promised Rs.15,000 assistance under the Rythu Bharosa scheme had not yet been disbursed to farmers.

BRS leaders said they would continue to raise the issue in the Assembly until the Congress government fulfils all the promises made to the people.

Tribal pregnant woman murdered in Kagaznagar

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KAGAZNAGAR



File photo of Athram Sammakka

A 25-year-old tribal woman, who was seven months pregnant, was found murdered in a forest area between Kondapalli and Sulugupalli villages in Penchikalpet mandal, allegedly by a man after she insisted that he marry her.

Police said Athram Sammakka, daughter of Shankar from Kondapalli, was bludgeoned to death by K Jalapathi from Jaihindpur hamlet in the forest area between the two villages on Saturday.

Her body was traced in the forest after Jalapathi's brother alerted the local police about the incident.

According to the police, Jalapathi, who is already married, informed his brother over the phone after murdering Sammakka, stating that he

killed her because she was pestering him to marry her.

Despite being married, he had reportedly maintained a close relationship with the woman for around four years. Sammakka was seven months pregnant and had asked him to marry her. Jalapathi allegedly asked Sammakka to

meet him in Jaihindpur and took her into the forest area, where he killed her. Based on a complaint lodged by the victim's family members, a case was registered against Jalapathi under the SC, ST Prevention of Atrocities Act and for murder under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Gas cylinder stolen in broad daylight

CCTV footage puts Kodad on alert



HANS NEWS SERVICE
KODAD

A daylight theft incident in Kodad town of Suryapet district has raised concerns among local residents and shop owners.

An unidentified person

allegedly stole a gas cylinder from a tractor repair shop, highlighting growing worries about petty thefts in the town. The incident reportedly took place on Sunday afternoon at a tractor repair shop located near the main road in Kodad.

According to local sources, the area had very little public movement at the time. Taking advantage of the situation, an unidentified man entered the premises and quietly lifted a gas cylinder that had been kept outside the shop.

He then left the spot without attracting attention.

The shop owner later noticed that the cylinder was missing and searched the surrounding area, but could not find any trace of it.

Suspecting theft, he checked the CCTV cameras installed at the shop. The footage reportedly showed a man carrying away the gas cylinder, confirming that it had been stolen.

After receiving information about the incident, police initiated an investigation.

Officials said they are examining the CCTV footage to identify the suspect and trace his whereabouts.

The theft has sparked concern among local residents, especially in the backdrop of reported gas shortages.

Police have advised shop owners and residents to be cautious and ensure that gas cylinders are stored safely to prevent such incidents.

Locals say that small-scale thefts have been increasing in Kodad in recent times.

They expressed worry that such crimes are occurring not only at night but also during daytime, creating a sense of insecurity among residents and traders in the town.

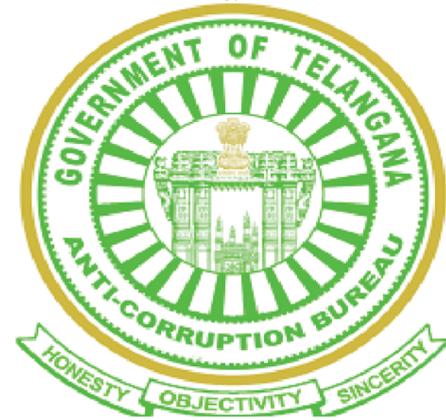
ACB check exposes malpractices in Kamareddy municipality

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KAMAREDDY

OFFICIALS of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Nizamabad Range, conducted a surprise check at the Office of the Municipal Commissioner, Kamareddy Municipality on Monday and detected several administrative and financial irregularities during inspection of records and functioning of the office.

During the inspection, ACB officials found that 47 complaints of unauthorized constructions were received during 2025-26 and notices were issued in most cases. However, no further action was taken even after the stipulated time period lapsed.

The inspection also revealed that over 400 commercial establishments failed



to renew their trade licences during 2025-26, leading to pending dues of around Rs.1 crore to the municipality.

Field verification by ACB officials also detected variations in property tax as-

proper documentation and records, warranting further verification.

In another irregularity, ACB found that some outsourcing employees marked absent for certain days were still shown as having received full-month salaries in payment records.

Officials also noted delays in processing building permissions. Since December 2025, 169 applications were received, of which 18 exceeded the prescribed 21-day processing period.

ACB officials said a detailed report will be submitted to the Government recommending appropriate action against the concerned municipal officials.

The ACB urged the citizens to report corruption by calling its toll-free helpline 1064.

HPV Vaccine can prevent 90% of cervical cancer: Awareness drive for girls in Hyderabad

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

ON the occasion of National Vaccination Day, the Press Information Bureau (PIB) Hyderabad organised a 'VARTA' awareness programme to educate adolescent girls about the importance of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in preventing cervical cancer.

The programme was held at a government school in Musheerabad and targeted girls aged 14-15 years as part of the national HPV vaccination campaign launched on February 28 for a 90-day period.

A dramatised presentation was also staged to spread awareness about the vaccine.

Addressing the gathering, PIB Additional Director General Shruithi Patil said the campaign aims to ensure every 14-year-old girl receives the vaccine free of cost as a preventive measure against cervical cancer, contributing to a healthier India. Senior Medical Officer Dr Chandini clarified misconceptions about the vaccine, stating that claims linking it to pregnancy or menstrual issues are false. She noted that the vaccine is safe and can prevent nearly 90 percent of cervical cancer, the second most common cancer among women in India. She added that it can also help prevent oral and anal cancers. Teachers, students and staff from PIB and the Central Bureau of Communication participated in the awareness programme

Karnan conducts surprise inspection in Goshamahal, Karwan circles

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

AS part of the State government's 99-day programme "Praja Palana - Pragathi Pranalika", GHMC Commissioner RV Karnan conducted surprise early-morning inspections in Goshamahal and Karwan circles on Monday. During the visit, the Commissioner inspected the ongoing junction development works at Bhagat Singh Junction. He also reviewed the functioning of the Indiramma canteen at the location and instructed officials to immediately undertake patchwork on the surrounding roads to improve commuting conditions for the public.

The commissioner also reviewed the maintenance of public toilets being managed under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. Interacting with the caretaker, he verified the attendance of sanitation staff and directed officials to ensure that the facilities are kept clean and hygienic at all times.

Later, accompanied by Zonal Commissioner (Golconda) Mukunda Reddy, Assistant Commissioner (Sanitation) Ravi Kiran, officials from the engineer-



ing and sanitation wings, and Ramky representatives, the commissioner conducted a walk-through inspection of nearby roads and Garbage Vulnerable Points (GVPs).

During the inspection, he instructed officials to remove encroachments near the Ambedkar community hall and directed that the facility be made ready for inauguration on the occasion of Ugadi, the Telugu New Year.

Subsequently, Karnan inspected the 100-foot road at Jiyaguda, where he reviewed the progress of sanitation and road maintenance works and directed officials to expedite development activities in the area. Officials including the zonal commissioner, SE, EE, DEEs, AEs and sanitation staff from Karwan circle were present during the inspection.

NAARM hosts national workshop to boost fisheries start-ups

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

A two-day national workshop on "Strengthening Academia-Industry Linkage in the Fisheries Sector" began at the National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) here on Monday.

Chief guest BK Behera, Chief Executive of the National Fisheries Development Board, highlighted the vast start-up opportunities in fisheries, urging the students to utilise government funding schemes and create employment.

The workshop aims to bridge the gap between academic research and commercial application by promoting collaborative research, curriculum development, technology transfer and start-up incubation.

PE Vijay Anand, India Lead for Soy Excellence Centres, stressed the need to update fisheries curriculum with business and entrepreneurship skills.

Guest of honour KR Sreenath, Director General of the Fishery Survey of India, said the sector will witness major changes in standards, certification and production technologies in the coming years.

A publication titled "Workshop Manual on Fisheries Science Curriculum in India" was released at the event.

The workshop features panel discussions on academia-industry convergence, fisheries economics, aquaculture, aquatic animal health and resource management to strengthen long-term partnerships in the sector.

DAK ADALAT on March 24 in Hyd south east postal division

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Hyderabad South East Postal Division will conduct a "Divisional Level Dak Adalat" to address public complaints related to postal services on March 24 at 12 noon.

The Adalat will be held at the Office of the Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, Hyderabad South East Division, located on the first floor of the Charminar Head Post Office building, Hyderabad - 500002.

Members of the public who have grievances regarding postal services under the jurisdiction of the

Hyderabad South East Division can submit their complaints to "The Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, Hyderabad South East Division, Hyderabad - 500002" on or before March 23.

The letters and envelopes should be clearly superscribed "Divisional Level Dak Adalat". Complaints can also be sent through email to dohyderabad@southeast.ap@india-post.gov.in or sspshse2005@gmail.com.

Postal officials said the Dak Adalat is aimed at providing a platform for the public to resolve grievances related to postal services quickly and effectively.

TGSRTC plans spl buses to meet Ugadi, Ramadan rush

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) has announced special bus services ahead of the upcoming Ugadi and Ramadan festivals to manage the surge in passenger traffic.

Heavy travel demand is expected on March 17 and 18, with return-journey rush likely on March 23 as people travel back after the celebrations.

Special buses will be operated during these peak days to ensure smooth transportation for passengers travelling to their native places.

As per GO 16 issued in



2003, the corporation is authorised to revise fares for special festival buses to cover diesel and maintenance costs.

Accordingly, TGSRTC has decided to charge up to 1.5 times the regular fare for

these special services.

The revised fares will apply only to the festival special buses operating within Telangana and to neighbouring states during the specified dates, while regular bus fares

will remain unchanged.

The free travel facility for women under the State Government's "Mahalakshmi" Scheme will continue in 'Palle Velugu', 'Express', 'City Ordinary', and 'Metro Express' buses during the festival period.

The RTC management has announced that advance reservations for the TGSRTC buses can be booked via the website www.tgsrtcbus.in.

Furthermore, for comprehensive information regarding the special buses for the Ugadi and Ramadan festivals, passengers are advised to contact the RTC Call Center numbers: 040-69440000 or 040-23450033.

KTR jokes with Raja Singh in Assembly lobby

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

A brief but amusing exchange between the leaders from rival parties drew attention on the sidelines of the Telangana Assembly Budget Session here on Monday.

As the session began with the Governor's address to both the Houses, former minister KT Rama Rao spotted Goshamahala MLA T Raja Singh stepping out of the BJP Legislature Party (BJLP) chamber in the Assembly lobby. Noticing him, KTR jokingly asked how a leader currently suspended from the Bharatiya Janata Party could enter the BJLP cham-



ber and playfully told him to "come out" of the room.

BJP MLA Payal Shankar, who was present nearby, responded in a lighter vein by inviting KTR to step inside the BJLP chamber as well. KTR laughed and remarked that if he entered the room, the media might spin a different narrative, before walking away smiling.

Later, Raja Singh described the BJLP chamber as his "old home", saying he could visit anytime as his friends were still there. However, he said he had not yet decided whether to rejoin the party, adding that time would reveal "who will plead with whom". 0

Rohit Reddy and two others remanded to 14-day judicial custody

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

FORMER BRS MLA Pilot Rohit Reddy, his brother Ritesh Reddy, and a Delhi-based businessman Namit Sharma were remanded to 14 days of judicial custody by a magistrate in Upparpally in Telangana after they were arrested in a high-profile drug party at a farmhouse on Saturday night.

The three were subsequently shifted to Chanchalguda Central Jail. The operation was conducted by Telangana's Elite Action Group for Drug Law Enforcement (EAGLE), led to the arrest of three and eight others were granted station bail.

The party took place at the farmhouse of Rohit Reddy in Moimabad including alleged drug consumption and gunfire during the late-night raid. During the operation,



nearly 40 officers participated in the operation, entering the premises by scaling the compound wall to prevent guests from escaping.

In a raid, as many as 11 persons were present at the party and were detained after undergoing drug screening tests. Six persons were tested positive for narcotics consumption. Among those who tested positive were Rohit Reddy, TDP MP from Eluru, Putta Mahesh Kumar, Ritesh Reddy, Kaushik Ravi, Arjun

Reddy, and Namit Sharma.

Police seized 0.26 grams of cocaine, a German-made pistol, four empty cartridges, one live cartridge, 48 beer cans, and six bottles of liquor.

The seized narcotic has been sent to the forensic laboratory for detailed analysis. Police registered a case under several provisions, including Sections 8(c), 22(a), 27, and 29 of the NDPS Act, Sections 30 and 25(1B)(a) of the Arms Act, along with relevant sections of the Telangana Excise Act.

Senior Cong leader Jeevan Reddy likely to quit party, may join BRS

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

SENIOR Congress leader Tjeevan Reddy is likely to quit the Congress party and join the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) soon, according to sources close to him.

Jeevan Reddy, who has been associated with the Congress for nearly four decades, reportedly informed his followers about his decision to leave the party. It is learnt that he may formally join the BRS during a public meeting scheduled to be held in Jagtial town on March 25.

Sources indicate that the veteran leader has been unhappy with recent developments in the Congress party,



particularly the induction of Jagtial BRS MLA Sanjay Kumar into the Congress. Jeevan Reddy had openly criticised the party leadership from top to bottom over the issue.

His dissatisfaction reportedly intensified during the

recent municipal elections and the selection of the municipal chairman. Political observers also point out that his unsuccessful attempt to secure a Rajya Sabha seat further deepened his disappointment.

According to sources, Jee-

van Reddy has been telling his followers that he feels he is no longer being given adequate priority within the Congress party.

In a significant development, Congress party flex banners installed outside and inside his residence in Jagtial town were removed on Monday. Supporters were also seen taking down photographs of party leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, TPCC president B Mahesh Kumar Goud, and Minister Adhuri Laxman Kumar.

Sources said Jeevan Reddy is expected to formally submit his resignation from the Congress either on March 24 or March 25 before joining the BRS.

Meanwhile, reports suggest that he has already been in touch with BRS working president KT Rama Rao regarding his possible entry into the party. He is also believed to be assuring his supporters that the BRS will return to power in the next elections and that he would secure victory as well.

Earlier on Monday, coinciding with the commencement of the Budget session of the Assembly, Jeevan Reddy criticised the state government, alleging that the Revanth Reddy administration was showing negligence in addressing farmers' issues. He also accused the government of delaying the procurement of maize crops, causing distress to farmers.

State Transport Dept pushes green transit with electric auto retrofit plan

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

TO promote an environment-friendly transport system and achieve the goal of net-zero emissions, the Telangana Transport Department is taking steps and has initiated consultations with electric retrofitment companies.

On Monday, a meeting was conducted in two phases with companies engaged in electric retrofitment of three-wheeler vehicles. The first meeting was chaired by Transport Commissioner Dr K Ilambarathi and the second meeting was chaired by Special Chief Secretary, Transport, Roads and Buildings



Department Vikas Raj.

During the meetings, detailed discussions were held with retrofitment companies regarding the proposed policy to convert the existing petrol and diesel auto-rickshaws operating in the Telangana

Core Urban Region (TCUR) into electric vehicles using electric kits.

The discussions covered technical standards, safety regulations, certification procedures, cost structure, battery technologies (both swappable

and fixed battery systems), and implementation modalities.

The retrofitment companies shared their views on the feasibility of converting the existing auto-rickshaws into electric vehicles. They stated that this initiative would help reduce air

pollution, lower operating costs for auto drivers, and improve air quality in urban areas.

