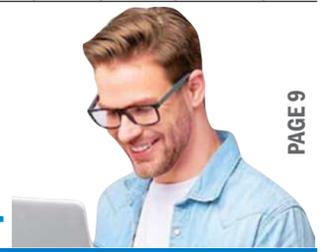




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'Can't support Iran war in good conscience'

TOP TRUMP AIDE JOE KENT RESIGNS

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump's counterterrorism chief Joe Kent on Tuesday resigned over the ongoing US-Iran conflict, stating that Tehran posed "no imminent threat to our nation." He claimed that the war was initiated due to pressure

from Israel and its lobby in the US. Kent, who served as Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, announced his decision in a post on X, saying, "after much reflection, I have decided to resign from my position effective today."

Continued on Page 7

LPG SITUATION A MATTER OF CONCERN, SAYS GOVT

HANS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

THE Centre on Tuesday said that the energy crisis in India still remains a matter of concern amid the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. However, it assured consumers not to panic over LPG supplies.

During an inter-ministerial briefing on recent developments, Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, advised judicious consumption of LPG and suggested using alternate sources for cooking.

"On the issue of LPG, I would like to reiterate that the situation still remains a matter of concern. However, no LPG

- ▶ Centre calls for judicious use amid shortage fears
- ▶ Govt suggests using alternate sources for cooking
- ▶ Assures consumers not to panic over gas supply



Sujata Sharma

distributor is facing a dry-out situation at present. In addition, LPG supplies and cylinder deliveries for all domestic consumers are continuing as

usual. With regard to online booking, I would like to inform you that there has been significant improvement, and as of today, nearly 94% of cyl-

3 lakh MT LPG stranded at Hormuz P7

inder bookings are being made online. There has also been improvement in the delivery authentication code system, which has now reached 76%. As far as commercial LPG supplies are concerned, these were initially completely halted but were later partially restored," Sharma said. "Cylinders that were placed at the disposal of various state governments and Union Territories are also being distributed.

Several governments, including those of Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand, have already issued allocation orders for non-domestic LPG," she added. Cont'd on Page 7



SIT to probe Moinabad farmhouse drug case

Mahesh Yadav, Rohith Reddy to be questioned again

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

IN a significant development in the sensational Moinabad farmhouse drugs case, the state government has constituted a nine-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the case.

Director General of Police (DGP) B Shivadhar Reddy has instructed the SIT team to file a chargesheet within three months.

According to the orders, SIT will function under the overall supervision of Future City Police Commissioner G Sudheer Babu.

Continued on Page 7

'NATO, others turn down US call for help'

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump on Tuesday said NATO and most of US' other allies have rejected his calls to help secure the Strait of Hormuz as the war with Iran entered the third week. Trump postpones China trip

President Donald Trump is delaying a diplomatic trip to China that had been planned for months.

RAMZAN TIMINGS

IFTAR (Wed) 6.32 PM
SEHAR (Thu) 4.59 AM

Parl panel suggests ₹7,500 EPF pension

HANS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

A Parliamentary panel on Tuesday recommended an urgent, comprehensive review of the Rs 1,000 minimum monthly pension under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, to raise it to a more realistic and dignified level.

This assumes significance in view of pensioners' demand to raise the pension to Rs 7,500 per month, as Rs 1,000 is not sufficient to make both ends meet. Pensioners under the



Employees' Pension Scheme 1995 (EPS-95) run by the retirement fund body EPFO had also staged a three-day protest at Jantar Mantar from March 9, for increasing the minimum monthly pension to Rs 7,500.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour, Textiles and Skill Development, in its 15th Report on 'Demands for Grants (2026-27)' of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, noted that the minimum

pension of Rs 1,000 per month under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, has remained unchanged for a considerable period of time despite the rising cost of living.

During the course of evidence, the committee observed that numerous representations have been received from pensioners seeking an upward revision of the minimum pension, particularly considering the financial hardships faced by elderly and economically vulnerable beneficiaries.

Continued on Page 7

Cabinet meet to ratify Budget on March 20

HANS NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD: The Telangana Cabinet will meet in the Assembly premises on March 20. The Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy convened the meeting to ratify the Budget 2026-2027. The meeting will be held a couple of hours before the presentation of the Budget on the same day. The Cabinet will ratify the budget before Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu presents the annual outlay which is



likely to be around Rs 3.17 to Rs 3.22 lakh crore.

Officials said that the Deputy Chief Minister was giving finishing touches to the Budget which is likely to focus more on agriculture, education and infrastructure development in urban and rural areas. Continued on Page 7

If Jagga Reddy becomes TPCC chief, Cong will win 100 MLA seats: Minister Komatireddy P3

PAGE-7
Iran security chief Larijani killed in Israel strike?

400 killed, 250 injured in Pak strike on Kabul hospital

Mamata locks horns with BJP's Suwendu again

Govt clarifies on eKYC norms for LPG



Divyanga Shakti



Free Bus Travel for Persons with Disabilities

Equal opportunity is the foundation of an inclusive society. **Divyanga Shakti** aims to make travel easier for persons with disabilities and strengthen their independence.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh
Sri Nara Chandrababu Naidu
will launch the "Divyanga Shakti" program on March 18, 2026.

Buses eligible for free travel
City Ordinary, Metro Express, Express, Pallevelugu and Ultra Pallevelugu buses.

Eligibility
As per the RPwD Act, 2016, Persons with Disabilities (PwD) with **40% or more disability across 21 recognised categories** are eligible for free bus travel.

Subsidy
₹207 crore per year towards the free travel facility for PwDs.

Beneficiary Expansion
2.06 lakh Existing Beneficiaries
12.76 lakh Total Beneficiaries (including escorts)



The NDA Government is committed to empowerment and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities.

PRE-UGADI CELEBRATIONS

Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla extends Ugadi greetings



Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla and the First Lady are greeted during the pre-Ugadi celebrations at Lok Bhavan in Hyderabad on Tuesday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

GOVERNOR Shiv Pratap Shukla on Tuesday extended greetings and wished everyone a joyous Ugadi festival.

Addressing guests, invitees, Lok Bhavan Parivar members, and artists during the Pre-Ugadi celebrations held at Lok Bhavan on Tuesday, he said that Ugadi marks the beginning of a new era, symbolising hope, prosperity, and renewal.

He explained that "Parabhava," the 40th year in the sixty-year cycle of

time, signifies defeating ego and negative thoughts to lay the foundation for success. He expressed confidence that the coming year would be one of progress for both Telangana and the nation, urging people to learn from past experiences and move forward with greater commitment and service.

Highlighting the cultural significance of Ugadi, Shukla spoke about Ugadi pachadi—a blend of six flavours—representing the balance of hardship and happiness in life. He wished for abundant rains this year, so that Telangana flourishes

with rich harvests and dairy crops.

The Governor while extending warm wishes for wealth, health, and happiness to all families in the New Year, reiterated his hope for all-round development of the state and the country, and ended with the spirited call:

The Pre-Ugadi celebrations at Lok Bhavan reflected the festive spirit of the occasion, bringing together dignitaries, cultural performers, and members of the community in anticipation of the traditional new year.



Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla addresses the gathering during the pre-Ugadi celebrations

Ministers Sridhar Babu, Komatireddy chit-chats spark political debate

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

INFORMAL interactions by senior ministers have sparked political discussion within the Congress party, coming soon after Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy reportedly advised party legislators to avoid casual remarks in Assembly lobbies.

At a Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting held on Monday, the Chief Minister is said to have directed MLAs and MLCs to refrain from making comments during informal "chit-chats" and to adhere strictly to the official party and government line.

However, the very next day, senior ministers Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and Duddilla Sridhar Babu engaged in informal media interactions within the Assembly premises, triggering

debate among political observers and party members alike.

The development reportedly left party legislators and media personnel in a state of confusion, with many questioning whether the ministers' remarks aligned with the Chief Minister's earlier directive. Discussions among journalists and leaders hinted at speculation over whether

there was a larger political context behind these interactions.

Both ministers are considered senior leaders within the Congress party and have long-standing political experience, leading some to believe their remarks may have been made with specific intent.

During his interaction, Sridhar Babu expressed sup-

port for senior leader T. Jeevan Reddy, stating that he had not sought any particular post and was focused on resolving local issues. He assured that the party would extend full support to Jeevan Reddy.

The episode has added to ongoing discussions about internal coordination and messaging within the ruling party in Telangana.

Jeevan Reddy reiterates exit from Congress; decision soon

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

SENIOR Congress leader and former minister T. Jeevan Reddy on Tuesday indicated that his exit from the party is certain, saying he has already made up his mind and will formally announce his decision soon.

Addressing the media in Jagtial, Jeevan Reddy said, "I have already taken a decision. I will announce it within three days. A majority of party activists and my supporters have advised me to quit, and I will respect their opinion." He added

that the final announcement would be made at a public meeting in Jagtial. The senior leader expressed emotional distress over ending his four-decade-long as-

sociation with the Congress party. "It is painful to break a relationship of over 40 years," he said. Jeevan Reddy also launched a sharp attack on Jagtial MLA M Sanjay Kumar, questioning his political stand and alleged interference in Congress affairs. "Nobody knows, which party Sanjay Kumar belongs to. He is asking me to work with him. While there is nothing wrong in working with the government for development, it is right for him to interfere in Congress internal matters and candidates selection?" he asked.

He recalled that he had raised concerns during the municipal elections about internal issues within the party and held Sanjay Kumar responsible for the current situation. "The same person is now asking me to work with him. Who is he to offer me such a proposal?" Jeevan Reddy questioned.

He further alleged that Sanjay Kumar and those backing him are the primary reasons behind his decision to leave the party. He also said the Congress high command must take responsibility for the developments.

Reiterating his stance, Jeevan Reddy said he would continue to work sincerely wherever he is, but confirmed that a final decision regarding his political future would be announced shortly.

GHMC, Task Force seize over 600 kg of stale chicken

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

In a major food safety crackdown, GHMC officials, along

with Task Force teams, conducted a joint operation and raided a shop and booked the owner for storing and selling stale chicken. Police seized

around 610 kg of stale chicken from the premises.

Ahead of Eid, Police conducted a raid at A1 Fresh Chicken Mart in Mushcerabad. During the raid it was found that the owner had been unhygienically storing and selling stored frozen chicken.

According to police, the meat, which had reportedly been stored for several days, was being sold to customers and supplied to bars, wine shops, and restaurants, raising serious concerns about public health and food safety in the city.

Believing the information to be true at about 1 pm, the decoy staff visited the said place, upon verification the meat appeared in a decomposition state and in unhygienic condition.

Police have registered a case against the shop owner, identified as Shaik Shakeel, who has been detained along with other staff members involved in the operation.

K Rama Chandra Reddy Sub-Inspector of Police, along with the staff and independent mediators, reached the said premises and conducted a search following due procedure. During the search, it was found that approximately 610 kgs of chicken was stored in a frozen state in a highly unhygienic environment. The meat appeared to be decom-



HYDRAA secures 11 acres of govt land worth ₹1,650 cr

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

IN a major anti-encroachment drive, Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency's (HYDRAA) has secured 11 acres of government land in Kondapur and Pragathi Nagar areas.

The operation was carried out following public complaints received through Prajavani, highlighting illegal occupation of public land. Officials estimated the value of lands worth Rs 1,650 crore.

According to HYDRAA, in Kondapur village under Serilingampally mandal, two acres were reserved for a park in Central Park Colony. The layout, spread over 16 acres with 148 plots under Survey No. 110/1, was developed in 1998.

Following the complaint received from the residents through HYDRAA Prajavani, officials conducted a field inspection, along with revenue and Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation authorities. The land was confirmed as park space.

On instructions from HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath, the officials removed the temporary sheds erected on the site on Tuesday. The two-acre park land has now been fenced, and boards have been erected identifying it as park property.

In another operation, HYDRAA in Pragathi Nagar protected nine acres of government land adjoining Ambir Cheruvu following complaints of encroachments. The land comprises five acres allocated for a cremation ground and four acres for a dumping yard in Survey No. 103 of Baghameri village under Kukattipally mandal.

After a joint inspection with revenue and GHMC officials, the land use was verified. On the directions of Commissioner Ranganath, fencing was installed around the nine acres. Boards have been placed marking five acres as cremation ground and the remaining four acres as government land.

GHMC chief orders intensified mosquito eradication drive

HYDERABAD: GHMC Commissioner Karnan has instructed officials to accelerate mosquito eradication and sanitation programmes to ensure a cleaner city. Participating in the state's 99 Day Public Governance Progress Plan on Tuesday, he conducted surprise inspections in Jubilee Hills Circle alongside Additional Commissioner Ravi Kiran and Zonal Commissioner Priyanka Ala. The team reviewed door-to-door garbage collection at Film Nagar and vector control measures at Lotus Pond. Further inspections occurred at JVR Park and Devarakonda Basti, where the eradication of garbage vulnerable points was prioritised.

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on WhatsApp @SCRrailways
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C. Railway can be seen on our website: www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

E-Tender Notice No. : 47-Dy.CE/GS/GNT, Dated : 14-03-2026

The undersigned invites e-tenders for the works mentioned below up to 15:00 hours on 09-04-2026.

Sl.No. : 01. Tender ID : 86. Section : Dy.CE/GS/GNT. Description of the work : Guntur Division : Proposed Geotechnical Investigation and preparation of design for Construction of Road Over Bridges under Jurisdiction of Dy.CE/GS-GNT. Submission of Detailed Design of Foundation, Sub-Structure & Superstructure, casting and testing of test piles etc., for ROBs under Dy.CE/GS-GNT Jurisdiction.

Approximate Value in Rs. : 3,15,528.96. Earnest Money Deposit Rs. : 3,07,600/-.

1. Last date for online submission of E-bids is upto 15:00 hours on 09-04-2026. For detailed information login to website www.ireps.gov.in.
2. Any further Communication / Corrigendum shall be intimated through E-portal www.ireps.gov.in.

Dy. Chief Engineer, Gati Shakti, Guntur.

TENDER NOTICE

Deputy Chief Engineer Gati Shakti, South Central Railway, Vijayawada invites e-tender on behalf of The President of India for the following works in Open tender / Single packet / Two packet system of tendering:

Sl.No. : 1. Tender No. and Date : Dy.CE-GS-BZA-18-2025-26, Dated : 13-03-2026. Description of the work : Name of work : Vijayawada Division - ELS (Vijayawada) - Proposed Extension of HL bay (KZJ end) by Two spans of (2x17x9.5m), Extension of LL bay (BZA end) by one span (1x17x9.5m), Extension LL bay (KZJ end) one span (1x17x9.5m), Dismantling of Existing service building (117x10m), Construction of New service building (127x10m), Construction of New Toilets of Size 9.0x6.0m with hand wash area and Dismantle Existing. Toilets, Construction Septic Tank for 200 Users, Complete Industrial re-flooring (VDF+Ironite) for LL bay, Track works. IRPSM I.D.No. :- 11.06.42.23.147.007.

Tender value (Rs.) : 16,42,09,642.18. Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.) : 9,71,100/-.

Completion Period : 12 Months. Cost of Tender form (Rs.) : NIL. Date of Closing & time : 06-04-2026 @ 15:00 Hours.

1. For bid document and other details, please login to website https://ireps.gov.in.
2. Tenderers can submit their offers online during tender Submission / Bidding period which is fifteen days period prior to closing of Tender.
3. Tenderers should watch for any corrigenda (issued online only) up to the date of commencement of the Tender Submission/Bidding period.

Deputy Chief Engineer, Gati Shakti, Vijayawada.

Tender Notice No. : LGD/L/23/2025-26/OT, Dated : 17-03-2026

Dy.CEE/LGDS acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No LGD/L/23/2025-26/OT - E-TENDER - closing date 15-04-2026 at 15:00 hours. Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards earnest money (Bid Security) shall be deposited either in cash through e-payment gateway or submitted as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents. The Bank Guarantee bond shall be as per Annexure-VIA and shall be valid for a period of 60 days beyond the bid validity period. The original Bank Guarantee should be delivered in person to the official nominated as indicated in the tender document within 5 working days of deadline of submission of bids. Non submission of scanned copy of B.G. with the bid on e-tendering portal (IREPS) and / or non-submission of original B.G. within the specified period shall lead to summary rejection of bid.

Sl.No. : 1. Tender Number : LGD/L/23/2025-26/OT. Description of work : Servicing/overhauling and attention of small repairs to 310/700/1400 HV Traction Alternators and OLV machinery and groove cutting and dynamic balancing to commutators of Traction Motor Armature for the period of three years at Carriage Workshop, Lallaguda.

Approximate Value (Rs.) : Rs. 6,54,20,272.40. Bid Security / Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.) : Rs.4,77,100/-.

For further details visit the website www.ireps.gov.in;

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, (Co-ord), Secunderabad.

Corrigendum to Tender Notice for Tender No. : 08-TSM-MLY-15-26, Dated : 12-03-2026.

DEE/TSM/MLYacting for and on behalf of The President of India invited E - Tenders against Tender No. : 08-TSM-MLY-15-26, Dated : 12-03-2026 with Closing date : 07-04-2026, 10:30 Hours. The following Corrigendum issued to the above tender.

Corrigendum to the Tender No.08-TSM-MLY-15-26.

The tender advertised cost mentioned as Rs.40,43,806/- and EMD mentioned as Rs.80,900/- in the original advertisement is modified to the advertisement cost as Rs.37,66,206.52/- and EMD as Rs.75,300/- respectively.

Please note other terms and conditions mentioned in the original advertisement remain unchanged.

Website particulars : www.ireps.gov.in

Notice Board Location where complete details of tender can be seen : Office of the Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Carriage Workshop, Lallaguda, Secunderabad-500017.

Divisional Electrical Engineer, A2695 TSM, Moula Ali.

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, corrigendum, please visit our website https://www.ireps.gov.in/

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, Carriage Workshop, Lallaguda, Secunderabad.

Tender Notice No. : C.SG.36.596, Dated : 13-03-2026

On behalf of The President of India, Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Secunderabad Division, South Central Railway, Secunderabad invites open Tenders for the following works through E-procurement of the Tenders.

Sl. No. 1. Tender No. & Date : C.SG.36.596, Dated : 13-03-2026, Closing Date : 06-04-2026, Name of the work : Telecom Infrastructure Upgradation and Enhancement Works over Secunderabad Division.

1) Telecom proposal for Strengthening of Railnet equipment and network infrastructure for improving bandwidth and running of IT based application (eOffice, ORMS, IPAS, IRWCMS, IREPS, IRPSM, HRMS, SMMS, Points and Crossing Inspections App etc) over Secunderabad Division. 2) Bifurcation of data logger system (Servers, CMU's, FEP) & Provision of Multi monitor display for all control boards of over Secunderabad Division. 3) Renovation of signal control room at Secunderabad Division. 4) Signal & Telecom Proposal for Amrit Bharat stations (VKB & TDJ) for completion of Phase - I under Sr. DEN /West/SC Jurisdiction. 11) Signalling arrangement in connection with proposed replacement of LC with RCC box (RUB) at LC No. 09 (SC-WD Section) at Km No.55/12-14. (Total 11 works).

Approximate Value (Rs.) : Rs. 6,54,20,272.40. Bid Security / Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.) : Rs.4,77,100/-.

For further details visit the website www.ireps.gov.in;

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, (Co-ord), Secunderabad.

Corrigendum to Tender Notice for Tender No. : 08-TSM-MLY-15-26, Dated : 12-03-2026.

DEE/TSM/MLYacting for and on behalf of The President of India invited E - Tenders against Tender No. : 08-TSM-MLY-15-26, Dated : 12-03-2026 with Closing date : 07-04-2026, 10:30 Hours. The following Corrigendum issued to the above tender.

Corrigendum to the Tender No.08-TSM-MLY-15-26.

The tender advertised cost mentioned as Rs.40,43,806/- and EMD mentioned as Rs.80,900/- in the original advertisement is modified to the advertisement cost as Rs.37,66,206.52/- and EMD as Rs.75,300/- respectively.

Please note other terms and conditions mentioned in the original advertisement remain unchanged.

Website particulars : www.ireps.gov.in

Notice Board Location where complete details of tender can be seen : Office of the DEE/TSM/MLY, Moula Ali, Secunderabad-500047.

Divisional Electrical Engineer, A2695 TSM, Moula Ali.

