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## INDIA'S SEMICONDUCTOR DREAMS GET A PUSH

Though India aspires to become a global semiconductor hub, it lacks a robust and integrated supply chain for the semiconductor industry, which involves the availability of raw materials, equipment, components, testing facilities, and skilled manpower. It imports all chips, and only a few elements of the semiconductor supply value chain are available indigenously. The complexity and capital intensity of semiconductor manufacturing are major barriers, with a new fab costing over \$1 billion to build. It is here that the cooperation with the Netherlands assumes strategic significance, as the Dutch company ASML is an undisputed global titan of semiconductor lithography equipment and occupies a near-monopoly position in the global chip ecosystem. It is no wonder, then, that cooperation in the semiconductor sector formed the key focus during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the Netherlands. India's dream of becoming a global chip manufacturing superpower is fundamentally tethered to the goodwill and supply chains of this Dutch enterprise. Without ASML, the mega-fabs currently breaking ground on Indian soil cannot produce most semiconductors. The visit came at a time when semiconductors have become the new geopolitical currency of power, shaping economic competitiveness, military capability, artificial intelligence, and digital sovereignty. With Dutch companies facing increasing restrictions on exports to China under pressure from Washington, India has emerged as an attractive hub because it is a democratic, politically stable, and strategically aligned alternative manufacturing destination within the broader "China-plus-one" framework. Dutch semiconductor firms are actively exploring diversification opportunities outside China, while Indian officials are encouraging the Netherlands to view India as a long-term production and innovation base.

During Modi's visit, Tata Electronics signed an MoU with ASML to support the establishment and ramp-up of its upcoming 300 mm semiconductor fabrication plant in Gujarat's Dholera, marking a giant step in India's semiconductor manufacturing ambitions. The significance of this partnership extends beyond hardware and manufacturing. The Netherlands offers India access to an entire ecosystem of semiconductor innovation involving research universities, photonics clusters, precision engineering firms, and advanced design capabilities. Such collaboration could help India avoid the mistake of becoming merely a low-cost assembly base. Instead, India aims to move up the value chain toward chip design, semiconductor R&D, advanced materials, and AI-integrated manufacturing systems. India's foreign policy has now shifted from traditional diplomacy centred on trade and politics towards what is being called "technology diplomacy". Triggered by widening trade restrictions linked to the ongoing technology rivalry between the US and China, European equipment manufacturers are increasingly looking for stable, neutral territories. India has been aggressively pitching a China-plus-one manufacturing strategy to these suppliers, inviting them to view India as their primary alternative production hub. India's lucrative subsidy programme, which covers up to 50% of project costs from the central government, alongside an additional 20% to 25% from State governments, makes the proposition financially irresistible for the ecosystem of suppliers

## Announcement of Puducherry district as a child marriage-free district: Koya Shri Harisha the District Collector

34,620 women pass literacy tests through the Pleasure Programme  
Commitment to work collectively to eradicate the indignities of ageathy on women

Peddapalli : The district collector, Koya Sri Harsha, said that the district has achieved remarkable results in the areas of women's empowerment, literacy through literacy programmes undertaken with the aim of eliminating child marriage in the district of peddapalli, along with the district's efforts to eradicate child marriage. The district is proud of the fact that the 95 per cent pass rate in literacy was achieved by 34,620 women who took the tests on Saturday under the auspices of the Girls' Association of the district. He said that the remaining 35,000 women will also be tested in the coming month of July. The officials, volunteers and members of the Women's Association who worked for this success were specially congratulated. In the meantime, officials, volunteers and members of the Women's Association



tion have confirmed that there are no child marriages taking place anywhere in 3 municipalities of Peddapalli district, Ramagundam Municipal Corporation, 263 village panchayats under the purview of 14 wards. Called upon everyone to work responsibly to prevent and counter violence, harassment and discrimination against women. Afterwards, everyone was pledged to work with a commitment to women's safety and protection. The programme included the district rural development officer Kalyanand, the district welfare officer Vaunugopal, the additional rural development officer Ravindra, the relevant officers, members of the Girls' Association of Friendship, and representatives of women's associations.

## "An Officer Who Won the Hearts of Employees... Grand Farewell to Baireddy Venkateswarlu"

Grand Felicitation to MNG OC Manager Baireddy Venkateswarlu on His Retirement  
Emotional Farewell by Private Security Personnel

Manuguru : A grand farewell ceremony was organized on Saturday for Mr. Baireddy Venkateswarlu, Manager of MNG OC, Manuguru, on the occasion of his retirement. Private security personnel of S & P C honored him with a shawl, flower garlands, and a memento as a mark of respect and appreciation for his services.

Several speakers praised Mr. Venkateswarlu for his dedicated service towards the development of the organization and the welfare of employees throughout his long career. They noted that he earned a good reputation as an approachable officer who maintained cordial relations with employees, workers, and security personnel alike.

The speakers highlighted his leadership qualities and proactive approach in resolving employee issues, stating that his contributions to the organization would remain memorable for years to come.

Responding to the honor, Mr. Baireddy Venkateswarlu expressed his gratitude to everyone who supported him throughout his professional career. He said that the cooperation of employees,



workers, and security personnel enabled him to successfully discharge his responsibilities.

The program was attended by S & P C Junior Inspector B. Vijayender along with K. Bharat, Podili Veerababu, N. Sudhakar, P. Ravi, G. Rajasekhar, V. Sairam, M. Motilal, Md. Yakub Pasha, M. Visweswara Rao, K. Sekhar Babu, U. Ramesh, A. Praveen Kumar, and others.

The farewell ceremony was conducted in a warm and cordial atmosphere. Participants wished Mr. Baireddy Venkateswarlu a healthy, happy, and prosperous retired life and expressed hope that he would continue serving society in the years ahead.

## All Arrangements Must Be Completed for Conduct of SSC Advanced Supplementary Examinations: Additional Collector Venugopal



Bhadradri Kothagudem : Additional Collector Venugopal has directed officials of all concerned departments to complete necessary arrangements for the smooth and foolproof conduct of the SSC Advanced Supplementary Examinations scheduled from June 5 to June 12, 2026.

Addressing a District-Level Coordination Committee meeting held on Saturday in his chamber at the IDOC office, the Additional Collector stated that the examinations will be conducted daily from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. He informed that a total of 1,399 students will appear for the examinations across the district and that four examination centres have been established for this purpose.

He said that four Chief Superintendents, four Departmental Officers, four Sitting Squads, and two Flying Squads have been appointed to ensure the smooth conduct of the examinations. Arrangements have also been made at all examination centres to provide students with drinking water, fans, ORS packets, toilet facilities, and basic medical services.

The Additional Collector advised students to identify their examination centres well in advance and

reach the centres at least one hour before the commencement of the examination. He also clarified that mobile phones, smart watches, and other electronic gadgets will not be permitted inside the examination centres.

He instructed all departments to work in coordination and ensure uninterrupted power supply, transportation facilities, medical services, security arrangements, and drinking water facilities during the examination period.

The meeting was attended by District Educational Officer B. Nagalakshmi, Medical Department representative Dr. T. Pratap, Electricity Department DE P.S.V.S. Nandaiah, Yellandu Municipality representative D. Srinivas, RTC representative K. Mohan Rao, DPO Office representative S. Srinivas, Postal Department representative M.D. Aleem, Kothagudem Municipal Corporation representative M. Ashok, Police Department representative P.D. Christopher, Assistant Director of Education Shambhu Prasad, Assistant Commissioner (Examinations) S. Madhava Rao, and other officials.

## Understanding of functioning of legislatures is necessary from the student stage itself:

District Collector Bhavesh Mishra.



Nirmal District Staff Reporter : As part of the "Democracy - Progress Plan", a model parliament of students organized as part of women's week celebrations and friendship program was held in the conference hall of the Collectorate on Saturday.

District Collector Bhavesh Mishra participated in this program. They watched the Mock Parliament conducted by the students. Speaking on the occasion, he said that students should have full understanding of the country's constitution, democratic systems, and the functioning of the legislature from the stage of being a student. He said that such programs will help them to become better leaders in the future. Students played the role of Prime Minister, Speaker, Leaders of Opposition and Union Ministers very effectively in this model Parliament. As part of the Mahila Sneha program, a bill was introduced in the House on women's safety, education and equal rights in the society and discussed in depth. Students in the roles of ministers gave answers to the questions asked by the students in the roles of opposition parties on public issues.

