

# REVURI FLAGS OFF NEW RTC BUS SERVICE

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WARANGAL

REAFFIRMING the Congress government's commitment to strengthening public transport and rural infrastructure, Parakala MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy on Wednesday inaugurated a new RTC bus service connecting Warangal and Katrappalli via Khila Warangal, Stambampalli, Vasantapur, Vanchanagiri, Shayampet, Textile Park, Sangem and Kuntapalli. The MLA formally

launched the service at Katrappalli in Sangemmandal and later drove the bus himself up to Sangem, drawing cheers from passengers and local residents. Addressing the gathering, Reddy said the Congress government remained dedicated to providing better transport facilities and essential infrastructure to people, particularly those living in rural areas. He stated that the government was focused on the overall development of villages and was continuously identifying



and addressing public needs. According to him, ensuring access to reliable transportation was a key part of improving the quality of life for rural communities. Highlighting the government's welfare initiatives,

Reddy said women's empowerment and economic independence remained among its top priorities. He noted that the Mahalakshmi scheme, which allows women to travel free of cost on RTC buses, had significantly reduced travel expenses for poor and middle-class families. The MLA further said the government had introduced a model under which mandal-level women's federations purchase buses and lease them to the RTC, creating a sustainable source of income for women's

groups. He added that women across the state had collectively saved nearly Rs10,000 crore through the free bus travel scheme. Later, at a programme held at the Sangem MPDO office, Reddy distributed Indiramma housing sanction letters to 72 beneficiaries. Sarpanches, Congress leaders and government officials attended the event and expressed gratitude to the government for introducing the new bus service and extending housing benefits to eligible families.



## MLA distributes Kalyana Lakshmi cheques

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SIRPUR MLA Dr.Palvai Harish Babu distributed Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak cheques to beneficiaries at RythuVedikas in Dahegaon and Penchikalpetmandals on Wednesday.

A total of 123 beneficiaries received financial assistance under the welfare schemes, including 83 beneficiaries from DahegaonMandal and

40 from PenchikalpetMandal. Addressing the gathering, the MLA said the State Government was committed to supporting the marriages of girls from eligible families through the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes. He encouraged people to avail themselves of the benefits offered under these initiatives.

Officials, BJP leaders, beneficiaries and local residents attended the programme.

## 'A total killer, a tough trader'

Continued from P1

"As long as I am President, they (India) have a great friend in the White House... Everyone here loves India, and they have tremendous respect for this (PM Narendra Modi) man," he added.

"People say he's such a nice man. I said he's very tough. He's a tough trader, and he loves the Indian people, but he also loves the USA. We had 'Howdy Modi' in Houston. The stadium was full... We'll be going to India sometime in the future,"

Trump said.

In a potent remark, Trump, putting on display his bonhomie with the Indian leader, said his country would come to India's help should any country attack it. He, however, put a condition: PM Modi should be the leader. "I think it is a great relationship...If they were attacked, we would be there to help them...If anybody attacks that man, we are going to be there...If they are attacked and he (PM Modi) is the leader, we are going to be there to help," he said.

## Keep Hormuz open: Modi

Continued from P1

"We met in Washington last time... since then we've been moving forward together. It is a joy for us that our teams are working together, we're moving forward at a fast pace," Modi said. Trump described the meeting as "great" as heaped praise on Modi. "I think India plays a big role in everything as long as he (PM Modi) is the leader. India is going to play a big role," Trump said in response to a question on whether New Delhi has a role to play in West Asia. "As long as I am at the White House, India has a friend in the US," he said, answering a question on the strain in India-US ties. Responding to a question on the Indian seafarers killed in the conflict zone, Trump said he had been briefed about the incident and added that efforts were underway to address the issue. "I heard about that. It is a rough profession. We (PM Modi and him) are reworking at it," he said.

India had protested the attacks after the vessels carrying the Indian crew was attacked thrice within a week as ministry of external affairs had summoned US envoy in Delhi.

India has been pressing the United States for months for a Trump trip, potentially as part of a meeting including Japan and Australia.