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, corrigendum, please visit our website https://www.ireps.gov.in/

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, Carriage Workshop, Lallaguda, Secunderabad.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION				
NIT No.	Name of Work	Estimate Amount/ECV	Download Last Date & Time for receipts of Bid	Name & Address of E.E./SE
68	for 1 no works of Repairs and maintenance of Storm, water lines/UGD in Rajendranagar & Attapur Circle GHMC	Rs. 13.00 Lakhs	DT: 17.03.2026 at 4.30 PM	Executive Engineer Rajendranagar GHMC Cell No. 9989930608 e-mail id: eec11.gmhc@g mail.com

DIPR.R.O.No. : 17214-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26, Dt: 17-03-26 Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RAJENDRANAGAR, GHMC

CYBERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION - QUTHBULLAPUR ZONE				
NIT No.	Name of Work	Estimate amount (Rs in Lakhs)	Bid Submission Start Date & Time / Bid Submission of Closing Date & Time	Name & Address Officer Cell No.
NIT No.06/SE/Q BZ/CMC/2025-26 Date: 16-03-2026	Maintenance Works Others-01	75.00	18-03-2026 & 02.30 PM up to 3.30 PM 25-03-2026 & 02.30 PM up to 3.30 PM	Superintending Engineer Quthbullapur Zone 7702203156 7331189186

for further details can be sent at e-procurement. @http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in Sd/-Superintending Engineer Quthbullapur Zone, CMC

DIPR.R.O.No. : 17161-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt: 17-03-26

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA ROADS & BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT				
Sl.No.	Item	As noted in the NIT	Amendment now Issued	
1	Bid Submission Starting Date	23.02.2026 up to 3.30 PM	23.03.2026 up to 3.30 PM	
2	Bid Submission Closing Date	02.03.2026 up to 3.30 PM	30.03.2026 up to 3.30 PM	
3	Bid opening Date	02.03.2026 After 4.00 PM	30.03.2026 After 4.00 PM	

All the other terms & conditions as notified in original NIT remains unchanged. 1 Name & Address of the Executive Engineer Concerned: (R&B) Division, Medak 2 Nos of work reserved for SC 3 1 No. of work reserved for ST 4 1 No. of work reserved for Waddera 5 The District R&B Officer, (R&B) Division, Medak, District Medak: Ph 8333922719 & 8919194719 6 Further details can be seen @ 'e' procurement market place @ www.eprocurement.gov.in

Sd/- District R&B Officer, Division: Medak

DIPR.R.O.No. : 17128-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt: 17-03-26

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

4th Floor Swarnajayanti Commercial Complex, Ameerpet, Hyderabad.

Public Notification U/s. 15 (3) of HMDA Act. 2008

(Lr. No. SML0240043141861/CLU/TG-IPASS/Plg/HMDA/2025 dt: 02.03.2026)

In exercise of powers conferred by Sub-Section (3) of Section 15 of HMDA Act 2008, it is proposed to make the following changes to the land use in the Notified Metropolitan Development Plan (MDP) 2031 for Hyderabad Metropolitan Region (HMR) notified vide G.O.Ms.No.33 MA & UD, dt: 24.01.2013.

The site in Sy.Nos.261/8,261/8A of Annaram (V), Jinnaram (M), Sangareddy (D) to an extent 15069.69 Sq.Mts road affected area 1458.25 Sq.mts and net site area 13,549.88 Sq.Mts which is presently earmarked for Residential use zone in the MDP-2031 notified vide G.O.Ms.No. 33, MA & UD, dt: 24.01.2013 is now proposed to be designated as Manufacturing use zone for setting up unit for Manufacture of Pharmaceutical Formulation and for R & D purpose (for sustained release/extended release of drugs only and not for commercial purpose) under 'Orange' Category.

The details of the above are available in Web sites http://gazette.telangana.gov.in/ and http://hmda.gov.in/.

Objections/Suggestions would be considered from any person or body to the said proposals, they can submit objections / suggestions in writing either to the Metropolitan Commissioner, HMDA or to Principal Secretary to Government, MA & UD Dept., Telangana Secretariat, Hyderabad within Seven (7) days from the date of publication of this Notice.

Sd/- Chief Planning Officer(PH)

DIPR.R.O.No. : 1263-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26, Date: 17-03-2026

CYBERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GAJULARAMARAM CIRCLE-57				
NIT No. & Date	Name of the Work	Estimate Amount/ ECV	Start Date & Time	Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bid
02/07/EE/Gajularamaram Circle-57/CMC/2025-26	Maintenance Works(4 nos.)	57.00 lakhs	18-03-2026 @3:00 P.M	23-03-2026 @ 10:30A.M

Further details can be seen at e-procurement @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer Gajularamaram Circle-57, CMC

DIPR.R.O.No.17194-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26, Dt: 17.03.26

CYBERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION PATANCHERU CIRCLE-46, SERILINGAMPALLY ZONE				
NIT No.	Name of Work	Estimate Amount/ ECV	Download Start Date	Last Date and Time for Receipt of Bids
Engg-35/CMC/PTC-C-46/2025-26, 2026 Dated: 17-03-2026	1 No. Removal of Wet Silt from sewer manholes	Rs.9.00 Lakhs	18-03-2026 10.30 A.M	23-03-2026 3.00 P.M

Further Details can be seen at e-procurement @ https://www.tender.telangana.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer Patancheru Circle-46 Slp Zone, CMC

DIPR.R.O.No. : 17211-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26, Dt: 17.03.2026

CM choice lies with AICC if Cong returns: Sridhar Babu

Legislative Affairs Minister stresses discipline, seeks resolution of internal party issues

KOLISHETTY
VENKATESHWARLU
HYDERABAD

LEGISLATIVE Affairs Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu on Tuesday stated that the All India Congress Committee (AICC) will take the final call on the Chief Ministerial post if the Congress party comes back to power in Telangana in the next elections.

Referring to remarks by Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy backing Jayaprakash Reddy for the TPCC chief post, Sridhar Babu described them as personal opinions. He reiterated that decisions regarding party leadership positions rest solely with the High Command. Speaking



informally with mediapersons at the Assembly premises, Sridhar Babu clarified that if the Congress retains power, the AICC will decide the next leader.

Addressing internal matters, he suggested that TPCC

President Mahesh Kumar Goud should resolve issues involving senior leader Jeevan Reddy and persuade him to remain in the party. He expressed hope that Jeevan Reddy would stay, emphasising that the Congress values

his long-standing contribution. The minister noted that the process for filling nominated posts is currently underway, while the allocation of portfolios remains the prerogative of the Chief Minister.

He also called upon former Chief Minister Chandrashekar Rao to attend Assembly sessions, describing him as an experienced leader whose suggestions would be valuable.

Criticising the previous Bharat Rashtira Samithi government, Sridhar Babu alleged that arrears amounting to Rs 15,000 crore owed to retired employees were left unpaid and are now being portrayed as liabilities of the current administration. He

added that pending Assembly floor committees would be constituted soon.

On the issue of Ippa Puvvu liquor, raised by Jadcherla MLA Anirudh Reddy, he termed the idea commendable. He accused the BRS of limiting its activities to social media, stating that if the trend continues, the party risks losing relevance in the Assembly. Sridhar Babu further alleged that the BRS deliberately avoided fielding a Rajya Sabha candidate due to a lack of confidence in its MLAs. He claimed that the opposition party is attempting to weaken Congress as it gains strength across the state through various welfare initiatives and political expansion.



Komatireddy Venkat Reddy



T Jagga Reddy

If Jagga Reddy becomes TPCC chief, Cong will win 100 MLA seats: Minister Komatireddy

Komatireddy Venkat Reddy appeals to High Command to appoint Jagga Reddy as TPCC chief

- Says Jagga Reddy commands mass following
- He enjoys widespread popularity in Telugu states

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

ROADS& Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Tuesday asserted that if a mass leader like TPCC working president T Jagga Reddy is appointed as Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president, the party is certain to win 100 MLA seats in the next Assembly elections.

Interacting with media persons in the Assembly lobbies on Tuesday, Venkat Reddy described Jagga Reddy as

a leader with deep grassroots connections. The Minister strongly backed Jagga Reddy's elevation to the top party post. He said Jagga Reddy enjoys widespread popularity across both Telugu states and has the ability to mobilize support at all levels of the party. Drawing comparisons with veteran leader late P Janardhan Reddy (PJR), the Minister noted that Jagga Reddy commands a similar mass following. He emphasized that Jagga Reddy is capable of uniting leaders and party workers alike, from the grassroots to the top leadership.

Venkat Reddy appealed to the Congress High Command to seriously consider appointing Jagga Reddy as PCC president, stating that the current political scenario

demands a leader of his stature. The Minister reiterated that Jagga Reddy's leadership could significantly boost the party's prospects in all elections.

Jagga Reddy had earlier been a contender for the TPCC post, including during the appointments of Revanth Reddy and Mahesh Kumar Goud. During that time, Jagga Reddy had himself expressed interest in taking up the top post and openly appealed to the Congress High Command to appoint him as the TPCC chief.

With Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and other senior leaders now backing Jagga Reddy for the TPCC president post, it remains to be seen how the Congress High Command responds to the growing demand within the party ranks.

KTR seeks SIT probe into missing file on six guarantees

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

BRS working president KTR on Tuesday demanded that the Government form a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate a missing file pertaining to providing legal status to the six guarantees signed by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy in the first cabinet meeting.

The BRS leader launched a sharp attack on the Congress-led Telangana government over the Governor's address in the Assembly, alleging that the administration had eroded the credibility and sanctity of the constitutional process by failing to honour its own promises. Participating in the discussion on the motion of thanks to the Governor's Address, KTR said that a Governor's address carries immense importance as it reflects the policy direction and commitments of the ruling government.

However, he alleged that the present government had



BRS working president KTR speaking in the House on Tuesday demanding that the government form a Special Investigation Team to investigate a missing file pertaining to six guarantees

reduced it to a mere formality devoid of accountability. Recalling the first Governor's address of the Congress government, he noted it was publicly stated that the six guarantees would be given legal status and that the Chief Minister had even signed a file to that effect. KTR questioned what had happened

to that file and demanded answers. "Where is the file signed by the CM? If such an important document has disappeared, a SIT must be constituted immediately to trace it," he demanded.

He further argued that if a file signed by the Chief Minister himself had no value, the public could not trust the

administration. He remarked that every declaration made by the leader today carries zero value, accusing the Congress of failing to deliver despite claims that guarantees would be implemented within 100 days. "The Congress said each family would benefit to the tune of Rs 2.5 lakh. Even after over two years, can the government show a single family that has received such benefits?" he asked. He also alleged that false statements were being made in the House and urged the Speaker to ensure accountability, adding that the legislature must uphold truth. KTR alleged that the state administration had deteriorated over the past 28 months, accusing the government of mounting debts, financial mismanagement, and prioritising political propaganda over development.

He claimed that all that remains today are debts, dues, diversions, commissions, and bulldozer politics.

Calls for accountability over missing file on key poll promises

He ridiculed the government for spending Telangana's resources on political campaigns in other states while failing to secure funds from the Centre. "You go to Delhi not to secure funds but to offer them," he said.

He pointed out that Telangana, once among the fastest-growing states, was now witnessing a slowdown in revenues, including GST and vehicle registrations, attributing this to negative policies.

He further alleged that industries and IT employment were declining, dismissing investment summit claims as propaganda. He stated that Telangana itself bears the traces of KCR, which cannot be removed. Apart from making women crorepatris, he insisted the government should provide Rs 2,500 to women as promised. Finally, he accused the government of neglecting farmers and failing to ensure campus safety, warning against arrogance in power.

Govt Whip Adi Srinivas to file complaint against KTR over luxury watch claims

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

GOVERNMENT Whip Adi Srinivas on Tuesday said he would lodge a formal complaint with the Assembly Speaker against KTR, accusing him of spreading false propaganda regarding the cost of his wristwatch. Addressing the assembly media point, Srinivas alleged that a malicious and poisonous campaign was being carried out against him through social media platforms, including WhatsApp, with claims that he was wearing a luxury watch worth Rs 90 lakh. He clarified that the watch in question was a Michael Kors product and not a high-end Rolex, as falsely claimed by his detractors.

Srinivas further alleged

that the misinformation was aired on a platform identified as Dig TV and described the campaign as a deliberate attempt to defame him in violation of Assembly norms. He stated that he would meet the Speaker to file a complaint against KTR for orchestrating this propaganda. The Congress leader also claimed that the smear campaign was being run from outside the country and was aimed at undermining his efforts to expose alleged irregularities linked to the BRS. He asserted that he would not be intimidated and would continue to raise issues concerning the opposition.

Supporting Srinivas, Government Whip Ramachandru Naik accused KTR of deliberately targeting lead-

ers who actively participate in Assembly proceedings. He challenged the BRS leadership to substantiate their claims, dismissing the allegations as baseless. Naik further alleged that similar campaigns had earlier been carried out against other Congress leaders, including Seethakka. Meanwhile, Narekhal MLA Vemula Veesham also criticised KTR, accusing him of misleading the public and using pink media to spread false narratives.

He demanded that the BRS leader withdraw his remarks against Adi Srinivas and issue an apology. The controversy has added to the ongoing political war of words between the ruling Congress and the opposition in Telangana.

Harish Rao alleges ₹18,000 crore HAM road scam

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

ALLEGING a massive scam worth Rs 18,000 crore in the name of HAM Roads, BRSLP deputy leader Harish Rao on Tuesday demanded that the government immediately cancel all current tenders. During an informal interaction with the media in the Assembly lobbies, he called for fresh tenders to be issued and a judicial inquiry conducted by a sitting judge of the High Court. The BRS leader specifically demanded the government scrap mobilisation advances given to contractors, alleging that the 10 per cent advance allows around Rs 1,800 crore to be released upfront. He



claimed this money is likely to be diverted for elections in other states, describing the situation as a Dhanayagnam.

Harish Rao alleged that a large-scale plan is being executed to loot thousands

of crores through commissions. He pointed out that while national highway tenders across the country usually go 20 to 30 per cent below the estimated cost, these specific tenders are going 15 to 20 per cent above, creating a 50 per cent variation. He raised serious doubts over the fact that tenders were cleared through departmental committees instead of receiving COT approval. Furthermore, he noted that the mobilisation advance has been increased from the previous 3 per cent to 10 per cent.

The BRS leader highlighted that technical bids for 24 out of 34 tenders have been opened, with 16 tenders seeing participation from only two bidders. He

alleged this clearly indicates a pre-arranged cartel or ring formation where contractors have colluded to quote higher prices. Rao also claimed that in Panchayat Raj works, tenders have already been pre-decided and distributed among specific companies. He noted that a previous 5 per cent ceiling on excess tender value has been removed, allowing for unlimited escalation. Companies such as Civite, Sarala, Brinda, and BVSR were named as part of the alleged cartel.

Harish Rao criticised the government for failing to repair potholed roads and pay contractors for completed works while allegedly facilitating this massive financial irregularity.

Ponguleti dubs KTR 'brand ambassador' of dictators

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

REVENUE Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Tuesday lashed out at the BRS MLA KT Rama Rao alleging that he was the brand ambassador for dictators and said that because of this arrogance his party lost successive elections.

The Minister intervening in a discussion on the motion of thanks to the Governor in the Assembly on Tuesday said that the BRS member was showing arrogance. He said that the BRS had lost every other election. On the defection of MLAs, Srinivasa Reddy said that the defections were first encouraged by the BRS itself.

Several Ministers inter-



vened to counter the comments of KTR during the discussion. When the BRS leader said that the government was aiming to create one lakh women as crorepatris, it will be \$100 trillion economy, the Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said that the government had fixed a target of making one lakh women as crorepatris in five years and during the last

two years, they had spent Rs 57,000 crore giving interest free loans. Responding to this, KTR said that he would resign if the figures were correct.

Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka, along with Ministers Duddilla Sridhar Babu and Danasari Anasuya (Seethakka), responded to the points raised by BRS leader KTR regarding the promise to turn women into millionaires. Minister Seethakka suggested that women both within 'your family' (referring to Kavitha) and in society at large should be allowed to grow and prosper.

Legislative Affairs Minister D Sridhar Babu said that while the previous BRS government left pending interest subsidies on loans

amounting to Rs 3,000 crore, the current Congress government was now clearing those dues. He questioned why the BRS party was not participating in the programme for the distribution of interest-free loans.

Minister Danasari Anasuya (Seethakka) announced that the government disbursed Rs 57,000 crore in various forms of loans availed through the Stree Nidhi and Bank Linkage schemes. She further informed that, specifically under the interest-free loan category, funds amounting to Rs 1,121 crore were released to date. She criticized the previous BRS government, accusing it of deceiving women by failing to pay the Rs 3,000 crore in pending interest subsidies.



BACK TO BASICS

A man collects dry branches along the roadside at Srinagar Colony in Hyderabad on Saturday, as the shortage of LPG cylinders forces households to fall back on firewood, even in today's tech-driven era

Photo: Srinivas Setty

Speaker advises BRS to challenge defection ruling in higher court

HYDERABAD: SPEAKER Gaddam Prasad Kumar on Tuesday suggested that BRS members should challenge his decision regarding defection petitions against their party MLAs in a higher court if they felt aggrieved. The defection issue surfaced during the discussion on the motion of thanks to the Governor's address when BRS member KT R was speaking about alleged attacks on party work-

ers during recent elections. The Speaker intervened, advising KT R against using newspaper clippings for discussions in the House and urged him to move past mud-slinging tactics to utilise the given opportunity effectively.

Responding to the Speaker, KT R noted that while the party respects the Chair, a BRS MLA had contested on another party's ticket. The Speaker countered by com-

paring his role to a judge, stating that if a judgment is unsatisfactory, the aggrieved party should approach a different court. He criticised the BRS for levelling allegations without thoroughly reading his judgment and appealed for a decrease in such questioning. He clarified that he had refrained from addressing the media despite the comments made against his decision.

The BRS leader maintained his individual respect for the Speaker, acknowledging their friendship, but asserted his right to question the decision as a member. He argued that in a democracy, questioning is a fundamental responsibility. KT R concluded by affirming that the BRS would definitely challenge the ruling in the High Court. This exchange highlights the growing tension over legislative defections and the procedural boundaries within the Assembly as both sides defend their respective constitutional and democratic mandates.

President Droupadi Murmu serves Akshaya Patra's 5 billionth meal

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD/NEW DELHI

PRESIDENT Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday served the five billionth meal of the Akshaya Patra Foundation during a programme held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre in New Delhi. The Foundation commemorated the significant milestone of serving five billion meals and its completion of 25 years of service to humanity. The theme of the event, 'Suposhit and Sushikshit Bharat for Viksit Bharat', highlighted the collective efforts toward child nutrition and education for a developed India. In a heartfelt gesture, the President gave gifts, served meals, and personally fed the children.

The Foundation currently feeds 2.35 million children through state-of-the-art



President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday served the five billionth meal of the Akshaya Patra Foundation during a programme at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre in New Delhi on Tuesday

kitchens in 78 locations across 16 states and three union territories. It aspires to reach three million children every day by 2030. President Droupadi Murmu stated that serving five billion meals in

advancement of educational objectives is a remarkable achievement. She noted that a nourished and educated society is vital in realising the national resolve to build a developed India by 2047.

She emphasised that a safe and bright future for children is not solely the responsibility of the government but a shared duty. She noted that when teachers, parents, social organisations, and the corporate sector work together, a strong foundation is laid for the coming generation. Murmu stressed that every child must receive quality education, nutritious food, and a safe environment for holistic development. She commended the Akshaya Patra Foundation for its continuous work in addressing malnutrition and encouraging school attendance through mid-day meals for over two decades. The event showcased the transformative power of public-private partnerships in securing the health and future of the nation's youth.

BRS slaps show-cause notice on Rohit Reddy

Former MLA asked to explain alleged drug party link within seven days or face disciplinary action

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE BRS party on Tuesday issued show cause notice to the party leader Pilot Rohit Reddy, who was arrested in the consumption of drugs in a party in his farmhouse, recently.

The party has asked the former MLA to give his clarification within seven days of receiving the notice or he would be facing disciplinary action. The notice said, "As per the information in various media reports and other credible sources, it has come to the notice of the party high command that allegations have surfaced regarding the consumption of narcotic substances at a gathering held in the vicinity of Hyderabad, which you reportedly attended.

These reports have been widely circulated in the media and have caused grave



concern within the party as well as among the general public. As a responsible political organisation, the BRS is firmly committed to upholding legal statutes and ethical values. The party unequivocally condemns any form of illicit activity—specifically, the consumption of narcotic substances or intoxicants, or any association whatsoever with such substances," the notice said.

The notice further said that allegations regarding the former MLA's presence and involvement in the aforementioned incident had not only brought severe disrepute to the party but also pose a potential threat to the party's reputation and credibility.

"In light of the foregoing, and pursuant to the directives of the party President K Chandrashekar Rao, we

hereby issue this notice directing you to submit a comprehensive written explanation addressing the allegations reported in the media. This explanation must be submitted within seven days from the date of receipt of this notice and should clearly articulate your response to the aforementioned matters. We hereby direct you to refrain from participating in party activities and official programmes until the party leadership has thoroughly examined this matter and reached a final decision," said the notice.

The party has said that in case he fails to submit a satisfactory explanation within the stipulated time frame of this notice, appropriate disciplinary action will be initiated against him in accordance with the party constitution and code of conduct without any further notice.

JH resident fined ₹5,000 for misusing drinking water

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

IN a move to curb the wastage of precious drinking water during the summer season, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) has intensified inspections across the city and begun imposing penalties on those misusing potable wa-

ter. Officials recently imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 on a resident in Jubilee Hills for using drinking water to wash the floor of a residential premises.

According to officials, the action was taken following a complaint received through WhatsApp and social media platforms from vigilant citizens. Based on the information, local authorities conduct-

ed an inspection at a residence in Jubilee Hills registered under the name Dasari Tanuja Reddy (CAN No. 061108578). During the inspection, officials found that drinking water supplied by the board was being used to wash the floor, which is a violation of Water Board regulations.

Officials stated that potable water supplied by the

Water Board is meant strictly for drinking and domestic consumption and should not be used for activities such as washing floors, cellars, or open areas. In view of increasing temperatures and the growing demand for water, the board has warned that strict action will be taken against anyone found misusing drinking water.

The board also noted that several complaints regarding drinking water wastage have been received from citizens. In response, general managers and field staff have been conducting inspections in their respective areas during water supply hours. If any misuse of drinking water is noticed, immediate notices are issued and penalties imposed.