According to the transport department, as per the directions of the Chief Minister, the government is formulating a policy to encourage the conversion of petrol and diesel auto-rickshaws into electric vehicles. Under the proposed programme, the government is examining the possibility of providing financial assistance for converting petrol and diesel auto-rickshaws into electric kits. The objective is to accelerate the expansion of a sustainable urban transport system in urban areas.

"The suggestions received from retrofitment companies will be examined and feasible proposals will be considered while formulating the policy," said a senior officer at the transport department.

Sajjanar warns public against AI Deepfake videos circulating online

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

VC Sajjanar, Police Commissioner, issued an advisory warning citizens about the growing threat of AI Deepfake videos and fake photos being circulated online by cyber-criminals. The advisory urges the public to remain cautious and verify suspicious content before sharing it on social media. On Monday, Sajjanar said on social media that many AI-generated videos and photos circulating online appear highly realistic, making it difficult for people to immediately identify them as fake. However, careful observation can reveal clues such as unnatural



lighting, unusual facial expressions and awkward movements, he posted on X.

Sajjanar also advised the public to verify suspicious images or videos before forwarding them. If there are doubts about any viral content, people should perform a reverse im-

age search to identify the original source.

"Forwarding unverified content based on emotions can unintentionally contribute to the spread of fake news, which may create confusion or unrest in society. In such cases, you may also become a partner in the crime of spreading fake news," he cautioned.

He urged citizens to follow a simple rule while using social media: think before clicking, verify the authenticity of the content, and only then share it.

In the era of AI deepfake technology, the Commissioner called upon citizens to remain alert and use critical thinking to prevent the spread of fake news and cybercrime.

CM pulls up party legislators

Continued from P1

Stating that the public had given the Congress the mandate because the previous BRS government had failed to meet expectations, he said the ruling party must now concentrate on delivering effective governance. He cautioned legislators to remain vigilant, as opposition leaders, having faced defeats in several elections, including municipal and local body polls, were keen on targeting the government. Revanth Reddy ordered

the constitution of Assembly committees and directed the legislators concerned to undertake study tours as part of their responsibilities. The Chief Minister called for better coordination between government whips and legislators during discussions in the House. He instructed the whips to guide members in selecting appropriate topics and issues so that proceedings are conducted efficiently without wasting valuable House time.

'Telangana on cusp of mega transformation'

Continued from P1

Telangana would compete with the developed global cities and countries. Taking inspiration from the successful models across the globe Telangana would like to achieve a 3 trillion-dollar economy by 2047," he said. The Governor talked about 'Telangana Rising 2047' stating that Telangana was standing as a global beacon of inclusive growth and innovation. Giving the government's roadmap, the Governor said the document 'Telangana Rising' was prepared in line with the Vikasit Bharat

Vision 2047 and in consultation with NITI Aayog with an aim to evolve Telangana into a \$3-trillion economy by 2047, with an interim target of \$1-trillion by 2034. He said that the state's GSDP for 2025-26 is Rs 17.82 lakh crore reflecting an impressive growth rate of 10.7 per cent, with Telangana contributing 4.99 per cent to India's GDP.

The state's per capita income reached Rs.4,18,931. At the same time, the government has maintained price stability, with inflation contained at 0.2 per cent, he added.

MEA slams US report recommending sanctions on RSS

Continued from P1

This comes after USCIRF designated India as a "country of particular concern" and asked United States to link arms sales and trade policies to religious freedom. USCIRF said its report, Systematic Religious Persecution in India, provides an overview of India's social, political, and criminal justice systems as they relate to issues regarding freedom of religion or belief (FoRB). "It also examines the relationship between Hindu nationalist groups like the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and the implications of this dynamic

for FoRB.

Despite offering some constitutional protections for FoRB, India's political system facilitates a climate of discrimination toward religious minority communities," the report alleged. USCIRF also argued that conditions for religious freedom in India have "continued to deteriorate" and accused the Indian government of "targeting" religious minorities and houses of worship. "Several states undertook efforts to introduce or strengthen anti-conversion laws to include harsher prison sentences. Indian authorities also facilitated widespread detention and illegal expulsion of

citizens and religious refugees and tolerated vigilante attacks against religious minority communities," the report said.

Created in 1998 by an act of the United States Congress, the USCIRF "monitors the universal right to freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) abroad" and makes recommendations to the President of the United States, the United States Department of State, and Congress. The agency says it acts independently, but the US President and senior political leaders in the House of Representatives and the Senate appoint its nine commissioners.

Trump may send troops to capture 'Crown Jewel of Iran'

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump is reportedly weighing the possibility of seizing Kharg Island-- a scrubby stretch of land in the Gulf that handles almost all of Iran's crude exports-- amid a growing energy crisis due to war in the Middle East.

Trump may order the seizure of Iran's critical oil depot on Kharg Island if tankers remain bottled up in the Persian Gulf amid Tehran's blockade, US officials said.

If the US goes ahead with the move, it will put US troops on the ground, which risks triggering Iranian retaliatory strikes against oil facilities and pipelines across Gulf countries, particularly Saudi Arabia.

But America's main ally in the Middle East, Israel, may not be inclined to put its boot on the ground in Iran just yet, as Israel's ambassador to India, Reuven Azar, has claimed that neither Washington nor Jerusalem intends to invade Iran.

He said the focus of US-Israeli actions remains on encouraging change within Iran through pressure from its own people rather than through military occupation.

US Prez Trump accuses Iran of spreading lies

Continued from P1

"Now, AI has become another Disinformation weapon that Iran uses, quite well, considering they are being annihilated by the day," he said on his social media platform on Monday.

Trump said Iran showed "phony Kamikaze Boats" shooting at various ships at sea, which looks "wonderful, powerful, and vicious." "But these boats don't exist -- It's all false information to show how tough their already defeated Military is!"

The five US refuelling planes that were supposedly struck down and badly damaged, according to the "Wall Street Journal's false reporting," and others, are all in service, except for one, which will soon be flying the skies, Trump claimed. "Buildings

and Ships that are shown to be on fire are not -- It's FAKE NEWS, generated by AI."

He accused Iran of working in close coordination with the fake news media, showing USS Abraham Lincoln Aircraft Carrier, one of the largest and most prestigious Ships in the World, burning uncontrollably in the Ocean. Not only was it not burning, but it was also not even shot at -- Iran knows better than to do that! The story was knowingly FAKE and those media outlets that generated it should be brought up on charges for treason for dissemination of false information. The fact is, Iran is being decimated, and the only battles they "win" are those that they create through AI and are distributed by corrupt media outlets.

Karnataka Speaker raps govt

Continued from P1

Stating that there had been no improvement from the government side, the Speaker questioned how the House could function smoothly if such lapses continued. "If this is the attitude of the government, how are we supposed to run the House in a manner agreeable to all?" he asked.

Khader further declared that the proceedings would not continue until the ministers and officials concerned explained the reason for the delay in answering questions. "Until the ministers and officials concerned come to me and explain what the issue is, I will not conduct the House. I am adjourning the House," he said. Earlier, after Question Hour, Home Minister G. Parameashwara informed the House on behalf of the government that out of the 230 questions that were to be answered in written format, the government had responded to 84.

Global energy crisis deepens as Iran keeps hold on Hormuz

Continued from P1

As morning broke Monday, a drone hit a fuel tank near Dubai International Airport, the world's busiest for international passenger traffic, causing a large fire. Firefighters contained the blaze and there were no injuries reported, but the airport suspended all flights before resuming them a few hours later. Later, a person was killed in the capital of the United Arab Emirates when an Iranian missile hit a vehicle, the Abu Dhabi media office said.

passage of vessels through it. It said vessel movement through the strait could occur only under special conditions due to what he described as insecurity created by Israel and the United States, adding that Iran's armed forces oversee the passage and would prevent its use for military action against Tehran.

Guv's address a 'roadmap' for the govt: CM

Continued from P1

For context, the Governor's address to the Legislature, usually ahead of the Budget session (as mandated by Article 176 of the Indian Constitution), is prepared by the State Cabinet led by the Chief Minister. The speech is not a personal statement by the Governor; rather, it is drafted by the state government to highlight its accomplishments, policy priorities, and legislative agenda for the coming year. However, under the principle of "Aid and Advice" (Article 163), the Governor is constitutionally required to read the text prepared by the elected government.

It may be mentioned here that, though the Governor is expected to read the address verbatim, going by recent events in states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka, Governors have chosen to skip portions of the cabinet-approved address, triggering debates over the extent of the Governor's power under Article 176.

Revanth Reddy said that every member must speak and respond strictly in accordance with the party line and the government's priorities in the Legislative Houses. Further,

the Chief Minister said, that debate on the failures of the previous government is not required. "It is the right time to focus on our plans and how to fulfil people's aspirations," he observed. The Chief Minister said that the "people's government" is presenting its third budget in the session.

The Chief Minister recounted that the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi government did not allow the opposition to speak on important issues. Even the then CLP leaders Bhatti Vikramarka and Jana Reddy were denied the opportunity to speak. "I was also suspended for the entire session as well as for the duration of my tenure as an MLA, and barred from entering the House," the CM recalled.

The Chief Minister stated that all the Assembly committees would be constituted soon. He suggested to the MLAs and MLCs to tour other states and study best practices with regard to policies. The MLAs were asked to focus on ways to prevent drinking water crisis in summer. The '99-Day 'Praja Palana - Pragati Pranali' should be taken directly to the people at the grassroots level, the Chief Minister told party legislators said.

India rules out talks with US on Hormuz

NEW DELHI: India on Monday said it has not held bilateral talks with the United States on deploying naval vessels to secure merchant shipping in the Strait of Hormuz. The clarification came after US President Donald Trump urged countries to send warships to keep the strategic waterway open amid tensions with Iran.

PNG and CNG supply uninterrupted: Govt

Continued from P1

During an inter-ministerial briefing, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary (Marketing and Oil Refinery) at the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, said fuel stations supplying CNG and households using PNG continue to receive normal supply. Authorities have also initiated enforcement action against hoarding, with raids conducted across several states to monitor storage and distribution. The government said crude oil availability remains adequate, with refineries operating at full capacity and petrol pumps functioning normally without reported shortages.

City gas distributors are also promoting PNG adoption. Indraprastha Gas Lim-

ited has announced an incentive of free gas worth Rs 500 for consumers registering for PNG connections before March 31.

LPG bookings have declined as concerns over domestic gas availability eased. Meanwhile, 22 states and Union Territories have set up control rooms to monitor supply and curb hoarding or black marketing.

The ministry urged consumers to avoid panic bookings and use digital platforms for LPG orders. The government said it continues to prioritise uninterrupted supply to households and key sectors such as hospitals and educational institutions, while closely monitoring the situation amid prevailing geopolitical developments.

TG govt should curb drug menace with iron fist

In a shocking incident, Putta Mahesh Kumar and 'Pilot' Rohith Reddy tested positive for drugs. They are not ordinary men on the street. One of them is a lawmaker in Parliament while the other is a former lawmaker from Telangana. And they are nouveau riche as well. Mahesh Kumar is a member of Lok Sabha from Eluru in Andhra Pradesh. Representing Telugu Desam Party (TDP), he became an MP in 2024, at the young age of 36 years. His father Putta Sudhakar Yadav is a legislator from Mydukur in YSR Kadapa district. Sudhakar Yadav also served as the chairman of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) between April 28, 2018, and June 19, 2019. As an MP, Mahesh Kumar's primary role is to take part in enacting laws that govern the

country. Rohith Reddy, who calls himself 'Pilot' Rohith Reddy, was also a lawmaker in the past, albeit at the state-level. In 2018, he won on a Congress ticket as an MLA from Tandur, now in Vikarabad district, but shifted loyalties to Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) which was in power then. However, he lost elections from the same Assembly segment in 2023 on the BRS ticket.

Today, the two have been found consuming drugs! Does this incident show the callous attitude of these two politicians? Or are they not afraid of law enforcement agencies in Telangana?

Incidentally, the duo was allegedly caught red-handed when a team from Elite Action Group for Drug Law Enforcement (EAGLE), on a tip-off, raided a farm-

house owned by Rohith Reddy in Moinabad area. While a liquor party was underway, one of the accused even opened fire at the police team when it entered the farmhouse. A drug test was conducted on 11 people and five of them, including the MP and the ex-MLA, tested positive. Surprisingly, the MP was given a station bail, a police action which is likely to kick up a row nationally, while Rohith Reddy and others were remanded to judicial custody. This incident clearly indicates how fast drug menace is spreading in and around Hyderabad. Drug usage has reached menacing proportions, primarily due to ever-growing pub culture and widespread growth of farmhouses. It is said that there are over 2,000 farmhouses around Aziznagar in

Moinabad mandal alone. Incidentally, the same Rohith Reddy's farmhouse was the place where a plot to buy four BRS MLAs was uncovered in 2022. That incident also rocked Telangana politics as did the Sunday's drug bust.

Nevertheless, strict vigilance on pubs, farmhouses and colleges will reduce the drug threat significantly. Besides, stringent punishment for both drug peddlers and consumers can be a strong deterrent. Coming back to the latest drug bust, it is good that TDP, which is in power in Andhra Pradesh, acted swiftly, served a notice on Mahesh Kumar seeking his explanation, and decided to keep him away from party activities till he comes clean on the allegations. AP Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu

also condemned the irresponsible behaviour of the young MP, while ordering for an immediate action. But BRS has remained silent on Rohith Reddy! A few months back, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy directed the police to act tough against drug peddlers and consumers. He called for zero-tolerance towards drug usage. He was also instrumental in setting up EAGLE for eliminating the drug menace from the state. The name looks menacing, but EAGLE's action on the ground seems to be lackadaisical. Will this latest sensational drug case spur it into action? Unless the Telangana government acts tough and deals with the narcotics issue with an iron hand, the state will continue to face drug threats day in and day out.

LETTERS

Bring a law on euthanasia

The Hans India reader Datta Prasad Shirodkar has rightly stated that the debate about whether mercy killing is right or wrong, ethical or unethical, is likely to continue in the society (THI March 16). There are many families who have exhausted all medical avenues and resources in the treatment of their ailing family member, whose condition is permanently irreversible. They just pray to God to put an end to the suffering of their loved one quickly. It is time the government takes cognizance of the Supreme Court's landmark verdict and enact a law on euthanasia.

Dinanath Shenolikar, Hyderabad

A touching tribute to Potti Sriramulu

It is a fitting tribute to erect a 58-foot bronze statue of Potti Sriramulu at Shakhmuru in Amaravati as the height of the statue symbolises the number of days he was a fast-unto-death. The statue was unveiled on Friday commemorating his 125th birth anniversary. It is reported that a park is coming up on 6.80 acres of land at an estimated cost of ₹150 crore. His fast-unto-death not only helped create Andhra Pradesh on linguistic lines but also paved the way to forming states like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Bihar and Punjab, among others. Though Sriramulu hailed from a humble family, he protested twice before independence for the rights of Dalits and another two times after independence for the same. He sat on a protest for the fifth time for a separate state for Telugu people. His determination and attitude towards public issues made Mahatma Gandhi remark that he would have achieved independence much earlier if he had 10 followers like Sriramulu. The Smrutivanam in his memory will guide future generations.

