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Volume : 01 Issue No. 125 Tuesday 09, June, 2026 Published From : Hyderabad and Vijayawada Pages : 8 Rs. 3/-

TELANGANA PLANS HYDERABAD CIVIC POLLS BY YEAR-END

Hyderabad: The state government is preparing to conduct elections to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) in November–December, followed by polls to the newly created Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation (MMC) and Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC), official sources said. The schedule will be finalised after the Election Commission completes its Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Telangana by the second week of October.

Elections to all three corporations will be held on the basis of the revised rolls. Once the voters' list is finalised, polling stations for the new divisions will be notified in October. Reservations will be determined on the basis of the BC survey undertaken by the state government, with the election notification expected in November.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has accelerated development programmes across the three corporations, targeting completion before November. He launched works worth ₹1,511 crore in Malkajgiri and ₹1,674 crore in



Cyberabad during public meetings held on Sunday and Monday, effectively sounding the poll bugle.

The elections are politically significant for the Congress, which has historically fared poorly in Greater Hyderabad. The party was restricted to single-digit representation in GHMC polls in 2016 and 2020, and failed to win any Assembly constituency in the region in December 2023 despite forming the government in the state. It also drew a blank in the subsequent Lok Sabha elections. However, Congress leaders believe the situation has shifted in their favour after winning Secunderabad Cantonment and Jubilee Hills in by-elections.

Political importance has grown following the reorganisation of local bodies within the Outer Ring

Road limits. The government merged 27 municipalities and corporations into a reorganised Greater Hyderabad structure and carved out MMC and CMC, which were officially formed on February 11, 2026. The GHMC Act applies to all three corporations.

Party sources said one reason for holding GHMC elections first is that the Act mandates polls within six months of the expiry of the governing body's term. Observers expect AIMIM to remain dominant in GHMC, capable of winning 60–70 of the 150 divisions, while Congress, BRS and BJP are likely to contest keenly in the remaining divisions. Officials indicated the government may assess GHMC results before proceeding with MMC and CMC polls.

The reorganisation has created confusion among voters and parties, with portions of the erstwhile GHMC transferred to MMC and CMC, and several local bodies merged into the Greater Hyderabad framework. With new boundaries and divisions, uncertainty remains over voting patterns, making the elections a crucial battle later this year.

Welfare Is BJP's Core Agenda: PM



New Delhi: Highlighting the various welfare measures undertaken by his government in the past 12 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that India has witnessed "many transformations", and at the core of these changes is the welfare of the poor. On the completion of the second year of his third term, Prime Minister Modi cited initiatives like the Direct Benefit Transfer, Swachh Bharat, PM Awas Yojana and Ayushman Bharat, and said they have been driven by a simple objective of ensuring people have dignity and opportunity.

The Prime Minister noted that the government has always been inspired by "Antyodaya" and its effort has always been to ensure that the benefits of development reach those who were left behind for decades. Modi observed that from Jan Dhan accounts and Direct Benefit Transfer to Swachh Bharat, PM Awas Yojana, Jal Jeevan Mission, Ayushman Bharat and more, every initiative has been driven by a simple objective of ensuring people have dignity and opportunity.

The Prime Minister said he was happy that technology has played a vital role in ensuring a better quality of life for the poor. He pointed out that through Direct Benefit Transfer and digital platforms, support was reaching people directly and transparently. The Prime Minister affirmed that this has reduced leakages, improved efficiency, and strengthened trust in governance, adding that this is how the journey of furthering "Garib Kalyan" has become a collective movement towards human empowerment and realising the dream of a "Viksit Bharat". In a series of posts on X, the Prime Minister said: "Over the last 12 years, India has witnessed many transformations and at the core of these changes is the welfare of the poor and the downtrodden. We have always been inspired by Antyodaya and our effort has always been to ensure that the benefits of development reach those who were left behind for decades. From Jan Dhan accounts and Direct Benefit Transfer to Swachh Bharat, PM Awas Yojana, Jal Jeevan Mission, Ayushman Bharat and more, every initiative has been driven by a simple objective of ensuring people have dignity and opportunity."