CPI leader points to growing public dissatisfaction

HYDERABAD: The CPI MLA on Tuesday observed that despite the government undertaking several development and welfare initiatives, it has not been able to gain the full trust of the public.

Speaking informally with the media within the Assembly premises, Sambasiva Rao said that although various welfare schemes are being implemented, they have yet to translate into a strong sense of confidence among the people.

He attributed the visible public dissat-

isfaction to the failure to fulfil key promises made during its campaign to come to power. According to him, several assurances given to the electorate have not been implemented, leading to growing resentment.

Similarly, the CPI leader reiterated that his party continues to extend support to the government. He stated that they are playing a constructive role as an ally, standing firmly behind the administration and ensuring its stability.

Harish demands ₹1,070-cr funds cancelled in his segment be restored

Writes an open letter to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who is scheduled to visit Siddipet on March 22

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SIDDIPEET

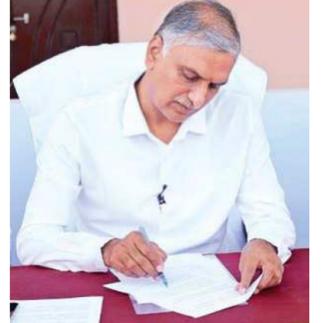
FORMER Minister and local MLA T Harish Rao wrote an open letter to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who is scheduled to visit Siddipet on March 22, demanding that the Rs 1,070-crore funds cancelled in his constituency be restored so that stalled development works can resume.

He questioned why Reddy has such hostility toward Siddipet and asked whether his jealousy and hatred continue whether he is in the Opposition or in power. "Restore those funds and then step into the constituency. Even the funds for the palm oil factory that you are coming to inaugurate were released during our BRS government," the letter stated.

Rao said that although Reddy is visiting Siddipet officially 27 months after becoming CM, he welcomes him as the MLA of the region. He also said that when Reddy was in the Opposition, he used to mention Siddipet every day; people of the constituency will never forget the jealousy and resentment he displayed towards Siddipet's development.

He stated that earlier, Reddy used to talk about Siddipet constantly, but after coming to power, he seems to have forgotten that a constituency named Siddipet even exists in the state. He alleged that not only was Siddipet's development ignored, but the funds sanctioned during the BRS government were also cancelled, causing development works to remain stalled for the past 27 months.

Rao mentioned that during the BRS government, Rs 1,070.73 crore was allocated for development works in his constituency. While the works were ongoing, the funds were suddenly cancelled by the government, causing all projects to stop.



He criticised the government for not even releasing funds for the works already completed.

He added that if the projects had been completed, Siddipet's future would have been very different. He urged Reddy to immediately restore the cancelled funds and ensure the stalled works resume, instead of acting with hostility toward Siddipet's progress.

Rao lists the projects that were cancelled and stopped: Government veterinary college; Ranganayaka Sagar tourism project; Komaticheruvu Shilparamam; Siddipet constituency Outer Ring Road; BSc Agriculture College in Thornala; Government women's degree college building in Mittapalli; Sports Hub for athletes in Siddipet; II Town police station building; III Town police station building; Siddipet-Illanthakunta four-lane road; Siddipet-Kishtapur road; multipurpose auditorium in Siddipet; integrated veg and non-veg market near Siddipet block office.

C-DAC turns 39, eyes quantum, AI and semiconductor leadership

HYDERABAD: THE Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) marked its 39th Foundation Day with dignitaries lauding its pivotal role in advancing India's technology leadership across critical domains.

The celebrations, hosted in the city on Tuesday, brought together senior officials, scientists and industry leaders, who underscored C-DAC's contributions to national missions and its expanding role in shaping India's digital and space future.

Addressing the event virtually, S Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), praised C-DAC's achievements in high-performance computing, cybersecurity, semiconductors, and emerging digital technologies. He highlighted its contributions to flagship initiatives such as the National Supercomputing Mission, National

Semiconductor Mission and National Quantum Mission, while urging greater focus on quantum computing, RISC-V, blockchain and IoT. He emphasised the importance of self-reliance in operating systems and databases, and called for stronger collaboration with industry, academia and defence sectors.

Former ISRO Chairman Dr S Somnath highlighted C-DAC's legacy in supercomputing through the PARAM series and its collaboration with ISRO in developing computing and electronic systems for space missions. He pointed to global trends such as satellite constellations, AI-driven autonomous systems, and the convergence of space and digital technologies, urging C-DAC to align its supercomputing mission with national priorities and strengthen India's position in advanced computing and space technologies.

The Hans India Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Zareena Begum W/o. Shakeel Ahmed, Occ: Housewife, R/o HNo: 30-158/10/A, Bharath Nagar, Near Peddamma Temple, Moulali, Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Telangana- 500040. In My Aadhar card and Pan Card My Name was Mentioned as **Zareena Begum**. But In My Bank Account (State Bank of India A/c No. 20244087622) My Name was Mentioned as **M S Jarina**. But My Actual Correct Name was **Zareena Begum**. So Please Change My Name in My Bank Account. (TH_3043)

I submit that in my Aadhar card No. 5657 6504 0001, PAN card No. CIPFR4821M my name recorded as **MOHAMMED OBAIDUR RAHMAN** and in my Passport no. B2972963 my name recorded as **OBAIDUR RAHMAN**. I further state that **MOHAMMED OBAIDUR RAHMAN & OBAIDUR RAHMAN** both names are pertaining to me only i.e., one and the same person. (TH_44949)

Further submit that in the Aadhar card of my mother's vide Aadhar No. 2806 2642 9690 her name recorded as **RAMJA BEGUM**, in Voter ID card no. FZ24977013 her name recorded as **RAMZA BE** and in my passport No. B2972963, her name recorded as **RAZIA BEGUM**. I further submit that **RAMJA BEGUM, RAMZA BE & RAZIA BEGUM** all the names are pertaining to one and the same person who is my mother. (TH_44949)

I further submit that in my Aadhar card No. 5675 6504 0001 my father name recorded as **MOHAMMED ABDUL JALEEL**, and in Passport No. B2972963 my father name recorded as **MOHAMMED JALEEL SHAB** and in the Voter ID his name recorded as **ABDUL JALEEL**. I state that **MOHAMMED JALEEL SHAB & ABDUL JALEEL** both names are pertaining to one and the same person who is my late father. (TH_44949)

I, Vakiti Ruthvika Reddy W/o Vakiti Shiva Reddy Current Residing in H.No: 2-43, Gommaram, Shivampet, Medak 502313. Previously My Name was **Nayani Ruthvika**. Now I am Changing my name to **Vakiti Ruthvika Reddy**. (TH_3042)

I Rajasri Pollampally D/o Gyananandam Pollampally and Indrabai Pollampally (Old Name), H.No. 12-1-564, Arya Nagar, North Lalaguda, Secunderabad, TG. 500017. I have changed my new name as **Rajasri Polampally D/o Gyananandam Polampally** (New Name). (TH_44949)

I, AJEET DUGAR R/o. 3-6-307/AB8, F.No. 205, LEGEND PREMIER HYDERGUDA HIMAYATHI NAGAR HYD- 500029 TS. I Changed My Name As **AJIT KUMAR DUGAR S/O. NAWRATANMAL DUGAR** (TH_44949)

I, K VANAJA (old Name) R/o. H.No. 3-414, Chukkaiipally, Nagarkurnool District-509102, Telangana have Changed My Name As **BANDARU SUJATHA** (new Name) W/o. **BANDARU Bhanu Prakash** (TH_44949)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ATCHUTUNI SITA MAHA LAKSHMI (Old Name) R/o. 10-11, St. No-7, HMT Nagar, Nacharam, Hyd, RCK-Medchal, 500076, TS. Changed My Name As **ACHYUTUNI SEETHA MAHALAXMI** (New Name) W/o. **ACHYUTUNI VASUDEVA RAO** (TH_44949)

I, ATCHUTUNI VASUDEVA RAO (Old Name) R/o. 10-11, St. No-7, HMT NAGAR, Nacharam, Hyd, RCK -Medchal, 500076, Telangana have Changed My Name As **ACHYUTUNI VASUDEVA RAO** (New Name) (TH_44949)

I, ATCHUTUNI SREERAMA MURTHY (Old Name) R/o. 10-11, St. No-7, HMT Nagar, Nacharam, Hyd, RCK-Medchal, 500076, TS. Changed My Name As **ACHYUTUNI SREERAMA MURTHY** (new name) S/o. **ACHYUTUNI VASUDEVA RAO** (TH_44949)

I, DERA RADHAKRISHNA REDDY (Old Name) R/o. 5-7-76 DHARA BASTHI Nr. Z P HIGH SCHOOL YAPRAL JAWAHARNAGAR R R Dist -500087. TS Changed My Name As **DHARA RADHAKRISHNA REDDY S/o. DHARA SUTHAP REDDY** (TH_44949)

I, DERA MANGA (Old Name) R/o. H.No. 5-7-76, DHARA BASTHI Nr. Z P HIGH SCHOOL YAPRAL JAWAHARNAGAR R R Dist -500087. I have changed my name as **DHARA MANGA W/o. DHARA RADHAKRISHNA REDDY** (TH_44949)

I, DERA RAVIKANTH REDDY (Old Name) R/o. 5-7-76 DHARA BASTHI Nr. Z P HIGH SCHOOL YAPRAL JAWAHARNAGAR R R Dist -500087. TS Changed My Name As **DHARA RAVIKANTH REDDY S/o. DHARA RADHAKRISHNA REDDY** (TH_44949)

I, ALIMINETI SRILATHA (Old Name) R/o. H.No. 5-1-130 SAHEB NAGAR VANASTHALIPURAM HAYATHNAGAR-500070. TS Changed My Name As **ALIMINETI SRILATHA REDDY W/o. ALIMINETI RAVINDER REDDY** (TH_44949)

I, APPALLA GAYATRI (Old Name) R/o. H.No. 2-22BT/VG-808 BHAYAS TULSI VANAM KUKATPALLY HYD- MEDCHAL-500072. TS Changed My Name As **VADALI GAYATRI W/o. VADALI LAKSHMANA RAO** (TH_44949)

I, RAM MOHAN RAO POTLURI S/o. RAMA SASTRURI POTLURI (New Name) R/o. 201, 1 BLOCK-EMERALD, RAINBOW VISTAS, Root Garden, Cyber City, CyberMedchal-018, changed my name from **RAMA MOHAN RAO POTLURI** (Old Name) to **RAM MOHAN RAO POTLURI S/o. RAMA SASTRURI POTLURI** (New Name) for all purposes. (TH_44949)

I, KURNALA SHWETHA Resident of H. No. 11-6-330, CHERUKUTHOTA COLONY, SAROORNAGAR, RR Dist -500035, Changed My Name As **KURNALA SWETHA W/o. KURNALA NARESH** (TH_44949)

I, SYED ABDUL SAMEE R/O. H NO: 15-15/1, SHAHEEN NAGAR, BALAPUR, RCK TELANGANA- 500005 CHANGE MY NAME AS **SYED ABDUL SAMI S/O. SYED ABDUL WAHAB** (TH_44949)

I, ATCHUTUNI VENKATA SARATHI CHANDRA S/O ACHYUTA VENKATA NARAYANA (New Name) R/o. 11-2-124/BB-070, RAINBOW VISTAS ROOT GARDEN, HOSE APARTMENT-018, TS, changed my name from **ACHYUTA VENKATA SARATHI CHANDRA** (Old Name) to **ATCHUTUNI VENKATA SARATHI CHANDRA S/O ACHYUTA VENKATA NARAYANA** (New Name) for all purposes. (TH_44949)

I, BANDI PURUSHOTHAM (Old Name) R/O. F.No. 202, BHAGYA PRASHTA RESIDENCY, SOMIREDDY NAGAR, ATTAPUR, Rajenra Nagar, CYBAD-R.R. TS. Changed My Name As **BANDI PURUSHOTHAM GOUD** (New Name) S/O. **BANDI VEERARAJA**. (TH_44949)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SAI GANESH MANDALA R/O 1-2-597/36, A-503, SVSS SANKALP APTS, LOWER TANK BUND, DOMALGUDA, HYD -500029, TS. Changed My Name As **ARJUN REDDY MANDALA S/O. VIJAYA BHASKAR REDDY MANDALA**. (TH_44949)

I, NEELARAPU RAJAMOLLI JAGADISHWAR R/O 5-23, ROAD NO.7, RANGA NAGAR, CHINTAL, QUTHULLAPUR MANDAL, CY BAD-MEDCHAL - 500054, TS Changed my Name as **NEELARAPU JAGADISHWAR S/O. NEELARAPU RAJAMOLLI** (TH_44949)

I, Service No. 6948658Y Nk RAMA RAJ A of Adm Bn, AOC Centre, Secunderabad, C/o. 56 APO that my mother name is changed from **A PUSHPAM** to **PUSHPAM**. (TH_44949)

I, Amulya Chandrapalaka W/O, Mohammed Rahmatullah Quadri R/O Modern Pride, Flat No. 303, Friends Colony, Manikonda, Hyderabad-500089 have changed my name to **Aisha Sultana/ Aisha Quadri** for all purposes. (TH_44949)

I, Boda kalpana (Before Marriage) R/O, H.No: 8-19, Jagannadhapuram, Palwancha, Bhadradi kothagudem, T.O-507115. I have changed my name as **Jatoh Kalpana W/o Jatoh Venkateswararao** (After Marriage), for all records purposes. (TH_44949)

I, Khaja Begum w/o. Mohammed Ali Amdaj Khan, #. 4-2-35/2/19, Suleman Nagar C, Upperalpally Sogbowli, Hyderabad -TG. Have Changed my name, as **YASEEN BEGUM** (TH_44949)

I, Beermati Devi, Mother of J.C. 78767/L, Sub, Sombir Singh, R/O, Dist: Bihani, Hayana, changed my name from **Beermati Devi** to **Beermati** vide Affidavit No. BOD 2026A21 dt. 15.01.2026, before Executive Magistrate, Sivani, My DOB is 01.01.1953. (TH_44949)

I, VIMALA SHAH, W/o. VIJAY KUMAR SHAH, R/O. H. No. 8-3-231/A/442, 443, Srikrishna Nagar, Yousufguda, Hyderabad, Telangana, 500045, have changed my name as **L.NIKITA SHAH ALIAS VIMALA SHAH**, for all future purpose. (TH_44949)

I, Kudikala Tejaswini, D/O. Vitya Ramesh Kumar, R/O. H.No. 8-83, Gowtham Nagar, Gaddanaram, Saroornagar, K.V. Rangareddy, Telangana-500060, hereby declare that I have changed my name to **VIYLA TEJASWINI**, including my surname, for all future purposes. (TH_44949)

I UMMUL ZAHERA @ SHIBA ZAIDI W/O Late Syed Ehtesham Husain R/o: 8-615, ASRL, Lakeside, Chaitanya Enclave, Lanco Hills Road, Khajaguda, Puppalguda, Rangareddy-89, TG, has changed my name to **Shiba Zaidi**. Hence **SHIBA ZAIDI** (TH_44949)

I, BANAGONI MADHULATHA W/o B SRINIVAS H.No: 21-64/1, BHAGAVATHAMADA, NEAR CHENNUUR GATE, MANICHERAL TOWN AND DISTRICT CHANGED MY NAME AS **KALALI MADHU LATHA W/O BANAGONI SRINIVAS** (TH_44949)

I, BHANDARI MANUSUKH JAIN S/o HANWANT CHANDOI BHANDARI H. No: 5-3-846, F No. 415, 4 TH FLOOR SAI RUCHIS AVENUE NEAR HOTEL DVAJINI GOSHA MAHIL VTC, NARAPALLY PO, BESSURABAD, HYDERABAD (D) T S PIN CODE: 500012 CHANGED MY NAME AS **MANUSUKH BHANDARI S/o HANWANT CHANDOI BHANDARI** (TH_44949)

I TASNIEEM NASHRA FIRDOSI (old name) W/o Mohammed Maqdoom Mohiuddin, R/O 20-7-498, Charminar, Hyderabad-65, to change my name as **TASNIEEM NASHRA FIRDOSI** as I have changed in all my id proof (TH_44949)

CHANGE OF NAME & DOB

I, Service No-17028839A, Rank- HAV, Name-Vikas Kumar Residing at H.No-118, Katesra, Dist-Rohtak, PIN-124113, State-Haryana. I have changed my Father name from **RAJBIR SINGH** to **"RAJBIR"** and also Date of Birth changed from 09/11/1970 to 01/01/1976 Affidavit dated 17 Mar 2026 before G Ramchander Advocate Secunderabad. (TH_03128)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AMENA BEGUM D/O MOHAMMAD RASHAD R/O H. No 6-36, BC colony, Village & mandal Abdullahapurmet, Post kavadpalli, District Ranga Reddy pin code 501505. I have changed my father name **Rashad** (Old name) to **mohammad Rashad** (new name). (TH_TM RAO)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Nibbaragandla Ranga Pavan Kumar Reddy, S/o Nibbaragandla Ranga Reddy, Age-25years Occupation: Student R/o H.No-1-112/75, Nagarajwasi, Mens' Hostel-Allwyn X Road, Opp: HDFC Bank Miyapur Hyderabad-Rangareddy Telangana State. Pin-500049. Have Lost My India Original Passport Bearing No: R0143587. Issued by Hyderabad 2027 Expiry, While Traveling From Miyapur to Allwyn X Road, If Found Anyone Please Call: 832863165. (TH_44949)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, venkata subba reddy Kandala, s/o Koteswara reddy kandala Age 46 yrs R/o Flat No. 402, sai ganes prime, kakatiya hills, Pragathi Nagar, hyd-90 that my minor daughter name mentioned in her Aadhar card as **Kandala Sahithi** my daughter correct name is **Kandala Ahana Sahithi** as per her Birth certificate For Education and future All purposes (TH_44949)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KOTESWARI DOKKU W/O Dokku Someswara Rao R/o.H.No.1-3-83, Flat No.202, Airlines Apts, Jayanagar, New Bowenpally, Secunderabad-500 011, Telangana state have changed my name from **KOTESHWARI BODDU** to **KOTESWARI DOKKU** for all records purpose. (TH_03128)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AMENA BEGUM D/O MOHAMMAD RASHAD R/O H. No 6-36, BC colony, Village & mandal Abdullahapurmet, Post kavadpalli, District Ranga Reddy pin code 501505. I have changed my father name **Rashad** (Old name) to **mohammad Rashad** (new name). (TH_TM RAO)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Badugu Samuel S/O Badugu Jayaraju R/O H. No. 20-197-96/2096, Old Gabbilapet, Near Noble High School, Jawaharnagar, P.O. JJ Nagar Colony, Dist. K.V. Ranga Reddy (Telangana) have changed my name to **BADUGU SHYAM** forever. (TH_TM RAO)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Under the instructions of my client Sri. Ashish Kumar Enchure and Mr. Akash Kumar Enchure I am giving the following Public Notice.

My clients are joint and absolute owners and possessor of all that House bearing municipal No. 1-1-379/100 (PTIN No. 1090112913) (Old No. 1-1-379/149) SRT No. 114 admeasuring 105.90 Sq. Yds consisting of ground, first, second and third floor with ground floor built up area of 968 Sq. Ft. RCC, first, second floor built up area of 1038 Sq. Ft. each RCC and third floor built up area of 900 Sq. Ft. ACC at Industrial Housing Colony, Jawahar Nagar, Chikkapally, Hyderabad having purchased the same through registered Sale Deed No. 4728 of 2021 dated 14-10-2021 registered at the office of the Sub Registrar Chikkapally.

My clients inform me that they want to avail mortgage loan with State Bank of India RACP Kukatpally (SBI NRI Branch, Hyderabad) by mortgaging the above said residential building and accordingly they have verified the original title deeds relating to above said property and at the time of original verification I found that the original title deed Nos. 979 of 1996, 1136 of 2008, 1190 of 2008 and 1156 of 2001 are missing/lost and accordingly they had obtained Non Traceable Certificate from PS Chikkapally on 06-10-2021 and 25-10-2021 and also the original sale deed No. 914 of 2011 is also missing.

In view of the above, it is to be informed to the general public that if anybody found the above documents the same may be returned to undersigned and suitable reward will be given to them and further inform the general public if anybody has any objection with regard to mortgage of above said residential building with SBI, RACP Kukatpally by clients may contact to the undersigned within 7 days from the date of this publication, failing which my clients shall complete mortgage the above said property with SBI by availing mortgage loan from SBI NRI Branch, Hyderabad and no further claims will be entertained thereafter.