Pratapa Reddy Yaramala, Tiruvuru (AP)

Naidu backing criminals

Hailed as the youngest MP, Putta Mahesh Kumar Yadav, representing TDP in the Lok Sabha, did the unthinkable by consuming cocaine unmindful of the repercussions, if caught. Forgetting his position, he behaved like any other Gen-Z and is now repenting whereas his party boss Nara Chandrababu Naidu, as is his wont, simply issued a show cause notice to the MP seeking a reply within 48 hours. Naidu knows how best to circumvent laws and hush up any case filed against his party leaders, including himself. It is a shame that 'criminals' are masquerading as political 'leaders' in our country and rulers, leaving the people high and dry. Naidu himself is "involved" in several white-collar crimes. A past master in managing the entire system including the judiciary, he "managed" to get an interim bail for himself on medical grounds in the Skill Development Scam case after 53 days in jail as a remand prisoner.

Govardhana Myneedu, Vijayawada

E-waste recycling and safe disposal

This refers to "GHMC collects 15 tonnes of E-waste during mega drive" (March 16). This highlights the urgent need for continuous action. Establishing e-waste collection bins in every residential complex would ensure regular disposal. The collected material can then be recycled, with residues safely handled by GHMC through certified facilities. E-waste recycling recovers valuable metals, plastics, and glass, while safe disposal prevents toxic substances like lead, mercury, and cadmium from contaminating soil and water. The benefits are manifold—conserving resources, reducing pollution, creating green jobs, and supporting a circular economy. It also minimizes landfill waste and lowers the carbon footprint of new electronics production. The challenges include informal recycling practices that expose workers to hazards, limited infrastructure, weak regulation, and rising volumes of e-waste driven by rapid technological change. Stronger policies, global cooperation and consumer responsibility are essential to make e-waste management sustainable.

Dr O Prasada Rao, Hyderabad

Go for a contingency fund

Propos the editorial "Prudent fiscal situation gives govt headroom to tackle crisis" (March 16). The Rs one lakh crore Economic Stabilisation Fund is a wise move to cushion global shocks, but a crisis corpus cannot substitute for fixing structural flaws. The recent Rs 19,230 crore additional fertiliser outlay exposes this reality. Subsidising manufacturers rather than farmers encourages waste, leakages, and soil damage from imbalanced urea use. Genuine fiscal prudence demands shifting to direct benefit transfers, promoting sustainable farming, and diversifying import sources. A contingency fund should address genuine emergencies, not mask the absence of long-overdue reforms. Creating new corpus without tackling old inefficiencies is not consolidation, it is cosmetic comfort.

K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru

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BENGALURU ONLINE

Lack of growth strategy impedes globally popular Mysuru silk industry

BENGALURU: Mysore Silk Saree is not just a garment but a symbol of pride for Mysuru and the entire state of Karnataka. Known for its elegance, purity and rich heritage, the saree enjoys enormous demand not only within India but also among buyers abroad. Yet, despite its popularity and economic potential, the industry continues to struggle due to traditional administrative approaches and lack of a progressive growth strategy.

Industry observers say the demand for authentic Mysore silk sarees is so high that influential people in Mysuru often receive calls from customers in other cities and even overseas requesting help in purchasing the premium saree. However, the inability to scale production and modernise the sector has prevented the industry from tapping its full potential.

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

TG Speaker's order on anti-defection petitions is a tricky constitutional test



PROF. MADABHUSHI SRIDHAR ACHARYULU

It seems like the Anti-Defection Law is a defective law or a totally defective conclusion on the judgment of the Speaker of Telangana, Gaddam Prasad Kumar, on March 11. This has intensified a debate on whether the Speaker's decision was based on a strictly legal interpretation or influenced by political considerations.

The controversy surrounding the alleged defection of ten Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) in Telangana has once again placed India's anti-defection law, legislative ethics, and constitutional accountability under intense public scrutiny. What began as a political dispute has now evolved into a significant constitutional question involving the powers of the Speaker, the limits of judicial review, and the integrity of representative democracy. The recent (March 13) directions of the Supreme Court of India in the matter have not decided the merits of the dispute but have highlighted a critical issue: transparency and procedural fairness in the Speaker's adjudication of disqualification petitions. The matter was heard by a two-judge bench, comprising Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice

Augustine George Masih.

During the proceedings, senior advocates appearing for the Speaker's office and the State government submitted that the Speaker had already completed the inquiry and had passed the final orders in all the disqualification petitions.

The controversy arose after ten MLAs, who were elected to the Telangana Legislative Assembly on the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) ticket, were accused of joining the ruling Congress party. Alleging that these MLAs had voluntarily given up their party membership, BRS leaders, including its working president K T Rama Rao (KTR) and Padi Kaushik Reddy, along with BJP MLA Yeleeti Maheshwar Reddy, approached the Supreme Court seeking directions regarding the disqualification petitions.

The petitions challenged the delay and the Speaker's alleged inaction in deciding the disqualification complaints under the anti-defection law.

According to the Speaker's decision, the 10 MLAs had not defected from the BRS, and hence the disqualification petitions were dismissed. However, the petitioners raised a serious objection before the Court: copies of the Speaker's orders and records of the proceedings were not furnished to them.

SC's directions:

Taking note of these concerns, the Supreme Court questioned why the Speaker's office had not supplied the relevant documents to the petitioners, especially when they were parties to the proceedings. The court directed that certified copies of the



When voters elect a candidate based on the platform and ideology of a particular party, they are essentially endorsing that political programme. If the elected representative later switches allegiance, the voters' mandate is arguably compromised. The anti-defection law was meant to protect this mandate

Speaker's orders must be provided within 24 hours, while the depositions, statements, and other documents recorded during the proceedings had to be furnished within four days. At the same time, the court closed the present batch of petitions, observing that since the Speaker had already delivered his decisions, the appropriate remedy available to the petitioners would be to challenge those decisions through judicial review before the High Court. Thus, while the Supreme Court did not examine the correctness of the Speaker's verdict, it ensured that the petitioners would have access to the necessary documents to pursue further legal remedies.

The controversial findings:

The Speaker's ruling that the 10 MLAs had not defected triggered widespread criticism from political opponents and constitutional commentators. Several facts cited in the public domain have raised doubts about this conclusion. For instance, Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender reportedly contested the Lok

Sabha elections from Secunderabad as a Congress candidate. Meanwhile, records on the Election Commission's website list him as a Congress nominee.

Similarly, Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiyam Srihari had been seen participating in Congress meetings and public programmes. His daughter contested the Warangal Lok Sabha seat as a Congress candidate and won. Given these developments, critics argue that it is difficult to reconcile the Speaker's finding that these MLAs continue to remain members of the BRS.

Constitutional Framework

The issue of defections in India is governed by the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, introduced by the 52nd Constitutional Amendment in 1985. Under the Tenth Schedule, a legislator may be disqualified if:

1. They voluntarily give up membership of the political party on whose ticket they were elected;
2. They vote or abstain from voting against the party whip without permission;

3. An independent member joins a political party after being elected;
4. The authority to decide disqualification petitions rests with the Speaker (or Chairman) of the legislature.

Judicial review of the decisions:

The question of whether the Speaker's decisions can be reviewed by courts was settled in the landmark case of Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillu. In that judgment, the Supreme Court upheld the validity of the anti-defection law but ruled that the Speaker's decisions are subject to judicial review. The court held that judicial intervention may be justified if the Speaker's decision:

- a. Violates constitutional provisions;
- b. Breaches the principles of natural justice;
- c. Is vitiated by mala fides or perversity.

Thus, the Speaker's decision is not beyond scrutiny. This principle is likely to be central if the Telangana matter reaches the High Court. Another recurring problem in anti-defection cases is the delay in deciding disqualification petitions. In the Telangana case, critics argue that not only was there a delay in deciding the petitions, but there was also a reluctance to provide certified copies of the orders, which further obstructed judicial review.

Natural justice:

At the heart of the controversy lies the issue of natural justice. Two core principles govern fair adjudication: Audi alteram partem, both sides must be heard, and reasoned decisions, the par-

ties must know the basis on which a decision has been made.

Democratic mandate:

Beyond legal technicalities, the issue of defections raises deeper questions about democratic morality. The Supreme Court's latest order does not conclude the controversy. Instead, it marks the beginning of the next phase of legal scrutiny. Once the Speaker's orders and related records are obtained, the petitioners are likely to approach the Telangana High Court seeking judicial review.

The High Court may examine several crucial questions:

1. Whether the MLAs had effectively given up their party membership;
2. Whether the Speaker's inquiry was fair and impartial;
3. Whether the decision is consistent with the constitutional principles governing defections.

Depending on the outcome, the matter could eventually return to the Supreme Court.

The Telangana episode also revives a broader institutional debate: Should the power to decide defection cases remain with the Speaker? Several constitutional scholars have suggested that this responsibility should instead be entrusted to an independent tribunal or the Election Commission of India to ensure impartiality. Until such reforms are undertaken, controversies like the present one are likely to recur.

(The writer is Advisor, School of Law, Mahindra University, Hyderabad)

The silent thunder: When Vajpayee, the poet-PM, recalibrated the global order

NOMULA SRINIVAS RAO

We have the capacity for a big blast. Ours is not a cry of despair; it is a challenge to the world - Atal Bihari Vajpayee

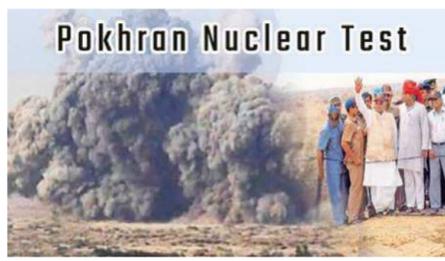
In the blistering, white-hot heat of the Thar Desert on May 11, 1998, the very sands of Pokhran didn't just shift; they shook the foundations of a geopolitical hierarchy that had long sought to keep India in a state of perpetual "strategic restraint." As the ground buckled and the sensors registered a seismic tremor of 5.3 on the Richter scale, a coded message flashed across the high-security corridors of New Delhi: "The Buddha has smiled again."

It was a moment of supreme audacity, orchestrated by a man who was as much a master of silence as he was of the spoken word. Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the poet-statesman, had just led India across the nuclear Rubicon, transforming a "post-colonial entity" into a "formidable power."

Anatomy of a secret: Defying the eye in the sky:

The 1998 Pokhran-II tests, codenamed 'Operation Shakti', were not merely a scientific achievement; they were a masterclass in clandestine leadership and psychological warfare. Vajpayee understood a chilling reality: the world's superpowers—armed with billion-dollar KH-11 "Keyhole" spy satellites—were watching India's every move from the heavens. The CIA had successfully blocked previous attempts by detecting heat signatures and soil movement. To succeed, Vajpayee knew he didn't just need scientists; he needed shadows.

Under his unwavering direction, the mission was shrouded in a "cloak of invisibility." He empowered the duo of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and Dr R Chidambaram to operate with total autonomy, bypassing the traditional, leak-prone bureaucracy. Scientists wore army fatigues to blend in with the local units, worked only during the brief "black



spots" when satellites were positioned elsewhere, and moved heavy equipment under the cover of swirling sandstorms.

Vajpayee's leadership was the steady, invisible hand on the tiller. He took the ultimate gamble with India's economy, knowing that the fallout—draconian economic sanctions and diplomatic isolation—would be immediate. Yet he remained resolute. While the West slept, a poet was preparing a symphony of fire. He chose the nation's long-term dignity over the world's short-term approval, proving that true sovereignty cannot be requested—it must be taken.

The nuclear paradox-Iron fist, a velvet heart:

Vajpayee was a walking paradox, a leader who authorized the creation of world-ending weapons while penning verses about the fragility of a dewdrop. His decision to "go nuclear" was not born of warmongering or a thirst for conquest, but of a deep-seated, civilisational desire for peace through strength. He famously remarked that weapons are not for war, but to ensure that war never happens.

He believed that a weak India could never be a truly peaceful India but a vulnerable one. By declaring India a nuclear-weapon state, he wasn't seeking a tool for ag-

gression; he was building a "Minimum Credible Deterrent." His strategic foresight was prophetic. He anticipated the two-front threat from neighbours long before it became a staple of modern defense journals.

The "poet's resolve" was visible even as he faced the wrath of the Clinton administration. He remained unfazed in the face of global condemnation, famously stating in Parliament that India would never use these weapons against non-nuclear states—the No First Use (NFU) policy. This was his hallmark: the heart of a poet who wept for the fallen soldier, but the spine of a warrior who ensured that no mother would ever have to weep because her country was defenseless against nuclear blackmail.

From 1998 to a global power:

Estimates are that India possesses an arsenal of approximately 180 nuclear warheads. Vajpayee transformed India from a "suppliant" state, constantly asking for

permission, into a "deciding" power. He proved that India could withstand global sanctions and emerge stronger, eventually forcing the world to sign the Civil Nuclear Deal and recognize India as a responsible nuclear state.

He led with a smile that carried the weight of a thousand suns and a voice that could silence a storm. He showed that you could be a man of peace while holding the ultimate deterrent, and that a poet's vision is often clearer than a politician's calculation.

As we look back at the 1998 explosions, we remember not just the fire in the sky, but the calm in the heart of the man who ignited it. He was Bharat's true Ratna—a bridge between the ancient wisdom of the Buddha and the modern necessity of the missile.

My poetry is a declaration of war against defeat, not a song of surrender - Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

(The writer is a former OSD to Union Civil Aviation Minister)



13-year-old Hyderabad student develops multi-system AI architecture

Raja Dharma Tej Maddala develops a unique artificial intelligence framework designed for multi-perspective reasoning and collaborative decision-making

ARTI ADKE

IN an unusual example of young innovation, a 13-year-old student from Hyderabad has designed an artificial intelligence ecosystem that is attracting attention in technology and research circles. Raja Dharma Tej Maddala, a Grade 7 student, has developed an original AI framework called Raja MagRex AI™, which has been recognised as an innovation initiative by the Government of India's Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). At an age when most students are just beginning to explore coding and basic digital tools, Raja is attempting to rethink how artificial intelligence systems can be structured and coordinated.

Raja, who studies in the IB Middle Years Programme at Oakridge International School,

Gachibowli, describes himself as a technology enthusiast with a deep interest in artificial intelligence, science and complex systems. His curiosity about how mathematics, computing and scientific ideas connect with each other gradually led him to explore artificial intelligence more seriously.

This interest eventually resulted in the creation of Raja MagRex AI™, an AI ecosystem designed around a structured architecture rather than a single model. According to Raja, the system is built on 22 cognitive systems, 87 modules and more than 100 functional features. The aim is to allow the system to examine problems from multiple analytical perspectives before producing a final response.

The project introduces a concept he calls "Artificial Civilisation Intelligence."



The idea is inspired by how human societies solve complex problems. In the real world, experts from different fields such as science, engineering, economics and policy often collaborate to reach better decisions. Raja's framework attempts to replicate this model within an AI environment, where multiple reasoning systems analyse an issue simultaneously and contribute to a unified conclusion.

At the centre of the architecture is a

coordination system called NEURA, which manages how the different cognitive modules interact with each other. When a problem or prompt is introduced, NEURA analyses it and determines which reasoning systems should be activated. These systems may focus on areas such as logical reasoning, contextual understanding, analytical evaluation or creative exploration. Their outputs are then combined through a structured synthesis process to produce a final response.

Unlike many current AI tools that rely on a single large model to generate answers directly from prompts, Raja's framework emphasises structured reasoning and collaborative analysis. The architecture allows different reasoning pathways to examine the same problem before arriving at a conclusion, which he believes could make AI systems more transparent and easier to interpret.