"It is also gladdening that technology has played a vital role in ensuring a better quality of life for the poor. Through Direct Benefit Transfer and digital platforms, support is reaching people directly and transparently. This has reduced leakages, improved efficiency and strengthened trust in governance. This is how the journey of furthering Garib Kalyan has become a collective movement towards human empowerment and realising our dream of a Viksit Bharat," Modi added.

Fish prasadam distribution begins amid massive rush at Nampally Exhibition Grounds

Hyderabad: The annual distribution of the famous 'fish prasadam' for asthma patients, coinciding with Mrigasira Karthi, commenced at the Nampally Exhibition Grounds on Monday night. City & Local Guides

Administered by the renowned Bathini family of Hyderabad, the two-day event drew thousands of people from various parts of the country seeking relief from respiratory ailments.

This year, the auspicious 'muhurat' to start fish prasadam administration fell at 9 pm Monday, prompting the administration to deploy round-the-clock security and overnight civic amenities.

A massive rush was witnessed as the 23-acre exhibition grounds quickly filled to over 80 per cent capacity. By Monday 2 pm, all queue lines were packed. Around 25,000 patients waited in designated queues across the grounds, while another 15,000 took shelter inside the permanent Numaish stall structures.

The members of the Bathini family, who were manning the counters, administered the herbal formulation along with the live murrel fingerlings, which were supplied by the Fisheries Depart-



ment. To reassure the massive gathering, the family put up banners at prominent locations stating that ample quantities of the formulation had been prepared. For smooth conduct of the annual event, the district administration undertook massive efforts. Extensive arrangements, including heavy police deployment, public address system in multiple languages, free drinking water and toilet facilities, were taken-up by multiple government departments.

Horse-mounted police were deployed for crowd control at the exhibition grounds to control the large crowd that had gathered. Rope parties were deployed at the queue lines to control the heavy rush.

Several NGOs took the lead in catering to the patients and their attendants, serving free meals, fruits, biscuits, tea, and juices. A large number of organizations also displayed flex boards detailing the dietary guidelines patients must follow after taking the prasadam.

Meanwhile, the local ragpickers turned enterprising vendors, capitalising on the rush by selling small plastic containers for Rs 10 each. Desperate patients eagerly snapped them up to secure their murrel fingerlings while waiting in the long queues.

"For the first time, I came to Hyderabad for this purpose. I have been suffering from asthma for the past several years, though I have been medicated, but not cured. Through some Nepalis who are in the city, I came to know that asthma can be cured through fish prasadam," said Jagat Bahadur Sunar (75), who travelled from Nepal to Hyderabad to receive fish prasadam for asthma. City & Local Guides

A homemaker, Savitha, from Beed in Maharashtra came to Hyderabad with her relatives for the fish prasadam. She said, "For the first time, I came for fish prasadam. One of my relatives got some relief from asthma due to fish prasadam. I hope I will also be cured of asthma."

INDIA Bloc to Redraw Strategy After Assembly Poll Setbacks

New Delhi: Twenty-three political parties of the opposition INDIA bloc will meet here on Monday to forge unity and rework their strategy to take on the BJP, while ironing out differences within after the defeat of regional outfits like the TMC and DMK in the recent assembly polls. Top opposition leaders, including Congress' Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, TMC's Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Tejashwi Yadav of RJD and Uddhav Thackeray of Shiv Sena (UBT), besides Left leaders and those from

smaller parties, are set to attend the meeting at 12 noon at the Constitution Club.

The meeting of top opposition leaders comes after a long time as the last time they met was during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Gandhi had in August last year hosted the opposition leaders at his residence that brought together nearly 50 leaders from over 25 opposition parties. Issues of alleged electoral manipulation, particularly the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter rolls in Bihar, was raised at that meeting.

The INDIA bloc leader-



ship has since then got together formally during consultations ahead of Parliament sessions, when opposition parties discussed floor coordination and issues to be jointly raised against the central government. The DMK and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will not be

part of the deliberations as they have opted out of the bloc. The AAP has already publicly distanced itself from the bloc, while the DMK earlier announced its decision to boycott the gathering after the Congress snapped ties with it in Tamil Nadu and joined the TVK-led government.