Regarding the sample parliament programme, the collector asked the students various questions and tested their knowledge. The Collector congratulated the students who participated enthusiastically and showed talent in the Model Parliament.

Vijayalakshmi, officer of District Rural Development Organization, other officers, staff and others participated in this Program.

## Permanent Solution Sought for\* Sundarayya Nagar Flood Woes

Residents Submit Representation to MLA

Residents of Sundarayya Nagar in Manuguru Municipality have appealed to the local MLA to provide a permanent solution to the flood, drainage, health, and financial problems they have been facing for the past ten years. The residents submitted a representation highlighting their long-standing grievances.

According to the residents, even a minor spell of rain inundates the entire colony during every monsoon season. Roads are submerged with overflowing drainage water, causing severe inconvenience to the public. They stated that sewage water frequently enters houses, damaging household goods, furniture, electrical appliances, and other essential belongings.

The residents expressed concern that children, pregnant women, senior citizens, and patients are suffering the most due to the unhygienic conditions. They alleged that diseases such as dengue, viral fevers, skin infections, and other communicable illnesses have become common because of stagnant sewage water. Sending children to schools during the rainy season has also become a major challenge.

They further stated that floodwater entering homes every year is damaging walls, floors, furniture, and household equipment, forcing many families to spend heavily on repairs and incur debts. Despite repeatedly approaching officials and public representatives over the past decade, no permanent solution has been provided, they alleged.

With the monsoon season approaching once again, residents said fear and anxiety have gripped the colony. They warned that if the situation remains unchanged, there could be serious threats to public health, property, and safety.

The residents urged the MLA to immediately intervene and initiate flood prevention measures, thoroughly clean and upgrade the drainage system, complete pending road works, and ensure a permanent solution to prevent rainwater from entering houses. They also requested special sanitation drives and medical camps to safeguard public health.

The people of Sundarayya Nagar appealed to the authorities to respond without delay and relieve them from years of recurring hardship and suffering. This version is suitable for publication in an English newspaper or news portal.



## YASANGI PROCUREMENT: NO RESTRICTIONS ON FARMERS IN SELLING THEIR PRODUCE, SAYS UTTAM

Hyderabad: Civil supplies minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy clarified that there were no restrictions to farmers and, regardless of targets, they may sell their paddy produce as the state government was ready to buy without any limits. He said Telangana had procured 60 lakh metric tonnes of paddy, accounting for 60 per cent of the country's total yasangi procurement.

He was addressing a press conference along with ministers, Tummala Nageswara Rao, Ponnampalapati Prabhakar and Mohammed Azharuddin, MPs and senior officials.

Reddy said unlike the previous BRS government, whose inefficiency led to distress sales of 117.83 LMT and a loss of Rs 23,566 crore for farmers, the Congress government had actually procured more grains than the Centre's targets. Uttam Kumar Reddy said that in comparison, AP had procured 24 LMT, Tamil Nadu 11-12 LMT, Maharashtra 3 LMT, and Kerala nearly 2 LMT.

"We have procured 128.17 LMT against the Union government's target of 105.2 LMT in 2024-25 and 146.86 LMT against the target of 112.24 LMT in 2025-26. The MSP paid to farmers was more than three times of that paid during the BRS regime. During these two



years we have paid '98,600 crore, in contrast to '1.35 lakh crores during ten years of BRS rule," he explained.

"By the time procurement concludes, Telangana is expected to account for nearly 75 per cent of

the country's total yasangi paddy procurement. We are far ahead of every other state in paddy procurement. We are also the number one state in supplying rice to the Food Corporation of India under the Central pool mechanism," he added.

Expressing concern over the Centre's procurement policy, Reddy said Telangana's paddy production has been increasing steadily year after year since the Congress government assumed office.

He said that the Union government's target for Telangana got shrunk, while production was growing. "Production grew by more than 28 per cent, but the Union government cut the target by 35 per cent from 79 LMT to 51 LMT. Telangana gets the lowest Union government target, only 38 per cent, despite being India's top Rabi procurement state," he explained.

Nageswara Rao and Prabhakar strongly criticised BJP and BRS leaders for what they described as these parties' 'politically motivated campaign' over paddy procurement, asserting that the on-going procurement drive was unparalleled in Telangana's history both in scale and execution.

## Indiramma Houses: The Referendum

Hyderabad: Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has



made it clear that the upcoming Legislative Assembly elections will serve as a referendum on the 'Indiramma Houses' scheme. On Friday, he held a review meeting with officials from the Housing Department. "The Congress government will construct more houses in urban areas than the BRS built over the last ten years. I stated that I would contest the elections only if we built more houses in Hyderabad than the BRS did. I issued a challenge to you (KTR): if Congress builds more houses, will you refrain from contesting the elections? Do you have the courage to accept this challenge, or not? Not only do you lack the courage to speak regarding Indiramma houses in the villages, but when challenged on the issue of housing in Hyderabad, you refuse to accept it and instead speak recklessly. You knelt before BJP leaders in Delhi to escape corruption cases. You begged the 'Saffron' leaders to have your cases waived. You engaged in 'Dharani' scams, 'Benami' frauds, and real estate irregularities. Everyone knows what your financial status was prior to 2014—and just how much you have looted over the last ten years. In the villages, Congress has constructed three times more houses in just two years than what was built over the entire ten-year period," he said. After reviewing the prototype designs developed for the 'Indiramma' housing scheme, the Minister issued several directives to the officials. He explicitly instructed that plans be formulated to construct buildings of up to ten stories in urban areas, based on local conditions. "With utmost sincerity, we have initiated the construction of 4.5 lakh houses in villages over the past two and a half years. On June 1st, we will launch the construction of another 2.5 lakh houses. In Hyderabad, we intend to construct 1 lakh houses in the first phase.

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday sounded a note of caution to the party over the upcoming special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral roll in Telangana, expressing apprehension that the state could face a large-scale deletion of genuine voters as had happened in West Bengal. Revanth Reddy said a dedicated war room was being set up at the TPCC headquarters, Gandhi Bhavan, where party workers could report discrepancies, irregularities or suspected wrongful deletions identified during the SIR. Such developments should also be immediately brought to the notice of the state government, he said.

## Revanth Puts Leaders On High Alert Over SIR

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday sounded a note of caution to the party over the upcoming special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral roll in Telangana, expressing apprehension that the state could face a large-scale deletion of genuine voters as had happened in West Bengal. Revanth Reddy said a dedicated war room was being set up at the TPCC headquarters, Gandhi Bhavan, where party workers could report discrepancies, irregularities or suspected wrongful deletions identified during the SIR. Such developments should also be immediately brought to the notice of the state government, he said.

Addressing the state Congress political affairs committee meeting here, Revanth Reddy urged party leaders to remain vigilant and ensure that the names of genuine voters were not removed from the electoral roll during the SIR. The meeting, which lasted for more than four hours, was attended by ministers, MPs, MLAs, AICC, senior party leaders, AICC Telangana in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan and TPCC president B. Mahesh Kumar Goud.

The PAC felt that the SIR had helped the BJP secure a



landslide victory in the recent West Bengal Assembly elections and warned that a similar situation could arise in Telangana if the Congress failed to remain alert. Revanth Reddy directed party leaders and workers to closely monitor the activities of booth-level officers (BLOs) involved in the revision process and activate the party's own booth-level network to safeguard voter rights.

Revanth Reddy warned that the SIR could become a major challenge for Lambadas, Adivasis and migrant workers. He pointed out that large numbers of people had migrated from some constituencies and stressed that special care must be taken to ensure that their names were not removed from the voter rolls. He also cautioned that women, Dalits and

minorities could face the risk of losing their voting rights if the process was not carefully monitored.