Building the system while continuing regular school responsibilities was one of the biggest challenges, Raja said. Balancing classes, assignments and examinations while working on research and system design required careful time management and discipline.

Much of the work involved not just coding but also conceptual thinking about how

different systems should interact and how reasoning should flow across the architecture.

Despite the challenges, Raja continued refining the concept and developing the structure of the AI ecosystem. He is currently working on Version 1 of Raja MagRex AI™, focusing on integrating the core systems and modules and preparing the framework for real-world testing.

The next stage will involve deploying the system to observe how different cognitive modules collaborate in practical scenarios. This phase will help improve the orchestration logic and refine the coordination between different reasoning systems.

In the long term, Raja hopes to expand the architecture by adding more advanced modules and exploring applications in research,



decision analysis and complex problem-solving. He believes that structured AI systems could help individuals and organisations examine complicated challenges from multiple perspectives before making decisions.

As artificial intelligence becomes more deeply integrated into everyday life, Raja says the goal should be to develop systems that support human thinking rather than replace it.

His vision is for AI to function as a collaborative tool that works alongside human reasoning, helping people analyse information more clearly and make better-informed decisions.

Examples of how it helps solve problems

For example, if a city wants to reduce air pollution, the system can study pollution sources, traffic patterns, weather conditions and policy options before suggesting balanced solutions such as improving public transport or regulating emissions.

In education, if a student faces a difficult scientific question, the AI can break the problem into smaller steps, examine different theories and explain possible solutions. By combining these viewpoints, the system helps users understand the problem better and arrive at more thoughtful and practical solutions.

Today is National 3D Day



How 3D helps students develop creativity, problem-solving and design thinking

Three-dimensional (3D) technology is transforming the way students learn, create and explore ideas. From 3D modelling software to 3D printers, these tools allow students to move beyond textbooks and turn their imagination into real, physical objects. By doing so, 3D technology plays an important role in developing creativity, problem-solving skills and design thinking among young learners.

One of the most exciting aspects of 3D technology is that it encourages students to think creatively. Instead of only drawing ideas on paper, students can design objects in a digital environment and then print them as real models. Whether it is building a miniature bridge, designing a science project model, or creating an artistic sculpture, students learn to experiment with shapes, structures and ideas in new ways.

3D technology also strengthens problem-solving abilities. When students design a model, they must think carefully about how the parts fit together, how strong

the structure will be and whether the design will work in real life. If something does not work during printing or assembly, they need to analyse the issue, adjust the design and try again. This process teaches them to learn from mistakes and improve their solutions.

Another important benefit is the development of design thinking. Students learn to approach problems step by step: first identifying a challenge, then creating possible solutions, testing prototypes and refining their designs. This method is widely used in engineering, architecture and product design.

By combining creativity with technology, 3D tools help students become active creators rather than passive learners. As schools introduce more hands-on learning methods, 3D technology is becoming a powerful way to encourage curiosity, innovation and practical learning. Through designing, testing and improving their ideas, students gain skills that are valuable for future careers in science, engineering, art and technology.

Speaking up to inspire and share ideas

Speech is one of the most powerful tools human beings possess. Through spoken words, people can express thoughts, share knowledge, inspire change and build meaningful connections. The ability to speak confidently and clearly allows individuals to communicate their ideas effectively and influence the world around them. Speaking is not only about delivering information; it is about encouraging dialogue and creating understanding. When people share

their ideas openly, they invite others to think, question and contribute. In classrooms, workplaces and communities, conversations often lead to innovation and collaboration. Many great movements and breakthroughs in history began with someone having the courage to speak up and share a vision. The power of speech also lies in its ability to motivate and uplift others. A few encouraging words can boost confidence, help someone overcome

challenges and inspire them to pursue their goals. Leaders, teachers and mentors often use speech as a way to guide and empower others. By communicating clearly and thoughtfully, they create environments where ideas are valued and voices are heard. Learning to speak effectively is an important life skill. It involves not only choosing the right words but also listening to others with respect and openness. Confidence in speaking develops with practice—through

discussions, presentations, storytelling and everyday conversations. When individuals feel comfortable expressing their thoughts, they become more engaged participants in society.

Speech also strengthens creativity and critical thinking. Sharing ideas allows them to grow, evolve and improve through feedback and collaboration. When people speak and listen with curiosity and respect, they create opportunities for learning and collective progress.

Words have the power to encourage, connect minds, and turn ideas into action



Tips to crack the class XII Economics board exam

Preparing for the Class XII Economics board examination requires a clear strategy, regular practice and strong conceptual understanding. Many students study hard but still lose marks due to avoidable mistakes, poor time management or lack of structured revision. Analysing mistakes, practising sample papers consistently and following a clear revision plan can help improve both accuracy and confidence. The following practical tips can help students prepare effectively and perform well in the Economics board examination.

General Tips

1. By now, most students would have attempted two pre-board examinations. Carefully evaluate your mistakes, identify recurring errors and clearly mark the chapters or topics where you are weak. Begin your revision with these weaker areas and practise related questions alongside.
2. While revising the syllabus, do not stop solving sample papers thinking you will attempt them after completing revision. Over the next two months, try to solve one sample paper every two days. For Economics, analyse your mistakes in each paper and maintain a separate

A focused preparation strategy to improve accuracy, manage time effectively and score better in the Economics board exam



notebook to record them. Revisiting these errors regularly will help you avoid repeating them.

3. Practise a wide variety of questions, including objective questions, case-based questions and numericals. Avoid skipping any section during preparation.
4. Go through at least the last five years of official sample papers and previous year questions. Read each question carefully, frame answers mentally and verify them using the marking scheme. Solve all MCQs and numericals thoroughly and keep a

record of your mistakes.

5. Practise case-study based questions from the official question bank as they are often included in the board examination pattern.
6. Plan your revision by working backwards from the exam dates. Decide how many days you will dedicate to each subject and set a target number of sample papers to practise before the exam.

Macroeconomics Tips

1. Conceptual clarity is essential in Macroeconomics. First revise each chapter thoroughly and then

practise all related questions, especially numericals.

2. Maintain a separate list of graphs chapter-wise with proper labelling and practise drawing them. Use graphs wherever applicable, even in short-answer questions.
3. Many students find it difficult to identify items included in national income or domestic income. Maintain a separate list of such questions along with explanations to understand the logic behind inclusion and exclusion.
4. While solving numericals,

clearly write "Given" and "To Find," mention the formula and show all steps. Avoid shortcuts during practice as writing complete steps helps reduce errors in the exam.

Indian Economy Tips

1. The NCERT textbook is the most important source for Indian Economy. Read it carefully as questions are often directly based on it.
2. Prepare short notes for quick revision before the exam.
3. Follow a structured revision flow: read the chapter carefully, revise the recap section, practise

questions based on the chapter and solve objective questions for reinforcement.

4. Maintain a list of important dates, data points and policy-related developments. Using accurate data in answers can improve the quality of your responses.
5. After completing your first revision, cross-check the official syllabus and ensure that every topic has been covered.

Answer Writing Tips

1. Manage time carefully. You may spend around one hour on Macroeconomics and about one and a half hours on Indian Economy. Keep at least twenty minutes at the end to revise the entire paper.
2. In Macroeconomics, use tables and graphs wherever required. Write full formulas in numericals and avoid abbreviations.
3. Begin answers with definitions wherever possible and conclude with a short line. Present answers in clear points.
4. You may start with either section depending on your comfort, but complete one section fully before moving to the other.

(The writer is PGT Economics, HOD Social Science, Seth Anandram Jaipuria School)



Awesome debut: Divya Pathak's kathak arangetram mesmerises Hyderabad

Young dancer Divya Pathak marked a graceful milestone with her Kathak Arangetram, delivering a performance that blended tradition, precision and expressive storytelling. Held at Ravindra Bharati under the guidance of award-winning guru Raghava Raj Bhatt and the aegis of Akruti Kathak Kendra, the debut captivated audiences throughout

A graceful celebration of rhythm, devotion, and classical excellence unfolded at Ravindra Bharati as young dancer Divya Pathak marked her Kathak Arangetram with a performance that held the audience spellbound. Organised under the auspices of Akruti Kathak Kendra, the evening showcased the arrival of a promising artiste deeply rooted in tradition and refined training.

The debut was presented under the mentorship of noted Kathak exponent and Sangeet Natak Akademi awardee Raghava Raj Bhatt, whose guidance was evident in every detail of the recital. Divya opened the evening with Guru Stotram, offering a devotional invocation that set a serene tone. She then moved into an elegant presentation of Teen Tal, the popular 16-beat rhythmic cycle of Hindustani classical music, displaying impressive command over footwork, posture, and laya control. Her expressive depth shone in a lyrical interpretation set to a Meera bhajan, where rhythm and emotion blended seamlessly. One of the most captivating segments portrayed the divine love of Radha and Krishna during Holi, performed in the Dhamar style of Dhrupad. The choreography beautifully combined storytelling with technical finesse, evoking festivity and devotion in equal measure.

A semi-classical Thumri followed, rich in abhinaya and delicate rhythmic variations. Drawing from devotional ragas and reflecting the refined aesthetics of the Lucknow tradition, the piece stood out for its emotional nuance and visual grace. Divya further impressed the audience with Dashavataram, effortlessly transitioning through varied mythological themes and moods with striking clarity and energy. The recital concluded on a vibrant note with a traditional Tarana, bringing the performance to an exhilarating close.

The evening was also marked by blessings and tributes. Renowned Bharatanatyam guru Dr. Rajeshwari Sainath conveyed her blessings and fondly remembered the late Dr. Mangalabhat, honor-

ing his invaluable contributions to Kathak. Appreciation was extended to Guru Bhatt for his thoughtful choreography and dedicated mentorship. Among the distinguished guests, Ashar Faran, Trustee of Lamakaan, wished Divya a bright future and encouraged her continued journey in dance. A touching highlight was Divya's Guru Pooja, a heartfelt gesture of reverence reflecting the spiritual essence of the classical arts.

The recital was elevated by an accomplished live orchestra led by Fateh Singh Ganga on pakhawaj. Vocal support came from Madhu Prasad, with instrumental accompaniment by Uday Kumar, Lavanya Ambade,

Puneet Sisodia, Raghav Sai, and Harika. Presentation by Amit Kumar, lighting by Basava Raju, and stage design by Madhav Raj Bhatt added visual richness. The sabha was smoothly coordinated by Parag Pathak.

With poise, devotion, and artistic maturity, Divya Pathak's debut announced the rise of a Kathak dancer to watch.



Parenting

Raising emotionally brave kids

WHY LETTING CHILDREN FACE SMALL FAILURES BUILDS LIFELONG RESILIENCE

DR DEEPTI T NAIR

The present world which emphasizes achievement brings about protection for children against disappointment and frustration and failure. The protective measures which parents use to protect their children arise from their love for their children yet these measures create an unintended result which weakens the emotional strength of the children. Children develop emotional bravery through real-life experiences which include facing their first small failures. The process of brain development requires failure as an essential factor which also supports emotional development. Children learn to persevere through difficult challenges when their brains adapt to difficult situations which they cannot immediately solve. The process enhances neural connections which are essential for solving problems and managing emotions and maintaining determination.

Children learn to recognize discomfort as a temporary condition which they can handle. They develop a mindset which psychologists refer to as growth mindset because they believe that effort leads to skill development. Students who develop this mindset achieve academic success throughout their educational journey which extends into their professional life and mental health. The term emotionally brave describes children who experience fear and embarrassment and calmly perform the tasks and maintain their courage.

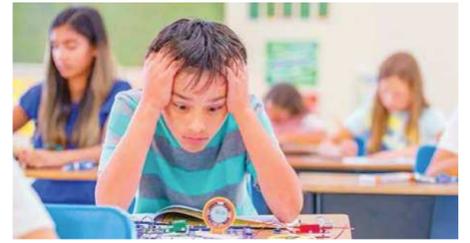
Children develop emotional strength through learning that these feelings represent



standard reactions which people experience. Children experience sadness and frustration and self-doubt when they lose a game or face school challenges or forget performance lines or fail to join a team. The moments which people experience teach them how to manage their emotions. The child recognizes that challenging emotions will emerge reach their highest point and then disappear. Building emotional endurance enables people to face their future life challenges which include academic pressure and workplace stress and relationship difficulties.

The emotional weakness develops through excessive protection from parental care. The presence of adults who solve problems and handle disputes and shield children from failure hinders their development of coping mechanisms. The unknown experience of failure makes them develop intense fear of failure. Children with this condition avoid new experiences and they show quick abandonments of tasks and they need to receive approval from others. The condition develops into anxiety issues and low self-esteem and an inability to handle rejection and criticism in both teenage years and adult life. Minor

mistakes provide students with opportunities to learn social responsibility and self-reliance. The process enables children to understand how their choices result in specific outcomes when they forget their homework or mismanage their time or make mistakes. Children learn to evaluate themselves through their experiences when they should learn from their mistakes instead of waiting for others to help them. The process helps people develop executive functioning abilities which include planning skills and self-control abilities and decision-making skills. The process of failure provides another crucial advantage which enables people to separate their self-worth from their actual performance level. Children who receive constant praise for their achievements start to think that their worth exists only when they achieve success. Children who experience both success and failure discover that their worth does not depend on their accomplishments. They establish self-assurance through internal development instead of needing external support. The process protects mental wellbeing while decreasing the anxiety of being evaluated by others. Parents and caregivers shape children's understand-



In a world that prizes constant achievement, many children are shielded from failure in the name of love—often at the cost of their emotional resilience. Experts say that small setbacks are essential for building confidence, problem-solving ability and lifelong mental strength

ing of failure through their actions. The goal is not to create harsh or stressful situations but to create situations that match the natural development needs of children. The adult response matters more than the actual failure when children experience their first unsuccessful attempts. Children need calm reassurance and empathy together with encouragement to attempt again because these elements help them develop constructive ways to handle their situations. Resilience gets strengthened through statements which recognize persistence and courage because those statements direct focus towards effort instead of final results.

Children need to develop their ability to solve problems through independent thinking because this skill holds equal value with their need to solve problems through independent thinking. The process of solving problems without assistance helps individuals build their confidence when they face challenges with friends or work on tough tasks or ac-

quire new abilities. The ability to handle difficulties enhances emotional security for children because they understand their own capacity to deal with problems.

Children who display emotional courage develop into adults who possess strong mental abilities and adaptable nature and self-assuredness. The methods enable them to take safe risks and try out fresh possibilities while using their previous failures to guide them toward success. The practice of avoiding all failures leads people to develop fear-based behaviors which result in emotional weakness.

People develop resilience through their challenges instead of their comfortable experiences. The process of developing resilience requires people to go through various life situations which include their temporary periods of rest and their self-evaluation time.

(The writer is a Senior Consultant - Pediatrics and Neonatology, Rainbow Children's Hospital, Sarjapur Road)



Shilpa Shetty reveals her ultimate 'secret to staying calm' before work

amaForTheWin."

In the video, the 'Baazigar' actress can be seen practicing pranayama as she gears up for a professional stint.

Dressed in a shimmering gold halter-neck outfit with delicate embellishments, the actress is seen sitting outdoors and calmly performing the breathing exercise.

Talking about Shilpa Shetty, the actress has long been known as a yoga enthusiast and has constantly advocated the benefits of the generations-old practice of yoga along with healthy and clean eating.

The actress has often been seen em-

phasising the importance of balance in lifestyle and fitness.

