

TG gov't aims to provide better healthcare to poor: Komatireddy

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HANS NEWS SERVICE NALGONDA

ROADS and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy stated that the government's primary goal is to provide quality healthcare to the poor through government hospitals.

As part of the "Prajapalana-Pragathi Pranalika" programme and the Health Festival being conducted from the April 6 to 11, the Minister inaugurated a new Ur-

Inaugurates Urban Primary Health Centre



ban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) at Manyam Chelka in Nalgonda on Wednesday. The facility was constructed at a cost of Rs 1.91 crore.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that due to heavy patient load at the Nalgonda Government General Hospital, this new UPHC would help provide better and accessible healthcare. Along with government funds, infrastructure and doctors have been ar-

ranged with an additional Rs 50 lakh contribution from Prateek Foundation. The center has been equipped with a new building and essential medical equipment, with provisions to add more if needed.

He emphasised that the facility would cater especially to nearby residents, elderly people, and pregnant women, offering a wide range of medical services and diagnostic tests, with

referrals to the main hospital when required. Public representatives were urged to identify patients and direct them to the center.

The Minister also announced plans to establish an eye hospital on three acres in collaboration with LV Prasad Eye Institute. Additionally, arrangements have been made to supply emergency medicines through a private medical shop if unavailable at the UPHC, based on doctors' prescriptions.

Efforts are also underway, with support from Akshaya Foundation, to provide food to patients if necessary. Officials highlighted that the center would significantly benefit local communities by delivering quality and accessible healthcare services.

Strict Action if Farmers Face Trouble in Paddy Procurement
State Minister Komat-

ireddy Venkat Reddy warned that strict action will be taken if farmers face difficulties during Rabi paddy procurement.

He said farmers who work hard should not be troubled by buyers or millers. Officials were instructed to procure paddy quickly and transport it to mills without delay, considering the summer heat.

On Wednesday, he inaugurated and inspected procurement centers in Nalgonda and Kanagal mandals.

Responding to transport issues, he directed officials to arrange sufficient lorries and ensure uninterrupted movement of paddy.

The Minister emphasized round-the-clock procurement if necessary and assured that the government is closely monitoring the process. He added that bonus support is being provided and reaffirmed the government's commitment to farmers' welfare.

BRS will return to power as people are disillusioned with Cong Raj: Puvvada

• Cong came to power by maligning BRS leaders during the elections, but has failed to deliver on its assurances

HANS NEWS SERVICE KHAMMAM



CLAIMING that the Congress government had failed to make a meaningful impact even after more than two years in office, former minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar expressed confidence that the BRS would return to power under KCR's leadership. He said people are "disillusioned" with the Congress government over unfulfilled promises and looking at the BRS for solution of their problems.

Addressing a meeting of key leaders of Khammam constituency at his residence, Ajay Kumar criticised the Congress government, claiming it had failed to implement its "six guarantees" and was instead taking credit for developmental works car-

ried out during the previous BRS regime led by K Chandrashekar Rao.

He alleged that the ruling party, unable to counter the opposition in the Assembly, had resorted to suspensions. "The Congress came to power by maligning the image of BRS leaders during the elections, but has failed to deliver on its assurances," he said.

Ajay Kumar also accused the government of misleading the public and questioned its handling of land-related issues, alleging irregularities and lack of accountability. He

further criticised the demolition of houses in certain areas of Khammam, calling it "unjust".

Referring to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, he alleged that the State government was focusing on issues outside Telangana rather than addressing local concerns. He also mentioned Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in this context. He announced that a mini plenary meeting of the party would be held in Khammam on April 19, which will be attended by senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao.

Quick on feet, Ponguleti skewers Harish for hurling flimsy charges

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He alleged that BRS leaders were deliberately politicising the matter to target the ruling dispensation. He clarified that his family had no ownership stake in the disputed land and challenged the opposition to prove any wrongdoing.

Responding to allegations regarding the Kotwalguda stone crusher, the Minister said the unit has been operational since 2007 and is run by a private en-

tity. He explained that the crusher is not linked to government contracts and that construction firms involved in road projects merely procured materials through legitimate transactions. He added that all necessary records, including GST and electricity documents, are available to establish transparency.

Warning the Opposition against making "false and defamatory statements," Ponguleti said the govern-

ment will not be intimidated and will continue to expose alleged irregularities of the previous regime.

He added that forensic audits related to land transactions under the Dhara system are underway and that more details will emerge soon.

Reaffirming the government's stance, the Minister said all allegations will be countered with evidence, and that legal processes will determine accountability.

Market cheers ceasefire

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Commenting on Nifty technical outlook, experts said that from a technical standpoint, the 23,700-23,600 zone remains a key immediate support. "A breakdown below this range could trigger profit booking. On the upside, a decisive breakout above the 24,500-resistance zone is required to confirm continuation of the current uptrend and unlock further upside potential," an analyst stated.

