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Volume : 01 Issue No. 121

Thursday 04, June, 2026

Published From : Hyderabad

Pages : 8

Rs. 3/-

Hyderabad Set for Bigger Role in Workforce, Medical Tourism: Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy here on Wednesday held a key bilateral meeting with a high-level delegation from South Africa led by Deputy President Paul Mashatile.

Both sides agreed to cooperate in the fields of education, medical tourism and investments, with the aim of strengthening educational exchanges, promoting medical tourism and attracting investments for mutual benefit.

Revanth Reddy explained that Hyderabad's robust educational and skill training ecosystem is serving as a backbone for creating a knowledge hub and a premier hub for engineering talent across IT, pharma, defence and aerospace sectors.

The city is already placed as one of the leading global destinations for setting up of Global Capability Centers (GCCs) of Fortune-500 companies. He also highlighted the world-class medical and healthcare facilities in Hyderabad, attracting a huge number of people from various countries including from the Middle East for availing cost-effective medical treatments.

The government is working on further strengthening Hyderabad's position as a global hub for skilled workforce and medical tourism, he emphasised. Recalling the massive success of Telangana Rising Global Summit 2025, the Chief Minister said the event drew global dignitaries, diplomats, and industry leaders, marking an unprecedented economic and developmental success for the state.

He invited the South African leadership to attend this year's Global Sum-



mit to be held in December 2026 to enable opening of wider transformative opportunities for businesses and industries on both sides.

Revanth Reddy also explained plans for building a net-zero, global standard, greenfield infrastructure in 30,000 acres in Bharat Future City, located close to the international airport.

IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu invited top South African industrialists to further explore opportunities and engage in dialogue for mutual cooperation. Minister for Health, Medical and Family Welfare, Science and Technology, C. Damodar Raja Narsimha said Hyderabad is globally known for massive production of bulk drugs and vaccines.

"Our government is building mega hospitals in Hyderabad to cater to the healthcare needs of our people," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, South Africa Deputy President Paul Mashatile said South Africa and India share a long history of experiences and cultural ties. South Africa provides a platform from which Indian companies can enjoy preferential market access into the rest of Africa through the African Continental Free Trade Area, he stated, adding that it paves way for establishing pharmaceutical companies in South Africa.

Water Board Staff Deserve Better Job Security, Welfare: INTUC Chief Sanjeeva Reddy

Hyderabad: Employees who keep Hyderabad's water and sanitation systems running deserve stronger job security, welfare measures, and recognition for working in hazardous conditions, All India Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) president Dr G. Sanjeeva Reddy said on Tuesday.

Addressing a gate meeting for the HMWS&SB Employees' Union election campaign, organised for INTUC candidate Mogulla Rajireddy, Dr Sanjeeva Reddy said Water Board employees work tirelessly, often through the night, to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply to millions in Hyderabad. He described them as "true public servants" whose contribution remains critical to the city's daily functioning.

He also spoke about the role of sewerage workers, saying they perform highly risky duties in dangerous conditions to pro-



tect sanitation and public health, though their contribution often goes unnoticed. Dr Sanjeeva Reddy said INTUC had consistently fought for workers' rights, including fair wages, promotions, filling of vacancies, medical facilities, retirement benefits, job security, and welfare of contract workers.

Rajireddy said his candidature was aimed at addressing employees' problems and strengthening the union's role in protecting workers' interests. Calling HMWS&SB employees the backbone of

the organisation, he said issues related to promotions, vacant posts, medical support, retirement benefits, service matters, and contract workers' welfare would be taken up with the management and through democratic struggle if required.

The meeting was attended by minister G. Vivek Venkataswamy, TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud, MLAs Naveen Yadav, Danam Nagender and Kale Yadaiah, former mayor Bonthu Rammohan, International Labour

Organisation Governing Body member Satyajit Reddy, folk singer Narsanna, and several INTUC leaders.

Dr Sanjeeva Reddy said the union elections would determine the future of employees and urged workers to support leadership that understands their concerns. Praising Rajireddy as a leader who emerged from the labour movement, he expressed confidence that the union would become stronger under his leadership.

Modi Announces Rs.2 Lakh Ex-Gratia for Delhi Fire Victims' Families

Hyderabad: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday announced an ex-gratia of Rs.2 lakh from PMNRF to the next kin of each deceased in the fire accident in Malviya Nagar in Delhi. "The loss of lives due to a fire incident in Malviya Nagar, Delhi is tragic. My condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. Wishing a speedy recovery to the injured. Authorities are providing all pos-



sible assistance to those affected," he said in a post on 'X'. He said an ex-gratia of Rs. 2 lakh from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given Rs.50,000.

Siddaramaiah Appointed to Congress Working Committee



New Delhi: In a major political development, the Congress leadership on Monday appointed Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah as a member of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) with immediate effect.

The high-profile induction into the party's apex decision-making body was officially confirmed in a state-

ment released by All India Congress Committee (AICC) General Secretary K.C. Venugopal, noting that Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge had approved the appointment.

The move significantly elevates Siddaramaiah's stature within the national framework, cementing his influence beyond state politics and giving him a direct seat at the table where the party's core strategy and policy decisions are finalized.

Centre Turning Blind Eye towards Telangana Farmers Plight: Ponnam

Hyderabad: The BJP government at the Centre is turning a blind eye to the plight of Telangana's farmers. On one hand, paddy production in the state is on the rise, while on the other, it is disheartening that the Centre is slashing paddy procurement targets.

Compared to other states, Telangana is facing severe injustice in paddy procurement. The Centre must immediately increase the paddy procurement target for Telangana, Backward Classes Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said here on Wednesday.

While Telangana's farmers are producing the highest amount of paddy in the country, it is unfortunate that the central government is showing discrimination against farmers by reducing procurement targets, he said.

The State government is working with a resolve to purchase every grain produced by the farmers. "In the 2025-26 Rabi (Yasangi) season so far, we have procured 67.03 lakh metric tonnes of paddy and directly credited Rs.12,375 crore into



farmers' accounts benefitting over 10 lakh farmers," he explained.

Even the 10,215 metric tonnes of wet paddy damaged by untimely rains have been procured by the government to ensure farmers do not suffer losses, and support prices have been paid.

"In an unprecedented manner in the state, we have set up 8,575 procurement centres and are ready to purchase every last grain that farmers bring. However, the expected support from the Centre has not come," he said.

While the Yasangi crop in Telangana stands at 141 lakh metric tonnes, the Centre has set a procurement target of just 52 lakh tonnes—that is, only 37 percent. At the same time, allocating 86 percent to Punjab, 67 percent to Chhattisgarh, 65 percent to Haryana, and 52 percent to Odisha is evidence of the discrimination being meted out to

Telangana.

While the previous government spent Rs.1.35 lakh crore on paddy procurement over ten years, the Praja government has spent Rs.84,000 crore for farmers in just two years. "Our government's commitment to farmer welfare is evident from this. The Centre announces the minimum support price and washes its hands of the matter, dumping the entire responsibility of procurement onto the states," the Minister said.

"We have already credited Rs.1,172 crore into farmers' accounts by paying Rs.2,400 per quintal for maize. We procured jowar at Rs.3,699 per quintal and paid Rs.350 crore to farmers. But it is disheartening that the Centre has not contributed even a single rupee to this. For the benefit of Telangana's farmers, the central government must immediately lift the paddy ceiling and procure at least 70 percent of the paddy grown in the state," he added.

"Our government is moving forward with a clear intent on the issue of the Tummidihetti Bar

Thursday 04, June, 2026

KARNATAKA POLITICS — FAMILIAR SCRIPT, PREDICTABLE ENDING

With the resignation of Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to pave the way for his long-time rival, DK Shivakumar, to take over the reins, the curtains have finally come down on a political drama that followed a hackneyed script, with predictable twists and turns and behind-the-scenes manoeuvres. Ever since the Congress came to power in the 2023 Assembly elections, the internal power struggle has dominated media headlines, putting the party high command in a tight spot. Karnataka Congressmen are divided into two camps, with supporters of Siddaramaiah — a popular OBC leader with socialist credentials — rooting for him to complete his full term while backers of Shivakumar — a resourceful loyalist to the Gandhi family with unmatched organisational skills — believe it's "now or never" for their leader to occupy the coveted post. An increasingly restless Shivakumar has been staking claim to the chief ministership, citing a purported rotational power arrangement. For the last three years, the simmering friction between the fragile egos of these two ambitious leaders was left unaddressed in the hope that the warring groups wouldn't precipitate matters till the next Assembly elections, due in 2028. Moreover, the grand old party's ability to negotiate with powerful regional leaders has weakened considerably. This is due to a series of electoral debacles that the Congress has suffered in recent times. Finally, the party has decided in favour of a change of guard at a crucial moment. From the start of this term, it was clear that Siddaramaiah, the party's only OBC Chief Minister, would not enjoy a free run or absolute control, as he did between 2013 and 2018.

Karnataka is central to the Congress' southern scheme of things, considering that the BJP is a significant player in the State. The party top brass needs to ensure that its gamble strengthens the State party unit rather than sharpening the differences between the rival camps. Siddaramaiah's exit appears to validate speculation about a rotational power-sharing arrangement, though never officially acknowledged. The onus would now be on Shivakumar to prioritise good governance over the next two years and prepare the party for the 2028 poll battle. Siddaramaiah's tenure — the longest for any Chief Minister — was marked by its distinct focus on welfare schemes for the underprivileged sections. Rising from the ranks, he is credited with building a formidable coalition of OBCs, Dalits and minorities. A big challenge for the Congress is to retain the support of these communities who have remained loyal to Siddaramaiah. The outgoing CM's reluctance to accept a central role has made the situation more complicated. During his rule, free rice distribution, milk for schoolchildren and financial aid for poor Muslim women's marriages were among the schemes that reshaped Karnataka's welfare landscape, benefiting millions of households. While these schemes were hallmarks of his first tenure, he started the now-popular guarantee schemes in his second term.

KTR slams Pawan Kalyan, says no outsider can dictate terms to Telangana

BRS working president KT Rama Rao criticised Andhra Pradesh Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan for his remarks on Telangana, asserting that no outsider can dictate terms to the state. He defended Telangana's identity, history, and sacrifices while rejecting claims of regionalism.



Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao had hit back at Jana Sena chief and Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Tuesday, dismissing his remarks on Telangana as ill-informed and politically motivated. He asserted that Telangana was the fiefdom of its people and no outsider would be permitted to dictate terms to the State. City & Local Guides

"Telangana belongs to its four crore people who bled, sacrificed, and fought for this land. The people who struggled for Telangana have every right to protect its identity and self-respect," he said.

Speaking at the Meet the Press programme organised by the Press Club of Hyderabad on Wednesday, Rama Rao responded point-by-point to Pawan Kalyan's recent remarks, which triggered a political controversy between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. He said any attempt to belittle the sacrifices behind the Telangana movement would be firmly resisted.

At the same time, he stressed that Telangana remained welcoming to all. People from Andhra Pradesh and other States had lived, worked and invested in Telangana without facing discrimination even after bifurcation, he said. "States may be divided administratively, but people should continue to live together with mutual respect," he added.

Taking exception to Pawan Kalyan's observation that regionalism was more dangerous than terrorism, Rama Rao questioned whether the movement led by Potti Sriramulu for a separate Andhra State should also be viewed through the same lens. He alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was encouraging industries to move from Telangana and other States to Gujarat,

and asked whether such actions amounted to economic regionalism. AP News Updates

Rama Rao also rejected suggestions that Telangana's regional identity could weaken national unity. Referring to comments about people might refuse to sing the national anthem or national song in future, he said Telangana had a long history of struggles against oppression and did not require lessons in patriotism.

"This land fought against the Nizam. Communists marched on this soil. Sacrifice and struggle are not new to Telangana. We do not need lessons on patriotism from Pawan Kalyan," he said.

While expressing respect for Pawan Kalyan as Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and admiration for him as an actor, Rama Rao said no outsider could claim authority over Telangana. "We will welcome him as a guest, but nobody can sit in our Secretariat and dictate terms on matters concerning Telangana," he said.

Questioning claims that Jana Sena was being prevented from functioning in Telangana, Rama Rao pointed out that the party had contested the 2023 Assembly elections and recently fielded candidates in municipal polls. "Who is stopping you? Stop creating an imaginary grievance and presenting it as an attack on democracy," he remarked.

The former Minister also criticised Pawan Kalyan's reservations over the formation of Telangana, stating that those unhappy with the State's creation had no reason to hold rallies on Telangana Formation Day. He said if permission for a meeting was denied, the issue should be taken up with the Congress government.

"Telangana was not achieved casually. Thousands sacrificed their lives for it. Anyone speaking about Telangana must understand and respect its history, culture, aspirations and sacrifices," he said.

Reiterating the BRS stand, Rama Rao said the party would continue to safeguard Telangana's identity and interests. Describing former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao as the OG (original guardian) of Telangana, he asserted that BRS would resist any attempt to dilute the spirit of the Statehood movement.

Pawan Kalyan vows Jana Sena will contest 2029 Telangana polls

Pawan Kalyan, Jana Sena Party founder, declared his party will contest the 2029 general elections in Telangana, sparking controversy over his past remarks on Telangana's formation and land issues. His statements targeted Congress and emphasised that Telangana was not anyone's fiefdom. AP News Updates



Hyderabad: Political heat in Telangana went up by a few notches on Tuesday, after the Jana Sena Party (JSP) founder Pawan Kalyan declared that his party would contest the 2029 general elections in Telangana, declaring that the newly formed state was not anyone's 'fiefdom'. City & Local Guides

The actor-turned-politician literally stirred a hornet's nest by seeking to justify his comments on Telangana State formation with his argument that he had expressed his pain and fasted for 11 days over the way in which the united Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated, but his protest was not against Telangana.

His earlier statement that he had fasted for 11 days after Telangana was formed had hit a raw nerve among people in Telangana and buttressed the feeling that the AP Deputy Chief Minister was against Telangana. Another statement of his that Telangana had cast an evil eye on Konaseema in AP was also detested by Telanganites.

Pawan Kalyan stirred up a political controversy with his decision to convene a meeting christened 'Telangana Nava nirmana Sankalpa Sabha' for which the Hyderabad police denied permission.

Subsequently, the AP Deputy CM had called for a press conference at his house in Jubilee Hills even as a controversy surfaced over his land stretch on the city outskirts. His detractors claimed that the land was a water body and that it was encroached.

He rebutted the charge that was going viral on social media and challenged that if the government proved that it was encroached 'he would hand it over to the Government'.

The now-cancelled meeting of Jana Sena activists was actually seen as a response to a controversy after a YouTube influencer made some comments about Pawan Kalyan's interaction with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, following which a severe social media storm broke out.

Pawan Kalyan had announced that he had respect for the influencer after the latter withdrew his comments. Nevertheless, a police case was filed against the influencer in AP, which further fuelled the controversy and snowballed into an AP versus Telangana issue.

In this backdrop, Pawan Kalyan's declaration that JSP would contest polls assumed political significance. Many Telangana intellectuals saw it as an initiative backed by the BJP to gain further foothold in Telangana. AP News Updates

The AP Deputy CM also recalled his comments on Telangana's evil eye on Konaseema and said he was misunderstood by people pointing out that businessmen or people from both the states were working comfortably. "People should realise this," he stressed.

Clad in a white kurta and surrounded by his followers sporting JSP stoles, Pawan Kalyan maintained that he would raise his voice against every injustice in Telangana.

"We have already started our work here. We worked for 10 years in Andhra Pradesh before achieving success," he recalled.

To a query on JSP having an alliance, he said it was too early and either way, the Telangana BJP had declared that it would contest GHMC elections independently. Similarly, he said Jana Sena leaders would also be free to contest.

Recalling developments in 2014, he said he had been offered an opportunity to contest the Lok Sabha election from the Malkajgiri constituency as an NDA candidate. He reminded that his party was founded in Hyderabad and has one lakh party workers in Telangana. City & Local Guides

On the denial of police permission for his party meeting, Pawan Kalyan responded strongly saying Telangana was not the fiefdom of anyone. He targeted the Congress and sought to know from Rahul Gandhi why Congress leaders were against his entry into Telangana.

He said Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi contested elections in Wayanad, while former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi contested from Medak and former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao from Nandyal.

"But Jana Sena and Pawan Kalyan should not step into Telangana. What a contradiction and hypocrisy from Congress. Should we carry a passport to visit States in India?" he wondered.

Indiramma Houses Country's Role Model, Says Mohd Ali Shabbir

Adilabad: Government adviser Mohammed Ali Shabbir on Tuesday unfurled the National Flag at Adilabad collectorate on the occasion of the 13th Telangana Formation Day celebrations and paid rich tributes to the Telangana martyrs. He also inaugurated Indiramma houses in Riksha colony in the town and presented new clothes to the beneficiary couples.

Shabbir Ali said the Indiramma houses were role models for the country and gave self-respect to the downtrodden. He said the state government was committed to the welfare of women and their empowerment and giving them top priority in welfare schemes.

Adilabad MLA Payal Shankar, collector Rajarshi Shah, SP Akhil Mahajan, municipal chairman, Bandari Satish, Grandhalaya Samta chairman, Mallepula Narsaidh, market committee chairman, Srikanth Reddy and DCC president, Naresh Jadhav, former DCC president, Sajid Khan and Adilabad Assembly Constituency party in-charge, Kandi Srinivas Reddy and former TPCC general secretary, Gandrath Sujatha were present.

In Asifabad, MLC Banda Prakash, deputy floor

Tirumala Laddu Sales Hit All-Time High of 1.21 Crore In May

Tirumala: Sri Vari Laddu Prasadam sales at Tirumala have set a new record, with 1.21 crore laddus sold in May 2026, the highest ever for a single month. The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) confirmed the milestone, highlighting a steady rise in devotee demand over the last three years.

Laddu sales have grown consistently year-on-year. In May 2024, TTD sold 1.01 crore laddus, which rose to 1.10 crore in May 2025 before touching the 1.21 crore mark this May. To meet the demand, TTD now produces an average of 4.08 lakh laddus daily, using nearly 68 tons of raw materials each day.

Devotees have also welcomed recent improvements in the quality and taste of the



leader, unfurled the National Flag. MLA Palvai Harish Babu, MLC Dande Vittal and Kova Laxmi and collector K. Haritha and SP Nitika Pant were present.

Chief Whip Vemula Veeresham unfurled the National Flag at Nirmal collectorate and collector Bhavesh Mishra, SP Janaki Sharmila were present.

In Mancherla, government adviser Harkara Venugopal unfurled the National Flag at the collectorate. Peddapalli MP Gaddam Vamsi Krishna, collector Deepak Kumar, Mancherla mayor Darni Madhukar and DCP A. Bhaskar were present.

Tirumala Laddu Sales Hit All-Time High of 1.21 Crore In May

prasadam, which officials say has contributed to the surge in sales. The Sri Vari Laddu remains one of the most sought-after prasadam in the country, with its unique taste and religious significance drawing millions to Tirumala annually.

June Festivities at Srivari Temple
TTD has also released the special festival calendar for June 2026 at the Srivari Temple in Tirumala.

June 11: Sarva Ekadashi
June 13: Masa Shivaratri
June 26–28: Srivari Jyeshthabishekam
June 27: Sri Nathamunula Varsha Tiru Nakshatram
June 29: Pournami Garuda Seva

CM Defends Pawan, Slams Politics of Division and Misinformation

Vijayawada: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday came out strongly in support of Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and denounced remarks made against him by certain political leaders in Telangana.

Politicians, Naidu said, must focus on development and public service rather than creating unnecessary divisions on regional lines.

The CM noted that the Bharat Rashtra Samithi had expanded its activities into Andhra Pradesh after declaring itself a national party. Hence, he could not understand the rationale behind the present criticism from Telangana leaders about "intrusions" of AP leaders into TG.

Addressing a media conference in Amaravati, Naidu said attempts to provoke regional sentiments 12 years after the state bifurcation were inappropriate. "The people are fully aware as to who had contributed to the development of different regions," he said.

"Political leaders often work and campaign across state boundaries as part of the democratic process," Naidu said, recalling his recent election campaign visit to Tamil Nadu, where leaders from other states, including Karnataka's KD Shivakumar too participated.

He said, "Telugus today occupy key constitutional, political and public offices in countries such as the US, Australia and the UK, demonstrating that leadership and public ser-



vice transcend geographical boundaries.

Emphasising constructive politics, Naidu said political parties should compete in delivering better governance and public welfare rather than trying to divide people. "The focus should be on serving the people and accelerating development."