In many of her earlier interviews, she has shared that throughout the week she follows a strict and disciplined diet, while Sundays are reserved for sheer indulgence.

Apart from her film work, Shilpa is also popular for her "Sunday binge" posts on social media, where she offers fans a glimpse into her cheat-day rituals.

On the professional front, Shilpa Shetty made her Bollywood debut with the 1993 thriller 'Baazigar' opposite Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol, which

went on to become a major success.

Over the years, she has appeared in several popular films like 'Tu Khiladi Main Anari', 'Dhadkan' and many more.

Shilpa's younger sister, Shamita Shetty, is also an actor who made her debut with 'Mohabbatein'.

Apart from films, Shilpa has also built a strong presence on television as a reality show judge, appearing on popular shows such as 'Super Dancer' and 'India's Got Talent'.

On the personal front, she is married to businessman Raj Kundra and the couple is blessed with two children.

Soha says her mother's house is the 'only home where she's still someone's baby girl'

Actress Soha Ali Khan, on Sunday, shared a heartwarming glimpse of her beautiful time with her mother, veteran actor Sharmila Tagore.

Sharing a picture alongside her mother, Soha mentioned that it is the only home where she's still somebody's baby girl, highlighting the warmth of her maternal house.

Taking to her social media account, Soha posted a carousel featuring her pictures along with Sharmila Tagore and her daughter Inaaya Naumi Kemmu.

She captioned the post as, "The only home where I'm still someone's baby girl."

In the pictures, Soha can be seen dressed elegantly in a red saree paired with traditional jhumkas and a small bindi.

She is seen standing beside her mother Sharmila Tagore, with both of them smiling warmly at the camera.

Another picture in the carousel shows her daughter Inaaya hugging her grandmother Sharmila Tagore. Adding a nostalgic touch to the post, Soha used her mother's timeless song 'Taarif Karoon Kya Uski' as the background track, originally sung by legendary playback singer Mohammed Rafi.

The song was a part of Sharmila Tagore's debut movie 'Kashmir Ki Kali', where she starred opposite legendary actor Shammi Kapoor.

For the uninitiated, Soha



Ali Khan comes from the illustrious Pataudi family and is the daughter of Sharmila Tagore and late cricket legend Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi.

She is also the sister of actor Saif Ali Khan and the sister-in-law of actor Kareena Kapoor Khan.

On the professional front, Soha made her

Bollywood debut with the film 'Dil Maange More' and later appeared in films like 'Rang De Basanti', 'Tum Mile' and many more.

Apart from acting, Soha also turned an author and podcaster host. She is married to actor Kunal Kemmu and the couple are parents to their daughter Inaaya Naumi Kemmu.

CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Concocted (4-2)
 - Marsh (3)
 - Memory alone (4)
 - Atop or over (4)
 - Wash bowls (6)
 - Absolute freedom from living micro-organisms (9)
 - Greek god of love (4)
 - Lopsided (3)
 - Couches (5)
 - Pertaining to the pope (5)
 - Drowsy state produced by bhang etc. (3)
 - Harry Potter's best friend (2)
 - Length or breadth, should we say? (5)
 - Reel (5)
 - A corded cloth (3)
 - Big Apple law enforcers (4)
 - Puzzled (9)
 - Secured (6)
 - House rodents (4)
 - Elder sister, in India (4)
 - Diddle and Derek (3)
 - Pieces of rocks used as roofing material (6)

DOWN

- Lynched by a crowd (6)
- ___ towards : inclined to? (8)
- Vessels for ashes (4)
- After 1945 (4-3)
- Transport across river etc (5)
- Invalid (4)
- Mail carrier (7)
- Conversational stopgaps (3)
- Easily influenced (4)
- Elvis ___ Presley? (4)
- Multilingual (8)
- Caused by motion (7)
- Adds on (7)
- The divisions, male and female (3)
- Gymwear name (6)
- Rips apart (5)
- Plebeian (4)
- Irish parliament (4)



Solution to March 16

SUDOKU



Solution to March 16

Workers have been using small gas-enabled burners for cooking. Now, due to LPG cylinder shortage, some factory canteens have shut down, forcing workers to return to their native places. Currently, the situation is not like the COVID pandemic, but it could escalate if the issue is not resolved

-Vinnie Mehta, DG, ACMA

BIZ BRIEFS

Levi's rolls out new campaign

The Levi Strauss & Co., has unveiled its 2026 global campaign, 'Behind Every Original', to India, starring Global Brand Ambassador Alia Bhatt. Hiren Gor, MD, Levi Strauss & Co, said: "For over 150 years, Levi's has been worn by those who move culture forward, and Behind Every Original reinforces our commitment to staying at the center of that momentum. Alia Bhatt represents a new generation of originals — confident, self-defined and unapologetically authentic."

Cooling technology event in Mumbai

Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) and CEPT University convened industry leaders at a summit in Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai. The event titled: 'Can Today's Air Conditioners Keep Up with a Hotter, More Humid World? Delivering Affordable, Efficient Comfort for the Global South.' Sanjay Sudhakaran, MD, Bosch Home Comfort India Ltd, said: "As the heat waves intensify and climate patterns shift, India stands on the brink of a cooling revolution."

Price hike by Tata Motors

Tata Motors announced a price increase of up to 1.5 per cent across its commercial vehicle range, effective April 1. The price increase is being undertaken to partially offset the impact of rising commodity prices and other input costs. The increase will vary depending on the model and variant. According to the company: "With over eight decades of leadership in commercial mobility, Tata Motors is known for its innovation, reliability, and performance."

PhysicsWallah's expansion plans

Education company PhysicsWallah (PW) has expanded its presence in Andhra Pradesh with the inauguration of its first tech-enabled PW Vidyapeeth centre in Vijayawada, located on MG Road. Ankit Gupta, CEO, Vidyapeeth Offline, PW, said: "At PW, we try to find out avenues of making students' learning experience better. We believe that students should not have to travel to other cities to access quality education, as this can be both emotionally and financially stressful."

Kai India's new product

KAI India, a name in personal grooming products, offer CAN Face Razor for Women, a product for facial hair removal for Women. Keijiro Takasago, MD, KAI India, said: "We designed the CAN Face Razor to be simple and dependable — something a woman can use quickly, even on busy mornings. It removes the finest hair with care and makes skin feel smooth. Kai products make everyday grooming easier, and that's what we set out to do."

Markets rebound over 1% on bargain buying after 3-days fall

The equity market staged a late-session rebound, supported by value buying in domestically oriented sectors such as auto, banking, and FMCG

Domestic Support

- BSE-Sensex rose 938.93pts or (+1.26%) to 75,502.85
- NSE-Nifty climbed 257.70pts or (+1.11%) to 23,408.80
- FII offloaded Rs10,716.64-cr; DII bought Rs 9,977.42 cr on Fri



UltraTech Cement surged 4.22 per cent. Trent, HDFC Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Eternal, Bajaj Finance, ITC, Tata Steel and State Bank of India were among the biggest gainers. Bharat Electronics, Sun Pharma, Power Grid and Bharti Airtel were among the major laggards.

MUMBAI: Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded by over 1 per cent on Monday after facing a massive drubbing in the past three trading days, driven by value-buying in blue-chip banking counters.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 938.93 points or 1.26 per cent to settle at 75,502.85. During the day, it hit a high of 75,805.27 and a low of 73,949.76. The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 257.70 points or 1.11 per cent to end at 23,408.80.

From the 30 Sensex firms,

could provide further support," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said. "The BSE MidCap Select index dipped 0.36 per cent and Smallcap Select index edged lower by 0.25 per cent. Among sectoral indices, BSE Top 10 Banks surged 1.61 per cent, followed by Private Banks index (1.38 per cent), Financial Services (1.32 per cent), Auto (1.23 per cent), Bankex (1.08 per cent) and FMCG (0.94 per cent). BSE oil & gas index dropped 2.29 per cent, hospitals (1.64 per cent), realty (1.51 per cent), energy (1.36 per cent) and healthcare (1.13 per cent). "Markets started the week on a volatile note and gained

over a per cent, snapping their recent losing streak, supported by bargain buying. The rebound largely reflects participants taking advantage of lower levels to accumulate select large-cap stocks after the sharp decline. "However, the overall mood remained cautious amid persistent geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and elevated crude oil prices, which continue to raise concerns over inflation and India's import bill. In addition, continued foreign institutional investor outflows and currency volatility are keeping risk appetite in check," Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 10,716.64 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs), however, bought stocks worth Rs 9,977.42 crore. On Friday, the Sensex settled at 74,563.92, down 1,470.50 points or 1.93 per cent. The Nifty tanked 488.05 points or 2.06 per cent to end at 23,151.10.

Exports dip marginally in Feb

Trade deficit narrows to \$27 bn | Imports surge even as global tensions disrupt trade routes

Trade Insights

- Exports (Feb 2026): \$36.61 bn
- Imports (Feb 2026): \$63.71 bn
- Trade Deficit: \$27.1 bn
- Exports (Apr-Feb FY26): \$402.93 bn (+1.84%)

NEW DELHI

INDIA'S merchandise exports dipped marginally in February while the trade deficit narrowed sequentially as imports moderated compared with the previous month, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Monday. Exports in February

stood at \$36.61 billion, registering a slight 0.81 per cent decline year-on-year. Imports, however, rose sharply by 24.11 per cent to \$63.71 billion, pushing the trade deficit to \$27.1 billion during the month.

On a month-on-month basis, the deficit narrowed from \$34.68 billion in January, as imports fell from \$71.24 billion while exports were almost unchanged.

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said exports have remained resilient despite global challenges, though shipments may see a downward trend in March due to logistical disruptions arising from tensions in West Asia.

For the April-February period of FY26, India's merchandise exports grew 1.84 per cent to \$402.93 billion, compared with \$395.66 bil-

lion in the same period last year. Imports during the period increased 8.53 per cent to \$713.53 billion.

The data comes amid escalating tensions in West Asia following military action by the US and Israel against Iran on February 28. The crisis has disrupted key trade routes, particularly the Strait of Hormuz, through which nearly 20 per cent of global oil and gas shipments pass.

Officials said India has strengthened its resilience to global energy shocks through diversification of imports across about 40 supplier countries and by building strategic petroleum reserves. Government officials added that India is also in contact with Iran to ensure safe passage for merchant ships through the region.



LG HVAC system showcased at ACREX

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

LG Electronics India Limited (LGE India) has participated at ACREX ISHRAE India 2026 - South Asia's largest exhibition for HVAC and Intelligent Business Solutions. The company presented its most comprehensive product portfolio at the exhibition, spanning residential, commercial, and industrial applications, highlighting innovations that deliver intelligent, reliable, and energy-efficient climate solutions for India. LG Electronics showcased its advanced VRF, Chillers & Cassette range ACs best suited for diverse Indian climate & consumers requirements. Commenting on the company's participation in ACREX, Hong Ju Jeon—Managing Director & Chief Sales & Marketing Officer, LG Electronics India Limited said, "LG Electronics has been part of India's journey for nearly three decades, and has during this period built unparalleled expertise in addressing the country's infrastructure requirements, while meeting performance standards that developers, consultants, and facility managers demand."

HCLTech ties up with Google Cloud for Agentic AI adoption

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

HCLTech, a technology company, has announced the expansion of its strategic collaboration with Google Cloud to help accelerate enterprise adoption of Agentic AI. HCLTech will use Gemini Enterprise and Gemini models to build custom AI agents for global clients, while strengthening collaboration and security through Google Workspace, supporting their scalable, AI-driven transformation. As enterprises scale AI, the company's Gemini-enabled offerings embed AI into systems, workflows and decision-making to unlock new market opportunities, introduce innovative capabilities and boost operational efficiency. Many of the agents the company has developed are already available on the Google Cloud Marketplace. This expanded collaboration formalises a structured program to accelerate clients' GenAI and Agentic AI adoption, cultivate Google Cloud



champions across HCLTech and support over 2,000 GenAI-led customer engagements.

The company's key areas include: Building unique offerings with Data and AI at its core, the AI Force platform integrates with Google's Gemini family of models and Gemini Code Assist to transform software development and IT operations. Additional offerings include Unified Migrations, including Oracle, SAP and VMware transformation to Google Cloud and Security transformation.

The company is growing its Center of Excellence to expand industry-specific agentic solutions. Advancing Agentic AI solutions, building on offerings such as Insight for manufacturing and Netsight for telecommunications.

Sebi mulls light-touch penalty structure for IAs

The regulator aims to promote compliance while ensuring transparency and fairness

NEW DELHI: With an aim to strengthen the investment advisory ecosystem, markets regulator Sebi is working on a raft of measures, including a standardised light-touch penalty structure, a digital regulatory guidance platform, and a common advertisement code, its chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said. Speaking at an event organised by the Association of Registered Investment Advisers (ARIA), Pandey said the investment advisory ecosystem in India is currently at an important stage of transition.

At present, there are around 1,000 registered investment advisers (IAs) in the country-- about 470 individuals and 530 non-individual entities. He said the regulator is working on a standardised light-touch penalty structure aimed at encouraging compliance



while ensuring transparency and fairness. "A standardised light-touch penalty structure for IAs is being worked out. This should promote compliance while ensuring transparency and fairness," he said.

The regulator is also developing a digital platform -- SEBI SETU -- to provide simple, end-to-end regulatory guidance for investment advisers, covering the entire lifecycle from registration to ongoing compliance, he added.

In addition, the regulator is preparing a common advertisement code for all intermediaries to reduce

operational challenges and improve consistency in communication. Among other initiatives, a working group has been constituted to review the existing regulatory framework for Mutual Fund Distributors (MFDs) and examine overlaps, if any, between MFDs and investment advisers.

Pandey said a simplified certification module is also being developed by National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM) for individuals associated with investment advice who are engaged in sales and other non-core functions. However, he expressed concern over the declining number of registered investment advisers despite a rapidly expanding investor base.

"It is a matter of concern that the number of registered investment advisers has declined since 2021.

Vedanta eyes ₹2,575-cr via NCDs

NEW DELHI: Vedanta Ltd said its committee of directors has approved raising up to Rs 2,575 crore through issuance of debentures. The fundraising is part of Vedanta's efforts to diversify funding sources and strengthen its balance sheet as it continues to refinance debt and reduce borrowing costs. The committee has approved the allotment of 2,57,500 unsecured, redeemable, rated, listed, non-convertible debentures of face value of Rs 1,00,000 each, aggregating to Rs 2,575 crore on a private placement basis, a BSE filing said. Vedanta has seen strong investor interest in recent debt issuances. In October 2025, its \$500 million bond issue was oversubscribed three times, while an NCD offering in June last year saw nearly 60 per cent oversubscription. The company has been gradually deleveraging its balance sheet. Vedanta Resources Ltd, the parent of Vedanta Ltd, has reduced net debt to about \$4.8 billion as of December 2025 from about \$8.9 billion in March 2022.

Inflation: Rising crude prices push WPI to 11-month high of 2.13% in Feb

It is likely to pick up pace if oil price rise persists, and spills over to other goods

Global Jitters

- Inflation in food articles was 2.19%
- Vegetables, inflation eased to 4.73%
- Pulses, potato and egg, meat and fish saw an uptick



NEW DELHI: Wholesale price inflation rose to a 11-month high of 2.13 per cent in February, driven by an uptick in prices of food and non-food articles, even though vegetable prices eased on a month-on-month basis, government data showed on Monday.

