



Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka at the 49th State Level Bankers' Committee meeting in Hyderabad on Friday

TG banks record ₹9.43 lakh crore deposits, Bhatti hails achievements

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

DEPUTY Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has said it is a remarkable achievement that total bank deposits in the state have reached nearly Rs 9.43 lakh crore, while advances touched Rs 12.34 lakh crore.

Telangana's Credit-Deposit ratio of 130.78 per cent is exceptional, he added. The Deputy CM expressed happiness that banks exceeded agricultural loan targets. Against a target of Rs 1,65,297 crore, banks disbursed Rs 1,68,401 crore in agricultural loans, achieving 101.88 per cent.

He said agriculture is the backbone of Telangana's economy and appreciated banks for supporting farmers, dairy farmers, fishermen and allied sectors through schemes, including Kisan Credit Cards.

Participating in the 49th State Level Bankers' Committee meeting held on Friday, Bhatti appealed to banks to adopt a more positive approach towards educational loans, saying student loans are investments in the future of the youth. He stated that the people's government has proved that welfare and development can progress together like twin engines.

The Deputy CM also urged banks to actively support solar projects, rooftop solar panel installations, and other environmentally friendly initiatives through financial assistance. He stressed the need to bring more people under social security and insurance schemes.

Bhatti Vikramarka said banks should function not merely as financial institutions that collect deposits and provide loans, but as strategic partners in the state's development. Since

public money ultimately reaches banks, he said it is important to decide strategically which sectors should receive loans based on their contribution to the state's GSDP and employment generation.

He further said that the government is moving ahead rapidly with key projects, including the rejuvenation of the Musi River, construction of Future City, and the Regional Ring Road. With Telangana witnessing rapid urbanisation, he said the services sector holds enormous opportunities for growth.

To strengthen women's economic empowerment, Bhatti said that interest-free loans for Self Help Groups in the state are being increased from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh. He said the government has decided to focus on large-scale loan distribution to women's groups in Hyderabad this year.

Uttam slams KTR over "politics on farmers deaths" amid grain procurement row

HYDERABAD: Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Friday countered allegations levelled by BRS working president KT Rama Rao regarding grain procurement, accusing the opposition party of indulging in "politics over farmers' deaths" for political gain.

In a sharply worded statement, Uttam Kumar Reddy alleged that BRS leaders were spreading misinformation to create confusion among farmers. He asserted that the Congress government was conducting grain procurement under the "Praja Palana"



The minister accused the previous BRS government of corruption and irregularities at procurement centres.

tres, alleging collusion with rice millers to exploit farmers. He termed it "unfortunate" that the opposition was politicising farmers' deaths without verifying facts.

Responding to KTR's criticism over procurement delays, the minister cited comparative statistics from previous Rabi seasons. He said that during the 2021-22 Rabi season under the BRS regime, 26.78 lakh metric tonnes of grain worth Rs.5,239 crore were procured, but only Rs.2,624 crore had been paid by May 22. Similarly, in 2022-23, procurement stood at 36.63 lakh metric tonnes worth

Rs.7,530 crore, while payments were only Rs.3,160 crore.

In contrast, he said the Congress government had improved procurement and payment systems significantly. During the current Rabi season, 48.21 lakh metric tonnes worth Rs.11,499 crore have been procured so far, with Rs.8,203 crore already disbursed.

The minister also dismissed allegations of gunny bag shortages, stating that over 20.86 crore gunny bags were available statewide and that 1,300 vehicles were being used for grain transportation.

KTR faces Congress backlash over grain procurement claims

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SEVERAL Congress MPs, MLAs and MLCs on Friday launched a sharp attack on BRS working president KT Rama Rao accusing him of spreading misinformation regarding grain procurement and using objectionable language against Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.