## Modi flags concerns over impact of West Asia crisis

EVIAN-LES-BAINS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday proposed a framework to boost connectivity and trade by combining the strengths of the G7 nations, India and the Global South even as he flagged concerns over long-lasting consequences of the West Asia crisis on developing countries. The Prime Minister floated the proposal for setting up the International Mobilisation Partnership for Accelerating Connectivity and Trade (IMPACT) while speaking at an outreach session of the G7 summit in this French commune. Modi emphasised that modern economic growth cannot be measured solely by trade volume or GDP

numbers and that the true value of progress lies in its direction, and who ultimately benefits from it. The impact of the West Asian crisis on fuel, fertiliser, and food supply chains will have long-lasting consequences for the Global South, Modi said, adding the most vulnerable countries should not bear the burden of geopolitical crises. "If we truly want to strengthen international solidarity, the most vulnerable countries should not bear the burden of these crises alone," he said.

"Our international financial institutions must create support mechanisms that help developing countries absorb these shocks and maintain their economic resilience," Modi said.

The Prime Minister said the new framework to help the Global South can be modelled on the ambitious IMEC or India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor initiative. "Drawing inspiration from the IMEC vision, we can work on connectivity projects with countries in Africa, Latin America, and the Pacific Islands," he said. Combining the capital of the G7, India's talent, and the ownership of countries in the Global South, we could consider creating the International Mobilisation Partnership for Accelerating Connectivity and Trade, or IMPACT, he said. "Its objective should be to create corridors that connect trade, technology, energy, and opportunity," he added.

## 'If India is attacked, we will be there for Modi'

Continued from P1

I can tell you this: without even having a contract – we don't have a formal [mutual defence] contract; you have to have the right contract – but if they were attacked, we would be there to help." In a light-hearted remark, Trump later said the United States would be there to support India under PM Modi's leadership and then later joked and said that the situation might be different under a different leader. "Now, if there is a new leader, I am not sure about it. But if they are attacked and he is the leader, we are going to be there to help," Trump said.

## Telegram moves Delhi HC against govt curbs

Continued from P1

He said that over 150 million users had been affected by the Centre's action on Tuesday. SG Mehta sought an adjournment, saying that he had not put several things on record. "If the court posts the matter for Thursday, then there is something shocking I can show. One channel starts, it is prohibited, and then another is started. And with a QR code, you can make a payment. This is continuous," he said. "This has not happened overnight. We have been dealing with complaints since May. I don't wish to go beyond this. This platform is being misused, and imagine the situation which may arise," Mehta added. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), acting on recommendations of the National Testing Agency (NTA), issued a direction under

Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, restricting access to the Telegram platform in India till June 22, covering the day of the NEET (UG) 2026 re-examination and its immediate aftermath. A separate direction requires Telegram to disable in India the message-editing feature for already-posted messages till June 30, 2026, addressing the specific structural feature through which the platform has been used to fabricate after-the-event "paper leak" evidence in respect of national examinations, according to an NTA statement. "Both measures have been taken in the interest of public order, in response to the organised use of the platform by cheating rackets to defraud candidates appearing for the NEET (UG) 2026 re-examination scheduled on 21 June 2026," the NTA said on Tuesday.

## 'We're most famous couple'

Continued from P1

While the audio isn't very clear, PM Modi appeared to refer to their popularity on social media to Meloni. To this, the Italian Prime Minister said, "Yes, we are the most famous couple on Instagram".

This came nearly a month after PM Modi, during his trip to Rome, gifted Meloni a packet of Parle's Melody toffee - in reference to the viral 'Melodi' term. Sharing the video of PM Modi's 'sweet' gesture on her social media accounts, Meloni wrote, "Thank you for the gift".

The post featured both PM Modi and Meloni holding a packet of the popular Indian candy, known by its 'very, very chocolaty' tagline, as they laughed over the cheerful internet trend. In the clip, the

Italian Prime Minister says, "Prime Minister Modi brought as a gift a very, very good toffee." "Melody," then said PM Modi. "Melodi" - a blend of Meloni and PM Modi's names - began as an internet joke after their bilateral meeting in 2023. The term, often used in many viral clips and memes depicting warm, unscripted moments between the two leaders at multilateral summits, has racked up millions of views.