This is the fourth straight month of rise in Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation. It was 1.81 per cent in January and 2.45 per cent in February last year.

Economists said the WPI inflation is likely to pick up pace further if the oil price

rise persists, and spills over to other goods (fertilisers, aluminium) given it tracks international prices more closely relative to the CPI basket.

According to WPI data, inflation in food articles was 2.19 per cent in February, as against 1.55 per cent in the previous month. Although in vegetables, inflation eased to 4.73 per cent in February against 6.78 per cent in Janu-

ary, pulses, potato and egg, meat and fish saw an uptick in inflation in February.

"Positive rate of inflation in February 2026 is primarily due to an increase in prices of other manufacturing, manufacture of basic metals, non-food articles, food articles and textiles, etc.," the industry ministry said in a statement. Negative inflation, or deflation, in the fuel and power basket narrowed

to 3.78 per cent in February, vis-a-vis 4.01 per cent in January. Global oil prices averaged \$68/bbl in February from \$63/bbl in January.

Barclays in a research note said the passthrough of the rise in crude oil prices from the Middle East conflict will reflect more in WPI inflation vs retail CPI inflation, as retail fuel prices are unchanged in the latter.

"With a sharp jump in crude oil prices crossing \$100/bbl as of 16 March, the corresponding WPI will likely reflect this in the March print," Barclays said.

India Ratings and Research the rising crude oil prices since the US-Iran war will have a strong impact on wholesale inflation from March 2026, till the supply side issues are resolved.

The average price of Indian crude basket March 2026 (up to March 12) touched a 44-month high of \$101.25/bbl.

Nifty likely to reach 35,000 in 3 yrs: Report

In last 4 years Indian markets delivered about 12.7% CAGR; If the index maintains its current valuation multiple of about 20.9x earnings, it could translate into around 12.8-14% CAGR

NEW DELHI: India's benchmark index Nifty 50 is likely to touch 34,000-35,000 levels over the next three years due to earnings growth, stronger consumption and banking credit expansion, a report claimed on Monday.

From these factors and continued investment in infrastructure and manufacturing, Nifty earnings per share may rise to Rs 1,281 in FY27, Rs 1,463 in FY28 and Rs 1,650-1,700 by FY29, the report from investment platform smallcase said. Mid-caps led market returns, outperforming large caps during the past four years when global markets experienced shocks from multiple geopolitical conflicts, the report said.

Indian markets delivered about 12.7 per cent CAGR demonstrated notable resilience, with most geopolitical shocks triggering short-term corrections of



around 2-8 per cent, followed by swift recoveries within weeks, during times of conflict in last 4 years.

This performance has been supported by the strength of the domestic economy, improving corporate earnings, and rising retail participation in the stock market, the firm said. Assuming the index maintains its current valuation multiple of about 20.9x earnings, the trend could translate into approximately 12.8-14 per cent compound annual growth rate (CAGR), the report added.

The firm highlighted mid-caps delivered CAGRs of about 18.4 per cent dur-

ing this period versus 13.4 per cent for small caps and 9.8 per cent for large caps. Defence and aerospace companies have emerged as key beneficiaries of heightened geopolitical tensions, supported by rising global defence spending and stronger domestic procurement initiatives, it said.

Oil and gas producers have also historically performed well during geopolitical crises due to supply disruptions and rising crude oil prices. Commodity-linked sectors such as metals and mining have similarly witnessed phases of outperformance during periods of supply constraints and commodity price rallies, it added. Meanwhile, manufacturing and capital goods companies are gaining prominence as global supply chains undergo structural shifts, the firm suggested.

If your name is Jasprit Bumrah, the pressure comes automatically. He is that kind of bowler. He creates an impact in every game, guarantees you a wicket, and restricts the opposition. That responsibility brings a lot of pressure because his four overs are the most precious thing for MI - Aakash Chopra

India has depth to field several T20 teams: SKY

'Batting a mix of instinct and reaction and team effort behind 80 per cent win rate'

NEW DELHI

INDIA'S T20 World Cup-winning captain Suryakumar Yadav believes the country's talent pool in the shortest format has grown so vast that it could comfortably field two or even three international-quality teams at the same time, underlining the depth created by a thriving domestic structure and franchise ecosystem.

The flamboyant batter, who has overseen a period of remarkable consistency since taking over the leadership after the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, credited the steady pipeline of players emerging from domestic competitions and the Indian Premier League for strengthening India's dominance in T20 cricket.

Since Suryakumar took over the captaincy in 2024 -- right after Rohit Sharma stepped down following the World Cup victory in Barbados -- the Indian team has won 42 of the 52 matches played, reflecting team's domi-



nance in a fickle format.

In a podcast interview with PTI Videos on Sunday, Suryakumar called the current group "the best T20 team India has produced", adding that India's depth in T20 cricket is now too evident to be downplayed.

"If you talk about talent, I feel you can find talent regularly. There is IPL cricket, franchise cricket, then there is domestic cricket. You can see how many players come every year. So you can make as many teams as you want in T20 when I am talking about T20," Suryakumar said.

"So I feel talent is unlimited. If you can make two-three

playing XIs, our base is so strong, of the Indian team. So this is not a modest and diplomatic reply. But now it is so strong, so there is no shame in telling the truth," he said.

Suryakumar credited the team's success coming into the World Cup to a collective approach in the dressing room, saying a shared vision among players and support staff helped produce an impressive 80 per cent win rate in a notoriously unpredictable format.

Even with that success rate, the World Cup was not going to be a cake-walk because as Suryakumar noted, "we played bilateral matches one way, and in ICC tournament something

else happened."

For this reason, he needed to motivate the team to maintain the winning streak in the Feb 7 to March 8 tournament.

"I don't pay too much attention to statistics but I hate losing any game. If everyone in the dressing room moves in the same direction, only then can you achieve such a percentage," he said.

Known for his 360-degree strokeplay, Suryakumar described batting in T20 cricket as largely a reactive sport, with preparation accounting for only part of the process. "I feel batting is about 70-75 per cent reaction. The remaining 25 per cent is instinct, what you decide to do in the moment. Once you enter the ground, you are almost in autopilot mode. You try to bat with rhythm and according to the situation," he said.

He also traced the origins of his unconventional range of shots to childhood rubber-ball games in Mumbai, where uneven boundary sizes forced him to improvise.

Indian women's team to feature in FIH Hockey Nation Cup

LAUSANNE (SWITZERLAND): The Indian women's team will feature in the FIH Hockey Nations Cup to be held in Auckland, New Zealand from June 15 to 21.

The Hockey Nations Cup was launched in 2021 to offer a top-level competition to the best-ranked teams not participating in the Hockey Pro League, and give the winning team an option to be promoted in it the following season. The Indian women's hockey team was relegated from the Pro League 2024-25 after finishing at the bottom of the nine-team standings.

Apart from India, hosts New Zealand, USA, Japan, Korea, Chile, Scotland and France, who were promoted via the Hockey Nations Cup 2, will take part in the event.

The men's event will be held in Cape Town and will involve South Africa, New Zealand, France, Korea, Japan, Wales, Malaysia, along with Scotland, who were promoted via the Hockey Nations Cup 2, as well as Ireland, who were relegated from the 2024-25 season of the Hockey Pro League.

ORLEANS MASTERS SUPER 300

Ayush, Tanvi to lead Indian challenge; Injured Prannoy pulls out

ORLEANS (FRANCE): Youngsters Ayush Shetty and Tanvi Sharma will lead India's challenge at the USD 250,000 Orleans Masters Super 300 badminton tournament beginning here on Tuesday after senior shuttler HS Prannoy pulled out due to a shoulder injury.

Prannoy, who was originally slated to face top seed Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei in the opening round, was forced to withdraw after experiencing shoulder pain during the Swiss Open in Basel last week. While the cause of his discomfort was unclear initially, the Indian had decided to pull out of his match against Japan's Koki Watanabe to avoid aggravating the injury.

"The shoulder pain developed after travelling to the Swiss Open. We didn't know the reason then, so I decided to withdraw and fly back," Prannoy told PTI. "After a scan it showed a slight tear. It is a minor thing and hopefully I should be okay soon," added the seasoned pro, who is targeting a return at the Asian Championships to be held from April 7 to 12 in Ningbo, China.

All eyes will be on eighth seed world No. 25 Ayush Shetty, who won the US Open Super 300 last year, as he opens his campaign against Lee Chia Hao of Chinese Taipei.

Former world No. 1 and currently ranked 30th, Kidambi Srikanth will face Denmark's Magnus Johannesen.

Tharun Mannepilli, fresh from a quarterfinal finish at last week's Swiss Open, takes on



Chinese Taipei's Wang Tzu Wei in his opening game. World No. 42 Kiran George will face third seed Kenta Nishimoto of Japan.

In women's singles, Tanvi Sharma, the silver medalist at last year's BWF Junior World Championships, will take on Thailand's Supanida Katethong, while Malvika Bansod will continue her quest for glory after returning to action from a major injury when she faces Sung Shuo Yun of Chinese Taipei.

Rakshitha Sree Santhosh Ramraj will meet Japan's Manami Suizu, while Annol Kharb will be up against Turkey's Neslihan Arin.

In women's doubles, Devika Sihag and Isharani Baruah will take on a pair coming through the qualifiers. The men's doubles pair of Hariharan Amsakarunan and M R Arjun will face the Chinese Taipei duo of Lai Po Yu and Tsai Fu Cheng.

In women's doubles, Ashwini Bhat K and Shikha Gautam will be up against the fourth-seeded Japanese pair of Rui Hirokami and Sayaka Hobara.

Bumrah creates an impact in every game: Aakash Chopra

NEW DELHI

FORMER India opener Aakash Chopra says pace ace Jasprit Bumrah is guaranteed to deliver in every match for the Mumbai Indians (MI) in IPL 2026, but warned that the five-time Indian Premier League (IPL) champions face a complex puzzle to solve to fit their array of overseas talent into their playing eleven.

Bumrah picked 18 wickets in 12 games at an average of 17.56 and an economy rate of 6.68 in IPL 2025. MI will kick-

start their campaign at home against three-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) on March 29 at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. The side had reached Qualifier 2 in IPL 2025 before losing to eventual runners-up Punjab Kings.

"If your name is Jasprit Bumrah, the pressure comes automatically. He is that kind of bowler. He creates an impact in every game, guarantees you a wicket, and restricts the opposition. That responsibility brings a lot of pressure because his four overs are the

most precious thing for MI. Bowl one over in the powerplay, keep one for the middle phase, and two at the death.

"That is Bumrah -- that pressure is not going anywhere. Whether Boult bowls well or Deepak Chahar is fully fit, Bumrah's pressure stays with him. But if Boult is fit, MI will want to continue with him. Fit, available, in form. They will want the new ball to move around a little with Boult and Deepak Chahar. "Shardul Thakur is a capable replacement for Cha-



har, but it does not necessarily mean that he plays ahead of him. A fit Deepak Chahar, a fit Trent Boult, Bumrah, and Hardik Pandya will be MI's four starting pacers. Corbin Bosch is waiting in the wings. He is a very good all-rounder. But again, you cannot play all overseas players," said Chopra on JioStar.

NATIONAL TENPIN BOWLING C'SHIPS

Kishan, Preemal crowned champions

BENGALURU: Former national champion Kishan R of Karnataka clinched his second national title in the men's division at the ARC 34th National Tenpin Bowling Championships, which concluded at Amoeba, Church Street, Bengaluru, on Monday.

In the women's division, Preemal J. of Karnataka captured her maiden national title, ending a 15-year wait for Karnataka in this division.

In the Championship Match played based on cumulative pinfall of two games, top-seeded Kishan produced a composed performance to gain a lead of 17 pins in Game 1 (208-191). He extended his lead in the 2nd game, scoring a high game of 244 to Aakash's 238, seal-



ing the Title with an overall margin of 23 pins (452-429).

In the Championship Match, fourth-seeded Preemal J. took an early lead of 20 pins in the first game with 188 against top-seeded Sabina Athica (Tamil Nadu) (168). Despite a close second game, Preemal maintained her composure

to secure victory, claiming her maiden National Title by a margin of 24 pins (332-308).

Special prizes: Most Promising Player: Anirudhan Sanjeevi (TN) and Suchita S. Kumar (KER)

The largest number of scores above 225 in the Men's division: Kishan R. (KAR) (11)

The largest number of scores above 200 in the Women's division: Sabeena Athica (TN) (4)

Highest block of 6 games in Men's division: Kishan R (KAR) (1369 pins)

Highest block of 6 games in Women's division: Sabeena Athica (TN) (1122 pins).

BJP MP's remarks on namaz draw flak from Oppn

ALIGARH (UP)

THE remarks of a BJP MP that he does not know what Eid or Ramzan is while opposing namaz in this Uttar Pradesh district have gone viral on social media, drawing criticism from opposition politicians, even as community leaders have

appealed for calm.

When reporters asked BJP MP Satish Gautam on Sunday about a local AIMIM leader's demand for permission to hold Eid prayers at the exhibition grounds here, he said he is not interested in such festivals and does not even know their names. "I do not

know what Eid or Ramzan is. I am least interested in them," Gautam said.

He also accused Muslims of "illegally occupying huge tracts of land during the Samajwadi Party's rule" in Uttar Pradesh and questioned the need for additional space for prayers. "There is no need to give

them the ground. They have the Eidgah for prayers," the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader said.

He further said that Muslims are among the major beneficiaries of the present BJP-led government's welfare schemes. "They are getting more than their due share, so what else

do they want from us now?" he asked.

Reacting to the MP's remarks, former Aligarh Muslim University Students' Union president Salman Imtiaz said Gautam is known for frequently making "senseless and provocative statements" and that both Hindus and Muslims

ignore such comments in the interest of peace.

Imtiaz, now associated with the Congress and a former contestant for the Aligarh City Assembly seat, alleged that Gautam's remarks were intended at diverting attention from internal disputes within the city unit of the BJP.



Man kills 2 in-laws during Panchayat; wife critical

BAREILLY (UP)

A man on Monday allegedly stabbed his mother-in-law and brother-in-law to death and seriously injured his wife during a panchayat in Rahrura Chaudhary village in Bareilly district, police said.

The accused, identified as Afsar Khan, fled after the attack and police teams have been deployed to trace him, Bareilly Additional SP Manush Pareek said.

"Raids are being conducted at several locations and the accused will be arrested soon," he added.

According to the police, the victims have been identified as 19-year-old Adil and his 45-year-old mother Asma, while the accused's wife Saima sustained serious stab injuries and is undergoing treatment in a hospital where her condition is stated to be critical. Family members said Afsar Khan had a violent temperament and frequently quarrelled with his wife over minor issues, forc-



ing her to repeatedly return to her parental home. Saima had reportedly refused to go back with him due to his aggressive behaviour.

They said the accused had earlier been arrested in 2022 for allegedly killing his maternal uncle in the Bithri Chainpur police station area and had recently returned to the village after securing bail from a court.

The police said Saima had submitted a written complaint at Izzatnagar police station on Sunday alleging that her husband was threatening to kill her and her family members. On Monday, villagers convened a panchayat to resolve the dispute when the accused allegedly attacked the family members with a knife before fleeing, the police said.