Sd/- **M. SUBBA RAO, Advocate**
Flat No. 113, SRK Towers
Beside Image Hospital, Amerpet
Hyderabad, Ph: 988556895

LOST

I, Mrs. Mallipeddi Indira, W/o. Mallipeddi Laxmi Narasaiah, Occ: Housewife, House No. 17-1-391/7/49, Saraswathi Nagar, Near Geetanjali School, Saidabad, Hyderabad, Telangana-500059. I have Lost My Original Sale Deed Doc No. 5349/2000, Dated: 29-11-2000., S.R.O Rajendra Nagar. While travelling to The Gaudium School, Welimela, BDL Police Station, Limits on November 2024. If Found. Ph: 8885506658 (TH_3045)

I, M. LAXMI NARAYANA, S/o. Buchala, R/o. H. No. 23-1-670, Moghalpura, charminar East Chowk Maidankhan, Hyderabad 500 002. T.G. I Lost / misplaced my electricity meter with Service No. R1000566. (TGSPOC) If found contact 939451144. (TH_44949)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, venkata subba reddy Kandala, s/o Koteswara reddy kandala Age 46 yrs R/o Flat No. 402, sai ganes prime, kakatiya hills, Pragathi Nagar, hyd-90 that my minor daughter name mentioned in her Aadhar card as **Kandala Sahithi** my daughter correct name is **Kandala Ahana Sahithi** as per her Birth certificate For Education and future All purposes (TH_44949)

LOST OF PASSPORT

I, Nibbaragandla Ranga Pavan Kumar Reddy, S/o Nibbaragandla Ranga Reddy, Age-25years Occupation: Student R/o H.No-1-112/75, Nagarajwasi, Mens' Hostel-Allwyn X Road, Opp: HDFC Bank Miyapur Hyderabad-Rangareddy Telangana State. Pin-500049. Have Lost My India Original Passport Bearing No: R0143587. Issued by Hyderabad 2027 Expiry, While Traveling From Miyapur to Allwyn X Road, If Found Anyone Please Call: 832863165. (TH_44949)

Scindia launches 24 Speed Post, promises nationwide rollout

Enhanced logistics, real-time tracking, and Sunday delivery introduced

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

UNION Minister for Communications and Development of the North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya M. Scindia on Tuesday said that India Post remains committed to serving every citizen across the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing a gathering at the launch of the 24 Speed Post service at Rang Bhawan Auditorium, Akashvani Bhawan, New Delhi, he said the department's slogan, "Dak Seva, Jan Seva," reflects its commitment to millions of customers worldwide.

He said the 24 Speed Post service offers next-day guaranteed delivery for urgent and time-sensitive consignments. In the first phase, the service will be introduced in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad. Scindia added

that, along with 24 Speed Post, the department is also introducing 48 Speed Post and 24 Speed Post Parcel services. "Our value proposition is simple — what India Post promises, it delivers," he said.

Highlighting the department's vast reach, the Minister said that India Post serves over 6.5 lakh villages through 1.65 lakh post offices, with a strong network of Grameen Dak Sevaks. "Where roads reach, my 'dak' reaches; during natural calamities, the 'dak' reaches; in moments of joy, the 'dak' reaches," he remarked.

Calling it a phase of renewal, he said India Post is reinventing itself for a new journey from Amrit Kaal to Shatabdi Kaal, with enhanced services such as door-to-door delivery, specialised packaging, real-time tracking, and even Sunday deliveries. He assured that the service, currently launched in six cities, will be expanded nationwide

by March 31, 2027.

Referring to the growth of e-commerce, Scindia noted that India's market, currently valued at Rs 11 lakh crore, is expected to reach Rs 30 lakh crore by 2030, and said India Post is well-prepared to meet this demand. He emphasised that the country's progress depends on three pillars — connectivity, credibility, and confidence.

Minister of State for Communications Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, who also addressed the event, congratulated the department for aligning with the Prime Minister's vision. He added that business customers will benefit from features such as book now, pay later, centralised billing, pickup services, and volume-based discounts.

He said the department is working to build strong partnerships with e-commerce players so that India Post becomes a preferred delivery partner.

KISHAN CASTIGATES CONG FOR SNIPING AT RAW, RSS

- Union Minister accuses Congress of being "brazenly anti-national" over a tweet
- RAW is recognised as India's frontline defence against external threats
- RSS is described as a socio-cultural organisation promoting unity
- BJP alleges Congress, led by Rahul Gandhi is inviting foreign interference in India's affairs

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD/ NEW DELHI

UNION Minister of Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy criticised the Congress for its recent tweet endors-



ing recommendations from a foreign body that called for sanctions against India's premier intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), and the socio-cultural organisation Rash-

triya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). On Tuesday, Reddy described the tweet as "an example of the Congress party degrading itself into a brazen anti-national entity"

and accused the party of systematically undermining institutions that safeguard India's sovereignty. He emphasised that RAW works tirelessly to protect the nation from external threats, while the RSS contributes to social unity and cultural values.

The controversy comes against the backdrop of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) report, which the Government of India has categorically rejected as biased and motivated. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated that USCIRF has repeatedly presented a distorted picture of India, relying on questionable sources and ideological narratives. The MEA further urged the body to reflect on incidents of vandalism and attacks on Hindu temples in

the United States, as well as growing intolerance against the Indian diaspora abroad.

Reddy accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of "cheering when calamities struck India, spreading misinformation during crises, and inviting foreign interference in India's internal matters." He argued that the party's endorsement of sanctions against Indian institutions shows it is no longer working within the constitutional framework it claims to uphold.

The BJP has condemned the Congress party's stance, calling it irresponsible and dangerous for national security. The incident has sparked sharp political debate, with the ruling party framing it as yet another example of Congress prioritising partisan politics over national interest.

CM REVANTH, PCC CHIEF MEET KHARGE

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

CHIEF Minister Revanth Reddy and PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud paid a courtesy visit to AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge. The meeting was held in the context of Vem Narendra Reddy's recent election to the Rajya Sabha from Telangana. MPs Mallu Ravi, Suresh

Shetkar, and Baram Naik were also present. On the occasion, Kharge congratulated Vem Narendra Reddy. During the meeting, the Chief Minister and PCC President discussed current political developments and state politics with Kharge. Earlier, the Chief Minister, PCC President, and a delegation of MPs also met AICC General Secretary K.C. Venugopal.



Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud call on AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge in New Delhi, along with MPs, following Vem Narendra Reddy's election to the Rajya Sabha, and discuss current political developments.

Couple posed as doctors, looted patients in city hospitals

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Commissioner's Task Force, Secunderabad Zone Team, alongside Market Police, has apprehended a couple involved in hospital robberies. The accused, Goundla Shirisha, a 25-year-old Pharm D student, and Edulapally Sai Kumar Goud, 30, both from Nawabpet, allegedly impersonated medical professionals to rob patients. Police seized 11 tolas of gold ornaments, two phones, and a car.

Driven by financial problems, the duo targeted elderly female patients. Leveraging her medical knowledge, Shirisha used Diazepam injections to render victims unconscious. Gaikwad Vaibhav Raghunath, DCP Task Force, stated that Shirisha concealed the sedative in her doctor's apron to avoid suspicion. On 11 March, she entered Yashoda Hospital, Secunderabad, where she sedated a victim and fled with their gold.

Investigations revealed the pair was previously involved

in a similar offence at Citizen Speciality Hospital in Nallagandla. The stolen gains were reportedly spent on personal shopping and other lifestyle expenses. The accused had been absconding in two cases before their eventual arrest. By posing as staff, they bypassed hospital security to exploit vulnerable patients within supposedly secure medical environments. This arrest marks a significant breakthrough for the Malkajgiri Commissionerate in curbing specialised hospital thefts. The duo has been re-



mandated to judicial custody as police continue to verify if they were involved in any additional undetected offences across the city.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

Police seize adulterated ginger and garlic paste

THE Hyderabad Commissioner's Task Force, Khairatabad Zone Team, alongside GHMC food safety officers, has busted illegal manufacturing units and apprehended an owner for producing sub-standard ginger and garlic paste. Officials seized a significant quantity of the paste and other food products worth Rs 4.5 lakh during the primary operation. The team conducted a surprise inspection at the premises of A1 Sahara Gold Ginger & Garlic Paste, located at Madhura Nagar in Borabanda. During the raid, it was discovered that the accused, Mohd Abdullah, was manufacturing the paste in plastic containers under extremely unhygienic conditions. Investigators found that the product was being created by mixing chemicals such as acetic acid and salt with substandard raw materials, including shells.

Vaibhav Gaikwad Raghunath, DCP Task Force, stated that the prepared paste was stored in open plastic tubs, exposed to dust, flies, and other contaminants, rendering it unsafe for human consumption. The adulterated product was supplied to various wholesale stores and catering services, allowing the accused to gain huge illegal profits.

The DCP warned that such adulterated paste is hazardous to human life. Police noted that Abdullah managed the business using an FSSAI licence obtained in his father's name. The apprehended individual and the seized materials were handed over to Borabanda police for further legal action.

In a separate operation, police conducted another surprise inspection at Sahara India in Tappachabutra, Karwan. During this raid, the owner, Mohammed



Zafar Alam, was booked for similar offences. The inspection revealed that the accused was manufacturing ginger and garlic paste in plastic containers under highly unhygienic conditions by mixing chemicals such as citric acid and salt. Police seized adulterated stock worth approximately Rs 2.50 lakh from this unit. Zafar Alam was reportedly engaged in the large-scale manufacture and sale of these tainted products to restaurants and retail shops across Hyderabad.

The total value of seized material from

both operations amounts to Rs 7 lakh. The accused from the second raid was handed over to Tappachabutra police for further proceedings.

These coordinated efforts by the Task Force and GHMC highlight a rigorous crackdown on food adulteration units that bypass health regulations to exploit public demand. Authorities have urged residents to remain vigilant and report suspicious manufacturing activities to ensure community health and safety across the city.

Women journalists get cyber hygiene training

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

IN an era where journalism increasingly intersects with the digital world, cyber safety has become as essential as reporting itself. Recognising the growing cyber threats faced by media professionals, the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) organised a cyber hygiene workshop for women journalists in Hyderabad under the theme OnlineButUnafraid, aiming to equip them with knowledge and practical tools to navigate the digital space safely.

The workshop was held as part of International Women's Month and witnessed participation from women journalists representing various media organisations. The session was conducted in the presence of Direc-

tor General of Police B Shivadhar Reddy and TGCSB Director Shikha Goel, highlighting the importance of cyber awareness among professionals who maintain a strong online presence.

The Cyber security expert Sunny NV, CEO, Vatins, delivered detailed presentations on cyber hygiene practices, emerging cyber threats and preventive strategies. Participants were sensitised to common cybercrimes targeting women journalists, including cyberstalking, online harassment, sextortion, fake social media profiles, image morphing and matrimonial fraud.

Real life case studies were discussed to illustrate how cybercriminals manipulate trust and digital behaviour to exploit victims.

The session also focused on recognising early warn-

ing signs, protecting personal and professional digital identities, and responding effectively to online abuse. Officials encouraged journalists to promptly report cyber incidents through official channels such as the national cyber crime helpline 1930 and the online reporting portal.

Addressing the gathering, DGP Shivadhar Reddy emphasised that cybercrime is growing rapidly and requires collective vigilance. Director Shikha Goel highlighted that awareness and responsible digital practices remain the first line of defence against cyber threats.

Through initiatives like OnlineButUnafraid, TGCSB aims to build a cyber aware society where individuals can confidently use digital platforms while remaining alert, informed and secure.



DGP B Shivadhar Reddy addresses a cyber hygiene workshop for women journalists in Hyderabad on Tuesday

INDIA GEARS UP FOR GLOBAL QUANTUM LEADERSHIP

In all, 23 academic institutions approved for quantum labs under the National Quantum Mission, preparing a skilled workforce for the tech frontier

HYDERABAD/NEW DELHI: In a decisive step toward becoming a global leader in quantum technologies by the Centre several Higher Educational Institutions in Hyderabad to benefit under the National Quantum Mission.

Approval has been granted for establishing quantum teaching facilities and laboratories in 23 academic institutions across the country, with another 100 institutions under consideration. This initiative aims to accelerate advanced research, innovation, and training in quantum computing, communication, and sensing—fields that are expected to redefine science and technology in the coming decades.

The announcement was made during the monthly meeting of Secretaries of Science Ministries, chaired by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, who emphasised the importance of greater coordination among science ministries to strengthen India's innovation ecosystem. The meeting brought together top scientific leadership, including the Principal Scientific Adviser Prof Ajay Kumar Sood, and secretaries from DST, DBT, CSIR,



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh chairs a meeting attended by Secretaries of Science Ministries in New Delhi on Monday

MoES, and ISRO.

Dr Singh highlighted that quantum technologies are not just futuristic but essential for national security, healthcare, and industrial competitiveness. By embedding quantum teaching labs in universities and research institutions, India aims to create a skilled workforce capable of driving breakthroughs in computing power, secure communication, and precision measurements.

The meeting also reviewed preparations for major upcoming events such as the India International Science Festival (IISF) 2026, proposed to be held in Pune, and the National Technol-

ogy Day celebrations in May at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. These events will showcase India's scientific achievements and foster collaboration between research, industry, and startups.

Another key highlight was the review of the 5th RISE conclave held in Chennai, which brought together over 140 startups, industry leaders and researchers to showcase technologies developed in CSIR and other national laboratories. The conclave underscored the importance of linking research with commercialisation and industry adoption.

The space sector also featured prominently in the

discussions, with updates on upcoming PSLV missions and the launch of a new navigation satellite for the Navy. These initiatives, alongside quantum research, reflect India's integrated approach to strengthening both frontier science and strategic capabilities.

Dr Singh stressed the need for stronger communication and outreach so that scientific achievements receive wider visibility and inspire public engagement. The establishment of quantum labs is expected to be a cornerstone in India's journey toward technological self-reliance and global leadership in emerging sciences.

BJP denies hand in attack on Congress MLA's house

HYDERABAD: BJP State Secretary Koppu Basha refuted allegations linking the party to the recent attack at the residence of Congress MLA Mandula Samuel. Addressing the media on Tuesday, he said that violence is not part of the BJP's culture, instead accusing Congress of fostering attacks against BJP workers in Chandur.

Basha highlighted the BJP government's initiatives under Prime Minister Narendra Modi to honour Dr BR Ambedkar, contrasting them with Congress's history of humiliating Ambedkar. He noted the development of "Panchteerth" sites as a global recognition of Ambedkar's legacy. Responding to Samuel's claim of inadequate Dalit representation, Basha emphasised that Modi's government has consistently included SC ministers in key portfolios, unlike Congress, which he accused of sidelining Dalit leaders. He criticised Congress for failing to deliver on promises made in the "Chavella Declaration," including the Rs 12 lakh Dalit Bandhu scheme and land allocations. Basha also condemned Congress leaders for remaining silent on custodial deaths and accused them of exploiting religious symbols for votes. He reaffirmed the BJP's support for the Madiga community's ABCDE categorisation struggle and warned against the misuse of police machinery to target BJP activists.

War to decide Middle East's future, dynamics of western alliances

US President Donald Trump recently said that he was "not happy with the UK" for the delay in sending two aircraft carriers to the Middle East. In fact, he has reasons to be unhappy with all American allies. Japan and Australia have announced that they were not planning to send navy vessels to West Asia to escort ships through the Strait of Hormuz, which the US President called on the allies to do. He wanted them to create a coalition to reopen the vital waterway. But Japan and Australia are distant US allies; even the UK and Germany, US allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Nato), have also not been of much use in the war against Iran. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer

has made it clear that his country will not be drawn into a "wider war" and he is "working with allies" on a viable plan for the Strait of Hormuz. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz was blunter, while asserting that the ongoing war in Iran "is not a matter for Nato."

The arguments proffered by US allies are specious and self-serving; they need American military support, which is critical, according to the Nato website, "for the provision of some essential capabilities, regarding for instance, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; air-to-air refuelling; ballistic missile defence; and airborne electromagnetic warfare." Moreover, the US' contribution to the total Nato expenditure is the

highest. But they would not help the US when it needs them. Merz's comment is particularly cheeky. At any rate, the US-Israel alliance is fighting for lasting peace in the Middle East, where Iran is the biggest troublemaker, preparing a nuclear arsenal, supplying drones to Russia, and arming and aiding terror groups like Hamas and Hezbollah. The challenge posed by Tehran is not confined to the Middle East. Therefore, supporters of stronger action against Iran argue that the US-Israel alliance is not merely fighting a series of isolated confrontations but is attempting to create a peaceful Middle East. From this perspective, confronting Iranian expansionism and preventing the development of nuclear weapons are

essential steps toward a more stable regional order. The argument holds that failing to act decisively now could allow tensions and proxy conflicts to grow, eventually leading to a far more volatile confrontation in the future.

At the same time, advocates of this position stress that safeguarding the Strait of Hormuz is not solely an American or Israeli concern. After all, the waterway is a vital artery for global energy supplies, disruptions there would affect economies around the world. Oil-importing nations in Europe and Asia would be particularly vulnerable to price shocks and supply shortages. For this reason, proponents believe that ensuring safe passage through the Strait should be

treated as a collective international responsibility rather than a mission carried primarily by the US. The debate highlights a recurring challenge in international alliances: balancing national interests with collective security commitments. While Washington expects its partners to contribute more actively to confront perceived threats, many allies prefer diplomatic engagement and caution over military escalation. Whether a broader coalition eventually emerges to secure the Strait or whether the US and its closest partners act largely on their own will shape not only the future of the Middle East but also the evolving dynamics of Western alliances in an increasingly uncertain global landscape.

LETTERS

A fitting salute to the 'people's poet'

The prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 being conferred on eminent Telugu poet Nandini Sidda Reddy is a moment of immense pride for Telangana's literary community. This makes for a significant acknowledgement of contemporary Telugu literature. What makes this honour particularly meaningful is the thematic depth of the award-winning Animesha, which revolves around lived realities of ordinary people during the Covid-19 pandemic. Sidda Reddy's contribution extends far beyond a single book. As the first chairman of the Telangana Sahitya Akademi, he played a crucial role in promoting the State's rich regional dialect, folklore, and literary heritage. His earlier achievements—including the Nandi Award for penning stirring lyrics in the film Poru Telangana—reflect his rare ability to bridge the worlds of creative literature, cultural activism, and public consciousness. The latest recognition is not merely an individual accolade to the illustrious son of the soil, whose journey started from a small village in Siddipet but a celebration of Telangana's cultural identity and the enduring power of socially-conscious poetry.

Vidyasagar Reddy Kethiri, Hanumakonda

Making kids emotionally brave

With reference to the article "Raising Emotionally Brave Kids" by Deepthi T Nair (THI March 17), I would like to thank the author for highlighting an important concern of modern parenting. In today's achievement-driven world, many parents tend to shield their children from every possible disappointment. While this stems from love and concern, the article rightly explains how overprotection can weaken a child's emotional resilience. Allowing children to face small failures helps them understand that setbacks are temporary and manageable. Such experiences gradually develop courage, patience and problem-solving abilities. Children learn that success is not always immediate and that effort and persistence are essential to overcome difficulties. This mindset prepares them not only for academic challenges but also for emotional and social situations later in life. The article is particularly helpful for present-day young parents who often struggle to balance work, time constraints and parenting responsibilities. Meaningful parenting indeed lies in guiding children patiently rather than solving every problem for them.

Raju Kolluru, Kakinada

Narcotics network engulfs TG politics

Propos "TG govt should curb drug menace with Iron fist" (THI, March 17). The recent drug bust in Telangana has sent shockwaves across the political and social landscape, especially with the reported arrest of a sitting TDP MP from Eluru alongside other politicians and associates. The revelations underscore the alarming spread of the drug menace beyond urban youth into influential circles of power. What was once perceived as a fringe criminal activity has now exposed deep-rooted networks with alleged links to political figures, raising serious concerns about governance, law enforcement, and accountability. The incident has highlighted the urgent need for stricter enforcement, transparent investigations, and political will to combat the threat. If unchecked, such developments could erode institutional integrity and pose a grave risk to society's moral and social fabric.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru-560056

Punish all peddlers

Propos "TG Govt Should Curb Drug Menace with Iron Fist" (THI, March 17). When elected representatives themselves are found consuming drugs, it signals something more troubling than a law enforcement failure — it reflects a broader erosion of accountability. The Telangana government's EAGLE initiative was a step in the right direction, but as the article rightly notes, ground-level action has been inconsistent. Cracking down on peddlers while ignoring the demand side, particularly among the affluent and politically connected, will only produce selective justice. What is needed is enforcement that does not discriminate by social standing, stronger regulation of farmhouse gatherings, and genuine political will to act against one's own.

A Myilsami, Coimbatore-641402

Wipe out drug menace at the source level

This is further to your editorial "TG govt should curb drug menace with iron fist". It brings out the sad state-of-affairs in social behaviour of the present and past lawmakers who are expected to play a pivotal role in curbing drug menace. Themselves being caught in the act is outright disgusting and condemnable beyond words. This social evil of drug abuse of a variety of variants by the youth of today in Telangana is truly disturbing. The agencies empowered to tackle the menace must be allowed to act fearlessly against all those involved. The supply chain, agents and carriers must be identified so that the authorities can go to the root of this evil and reach the source.

S Lakshmi, Hyderabad

thehansreader@gmail.com

BENGALURU ONLINE

Sri Lankan judge moves HC; Centre, Google raise jurisdiction objections

BENGALURU: A petition filed by Sri Lankan Supreme Court judge A H M D Nawaz before the Karnataka High Court has triggered a legal debate on jurisdiction, with Google LLC and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology opposing its maintainability. The plea challenges allegedly defamatory and objectionable content published online against the judge. The matter came up before a bench headed by Justice Sachin Shankar Magadam. During the hearing, counsel for Google argued that the petition itself may not be maintainable before the Karnataka High Court. It was submitted that the alleged defamatory content originated in Sri Lanka, while Google is a US-based entity, raising serious concerns about territorial jurisdiction.

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

Firecracker units have become the new killers



RAVULAPATI SEETARAMARAO

Firecrackers have become deadly! If vendors who run these businesses like those running shops in the ordinary market-selling goods without following safety regulations-are allowed to make fireworks and firecrackers in the run-up to Diwali with unskilled, low-paid workers, and authorities do not immediately rein them in, the number of casualties from such accidents will keep rising each day.