The CM launched a sharp attack on the opposition in Andhra Pradesh, accusing it of spreading misinformation and engaging in "destructive politics" instead of offering constructive alternatives. He alleged that some leaders believed repeated falsehoods would eventually be ac-

cepted as truth, and urged the public to reject irresponsible political behaviour.

Defending the government's recruitment initiatives, particularly appointments through the District Selection Committee (DSC), Naidu claimed that the Telugu Desam has established a reputation for transparent and large-scale recruitment. He recalled that the government had fulfilled its election promise by initiating the recruitment process immediately after assuming office and ensuring that appointments were conducted in a fair manner.

Responding to allegations of irregularities in sports quota appointments, Naidu said the criticism was based on ignorance of the categories and norms prescribed by the central government. All appointments, he asserted, are made strictly in accordance with approved guidelines.

Naidu alleged that a coordinated campaign was being run through social media platforms to tarnish the image of the government. He said baseless allegations against transparent recruitment processes would not withstand public scrutiny.

The chief minister also defended the government's decision to allocate Rs.10 crore for the Yoga Andhra programme, saying even welfare-oriented and developmental initiatives were being criticised for political reasons.

Russian Firms Invited to Invest in AP's Chemicals, Semiconductor and Smart Mobility Sectors



Vijayawada: Education Minister Nara Lokesh has intensified his efforts in Moscow to attract Russian investments into the state's industrial, semiconductor and infrastructure sectors.

During the second day of his visit there, Lokesh held high-level meetings with leading Russian companies and evinced interest in the advanced urban transport systems there.

During discussions with Ruschem Group deputy CEO Ilya Kosyh and international business head Darya Ashanina, Lokesh invited the company to establish a state-of-the-art chemical processing plant in the Visakhapatnam-Kakinada petroleum, chemical and petrochemical investment region. He also sought the firm's participation in developing bulk chemical storage facilities, waterfront berths and port-based chemical logistics hubs along India's eastern coast.

The minister proposed the setting up of a collaborative polymer applications and materials science research centre and a low-carbon chemicals manufacturing unit linked to India's renewable en-

ergy corridors. Ruschem officials said the company was expanding its presence in India through specialised ventures and chemical distribution networks and would examine the AP government's proposals.

Nara Lokesh also met executives of Element Group, one of Russia's leading semiconductor companies, headed by Khazov Oleg. He urged the company to establish an electronic component assembly unit in Visakhapatnam for manufacturing secure RFID tags and smart-card microchips required for India's growing digital transport and banking sectors.

The minister proposed a silicon carbide and power semiconductor manufacturing facility in Nellore to cater to the expanding electric vehicle and solar converter markets. He also sought the expansion of robotics and automation services at Sri City in Tirupati district and the creation of a microelectronics design centre in Visakhapatnam's high-tech corridor.

He requested the company to explore supplying microcontrollers, data

infrastructure and hardware for the Amaravati Smart City project. Element Group representatives expressed interest and said the proposals would be considered positively after consultations with the company's senior management.

Lokesh visited the Moscow advanced transport development center, where he was received by senior officials of Moscow's transport administration. The minister reviewed the city's integrated transport ecosystem, including digital ticketing systems, traffic management technologies and mobility services.

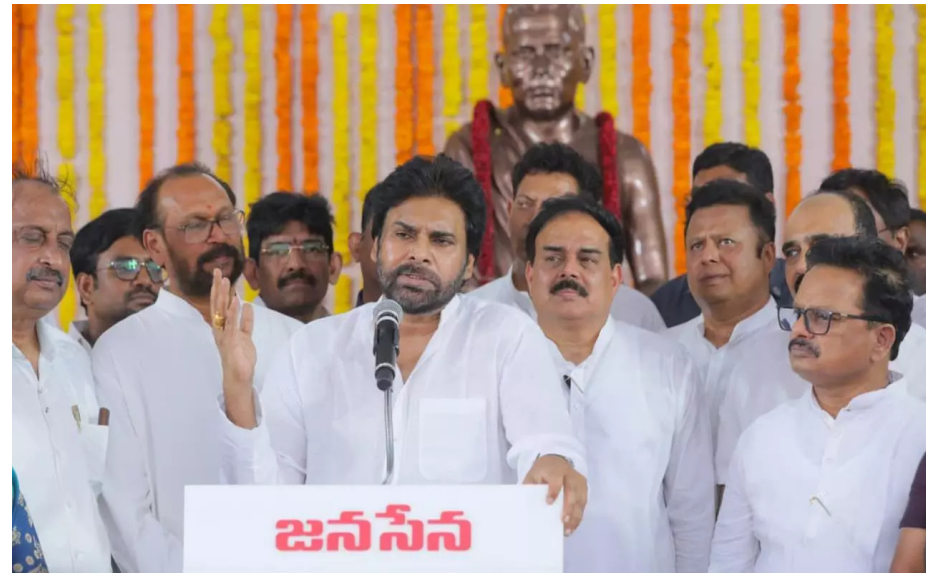
Describing the facility as one of the world's fastest-evolving public transport networks, Lokesh noted that metro rail, buses, electric trains, bike-sharing services and scooters had been integrated into a single digital platform accessible through one mobile application. He praised Moscow's AI-enabled traffic control and transport security systems and said India should develop similar technology-driven mobility infrastructure to improve urban transport efficiency and public convenience.

Telangana Belongs to Its Sons of Soil, Says Pawan Kalyan

Vijayawada: Telangana rightfully belongs to its sons of the soil and the youth who fought for its creation, Andhra Pradesh deputy chief minister and Jana Sena president K Pawan Kalyan stated here on Wednesday.

Responding to criticism against him from some Telangana leaders, Kalyan said his recent remarks were directed only at those who said he would not be allowed to enter Telangana. "My criticism should not be misconstrued as opposition to the state or its people," he clarified.

"Telangana is undoubtedly the domain of its sons of the soil. The state is the achievement of its youth through a long struggle. I firmly believe so. My objection was only to those who



said I would not be allowed into Telangana. My affection for Telangana and admiration for the struggles of its youth will never diminish," he said.

Pawan Kalyan paid floral tributes to the 58-foot bronze statue of Potti Sriramulu along with civil supplies minister and Jana Sena PAC chairman Nadendla Manohar and members of the

newly formed committee at Sakhamuru in Amaravati.

Addressing the media, Kalyan announced the formation of 'Sena Galam', a special committee comprising representatives from various social groups to raise a united voice against caste-based hatred and social divisions.

On the controversy

surrounding his proposed public meeting in Telangana, Pawan Kalyan said he had plans to hold a meeting in the state after 12 years but unnecessary obstacles were created.

"I do not think Chief Minister Revanth Reddy was behind this row. Certain individuals acting in between are behind this criti-

cism," he said.

Pawan also cautioned political parties against fuelling regional sentiments, saying national parties should uphold the spirit of national integration rather than encourage divisive rhetoric. "The future of the country lies in unity, social harmony and mutual cooperation among communities," he said.

The deputy CM said political discourse in Andhra Pradesh has increasingly been dominated by caste abuse and attempts to attribute the mistakes of individuals to entire communities. "If an individual commits a crime, only that person should be held accountable. Blaming an entire caste creates social discord and weakens society," he observed.

Polavaram Project To Be Tourism Hub Before Pushkaralu: Nimmala

Vijayawada: Water resources minister Nimmala Ramanaidu has said that they were making all efforts to develop the Polavaram irrigation project as a tourism hub by the commencement of Godavari Pushkaralu, scheduled to be held in June 2027, as per directions of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

The minister held a review meeting on the progress in execution of the Polavaram project with the senior officials here on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, he said that they had completed the LIDAR (Light detection and ranging) survey in 9,900 acres to prepare the layout plan design for developing a tourism hub and noted that they were also examining a proposal to connect the Polavaram project with the national highways leading to Eluru, Kovvur and Rajamahendravaram.

He directed the officials to get the permissions for designs for taking up works for the construction of a bridge



below the spillway and also to issue a schedule for taking up other work. He noted that they had already completed the earth-cum-rock-fill dam Gap-1 and Gap-2 works to the extent of 45% and 22%, respectively, and vowed efforts to complete the Polavaram Left Main Canal works by the end of August.

Govt Committed to Promoting Urdu, Says Farooq



Vijayawada: Minority welfare and law minister N. Md. Farooq on Wednesday reiterated the commitment of the Andhra Pradesh government to preserving and promoting languages, assuring students that all necessary encouragement and support would be extended to those pursuing Urdu studies. The minister was speaking at the certificate distribution ceremony of the "Aao Urdu Seekhe" (Let us learn Urdu) Summer Camp organised by the Andhra Pradesh State Urdu Academy at Shah Zahoor Musafir Khana in One Town, Vijayawada.

The programme, chaired by Urdu Academy chairman Mohammed Farooq Shubly, was attended by Telugu Desam national vice-president T.D. Janardhan and minority affairs adviser Ahmed Shareef as special guests. Urdu Acad-

emy director Sheikh Mohammed Ghouse Peer, vice-chairman Pathan Khader Khan, board member Mehboob Basha and Sufi spiritual leader Altaf Baba were among the dignitaries present.

Addressing the gathering, Shubly described Urdu as an important component of India's cultural heritage and said the academy had been successfully conducting the "Aao Urdu Seekhe" initiative across the state to generate interest in the language among younger generations. He noted that proficiency in Urdu could create opportunities in education, employment and cultural fields.

More than 500 students, parents, Urdu enthusiasts and language lovers attended the event. Certificates were distributed to students who successfully completed the summer camp course, while meritorious participants were honoured with mementoes for their outstanding performance.

DKS Cabinet to Have 14 Ministers; Sidda's Son to Be Inducted

Kanakapura (Karnataka): After decades of political work and organisational leadership, D. K. Shivakumar is set to take oath as Chief Minister after being elected leader of the Congress Legislative Party.

Senior Congress leader G Parameshwara will be the new Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka, official sources said here on Wednesday. Parameshwara will take the oath of office and secrecy after CM-designate D K Shivakumar takes oath, they said.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot will administer the oath at 4.05 pm to Shivakumar and other MLAs at Lok Bhavan Glass House.

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee chief D K Shivakumar on Wednesday met outgoing CM Siddaramaiah, veteran BJP leader B S Yediyurappa, and former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda and invited them to his swearing-in ceremony, where he would take oath as the chief minister.