The alliance is set to deliberate on the future course of action and will aim to put a united face to take on the Modi government on national issues in the run-up to the next election cycle in states and the 2029 Lok Sabha polls. The recent defeat of Trinamool Congress (TMC) in West

Bengal has also forced the opposition bloc to come together to take on the saffron surge in the country. The TMC is likely to raise the issue of alleged attacks on its leaders in Bengal and rally support of INDIA bloc parties.

The recent assembly elections have, however, also brought out differences within the opposition bloc, with the CPI-M set to raise with the Congress the charge that the Left had a political understanding with the BJP in Kerala polls. The Left parties lost against the Congress-led UDF in the only state they were in power.

The issue is likely to be raised at the meeting. Ahead of the INDIA bloc meeting, the BJP said the opposition alliance is "a figment of imagination" and lacks conviction on the ground. However, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said like India, the "INDIA janbandhan" continues to stand united through its diversity. The last official meeting of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) was held in New Delhi on June 1, 2024, just ahead of the Lok Sabha election. The INDIA bloc originally constituted over 25 parties.

Tuesday 09, June, 2026

INDIA MUST REASSESS SEMICONDUCTOR STRATEGY

If India is to realise its dream of emerging as a major global player in the semiconductor sector, it needs to reassess its core strengths and craft suitable strategies. The stark reality is that the country imports 90-95% of the semiconductors it uses today, and the domestic demand is projected to exceed \$240 billion by 2035. India spent nearly \$150 billion importing semiconductor products between 2017 and 2025. In this scenario, it would be imprudent to reinvent the wheel and end up as an also-ran in the face of the widening gap between demand growth and limited domestic capability. Given the complex nature of the industry and the changing geopolitics surrounding it, the Centre must favourably look into a wide range of suggestions made by the NITI Aayog to make India an indispensable player in the global semiconductor value chain. One of the important recommendations made by the think tank is that India must stop trying to catch up with global leaders in cutting-edge semiconductor manufacturing and instead focus on areas where it can become irreplaceable within the global chip supply chain. It has been rightly argued that we should move away from the race to build the world's most advanced chips and focus instead on advanced packaging, system integration and manufacturing scale. Winning the semiconductor race will not be easy if India continues to run the existing race; instead, it should shift gears and target becoming the ecosystem player that the global semiconductor industry cannot run without.

India's semiconductor demand is projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 19%. This demand is expected to be driven by electronics manufacturing, rapid expansion of data centres, increasing semiconductor content in vehicles, particularly electric vehicles and advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS), and the rapid adoption of artificial intelligence across consumer and enterprise applications. Given the rising demand, excessive dependence on imported chips poses risks not only to economic growth but also to national security, as many semiconductor components used in defence systems are sourced from abroad. The global chip supply chain is currently undergoing massive geopolitical pressure as the United States and its allies are trying to reduce their dependence on Chinese semiconductor players and their markets. Though India traditionally had a strong base for the semiconductor design industry, hardware manufacturing has remained elusive. Over the last two decades, several consortia made multiple attempts at chip-making, but things never worked out. It is estimated that India will require between \$135 billion and \$180 billion in capital expenditure over the next decade to build infrastructure for semiconductor manufacturing, packaging, design and related ecosystem capabilities. The Centre must consider NITI Aayog's key recommendations, including setting up National Fab Academy, semiconductor-focused engineering curriculum, large-scale technician training programmes and a global talent initiative, to attract experienced semiconductor professionals.

Shah To Launch Land Port Digital Platform To Cut Delays at Border Trade Points



New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will launch the Land Port Management System (LPMS) on Tuesday, a digital platform aimed at integrating operations across land ports into a unified system.

He will also inaugurate stakeholder accommodation facilities at Dawki in Meghalaya and Srimantapur in Tripura, according to an official statement.

The LPMS is designed to enable coordination among government agencies and private operators, with the aim of reducing delays and improving operational efficiency.

The platform will provide end-to-end digital workflows for cargo and passenger processing, including slot booking, payments, tracking and single-window clearances.

"Fully integrated with key national platforms such as ICEGATE, ULIP, and the motor vehicle ecosystem, LPMS will enable interoperable, efficient, and transparent border management," the statement said.