'Embezzlement' of Rs 11.4-cr scholarship funds

CBI registers FIR against govt officials in 5 states

NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered a case into the alleged siphoning of more than Rs 11.4 crore from scholarship funds intended for students with disabilities by "non-existent" institutes and students, officials said Monday.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed an FIR against unidentified public servants and nodal officers in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Jammu and Kashmir for allegedly embezzling funds from the Umbrella Scholarship Scheme, launched in 2018 after six scholarship schemes including the Post-matric Scholarship for Students with



Disabilities were merged, the agency said.

Scholarships under this scheme were available to students of classes 11 and 12, as well as in post-matriculation diploma and certificate courses. Bachelor's degree and diploma and master's degree and diploma from any university recognised by UGC/AICTE were also funded under

these scholarships.

"The objective and allowances of the scheme for the post-metric scholarship, including the details of maintenance allowance, disability allowance, reimbursement of compulsory non-refundable fees and book allowance, are referred to in the scheme book (scholarship scheme for students with disabilities)," the

CBI said.

The central agency had launched a preliminary enquiry last year on a complaint from the secretary of the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, alleging that Rs 11.41 crore in scholarships had been paid to 926 students related to 28 institutes, which were either fake or showed serious malpractices during an inspection by the ministry.

During the enquiry, it surfaced that many of these institutions were non-existent or were closed while still claiming funds from the National Scholarship Portal, according to the FIR.

Hoax cyanide gas email threat alarms Bhopal office

BHOPAL

AN email threatening to "blow up" the premises of a Madhya Pradesh government office here using cyanide gas cylinders on Monday prompted precautionary evacuation, officials said.

The threat turned out to be a hoax after police personnel searched the office of the Weights and Measures Department in the MP Nagar area.

"While checking mails, I came across a message at 10:20 AM stating that 16 cylinders filled with cyanide gas had been placed inside the department office and would go off around 1 pm," office superintendent Shyam Solanki told PTI.

He contacted his seniors, and the police were informed. Bomb disposal squad personnel and police teams with sniffer dogs rushed to the spot and searched the premises, he said, adding that the office



was evacuated as a precaution.

Solanki said the police did not find any cylinders or explosives in the office. Officials said similar threatening emails had earlier targeted People's University and AIIMS in Bhopal, but those alerts also proved false.

Bhopal City Zone 2 Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Vivek Singh stated that the investigation is underway to identify the sender of the email. He suspected that a gang was behind such emails nationwide, using fake names. Department officers and workers' leader Umashankar Tiwari said staffers resumed work at 1:10 PM.



Venugopal urges LS Speaker to revoke 8 MPs' suspension

NEW DELHI: Congress leader K C Venugopal urged Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday to revoke the suspension of eight opposition members, saying they were suspended "unfairly".

Raising the issue during the Zero Hour, Venugopal said Parliament has seen countless protests but suspending MPs is a "disturbing new trend" that cannot be allowed to continue.

Birla said a decision of the Lok Sabha cannot be discussed on the floor of the House and disallowed Venugopal to speak further. Later, in a post on X, the Congress leader said he had raised concern over the "unfair suspension of 8 Opposition MPs for this Session". "Rose in the Lok Sabha to raise concern over the unfair suspension of 8 Opposition MPs for this

Session. Parliament has seen countless protests but the suspension of MPs is a disturbing new trend, which cannot be allowed to continue. This suspension should be revoked immediately," he said. The eight opposition members were suspended during the first part of the Budget Session for "unruly" behaviour. They were suspended for the entire session.

State to be developed as East-West cargo corridor

- CM orders faster cargo operations at Mulapeta, Machilipatnam, and Ramayapatnam ports, targeting hinterland cargo from six neighbouring states
- Machilipatnam and Ramayapatnam ports slated for completion by December; Ramayapatnam to gain prominence with BPCL refinery and dedicated rail link to Kadapa Steel Plant
- Port townships, industrial corridors, and fishing harbour expansions planned to position Andhra Pradesh as a logistics hub on India's east coast amid global shipping disruptions

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

CHIEF Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to develop the state as a major East-West cargo corridor by strengthening cargo handling operations at ports across the state.

During a review meeting held at the Secretariat on ports and fishing harbours, the Chief Minister stressed the need to expedite cargo operations at the newly constructed ports of Mulapeta, Machilipatnam and Ramayapatnam. He instructed officials to take necessary steps to ensure cargo movement

from the hinterland regions of neighbouring states such as Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana and Karnataka through these ports.

Officials informed the Chief Minister that construction of Machilipatnam and Ramayapatnam ports is expected to be completed by December 2026. Naidu said that once the refinery of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited is established, Ramayapatnam will emerge as a major container and bulk cargo port.

The Chief Minister also revealed that the Railway Ministry has approved a dedicat-



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu holds a review on works on ports and fishing harbours with officials at the Secretariat on Monday

ed rail connectivity project from Ramayapatnam to the Kadapa Steel Plant, which will significantly improve cargo transportation.

Naidu suggested developing port townships near the three ports to boost commercial activity and said industrial corridors are also likely to emerge in these regions due to improved infrastructure.

He further directed officials to accelerate the second phase of fishing harbour construction at Budagatlapa-

lem Fishing Harbour, Pudidamadaka Fishing Harbour and Kothapatnam Fishing Harbour. Highlighting the state's strategic location, the Chief Minister said Andhra Pradesh is poised to become a logistics hub on India's east coast, with ports and fishing harbours planned roughly every 50 kilometres along the coastline. He emphasized that the state's ports should emerge as game changers in cargo handling.

Naidu also pointed out that due to the ongoing glob-

al conflicts affecting ports in Dubai and Gulf countries, there is a growing perception that ports on India's east coast are safer. He urged officials to take advantage of this opportunity to strengthen Andhra Pradesh's maritime infrastructure and attract greater cargo traffic. The review meeting was attended by Special Chief Secretary for Investments and Infrastructure M. T. Krishna Babu and Maritime Board CEO Abhishek Kumar, among other officials.

AP fixes Rs 2.39 lakh unit cost for PMAY-Gramin 2.0 houses

- Interest subsidy on SHG loans to be reimbursed from 2026-27 to 2028-29
- State housing corporation directed to implement scheme across the state

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE Andhra Pradesh government has fixed the unit cost at Rs.2.39 lakh for construction of houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin 2.0 (PMAY-G 2.0). Housing special chief secretary Ajay Jain issued GO Rt No 20 to this effect on Monday.

According to the government order, the revised unit cost includes convergence funds and Self-Help Group (SHG) loans. The order also provides for reimbursement of interest subsidy on SHG loans by the state government for the financial years from 2026-27 to 2028-29.

Officials said the decision was taken after examining proposals submitted by the managing director of the Andhra Pradesh State Housing Corporation Limited (APSHCL). The proposal



was prepared in accordance with guidelines issued by the ministry of rural development, Government of India, for the implementation of PMAY-Gramin 2.0. Under the scheme, the Centre provides assistance of Rs 1.2 lakh per house, which includes a central share of Rs.72,000 (60 per cent) and a state share of Rs 48,000 (40 per cent). In addition, beneficiaries will be eligible for an SHG loan of Rs 80,000 at an interest rate of 3 per cent, with the state government reimbursing the interest component.

The funding structure also includes convergence components such as wage support under the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajevika Mis-

sion - Gramin (VB-G-RAM-G) Scheme and the National Rural Livelihood Mission, amounting to Rs 27,000, and Rs 12,000 for sanitation support for construction of Individual Household Toilets (IHHLT) under the Swachh Bharat Mission. With these components, the total unit cost per house has been fixed at Rs 2,39,000.

The government has directed the managing director of APSHCL to take necessary steps for implementation of the scheme across the state. Officials said the revised unit cost would enable beneficiaries to construct better quality houses with additional financial support through convergence schemes and SHG loans.

DRIVER'S MURDER CASE

MLC Anantha Babu's wife appears before SIT

- Lakshmi Durga was questioned by SIT in Kakinada after High Court directive, linked as second accused in 2022 Dalit youth murder
- MLC Anantha Uday Bhaskar, first accused, allegedly staged driver Subrahmanyam's death as a road accident; later released on default bail

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KAKINADA

STATE Legislative Council member Anantha Uday Bhaskar's wife Lakshmi Durga, on Monday appeared before the Special Investigation Team (SIT), probing the murder of his former driver.

She appeared before the investigating officer in Kakinada at the direction of the Andhra Pradesh High Court. Anantha Uday Bhaskar dropped her at the office of Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), where investigating officer Manish Patil Devraj questioned her.

The High Court had directed her to appear before SIT between March 16 and March 30 from 10 am to 5 pm. The order was passed on her petition seeking cancellation of a non-bailable war-



File picture of Anantha Babu and his wife Lakshmi Durga

rant against her issued by the Special SC/ST Court in Rajamahendravaram. The SIT, in the supplementary charge sheet filed last month, had stated that Lakshmi Durga had a role in the 2022 murder of Dalit youth Veedhi Subrahmanyam. Following this, she was named a second accused in the case and a non-bailable warrant was issued a week ago.

MLC Anantha Uday Bhaskar, also known as Anantha Babu, is the first accused in the case. He is accused of killing his former driver, Subrahmanyam, and later delivering the body to the victim's house. Sub-

rahmanyam (34) was found dead under suspicious circumstances in Kakinada on May 19, 2022. The MLC of the then-ruling YSR Congress Party had personally transported the body to the victim's parents' residence around 2 a.m. in his own car, claiming it was a road accident.

The family, however, suspected foul play and refused to accept the body. The murder had sparked protests by the victim's relatives and Dalit organisations.

Anantha Babu had allegedly pushed the deceased during an argument, resulting in his fall and death. The

legislator allegedly inflicted additional injuries on the body to make it appear as though the death resulted from a road accident.

The MLC was subsequently arrested, and the YSRCP suspended him from the party.

With the investigating officer unable to submit the charge sheet within 90 days, Anantha Babu was released on default bail in December 2022.

After coming to power in June 2024, the TDP-led coalition government decided to re-investigate the case. Indian Police Service (IPS) officer and incumbent Kakinada DSP Manish Devraj Patil was appointed as the investigation officer. In July 2025, the SC/ST Special Court ordered a re-investigation into the case. The MLC had challenged the order in the High Court, but it granted a stay on a lower court's order, which had also directed that a supplementary chargesheet be filed within 90 days.

Last month, the Supreme Court observed that there was a clear "nexus between police and power" in the case and that the police had attempted to help Ananta Uday Bhaskar secure bail.

Following this, the state government suspended four police officers over the lapses in the investigation that led to the release of the MLC.

KANIPAKAM TEMPLE TO GET RS3.4 Cr PUSHKARINI

- The existing temple tank to be shifted forward by 80-90 ft to create open space in front of temple
- Akhilandam to be developed on Tirumala model for coconut breaking and lamp lighting rituals
- Two Kalyana Mandapams and a guest house to be constructed with Rs 25 cr TTD funds

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI
TIRUPATI

THE historic Sri Varasiddhi Vinayaka Swamy temple at Kanipakam is set to witness a major transformation with temple authorities launching a series of development initiatives aimed at improving pilgrim amenities and ensuring the smooth conduct of religious rituals and festivals. The plans form part of a comprehensive master development programme being implemented for the temple town.

A key highlight of the initiative is the construction of a new Pushkarini near the Supatha Mandapam at an estimated cost of Rs 3.40 crore. The existing temple tank located in front of the shrine



A view of the Kanipakam temple

has been creating difficulties during major processions, particularly Vahana Sevams conducted as part of the annual Brahmotsavams, as it restricts the movement of temple chariots and vehicles despite the presence of Mada streets on three sides.

Devasathanam Chairman V Surendra Babu popularly known as Mani Naidu said permissions for the project had already been secured from the Endowments Department and the temple administration was moving ahead with the execution schedule.

He told The Hans India that, land transfer process from a private hotel owner will be completed in the next 10-15 days after which tenders will be called for. The target is to complete the new

Pushkarini before the Brahmotsavams this year.

Officials stated that the new Pushkarini would be constructed with the same dimensions as the existing one, measuring about 140 feet in length and width and 12 feet in depth. Stones from the present tank will be re-used, preserving traditional elements while introducing improved facilities.

The structure will feature stone pillars sourced from older temple architecture, along with a centrally located stone Neerajana Mandapam housing an idol of Lord Vinayaka. Steps for devotees, barricades, water purification systems and modern lighting arrangements will also be installed.

The redesign will effectively shift the Pushkarini for-

ward by nearly 80 to 90 feet, creating a spacious open area in front of the temple.

According to the Chairman, this change will significantly improve the movement of the Lord's Utsava Murthy idols during festivals and provide better convenience for devotees visiting the shrine in large numbers.

As part of the expansion, the Devasathanam is also planning to establish an Akhilandam in front of the temple on the lines of Tirumala, enabling devotees to break coconuts and light lamps as part of fulfilling their vows. The existing TTD building and a nearby police station will be relocated, and alternative locations have already been identified. Meanwhile, the Tirumala Tirupati Devasathanams has sanctioned Rs 25 crore for the overall development of the temple town. With this, two air-conditioned Kalyana Mandapams will be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 16 crore, including one dedicated to conducting mass weddings, the Chairman revealed.

A guest house costing around Rs 9 crore will also be built by TTD. These facilities will be maintained by the Kanipakam Devasathanam, and the revenue generated from them will accrue to the temple administration.

TTD announces schedule for June ticket quota

- Arjita Seva tickets will be released online at 10 am today
- Rs 300 Special Entry Darshan tickets will be released on March 24

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUMALA

THE Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) will release the quota for various Srivari darshan tickets and accommodation for June 2026 in phases starting March 18.

According to TTD, tickets for Srivari Arjita Sevams - Suprabhatam, Thomala, Archana and Ashtadala Pada Padmaradhana - will be released online at 10 am on March 18. Devotees can register for the electronic dip for these sevams until 10 am on March 20.

Those allotted tickets through the electronic dip must complete payment between March 20 and March 22 before 12 noon to confirm their bookings.

Tickets for other Arjita Sevams such as Kalyanotsavam,

Unjal Seva, Arjita Brahmotsavam, Sahasra Deepalankara Seva and Jyeshthabishekam will be released online at 10 am on March 21.

The quota for Virtual Sevams along with their darshan slots will be made available online at 3 pm on March 21. TTD will release Angapradakshinam tokens online at 10 am on March 23, while the quota for Srivani Trust darshan tickets will be released at 11 am on the same day. The quota of free special darshan tokens for senior citizens, differently-abled persons and devotees suffering from chronic illnesses will be released online at 3 pm on March 23.

Special Entry Darshan tickets will be released online at 10 am on March 24. On the same day, the accommodation quota for Tirumala and Tirupati will be made available online at 3 pm.

TTD has advised devotees to book Srivari Arjita Sevams and darshan tickets only through its official website: <https://ttdevasthanams.ap.gov.in>

SSC exams begin smoothly across state

- Over 6.22 lakh students appear on Day 1; attendance recorded at 98.90%
- Authorities conduct 1,753 inspections to ensure fair conduct of exams

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE Secondary School Certificate (SSC) public examinations began smoothly across the state on Monday, with authorities reporting peaceful conduct of the examinations at all centres.

According to the Board of Secondary Education (BSE), a total of 6,29,109 regular candidates had registered for the examinations. Of them, 6,22,217 students appeared for the first-day examination, while 6,852 candidates were absent. The exams were conducted at 3,415 centres across the state. Officials said the overall attendance on the first day stood at 98.90 per cent, reflecting a high turnout of candidates.

To ensure smooth and transparent conduct of the examinations, the Board of Secondary Education put in place a comprehensive monitoring mechanism.