This dangerous trade, produced without any precautions whatsoever, has become a business of hazards. If this bundle of explosives, which has turned into a "high-risk industry," is not regulated, both the number of fire accidents and the death toll will inevitably keep growing.

Last October in the Konaseema district of Andhra Pradesh, a major fireworks explosion in Grand Fireworks claimed ten lives. When Sri Surya Fire Crackers exploded in Vetapalem village, 20 per-



Aftermath of the blaze in Grand Fireworks at Rayavaram village of Dr BR Ambedkar Konaseema district last October

sons lost their lives in an instant. It was later discovered that both units belonged to the same person. In fact, even though the government had ordered the Vetapalem unit to be shut down as early as January, it is shocking that this controversial company was allowed to continue. It caused yet another deadly disaster.

In the early days, Diwali fireworks used to bring immense joy to everyone! But because the use of explosive materials was less, hazardous situations were not common. Streets would buzz with activity—sparkling flowerpots, moonlight crackers, sparklers and small ground-spinners—making the festival a source of immense happiness for families, especially for children.

Nagpur in Maharashtra and

Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu have the most number of manufacturers of fireworks. Back then, even though strict safety rules were not always followed, the limited use of explosives in manufacturing did not cause any large scale deaths. When accidents did occur, media coverage would spur governments into immediate action to prevent any loss of life or property. The officials responsible for overseeing fireworks also acted responsibly and took appropriate measures whenever needed.

Having seen those days, today thinking about the accidents happening these days makes for a terrifying proposition! In Nagpur, an explosion at the SBEL Energy factory killed 90 workers, most of them being women. In the

It is now crucial that there be a comprehensive review of safety procedures and a deep study of the extent the senior officials are supervising the works in the factory and are swearing by the dos and don'ts. Investigations must determine whether the businesses are providing safe, convenient, and accident-free environments. Licenses should be revoked and criminal action taken against all violators. Otherwise deaths and property losses from these incidents will not stop

last two years alone, over 20 people have lost their lives in accidents at these very units. We should also remember that two people died in solar explosions. This solar plant is huge. Its owner even received the Padma Shri award. Locals mockingly talk about that award, implying it reveals the political connections the owner must have had.

It is because of such political connections that officials responsible for enforcing the relevant laws turn a Nelson's Eye to the sordid goings on. The tragic irony is that those working in such hazardous units are vulnerable as they are unprotected. Whether or not the governments care, accidents keep happening, which is a grievance that the locals keep cautioning about but to avail. People complain that because adequate safety measures are not implemented to the required levels and as the managers of those units are not prosecuted under the

law, accidents are becoming too frequent. In fact, Nagpur has a safety organization responsible for ensuring that protective measures related to petroleum and explosives are in place and in working condition. Because of whistleblowers from that organisation, there have been CBI investigations. Investigations into PESO officers, accused of issuing licenses and taking bribes, have been carried out, yet explosions and loss of life continue unabated.

It is now crucial that there be a comprehensive review of safety procedures and a deep study of the extent the senior officials are supervising the works in the factory and are swearing by the dos and don'ts.

Investigations must determine whether the businesses are providing safe, convenient, and accident-free environments, Licenses should be revoked and criminal action taken against all violators.

Otherwise deaths and property losses from these incidents will not stop.

In Sivakasi, because authorities have enforced strict measures to prevent accidents and have ensured that child labour is not used in such hazardous units, the number of incidents — and consequently the loss of life — has decreased to noticeable levels.

Many years ago, Diwali firework shops used to be located away from towns. That made it clear that precautions were being taken so that, if accidents happen by mistake, the damage would be limited. Police were often stationed near those shops, constantly checking whether the merchants were taking proper safety measures. Shops opened and closed on schedule. Even if many people went from shop to shop to buy crackers, arrangements were so made that they could leave quickly. Today, even though more shops are set up in crowded places, safety measures are being tossed out.

Experience shows that stalls and shops selling items meant for the Diwali celebration were run in ways that never brought sorrow or anguish to families.

(The writer is a retired IPS officer, who has served as an Additional DGP of Andhra Pradesh)

Urgent need to rethink Telangana's education roadmap

DR SREERAMULU GOSIKONDA

The Government of Telangana's decision to constitute the Telangana Education Commission (TEC) in September 2024 is a bold initiative. With a mandate to prepare a comprehensive education policy covering pre primary to higher education, including technical streams, the Commission has attempted to chart a roadmap for reform. This effort deserves recognition.

Yet, while the vision is ambitious, several blind spots risk undermining its transformative potential.

In the 21st century, when education must respond to rapid technological change, global competitiveness, and the demand for inclusive growth, the relevance of such a Commission is undeniable. Its role is not only to set clear standards for quality and align reforms with national frameworks like NEP 2020, but also to ensure accountability across both government and private institutions. Without addressing the welfare of private school teachers—who form the majority of the teaching workforce—the promise of reform will remain incomplete.

A progressive step forward:

The TEC, chaired by Akunuri Murali has rightly acknowledged the challenges facing Telangana's education system. Private school enrolment has surged past 60 per cent, while government schools have seen enrolment collapse to just 26 per cent in first grade by 2024-25. Budget allocations have fluctuated, falling to 5.9 per cent in 2021-22 before recovering modestly to 7.55 per

cent in 2024-25. Learning outcomes remain poor, with only 31.5 per cent of Standard-V students able to read a Standard-II text. Against this backdrop, several recommendations stand out. The integration of pre-primary education into the school system is a laudable reform, ensuring continuity in early childhood learning.

Equally commendable is the merging of intermediate education with school education, which will reduce duplication and ease student transitions. This reform will also help optimise the use of human resources and existing infrastructure, including laboratories, while reducing the financial burden on the government. In addition, it will not only curb commercialisation of senior secondary education but also create a more conducive atmosphere for students to learn effectively.

Junior Lecturers (JL) who currently may lack a B.Ed. qualification should be given sufficient time to complete it, thereby aligning with the required standards for Post Graduate Teachers (PGTs). The emphasis on English-medium instruction across all levels reflects parental aspirations and global realities. The call to embed sports, arts, and socio-emotional learning as core components of schooling is another progressive step toward holistic education. As regards teachers, closing the D.El.Ed programme and restructuring B.Ed. stage-specific degrees is welcome. It acknowledges the systematic failure of teacher education, which has long undermined classroom quality. Similarly, re-emphasising polytechnic education to produce industry-ready diploma engineers is a pragmatic correction.



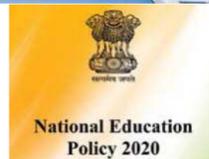
Blind spots and missteps:

Yet, the Commission's vision is not without flaws. Most strikingly, it does not include experienced educators such as school teachers, principals, lecturers, and professors among its members. Policymaking without the voices of those who live the realities of classrooms risks being detached from ground-level challenges. The TEC also suggested that government teachers' salaries are 'relatively high.' In reality, it is a wrong notion. Salaries are determined by state policy and are not excessive.

The move to open Telangana Public Schools with heavy investment is also a questionable proposal. Instead, the state should focus on strengthening existing government schools and improving enrolment.

Ambiguity on NEP 2020:

TEC's stance on the National Education Policy (NEP 2020) is ambiguous. While it acknowledges certain proposals, such as strengthening pre-school education, it avoids clarity on whether NEP will be fully implemented. This lack of decisiveness can be problematic. NEP 2020 mandates mother tongue instruction at the elementary level, recognising that comprehension matters more than English skills in early grades. The TEC's blanket recommendation of English-medium instruction



risks undermining this principle. Moreover, the Commission's report is not available in Telugu, the state's official language. This is a serious oversight. Policy documents must be accessible to all stakeholders, including teachers, parents, and local communities. Promoting Telugu as a mandatory subject in all schools is equally essential to preserve linguistic identity while balancing global aspirations.

At the higher education level, the TEC rightly calls for restoring the regulatory integrity of the aided sector. The fee reimbursement scheme should be limited to meritorious students across social categories seeking higher education in private institutions. The Commission also observed that nearly 70 per cent of teaching positions in government-run universities remain vacant, a situation that has had a negative impact on both teaching quality and research activities. However, the Commission fails to address another pressing issue: the absence of reservation for local qualified youth in private higher education insti-

tutions including private universities. With unemployment rising since the state's inception, ensuring opportunities for Telangana's own graduates is critical.

Silence on private school regulation and teachers welfare:

The TEC's call for decentralised governance, stronger school leadership, and implementation of Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act (mandating 25 per cent seats in private schools for marginalised children) reflects a commitment to equity. Yet, the Commission failed to address the underpaid salaries of private school teachers, who constitute 58 per cent of the state's teaching workforce and remain the backbone of its education system. Private schools in Telangana are regulated under the AP Education Act of 1982 and G.O. Ms. No. 1 of 1993, which mandated recognition, infrastructure standards, staff qualifications, fee regulation, and allocation of 65 per cent of income toward staff salaries and benefits. In practice, however, many institutions defy rules. With nearly two thirds of students enrolled in private schools, leaving them outside effective regulation undermines educational quality and erodes trust. A fair, transparent policy that enforces compliance and protects both teachers and families is essential to correct this prolonged neglect and restore credibility in the education sector.

The way forward:

The Telangana Education Commission has laid out a roadmap that is ambitious and forward-looking. But ambition alone will not suffice. For

Kukatpally police crack ₹1-cr hawala heist, four held

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

KUKATPALLY police, in coordination with CCS Bala-nagar, swiftly solved the sensational Rs 1 crore robbery case and apprehended key accused involved in the dacoity targeting motorcyclists. A portion of the stolen cash was also recovered during the operation.

The arrested accused have been identified as Md. Omer Shareef (32), Md. Ghouse Saddam (28), Abdul Hameed (33), and Md. Khusruddin (42). Meanwhile, Chotu, Salman, Ghouse, Zeeshan, and Jammu are absconding.

According to police, the prime conspirator, Md. Khusruddin, was working at Sidra Enterprises in Bahadur-pura. He, along with his colleague and complainant Md.

Azeemuddin, was assigned to collect large sums of cash using a token system involving a Rs 10 note. The collected cash was later handed over to one Shaik Ibrahim at various locations.

Khusruddin later realised that the transactions involved unaccounted hawala money. Exploiting this, he hatched a plan to misappropriate the funds. About two months before the incident, he contacted Md. Omer Shareef, a driver, and briefed him about the illegal cash movement.

On March 17, 2026, Khusruddin and Azeemuddin were instructed to collect Rs 1 crore in Kukatpally using the token system. After receiving the cash, Khusruddin tipped off Omer Shareef about their route and movement.

Acting on the plan, Omer Shareef, along with his asso-

ciates, followed the duo on multiple motorcycles. Near Pillar No. 836, the accused attacked them by throwing chilli powder into their eyes, causing them to lose control and crash into a bus.

Amid the chaos, the accused snatched the cash bag and fled the scene. One of the accused, Saddam, also fell during the attack and abandoned his Honda Activa, which later helped police trace the gang.

During investigation, police found that some of the accused were planning to flee to Lucknow by flight. Acting swiftly, Kukatpally Police and CCS teams tracked and apprehended the suspects.

Further investigation is underway to nab the remaining absconding accused and to uncover any wider hawala network linked to the case.

Govt launches natural farming drive with distribution of farmer kits

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana government has launched the distribution of Farmer Kits to 61,125 farmers across the state under the National Natural Farming Mission. The initiative was formally inaugurated by Agriculture Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao during the 86th episode of the Rythu Nestam video conference, held from the Secretariat on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister stressed that excessive use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides has led to alarming health issues, including cancer, while polluting groundwater and the environment. He urged farmers to transition to natural

farming methods, describing them as the ultimate safeguard for both human health and ecological balance.

The distribution covers 489 clusters, with 125 farmers selected per cluster. Each farmer received a kit containing the book Kshetra Darshini on natural farming, a cloth bag, identification card, calendar, cap, pen, and diary.

Alongside the kits, training programmes are being conducted to guide farmers in adopting eco-friendly practices. Highlighting upcoming events, the Minister invited farmers to participate in the Rythu Mahotsavam scheduled from 20 to 22 March. The festival will feature over 150 stalls and interactive

sessions with scientists. On the concluding day, the Chief Minister will distribute Rythu Bharosa funds for the Yasangi season.

The Minister also congratulated agricultural officers for achieving 110 per cent enrolment in the Farmer Registry, securing Telangana the top rank nationally and earning a special incentive of Rs 422.64 crore from the Centre. The launch event was attended by Anvesh Reddy, Chairman of the State Seed Development Corporation, Agriculture Secretary Surendra Mohan, and Director Gopi. This initiative marks a significant step towards sustainable agriculture and improving the long-term health of the state's farming community.

'NOT FOR ALL LPG CONSUMERS' Govt clarifies on eKYC norms for LPG

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on Tuesday clarified that LPG biometric Aadhaar authentication (eKYC) is only required for unauthenticated LPG customers and not for all customers. The clarification came as some news re-

port have been circulating on the issue of biometric Aadhaar authentication for LPG consumers. In a post by the Ministry is a part of the ongoing efforts of the Government to encourage more LPG consumers to complete biometric Aadhaar authentication.

BJP demands arrest of MLA over alleged Anti-Hindu remarks

HYDERABAD: The BJP Telangana unit on Tuesday strongly condemned remarks made by Tungaturthi MLA Mandula Samuel, calling them derogatory and inflammatory against Hinduism, the Vedas, and the Brahmin community.

State BJP Vice-President Dr Kalyan Naik submitted an official complaint to the

Director General of Police (DGP), demanding immediate registration of criminal cases and the arrest of the legislator.

According to Dr Naik, the comments made during a March 12 meeting were not only disrespectful to Hindu beliefs but also capable of inciting communal disharmony.

Maha passes Freedom of Religion Bill

NOT AGAINST ANY RELIGION: FADNAVIS

MUMBAI: The Maharashtra Freedom of Religion Bill 2026 was passed by the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly on Monday.

The law is aimed at prohibiting religious conversions carried out through fraud, coercion, inducement or marriage-related deception. Speaking on the Bill, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who also holds the Home portfolio, said the law is not directed against any religion and is meant only to prevent unlawful conversions. He said the Bill does not restrict

a person's constitutional right to practice religion under Article 25 of the Constitution of India, but it does not include the right to convert others through coercion or deceit.

According to the government, the law applies equally to all religions and its objective is to ensure that conversions are voluntary and transparent. Complaints can be filed by the affected person or close relatives, and authorities or police may take action on suspected unlawful conversions.

Mojtaba rejects ceasefire push

TEHRAN: Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei has rejected proposals for reducing tensions or for a possible ceasefire with the United States that were conveyed to Tehran by two intermediary countries, a senior Iranian official said on Tuesday.

The official claimed that Khamenei's position for revenge against the US and Israel in his first foreign policy

session was "very tough and serious". However, he did not clarify if Khamenei attended the sessions in person.

Khamenei, in his first statement since his appointment, vowed to avenge those killed in the war and claimed that Iran would "obtain compensation" from its enemy. He said that if it refuses to do so, Iran will "take from its assets" or destroy them to the same extent.

"A limited amount of this revenge has so far taken concrete form, but until it is fully achieved, this case will remain among our priorities," he said. He said that Iran will never retreat and will resist with "full force" and will avenge not just the late Ayatollah Ali Khamenei but every citizen who lost their life in the war. "We will not forget the revenge for the blood of the martyrs," he said.

3 lakh MT LPG stranded at Hormuz

NEW DELHI

NEARLY 3 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) is currently stranded at the Strait of Hormuz, Rajesh Kumar Sinha, Special Secretary in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, said on Tuesday. During a key briefing, the senior

government official said that multiple vessels carrying LPG are unable to move due to the situation in the crucial shipping route. He explained that six ships are currently stuck in the Strait of Hormuz, with each vessel carrying around 45,000 metric tonnes of LPG. "Six ships are currently stuck in the Strait of Hormuz, with each

vessel carrying around 45,000 metric tonnes of LPG," Sinha mentioned. Together, this accounts for roughly 3 lakh metric tonnes of fuel that is yet to reach its destination. The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most important maritime routes for energy supplies, connecting the Persian Gulf to the Arabian Sea.

400 killed, 250 injured in Pak strike on Kabul hospital

KABUL

AT least 400 people have been killed and around 250 injured in a Pakistani airstrike at a hospital in Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, a Taliban spokesperson said on Tuesday. Afghanistan's deputy government spokesperson Hamdullah Fitrat said the airstrike hit the drug rehabilitation hospital at about 9 pm local time, destroying large sections of the 2,000-bed facility.

Pakistan denied the Afghan government's allegations and called them "baseless", saying that no hospital was targeted in Kabul.

Afghan government spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid condemned the strike, accusing Pakistan of "targeting hospitals and civilian sites to perpetrate horrors".

"The Pakistani military regime has once again violated Afghanistan's airspace and targeted a drug rehabilitation hospital in Kabul, resulting in the death and injury of addicts who were undergoing treatment," he posted on X. "We strongly condemn this crime and consider such an act to be against all accepted principles and a crime against humanity," he further said.

Pakistan's Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said that the Pakistani military had "carried out precision airstrikes" targeting military installations in Kabul and the eastern province of Nangarhar. He said "technical support infrastructure and ammunition storage facilities" at two locations in Kabul were destroyed.

LPG situation a matter of concern, says govt

Continued from P1

"Petrol and diesel are available in sufficient quantity. Regarding natural gas, as I told you, the Government of India is making efforts, and it would be beneficial if all commercial LPG consumers shifted to PNG," Sharma said. Sharma also warned against hoarding and black marketing, saying that adequate measures are in place to ensure smooth distribution across the country. "Regarding enforcement action, so far, about twelve thousand raids have been conducted in the last few days. About fifteen thousand cylinders have been seized... Yesterday in Delhi, about six hundred cylinders were seized. Similarly, in Uttar Pradesh, about four hundred and fifty inspections and raids have been conducted in the last few days."

Meanwhile, various state governments are undertaking enforcement measures to prevent hoarding and black marketing of petrol, diesel and LPG. Raids are being carried out in several states to check hoarding and black marketing of LPG cylinders. Alternate fuels such as kerosene and coal have been activated for certain sectors, including hospitality and restaurants, to ease pressure on LPG supplies.

Cabinet meet to ratify Budget on March 20

Continued from P1

In view of the Centre's positive response to the state government's plea to allocate more funds for infrastructure projects, the government would also earmark substantial allocations to Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase-2, Musi Rejuvenation project, road development projects, etc.

Sources said that the Irrigation Department would also get more allocations under scheme expenditure this time. Major portion of the allocations in the last two years were utilized to pay the debts and interest payments.

Following the reports of introducing new schemes in the new financial years, officials said that agriculture, education, women develop-

ment and child welfare, SC, ST, BC and Minority welfare wings will also receive substantial funds to speed up the implementation of the schemes and existing development programmes.

The officials of the Finance department said that the ministers were also suggested to accord priority to the implementation of the promises. EV Scooters to the college going girls and the enhancement of old age pension amount are already under active consideration. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is also keen on introducing a slew of development programmes in Education, Municipal Administration and Home departments in the budget.

Mamata locks horns with BJP's Suwendu again

KOLKATA

TRINAMOOL Congress supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will fight her protegee turned bitter rival, the BJP's Suwendu Adhikari, from Bhabanipur in Kolkata in the 2026 Assembly elections.

The ruling TMC announced its list of candidates for the upcoming polls, with Mamata Banerjee contesting from the Bhabanipur Assembly constituency.

Addressing a press conference in Kolkata, Banerjee said: "We will contest 291 of the 294 seats. The remaining three seats will be contested by our ally, Anit Thapa-led BGPM, in the Darjeeling hills," Banerjee said, while announcing the names of candidates. Banerjee expressed confidence that the Trinamool would retain power with a comfortable majority in the 2026 Assembly elections. She predicted that her party would secure more than 226 seats in the elections.

In the 2021 election, Adhikari defeated Banerjee in Nandigram by 1,956 votes, following which the Chief Minister had to

shift to the Bhabanipur seat from where she won a bypoll and which she currently represents.

Asked about the challenge Adhikari, who was named the BJP candidate on Monday, will pose, Banerjee said, "We will win with the maximum number of votes from Bhabanipur."

The Chief Minister also sought to reassure party leaders and workers who could not find a place in the candidate list, saying they would be accommodated in the organisation.

"All those who could not be accommodated in the candidate list will be accommodated in the organisation," she said. Targeting the Bharatiya Janata Party, Banerjee said the saffron party would see its numbers decline in the upcoming polls. "The BJP's tally will decrease in this election. They will receive a befitting reply for their anti-people policies," she said.

The announcement of the candidates sets the stage for an intense electoral contest in West Bengal, where the Trinamool is seeking to return to power for a fourth consecutive term.

Parl panel suggests ₹7,500 EPF pension

Continued from P1

The Committee further take note of the submission of the Ministry of Labour and Employment that the Government of India is already extending financial support towards the Scheme, including the contribution of 1.16 per cent for currently serving members of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation and the budgetary support provided for ensuring the minimum pension of Rs 1,000 per month.

However, the Committee stated that it is of the considered view that the existing minimum pension amount is inadequate to meet even the basic needs of pensioners, particularly in the present economic scenario marked by

inflation and rising health care and living expenses.