Banners and cutouts congratulating Shivakumar on becoming Chief Minister were put up around his residence and across the constituency ahead of the ceremony, scheduled to take place at Lok Bhavan in Bengaluru at 4 pm.

An eight-time MLA and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president, Shivakumar is widely regarded as the party's "troubleshooter" and has built a strong grassroots network across the state.

His close association with senior Congress leaders, including Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Mallikarjun Kharge, strengthened his claim to the top post after prolonged internal consultations.

Born on May 15, 1962, in Kanakapura, Shivakumar began his political journey as a student leader in the 1980s. After an initial electoral setback in 1985, he won his first Assembly election in 1989 at the age of 27 and has since secured eight consecutive victories.

Known for his organisational abilities, he



played key roles in safeguarding Congress governments during several political crises, including the 2002 Maharashtra developments and the 2017 Gujarat Rajya Sabha elections. He was also instrumental in the party's victory in the 2023 Karnataka Assembly elections.

Shivakumar has served as KPCC president since 2020 and was Deputy Chief Minister in the previous government. Despite facing multiple investigations and a brief incarceration in 2019, his political ascent continued uninterrupted.

A close confidant of the Gandhi family, Shivakumar is now set to formally assume office as Karnataka's Chief Minister, marking a significant leadership transition in the state.

The swearing-in ceremony marks the culmination of a leadership transition in Karnataka following the resignation of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on May 28. The Governor subsequently accepted the resignation and dissolved the Council of Ministers.

Earlier on Tuesday, Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi held a key meeting with Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah in New Delhi to finalise the new Cabinet composition, Rajya Sabha nominations and organisational restructuring.

In a parallel development, the All India Congress Committee (AICC) appointed Siddaramaiah as a member of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) with immediate effect.

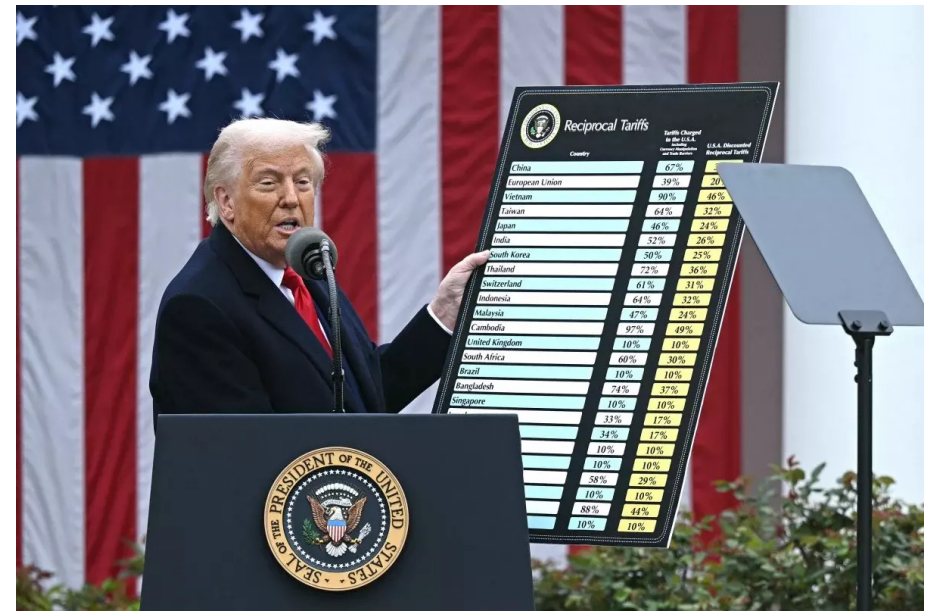
US Proposes Fresh Tariffs on India Over Forced Labour Rules

Washington DC: The United States on (local time) proposed a fresh round of tariffs, including an additional duty of 10 per cent and 12.5 per cent on imports from key global economies, claiming investigations found goods from 60 countries were being produced using forced labour.

The details were announced by the US Office of the Trade Representative (USTR) in a statement.

The USTR identified 54 economies that it said had failed to impose and effectively enforce prohibitions on the import of goods produced through forced labour. The list includes Australia, China, India, Israel, Japan, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkiye, the UAE and the United Kingdom.

According to the proposal, economies that already have some form of forced labour import prohibition, or have committed to implementing such measures through trade agreements, could face an additional tariff of 10 per cent. Other economies may be subjected to a 12.5 per cent additional duty.



The proposed action also includes a textile mechanism that would allow a specified volume of apparel and textile imports from certain economies to enter the US at a reduced Section 301 tariff rate.

The USTR said the action falls under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, which allows the US to take measures against foreign acts, policies or practices deemed unreasonable or burdensome to American commerce.

As part of the move, the USTR has invited public comments on the proposed tariffs.

"For economies that impose a forced labour import prohibition, that have committed to impose and enforce such a prohibition through an Agreement on Reciprocal Trade, or economies that have imposed a partial regime with the effect of preventing the importation of certain forced labour goods, the U.S. Trade Representative proposes 10% as the rate of additional duties. For all other economies, the U.S. Trade Representative proposes 12.5% as the rate of additional duty," the statement said.

The USTR also flagged six economies, including the European Union, Pakistan and Canada, for allegedly failing to effectively enforce prohibitions on the import of goods produced with forced labour.

"The failure of our most important trading partners to address the importation of goods made with forced labour is unacceptable. This creates a dynamic where American workers are forced to compete globally on an unlevel playing field," said Jamieson Greer.

The proposed tariffs come as Indian negotiators prepare for talks with a visiting US delegation aimed at finalising a bilateral trade agreement (BTA).

Sources told ANI that securing preferential market access and obtaining relief from US Section 301 investigations will be key priorities for India during the negotiations.

The talks, scheduled from June 1 to June 4, are being led by US Chief Negotiator Brendan Lynch and India's Additional Secretary Darpan Jain.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, the discussions will focus on finalising details of an interim trade pact and advancing negotiations on market access, non-tariff barriers, customs and trade facilitation, investment promotion and economic security cooperation.

Ecological Havoc Assured In Great Nicobar Project : Jairam Ramesh

New Delhi : Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Wednesday said the Great Nicobar Island Project as presently conceived is "overwhelmingly a commercial enterprise" and "ecological havoc" is assured with the unique biodiversity of the area also being endangered. As he shot off another letter to Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav over the Project, Ramesh said it was somewhat reassuring that democratic windows of engagement -- howsoever ritualistic -- still exist and provide some hope.

In his response to Yadav's letter of May 27 which was a reply to his earlier letter, Ramesh said his letter on May 10 was a simple plea to comply, in letter and spirit, with the law in assessing the ecological impacts of the Project in a comprehensive manner, given that the environmental impact assessment (EIA) report of March 2022 itself had stated that it is only a rapid reconnaissance study.

"I am so glad you have admitted that the environmental clearance was not based on comprehensive EIA studies based on three seasons primary data and primary data was collected over only a 'single seasonal cycle'," the former environment minister said.

However, studies "mentioned by you are not even based on primary data collected over 'single seasonal cycle' as claimed. The reports themselves admit that baseline data/surveys for these reports were collected only over a few weeks. I had extracted portions of these reports for your convenience," Ramesh pointed out.

"A substantial portion of your reply has been dedicated to the claim that institutions under the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change possess historical data sets which have been used in the impact assessment reports prepared by them," the Congress general secretary in-charge communications said.

He said Yadav would be aware of the difference between primary data collected at the project site and its impact areas and secondary data collected from pre-existing studies.

Secondary data is just not a substitute for primary data collection and project-specific studies, Ramesh pointed out.

"Your letter repeatedly mentions judgments of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) dated April 3, 2023 and February 16, 2026 in response to the issues I have brought to your attention. I have read these judgments carefully again and wish to inform you that: In the judgment dated April 3, 2023, para 33 expressly records that there are 'unanswered deficiencies' in the environmental clearance issued to the project and proceeds to list three, including the need for a comprehensive EIA and remanded the clearance for re-examination," Ramesh said.

In the judgment dated February 16, 2026, para 46 records the submissions of the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change on the erosion sta-



tus of Galathea Bay, the Congress leader said.

The report of ISRO's Space Applications Centre has clearly marked stretches of the eastern flank of Galathea Bay in red, indicating erosion, Ramesh pointed out.

"You will recall that under the Island Coastal Zone Regulation, 2019, ports are prohibited in 'high' erosion stretches and comprehensive EIA study is necessary in low and medium' erosion stretches. Given the fact that ISRO's report has marked erosion along Galathea Bay's shoreline, is it not prudent to conduct comprehensive EIA studies over three seasons to account for seasonal variations?" Ramesh said.

The judgment dated February 16, 2026 does not contain any finding on the adequacy of the data collection and EIA studies as claimed in Yadav's reply, the Congress leader said.

"It is truly extraordinary and even unprecedented that those who have prepared the EIA report and other studies and those who have had them prepared have ended up reviewing their own work and found it to be fine. This is a perversion of due process," Ramesh alleged.

"The judgment of the NGT dated February 16, 2026 as also your reply has completely ignored para 5 (D) of the Office Memorandum of the Ministry of Environment and Forests dated November 3, 2009 that mandates 'comprehensive environment impact assessment, including physical and mathematical modelling and ground verification for all port projects in Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands'," Ramesh said.

The February 16 judgement as also your reply ignores annexure 6 of the EIA guidance manual for ports and harbours that had been issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and that states "physical, chemical and biological data has to be collected in two to three seasons so as to understand their impact in different seasons like pre- and post-monsoon", Ramesh said.

Pointing out that Yadav wrote that conditions have been imposed to safeguard biodiversity, he said these conditions are actually irrelevant in determining whether adequate studies and assessments have been conducted prior to clearance.

Telangana Completes Over 68% of Pre-SIR Voter Mapping

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), C. Sudharsan Reddy said on Tuesday that 68.30 per cent of the voter mapping ahead of the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral roll was completed across the state. The exercise involves verifying each voter to the SIR of 2002, using either their own registration or the registration of their parents or grandparents as voters. The SIR itself is to begin on June 15.

During a meeting to review arrangements for the SIR in Telangana, in the presence of senior ECI officials, principal secretary, Avinash Kumar and under-secretary Sanjay Kumar at BRKR Bhavan, the CEO briefed the officials on the details of the assembly constituencies, the manpower drafted for SIR (including EROs, AEROs, BLO supervisors, and BLOs) and the setting up of help desks.