The Chief Minister called for comprehensive awareness among party leaders regarding the problems that could arise from the revision exercise and the remedies available to address them. He welcomed the growing recognition among party leaders of the challenges that ordinary citizens, the poor and Congress workers might encounter due to the SIR. As part of the party's strategy, Revanth Reddy suggested assigning Rajya Sabha members and MLCs specific responsibilities within Hyderabad and organising Assembly constituency-wise meetings on SIR across all 15 Assembly segments in the city. He also called for cluster-level awareness

meetings by the Mahila Congress to educate women voters about the revision process and their rights. Drawing parallels with the party's successful digital membership drive, Revanth Reddy recalled that Congress had enrolled 45 lakh digital members in just 90 days with the support of booth enrollers. He noted that top performers in the membership campaign were honoured by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and suggested that the same network of enrollers should now be utilised for the SIR. He proposed appointing dedicated in-charges for all 119 Assembly constituencies and 17 Lok Sabha constituencies and insisted that Assembly constituency in-charges must remain stationed in their respective areas. If they functioned effec-

tively, not a single genuine vote would be deleted, he asserted. The Chief Minister announced that he, too, would interact with party workers in the field every 10 days and earmark three days every month specifically for party affairs. "No exemptions should be given to anyone, including myself," he remarked. According to party sources, Revanth Reddy expressed dissatisfaction over the functioning of a few Congress MLAs, observing that they were behaving like "zamindars" and had become increasingly inaccessible to the public. He reportedly remarked that some legislators were focusing more on personal publicity through social media rather than promoting the party and government programmes. Emphasising the growing importance of digital outreach in contemporary politics, the Chief Minister reportedly suggested that the party leadership organise dedicated training programmes for MLAs on the effective use of social media. Such programmes, he said, would help legislators better communicate the government's initiatives, strengthen the party's presence online and improve engagement with the public.

## State Govt Clears All Employee Dues

Hyderabad: The state government on Friday released Rs 2,000 crore to clear pending dues of employees. It has fully cleared pending GPF dues owed to retired employees. Additionally, all commutation dues pending up to May 2025 for retired employees have also been fully settled.

In a media statement, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, holding the finance portfolio, said the Congress government had once again demonstrated its commitment to the welfare of its employees.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Bhatti had earlier assured leaders of the Employees' Joint Action Committee (JAC) that long-pending dues of employees amounting to Rs 6,000 crore would be cleared within 100 days. Special chief sec-



retary, finance, Sandeep Kumar Sultania issued orders on Friday, releasing Rs 2,000 crore in the first phase.

"This has been made possible through advance planning and a clear action strategy. As promised, the government is working at a fast pace to deposit the remaining Rs 4,000 crore into employees' accounts within the stipulated timeline," Bhatti stated.

## Owaisi: If Roadside Namaz Is Wrong, So Are Other Religious Events

Hyderabad: AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Friday argued that if offering namaz on roads is unacceptable, the same standard must apply to street celebrations of every religion—remarks he made while condemning the spate of alleged attacks against Muslims across the country. Addressing a gathering at the AIMIM headquarters here on Friday evening, he alleged attempts to marginalise Muslims and reduce them to "second-class citizens".

Referring to fuel prices and global crude oil dynamics, he said that while disruptions such as the blockade in the Strait of Hormuz affect prices, questions should also be asked about the benefits reaped by Indian com-



panies during periods of cheaper Russian oil imports. "Remember Article 25. If offering namaz on roads is wrong, then festivals of every religion on roads are also wrong. If you say meat shops should be closed during someone's festival, then all liquor shops should

be closed for 30 days during Ramadan," he claimed.

He asked why there are no objections to religious yatras from Uttarakhand to Delhi when roads are allegedly blocked. "How long does namaz on roads take when it happens?" he said, adding that festivals of

every religion take place on roads in the country. He further alleged that restrictions are imposed on the sale of eggs, meat, and chicken during Hindu festivals. He claimed that TV channels highlight issues such as Muslims offering namaz on roads, while ignoring issues like "the anguish of parents over the NEET paper leak."

Asserting that India belongs to Muslims as well, he said they would continue to fight their issues in a democratic manner. "How can you snatch away my religious freedom?" he asked, adding that there is no adequate debate on the alleged rise in crimes against women. Speaking about the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Assam, he questioned why principles of

## AP Aims To Emerge As Major Textile Hub: Giriraj Singh

Vijayawada: Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh on Friday said the Centre would extend full support to develop Andhra Pradesh into a major textile manufacturing hub, while emphasising the need to improve cotton productivity and promote advanced textile manufacturing in the state. The Union minister arrived

here on Friday on a two-day stay in Andhra Pradesh and visited the Spintex India unit at Mallavalli Industrial Park in Bapulapadu mandal of Krishna district. State textiles minister S. Savitha and Spintex India managing director Vallabhaneni Sudhakar Chowdary received the Union minister at the industrial unit.

Giriraj Singh held discussions with industrialists on establishing silk and textile-related industries in AP. Addressing the media, Singh said he would hold discussions with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu on ways to develop AP into a prominent textile manufacturing state. Andhra Pradesh, he noted, has the potential to perform



strongly in various industrial sectors and stressed the need to improve cotton productivity.

"Globally, cotton yield averages nearly 2,000 kg per hectare, while India produces only around 450 kg per hectare. We need focused policies on seeds and modern cultivation practices to substantially improve cotton production," he said. The Union minister said AP was already recognised for

its handloom sector and that the Centre recently approved one textile cluster for the state, while another cluster proposal was under consideration. Coordinated efforts by the Centre and the state government were necessary to strengthen the handloom sector further. Stating that the Centre aimed to make Andhra

Pradesh a major destination for both handlooms and modern textiles, Giriraj Singh said technical textiles were witnessing rapid global expansion. He cited emerging opportunities in sectors such as glass fibre, carbon fibre and graphene. Singh would inaugurate a glass fibre unit in Visakhapatnam on Saturday.

# Collective Effort Vital to Make NTR District Drug-Free: Collector, CP

**VIJAYAWADA:** NTR district collector Dr G. Lakshmisha and police commissioner S.V. Rajasekhar Babu have called for greater public participation in efforts to eliminate narcotics abuse and make NTR district drug-free.

The appeal was made at the district-level coordination meeting of the Nasha

Mukt Bharat Abhiyan and Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) held in Vijayawada on Saturday. The meeting reviewed the implementation of anti-drug initiatives, including the "Drugs Pai Dandayatra" campaign, EAGLE operations, de-addiction services, awareness programmes, NGO partici-

pation, Operation Safe Campus Zone and inspections at identified hotspots.

Addressing the meeting, Dr Lakshmisha said substance abuse had serious consequences for individuals, families and society. He noted that drug addiction could lead to health complications, including heart, liver and lung ail-



ments, weakened immunity, depression, memory loss and reduced concentration, apart from causing financial and social problems.

The collector said coordinated efforts by EAGLE teams and the police, revenue, education and health departments

had produced encouraging results. He directed officials to strengthen surveillance at nearly 150 identified hotspots and utilise night-vision drones to monitor vulnerable locations during night hours.

Emphasising community involvement, he called for wider publicity of the anti-drug helpline number

1972 and instructed officials to intensify awareness campaigns through outreach programmes and EAGLE stalls.

Police commissioner Rajasekhar Babu said stringent action was being taken against those involved in the supply and consumption of narcotics. He stated that enhanced surveillance

at hotspots, railway stations, bus stands and other public places had yielded positive results.

The commissioner said awareness campaigns were being conducted to educate young people about the dangers of drug abuse and to encourage community participation in prevention efforts.

# Naidu Wants 33% Women's Quota Propagated in Every AP Household

**Vijayawada:** Telugu Desam national president and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has called upon party leaders and cadre to vigorously take the Mahanadu resolution on 33 per cent reservation for women to the grassroots, describing it as a landmark initiative capable of bringing about significant changes in Indian politics.

Addressing TD general secretaries, zonal in-charges, and senior leaders through a video conference, the Chief Minister reviewed the success of the party's annual Mahanadu conclave held in a hybrid format for the first time, apart from organisational issues and the

party's future action plan.

Congratulating party leaders, organisers and cadre for making the Mahanadu a grand success, Naidu said the party's decision to provide 33 per cent reservation for women has now become a topic of discussion throughout the country. The Chief Minister disapproved remarks made by senior Telangana TD leader Bakkani Narsimhulu. He said leaders must exercise caution while speaking about regions with a rich historical background and ensure that public sentiments are not hurt.

"Telugu people are one community wherever they live. Telugu Desam had been



born on Telangana soil and continues to enjoy a strong cadre base there. The party has played a significant role in promoting social justice and development in Telangana," Naidu maintained. Speaking informally to media at the NTR Bhavan later, the TD national president launched a fresh attack on the YSRC, alleging that its perception within public as a

"hatchet party" is growing stronger. Referring to the murder of former minister Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy, he said the legal battle being pursued by Viveka's daughter Sunitha is justified and has kept the case alive.