The system will allow real-time exchange of logistics and regulatory information and is intended to align land port operations with digital systems used at airports and seaports.

"This initiative underscores the Narendra Modi government's commitment to smart border management, enhancing efficiency, transparency, and security in cross-border trade and passenger movement through technology-driven solutions," the ministry said.

The government said the platform reflects its focus on strengthening trade facilitation, connectivity and national security through technology-driven systems.

Cracks In I.N.D.I.A. Bloc Ahead Of Meet



New Delhi: Amid cracks in INDIA Bloc and with DMK refusing to attend the meeting so far opposition leaders of 23 parties have converged in Delhi for the INDIA Bloc meeting scheduled for Monday. The INDIA bloc is set to deliberate on the future course of action with an eye on the 2029 general elections. It would look to devise a joint strategy to corner the Modi government on national issues.

Trinamool Congress chief Ms Mamata Banerjee reached Delhi on Sunday. Her nephew Abhishek Banerjee flew a day ahead to see if the TMC flock in the Parliament remains intact following dissent and disintegration of the party in West Bengal. Ms Banerjee is accompanied by Rajya Sabha MP Dola Sen and senior Lok Sabha MP Kalyan Banerjee.

The top TMC leadership is making an assessment of the situation within its own party amid buzz of problems cropping up among its Lok Sabha MPs after party whip in LS Kakoli Ghosh Dastdar raised a red flag over party's functioning and conduct of fellow MPs in the wake of big defeat of TMC in recently assembly elections in West Bengal. According to rebel TMC MLA and deputy leader of the party's new legislative wing, Sandipan Saha, a development similar to that in the West Bengal Assembly is taking place within the parliamentary party in New Delhi. The TMC currently has 28 members in the Lok Sabha following the death of Basirhat MP Haji Nurul Islam.

CPI(M) will be represented by its Rajya Sabha leader John Brittas, even as the Left party awaits a response from the Congress over allegations during the Kerala Assembly election campaign. It is learnt that CPI (M) general secretary Mr M. A. Baby had recently written to Congress president Mr Mallikarjun Kharge seeking clarification on remarks by senior Congress leaders that suggested a political understanding between the CPI (M) and the BJP in Kerala.

Apart from TMC leaders, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Kharge are expected to attend the meeting. DMK has distanced itself from INDIA Bloc after Congress joined the TVK government in Tamil Nadu. TVK is not part of INDIA Bloc. The AAP has also distanced itself from the INDIA bloc.

"23 political parties have confirmed participation in the INDIA janbandhan meeting at Constitution Club, New Delhi on Monday June 8, 2026, at 12 noon. There are some parties who have expressed their inability to attend this particular meeting for their own reasons -- even though they have conveyed their strong opposition to the Modi government's policies and actions that are snatching away the right to vote for millions of Indians, assaulting the Constitution daily, attacking Opposition leaders through investigative agencies, seriously damaging the livelihoods of crores of Indians, breaking household budgets through relentless price rise, betraying the hopes and aspirations of lakhs of youth, dampening investment climate, and compromising the national interest by its foreign policy. Like India, the INDIA janbandhan continues to stand united through its diversity," Congress leader Mr Jairam Ramesh wrote on X.

Responding to Mr Ramesh, TMC Rajya Sabha MP Mr Derek O' Brien said, "Meeting with a common purpose and clear intent. INDIA united. Many parties look forward to meeting in the spirit of camaraderie."

India achieving defence self-reliance, most equipment now made domestically: Rajnath

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said India has made significant strides in defence self-reliance, with most military equipment now manufactured domestically. Addressing a programme in Lucknow, he also highlighted the city's growing role in defence production, research and innovation

Lucknow: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday highlighted India's self-reliance in the defence sector and said most of the equipment are now being manufactured indigenously. He was speaking at a 'Prabuddhjan and Varishthajan Samvaad Kaaryakram' in Lucknow on Sunday, the city unit of the BJP said in a statement.

"India remains in a strong position despite global challenges and international crises. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country is moving forward with confidence, and India's head will not be allowed to bow down under any circumstances," he said.