Investor sentiment improved significantly after geopolitical concerns showed signs of cooling and the central bank-maintained policy stability. Among the top performers in the Nifty index were Shriram Finance, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, and Adani Enterprises, which saw strong buying interest.

Iran oil refinery struck despite ceasefire

TEHRAN: An oil refinery on Iran's Lavan Island was hit in what Iranian authorities described as an "enemy attack" on Wednesday, hours after a two-week ceasefire between Iran and the United States took effect. The National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company reported the incident, according to Shana, the news outlet of the Iranian Oil Ministry.

The company said the facility was struck around 10:00 local time. No casualties were reported. Safety and firefighting teams were deployed immediately to contain the blaze and secure the site. The attack occurred despite a ceasefire agreement announced on Tuesday between the United States and Iran.

Bhu Bharati: Collector tells officials to verify land records at ground level

HANS NEWS SERVICE BHONGIR



DISTRICT Collector Anurag Jayanti directed officials to verify land records at the ground level through the Bhu Bharati system and ensure transparent services to farmers.

On Wednesday, the Collector, along with Additional Revenue Collector Venkat Reddy, reviewed key issues including land records, government lands, Sada Bainamas, SIR, Mee Seva services, paddy procurement, and online sand supply.

He instructed revenue officials to resolve land disputes promptly through field-level action. Issues related to Sada Bainamas should

be examined legally and justice ensured to eligible beneficiaries.

Under the SIR programme, voter lists must be accurately updated and booth-level officers monitored.

The Collector emphasised speeding up services at Mee Seva centres and clearing pending applications.

He also directed that sand transport be fully implemented through an online booking system to prevent illegal activities.

All set for polls in Assam, Kerala, Puducherry

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In Assam, the campaign centred around Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's governance record and the Congress challenge led by Gaurav Gogoi.

The run-up to polls saw allegations and counter-allegations between the BJP and Congress, leading to a political slugfest.

The Election Commission has said it is fully prepared to conduct free, fair and peaceful polling in Assam, with webcasting enabled at all polling stations and security forces deployed across sensitive areas. Over 2.5 crore voters are eligible to cast their vote in the state.

In Puducherry, campaigning has also concluded for the 30-member Assembly, where 294 candidates are contesting. The Union Territory has over 9.5 lakh voters.

The April 9 voting marks the first leg of a wider election cycle, with Tamil Nadu set to vote on April 23 and West Bengal going to polls in two phases on April 23 and April 29.

HMDA looks to focus on completing infra projects

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According to a senior official, HMDA has several projects in the pipeline. Along with the two elevated corridors of Paradise to ORR near Shamirpet on the Rajiv Rahadari and Paradise to Dairy Farm Road on the National Highway- 44, the state government has started the elevated flyover from the Integrated Command Control Center (ICCC) to Shilpa Layout.

This will connect to the ORR at Gachibowli without signal obstructions. The two-phased project cost is over Rs 1,650 crore, including the first phase from Film Nagar to

Shilpa Layout, covering a distance of 5 km; and the second phase from ICCC to Hakimpet Kunta, covering a distance of 4 km. The project is four- and six-lane sections with grade and elevated stretches and six entry and exit points.

The other major project includes construction of trumpet interchange connecting radial road-2 with ORR, along with integration of Budvel Layout and improvement of the existing Rajendranagar interchange. The project, to be taken up with an outlay of Rs 488 crore, is visualised as gateway to the city, providing seamless connectivity to Budvel and the upcoming Musi

Riverfront, according to the official.

To ease congestion in some of the happening places like Manikonda, Puppulaguda, Kokapet, Gandipet, and Narsingi, the HGCL (Hyderabad Growth Corridor), a subsidiary of HMDA, will be taking up widening and strengthening of the pipeline road from Shankarpally Road at Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Technology (MGIT) to Manikonda over a 3.57 km stretch. The project, to be taken up with an outlay of Rs 110 crore, has a six lane carriageway with a 10-meter median, minor bridges, junction improvements etc.

BOTH US, IRAN CLAIM VICTORY

WASHINGTON/TEHRAN: Both US President Donald Trump and Iran have portrayed the last-minute ceasefire deal as a victory for their nations. Trump said many aspects of a 15-point plan have been agreed to, adding that the US will work with Iran to dig up and remove buried uranium in the country. He also suggested the US may be involved

in securing the critical waterway in a "joint venture" with Iran, while Tehran said Iran's military will coordinate the passage of ships. Minutes after Trump announced the two-week ceasefire, Tehran accepted the deal, claiming victory in the war. In a post on the social media platform X, Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi wrote: "If attacks

against Iran are halted, our Powerful Armed Forces will cease their defensive operations." In his statement, Araghchi expressed gratitude and appreciation for his "dear brothers" - Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir. He thanked them for their "tireless efforts to end the war in the region."