"Sunitha has every right to know who killed her father. Her fight has ensured that the case remains in the public eye," he remarked. On the Central Women's Reservation Bill and delimitation of constituencies, Naidu said the Narendra Modi government appears determined to move ahead with both the measures, which could bring about far-reaching political changes. He maintained that the two

issues should not be viewed separately. He felt opinions of former critics may have changed over time.

The Chief Minister observed that Andhra Pradesh could face disadvantages whether delimitation is based on the 2011 Census or on fresh population figures. Increasing the existing number of Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies by 50 per cent, he suggested, would ensure that no state suffers losses. Later, several aspirants seeking Rajya Sabha tickets met Naidu at NTR Bhavan. They included Varla Ramaiah, Kambhampati Ram Mohan Rao and Reddappagari Srinivasa Reddy.

# CM Pushes Amaravati Urban Mobility With Rs.547 Cr Infra Near High Court

**Vijayawada:** Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, in a major push towards developing Amaravati as a future-ready capital city, on Saturday directed officials to focus on comprehensive urban mobility planning and sustainable infrastructure development. Addressing the 61st meeting of the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) held at the CM's Camp Office, he approved 18 agenda items aimed at accelerating the development of the capital region. Among the key decisions is the approval of infrastructure works worth ₹547.07 crore near the High Court complex in Amaravati.

Naidu green signalled construction of a Giant Observation Wheel under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model on a Design-Build-Operate-Transfer basis to promote tourism in the capital city. Approval has been granted for the establishment of ATMs, kiosks and other public utility facilities in the Land Pooling Scheme (LPS) layouts wherever suitable road-front spaces are available. To strengthen urban services, the Chief Minister approved the development of a City Gas Distribution Network through PPP or joint-venture mode. Further, he directed officials to develop housing complexes for lower- and middle-income groups in line with the guidelines of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. He further approved the establishment of a dedicated Building Tribunal to resolve disputes relating to buildings and unauthorised constructions in Amaravati.

In addition, a mediation centre will be set up to facilitate amicable settlement of disputes. In another significant move, the CRDA has been authorised to establish its own Fire Services wing and fire regulatory mechanism for issuing no-



objection certificates (NOCs). The meeting approved cancellation of the existing Tabreed agreement for the proposed district cooling system and decided to invite fresh tenders. Relief has been extended to 495 farmers in LPS layouts through exemption of registration fees arising from changes in allotment codes.

Naidu approved preparation of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for planning the Amaravati Economic Region, which spans nine districts from Eluru to Prakasam. He directed officials to prepare integrated development plans aimed at generating economic activity across the region. Emphasising Amaravati's vision as a "Blue-Green City," the Chief Minister advocated a centralised cooling system for all government buildings and offices, with chilled air distributed through duct-based networks. He pointed out that Andhra Pradesh already hosts bulk chilling equipment manufacturers and urged officials to leverage local capabilities.

Naidu directed that every township in the capital region should support work-from-home facilities and function as a hub for residential, commercial and economic activity. He instructed officials to ensure accommodation facilities for attendants in hospitals and expedite the establishment of hotels and convention centres in the capital region.

Those who attended the meeting included municipal administration and urban development minister P. Narayana, Chief Secretary G. Sai Prasad, principal secretary (municipal administration) S. Suresh Kumar and ADC and CRDA officials

# Irrigation Advisory Board Decides To Release Water Into Canals From Today

**Kakinada:** The Irrigation Advisory Board (IAB), which met in Rajamahendravaram on Saturday, has decided to release water into canals from Sunday in a phased manner for taking up agriculture operations and for drinking water purposes.

When the Water Resources department superintendent engineer G. Srinivasa Rao presented the proposal to release the water into canals at the meeting presided over by East Godavari district in-charge collector Y. Megha Swaroop, Anaparthi MLA Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy suggested it would be better to release the water from June 15, as the canal maintenance and repair works have not yet been completed.

However, SE Srinivasa Rao maintained that canal works can go on even when the water is being released.

Tourism minister Kandula Durgesh intervened to say that due to prevailing weather conditions, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu



Naidu feels that water should be released one month ahead on Sunday, May 31, instead of July 1. This would enable farmers to raise paddy for transplantation for an early harvest, keeping in mind the potential impact of EI Nino.

The minister asked officials to take proactive measures to ensure that farmers do not face any difficulties in irrigating their crops, as the Kharif season is about to commence. Durgesh advised farmers not to rely solely on rainfall but formulate plans to undertake early transplantation of crops. He maintained that contingency plans are in place in case any shortage of water is felt due to adverse conditions.

The minister thanked the

Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan, and Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu for sanctioning Rs 147 crore to repair the 175 gates of Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage at Dowleswaram, and Rs 100 crore for protecting Godavari River from pollution.

BJP MLC Somu Veerajulu said efforts are being made to get funds from central government's Jal Shakthi Mission for the upcoming Godavari Pushkaralu.

Rajamahendravaram Rural MLA Gorantla Buchaiah Chowdary suggested that more responsibilities be handed over to water distributory committees for ensuring fair supply of irrigation water.

# Andhra Pradesh First to Operationalise Industry Partnership Under PM-SETU

**Vijayawada:** Andhra Pradesh has become the first state in the country to operationalise an industry partnership under the Centre's Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) scheme, following approval of the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) for the Visakhapatnam ITI Cluster.

The approval was granted by the National Steering Committee (NSC) of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), making the Visakhapatnam cluster the first project cleared under the Rs 60,000-crore PM-SETU programme.

The proposal was submitted by ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India in partnership with the New Age Makers Institute of Technology (NAMTECH), positioning Andhra Pradesh at the forefront of industry-led vocational education reforms.

The decision was taken at the third meeting of the National Steering Committee held at Kaushal Bhawan in New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and attended by senior officials from the Directorate General of Training, representatives of Central



ministries, state governments, industry bodies and development partners, including the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

Officials described the approval as a significant step towards transforming government Industrial Training Institutes into modern, industry-managed institutions aligned with emerging technologies

and workforce requirements.

With Andhra Pradesh becoming the first state to onboard an Anchor Industry Partner under PM-SETU, the Visakhapatnam ITI Cluster is expected to serve as a model for strengthening industry participation in vocational education across the country.

The committee also reviewed the implementation of PM-SETU nationwide and discussed measures to strengthen industry-led governance, improve institutional management, ensure financial sustainability and accelerate project execution.

PM-SETU aims to upgrade 1,000 government ITIs across the country through a hub-and-spoke model based on partnerships between governments and industry. The programme seeks to modernise infrastructure, improve employability outcomes and establish National Centres of Excellence in high-growth sectors.

According to the ministry, 32 states and Union Territories have constituted State Steering Committees, while 12 states have invited proposals from industries to participate as Anchor Industry Partners. Several proposals are at advanced stages of evaluation and approval.

## Kannuri Krupavaram, Adivarampet Village from Ramagiri Mandal, has made it into the Guinness Book of World Records.

Peddapalli Correspondant, May 30; Kannuri Krupavaram, from Adivarampet village of Ramagiri district, performed simultaneously keyboard music by about 2000 keyboard players from 22 countries at a musical event coordinated by Hallel Music School under the auspices of Guinness representatives at the Zoroastrian Club in Hyderabad. It is remarkable that a few people whose talent was spot-



ted were chosen for the Guinness Book of World Records. The selected one, Kannuri Krupavaram, was presented with the Guinness World Records Certificate by Augustine Dangangi, founder of Hallel Music School during a "Guinness Achievers Meet" event at the Victor Memorial Hall, Gachibowli, Hyderabad on Friday, February 29.

## Police should work with ethics and honesty Telangana DGP C.V. Anand



Warangal Bureau; The Telangana DGP said that every police officer should work with ethics and honesty. After taking charge as the Telangana State DGP, the DGP held a video conference with the state police officers from Hyderabad. Warangal Police Commissioner Sunpreet Singh participated in the video conference from the camp office. On this occasion, the DGP directed the police officers and issued several orders on the duties to be performed by the police officers for the maintenance of law and order, as well as the manner in which the officers and staff should follow the working hours. DCPs, Additional, ACPs, Inspectors, SIs from the Warangal Commissionerate participated in this video conference meeting from their offices.