Addressing a press conference at the CLP Media Centre, Mahabubabad MP Porika Balram Naik alleged that KTR was making reckless statements and deliberately misleading farmers. He said the Congress government had established procurement centres across the state, implemented the Rythu Bharosa scheme, offered bonuses for fine-variety paddy, and waived farm loans worth Rs 22,000 crore.

Balram Naik also accused the previous BRS regime of neglecting farmers and



recalled incidents in which farmers and Dalits were allegedly mistreated during the earlier government's tenure. He maintained that the present administration was committed to farmers' welfare and transparent grain procurement.

Government Whip Ramachandra Naik alleged that KTR and senior BRS leaders were making irresponsible remarks out of political frustration. He claimed the Congress government had implemented welfare schemes transparently and accused the pre-

vious BRS government of pushing the Civil Supplies Corporation into debt while failing to clear procurement payments on time.

Achampet MLA Chikudu Vamsikrishna said the Congress government was procuring maize despite the Centre's reluctance to do so, solely to support farmers. He alleged that the BRS was unable to accept the positive response being received by the present government.

MLC Kethavath Shankar Naik and Wyra MLA Maloth Ramdas Naik also criticised KTR, accusing the BRS leadership of misleading farmers and engaging in politically motivated propaganda.

Aleti targets government over delay in grain procurement

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BJP Legislature Party leader Aleti Maheshwar Reddy criticised the Telangana government for its handling of crop procurement. Addressing the media on Friday, he alleged that farmers across the state are in distress, unable to sell their produce despite months of hard work.

Reddy pointed out that paddy, maize, and sorghum procurement centres are either not functioning properly or have not been opened at all.

Farmers are struggling due to the lack of lorries and gunny bags, forcing many to guard their produce piled up in market yards. He accused intermediaries and millers of exploiting farmers, while the government remains indifferent.

The BJP leader dismissed Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's claim that 80% of procurement has been

completed, calling it misleading. "In reality, only 24% of paddy has been procured. Even if we take the Chief Minister's own figures of 45 lakh metric tonnes, that amounts to just 30-35% of the total production," he said.

Reddy further alleged that farmers are being cheated at government centres, where an additional four kilograms per bag are being deducted, amounting to nearly 10% of the crop disappearing into unknown hands. He demanded accountability from the Congress government, questioning where thousands of crores worth of produce are going.

To highlight the ground realities, BJP MLAs, MLCs, and MPs will begin a three-day tour of procurement centres across Telangana starting Monday, led by state president N Ramchander Rao. The party plans to expose discrepancies in crop purchases and assure farmers of support.

RASHMI THAKUR MAKES CANNES DEBUT AT 79TH FESTIVAL DE CANNES

Showcases Indian handloom & Hyderabad pearls

CANNES: Marking a landmark moment for Indian textiles, Rashmi Thakur made her debut at the 79th Festival de Cannes on Friday, representing India as a cultural ambassador on the global red carpet.

Thakur showcased a couture ensemble crafted from 200-year-old Pochampally Ikat, hand woven by Telangana's master weavers. The look celebrated the theme "Pochampally to Cannes" — taking India's Geographical Indication-tagged handloom from the looms of Telangana to the world's most prestigious film festival.

Elevating the ensemble were iconic Hyderabad pearls, the legendary jewels of the Nizams, meticulously styled to complement the intricate geometry of the Ikat weave. The pairing created a powerful dialogue between India's textile heritage and its regal jewelry legacy. Speaking from Cannes, Rashmi Thakur said, "Walking the red carpet is not just a personal debut. This is Telangana's debut. This is for every weaver in Pochampally whose threads hold 200 years of history. Pairing our handloom with Hyderabad pearls is my tribute to the craftsmanship of India."

The 79th Festival de Cannes runs from May 13-24. Thakur's appearance positions Indian handloom and Hyderabad pearls at the forefront of global luxury and cultural conversation.

NIMS sets national record with 2,000 kidney transplants

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy hails medical team for exceptional service

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CHIEF Minister A Revanth Reddy congratulated the doctors at Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) for achieving a landmark milestone in kidney transplant operations. The institute has now completed 2,000 kidney transplants, setting a national record.