TRUMP WARNS 50% TARIFFS ON NATIONS SUPPLYING WEAPONS TO IRAN

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump on Wednesday warned that any country supplying military weapons to Iran will face immediate 50 per cent tariffs with no exemptions. His announcement came in a social media post days after agreeing to a two-week ceasefire with Tehran. "A Country supplying Military Weapons to Iran will be immediately tariffed, on any and all goods

sold to the United States of America, 50%, effective immediately," the US President wrote in a post on Truth Social. In a separate post, Trump stated that the United States will "work closely" with Iran following what he called it as a "very productive regime change," and also claimed that there would be no further advancement of uranium in Iran.

MOJTABA HELPED CUT TRUCE DEAL

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It was Iran's new Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei, the son of former supreme leader Ali Khamenei who was killed in an airstrike at the start of the war on February 28, who nudged his negotiators, for the first time since the war began, to move towards a deal.

Iran's Foreign minister

Araghchi said that under the two-week ceasefire agreement, maritime traffic through the vital Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of global oil and gas passes, would be guaranteed.

Kamenei, who is yet to appear in public since being named the Supreme Leader, was actively involved in the process to make a truce

deal on Monday and Tuesday. Khamenei's blessing for his negotiators to cut a deal was a "breakthrough".

Araghchi also played a key role both in handling the negotiations and in pushing commanders from the Revolutionary Guards, an elite force, to accept a deal. China too was advising Iran to seek an off ramp.

US V-P Vance, Ghalibaf to lead US-Iran talks

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The diplomatic momentum follows an announcement by US President Donald Trump, who confirmed a two-week ceasefire agreement with Iran shortly before a deadline linked to the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.

Iranian officials have indicated that talks will commence in Islamabad, crediting Pakistan for playing a key mediating role in securing the ceasefire.

The planned talks are being closely watched as a potential step toward ending weeks of escalating conflict and restoring stability in the region. With negotiations expected to begin Friday, the spotlight is firmly on Vance's diplomatic role.

Meanwhile, President Donald Trump has credited China for helping broker the fragile truce, even as he claims the U.S. still holds untapped leverage over Iran.

Fragile ceasefire takes effect

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Israel said it would not, and strikes hit Beirut on Wednesday. The fate of Iran's missile and nuclear programs — the elimination of which were major objectives for the US and Israel in going to war — also remained unclear. Trump said the US would work with Iran to remove buried enriched uranium, though Iran did not confirm that.

Meanwhile, global oil prices have fallen sharply, and stock markets soared after the US and Iran agreed to a conditional two-week ceasefire deal that includes the reopening of the key Strait of Hormuz waterway. The price of benchmark Brent tumbled more than 15% to less than \$92 (£68.4) a barrel, while US-traded oil fell similarly to just under \$94. But oil prices remain higher than before the conflict started on 28 February. At the time, it was trading at around \$70 a barrel.

In the streets of Tehran, pro-government demonstrators screamed: "Death

to America, death to Israel, death to compromisers!" after the ceasefire announcement and burned American and Israeli flags.

The chants underscored the anger animating hardliners, who have been preparing for what many assumed would be an apocalyptic battle with the United States. Trump warned Tuesday that "a whole civilization will die tonight," if a deal wasn't reached.

Trump initially said Iran proposed a "workable" 10-point plan that could help end the war the U.S. launched with Israel on Feb. 28. But when a version in Farsi emerged that indicated Iran would be allowed to continue enriching uranium — which is key to building a nuclear weapon — Trump called it fraudulent without elaborating. Vance later said the deal was being misrepresented within Iran, though he did not offer details. Iran's demands for ending the war include a withdrawal of U.S. combat forces from the re-

gion, the lifting of sanctions, and the release of its frozen assets. In his post on Wednesday, Trump said: "We are, and will be, talking Tariff and Sanctions relief with Iran."

It was not clear if other Western nations would agree to that, and the other points are likely nonstarters. United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres's personal envoy arrived in Iran for talks on "the way forward."

Pakistan said talks to hammer out a permanent end to the war could begin in Islamabad as soon as Friday.

Israel backed the US ceasefire with Iran, but Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the deal does not cover fighting against Hezbollah.

Israeli Chief of Staff Lt Gen Eyal Zamir said Israel will continue to "utilize every operational opportunity" to strike Hezbollah.

The Israeli military said it struck more than 100 targets within 10 minutes Wednesday across Lebanon, the largest wave of strikes since March 1.

Hezbollah has not confirmed if it will abide by the ceasefire, though the group has said it was open to giving mediators a chance to secure an agreement. An official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to comment publicly, said the group would not stop firing at Israel unless Israel agreed to do the same.

While Iran could not match the sophistication of US and Israeli weaponry or their dominance in the air, its ability to control the Strait of Hormuz proved a tremendous strategic advantage. Iranian attacks and threats deterred many commercial ships from passing through the waterway, through which 20% of all traded oil and natural gas passes in peacetime.

That rolled the world economy and raised the pressure on Trump both at home and abroad to find a way out of the standoff. The ceasefire may formalize a system of charging fees in the strait that Iran instituted — and give it a new source of revenue.