## People should co-operate fully with the house listing survey: District Collector Koy Sriharsh

The information given in the survey will not create any difficulty with the welfare schemes

The District Collector involved in the house listing survey at the Camp Office

Peddapalli Correspondant May-30: On Saturday District Collector Koay Sri Harsha took part in the house listing survey that was conducted at his camp office and handed over the details necessary to the enumerator. The enumerator stated that the process of the survey is to help the government in planning the future of the country. The house listing survey is a key step in the census. The Census Officer, Koay Sri Harsha, stated that the details of the structure of the house, domestic amenities, drinking water accommodation, sanitation facilities, electricity, cooking fuel, communications facilities were to be recorded in the survey. The enumerator was requested to co-operate with the enumerators and enumerators' assistants and to give no false information. The enumerators and enumerators' assistants were requested to co-operate with the enumerators and enumerators' assistants and to give no false information. The enumerators and enumerators' assistants were requested to co-operate with the enumerators and enumerators' assistants and to give no false information. The enumerators and enumerators' assistants were requested to co-operate with the enumerators and enumerators' assistants and to give no false information.



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## Senior Congress leader joins BJP Dr. Kali Prasad Rao invites him with a scarf



Warangal Bureau : Senior Congress leader Damerupula Veeresh from Narlavai village in Sangem mandal of Warangal district joined BJP. BJP state executive member Parakala constituency contested MLA Dr. Pagdal Kali Prasad Rao cordially invited him to the party and gave him membership in the party by covering him with a scarf.

BJP Sangem Mandal Party President Chandramouli, District Council Member Butti Kumaraswamy, Minority Morcha President MD Rahmatullah, Narlavai Polling Booth President Rajamouli and others participated in the program.

## Comprehensive Arrangements Must Be Made for Godavari Pushkaralu: Endowments Principal Secretary Shailaja Ramaier

Bhadra d r i Kothagudem District Correspondent: Endowments Department Principal Secretary Shailaja Ramaier directed all departments to work in coordination and take comprehensive measures to ensure the successful conduct of the Godavari Pushkaralu scheduled for 2027, while ensuring that devotees do not face any inconvenience.

On Saturday, she, along with Endowments Commissioner Hanumantha Rao, conducted a video conference from Hyderabad with the Collectors of Godavari basin districts to review the preparations required for the mega religious event.

Speaking on the occasion, Shailaja Ramaier stated that lakhs of devotees are expected to visit the Godavari River for



holy dips during the Pushkaralu. Therefore, all departments should prepare in advance and coordinate effectively to provide seamless services to pilgrims. She emphasized the need to focus on the development of bathing ghats, road connectivity, parking facilities, drinking water

supply, sanitation, medical services, and security arrangements.

She instructed officials to prepare detailed proposals for providing all necessary facilities at bathing ghats and submit them to the government. District Collectors were directed to continuously monitor the progress of

works in their respective jurisdictions and coordinate with concerned departments to ensure the successful conduct of the festival. She assured that priority works would be taken up on a priority basis after examining the proposals received from the districts.

Speaking during the

meeting, District Collector Ankith briefed the officials on the works proposed by the Irrigation, Roads & Buildings, Panchayat Raj, and Endowments Departments in connection with the Pushkaralu. He informed that proposals for the development of bathing ghats, infrastructure creation, road widening, and construction of new roads had already been prepared and submitted by the concerned departments. Additional proposals relating to roads and other infrastructure requirements would also be sent to the government shortly, he added.

Bhadra d r a l a m Devasthanam Executive Officer Damodar Rao, ZP CEO Nagalakshmi, CPO Sanjeeva Rao, and officials from various departments participated in the video conference.

## MLA Payam Venkateswarlu Extends Support to Fire Victims

Immediate Financial Assistance Provided, Assures Indiramma Houses



Pinapaka Correspondent : Pinapaka MLA Payam Venkateswarlu visited and consoled families affected by a recent fire accident in Ippalagumpu village, under Pandurangapuram Gram Panchayat of Pinapaka Mandal, on Saturday.

The houses of Goggela Abbaiah and Komaram Rambabu were completely destroyed in the accidental fire, leaving the families

in severe distress. Upon learning about the incident, the MLA personally visited the affected area, interacted with the victims, and enquired about the circumstances surrounding the mishap.

During the visit, he comforted the family members and assured them that both the government and he would stand by them during this difficult time.

As the fire completely gutted their

houses, household belongings, and essential items, the MLA provided immediate financial assistance from his personal funds to the two affected families. He also announced that new houses would be sanctioned to them under the Indiramma Housing Scheme.

Speaking on the occasion, Payam Venkateswarlu said that he had already discussed the matter with con-

cerned officials and directed them to assess the losses and ensure that all eligible relief and compensation, including assistance under government norms and disaster relief provisions, are provided at the earliest.

Addressing the victims, the MLA said, "It is my responsibility as a public representative to support families who have lost their homes in such unfortunate incidents. We will ensure

that they receive Indiramma houses and all possible assistance from both the government and my personal side so that they can rebuild their lives and return to normalcy."

Several Congress Party leaders, local public representatives, village elders, government officials, party workers, and villagers participated in the visit.

## Impressive Mock Parliament of Teenage Girls

Contribution to the enhancement of democratic values  
Warangal District Collector Dr. Satya Sharada

Maha Warangal Bureau; As part of the Mahila Shakti Week organized as part of the Public Administration and Progress Plan, the Mock Parliament program organized by the Rural Poverty Eradication Organization Warangal District at the GWMC Council Hall on Saturday impressed the children.

In the Mock Parliament, discussions and question and answer sessions were held on topics such as education, health, safety, facilities in government schools, transportation, infrastructure, anemia among teenage girls, the need for friendship groups, and empowerment of girls.

The girls effectively played the roles of Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, members of the ruling party, reporters, and members of the Resolutions Committee, demonstrating the procedures of the Parliament.

District Collector Dr. Satya Sharada participated in this program and congratulated the girls.

Speaking on the occasion, District Collector Dr. Satya Sharada said that as part of the 99-day action plan of the Public Administration Progress Plan and as part of the Women's Week celebrations, the Sneha Maa Parliament was organized on Saturday and the parliament was organized by these Sneha groups.



Programs like Mock Parliament are very useful in developing leadership qualities, self-confidence, and awareness of democratic values among teenage girls. He said that it is commendable that girls fearlessly express their opinions on key issues such as education, health, security, and infrastructure. He said that by identifying problems and suggesting solutions to them, their thinking ability and leadership skills are very necessary for the future development of society and nation building.

Sneha is a concept of safety, nutrition, education and health.

This Sneha program was started as a pilot project in Warangal district under the auspices of UNICEF and is being implemented in 33 districts. Children were also provided with awareness through this group. In addition to making it a flat sheet program in our district, it is being implemented nationwide

The government is giving special priority to the empowerment of girls. The Collector addressed the children on this occasion and said that girls should focus on education, health and skill development and achieve high goals.

He said that they have learned good things through this mock parliament. He said that it is commendable that children fearlessly mention the problems they are facing and express their opinions on their solutions.

He said that such programs enhance democratic values, leadership qualities, problem-solving skills and the ability to speak boldly. Everyone was delighted to hear that steps would be taken to bring the resolutions proposed in the mock parliament to the attention of the government.

On this occasion, volunteers and learners who showed talent in the 'Ullas-Ammaku Aksharamala' program were honored.

Later, medical examinations were conducted for teenage girls and women with the help of the medical department.

Next, Rani Rudramadevi District Women's Association held a special general meeting and suggested that women should take advantage of government welfare schemes and develop economically.

Additional Collector G Sandhyarani, ZP CEO Ram Reddy, DMHO Sambasiva Rao, DEO Rangayya Naidu, DWO Rajamani, DPMs, APMs, SC RP staff, and VOAs from various villages participated in the program.

# Social Justice Under Threat in Gurukul Contracts?



Hyderabad: The issue surrounding multi-crore contracts linked to Telangana's Gurukul educational institutions has now triggered intense political and social debate across the state. The SC, ST, BC, and Minority Contractors Association has strongly alleged that Government Order No. 17 introduced by the state govern-

ment has become a major obstacle for small contractors belonging to economically weaker and marginalized sections. The association has accused the government of sidelining welfare-oriented tender policies that existed during the KCR administration and replacing them with a system designed to benefit large corporate entities at the

- Red Carpet for Corporates, Closed Doors for the Poor
- GO 17 Delivers Severe Blow to Thousands of Small Contractors
- What Happened to Reservation Promises for SCs, STs, and BCs?
- Discrimination Allegations Over ₹2,000 Crore Contracts
- Corporate Grip Tightens Under Congress Governance
- MSMEs Crushed by Restrictive Tender Conditions
- Why Are Local Contractors Being Excluded in Telangana?
- Demand Mounts for Cancellation of GO 17 and Equal Opportunities

cost of thousands of livelihoods.