The Department of Urology successfully carried out these transplants, making NIMS the number one institution in South India for kidney transplant surgeries. Nationally, the Institute of Kidney Diseases and Research Centre (IKDRC) in Gujarat holds the top rank, followed by Christian Medical College, Ludhiana, with NIMS at third place. Revanth Reddy praised the NIMS medical team for their dedication and exceptional service to patients suffering from kidney ailments.

Out of the 2,000 patients, 1,900 individuals (95%) underwent kidney transplants free of cost under the Rajiv Aarogyasri scheme and the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. Remarkably, the institute performed 500 kidney transplants in just three years and four months, starting from January 2023, setting a record in efficiency and patient care.



BJP flays govt for betraying farmers, workers

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BJP State Chief Spokesperson NV Subhash criticised the Congress government in Telangana accusing it of betraying farmers and workers through neglect and inadequate policies. In a statement released on Friday, BJP leaders highlighted two major issues: the crisis in crop procurement and the insufficiency of the recently announced minimum wage hike.

He said on Friday that across districts, including

Siddipet, Kamareddy, Adilabad, Medak, Karimnagar, Bhadradi, Vikarabad, and Mancherial, farmers are struggling to sell their produce. Paddy, maize, and sunflower crops remain piled up at procurement centres, with no weighing machines, gunny bags, or lorries available.

Farmers are forced to wait for weeks, even months, without any assurance from the government. BJP alleged that middlemen are exploiting the situation, buying sunflower at Rs 5,500-Rs 6,200 per quintal

against the support price of Rs 7,700, leaving farmers with losses of up to Rs 2,000 per quintal.

The party further accused the Congress government of humiliating farmers by asking them to purchase gunny bags themselves at Rs 23 each, adding thousands of rupees in extra costs. In Mancherial, over 128 lorries have been stranded for days, unable to unload crops.

With no tarpaulins provided, farmers fear their produce will be ruined by rain, further distressing

them. Reports of farmer suicides, including a recent case in Siddipet, were cited as evidence of the government's failure to protect rural livelihoods.

On labour issues, the BJP condemned the Congress government's announcement of minimum wage hikes, calling them inadequate and misleading. While the government claims to have raised wages after 12 years, workers argue that the revised amounts --ranging from Rs 14,000 to Rs 16,000 --are insufficient given the ris-

ing costs of rent, electricity, and healthcare. BJP demanded that unskilled workers receive at least Rs 25,000 to Rs 30,000 per month to cover basic living expenses.

The party also criticised wage disparities across zones, arguing that rural workers face the same living costs as those in urban areas. BJP insisted that the new wages must be uniformly implemented across all districts, including contract and outsourcing workers, and backed by strict enforcement.

SUMMER SAFEGUARDS

Zoo rolls out heat protection for wildlife

Sprinklers, foggers, coolers and hydration supplements help 2,100 animals beat soaring temperatures

SAIVIVEK ALLAKONDA
HYDERABAD

NEHRU Zoological Park has implemented various temperature-control measures to protect animals from dehydration and heat stress during the ongoing summer season. The facilities are benefiting around 2,100 animals belonging to 196 species.

To shield animals from extreme heat, zoo authorities have installed sprinklers, foggers and small rain guns in key enclosures, particularly in herbivore zones,



the Reptile House, macaw enclosures, pheasantry and aviaries. Temporary shaded shelters, thunga roofing and

stalled in monkey and carnivore sections, while the Nocturnal Animal House has been equipped with air-conditioners and exhaust fans. To help animals stay hydrated, keepers are serving seasonal fruits such as watermelon, musk melon and citrus fruits. Continuous supply of cold drinking water with electrolyte and vitamin supplements, including Glucon-D, Electral, vitamin C, B-complex, Stresswell and Thermo Care liquids, is being provided to reduce summer stress, said J Vasantha, Cura-

tor of Nehru Zoological Park. Park supervisors said teams are regularly wetting the thattis and thunga coverings three to four times a day and closely monitoring the animals' condition throughout the heatwave.