The ECI officials stressed the need



to remain vigilant while filling out and collecting enumeration forms. They instructed officials to widely publicise the online submission of enumeration forms via the official portal (voters.eci.gov.in), as well as the 'Book a Call' facility, which helps voters get quick information about the SIR.

Additionally, the district election officers were directed to hold regular all-party meetings and actively involve booth level agents in the SIR process. The ECI team also clarified several technical and administrative queries raised by the EROs and AEROs present.

Sridhar Babu Inaugurates Theranym Biologics Manufacturing Facility

Hyderabad: IT and Industries Minister, Duddilla Sridhar Babu inaugurated the Theranym Biologics manufacturing facility on Wednesday.

The facility has been established with a massive investment of Rs.1,200 crore at Borpatla village in Hathnora mandal, Sangareddy district. The event was also attended by Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha and other dignitaries. This state-of-the-art facility will manufacture medicines used in the treatment of cancer and other life-threatening diseases, and the products will be exported to several international markets, including the United States.

The new facility is expected to create employment opportunities for more than 1,500 local youth. With the arrival of Theranym Biologics, the global reputation and value of the "Made in Telangana" brand in the life sciences sector are expected to become even stronger.



British Deputy High Commissioner Meets TRS Chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha in Hyderabad :

Hyderabad, June 03, 2026 : British Deputy High Commissioner Gareth Wynn Owen met Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) Chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha at the Telangana Rakshana Sena office located in Banjara Hills on Wednesday.

The Deputy High Commissioner was accompanied by Hyderabad British High Commission Political and Economic Advisor Nalini Raghuraman during the courtesy meeting.

During the interaction, discussions were reportedly held on various issues including bilateral relations between India and the United Kingdom, political



developments, and matters of mutual interest.

Sources said the meeting took place in a cordial atmosphere, with both sides exchanging views on strengthening cooperation and engagement between the two countries.

Senior leaders of the Telangana Rakshana Sena were also present during the meeting.

Unfit Educational Institution Buses Will Be Seized if Found on Roads: MVI Sangam Venkata Pullayya

Bhadradi Kothagudem District Correspondent : Children are the hopes of their parents and the future of the nation. Ensuring their safety is the collective responsibility of educational institution managements, drivers, attendants, and the Transport Department, said Bhadrachalam Unit Motor Vehicle Inspector (MVI) Sangam Venkata Pullayya. He warned that strict legal action would be taken and vehicles would be seized if educational institution buses without valid fitness certificates were found operating on roads.

A Road Safety Awareness Program was organized on Wednesday at Sneha Gardens, Manuguru, under the supervision of the Bhadrachalam Unit Transport Department. The program was conducted for educational institution management representatives, school bus drivers, and attendants under the chairmanship of Educational Institutions Association President Aravind Kumar.

Driver Mindset Plays a Key Role in Preventing Accidents

Addressing the gathering, Sangam Venkata Pullayya stated that road accidents are not caused solely by vehicle defects or road conditions; a driver's mindset also plays a significant role.

He explained that drivers can prevent many accidents by maintaining mental balance and making responsible decisions while considering road conditions, weather, vehicle condition, personal health, habits, and passenger safety.

He pointed out that using mobile phones while driving, driving under fatigue, drunk driving, driving under stress or emotional disturbance, and overspeeding are among the major causes of accidents. A driver's alertness, patience, discipline, and sense of responsibility can save not only their own lives but also the lives of



passengers.

Special Safety Norms Mandatory for School Buses

Emphasizing student safety, the MVI said every school bus must comply with Transport Department regulations. Each vehicle must possess a valid Fitness Certificate, Permit, Insurance, and Pollution Under Control (PUC) Certificate.

Additionally, buses must be equipped with safety facilities such as a First Aid Box, Fire Extinguisher, Emergency Exit, Speed Governor, GPS, and Emergency Contact Information.

He further stated that school bus drivers must have a valid driving license with a minimum of five years of driving experience and should not be above 60 years of age. Buses older than 15 years should not be used for transporting students.

Attendants must exercise utmost care while students board and alight from buses. Any negligence regarding student safety will not be tolerated. He warned that strict action would be taken against institutions that fail to maintain their vehicles properly, and unfit buses operating on roads would be seized.

ARRIVE-ALIVE Program Aims to Save Lives

Sangam Venkata Pullayya said the primary objective of the government's prestigious ARRIVE-ALIVE program is to reduce road accidents and ensure that every citizen reaches their destination safely.

He emphasized that responsible driving can prevent numerous accidents and save valuable lives. He urged all stakeholders to make it their goal that every student who boards a bus in the morning returns home safely in the evening and to give the highest priority to children's safety.

Among those who participated in the program were educational institution representatives M. Aravind Kumar, G. Madhusudhan Reddy, M.D. Esab Shariff, Pratap Reddy, Isaac Thomas, Srinivas, Chandramouli, Sampath Reddy, Jaanimiya Khan, Raman Reddy, Narendra, along with drivers, attendants, and Transport Department staff member Bheemudu. This version is suitable for publication in English newspapers, websites, and news portals.

Strong Foundation for Children's Future: New Anganwadi Building Inaugurated in Seetharampuram

12 Lakh Anganwadi Building Opened by Pinapaka MLA Payam Venkateswarlu



Pinapaka Correspondent: A significant milestone in child welfare was achieved in Seetharampuram Gram Panchayat of Pinapaka Mandal, Bhadradi Kothagudem district, with the inauguration of a newly constructed Anganwadi building built at a cost of ₹12 lakh. The facility was formally inaugurated by Payam Venkateswarlu amidst the presence of local public representatives, officials, women, children, and villagers.

Speaking on the oc-

casation, MLA Payam Venkateswarlu emphasized that children are the future of the nation and that the government is giving top priority to their education, health, and nutrition. He stated that strengthening Anganwadi centers in rural areas is a key step toward providing better facilities and opportunities for young children.

The MLA noted that the new Anganwadi building in Seetharampuram will offer improved services to children, preg-

nant women, and lactating mothers. He reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring quality healthcare,

education, and welfare facilities for children across rural communities.

Highlighting the ongoing development in the constituency, he said that special focus is being placed on education, healthcare, women's welfare, and child development. He assured the public that more development initiatives would be undertaken in accordance with the needs of the people.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by MRO Srinivas Reddy, Superintendent Srinivas,

RWS AE Praveen Kumar, PRAE Vamsi, RI Shyam Sundar, RI Ramesh, Housing AE Venkateswarlu, mandal leaders, district-level leaders, sarpanches, deputy sarpanches, Anganwadi staff, women's group representatives, party workers, and a large number of villagers.

"Another step towards village development and brighter smiles for children," the newly inaugurated Anganwadi building has brought joy and hope to the residents of Seetharampuram village.

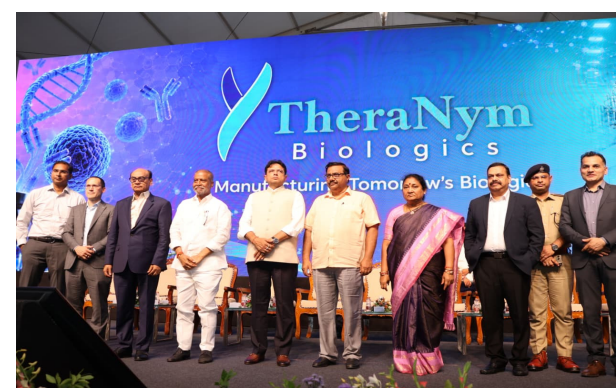


Another Milestone in Industrial Development of Sangareddy District

Ministers Sridhar Babu and Damodar Rajanarasimha Inaugurate TheraNym Biologics Manufacturing Unit at Borapatla

SANGAREDDY : Marking a significant step forward in Telangana's industrial and biotechnology growth, State IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu and Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha on Wednesday inaugurated the state-of-the-art TheraNym Biologics manufacturing facility at Borapatla village in Hatnoora mandal of Sangareddy district.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Sridhar Babu said the establishment of TheraNym Biologics reflects Telangana's strong position as a preferred destination for industrial investments. He noted that



the state's investor-friendly policies, transparent governance, and skilled workforce continue to attract globally competitive companies.

He emphasized that Telangana has already emerged as a national leader in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors, and the arrival of advanced biotechnology companies such as TheraNym Biologics will further strengthen

the state's international reputation. The minister added that the unit is expected to generate employment opportunities for local youth and contribute significantly to regional economic development.

Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha said the facility would play an important role in the production of advanced biological medicines and support

innovation and research in the healthcare sector. He highlighted that Sangareddy district is rapidly emerging as a major hub for pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries.

The minister further stated that industrial expansion in the district would not only boost economic activity but also improve livelihood opportunities for local communities. He urged industries to

balance growth with environmental protection and social responsibility.

Among those present at the inauguration were TGIC Chairperson Nirmala Jayaprakash Reddy, representatives of TheraNym Biologics, industrialists, Sangareddy SP Paritosh Pankaj, Additional Collector Pandu, senior officials, and other dignitaries.

Occupancy certificates will be issued only if the construction is completed as per the regulations

District Collector, GWMC Special Officer Chahat Bajpai

Warangal Bureau; Hanumakonda District Collector and GWMC Special Officer Chahat Bajpai said that the regulations are being given utmost priority in granting occupancy certificates for buildings constructed within the Greater Warangal city limits.

On Wednesday, the District Collector inspected several building complexes constructed near the National Institute of Technology in Kazipet and in the vicinity of Kazipet Railway Station in connection with the issuance of occupancy certificates. On this occasion, in addition to examining the documents submitted by the building owners, he personally inspected the mea-



surements, setbacks, parking facilities and other technical standards related to the structures.

Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector clarified that occupancy certificates will be issued only to buildings that fully comply with government

regulations, building permit conditions and technical standards. He said that every construction is being thoroughly examined in view of public safety and planned development of the city.

He said that the final decision will be taken only after verifying the details submitted by the applicants at the field level. He advised the building owners to carry out the work in accordance with the permits during the construction and cooperate with the development of the city.

City Planner Ravinder Radekar, Town Planning Officer Avinash and others participated in this examination.