The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry undertake an urgent and comprehensive review of the minimum pension under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, with a view to enhancing it to a more realistic and dignified level. The Committee further recommend that the Ministry explore the possibility of increasing budgetary support to the Scheme, so as to ensure that pensioners receive a reasonable minimum pension commensurate with present-day living costs, thereby providing greater social security and financial stability to lakhs of retired workers covered under the Scheme.

SIT to probe Moinabad farmhouse drug case

Continued from P1

The team comprises officers from law and order, Greyhounds and the Elite Action Group for Drug Law Enforcement (EAGLE) - Yogesh Goutham, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Chevella; M Ravinder Reddy, Group Commander, Greyhounds; Ch. Sirisha, DCP, Shadnagar; C Harish Chandra Reddy and N Buchaiah (both DSPs EAGLE); Y Mallikarjun Reddy, SHO, Moinabad (the investigating officer) and SIs C Koteswara Rao, N Venkanna and Sadath Ali.

The investigating team will draw out possible links to larger drug networks, of-

ficials said and added that all the 11 arrested persons, including TDP MP from Eluru Putta Mahesh Kumar and BRS leader and ex-MLA Pannugula 'Pilot' Rohith Reddy, were questioned.

Rohith Reddy, his brother Ritesh Reddy and Delhi-based businessman Namith Sharma have already been produced before a magistrate and remanded into 14 days judicial custody. Six of those detained tested positive for drug consumption, including Rohith Reddy and Mahesh Kumar.

The case came to light on March 14 following a raid by the EAGLE team at a farmhouse in Moinabad on the

outskirts of Hyderabad. The Farmhouse belongs to Rohith Reddy.

Meanwhile, Namith Sharma allegedly opened fire using a revolver during the raid. The weapon is said to be a licensed .32 calibre revolver belonging to Ritesh Reddy. Police seized the firearm along with live and empty cartridges.

Another accused, Silveri Sharath Kumar, was reportedly found holding empty cartridge cases at the scene. A small quantity of cocaine (0.26 grams) was seized from Sharath Kumar, who allegedly confessed to procuring it through a supplier identified as Kaushik Ravi.



How can we trust them to vote on bills when they cannot even vote properly in Rajya Sabha elections?

LS revokes suspension of 8 Oppn MPs

NEW DELHI: The Lok Sabha on Tuesday revoked the suspension of eight Opposition Members of Parliament after the House unanimously adopted a motion moved by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju following Question Hour. The motion to reinstate Gurjeet Singh Aujla, Hibi Eden, Dean Kuriakose, Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, B. Manickam Tagore, Prashant Yadavrao Padole, Chhama Kiran Kumar Red-

dy and S Venkatesan was passed with complete unanimity through a voice vote, reflecting consensus across party lines after days of disruptions. The breakthrough came a day after an all-party meeting chaired by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, where leaders from both the government and the Opposition agreed to resolve the impasse and restore normal functioning of the House during the ongoing Budget session.

'Can't support Iran war in good conscience'

Continued from P1

"I cannot in good conscience support the ongoing war in Iran. Iran posed no imminent threat to our nation, and it is clear that we started this war due to pressure from Israel and its powerful American lobby," he added. In a strongly worded message directed at Trump, Kent said he continued to support the President's earlier foreign policy approach. "I support the values and the foreign policies that you campaigned on in 2016, 2020, 2024, which you enacted in your first

term. Until June of 2025, you understood that the wars in the Middle East were a trap that robbed America of the precious lives of our patriots and depleted the wealth and prosperity of our nation." "In your first administration, you understood better than any modern President how to decisively apply military power without getting us drawn into never-ending wars. You demonstrated this by killing Qasam Solamani and by defeating ISIS," he added. Kent alleged that the current conflict was driven in part by

external pressure and a coordinated misinformation campaign. He claimed that early in the administration, senior Israeli officials and influential members of the American media deployed a misinformation campaign that wholly undermined your America First platform and sowed pro-war sentiments to encourage a war with Iran. "This echo chamber was used to deceive you into believing that Iran posed an imminent threat to the United States, and that should you strike now, there was a clear path to a swift vic-

tory. This was a lie and is the same tactic the Israelis used to draw us into the disastrous Iraq war that cost our nation the lives of thousands of our best men and women. We cannot make this mistake again," he said. Kent further said, "As a veteran who deployed to combat 11 times and as a Gold Star husband who lost my beloved wife Shannon in a war manufactured by Israel, I cannot support sending the next generation off to fight and die in a war that serves no benefit to the American people nor justifies the cost of American

lives." He concluded with an appeal to the President, saying, "I pray that you will reflect upon what we are doing in Iran, and who we are doing it for. The time for bold action is now." "You can reverse course and chart a new path for our nation, or you can allow us to slip further toward decline and chaos. You hold the cards. It was an honour to serve in your administration and to serve our great nation." Kent, a former political candidate with links to right-wing extremist circles, was confirmed to his position in July.

Banks have collected nearly Rs 19,000 crore in penalties over the last three years from customers, who failed to maintain the required minimum balance in their bank accounts. These penalties are not collected from the rich or big borrowers. They are collected from the poorest accounts in the system -Raghav Chadha, Rajya Sabha MP



BIZ BRIEFS

Fabindia unveils Ugadi collection

Fabindia announced its exclusive Ugadi curation, the range features festive looks for the entire family, including specially designed ensembles for men, women, and children. The women's range includes elegantly hand-block printed saris, silk embroidered kurtas, and the timeless grace of Banarasi and Chikankari dupattas. For men, it offers a sophisticated variety of shirts and both short and long kurtas, complemented by artisanal Bandhgala jackets. The kids' wear features silk blend hand-block printed jackets and long kurta-pyjama sets.

Hyland's new MD

Hyland, The Content Innovation Cloud, has announced the appointment of Kumaran Sasikanthan as Managing Director, India and Senior Vice President of Engineering. With over 25 years of experience, Sasikanthan is a seasoned enterprise software executive with a strong track record of scaling global engineering organizations. Tim McIntire, CTO, Hyland, said: "Kumaran's appointment is a significant step forward in how we continue to scale Hyland globally while staying deeply connected to our customers' needs."

Isuzu Motors' summer camp

Isuzu Motors India will be conducting a nationwide 'ISUZU I-Care Pre-Summer Camp' for its range of ISUZU D-MAX Pick-ups and SUVs. The pre-summer camp will be organised across all authorised dealer service outlets, between March 23-28. According to the company: "During this period, customers can also avail special offers and benefits for their vehicles. An initiative of 'ISUZU Care', this camp is aimed at offering customers exciting benefits and preventive maintenance checks."

Amazon's festive offer

Amazon, has launched a festive shopping offers with curated selections and flexible delivery options. Customers can enjoy traditional fasting ingredients and premium dry fruits to classic mithai and refreshing beverages, customers can explore festive favorites from popular brands. For those seeking quick meal solutions during busy festive days, the specially curated Ready-to-Eat Store offers up to 35 per cent off on a wide range of convenient options. All of this is supported by Amazon's delivery network.

Oben Electric logs milestone

Oben Electric, Oben Electric, an electric motorcycle manufacturer, announced that riders of Oben motorcycles have collectively clocked over 3.2 crore kilometres on Indian roads within two years of its rollout. Madhuma Agrawal, CEO, Oben Electric, said: "Daily commuting demands consistency, reliability and ownership confidence. Seeing riders clock over 3.2 crore kilometres on Oben motorcycles across cities and riding conditions is a strong reflection of how customers are integrating these motorcycles into their everyday mobility."

Indian Americans rank high in US earnings

Median income far ahead of peers, including from other Asian communities

NEW DELHI: Indian-American households have emerged as the highest earners among major ethnic groups in the United States, with a median annual income of about \$151,200, according to a report citing Pew Research Center findings. This is significantly higher than the overall US median household income of around \$83,700.

The report noted that Indian-American households earn roughly \$67,000

Highest earners

- Taiwanese-Americans rank second at \$133,300
- Overall Asian-American median income is \$105,600
- Indian Americans contribute 6% of US tax revenues

more annually, nearly 80 per cent higher than the typical

American household. Despite accounting for only about 1.4 per cent of the US population, or roughly 4.8 million people, Indian Americans have a disproportionately large economic footprint.

Their strong earnings are largely attributed to high participation in professional, technical, and specialised sectors such as technology, healthcare, and finance. Even among other high-earning Asian communities, Indian

Americans continue to lead. Taiwanese-American households rank second, with a median income of about \$133,300, around 13-14 per cent lower than Indian-American households. The median income for Asian-American households overall stands at approximately \$105,600.

The report also highlighted the community's contribution to public finances, noting that Indian-American households collectively ac-

count for around 6 per cent of US tax revenues, reflecting their concentration in higher income brackets.

Recently, Elon Musk acknowledged the role of Indian-origin professionals in driving innovation in the US, stating that global talent helps address skill shortages in critical industries.

Meanwhile, India and the United States continue discussions toward a mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement.



vivo launches T5x model

HANS BUSINESS HYDERABAD

VIVO India has introduced the first smartphone in the T5 series - the vivo T5x 5G. Designed for performance-driven users, the model sports a 7200mAh battery, built for extended usage. Powered by MediaTek Dimensity 7400 Turbo processor, it achieves AnTuTu score of over 1M. The smartphone features military-grade certified durability and industry-leading IP68 & IP69 with water resistance feature. It is equipped with a 50 MP AI-powered main camera with a 4K video recording, along with a 32 MP front camera. Enabled with OriginOS 6, the smartphone reflects company's continued focus on user-centric innovation. The model is available in two colors - Cyber Green and Star Silver. It will be priced at Rs18,999 (inclusive of all taxes) for the 6GB + 128GB variant, Rs20,999 (inclusive of all taxes) for the 8GB + 128GB variant, and Rs22,999 (inclusive of all taxes) for the 8GB + 256GB variant.

Taxman raises ₹5,786 crore tax demand on Maruti Suzuki

Despite the development, investor sentiment remained positive, with shares of the company trading at Rs 12,986 apiece, up 1.82%

NEW DELHI: Maruti Suzuki India on Tuesday said it has received a draft assessment order from the Income Tax Authority involving a demand of Rs 5,786 crore for the financial year 2022-23.

The company clarified that the notice will not have any impact on its financial or operational performance. It added that it will file objections before the Dispute Resolution Panel as part of the due legal process.

According to the automaker, the draft order proposes certain additions and disallowances amounting to Rs 57,864 million to its reported income. "The company has received a Draft Assessment Order for FY2022-23 wherein certain additions/disallowances amounting to Rs 57,864



million with respect to returned income have been proposed," it said in a regulatory filing.

Despite the development, investor sentiment remained positive. Shares of the company were trading at Rs 12,986 apiece, up 1.82 per cent during the session. On the financial front, the company reported total tax expenses of Rs 10,360 million in its unaudited third-quarter results. Its sales stood at Rs 667,769 million, while profit after tax (PAT) came in at Rs 37,940 million.

Operationally, the automaker maintained steady growth. In the first nine months of FY26, it sold 1,435,945 units, registering a 3.9 per cent year-on-year increase across segments, including mini, compact, mid-size and utility vehicles.

Looking ahead, the company remains cautiously optimistic. Senior executive Rahul Bharti had earlier indicated a positive fourth quarter and projected around 7 per cent sustainable industry volume growth, subject to reassessment.

India's private market deals hit \$207 billion in 5 years

New Delhi: India is approaching towards 'top pick' in Asia-Pacific private markets, providing global investors scale and resilience as activity in the Asia-Pacific slows, according to a report. According to an analysis by McKinsey & Company highlighted that about 31 per cent of the more than 50 limited partners surveyed ranked India first and 76 per cent placed it in their top three picks.

This indicates a shift in regional capital flows as investors re-assess Asia and look beyond China for long-term growth, according to the report. "More than half expect to increase allocations to India-focused funds," it said.

Moreover, private markets already account for about 64 per cent of limited partner allocations to India and investors expect buyout and

growth strategies to draw the most interest over the next five years, reflecting a preference for approaches that offer more control.

The report also said from 2021 to 2025, private equity and venture capital deal value in India has risen over one-and-a-half times to \$207 billion compare to the previous five-years, with exits more than doubling to around \$120 billion.

Sector-wise, technology, IT and financial services, pharmaceuticals and healthcare, and consumer sectors accounted for nearly three-quarters of private capital deployed between the aforesaid period. The report also noted that India's Asia-Pacific private equity and venture capital deployment jumped around 21 per cent in 2020-24 which was about 12 per cent in 2015-19.

'Japan, S Korea preferred for spring travel'

HYDERABAD: KLOOK has released its Spring Readiness Index, offering a snapshot of how Indian travellers are planning for the spring travel season across Japan and South Korea. The Spring Readiness Index is based on insights from 900 travellers across nine Asia markets, Japan remains the top spring destination, with 78 per cent of respondents naming it as their preferred choice, followed by South Korea at 52 per cent. For Indian travellers, the main draw during the March-April travel window is seasonal attractions, reinforcing a broader shift toward experience-led travel shaped by natural spectacles, cultural moments, and limited-time opportunities. This is reinforced by Search interest on Klook's platform for spring-related terms such as "cherry blossom" and "sakura" rose 57 per cent from December 2025 to February 2026, highlighting strong momentum for seasonal travel.

Sebi tweaks SGF rules to ease compliance

NEW DELHI: Markets regulator Sebi revised the rules governing the Settlement Guarantee Fund (SGF) for the commodity derivatives segment to ease compliance for clearing corporations.

Under the revised framework, clearing corporations will now calculate the SGF coverage based on the simultaneous default of at least three clearing members (and their associates) that would create the highest credit exposure in stress scenarios.

"Clearing Corporations shall calculate the credit exposure due to simultaneous default of at least 3 clearing members (and their associates) causing the highest credit exposure," Sebi said in its circular. Earlier, clearing corporations were required to calculate SGF coverage based on the simultaneous default of at least two clearing members, causing the highest credit exposure, along with 50 per cent of the exposure arising from the default of all clearing members.

Nvidia doubles down on AI, targets \$1 trillion chip revenue

NEW DELHI: Nvidia has outlined an ambitious growth roadmap, with CEO Jensen Huang projecting up to \$1 trillion in revenue from AI chips by 2027, driven by surging demand for artificial intelligence technologies.

Speaking at the company's annual GTC event in San Jose, Huang said Nvidia is positioning itself to dominate the AI ecosystem through an integrated stack spanning hardware, software and infrastruc-



ture. A key highlight was the projected demand for next-generation AI platforms such as Blackwell and Vera Rubin systems, which could together generate \$1 trillion in revenue by 2027. Huang noted that computing demand has surged dramatically in recent years,

fuelled by AI workloads across industries.

Among product announcements, Nvidia introduced the Groq 3 Language Processing Unit (LPU), designed to accelerate AI inference tasks with improved speed and efficiency. The chip is expected to ship in the third quarter. The company also unveiled the Vera Rubin Space One system, aimed at enabling space-based data centres, with a satellite launch planned later this year.

Kaspersky to double India's investments

NEW DELHI: Global cybersecurity major Kaspersky is set to double down on its investments in India, citing stronger-than-expected financial performance and plans to use the country as a hub for regional services, according to a senior company official. In an interview, Adrian Hia, Managing Director, Kaspersky (APAC), said the company is considering basing its marketing, business development, and cloud operations in India to serve both local and regional customers. Following a strong double-digit

growth in 2024, Hia indicated that the company's 2025 financial results, expected to be released in April, show even better performance. "We are going to continue to double down, not only in people, not only in offices, but we are now even thinking of how we can get some consolidated effort regarding marketing, business development engine, cloud services, cloud engine, to be based in India, but not only to serve the Indian customers, but also to serve customers across the region, (Our) investment has paid off."

Markets extend rally amid positive trend in global mkts

Following a rally in metal and auto shares and a positive trend in global markets

Positive Trend

- BSE-Sensex rose 567.99pts or (+0.75%) to 76,070.84
- NSE-Nifty climbed 172.35pts or (+0.74%) to 23,581.15
- FII's offloaded ₹9,365.52-cr; DII's bought ₹12,593.36-cr

MUMBAI: Benchmark Sensex climbed 567 points and Nifty closed near 23,600 in their second consecutive day of gains on Tuesday, boosted by a rally in metal and auto shares and a positive trend in global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 567.99 points or 0.75 per cent to settle at 76,070.84. During the day, it surged 801.41 points or 1.06 per cent to 76,304.26. The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 172.35 points or 0.74 per cent to end



at 23,581.15. A total of 2,362 stocks advanced, while 1,892 declined and 157 remained unchanged on the BSE.

From the 30-Sensex firms, Eternal surged the most by 5.70 per cent. Tata Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bharat Electronics, Larsen & Toubro, Bharti Airtel and Maruti were also among the major gainers. Infosys, Bajaj Finance, ITC, Tata Consultancy Services and HCL Tech were among the biggest lag-

gards. "The market extended its gains, driven largely by bargain hunting by domestic investors. Cyclical sectors such as autos, metals, and financials continued to be leaders rebounding after being among the worst affected during the sell-off. However, it is premature to conclude that this reversal is sustainable in the short term, as war-related uncertainties persist," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments

Ltd, said. The BSE MidCap Select Index jumped 0.86 per cent and SmallCap Select Index climbed 0.67 per cent. Among sectoral indices, metal surged 2.81 per cent, followed by auto (2.05 per cent), realty (1.79 per cent), commodities (1.69 per cent), consumer discretionary (1.54 per cent), industrials (1.54 per cent), capital goods (1.40 per cent), telecommunication (1.24 per cent) and Bankex (0.90 per cent). IT, FMCG and BSE Focused IT were the laggards.

"Indian equities extended their recovery for a second consecutive session, supported by easing volatility and selective sectoral strength, although underlying caution continues to shape market behaviour. A key positive was the sharp decline in India VIX, which dropped 8 per cent to sub-20 levels," Hariprasad K, Research Analyst and Founder, Livelong Wealth, said.

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FPI outflows ease to ₹96,974 cr in FY26: Govt

In FY25, foreign investors had pulled out ₹1,27,041 cr from Indian equities, making it one of the significant years

MUMBAI: Foreign portfolio investor (FPI) outflows from Indian equity markets have shown some moderation in the current financial year, with total net selling at Rs 96,974 crore so far in FY26, lower than the Rs 1.27 lakh crore outflow recorded in FY25, the Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

In a written reply in Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said that FPI flows have remained volatile, with alternating phases of inflows and outflows over the past few years -- reflecting global and domestic factors.

According to official data, FPIs began FY26 on a positive note, investing Rs 4,223 crore in April 2025, followed by strong inflows of Rs 19,860 crore in May and Rs 14,590 crore in June. However, sentiment turned negative in the following months, with heavy outflows of Rs 17,741 crore



in July and Rs 34,993 crore in August. Selling pressure continued in September with outflows of Rs 23,885 crore.

The trend briefly reversed in October with inflows of Rs 14,610 crore, but FPIs turned sellers again in November and December. The selling intensified in January 2026, when FPIs pulled out Rs 35,962 crore. February saw a temporary recovery with inflows of Rs 22,615 crore, before out-

flows resumed in March, with Rs 33,917 crore withdrawn till March 10.

Despite the continued volatility, the total outflow in FY26 remains lower than the previous financial year. In FY25, FPIs had pulled out Rs 1,27,041 crore from Indian equities, making it one of the significant years of foreign selling. In comparison, FY26 has seen relatively lower net outflows so far.

The government clarified that such fluctuations in FPI investments do not necessarily reflect weakening global confidence in Indian markets. "FPI flows are dynamic and fluctuate depending upon various factors such as geopolitical tensions, uncertainties surrounding trade tariffs, global investor sentiments, currency movements and portfolio rebalancing by global funds across emerging markets," it added.



AI and India's youth: Learning to build the future

Artificial intelligence is no longer distant technology—it is becoming a powerful learning partner helping young people turn curiosity into opportunity

SATYANARAYANA MURTHY
SURAVAJJULA

In homes, hostels, classrooms and small towns across India, a quiet revolution is already underway. Artificial intelligence is no longer a distant idea from science fiction. It is becoming a study partner, a career coach, a creative assistant and, for many young people, a bridge between dreams and opportunity. The biggest question for this generation is not whether AI will change life—it already has. The real question is whether we will simply consume it, or learn to use it to build a better future.

The future has already entered the classroom

Across India today, students are turning to AI tools for support. A student preparing for exams may use AI to understand a difficult concept. A graduate preparing for interviews may practise responses with it. In smaller towns, young learners with smartphones are exploring career paths—from design and coding to entrepreneurship.

A few years ago, opportunities like these depended largely on access to expen-



sive coaching, networks or resources. Today, they also depend on something else: the willingness to learn and use AI responsibly.

AI is not a replacement for discipline or curiosity. Instead, it acts as a powerful support system. It can explain complex ideas in simpler language, help improve communication skills, organise notes, summarise lessons and support project planning. For many young people, this assistance builds confidence as much as knowledge.

Recent global workforce studies suggest that millions of jobs may evolve or transform due to AI, even as new opportunities emerge. Students who learn how to work with AI rather than fear it will be better prepared for the future.

Why AI feels like a superpower

For today's youth, life often feels demanding. Students must study harder, develop new skills, communicate effectively and prepare for careers in a

rapidly changing world.

AI can ease some of this pressure by helping people begin tasks more easily. A school student might use it to revise lessons. A commerce student might simplify complex financial ideas. An aspiring entrepreneur might use it to draft business ideas or marketing plans. These small uses can build confidence at crucial moments.