With a large number of people visiting the zoo during the summer holidays, staff have also arranged additional drinking water points, shaded resting areas and misting facilities at selected locations across the park to help visitors cope with the heat while exploring the zoo.

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Driver who fled with ₹9.63L arrested within 48 hours

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HYDERABAD

THE Sultan Bazar police solved a cash-in-transit theft case within 48 hours of it being reported and arrested a man from Gulbarga, who fled with nearly Rs 9.63 lakh in cash meant for bank deposit.

The arrested man was identified as Shaik Rahman (46), a car driver, and a resident of Bowenpally. Police seized a net cash of Rs 9,53,760, a mobile phone and car keys from him.

According to police, they received a complaint on May 19, at around 9 am, the complainant, Gaddam Malleth (Cash Custodian at Cleared Security Services Private Ltd - CSS) said that, he along with, another custodian and gunman and driver Shaik Rahman, set out on cash collection duties in a white Toyota Innova Crysta.

After collecting cash from various business outlets, including D-Mart and Mangalya Shopping Mall, they reached the SBI Main Branch at Bank Street, Koti,

around 2:20 pm to deposit the collections.

While the two custodians went inside the bank with a portion of the cash, leaving Rs 19,00,000 in five bags inside the vehicle, the gunman temporarily left the vehicle for the washroom.

Seizing the opportunity of being left completely unguarded, the driver Rahman immediately fled away with the transit vehicle. The vehicle was later found abandoned near District Hospital, King Koti.

Upon opening the vehicle with a duplicate key, it was discovered that the accused had fled away with two cash bags D-Mart cash bag containing Rs 5,88,932, and Mangalya cash bag containing Rs 3,74,533 with a total stolen amount Rs. 9,63,465.

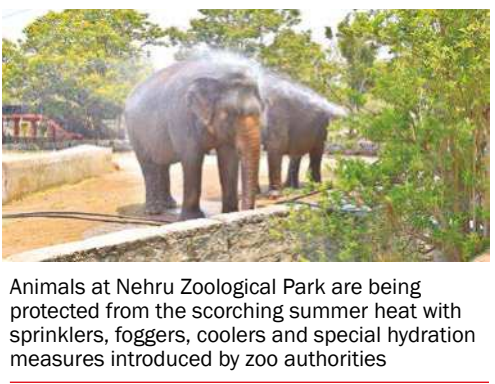
G Nares, SHO, Sultan Bazar said that following the complaint, a case was registered. Using investigation and technical tracking the accused was apprehended in Gulbarga.

The officer said a special team was immediately sent to Gulbarga, Karnataka.

OU announces admission schedule for special education courses 2026-27

HYDERABAD: The Directorate of Admissions at Osmania University has released the official schedule for admissions into Special Education courses for the academic year 2026-27. On Friday, a meeting, chaired by Prof I Panduranga Reddy, Director of Admissions, brought together representatives from leading institutions to finalise the process and ensure smooth coordination.

Institutions participating in the admission process include NIEPID, AY/NISHD, Helen Keller's Institute, Swayamkrushi, Thakur Hari Prasad, Padmanayaka, Maa Institute, Sahara Institute, Andhra Mahila Sabha College of Education, and Ashray-Akruti Institute. The meeting focused on streamlining procedures and adopting resolutions to strengthen accessibility for students aspiring to pursue specialised education programmes. According to the schedule, admissions advertisements will be issued between May 25 and 30. The sale and receipt of applications will begin on June 1 and continue until July 6.



Animals at Nehru Zoological Park are being protected from the scorching summer heat with sprinklers, foggers, coolers and special hydration measures introduced by zoo authorities