Accreditation should be given to genuine working journalists

State Working President Bandela Raj Shekhar Meet
Minister of State Information Department Pongalleti Srinivasa Reddy

Peddapalli Correspondent June 03: The Journalists' Welfare Association held a state Working Press Awards on Tuesday at the Minister's residence in Hyderabad on the occasion of Minister Pongalleti Sreenivasa Reddy being elected as the state Working President at the recently held Working Press Congress. On this occasion the Minister was heard to express the view that the accreditation should be given to genuine working journalists without any distinction between those working in a major paper, small and medium-sized. Equally the Minister was also heard to express the view that such unqualified persons instead of journalists should be identified and have their accreditation withdrawn. The Minister was requested to direct the Collector of all districts to issue accreditation to all those who have been working in the state since April 15 and have bus passes.



Maintaining public trust is the responsibility of MGM doctors

Minister Konda Surekha
Biometric attendance is mandatory for doctors and staff
Warangal MP Kadiyam Kavya
Development Committee reviews to resolve MGM problems

Warangal Bureau; The MGM Development Committee meeting held on Wednesday under the chairmanship of Warangal District Collector Dr. Satya Sharada discussed the infrastructure, staff shortage, medical equipment requirements, Arogya Sri Revolving Fund, Nursing School building, and arrangements required for the opening of a super specialty hospital.



State Forest, Environment and Endowments Minister Konda Surekha, Warangal MP Dr. Kadiyam Kavya, Wardhannapet MLA KR Nagaraju, Kakatiya Urban Development Authority Chairman Inagala Venkataramireddy, Hanumakonda District Collector Chahat Bajpai and others participated in the meeting. The officials brought to the attention of the minister the issues of vacant posts of doctors and nursing staff in the hospital, congestion in the emergency department, lack of modern medical equipment, pending bills, and PMSSY hospital management.

development of the hospital and solving problems. She said that she will work to bring more funds under the central government's PMSSY scheme.

She inquired about the decrease in the number of neurosurgeries and suggested that the department be further strengthened. She proposed to set up a special department for transgenders in the super specialty hospital.

She suggested that doctors and staff should register biometric attendance and be available on duty and treat patients with a humane attitude. She made it clear that there should be no compromise on the quality of medical services in government hospitals.

District Collector Dr. Satya Sharada said that the district administration is moving forward with special activities in cleaning, developing and providing quality medical services in hospitals. She said that they are working hard to provide better medical services to the people by conducting frequent reviews on infrastructure, human resources and administrative issues through MGM Development Committee meetings.

MLA KR Nagaraju said...

He said that they will cooperate in the development of MGM and super specialty hospitals. He suggested that skilled doctors be appointed to provide corporate-level medical services in the super specialty hospital. Since the distance from the main gate of the hospital to the building is long, it was proposed to set up battery rickshaws or alternative transport facilities with CSR funds.

Later, Minister Konda Surekha visited the AMC Care Center at MGM Hospital and consulted the patients. He inspected the medical services provided there and the performance of the doctors and got to know the details. On this occasion, District Collector Dr. Satya Sarada, MGM Superintendent Dr. Harichandra Reddy, IRCS Representative EV Srinivas, doctors and staff were present along with the Minister.

In this meeting, MGM Superintendent Dr. Harichandra Reddy, Dr. Ashwin Kumar, ZP CEO Ram Reddy, DBCDO Pushpalatha, DTDO Narayana Reddy, DRDO Nagapadmaja, Development Committee members Dr. B. Srinivas Goud, Dr. T. Raghunathswamy, Dr. Ramkumar Reddy, Dr. CH. Murali, Dr. Anil, KSK Prasad, Dr. Lokesh Kumar, Dr. Manmohan Raj, IRCS representative EV Srinivas, Wanaparthy Srinivas, Kannaju Lavanya Ramesh, Dr. Sambasiva Rao, Dr. Sandhya, Dr. Sarathbabu, MGM doctors, members of the development committee, and officials of the relevant departments participated.

Collector Ankith Focuses on EVM Security..!

EVM Warehouse Inspected in the Presence of Political Party Representatives

Kothagudem : District Collector Ankith conducted a surprise inspection of the EVM warehouse located near the RDO Office in Kothagudem on Wednesday. As part of the quarterly inspection, the Collector closely reviewed the security arrangements and storage conditions of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) units, which play a crucial role in the electoral process.



Following the inspection, Collector Ankith signed the warehouse inspection register.

The inspection was attended by Election Superintendent Ranga Prasad, Master Trainer Pusapati Sai Krishna, Congress Party representative Lakshman Agarwal, BJP representative J. Mohan Krishna, TRS representative Anudeep S., Aam Aadmi Party representative Rambabu, election department staff members Naveen and Ashok, along with security personnel and other officials.

"There can be no compromise on EVM security. Strict measures are being implemented to ensure transparency and integrity in the electoral process," Collector Ankith stated.

Give special counseling to rowdy sheeters who make settlements

Warangal Police Commissioner Sunpreet Singh

Warangal Bureau; The Warangal Police Commissioner has directed the station officials to conduct special counseling for rowdy sheeters who are mediating in ghost cases and causing trouble to the people by making settlements. The Warangal Police Commissioner visited the KUC Police Station on Wednesday. The Police Commissioner, who reached the police station this morning, was welcomed by Central Zone DCP Dara Kavitha, ACP Narasimha Rao and Inspector Ravikumar with bouquets. The Police Commissioner first inspected the station surroundings, store, case property rooms, vehicles seized in various cases within the station limits, and the sports complex of Balamitra Police Station. Later, the Police Commissioner examined the records related to the station, the records of rowdy sheeters and suspects, and asked the Police Commissioner Station Inspector Ravikumar about the active rowdy sheeters and suspects within the police station limits, how are they currently doing? What are they doing? etc. The Police Commissioner then said that special counseling should be given to rowdy sheeters who get involved in fights and those who commit threats, that no sympathy should be shown towards rowdy sheeters, that the police should keep an eye on active rowdies, that awareness programs should be undertaken within the police station limits, especially on local social disorders, that awareness programs should be conducted intensively on cyber crimes, drugs and traffic rules in educational institutions, that crime should be controlled in the sectors assigned to the station SIs, and that information should be collected in advance.



The All New MG Majestor by Famous Car Brand MG (Morris Garages) Launched at MG Secunderabad by Vibrant Mobility. Mr. Gareth Wynn Owen – British Deputy High Commissioner for the State of Telangana & A.P Unveils the MG Majestor at MG Secunderabad. Mr. Basheer Babu Khan & Mr. Siraj Babukhan from MG Secunderabad Interacts with Media at the Unveiling of MG Majestor. MG Majestor by Famous Car Brand MG (Morris Garages) Unveiled at MG Secunderabad by Vibrant Mobility. Mr. Gareth Wynn Owen – British Deputy High Commissioner for the State of Telangana & A.P Unveils the MG Majestor at MG Secunderabad. Mr. Basheer Babu Khan & Mr. Siraj Babukhan from MG Secunderabad Interacts with Media at the Unveiling of MG Majestor.



Mr. Gareth Wynn Owen – British Deputy High Commissioner for the State of Telangana & A.P along with Mr. Basheer Babu Khan & Mr. Siraj Babukhan from MG Secunderabad at the Unveiling of All New MG Majestor at MG Secunderabad, MG Road, Secunderabad on Wednesday.

Rare National Recognition for Bhadrachalam ITDA..!

ITDA Project Officer B. Rahul Receives National Award as Best Project Officer

Bhadrachalam Correspondent : Bhadrachalam ITDA Project Officer B. Rahul has brought pride to Bhadradi Kothagudem district and the state of Telangana by receiving the prestigious National Best Project Officer Award.

The award, which includes a cash incentive of 75 lakh, was presented to him at a grand ceremony held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. The recognition was conferred for his outstanding efforts in implementing innovative tribal welfare and development initiatives that have earned appreciation across the country.

Among the key initiatives that contributed to this achievement are the Tribal Museum, which showcases and preserves tribal history and culture; Bhadradi Mart, which provides market access for local tribal products; Uddeepakam, a program aimed at boosting youth confidence and motivation; and Career Guidance, which helps students shape their future through proper educational and



career planning. Tribal communities, public representatives, government officials, and members of various social organizations congratulated B. Rahul on this remarkable achievement and expressed hope that the ITDA would continue to achieve greater milestones under his leadership.

Many praised the recognition, stating that the national-level award reflects B. Rahul's dedicated service towards tribal welfare and has brought further prestige to the Bhadrachalam ITDA.

SPORTS



Mandhana targets T20 World Cup turnaround after England series loss

Smriti said "Harman when she's at her best, it's a sight to watch. Really important innings under pressure, especially when we needed that sort of knock to get us to 180-plus."

Taunton: India vice-captain Smriti Mandhana believes she and her opening partner Shafali Verma must shoulder greater responsibility at the top of the order as the team shifts its attention to the T20 World Cup after a hard-fought series defeat against England.

India began the three-match T20I series with an impressive victory but were unable to sustain the momentum, suffering consecutive defeats to hand the hosts a 2-1 series win. While disappointed with the outcome, Mandhana viewed the tour as a valuable exercise ahead of the global tournament that will also be played in English conditions.

"Coming in early and playing a series in England, where we've a World Cup to play, in terms of preparations, it's extremely good to do that. But thinking back, both me and Shafali (Varma) have a huge role to play forward," Smriti said after the third T20I.

The opening pair endured an inconsistent series, managing a combined 75 runs across three matches despite showing glimpses of fluency at the crease. Mandhana, however, insisted that neither she nor Shafali was far away from making meaningful contributions.

"We both are timing the ball well but unfortunately are not able to contribute in big ways for the team. But again for both of us, we'll go back in the nets and keep working hard and make sure that we come back better as an opening pair because both of us pride ourselves on giving good starts and keeping the momentum going. We'll take it in our stride and work hard," she added.

India appeared on course to level the series in the deciding contest after reducing England to 38/3 during the chase. However, a game-changing partnership between Heather Knight and Alice Capsey turned the match decisively in the hosts' favour as they chased down 181 with nine deliveries remaining.

Reflecting on the defeat, Mandhana pointed to the unpredictability of T20 cricket and acknowledged England's recovery, as she said, "In T20 games momentum keeps shifting. We started really



well with the ball, putting them at 35/3 (38/3), but then I wouldn't take anything away from the partnership they had. I think they played really good cricketing shots, they played all around the ground."