Meloni had used the term in a post first in 2024, along with a selfie with PM Modi. "Hi friends, from #Melodi," she had posted on X. In June 2025, she posted a selfie video with PM Modi from their G7 Summit interactions and captioned it as: "Hello, from the Melodi team." Since then, similar in-

teractions at global events have reinforced the perception of a warm personal chemistry between the two leaders.

However, the PM Modi-Meloni bond is not a mere photo opportunity; it is a foreign policy in motion. Italy has emerged as India's most consequential global partner, with both nations working towards the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) that anchors Rome as Europe's gateway to the Indo-Pacific. Bilateral trade between the two nations has crossed \$16.77 billion. Last month, PM Modi met Meloni over dinner during the last leg of his five-nation visit. They visited the iconic Colosseum, where the two leaders engaged in deep conversation over a wide range of subjects.

## UDDHAV SENA STARES AT SPLIT

Continued from P1

Amid reports of "Operation Tiger" being underway to engineer a split in the Sena (UBT), the party has issued a whip directing all its Lok Sabha MPs to attend a meeting of the parliamentary party in Delhi on Thursday at 11 am. The whip was issued by MP Anil Desai, the party's chief whip in the Lok Sabha.

Sena (UBT) functionaries said party chief Uddhav Thackeray may also travel to Delhi in an attempt to pacify the MPs and could attend the parliamentary party meeting on Thursday.

Late on Tuesday, Sena (UBT) parliamentary party leader Arvind Sawant wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om

Birla, requesting him not to entertain any claim seeking recognition of a separate group or a merger with another political party by the defecting MPs. Sawant said the party's claim that Shiv Sena (UBT) represents the "real Shiv Sena" remains sub judice before the Supreme Court and that his letter was being written without prejudice to that claim.

He was responding to reports that certain MPs elected on the Sena (UBT)'s symbol had either approached, or were contemplating approaching, the Speaker seeking recognition as a separate group or merger with another political party within the Lok Sabha.

## Deal not final: Trump

Continued from P1

Trump further trained guns at Islamic Republic of Iran for "misbehaving for 47 years". The sentiment Trump expressed in his latest remarks was much harsher than what he earlier said at the same G7 gathering. He had called the potential deal a very "powerful document", announcing that its content could be out "pretty soon".

His remarks come just days ahead of an agreement expected to be signed in Switzerland on Friday. Vice President JD Vance and Iran's parliament speaker, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf are reportedly set to attend.

The talks on a final US-Iran settlement to end the conflict are set to begin immediately after the signing of the accord and continue over a 60-day window to flesh out its details.

Last week, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi had said that the US and Iran have "never been closer" to a deal, and Trump had backed that sentiment. Trump's fresh threats to Iran could hamper some progress made last week when both sides expressed hope of reaching an agreement soon.

The US naval blockade was observed to be lifted in part. Iranian oil tankers exited the zone in the Gulf blockaded by the US Navy, the Tanker-Trackers website reportedly said, calling it the country's "first crude oil exports in two months". It came after an Iranian deputy foreign minister said the two-month US naval blockade on Iranian ports had been lifted.

## TG govt braces for de-siltation of irrigation projects

Continued from P1

He pointed out that severe flooding in Punjab last year inundated 16 of the state's 22 districts, forcing the government to spend nearly Rs 2,000 crore on flood-related damages and compensation. A substantial portion of such expenditure could have been avoided through timely preventive measures, including systematic de-siltation and restoration of drainage and storage capacities, he opined.

Uttam reviewed issues being faced by agencies engaged in the de-siltation of

the Kaddam Project and assessed the progress of works at the Lower Manair Dam (LMD) and Mid Manair Reservoir (MMR). He directed officials to come up with practical solutions to overcome operational bottlenecks and accelerate de-siltation efforts. He instructed the Chief Engineers of the Sri Ram Sagar Project (SRSP) and the Nizam Sagar Project to undertake a comprehensive assessment of de-siltation requirements in their respective projects and submit recommendations on

feasible measures for restoring lost storage capacity.