According to association leaders, during the previous BRS government, Gurukul tenders were allocated school-wise, mandal-wise, and district-wise, thereby creating opportunities for local unemployed youth, former Gurukul students, and particularly contractors from SC, ST, and BC communities. They stated that nearly 10,000 to 15,000 small contractors were able to emerge and establish themselves under that decentralized model. Tender application fees were limited to just ₹2,000, and SC/ST contractors were given a 40 percent subsidy on EMD payments.

The association noted that this framework enabled youth from economically weaker families to rise as entrepreneurs and achieve financial independence. They further stated that the same budget allocated for students' welfare not only supported educational advancement but also created employment opportunities for local contractors while contributing to the production of thousands of engineers, hundreds of doctors, and students pursuing education abroad.

However, serious allegations have now surfaced against the Congress government, with claims that GO 17 has centralized tenders in a manner that overwhelmingly benefits corporate firms. Essential supply contracts involving groceries, eggs, chicken, mutton, vegetables, fruits, uniforms, shoes, notebooks,

bedsheets, and other materials have reportedly been bundled into large district and state-level packages, effectively excluding small contractors from participation. Particular criticism has been directed at the imposition of ₹500 crore turnover requirements, massive security deposits, and heavy EMD conditions, which the association says have made it impossible for MSMEs, small traders, and contractors from weaker sections to compete. The increase in tender form prices to as high as ₹50,000, coupled with substantial fees even for attending pre-bid meetings, has been described as a deliberate strategy to eliminate poor contractors at the entry level itself.

The central question raised by the association is: What happened to the promises made in the Chevella and Kamareddy declarations? During the election campaign, the Congress party had publicly promised 18 percent reservation for SCs, 12 percent for STs, and 42 percent for BCs in government contracts. However, the association alleges that not a single contract has been awarded in accordance with those assurances since the party assumed office.

The association has further argued that the exclusion of SC, ST, BC, and minority communities from these ₹2,000 crore education department contracts is contrary to the spirit of the Constitution. It accused the government of abandoning its social

justice commitments and prioritizing dominant corporate interests instead.

Another major concern raised is that despite the High Court reportedly suggesting modifications to certain provisions, the government proceeded with the same notification under GO 17 without substantial changes. This has fueled suspicions that the framework was intentionally designed to favour select corporate entities.

The association recalled that under the KCR government, District Purchase Committees provided local contractors with fair opportunities, while SC and ST contractors received specific concessions. Without demanding heavy bank solvency certificates or massive turnover benchmarks, thousands of local youth were given opportunities to become entrepreneurs and build sustainable businesses.

In contrast, the current policy framework is being criticized as one that effectively reduces weaker sections to the status of wage labourers, denying them pathways to economic advancement. The association has questioned how a state achieved through prolonged struggle can now deny opportunities to its own people.

The SC, ST, BC, and Minority Contractors Association has placed several demands before the government, including the immediate cancellation of GO 17, allocation of Telangana contracts exclusively to Telangana-based



contractors, creation of opportunities for small and medium enterprises, implementation of the Chevella and Kamareddy declarations, and complete exemption from EMD and security deposit requirements for marginalized contractors. Posing the sharp question, "Contracts for corporates, hardships for the poor?" the association has urged the government to act immediately in the interest of social justice. The issue is now generating widespread unrest among small contractors across Telangana. The association has warned that if the government fails to respond, statewide protests and intensified agitation are inevitable.

## ODF Management's Rigid Stand Puts Thousands of Workers' Lives at Risk



- Management's unilateral decision leaves workers stranded
- 30-kilometre detour turns daily commute into a nightmare
- Workers forced to risk their lives on dangerous roads
- Innocent employees penalized while culprits roam free
- Workers warn of large-scale protest if route is not reopened immediately

Shankarpally Correspondent, May 29: The industrial belts of Pasamailaram and Isnapur have long served as a vital source of employment for thousands of families residing in Shankarpally and surrounding villages. Every day, hundreds of youth, women, and workers commute to these industrial zones, earning their livelihood and supporting their families. However, the recent rigid and insensitive decision taken by the ODF management has thrown the lives of thousands of workers into severe dis-

stress. For several years, employees from Shankarpally and nearby villages have been using the internal ODF route to travel to their respective companies without any disruption. This route has been their primary and most convenient access point, ensuring timely and safe travel to workplaces. Shockingly, the ODF management has now blocked this route entirely, citing recent incidents of bike theft within the premises. Instead of identifying and tak-

ing action against those responsible for the thefts, the management has chosen to impose restrictions on thousands of innocent workers, triggering widespread anger and frustration.

Workers have strongly condemned this decision, questioning the fairness of punishing law-abiding employees for incidents they had no involvement in. They argue that ensuring security within the premises is the responsibility of the management, and its failure to ad-

dress internal lapses cannot be used as an excuse to harass employees. "We are commuting only for our livelihood. We are not involved in any illegal activities. Despite carrying valid company identity cards and authorized passes, we are being denied entry at the gates. This is completely unjust," several workers expressed with anguish.

The closure of the route has forced workers to travel an additional 30 kilometres every day, placing an enormous financial and physical burden on them. For employees already surviving on limited salaries, the increased fuel costs have become unbearable. Many workers are struggling to reach their workplaces on time, while some are reportedly facing warnings from their employers for delayed attendance. This situation is directly affecting their job security and creating unnecessary mental stress.

The alternative route currently available is in an ap-

palling condition. The road is riddled with deep potholes, overgrown with wild vegetation, and lacks even the most basic infrastructure. The absence of streetlights has made night travel extremely hazardous, forcing workers to risk their lives merely to report for duty. Two-wheeler riders are particularly vulnerable, as navigating through the damaged road in darkness significantly increases the chances of accidents. Women employees working night shifts are said to be living in constant fear while travelling through this isolated and unsafe stretch.

Workers have accused the management of showing complete disregard for their safety and welfare. They argue that if security concerns genuinely exist, the management should have strengthened surveillance by installing additional CCTV cameras, deploying more security personnel, and enhancing patrolling systems. Closing down the route altogether is not a solution but an authoritarian decision that reflects



insensitivity toward the struggles of working-class families.

Another major concern raised by the workers is that even those carrying valid official company passes and identity cards are being stopped by security personnel at the ODF gates. Employees allege that despite repeated appeals and explanations, security staff continue to deny them access, citing orders from higher authorities. This has intensified resentment among the workforce, who view the move as a direct violation of their rights and dignity.

The silence of local pub-

lic representatives and government authorities on this pressing issue has further aggravated the anger among workers. Thousands of families are suffering due to this decision, yet no meaningful intervention has been made so far. Workers are questioning why elected representatives, who are expected to stand by the people during times of distress, have remained silent. They are demanding immediate intervention from district authorities, the labour department, and the police to ensure a fair and urgent resolution.

## French Open 2026: Teenager Moise Kouame Delights Home Crowd By Reaching Third Round

Paris: French teenager Moise Kouame thrilled home fans by reaching the third round of the French Open after beating Adolfo Daniel Vallejo 6-3, 7-5, 3-6, 2-6, 7-6 (8) on Thursday. The 17-year-old Kouame held firm in a contest lasting just under five hours on a sun-drenched Court Suzanne-Lenglen. He clawed back from 5-3 down in the fifth set to force a decisive tiebreaker, and rallied again from 8-7 down in the tiebreaker.

He won with a drop shot that his Paraguayan opponent got his racket to but could only pat into the net. Kouame dropped onto his back and, when he got back up, put both hands on his head in disbelief. Then he thumped his chest and pointed to all sides of the crowd. The No. 318-ranked Kouame was overcome with emotion. He slumped back in his chair with a towel on his head as joyful fans chanted

"Merci Moise, Merci Moise," at Roland Garros.

Before his on-court speech, Kouame bent over with cramps and emptied a water bottle over his head. "This win is for you," he told the crowd. "Thank you because without you, honestly, I would never have won this match. I don't think you don't even realize how much you carried me with the way you kept shouting for me. When I found myself 5-3 down in the fifth, I never stopped believing." Kouame next faces Chilean Alejandro Tabilo.