The loss also provided India with important insights regarding their bowling plans in conditions they are likely to encounter again during the World Cup. "On bowling, we'll go to the drawing board, and see which options are better. We did that before this series, maybe we can go back again. Now I think I know in these conditions what balls are to be bowled," the opener noted.

One of India's biggest positives from the final T20I was captain Harmanpreet Kaur's unbeaten half-century. Walking in after early setbacks, the skipper steadied the innings and guided India to a competitive 180 with a composed 56 not out.

Mandhana was effusive in her praise for the veteran batter's contribution, stating, "Harman when she's at her best, it's a sight to watch. Really important innings under pressure, especially when we needed that sort of knock to get us to 180-plus."

Beyond Harmanpreet's knock, Mandhana took encouragement from the form displayed by several members of India's batting unit ahead of the marquee tournament.

"Really happy but I just feel that everyone is in a good nick, and it's a good sign going into the T20 World Cup that Jemi (Rodrigues), Harman everyone are really looking beautiful to watch from the outside. Hopefully, I can watch them from the inside as well," she mentioned.

India's campaign will begin with a blockbuster clash against Pakistan in Birmingham on June 14, a fixture that is expected to attract significant attention. Mandhana believes the tournament represents another major opportunity to showcase the growing popularity of women's cricket.

"We did play Pakistan in Birmingham, and it was a sell-out. Not just India-Pakistan, we really need to hype up the T20 World Cup. In fact, it's already hyped up. I'm sure a lot of people will come and watch us play. Hopefully we can put up a good show for them," Smriti concluded.

Pooja Singh breaks 14-year-old national record, wins Asian U-20 high jump gold in Hong Kong

India's Pooja Singh won gold at the Asian U-20 Athletics Championships 2026 in Hong Kong with a record-breaking 1.93m high jump, ending a 14-year national wait. The LPU athlete also secured qualification for the upcoming Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

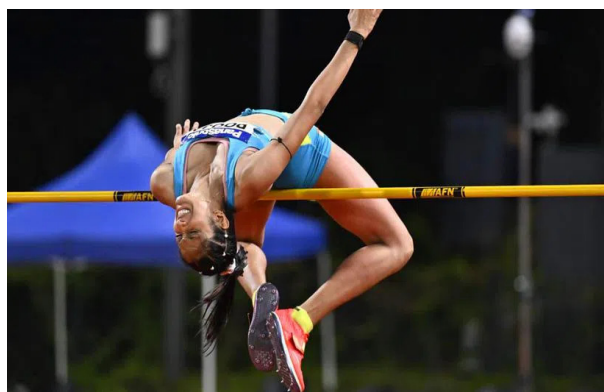
Hyderabad: Bringing an end to a 14 year wait for Indian athletics, Pooja Singh, a Bachelor of Physical Education and Sports (BPES) second year student from Lovely Professional University (LPU), scaled new heights of 1.93 meters to win the gold medal at the Asian Under-20 Athletics Championships 2026 held in Hong Kong. Her incredible performance smashed the longstanding Indian High Jump record, thus becoming the new record holder of India in the event. City & Local Guides

Pooja surpassed the national U20 record that had remained unbeaten for over 14 years. Her groundbreaking jump helped her improve her earlier feats, which include winning gold with a 1.89-metre jump at the Asian Championships in South Korea last year, showing her progress among the best upcoming athletes in Asia.

With her record-breaking leap of 1.93 metres and Asian U20 gold, she has now secured qualification for the upcoming Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, where she will represent India on yet another major international stage. At just 19 years of age, Pooja has already established herself among India's finest athletes. She was the youngest Indian athlete to compete at the Asian Games 2022, where she finished an impressive sixth against some of Asia's best.

Pooja's dominance in Indian high jump is unparalleled. She now holds nearly every major women's high jump record in Indian athletics, including the Under-17, Junior, Under-20 and Senior National records. Her achievements also extend to the Khelo India Youth Games, Khelo India University Games, and All India Inter-University Games, where she has consistently set new benchmarks.

Born in a small village in Haryana's Fatehabad



district, Pooja's journey to the top of the Asian podium is nothing short of inspirational. Raised in humble circumstances, with her father working as a daily wage earner, she dared to dream big when few believed it was possible. Through years of perseverance, sacrifice, and relentless dedication, she transformed those dreams into reality.

Reflecting on her journey, Pooja credited LPU's training ecosystem, professional coaching, and competitive exposure for helping her steadily improve her performance. She said the support she received enabled her to compete confidently at the highest level and pursue bigger goals in international athletics.

Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) and Founder Chancellor of LPU, stated, "Records are meant to be broken, but some records carry a larger significance. Pooja's achievement is one such moment. To witness a young Indian athlete setting a new benchmark for the country and showing what hard work, discipline, perseverance, and belief can achieve is truly heartening."

Women's T20 World Cup 2026: Deepti Sharma, Amelie Kerr among bowlers set to shine

From Deepti Sharma and Amelie Kerr to Shabnim Ismail and Sadia Iqbal, the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 in England and Wales will spotlight elite bowlers. The tournament features world-class spinners and pacers expected to shape title outcomes.



Hyderabad: From devastating speed to devious spin, the bowlers on show at the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 will be doing their best to make life as tough as possible for the batters, reports ICC Media.City & Local Guides Meet the players hoping to bowl their teams to glory in England and Wales.

Australia – Annabel Sutherland

T20 is the format in which Annabel Sutherland's batting and bowling stats switch. While excelling with the bat in Tests and ODIs, Sutherland shows her prowess with the ball in T20 internationals.

Since the last World Cup, Sutherland leads the wicket-taking charts for Australia, taking 15 scalps at an average of just 11.4, including producing her career-best figures of four for eight against New Zealand in March 2025.

Bangladesh – Rabeya Khan

Bangladesh booked their place at the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 in style, winning every game of the Qualifier, and Rabeya Khan led the way with the ball.

She took nine wickets with her leg-spin bowling at an average of 17.55, with best figures of three for five against Namibia.

At just 21, Rabeya is fast approaching both 50 wickets and T20I appearances for her country, having also appeared at the 2024 edition, taking two wickets in her debut campaign.

England – Charlie Dean

Charlie Dean is coming of age before our eyes. Now a regular in the England XI, the spin-bowling all-rounder is also vice-captain and has regularly stepped in to skipper the side in Nat Sciver-Brunt's absence.

One of three England bowlers in the top 10 of the ICC Women's T20I Bowling Rankings, she has taken 17 wickets since the last World Cup, more than any of her compatriots.

India – Deepti Sharma

Deepti Sharma is the fourth-ranked bowler and all-rounder in the world for women's T20Is, a reflection of her consistent contributions for India. Having ticked past a decade of women's T20Is earlier this year, the off-spinner has taken 160 wickets at an average of just 19.42 and is still breaking new ground having taken the first T20I five-fer of her career against South Africa in April.

Ireland – Arlene Kelly

Arlene Kelly showed signs of things to come when she made her ICC Women's T20 World Cup debut in 2023, taking four wickets including two for 27 against Pakistan.

Earlier this year, Kelly was a starring reason why Ireland made it back to the big stage, taking 13 wickets across their Qualifier campaign, with best figures of four for seven against Thailand to secure her side's place in England and Wales. In four years of T20I cricket, the right-arm medium pacer has a frightening average of just 13.97.

The Netherlands – Iris Zwilling

At 24 years of age, Iris Zwilling has already been playing cricket for the Netherlands for seven years and is the side's leading wicket-taker. She sits just two wickets away from reaching 100 in T20Is, something no Dutchwoman has done in any format. With her right-arm medium pace, Zwilling's 98 scalps so far have come at an average of 15.80, seven of those coming at

the Qualifier as the Netherlands secured a place at their first-ever ICC Women's T20 World Cup.

New Zealand – Amelie Kerr

Amelie Kerr could be named in lists of best batters, all-rounders and bowlers at this ICC Women's T20 World Cup.

Her bowling led her to be named Player of the Tournament in 2024 as the leg-spin bowler took a tournament-high 15 wickets, taking at least one in each match she played, to help New Zealand lift the trophy.

She has claimed 104 wickets across 96 T20I games and the White Ferns skipper is set to become a centurion at the World Cup.

Pakistan – Sadia Iqbal

Sadia Iqbal is the top-ranked women's T20I bowler in the world after years of consistent performances.

She first went to the summit in 2024 and returned to top spot for a third time earlier this year, having taken five wickets across a three-game series with South Africa.

The left-arm spinner has taken 73 wickets across 56 T20I matches for Pakistan, with her average since the last T20 World Cup sitting at 13.57.

Scotland – Kathryn Bryce

A true all-rounder, Kathryn Bryce is a captain, leader and legend for Scotland.

She impressed with the ball in the Qualifier as her side's leading wicket-taker, producing figures of four for 30 as Scotland defeated Ireland.

She then took two wickets against the USA to help confirm Scotland's place in the World Cup. Bryce sits second on the all-time list for Scotland with 60 wickets in 56 games, occupying the same position on the run-making list.

South Africa – Shabnim Ismail

Anyone who started watching cricket after the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2023 might have feared they had missed the chance to see the legendary Shabnim Ismail bowl for South Africa.

Her last game for the Proteas was that year's final on home soil, where she took her 122nd and 123rd T20I wickets in a losing cause.

But Ismail, who remains South Africa's leading wicket-taker in the format, reversed her retirement in May and will be eager to stamp her mark on the tournament.

Sri Lanka – Kavisha Dilhari

Kavisha Dilhari has had to step up as Sri Lanka have moved on from several long-serving bowlers, with none of Inoka Ranaweera, Inoshi Priyadarshani and Udeshika Prabodhani selected for the 2026 edition.

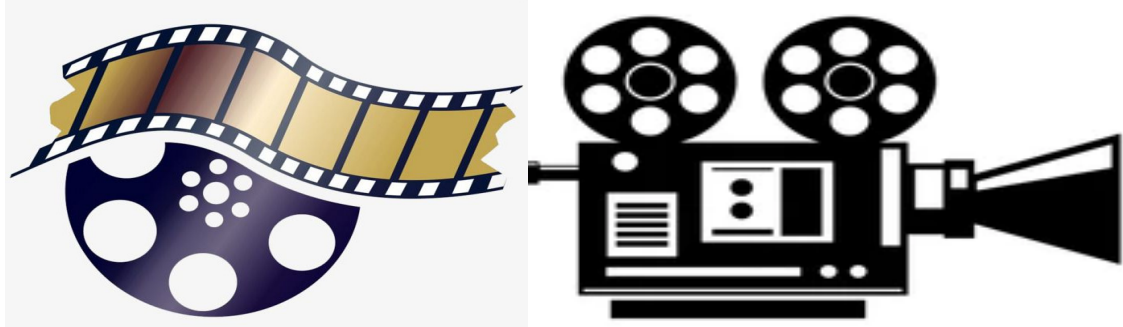
Since the last World Cup, Dilhari has led the way for her country with 15 wickets. Her best returns in that time came against the West Indies, where she took three for five in a rain-affected match.