One of AI's strengths is that it responds to curiosity, not background. It does not care whether someone stud-

ied in an English-medium or regional-language school. It rewards effort and clarity. That is why many see it as a tool that can help level the playing field.

From small-town talent to big possibility

Another powerful impact of AI is how it reduces distance. A student in a small town can access tools similar to those available in major cities. Someone preparing for scholarships can draft essays, improve communication or explore new ideas. A small business owner can use AI to write product descriptions or connect with customers online.

AI cannot remove every inequality, but it can reduce barriers between talent and opportunity. In a country like India—where ambition is abundant but opportunities remain uneven—this shift matters deeply.

Let the machine do the repetition

AI is particularly useful for repetitive tasks. It can summarise long notes, organise information, generate practice questions and translate text into simpler language. Studies suggest

that AI tools can save hours of routine work each week. However, an important caution remains. AI should not replace thinking—it should strengthen it. Copying answers weakens learning, but using AI to understand ideas builds deeper knowledge.

Not just for engineers

Many people still believe AI is only for programmers or technology experts. That is no longer true. AI can assist writers, teachers, doctors, marketers, researchers, journalists and students from almost every field.

The future will not belong only to coders—it will belong to learners.

Skills that matter most

To use AI effectively, young people must build three key skills: asking better questions, checking information carefully and using AI to create something meaningful—whether a project, portfolio or solution to a real-world problem.

What AI cannot replace

Despite its power, AI can-



not replace human qualities. It cannot feel empathy, carry values or understand the emotional journeys people experience. Kindness, creativity, resilience, teamwork and leadership remain uniquely human strengths.

The real opportunity

For India's youth, AI should not be a fear story—it should be an opportunity story. Instead of using it only to finish tasks quickly, young people can use it to understand better, communicate better and create new

possibilities. AI can provide speed and access. But purpose still comes from people. The future will belong to those who choose not only to use technology—but to build with it.

(The author is a Director in Product Development, Technology Solutions Division of the Audit function for one of the Big 4 firms in Hyderabad. The views expressed are personal and do not represent those of his employer)

IIT-Delhi offers specialised tech and research courses



The Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (IIIT-D) has announced admissions for its postgraduate and doctoral programmes for the academic year 2026–2027, inviting applications from students interested in advanced technology and research-focused courses.

Applications for M.Tech. programmes opened, while admissions for Ph.D. programmes are already underway. The institute is offering a range of specialised courses designed to build strong technical knowledge and research capabilities among students.

The M.Tech. programmes are available in key areas of Computer Science and Engineering, Electronics and Communication Engineering, and Computational Biology. Specialisations include Artificial Intelligence, Data Engineering, Information Security, Mobile Computing, VLSI, Embedded Systems, Communications and Machine Learning. These courses are designed to prepare students for both industry roles and research careers by combining theoretical learning with practical exposure. The last date to apply for M.Tech. programmes is April 13, 2026.

For doctoral studies,

- The M.Tech. programmes are offered in major fields such as Computer Science and Engineering, Electronics and Communication Engineering, and Computational Biology, with specialisations including Artificial Intelligence, Data Engineering, Information Security, Mobile Computing, VLSI, Embedded Systems, Communications and Machine Learning.
- The Ph.D. programmes are available across disciplines including Computer Science and Engineering, Electronics and Communication Engineering, Computational Biology, Human-Centred Design, Mathematics, as well as Social Sciences and Humanities

the institute is offering Ph.D. programmes in disciplines such as Computer Science and Engineering, Electronics and Communication Engineering, Computational Biology, Human-Centred Design, Mathematics, and Social Sciences and Humanities. The deadline for submitting Ph.D. applications is April 8, 2026.

According to Prof. Sumit J. Darak, Dean of Academic Affairs, the programmes focus on equipping students with advanced knowledge and hands-on experience in building complex technological systems. The

curriculum emphasises interdisciplinary learning, research-driven approaches and opportunities for industry internships, helping students adapt to the rapidly evolving technology landscape. The institute continues to encourage students to pursue careers in advanced research and innovation, offering a strong academic environment supported by modern infrastructure and industry collaborations.

Interested candidates can apply through the official admissions portal, where detailed information about eligibility criteria, selection process and course structure is available.

Survey highlights growing concerns over late-night screen habits affecting teenagers' sleep patterns

Concerns over sleep deprivation among teenagers are increasing as late-night smartphone use continues to disrupt sleep patterns across urban India. A recent survey conducted by the Child Online Protection (COP) App among 5,000 parents of teenagers aged 12–18 highlights the growing impact of screen habits on young people's health and daily routines.

The survey covered major cities including Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Pune, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Jaipur and Lucknow, showing that the issue is widespread and not limited to metropolitan areas. The findings indicate that smartphones are significantly delaying bedtimes and reducing the quality of sleep among teenagers.

Key findings from the survey include:

- **Delayed bedtimes:** Around 62% of parents said their children sleep after 11 PM due to smartphone use. One in three teenagers spends more



- than two hours on screens after dinner.
- **Sleep quality concerns:** Nearly 68% of parents believe excessive screen time is affecting their children's sleep quality, with late-night scrolling and constant notifications causing frequent interruptions.
- **Night-time dependency:** A large number of teenagers continue using smartphones in bed, resulting in shorter and disturbed sleep cycles.



City-level insights further underline the seriousness of the problem. In Mumbai, 68% of teenagers sleep after 11 PM due to smartphone use, while 72% of parents expressed concern

about screen addiction. In Delhi, 66% of teens stay up late, and about 46% wake up at night to check notifications—the highest among the cities surveyed. Bengaluru recorded the high-

est rate of bedtime phone usage, with 53% of teenagers using smartphones after going to bed and 74% of parents reporting concerns about its impact on sleep. Parents in emerging urban centres such as Jaipur, Lucknow and Ahmedabad have also reported rising concern, indicating that sleep disruption linked to smartphone use is spreading beyond major cities.

Experts note that prolonged exposure to screens at night interferes with the body's natural sleep cycle. The blue light emitted by smartphones can disrupt the circadian rhythm, making it harder for teenagers to fall asleep, stay asleep and wake up feeling rested.

With increasing digital engagement and academic demands, experts stress the importance of balanced technology use. Encouraging screen-free routines before bedtime and promoting healthier digital habits are seen as essential steps to address the growing issue of sleep deprivation among teenagers.

Anthah Prerana 7.0 draws global student entrepreneurs

The Entrepreneur Development Cell (ED Cell) of Bhavan's Vivekananda College, Sainikpuri, hosted the 7th edition of Anthah Prerana, its flagship International Business Plan Competition, attracting student entrepreneurs from across India and abroad.

The competition witnessed an impressive participation of 102 teams, representing 11 Indian states along with five international teams from the United Kingdom, United States, and Canada, highlighting the event's growing global reach.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Group Captain D. Ramanaiah (Retd.), Honorary Secretary of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Sainikpuri Kendra. Meraj Faheem, CEO of Telangana Innovation Cell, attended as the Chief Guest, while Akshay C. S. Deshpande was the Guest of Honour. Addressing the participants, Group Captain Ramanaiah encouraged students to embrace innovation and transform their ideas into impactful ventures. Earlier, Dr. M. Thirimal Rao, ED Cell Coordinator, welcomed the guests and emphasized the significance of the event in fostering entrepreneurial spirit among students.





I am extremely grateful to my parents and my coach, Hriday Chheda, who have continuously supported me and helped me through this journey. My horse, Dasha Deluxe and I have formed a strong bond which truly enriched my experience and made it successful

— Inaara Mehta Luthria, India's young equestrian

WOMEN'S ODI RANKINGS

Mandhana retains top spot, Harmanpreet moves to 7th

DUBA: India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur moved up to seventh even as her deputy Smriti Mandhana continued to hold on to the top spot in the latest women's ODI rankings released on Tuesday.

Kaur moved up a spot to seventh after New Zealand legend Sophie Devine dropped two rungs to climb down to ninth. Jemimah Rodrigues remained static on 12th. New Zealand batter Maddy Green's fine knock of 94 in the final match of their ICC Women's Championship series against Zimbabwe has helped her make notable progress in the rankings.

The 33-year-old's 73-ball knock in Dunedin contributed to her side's massive 200-run victory that completed a 3-0 series victory while helping her move up five places to 17th position among batters with a career-best 610 rating points.

All-rounder Amelia Kerr, who won the Player of the Match award in the final ODI with an all-round effort of 80 and five for 22, also captured the Player of the Series award while advancing from 21st to joint-19th among batters, registering more than 600 rating points



in both batting and bowling rankings.

Isabelle Gaze (up three places to 61st) is another New Zealand player to move up the batting rankings while seam bowlers Rosemary Mair (up seven places to 58th) and Bree Illing (up five places to 79th) have progressed in the bowling rankings.

The T20I rankings see captain Amelia Kerr attain a career-best 694 rating points after smashing 78 off 44 deliveries in the opening game against South Africa in Mount Maunganui while retaining eighth position in the bowling rankings.

Georgia Plimmer's knock of 63 has helped her go from 50th to 41st position, also contributing to New Zealand's 90-run win. In the T20I bowling rankings, Jess Kerr's figures of two for 13 have helped her move up 11 places to 23rd position while Sophie Devine's career-best haul of four for 12 has lifted her from 104th to 79th position.

FEI World Dressage Challenge 2025

15-YR-OLD INAARA BAGS TOP GLOBAL RANKINGS

MUMBAI: The Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) has officially declared its rankings for the FEI World Dressage Challenge (WDC) 2025, with India's young equestrian talent, Inaara Mehta Luthria, delivering an exceptional performance on the global stage.

Representing the Amateur Riders' Club, Mumbai, the 15-year-old rider competed astride her horse, Dasha Deluxe, achieving an impressive score of 69.875% in the Youth Category (12-16 years). Inaara secured the No.1 rank in India, No.1 in FEI Zone 9 (comprising India, Singapore, Philippines, New Zealand, Hong Kong, and China), and an outstanding No.6 rank in the world. Inaara was also selected to represent Team India alongside Gaurav Pundir, Miraya R. Dadabhoj, and Samanna Evera T. The team delivered a commendable performance, securing the No.1 position in FEI Zone 9 and ranking No.7 globally.

The FEI World Dressage Challenge is a unique global initiative designed to promote dressage worldwide.

Under this format, international judges travel across participating countries throughout the year to evaluate riders locally, ensuring a fair and consistent standard of judging while eliminating the need for horses and riders to travel internationally. In 2024, India was judged by Natalia Rubashko from Belarus. Inaara Mehta Luthria is a student of Hillspring International School. Reflecting on her achievement, she said, "I am extremely grateful to my parents and my



coach, Hriday Chheda, who have continuously supported me and helped me through this journey. My horse, Dasha Deluxe and I have formed a strong bond which truly enriched my experience and made it successful."

This remarkable achievement highlights the growing prominence of Indian equestrian talent on the global stage and underscores the country's continued progress in the sport.

Telangana's DKR FC set for IWL 2 debut



In a historic moment for women's football in the State, the Telangana Football Association announced that for the first time ever a women's team from Telangana, DKR FC, has qualified to participate in the Indian Women's League 2 (IWL 2) for the first time. Marking the occasion, TFA Secretary G P Paiguna, along with Dr Kavitha Reddy, recently appointed Governing Council Chairman of the Indian Institute of Health and Family Welfare, and Dr Soni Bala, IFS, VCMD SATG, officially unveiled the team jersey. DKR FC will compete in the tournament scheduled to be held from March 22 to March 30 in Thrissur, Kerala. The team hopes to make a strong impression and bring laurels to Telangana on the national stage.

TCA demands CBI probe into HCA-Visakha deal

The Telangana Cricket Association alleged that the Visakha deal is only one part of a much larger pattern of systemic regularities involving financial mismanagement in excess of Rs 600 crore

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD



THE Telangana Cricket Association (TCA) has demanded a comprehensive Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the controversial Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA)-Visakha agreement, terming it a "classic case of opaque dealings, backdated arrangements, and institutional compromise."

Reacting to the explosive expose titled "Uppal Stadium Deal: Another Bofors waiting to haunt Congress," TCA stated that the revelations raise serious concerns over financial propriety,

governance failure, and possible manipulation of official records within HCA. TCA General Secretary Gururva Reddy, who is currently spearheading TCA's battle for affiliation with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), said the issue is not an isolated transaction, but a reflection of deep-rooted systemic failure within HCA. "This is not just about one agreement. It exposes a pattern of functioning where transparency is absent and accountability is systematically bypassed," he stated.

TG men's TT team wins bronze at Senior Nationals

INDORE: THE Telangana men's table tennis team secured the bronze medal in the 87th UTT Senior National Table Tennis Championships held at Abhay Prashal Stadium in Indore.

Telangana went down 0-3 to eventual champions Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) in the semi-finals after a 3-1 win over Karnataka in the quarterfinals.

The Telangana team comprised SFR Snehit, Mohammed Ali, Varun Shankar, Swarnendu, Trishul Mehra, coach Somnath Ghosh and manager Chaitanya.

Results: Semifinals: PSPB bt Telangana 3-0 (Payas Jain bt Mohammed Ali 11-9, 9-11, 11-6,



11-7, Manav Thakkar bt Snehit 11-7, 11-7, 7-11, 11-13, 11-4, Harmeet Desai bt Swarnendu 11-7, 8-11, 11-8, 11-6)

Quarterfinals: Telangana bt Karnataka 3-1 (K.J. Aakash bt Swarnendu 11-7, 11-7, 11-9, P. Yeshwanth lost to Snehit 9-11, 3-11, 11-13, Atharva Nawarange lost to Mohammed Ali 11-5, 8-11, 9-11, 4-11, Aakash lost to Snehit 7-11, 11-7, 6-11, 8-11).

Aust beat China 2-1, reach Women's Asian Cup final

PERTH: Sam Kerr broke a second half deadlock and Australia edged defending champion China 2-1 for a spot in the Women's Asian Cup final on Tuesday.

The veteran Chelsea forward started the attacking movement on halfway and finished it off with a left-foot shot from a tight angle in the 58th minute, the decisive moment of a semi-final that was tied 1-1 at halftime.

The Australians will play the winner of Wednesday's semi-final between Japan and South Korea. Australia last won the continental championship in 2010. Caitlin Foord gave the host the lead in the 17th when she finished off an attacking raid that started with Mary Fowler combining with Ellie Carpenter on the right. Carpenter crossed back into the area, where Fowler cut the ball back for Foord to fire.

NDA FIELDS FATHER AND SON IN KERALA

KOTTAYAM (KERALA)

WITH Kerala counting days for the April 9 Assembly polls, the southern Kottayam district is witnessing a father and his son seeking votes as NDA candidates in two constituencies with considerable Christian voters. They are none other than veteran politician P C George and his son Shone George.

As the BJP released its much-awaited candidates list on Monday, the father-son duo has been fielded respectively in Poonjar and Pala constituencies, a Christian-dominated central Kerala belt. While George is currently serving as a national



council member of the BJP, Shone George is a state vice president.

A seven-time MLA, P C George, is a household name in his home turf, Poonjar. He had been a member of the state Assembly for over three decades and formed his own



party- Kerala Janapaksham (Secular)- before serving in various Kerala Congress factions.

He had represented Poonjar in the Assembly in 1981, 82, 1996, 2001 and 2006. He later contested from his home turf as an independ-

ent candidate in the 2016 Assembly polls and won, defeating the three major fronts.

George has been known for his outspoken style in public life. His party had been merged with the BJP-NDA ahead of the Lok Sabha election in 2024.

Meanwhile, Shone George, a former district panchayat member, said that both his father and he himself did not want to contest from different constituencies in the same election. However, he said, the BJP leadership insisted that they contest in Poonjar and the nearby Pala constituencies. "Two persons contesting

from a family pose many difficulties. But the leadership told us that it is not individuals but the party that is contesting," he said here on Tuesday.

One person is BJP's national council member, and the other one is its state office-bearer, and so the party would take care of everything, Shone George said.

In the politically significant Pala constituency, Shone George is fighting LDF leader and Kerala Congress (Mani) supremo Jose K Mani and the sitting UDF MLA Mani C Kappan. He, however, rejected reports of a triangular fight in the segment.

HC orders removal of posts linking Puri's daughter to Epstein

NEW DELHI

THE Delhi High Court on Tuesday directed the removal of social media content linking Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri's daughter to convicted American sex offender Jeffrey Epstein within 24 hours.

Justice Mini Pushkarna also restrained several users from publishing, circulating or disseminating such content on social media platforms in any manner.

The judge, who was hearing a lawsuit filed by Hardeep Puri's daughter, Himayani Puri, clarified that if social media users did not remove the posts, the concerned platforms shall take down or block access to such content.

The court also observed that Himayani Puri has a prima facie case in her favour and she will suffer irreparable injury if interim relief is not granted. "Consequently, till the next date of hearing, the following directions are issued," the court said, while listing the case for further hearing in August. Senior advocate Mahesh Jethmalani, appearing for the plaintiff, said she has a "global reputation" to protect as a finance professional and that the allegations against her were "completely false, reckless and malicious".



Calling the allegations a "figment of imagination", Jethmalani argued that there was an "orchestrated attack" on the plaintiff, arising from "personal and political malice". He said the defamatory content was published and shared by users who were "self-proclaimed journalists" or content creators.

Jethmalani also told the court that the plaintiff was a resident of New York and urged the court to pass an order to block the defamatory content globally.

Senior advocate Arvind Datar, appearing for Meta Platforms, submitted that such orders were not passed in any country and that the blocking of objectionable content was done country-wise. He informed the court that the issue of a global blocking was pending before a division bench of the high court.

Man dies as gun goes off while filming reel

NEW DELHI: A 28-year-old property dealer died after accidentally shooting himself in the chest while his cousin was filming him loading a pistol for a social media reel in east Delhi's New Ashok Nagar, police said on Tuesday.

The deceased has been identified as Pawan Kumar, a property dealer who lived in Dallapura village in east Delhi, they said, adding that he was handling the licensed pistol belonging to his cousin Himanshu for the first time.

The incident came to light on March 16 after information about a medico-legal case of a gunshot injury was received at the New Ashok Nagar police station from the Dharamshila Hospital in Vasundhara Enclave, they said.



On reaching the hospital, police found that Pawan Kumar, a resident of Dallapura village, had been admitted there in an unconscious state with a gunshot wound on the left side of his chest. Doctors declared him dead during treatment, police said.

According to police, the incident was captured on camera, even though the person filming, Himanshu, appeared unaware of Pawan's intentions.

In the video, which has gone viral on social media, Pawan can be seen inserting a magazine into the pistol and loading the

weapon, while Himanshu can be heard advising him on handling the firearm and cautioning him against firing it.

Moments later, Pawan places the pistol against the left side of his chest, briefly looks towards the camera and pulls the trigger, collapsing on the ground as a shocked Himanshu says, "Ye kya kar diya tune (what have you done)?" The weapon, along with 10 live cartridges, has been seized, police said.

The mobile phone used to record the video has been taken into possession, while relevant exhibits have also been collected from the scene, they said. The body has been shifted to the Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital for post-mortem examination.

Suicide blasts in Nigeria kill 23, injure 100+

MAIDUGURI (NIGERIA): At least 23 people were killed and more than 100 wounded in suspected suicide bombings Monday night that targeted Maiduguri city in northeastern Nigeria, police said Tuesday. It was one of the deadliest attacks in the conflict-battered city in recent history.

Residents and emergency services earlier told The Associated Press that three explosions were reported in crowded places in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state, including in a major market and at the entrance of the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital. "Regrettably, a total of 23 persons lost their lives, while 108 others sustained varying degrees of injuries," Borno police spokesperson Nahum Kenneth Daso said in a statement that blamed the attacks on suspected suicide bombers.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks, but suspicion quickly fell on the Boko Haram jihadi group, which in 2009 launched an insurgency in northeastern Nigeria to enforce their radical interpretation of Shariah.

COUNTING FOR 2 HARYANA SEATS BEGINS

Nitish Kumar, Nitin Nabin elected to Rajya Sabha

NEW DELHI

BIHAR'S longest-serving chief minister Nitish Kumar and new BJP president Nitin Nabin were elected to the Rajya Sabha from Bihar as the ruling NDA swept the elections held in three states for 11 seats of the Upper House on Monday.

Of the total 37 vacancies of Rajya Sabha, elections were held for only 11 seats in Bihar, Odisha and Haryana as the rest of the members were earlier elected unopposed. The ruling NDA alliance won eight seats, including one Independent backed by it, and the BJD bagged one seat in results announced on Monday night.

Counting on two seats in Haryana, which had been put on hold amid allegations of



irregularities, began late in the night.

A total of 14 candidates were in the fray. NCP (SP) supremo Sharad Pawar and Union minister Ramdas Athawale were among the 26 candidates elected unopposed on March 9 after the withdrawal of nominations. In the election held on Monday, the ruling NDA won all five seats in Bihar.

Besides Nitish Kumar, who heads the JD(U), and Nabin, the other winning candidates were Union Minister Ram Nath

Thakur (JDU) and Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) chief Upendra Kushwaha, both sitting members who have been re-elected, and BJP's Shivesh Kumar, who will enter the Upper House of Parliament for the first time.

Outgoing RS member Amarendra Dhari Singh lost the election even after RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav claimed he got the support of five MLAs of AIMIM and one BSP legislator.

In elections for four seats in Odisha, where a total of five candidates were in the fray, the BJP won three seats amid cross-voting. At least five MLAs - three from Congress and two from BJD - reportedly voted in favour of ruling BJP-backed Independent candidate Dilip Ray.