Rising star Kouame beat Marin Cilic in straight sets in the first round on Tuesday and became the first man born in 2008 or later to win a Grand Slam match. Cilic won the 2014 U.S. Open, was runner-up at two other majors, and reached the French Open semifinals in 2022. Cilic said after his defeat that he was impressed with Kouame's ability to stay focused at key points in their match. In March, Kouame was the youngest match winner in Miami Masters history in the first round, earning a congratulatory message from 24-time major winner Novak Djokovic.

## French Open 2026: World No 1 Aryna Sabalenka Sweeps into Third Round



Paris: World number one Aryna Sabalenka eased into the third round at Roland Garros on Thursday with a 7-5, 6-2 win over France's Elsa Jacquemot. Sabalenka snatched a tight opening set with a break in the final game and then swept Jacquemot aside to set up a meeting with Australia's Daria Kasatkina. The Belarusian has reached the final at five of the past six Grand Slams. She finished runner-up to Coco Gauff at last year's French Open.

## 76th Junior Nationals: Haryana edge Rajasthan 87-80; Chhattisgarh eves beat Karnataka 67-62

*Haryana men survived a fierce fourth-quarter comeback from Rajasthan to win 87-80, while Chhattisgarh women relied on a dominant third-quarter defensive display to edge Karnataka 67-62, booking their spots in the 76th Junior National Basketball Championship finals*



Hyderabad: Dominant Haryana men and high-flying Chhattisgarh women registered contrasting semifinal victories to book their spots in the gold-medal games of the 76th Junior National Basketball Championship at the Rajiv Gandhi Indoor Stadium in Puducherry on Thursday. City & Local Guides

In the men's section, Haryana became the first team to enter the final, surviving a furious late-game onslaught from Rajasthan to secure an 87-80 victory.

Haryana asserted their dominance from the opening whistle, deploying a suffocating defensive press to claim a 19-18 lead in the first quarter. Their execution sharpened further in the second period, outscoring Rajasthan 21-15 to head into the halftime break with a comfortable 40-33 cushion.

Haryana continued their offensive efficiency in the third frame, extending their lead to 65-47. However, Rajasthan flipped the script entirely in the fourth quarter, exploding for 33 points to stage a massive comeback. Despite Rajasthan's aggressive transition scoring, Haryana relied on crucial late free throws and their early cushion to seal the 87-80 win.

Ajay spearheaded the Haryana attack with a stellar 27 points, heavily supported by Mayank Kanchi's 22. Rajasthan's Mohammed Raza Khan matched the game-high with 27 points in a losing cause. Haryana will face the winner of the second semifinal between Chandigarh and Karnataka in the grand finale.

In the women's semifinal, Chhattisgarh displayed elite defensive resilience to edge past a gritty Karnataka side 67-62.

The match began as a neck-and-neck battle, with Chhattisgarh taking a slim 14-11 lead in the opening quarter. Karnataka fought back fiercely in the second period, locking down Chhattisgarh to carry a 31-24 advantage into halftime.

The third quarter proved to be the turning point of the match. Chhattisgarh executed a suffocating defensive press, holding Karnataka to a mere 7 points while exploding for 17 of their own to snatch a 42-37 lead. Chhattisgarh managed to maintain their composure in the final minutes to lock down the victory. Divya Rangari was unstoppable for the winning side, dropping a massive 27 points, while Karnataka's effort was led by Shravani Shivanna with 16 points.

Chhattisgarh now awaits the winner of the second women's semifinal between Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

## SPORTS



## RR GUILLOTINED: Gujarat storm into finals against RCB, Royals crushed in 7-wicket loss

*Shubman Gill's majestic century and Sai Sudharsan's fluent fifty powered Gujarat Titans to a seven-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals in Qualifier 2, securing their third IPL final in five seasons. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's 96 was the lone highlight for Royals*

Mullanpur: Shubman Gill produced a conventional batting masterclass in the age of muscle on the way to a majestic hundred here on Friday, leading Gujarat Titans to a dominating seven-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals and a third final in five seasons of the Indian Premier League.

First it was boy wonder Vaibhav Sooryavanshi who played some astonishing shots in a brilliantly paced 96 off 47 balls to steer Rajasthan Royals to 214 for six after Royals opted to bat on a used surface in the Qualifier 2.

The target was in the range of a top-heavy Titans but they ended up making short work of it courtesy a special 167-run stand off 77 balls between the prolific opening duo of Gill (104 off 53) and Sai Sudharsan (58 off 32).

Freakishly, Sudharsan lost the control of his bat for the second game in a row to be hit wicket. Titans coasted to the target in 18.4 overs.

Titans will meet defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the final in Ahmedabad on Sunday, days after being hammered by the same team in Dharamsala.

Highlighting their remarkable consistency, Titans have entered the final thrice since their inaugural season in 2022 when they lifted the trophy. Merit Prizes & Contests

Rajasthan Royals have two X-factor players in Sooryavanshi and Jofra Archer and both had to deliver to take



their team to the final. Sooryavanshi did but on a rare occasion Archer went wicket-less in the powerplay and the others failed to step up.

The manner in which Gill and Sudharsan batted in the chase was a treat for the purists of the game. Piercing the field with proper cricketing shots is their strength and that is what they did to perfection.

Gill loves the pull shot and he executed it with ease even against the express pace of Jofra Archer. He used the feet against spinners for boundaries and used the same tactic to reach his hundred, picking Jadeja for a four over extra cover.

With the kind of season Gill has had, he has made a strong case for his inclusion in the India T20 squad after being dropped in the lead-up to the World Cup. He collected 15 fours and three sixes in his classy knock.

There was a bigger crowd in attendance than on Wednesday night, and the majority of them turned up to watch 15-year-old Sooryavanshi go about his belligerent business.

They got more than their money's worth with Sooryavanshi continuing to boss the best bowlers around, including Kagiso Rabada and Jason Holder on this occasion.

Having lost Yashvi Jaiswal and Dhruv Jurel inside the second over, Sooryavanshi needed to adapt on a used surface where Mohammed Siraj, Rabada and Prasidh Krishna came with a clear plan: bowl back of a length into the body and throw in the odd bouncer to contain Sooryavanshi.

With the same pitch picked for the second game in a row, the ball did not come on to the bat as nicely as it did in the Eliminator.

Sooryavanshi was not able to time the ball early on with the bowlers not giving him anything to free his arms. Despite the challenges thrown at him, Sooryavanshi was still able to play awe-inducing shots with the best one being a straight six off a 153 kmph back of length delivery from Rabada.

Promoted to number four considering the situation, Ravindra Jadeja (45 not out off 35) played his part perfectly by going after the pacers, particularly Krishna, who bowled too short in his opening over. Struggling with a tennis elbow, Jadeja got retired hurt after the eighth over before returning to support Ferreria in the death overs (38 not out off 11).

Sooryavanshi also had luck going his way as he was dropped by Sudharsan on 46. However, he went on to complete his sixth fifty of the tournament and made GT pay by going on the offensive in the middle overs.

After dominating Rabada despite being hit on the helmet by the South African, Sooryavanshi played a couple of audacious forehands off Jason Holder, who again was impressive in the middle overs.

A well deserved century was there for the taking like it was on Wednesday night, but Sooryavanshi was holed out in third man for the second game in a row, off a short ball from Rabada.

GT were on course to limit Royals under 200 but the decision to hand the ball to Rashid in the final over did not pay off. On a forgettable night, Ferreira picked him for a barrage of sixes for a 27-run over.