The Minister also cited the de-siltation of the Mangalam Dam in Palakkad district of Kerala as a successful example. The project, undertaken in 2017, demonstrated how scientifically planned de-siltation could simultaneously address reservoir sedimentation and generate economic benefits through the utilisation of excavated material. He said Telangana should study such successful models and adapt them to suit local conditions.

## Meta starts charging for Instagram, Facebook & WhatsApp

Continued from P1

These business plans are being tested in Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Thailand and Bangladesh first. Importantly, none of this replaces the existing Meta Verified subscription.

According to the experts, subscriptions could bring in \$20 billion of high-margin revenue annually by 2030. Deutsche Bank notes subscriptions could deliver as much as \$15.6 billion of additional revenue next year.

According to company data, 97.6% of Meta's revenue last year came from advertising, an alarming sign of the lack of progress it's made in growing beyond its core business in

the last two decades since its founding.

In contrast, Google, a company also built on the back of ads, had more non-ad revenue a decade ago than Meta had last year. That probably explains Zuckerberg's sudden urgency more than anything else.

In the meantime, users don't seem too enthused by the premium offerings that are more like a pay-to-play bet at the moment. While it's still early days, features like profile customisation, story rewatch counts, secret story viewing, and more chat pins are unlikely to garner huge interest beyond power users and influencers.

## Samajwadi split next?

Continued from P1

In a cryptic post on X, Rajbhar alleged that senior SP leader Ram Gopal Yadav had approached the Centre amid mounting pressure over alleged corruption cases and claimed that several party leaders were preparing to switch sides. "A major split is going to happen in the Samajwadi Party. Ram Gopal Yadav has submitted a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah ji. Everyone in Uttar Pradesh knows who the mastermind behind the mining scam and Gomti River Front scam is. As the noose tightens,

the SP is getting anxious," the post in Hindi stated. Forget Maharashtra and Bengal—the entire SP is sitting ready to join the BJP, Rajbhar added in the post. Responding to the claims, Samajwadi Party supremo took a sharp dig at the Uttar Pradesh minister, questioning his statements and motives. BJP engineered splits in many parties, poached SP MLAs, MLCs in Uttar Pradesh before, Akhilesh Yadav reportedly said. On Rajbhar's remark, Akhilesh Yadav said, "Dana aur gana kab tak chalega yeh ahsana (how long will their 'benefits and songs' continue)".

## TPS will instil confidence in public edu system: CM

Continued from P1

The Chief Minister affirmed that the government would establish a TPS in every Assembly constituency to provide quality education and train students in sports to produce India's talented sports persons in the future.

Addressing a public meeting after inaugurating the maiden Telangana Public School at Arutla in Manchal mandal of Rangareddy district on Wednesday, the Chief Minister asserted: "Telangana's future does not lie in glass-embellished

palaces or colourful walls. We firmly believe it lies within the classrooms."

"We are strengthening government schools based on the recommendations of the Education Commission. In all, 1,814 students have already enrolled in the Arutla Telangana Public School. It is matter of pride that 'No Admission' board had to be put up at a government school in view of the huge rush for admission," he said.

The Chief Minister mentioned that, as part of a move to nurture talented students, the government

has initiated steps to strengthen the government schools. The establishment of Telangana Public Schools was a sincere effort to revive the "abandoned public education system."

Revanth Reddy observed that many great leaders and officials studied in government schools. Former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao and himself also studied in government schools. The Chief Minister suggested that students must excel in education so that parents can live with self-respect. The Chief Minister emphasised

that every student should perform in their studies aiming to become IAS, IPS officers and future political leaders.

The Chief Minister warned his political rivals that they could lose their opposition status in the next Assembly elections if they do not stop making false allegations against the state government. He suggested that all his political opponents should visit the Arutla school and study the government's efforts to strengthen the public education system.

The Chief Minister

stressed that sports should be given importance to bring out talents in the schools. The Young India Sports University was established with an aim to help students excelling in sports win medals in Olympic Games. A sports training programme has been launched in the schools. He recounted how a football tournament was conducted in Hyderabad by inviting legendary Messi. He appealed to people to support the government, saying he is committed to transforming Telangana into a 'role model' for the country.