Malvi Malhotra returns with dark comedy

ASKARI JAFFER

Actor Malvi Malhotra, who has been part of projects like 'Hotel Milan', 'Zorawar Di Jacqueline', 'Abhiyuham', 'Thiragabadara Saami' and 'Jenna Natchathiram', is gearing up for her return to Hindi cinema with the neo-noir dark comedy 'Arjun Bewakoof'. Directed by Smita Singh and written by Anand Raaj, the film also stars Sanjay Mishra, Dolly Singh and Rajesh Tailang. In this conversation, Malvi opens up about her comeback, the role that drew her in, and working with some of the most respected names in the industry.

"I had done a Hindi film earlier in 2018 called 'Hotel Milan'. After that film, I moved to the South industry and worked mostly there. After a long time, I'm now coming back to Hindi cinema, so it feels really good," she says, calling the project a meaningful return to where she began. Talking about what made her say yes to the film, Malvi shares, "My character Geet excited me a lot, and the overall story of the film was also very interesting. While working in the South industry, I receive many scripts every day, but very rarely does a script stay in your mind. When I read this script, it re-

ally stuck with me." She is equally enthusiastic about sharing screen space with veteran performers. "I'm very excited. As a writer myself, I was happy to know that Rajesh sir has also written a book, so I even thought of sharing my book with him. And working with Sanjay Mishra sir is something I'm really looking forward to. I've met him before and we had discussions about acting and craft. He is one of the finest actors who is very natural in his performances. It will be a great learning experience working with him," she says. Describing the film's tone and appeal, she adds, "Every character in the film stands

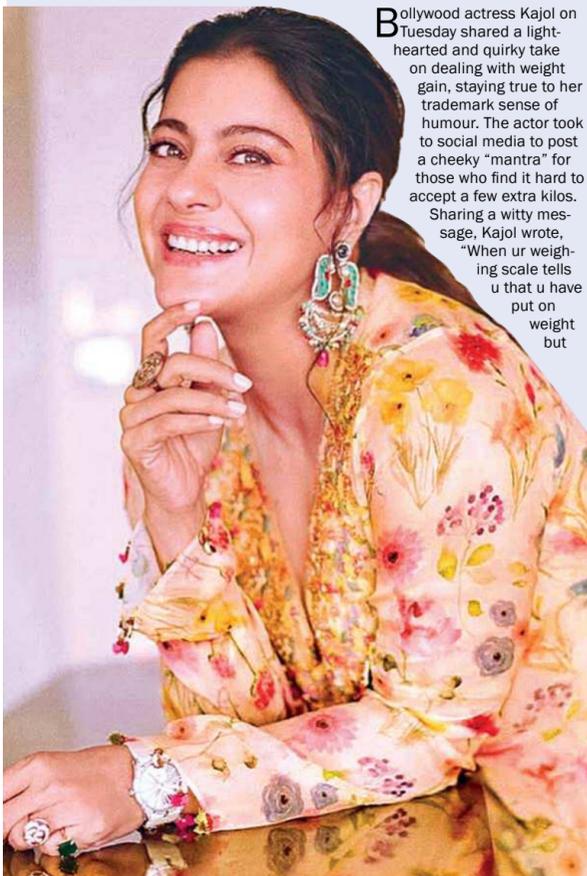
Malvi Malhotra is set to make her Hindi cinema comeback with the neo-noir dark comedy 'Arjun Bewakoof.' The actress opens up about her role, the film's unpredictable climax, and working with industry veterans

out and has its own importance. The film definitely has elements of dark comedy, so audiences can expect that tone. One of the biggest USPs of the film is that the climax is very unpredictable." Malvi also speaks about placing her trust in Smita Singh's vision. "I watched Smita's previous film 'Anda-

man', and that convinced me that she can make a good film. My first step was to watch her earlier work, and after that I read the script of 'Arjun Bewakoof'. Both things convinced me, so it didn't take me much time to say yes to the project because of her conviction towards her work."



Kajol offers a quirky mantra for dealing with weight gain



Bollywood actress Kajol on Tuesday shared a lighthearted and quirky take on dealing with weight gain, staying true to her trademark sense of humour. The actor took to social media to post a cheeky "mantra" for those who find it hard to accept a few extra kilos. Sharing a witty message, Kajol wrote, "When ur weighing scale tells u that u have put on weight but

can't see it always assume it's gone to ur head and u have just become smarter! #namaste Follow me for more hidden gems. (Sic)" The actress is often seen sharing pun-filled, fun and quirky thoughts online, offering her followers a dose of humour and positivity. In a similar post showcasing her classic comic timing, Kajol revealed how most of her life is a compilation of random moments that unexpectedly turn picture-perfect. The 'Maa' actress was seen posing by a door in a social media post. Giving context in the caption, she shared that while deciding whether to shut the door or leave it open, her moment of confusion ended up creating a perfect shot. "Deciding whether I should shut the door or leave it open... And somehow that became the shot! A lot like most of life (sic)," the caption read. On the professional front, Kajol will next be seen in the action thriller 'Maharagni: Queen of Queens'. She will play Maya, a woman on a revenge mission, in a story centered on a mother-daughter duo. Helmed by debutant director Charan Tej Upalapati, the film also features Prabhu Deva, Naseeruddin Shah, Samyuktha (marking her Bollywood debut), Jisshu Sengupta, Aditya Seal, Pramod Pathak and Chhaya Kadam in significant roles.

At 57, Bhagyashree swims in ocean at -25°C during exotic Finland holiday

Bollywood actress Bhagyashree recently shared glimpses from her adventurous holiday in Finland, where she visited the iconic Santa Claus Village and even swam in the icy ocean at minus 25 degrees Celsius.

Taking to social media, the 'Maine Pyar Kiya' actress posted pictures and videos from the thrilling experience. In one striking image, she is seen floating in Arctic waters wearing a bright orange survival suit. Surrounded by floating ice chunks, Bhagyashree appeared to be embracing her adventurous side.

Sharing the moment, she wrote, "Swimming in the ocean at -25°. It was an experience beyond imagination."

In another reflective post, she added, "#traveltalesbyb As I closed my eyes, I was felt the magnitude of nature, and how miniscule we are."

The actress also shared glimpses from her visit to the famous Santa Claus Village. In one picture, Bhagyashree is seen posing happily at the entrance of the village dressed in a red winter coat paired with earmuffs and gloves. In another clip, she is seen warming herself near a bonfire set against a breathtaking winter landscape. Captioning the post, she wrote, "SantaVillage! Acres of winter Santa land within the Arctic Circle... from reindeers to gingerbread cottages, bonfires with marshmallows, hot chocolate and cookies, building a snowman to meeting Santa."

She further added, "While I missed my children, I kinda became a child again. Simple joys of surprises, seeing something new. Travel brings you a



different kind of happiness. Grateful n thankful."

Bhagyashree is currently enjoying the exotic vacation with her husband Himalaya Dassani and a group of her close friends. The trip appears to be part of her ongoing travel spree, with the actress exploring international destinations as well as scenic locations across India over the past few months.

On the professional front, Bhagyashree made her Bollywood debut with the 1989 film 'Maine Pyar Kiya'

opposite Salman Khan. The film was directed by Sooraj Barjatya and produced by Rajshri Productions.

Soon after the film's success, she married businessman Himalaya Dassani and stepped away from Bollywood for a long period to focus on her family life. Though she appeared in a few projects over the years, they remained limited in scale.

In recent years, Bhagyashree has gradually returned to the spotlight, staying active through films, television appearances and social media.

CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Achieve (6)
 - 7 Out of date (8)
 - 8 Rain cats and ___ (4)
 - 10 Fake (6)
 - 11 Abilities (6)
 - 14 Falstaff's Prince; 2001 computer (3)
 - 16 Bone prefix (5)
 - 17 Elliptical (4)
 - 19 Replenish (3,2)
 - 21 A basin for bathing the private parts (5)
 - 22 Small nails (5)
 - 23 Spandau's last prisoner (4)
 - 26 Lawful colloquially speaking (5)
 - 28 Opening flower (3)
 - 29 Foolish persons (6)
 - 30 Quash (6)
 - 31 Ancient church desk (4)
 - 32 High ranking army officers (8)
 - 33 Yield (6)

DOWN

- 1 Syrian city (6)
- 2 Discordant (6)
- 3 Prying (4)
- 4 Keeping watch (7)
- 5 Distributed playing-cards (5)
- 6 Left-hand page (5)
- 8 Qatar's capital (4)
- 9 Come together (3)
- 12 Internet Service Provider abbr (3)
- 13 Looks slyly or maliciously or lasciviously (5)
- 15 Russian spirit (5)
- 18 Chose by election (5)
- 19 Spasm (3)
- 20 Footlike organ (3)
- 21 Beats, pounds or destroys (7)
- 22 Uncle in Spain (3)
- 23 Uproar (6)
- 24 Taro root (4)
- 25 Choose to do something, perceive as proper (3,3)
- 26 Feudal lord (5)
- 27 Huge (5)
- 28 A derelict person (3)
- 30 Impudence (4)



Solution to March 17

SUDOKU



Solution to March 17

HYDERABAD'S SRIDEVI JASTI HONOURED AT SWIGGY'S 'SHE THE CHANGE' 2026

Sridevi Jasti of Hyderabad was honoured at Swiggy's 'She The Change' 2026 event in New Delhi for her impactful work in plant-forward nutrition through Vibrant Living



The ceremony was graced by Chief Guest Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Swiggy CEO Sriharsha Majety, celebrating women transforming India's food and hospitality sector. Swiggy (NSE: SWIGGY/BSE: 544285), India's pioneering on-demand convenience platform, recently organized the 2026 edition of 'She The Change' in New Delhi. This flagship initiative, with the tagline 'From Vision to Venture', celebrates women who are redefining India's culinary and business landscape. The Chief Guest, Shri Ga-

jendra Singh Shekhawat, along with Sriharsha Majety, Co-Founder, MD and Group CEO, Swiggy, felicitated 28 women from the F&B industry across two categories—Entrepreneur of the Year and Chef of the Year. These awards recognized their contributions to culinary innovation and business success. The honourees included Sridevi Jasti, Founder, Vibrant Living. Through her entrepreneurial initiative, Ms. Jasti champions wholesome, plant-forward nutrition, turning clean eating into a sustainable lifestyle choice. This recognition highlights the city's continued influence as one of India's most dynamic hubs for culinary innovation and women-led food businesses. She The Change was a curated gathering of pioneers, disruptors, and visionaries from India's food industry reinforcing Swiggy's commitment to empowering women entrepreneurs in the F&B sector. Swiggy currently has 70,000 women-run restaurants on its platform, and as per internal estimates, these entrepreneurs are generating close to 4,20,000 jobs, with each restaurant employing an average of six direct employees.



ACADEMY AWARDS ANALYSIS

Originals rule the night

2026 Oscars signal a bold shift in Hollywood power play

SUHAS SISTU

The 2026 Academy Awards may well be remembered as the night originality triumphed over formula—and as a defining moment for Warner Bros. Discovery in a rapidly evolving Hollywood landscape.

Studio chief David Zaslav sounded less like a corporate executive and more like an auteur evangelist as he celebrated a staggering haul of 11 Oscars. Leading the charge was “One Battle After Another,” which dominated with Best Picture and multiple major awards, alongside “Sinners” and “Weapons.” The common thread? All three were original films—an increasingly rare gamble in an industry long reliant on sequels and franchises.

Zaslav’s emphasis on creative risk paid off. By backing filmmakers like Ryan Coogler, Michael B. Jordan, and Paul Thomas Anderson, the studio doubled down on storytelling over IP familiarity. Coogler’s deal for “Sinners,” granting him long-term creative ownership, now looks like a blueprint for future filmmaker-studio partnerships.

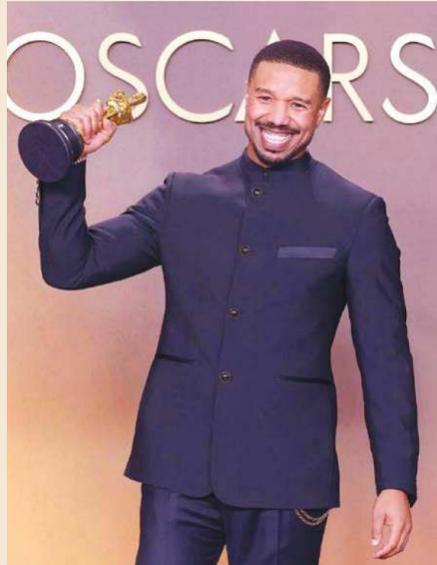
What makes this victory even more striking is the path these films took. Unlike traditional Oscar contenders, none relied on the festival circuit to build

prestige. Following the precedent of “Oppenheimer,” these films proved that awards momentum can be built outside Cannes, Venice, or Telluride—potentially reshaping awards season strategies.

On the acting front, the night balanced predictability with intrigue. Jessie Buckley’s Best Actress win for “Hamnet” was widely expected, but the Best Actor race saw a late surge from Michael B. Jordan, whose dual performance in “Sinners” captured industry attention at just the right moment. His win—following a strong showing at the SAG Awards—highlights how timing and narrative can influence Oscar outcomes as much as early buzz.

Meanwhile, Sean Penn quietly entered elite territory with a third acting Oscar for “One Battle After Another,” joining legends like Meryl Streep and Daniel Day-Lewis. His absence from the ceremony echoed a bygone era when skipping the Oscars was not uncommon—offering a subtle reminder of how awards culture itself has evolved.

Beyond Warner Bros. Discovery’s dominance, Netflix matched its own record with seven wins, driven by Guillermo del Toro’s Frankenstein and the visually electrifying “KPop Demon Hunters.” The streaming giant’s contin-



ued success underscores its growing parity with traditional studios, even as theatrical-first releases made a strong case this year.

The ceremony itself, hosted by Conan O’Brien, struck a confident balance between spectacle and sincerity. With an elegant stage design and minimal interference in acceptance speeches, the show leaned into authenticity—allowing political commentary, emotional appeals, and spontaneous humor to coexist. Notably, a rare tie

in the Live Action Short category added a touch of unpredictability, handled with effortless charm by presenter Kumail Nanjiani.

Yet, even in celebration, the Oscars weren’t without controversy. Omissions in the In Memoriam segment—particularly icons like Brigitte Bardot and Alain Delon—sparked quiet criticism, reminding audiences that the Academy’s choices are as scrutinized as its winners.

Ultimately, the 2026 Oscars reflected an industry at a crossroads. With block-



PROUD MOMENT

In a heart-warming moment for Telugu cinema lovers, legendary actor Kota Srinivasa Rao was remembered at the 98th Academy Awards. The iconic performer was honoured in the prestigious “In Memoriam” segment, celebrating global cinematic legends who passed away. Kota’s inclusion in this elite list is a proud recogni-

tion of his immense contribution to Indian cinema, where he acted in over 700 films across multiple languages. Alongside him, veterans like Dharmendra and B. Saroja Devi were also honoured. This tribute stands as a fitting salute to a truly irreplaceable talent, making it a proud and emotional moment for fans.



buster mergers looming and streaming platforms reshaping distribution, the night’s biggest takeaway

was clear: bold, original storytelling still has the power to dominate both the box office narrative and

the awards stage. As Hollywood looks ahead to its 99th Academy Awards, one question lin-

gers—can this momentum for originality sustain itself, or was this a rare, golden exception?



Anirudh joins hands with Universal Music India for global label expansion

In a major boost for India’s independent music scene, Universal Music India has announced an exclusive partnership with Albuquerque Records, the newly launched label by star composer Anirudh Ravichander. As part of this collaboration, both entities will release future pop and hip-hop tracks by Anirudh and upcoming artists signed under Albuquerque Records. The alliance aims to amplify Anirudh’s global reach while creating a platform for emerging talent from South India. Over time, Albuquerque Records is expected to evolve into a hub for new-age pop and hip-hop artists from the region. Anir-

udh, who made his debut with the viral hit Why This Kolaveri Di, has built an impressive career with over 13 billion streams across 770+ tracks. Known for chartbusters like Hukum and Vaathi Coming, he remains one of the most influential composers in the South Indian music space.

Industry leaders highlighted that the partnership will further strengthen India’s presence in global music markets, particularly in fast-growing genres like pop and hip-hop.

Anirudh expressed excitement about nurturing independent voices through his label, while Universal Music India reaffirmed its commitment to taking Indian music to international audiences through strategic collaborations like this.

‘Rakasa’ gears up for grand release with strong distribution deals

The upcoming fantasy-comedy Rakasa is building solid momentum ahead of its theatrical release, securing a major distribution deal in the Telugu States. The film’s regional theatrical rights have been acquired by Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Movie Makers, reflecting strong confidence from trade circles in its box office potential.

Expanding its reach further, the film is set for a wide international rollout. Overseas distribution will be managed by Atharvana Bhadrakali Pictures, with releases planned across more than 350 screens in key territories such as the United States, United Kingdom, Europe, Canada, and Australia. Additionally, Prathyangira Cinemas will oversee distribution in North America and the UK. Premieres overseas are scheduled for April 2, 2026, ahead of its global release on April 3.

On the non-theatrical front, the film has locked



significant deals, with streaming rights acquired by Netflix and audio rights by Saregama Music. These partnerships further strengthen its commercial prospects.

The film’s promotional content has also gained

impressive traction online. Its teaser and songs, including “Rapappa” and “Padhe Padhe,” have crossed notable viewership milestones, indicating strong audience interest in the soundtrack composed by Anudeep Dev. Starring Sangeeth Sobhan

and Nayan Sarika, and directed by Manasa Sharma, Rakasa blends romance, humor, and fantasy. Backed by Pink Elephant Pictures in association with Zee Studios, the film is steadily shaping up as a promising entertainer this summer.

Priyanka Chopra channels ‘Mandakini Vibes’ at Vanity Fair Oscars Party 2026

Global icon Priyanka Chopra turned heads with a bold and elegant fashion statement at the Vanity Fair Oscars Party 2026, effortlessly bringing “Mandakini vibes” to the red carpet.

The actress arrived alongside her husband Nick Jonas, and the couple exuded charm and sophistication. Priyanka stunned in a shimmering gold gown that perfectly accentuated her silhouette. The outfit featured a daring backless design and a sleek, body-hugging fit, adding a touch of high-fashion drama. She completed her look with soft wavy hair and radiant makeup, enhancing her confident and glamorous presence.

Nick Jonas complemented her style in a classy beige tuxedo paired with a crisp

white shirt and a black bow tie. His timeless look added balance to Priyanka’s bold ensemble, making them one of the most stylish couples at the star-studded event. Walking hand in hand, their chemistry and elegance stood out effortlessly, drawing admiration from fans and fashion watchers alike.

On the professional front, Priyanka continues to expand her global footprint. She was recently seen in Bluff and is now gearing up for a major Indian project, Varanasi. In the film, she will reportedly portray the character Mandakini alongside Mahesh Babu, under the direction of S. S. Rajamouli, further raising excitement among fans.



‘Youth’ team promises energetic entertainer

The Tamil youth-centric entertainer Youth is all set to make its way to Telugu audiences with a grand theatrical release on the 26th of this month. Featuring Ken Karunaas, Anishma Anil Kumar, Suraj Venjaramoodu, Priyanshi Yadav, and Meenakshi Dinesh in key roles, the film is being released in Telugu by E2C, headed by producers Vineeth and Sandeep.

Promoted with the tagline “Come with your gang, no age limit,” the film has already generated buzz through its energetic promotional campaign.



A lively freshers’ meet event further amplified excitement, with several industry personalities expressing confidence in the film’s content.

Cinematographer Suriya Balaji praised the producers’ promotional approach, while

music director Sinjith Yerramilli shared his happiness about contributing to the film’s soundtrack. Filmmakers like Sai Marthand and Venkatesh Maha highlighted the film’s engaging narrative and youthful vibe, predicting strong

reception among Telugu audiences. The cast also expressed optimism, with Priyanshi Yadav and Meenakshi Dinesh urging audiences to support the young team. Actor-director Ken Karunaas described the film as a fun-filled entertainer with emotional depth, promising it will connect with both youth and family audiences.

With positive early buzz, vibrant music, and a relatable storyline, Youth is expected to strike a chord as it hits Telugu screens on the 26th.

‘Sarke Chunar Teri Sarke’ lyrics from ‘KD: The Devil’ faces backlash

Bollywood’s reputation for progressive storytelling is once again under scrutiny, as a newly released song from KD: The Devil has triggered widespread criticism online.

The track, “Sarke Chunar Teri Sarke,” features popular actress Nora Fatehi, known for her chart-topping dance numbers. While the song follows the familiar “item number” template with glamorous visuals and stylised choreography, it is the lyrics that have drawn sharp reactions from audiences.

Social media platforms have been flooded with comments condemning the wording of the song, with many

users calling it vulgar and disrespectful towards women. A particular line from the track has gone viral, intensifying the backlash and prompting debates around the portrayal of women in mainstream cinema.

Several netizens have also questioned the responsibility of the film’s makers and performers in approving such content, especially at a time when the industry is striving to promote more inclusive and sensitive narratives.

KD: The Devil, starring Kannada actor Dhruva Sarja, is being positioned as a high-octane action drama. The controversial song was released as part



of its promotional campaign. However, instead of generating excitement, the strategy appears to have backfired, drawing criticism and reigniting discussions about outdated tropes in commercial films.