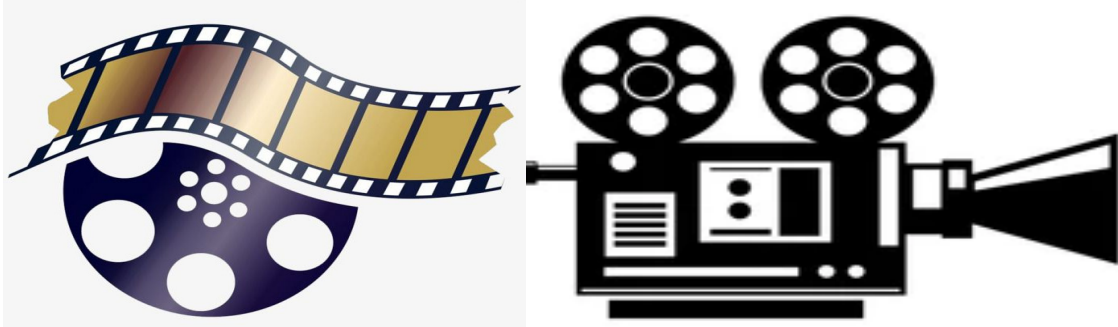
## French Open 2026: Mirra Andreeva Sweeps Into Last 16

Paris: Women's eighth seed Mirra Andreeva blew past Marie Bouzkova 6-4, 6-2 in the third round of the French Open on Friday. The 19-year-old Russian survived a break point in the sixth game of the match before breaking herself in the ninth. She then served out comfortably for the set. Andreeva immediately broke the Czech again to start the second set and then broke again, to love, in the seventh game as she won in one hour 35 minutes.

"I was very happy I was able to close the first set despite missing some shots," said Andreeva on court at the end. "Very happy I was able to play aggressive throughout the



match." Andreeva said the first-week heat wave suited her game and she preferred playing in the afternoon before the courts cooled. "When it's hot and its sunny I feel I have an advantage because when the ball is bouncing I can get a better shape on it," she said. In the last 16, Andreeva will face either another Czech, 10th-seeded Karolina Muchova, or Swiss Jil Teichmann.



## CINEMA

### Deewana: Tella Pori is packed with teasing lyrics and chartbuster vibe

Young actor Harshith Reddy, who earned appreciation for his performance in Subham, is gearing up for his next outing with the romantic drama Deewana.

Young actor Harshith Reddy, who earned appreciation for his performance in Subham, is gearing up for his next outing with the romantic drama Deewana.

The film's story poster, pre-teaser, teaser, and especially its chartbuster first single have created strong buzz among audiences with soulful music and emotionally charged dialogues.

Starring Harshith Reddy alongside Sneha Manimegalai, the film promises an intense and heartfelt love story centered on a young man torn between pain and unrequited love.

Directed by Sreekanth Sangishetti, the movie is produced by Vasudev Koppineni and Sridevi Karyampudi under the banners Arha Media and V Studios.

Deewana will have a grand worldwide theatrical release on June 19, 2026, through Geetha Film Distributors. The release date poster gives the Blockbuster Vibes promising intense one side love story showcasing pain and pleasure in it.

Today, the makers released an energetic and teasing track titled Tella Pori. The song beautifully portrays the special affection and playful romance that Harshith Reddy shares with Sneha, adding a lively charm to the film's musical promotions.

The track is composed, written, and sung by music director Eshwar Chand. Carrying the quirky tagline "The Cringe Song of the Year," the number embraces a fun and humorous style with playful lyrics and an entertaining composition, making it a catchy and enjoyable listen.

With cinematography handled by Vamsi Patchipulusu and editing by Hrishikesh, the film aims to deliver a visually rich and emotionally engaging cinematic experience for audiences this summer.



### Koratala Siva launches Nara Rohith's new family entertainer

*Begin typing your search above and press return to search.*

Rohith Nara is widely respected for his diverse choices and his knack for selecting scripts that stand out for their narrative integrity. Throughout his journey, he has consistently avoided the predictable, choosing instead to portray characters that resonate with modern sensibilities. His latest collaboration follows this successful pattern, aiming to provide a perfect blend of entertainment and emotional resonance for today's viewers.

Launched spectacularly, #RN23 serves as the fifth production under the Karan C Productions LLP banner, helmed by Bharath Chowdary. The film marks the directorial debut of Chinimilli Manikumar, who brings his original story and screenplay to the screen. The project's journey began with a grand launch event where the guest of honor, director Koratala Siva, performed the honors by sounding the clapboard, while Dil Raju directed the first shot and Chadalavada Srinivasa Rao switched on camera, officially initiating the film's production phase.

Starring Nayan Sarika as the leading lady, the movie features a strong technical and acting team, includ-



ing prominent names like Naresh VK, Vennela Kishore, and Rohini. The announcement poster, carrying the playful tagline "Shouting Soon," has already hinted at an energetic and colorful cinematic experience. As the team prepares for the regular shoot, expectations are high for this cheerful mix of humor and heart that is designed to appeal to both youth and family audiences.

### Major Change For Megastar Chiru's Vishwambhara

*Begin typing your search above and press return to search.*

*Already its more than 2 years that Megastar Chiranjeevi's Vishwambhara is in the making.*



Already its more than 2 years that Megastar Chiranjeevi's Vishwambhara is in the making. Till now, there's no sign of when the film is actually hitting cinemas. Directed by Vassishtha of Bimbisara fame, the film's poor VFX led to a major backlash on the teaser that was released more than a year ago. Since then, the film is in the post-production only. And now, the film had undergone a major technical change.

Reports are coming that the Vishwambhara team has brought in Hari Gowra to handle the background score, while keeping legendary Oscar-winning composer M. M. Keeravani

in charge of the songs. On paper, it looks like a simple division of work. But in reality, this is a very strategic move.

Because Vishwambhara isn't a regular commercial film. It's mounted as a fantasy-heavy, VFX-driven spectacle where the background score does half the storytelling. And that's exactly where someone like Hari Gowra fits in. His work in films like HanuMan and Mirai proved that he delivers elevation and emotional highs in larger-than-life setups.

At the same time, retaining Keeravani for songs ensures the musical soul doesn't get diluted. Now that Vishwambhara has split responsibilities to get the best of both worlds, we have to see if that works in the movie's favour.

Interestingly, Hari Gowra has already started working on the re-recording. That indicates the makers are giving serious importance to post-production, in a bid to lock the release date real quick. Already the film is hugely delayed, so when's it hitting the cinemas?

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### Stallion Vijay Deverakonda Falls, Gets Up And Charges

*In the video released by Mythri Movie Makers, Vijay is seen trying to mount a wild horse for an intense sequence.*



Birthdays usually come with posters, wishes, and stylish edits. But the makers of Vijay Deverakonda's next chose to show pain, struggle, and madness instead. The latest behind-the-scenes footage released by the makers of Ranabali on Vijay's birthday is now going viral for one raw reason. It doesn't glorify stardom, but it shows the brutal process behind it.

In the video released by Mythri Movie Makers, Vijay is seen trying to mount a wild horse for an intense sequence. The horse throws him down hard. He crashes onto the ground. For a moment, it genuinely looks dangerous. But what happens next is what fans are celebrating. Instead of dropping mid-way from the scene, Vijay gets up again, prepares himself, and rides the horse ferociously. Right in the middle of this struggle comes one powerful line from him: "The reason anyone would do this... is just because of cinema. That one line perfectly captures the current phase of Vijay Deverakonda's career, too.

After a rough phase with unsatisfying results, Vijay now seems completely obsessed with proving himself again. Through physically demanding cinema, surely it looks like he wants to do some magic. Ranabali is a pre-independent era backdrop film, where Vijay D plays a Rayalaseema-based revolutionary who brings Britishers to their knees, and is directed by Syam Singha Roy fame Rahul Sankrityan. Surely today the director gave a perfect birthday treat for the fans of the actor, anyway.

### Manasa Varanasi Looks Like a Dream in Floral Elegance

**Manasa Varanasi continues to captivate audiences with her graceful presence and timeless beauty.**

Manasa Varanasi continues to captivate audiences with her graceful presence and timeless beauty. Known for her elegance and confident personality, the actress and beauty queen has become a favorite among fashion lovers and social media followers. In her latest photoshoot, Manasa embraces a soft vintage-inspired look, draped in a beautiful floral saree paired with subtle styling and a radiant smile that instantly lights up the frame.

The pictures perfectly capture an old-world romantic vibe while maintaining a modern sense of sophistication. Her minimal makeup, neatly styled hair, and delicate accessories enhance the charm of the entire shoot. Fans are showering praise on her classy appearance and effortless elegance.

On the professional front, Manasa Varanasi has been exploring exciting opportunities in films and entertainment. Alongside her growing popularity in fashion campaigns and brand collaborations, she is also focusing on projects that highlight her versatility and screen presence. Her poised personality and natural camera presence continue to make her one of the most admired young talents in the industry.

This latest photoshoot once again proves why Manasa remains a style inspiration for many, blending tradition, beauty, and modern glamour with complete ease.