As part of these arrangements, various authorities conducted 1,753 inspection visits to examination centres across the state. The inspections were carried out by



SSC students attending the public examinations at a centre in Vijayawada on Monday

Photo: Ch Venkata Mastan

district collectors, district-level observers, district educational officers, assistant commissioners of government examinations, district monitoring coordinators, flying squads and other officials.

Director of Government Examinations KV Srinivasulu Reddy said that four invigilators were found negligent in discharging their duties during the examination. Two invigilators in YSR Kadapa district, one in Anantapur district, and another in Palnadu district were reported

for lapses. He said the matter was taken seriously and strict action would be initiated against the concerned invigilators as per the rules governing the conduct of examinations.

He also instructed district educational officers, chief superintendents, departmental officers and invigilators to maintain strict vigilance and adhere to examination protocols to ensure the smooth conduct of the remaining SSC examinations.

APA India launches tele-counselling for Class 10 students during exams

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE Advanced Psychological Services Association launched a free tele-counselling initiative to support Class 10 students appearing for public examinations in the state.

Announcing the initiative, association national working president Krishna Bharat said the organisation has decided to extend psychological support to students facing stress and anxiety during the examination period. As part of the programme, 55 psychologists from across the state have volunteered to provide tele-counselling services.

Krishna Bharat explained that a special poster listing the psychologists, their availability timings and contact numbers district-wise has been prepared and steps are being taken to circulate it widely among students across the state. Students

experiencing examination stress can directly call the listed psychologists and receive counselling support.

He added that the number of psychologists participating in the tele-counselling service will be increased further if required, depending on the demand from students.

The tele-counselling initiative will be coordinated by Krishna Bharat along with Dr Varalakshmi, State president of the AP Committee, and MP Janakiram.

Students or psychologists facing any issues related to tele-counselling can contact the organisers at 9985428261, the association said. Association leaders including honorary president of the AP Committee Dr. Puli Srinivas appealed to Class 10 students across Andhra Pradesh to make use of the free counselling facility to manage stress and approach their examinations with confidence.



Raashii Khanna promises vintage Pawan Kalyan magic

The excitement around 'Ustaad Bhagat Singh' has been steadily building ever since the project brought together Power Star Pawan Kalyan and director Harish Shankar, the blockbuster duo behind 'Gabbar Singh'. Mounted on a grand scale by Mythri Movie Makers, the film promises a festive theatrical experience when it releases on March 19 for Ugadi. With the teaser, trailer, and songs already striking a chord, expectations are soaring — and leading lady Raashii Khanna is feeling the buzz.

Calling this phase of her career "incredibly hectic but exciting," Raashii reveals that joining the film was an instant decision driven purely by admiration. "The moment I heard it was Pawan Kalyan Garu's film, I said yes immediately — even before listening to the story. Since my first film, I've heard so much about his stardom and the phenomenon people call 'Pawanism.' I always wished to work with him at least once. With this film, that dream finally came true."

In the film, Raashii plays Shloka, a contemporary young woman written with depth and presence. She describes the role as both stylish and substantial. "Every character in the story has importance, and Shloka has a strong arc with solid characterization. There's good emotional range in the role." She adds with a smile, "I also have a proper

mass song in the film. I love dancing, so shooting that number was pure fun for me."

Working alongside Pawan Kalyan left a lasting impression on the actress, not just professionally but personally. "He is an incredibly simple person. You'll almost always see him reading books. There's an innocence about him that's very rare and difficult to explain," she says. Their first conversation remains memorable. "On day one, he asked me if I always wanted to become an actress. I told him I had once dreamed of becoming an IAS officer. He speaks very little, but every word carries weight."

What moved her most was his perspective on life beyond cinema. "He encouraged me to think about public service and contributing to society. He genuinely cares about people. I learned a lot about humanity from him." Witnessing his fan following up close was overwhelming. "When I looked at the crowd during the film event, it felt like people were worshipping him like a god."

Raashii is equally appreciative of director Harish Shankar's filmmaking intensity. "He's extremely sharp and understands the pulse of the mass audience perfectly. What amazed me most was his speed — a schedule that usually takes 120 days was completed in just 40. He worked tirelessly, often sacrificing sleep." She recalls how his creativity

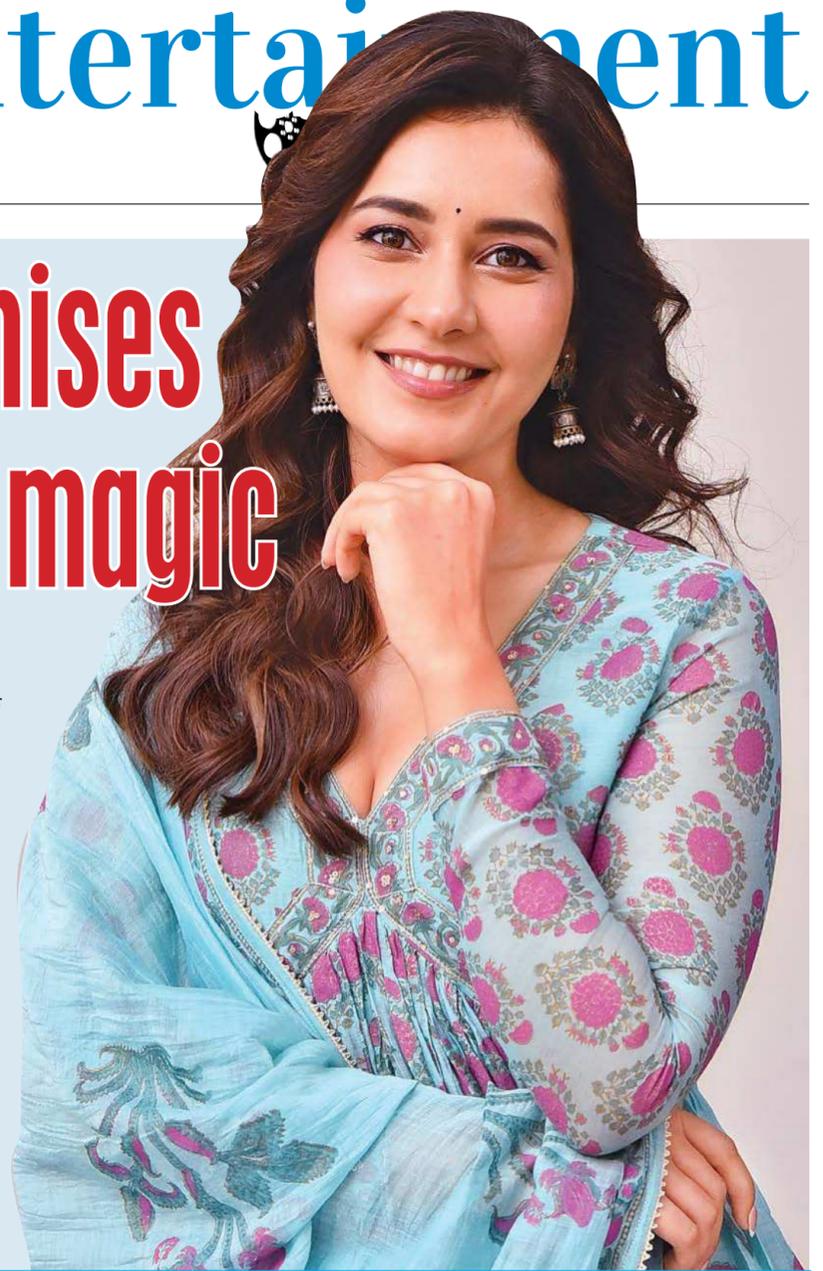
flowed even on set. "He would write punch dialogues on the spot. His patience and dedication to cinema taught me so much."

Despite sharing screen space with another leading lady, Raashii says the narrative gives each character room to shine. "We don't have scenes together, so there was never a concern. Each role has its own space, and mine comes with good variations."

Managing schedules around the star's commitments required flexibility and stamina. "I was told in advance that dates could be unpredictable, and I was prepared. There were days we worked 24-hour shifts without knowing whether it was day or night."

She also credits the producers for fostering a creative environment. "They put their heart and soul into films, never compromise on scale, and give directors complete freedom. The working atmosphere is wonderful."

For audiences, Raashii promises a wholesome entertainer. "Like 'Gabbar Singh', this film is packed with entertainment. It's a complete family film everyone can enjoy together in theatres. Releasing during Ugadi makes it even more special. Most importantly, you'll get to see vintage Pawan Kalyan Garu on screen."



Kiran Abbavaram unveils Thimmarajupalli TV's 'Ooru Song'

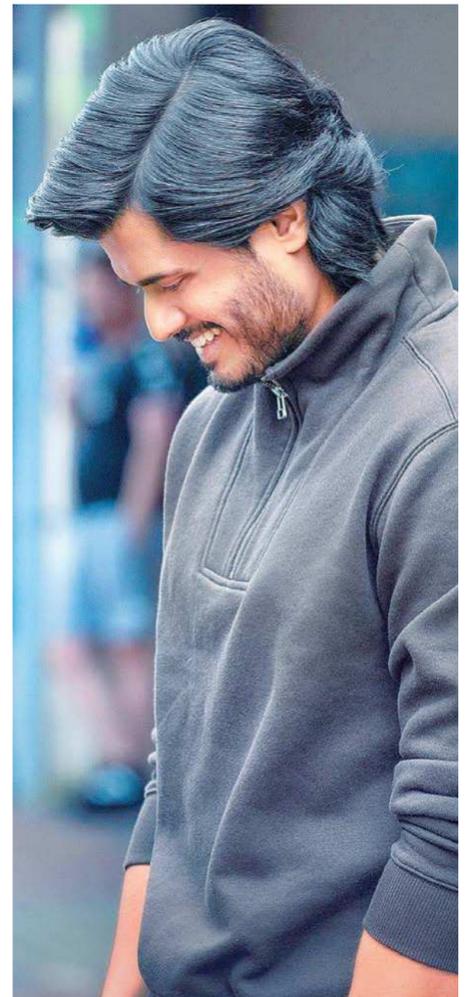
Hero Kiran Abbavaram's KA Productions, in association with Sumaira Studios, is backing the film 'Thimmarajupalli TV', encouraging fresh talent in the industry. Teja Velpucharla is serving as the co-producer. The film introduces Sai Tej and Veda Jalandharr as the lead actors, while V. Murniraju makes his directorial debut with 'Thimmarajupalli TV'.

Set against a rural backdrop, the film is being made as a period drama and is gearing up for a grand theatrical release soon. Today, the makers unveiled



the "Ooru Song" from 'Thimmarajupalli TV'. The track has been beautifully composed by Vamsikanth

Rekhana, with lyrics penned by Sanare and vocals rendered by Mamatha Ramesh. The song vividly captures the festive spirit of a village preparing for the Shivaratri fair. The song portrays the charm of rural life — from the sound of cuckoos perched on tree branches and the lush greenery at dawn to the colourful rangolis adorning homes and the fragrant breeze carrying the scent of flowers. The lyrics also reflect the excitement among people of all ages as the village gears up to celebrate the Shivaratri festival and the vibrant fair that accompanies it.



Suriya shines in 'Vishwanath & Sons' emotional teaser

The teaser of 'Vishwanath & Sons', starring Suriya, has been unveiled, offering a glimpse into the world of Sanjay Vishwanath. Directed by Venky Atluri and produced by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi, the film promises an emotional and engaging cinematic experience.

The teaser introduces Sanjay Vishwanath, an international pistol shooter who continues to chase his dreams even in his 40s. Suriya appears in a layered role, portraying both fatherly warmth and emotional depth. His stylish screen presence and the impactful dialogues penned by Venky Atluri bring back shades reminiscent of his iconic performances.

Adding freshness to the narrative is Mamitha Baiju, who brings vibrant and charming energy to the film. The teaser hints at an unconventional love story featuring a noticeable age gap. With Venky Atluri's storytelling sensibilities, the film is expected to handle this aspect with depth and

emotional maturity.

The teaser also highlights the film's strong technical craftsmanship. G. V. Prakash Kumar delivers a classy and powerful background score that elevates the visuals. Cinematographer Nimish Ravi captures the film in rich and visually striking frames, while editing is handled by Navin Nooli. Production design by Banglan further enhances the film's immersive world.

Touted as a large-scale family drama with strong emotional undercurrents, 'Vishwanath & Sons' brings together a compelling ensemble cast and a top-tier technical team. Director Venky Atluri, who is riding high on the success of 'Lucky Baskhar' and 'Vaathi', aims to deliver another memorable entertainer.

Produced under the banners of Sithara Entertainment and Fortune Four Cinemas, and presented by Srikara Studios, the film has successfully wrapped up shooting and is gearing up for a grand worldwide theatrical release this July.



Sudigali Sudheer's 'G.O.A.T' cleared for March 26 release

The upcoming Telugu film 'G.O.A.T' (Greatest Of All Times), starring popular comedian-turned-hero Sudigali Sudheer, has successfully completed its censor formalities and is gearing up for a worldwide theatrical release on March 26.

The film features Divya Bharathi as the female lead and is directed by Vedavyas. It is being produced by Chandrasekhar Reddy Mogulla under the banners of Mahateja Creations and Jaishnav Productions. The film is currently undergoing post-production work.

According to the makers, the content released so far has received a positive response from audiences, and the trailer will be unveiled soon. The film has now completed the censor process and has been awarded a U/A certificate by the censor board.

Speaking about the film, the producer said it is being made on a grand scale without compromising on quality. He added that the film will be technically strong and is expected to become a milestone in Sudigali Sudheer's career. "Every frame of the film has

come out beautifully. Along with being a complete commercial entertainer, the movie also carries a meaningful message that will make today's youth think," he said, expressing confidence that it will entertain audiences across all sections.

Apart from Sudigali Sudheer and Divya Bharathi, the film also features Sarvadaman Banerjee, Nithin Prasanna, Brahmaji, Prithvi Raj, Aadukalam Naren, Rajendran, Anand Ramraj, Chammak Chandra, Pammi Sai, and Naveen Neni in important roles.

The film's music is composed by Leon James, with the background score by Mani Sharma. Cinematography is handled by Rasool Ellore, while editing is done by Vijay Muktavarapu. Rajeev Nair serves as the production designer. Samaira Reddy N is the co-producer, and Prasoon Mandava is the creative producer.

With its blend of commercial elements and a socially relevant message, 'G.O.A.T' is expected to entertain audiences when it hits theatres worldwide on March 26.

Anand Deverakonda's 'Epic' birthday promo impresses fans

An impressive birthday promo from young hero Anand Deverakonda's upcoming film 'Epic' has been drawing significant attention. The film is directed by Aditya Haasan and produced by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya under the banners of Sithara Entertainment and Fortune Four Cinemas. Srikara Studios presents the film, while Venkat Upputuri and VMR are serving as co-producers. On the occasion of Anand Deverakonda's birthday today, the makers released a special promo from 'Epic'.

The promo shows the hero celebrating his birthday in

London with friends, while his parents call from India to wish him. A touching moment highlights the father subtly conveying his heartfelt wishes to his son.

The promo carries a unique emotional tone, enhanced by the use of the iconic Amrutham title song as the background score.

After the cult blockbuster Baby, Anand Deverakonda and Vaishnavi Chaitanya are reuniting for this film. The recently released song "Sancharame.." from 'Epic' has also received a positive response. With this exciting combination, the film is generating strong curiosity among audiences.