West Indies – Afy Fletcher

The oldest player at the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026, Afy Fletcher continues to deliver on the world stage.

Now with over 100 T20I appearances to her name, the leg-spinner has also passed a century of wickets in the format, reaching the feat against Australia, as she took the prize dismissal of Beth Mooney in March.

The 39-year-old has been on the international scene since 2008, winning the T20 World Cup with the West Indies in 2016.



CINEMA

Smart Sithara Locks The Independence Day Weekend

Like we have been telling from days, already there's buzz in the trade circles that the films that have actually locked the August release are actually struggling to come on time. Though there is a good two months' time already, there's no chance that Nani's upcoming big-budget bonanza "The Paradise" will hit cinemas on August 21st. Catching on to this buzz, ace production house Sithara Entertainment made its mighty move already.

Already the teaser of "Viswanath and Sons" featuring Tamil hero Suriya in the lead, and directed by proven filmmaker Venky Atluri has worked out well. The film deals with the love relationship of an older man with a younger woman, played by Mamitha Baiju. As the teaser has already set up the debate well, now the success of Suriya's Karuppu (Veerabhadru in Telugu) has given more momentum for the Suriya starrer. As that film collected ₹250 crores gross already, surely the expectations on the hero's next will be high.

Owing to all of this, with August getting empty, to cash on the Independence Day weekend, Suriya's Viswanath and Sons got moved from tentative July to August 14th release now. While the 14th is Friday, the 15th we have Independence Day weekend on Saturday, and that gives a stunning advantage for the movie. Hope they won't change the release date based on other biggies, if at all those biggies confirm the date.



"People Don't Feel It's My First Film" – Pavan Kalyan Battula

The movie Purushaha is getting a positive response from audiences after its release on May 22. The film stars Pavan Kalyan Battula in the lead role and is produced by Battula Koteswara Rao under the Kalyan Productions banner. Battula Saraswathi presented the movie, while Veeru Vulavala directed it. Actors Sapthagiri, Kasireddy Rajkumar, Rayancha Kokkura, Vishika, and Hasini Sudhir also played important roles in the film.

As the movie is receiving good appreciation from viewers, the team organised a Thank-You Meet on Saturday to celebrate the success and thank audiences for their support.

Speaking at the event, hero Pavan Kalyan Battula became emotional while talking about his journey. He said, "Thanks to the media for supporting Purushaha. I trained under Satyanand Master, but I didn't reveal the earlier because I wanted people to first judge my acting honestly. Today, after getting appreciation from audiences, I feel proud to say that I am his student."

He also praised director Veeru Vulavala for believing in him and supporting him throughout the film. Pavan Kalyan said, "From the premiere shows itself, we received positive talk. Everyone who watched the film has been congratulating us."

The young actor thanked Sapthagiri and Kasireddy Rajkumar for encouraging him during the project. He also appreciated heroines



Rayancha, Vishika, and Hasini for their support. He thanked music director Shraavan for giving beautiful songs and background score, and cinematographer Satish for presenting him in a fresh way.

Pavan Kalyan humbly requested audiences to share both positive and negative feedback.

He said, "Please tell me both my strengths and weaknesses. If you point out my mistakes, I will work harder and improve myself."

Producer Battula Koteswara Rao thanked the media and audience for encouraging the movie. He praised the performances of all three heroines and appreciated director Veeru for making the film without compromise. He also spoke proudly about Pavan Kalyan Battula's performance.

"Many people called me and appreciated my decision to introduce Pavan Kalyan Battula as hero. At no point did he look like a newcomer. I liked his performance very much," the producer said.

Director Veeru Vulavala shared that the movie reached audiences only because of the hard work of the entire team.

He specially thanked producer Koteswara Rao and Saraswathi garu for supporting the project from beginning to end.

Talking about the hero, the director said, "Pavan Kalyan attended workshops for two months and practiced every scene many times. That is why audiences never feel like he is a new actor."

Actor Kasireddy Rajkumar also praised the hero and said Pavan Kalyan is very humble and hardworking. "I told him that people should not feel this is his first film. Today audiences are saying exactly that, and I am very happy," he said.

Actress Rayancha expressed happiness over the positive response and thanked the media for supporting the film from day one. Vishika said women audiences are especially appreciating Purushaha and asked viewers to watch the film in theatres. Hasini Sudhir also thanked audiences for encouraging the movie.

Actress Sandhya shared that she is receiving a wonderful response for her role and thanked the makers for giving her the opportunity.

Pooja & Mrunal's Glam Up Varun's Film

Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai is the upcoming film that features Varun Dhawan in the lead, and is directed by his father, David Dhawan.

Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai is the upcoming film that features Varun Dhawan in the lead, and is directed by his father, David Dhawan. The most important feature of the film is that it features both the struggling heroines, Pooja Hegde and Mrunal Thakur, in an ultra-glamour avatar. While the songs have already gone viral on the internet, especially with the 'Wow' song becoming a chartbuster, here's how the trailer is.

The trailer of Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai is finally out, and it looks like the film is a hilarious ride. An estranged husband, Varun, loves to impregnate his wife, played by Mrunal Thakur, and as she's not interested in kids, she seeks a divorce. Later, when the hero falls in love with another girl, Pooja Hegde, she gets pregnant even before getting married. Now the wife comes back saying she's also carrying a child. The trailer has lots of jokes, cringeworthy elements, and glamour. Both Pooja and Mrunal competed with each other in the glam department, unlike their previous comments about not being interested in glamorous roles.

On the other hand, all the remix songs and the new songs



in this film have struck a chord with the youth. But then, the film is hitting cinemas on June 5th, a day after "Peddi" arrives in theatres. In the mass pockets of the North, the film might not find as much attention, as its urban appeal is quite high due to its London backdrop. When these two factors are combined, the film would feel pressure in mass centres, but might get admired in A-centres, if the reviews are good.

Vijay's Political Entry May Not Tempt Telugu Stars, Says Writer Gopi Mohan

The giant leap of Tamil superstar Vijay from cinema superstardom to politics and getting closer to becoming Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, if everything goes well, may inspire many, but noted Telugu writer Gopi Mohan believes Telugu A-listers like Prabhas, Ram Charan, Jr NTR and Allu Arjun or Mahesh Babu are unlikely to rush into



politics anytime soon. "I don't think every actor would be tempted to enter politics because cinema and politics are two completely different games," says Gopi Mohan.

He points out that some Telugu stars have participated in political campaigns in the past, but only for personal or emotional reasons. Jr NTR campaigned for the Telugu Desam Party nearly two decades ago, while Allu Arjun supported his friend Shilpa Ravi Chandra Kishore Reddy of the YSR Congress Party during the 2024 elections. Similarly, Ram Charan campaigned for his uncle Pawan Kalyan in Pithapuram in the 2024 assembly elections.

"These stars campaigned only for a special purpose — for friends, relatives, or parties they were emotionally connected to. I don't think they have long-term political plans," he adds.

According to Gopi Mohan, charisma, good looks and acting talent may help actors build massive fan bases, but winning elections requires much more. "Capturing the hearts of voters needs deep-rooted policies, social commitment and a genuine connection with people," he explains.

He notes that Prabhas, Allu Arjun, Ram Charan and Jr NTR are currently enjoying unprecedented pan-Indian fame and are still relatively young compared to Vijay, who entered politics in his fifties. "Maybe they may think about politics after another 10 to 15 years. Right now, they are enjoying global recognition and success as actors," he says.

The writer also recalls how legendary Telugu stars like N. T. Rama Rao, Krishna and Chiranjeevi stepped into politics with a desire to serve people, while actors like Akkineni Nageswara Rao and Sobhan Babu preferred to remain acting legends.

"If an actor is truly passionate about serving people, then politics becomes a natural choice. Otherwise, many actors are happy staying in their comfort zone and leading peaceful lives," he says.

He stresses that public service matters more than celebrity image. "Beyond acting and dancing skills, people should see leadership qualities and a people-friendly vision in an actor before electing him. Charisma alone is not enough to win votes," he points out.

Speaking about Pawan Kalyan's political journey, Gopi Mohan says the actor chose a difficult path despite enjoying enormous stardom. "He mingled with people, addressed rallies, worked hard for years and finally emerged as the Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. It took dedication and commitment," he says.

He concludes by drawing a clear distinction between cinematic fame and political success. "Pan-Indian stardom and becoming the head of a state are as different as chalk and cheese. Actors who seriously want to enter politics should start planning early and align their films and public image accordingly — much like Vijay did with films like Thuppakki, Sarkar and Jana Nayagan before launching his political career," he concludes.

Epic's Priyasakhi: A Lilted Melody That Clicks



The film "Epic," which is emerging as the right sequel to the superhit web series #90s, continues to impress with its songs. Especially with the talented composer like Hesham Abdul Wahab, who has delivered chartbuster albums like Hai Nanna earlier, is now impressing with his string of songs scored for this Ananda Devarakonda and Vaishnavi Chaitanya starrer, directed by Aditya Haasan. The new song "Priya Sakhi," which could be seen as a montage song between the lead pair as they traverse the picturesque locales of London, UK, surely hits the right chord with music enthusiasts. Rendered in the melodic voice of KS Harisankar, the song has an instant love-feel that very apt lyrics that taken on the tinsel town at a time when mass beats and high-energy songs are ruling the roost. Surely this lilted melody is here to stay and might give more love goals for the young couples who are deeply in love already.

Bankrolled by Naga Vamsi of Sithara Entertainment, Epic: First Semester, is yet to lock the date, though the makers confirmed that the film will arrive in July 2026. After looking at the success of films like Peddi, an then Sithara's very own production, Akhil's Lenin, which is hitting cinemas toward the end of June, the production house might lock the right date for the movie.

Well, until the release date gets locked, there are good two months for the film to make the buzz, and the music should do epic justice for this "Epic".