The minister said the country's global stature has risen under Modi, and the benefits of public welfare schemes are "reaching the last person in society". On the self-reliance achieved in the defence sector, he said country's defence production is steadily increasing, and most defence equipment is now being manufactured indigenously.

Singh, who represents Lucknow in the Lok Sabha, also said that the city is emerging as a key hub for defence production and research. "Several defence-related units, including the BrahMos missile project, have been promoted. The expansion of DRDO laboratories is providing opportunities for research and innovation to the youth," he said.



He recalled that after becoming an MP in 2014, traffic congestion was a major issue in Lucknow. To address this, priority was given to the Ring Road project, the benefits of which are now being enjoyed by the city's residents, according to him.

Singh further underscored the "marked improvement" in the law and order situation of Uttar Pradesh.

Five international airports have been constructed in the state, and key projects like the Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway are set to be launched soon," he said, according to the statement.

Referring to the start-up sector, Singh said there are currently around 2 lakh start-ups operating in the country, and unicorn companies symbolise India's "new economic strength". At the programme, members of the Sikh community requested that a direct flight service or a Vande Bharat train connecting Lucknow to Amritsar be introduced, according to the statement.



Andhra Pradesh plotting to divert Godavari waters, Revanth Reddy betraying Telangana: Harish Rao

Hyderabad: The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has accused the Congress government of compromising Telangana's water rights by supporting the proposed Godavari-Cauvery river interlinking project through Andhra Pradesh. The party termed the move a historic betrayal and alleged that the Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy was cooperating to benefit his mentor and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, neglecting the interests of Telangana and its people.

At a press conference here on Sunday, the party deputy floor leader and former Minister T Harish Rao said linking the proposed Godavari-Nallamala Sagar project with the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme would adversely affect Telangana's tribunal-backed water entitlements. He alleged that while earlier attempts such as the Godavari-Banakacherla and Nallamala Sagar proposals, had been resisted through BRS agitations, Andhra Pradesh had now revived the concept under the banner of the Godavari-Cauvery interlinking project.

The former Irrigation Minister said the original proposal discussed in meetings of the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) envisaged drawing water from Itchampally or Sammakka Sagar within Telangana, linking it to Nagarjuna Sagar and then onward to the Cauvery basin. He presented documents of the meeting where Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and even the Central Water Commission (CWC) had agreed to this framework.

"The then BRS government insisted that Telangana's allocated 968 TMCft of Godavari River water be fully protected before any interlinking project moved forward, apart from providing 50 per cent of water from projects taken up under this interlinking project," he said, adding that an in-principle agreement was given to these proposals. As per the fresh assessment, Telangana is eligible for 1,050 TMCft in Godavari River water.

However the latest proposal from Andhra Pradesh seeks to divert water directly from Polavaram through Nallamala Sagar to the Cauvery basin, completely bypassing Telangana. "There is no surplus water in the Godavari River. Even the Centre has acknowledged this on multiple occasions earlier. Yet Andhra Pradesh is attempting to corner the resource, leaving Telangana without even a single drop," he alleged, stating that if the proposal materialises, Telangana would gain nothing while Andhra Pradesh would secure a national project without spending its own resources.

The BRS deputy leader said the diversion could force Telangana to forgo 47 TMCft earmarked for the Sammakka Sagar project and jeopardise pending approvals for several irrigation schemes, including Sammakka Sagar, Wardha, Yellampalli expansion, Adilabad minor irrigation projects and Lower Penganga. He suspected that the State could lose as much as 211 TMCft of water through the combined impact of pending allocations and interlinking diversions.

He said Telangana consistently maintained before the NWDA that interlinking should only proceed after clearances for projects covering 968 TMCft were granted and after ensuring that 50 per cent of the diverted waters benefited Telangana. He recalled that this position had been reiterated during multiple NWDA meetings between 2015 and 2023.

Questioning the State government's stand, Harish Rao ridiculed Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's reported suggestion that approval for the Godavari-Banakacherla project could be linked to clearance for the Palamuru-Rangareddy scheme. "Such a position would weaken Telangana's legal claims over its allocated waters," he added.

The BRS leader also alleged that several high-level meetings involving officials of Andhra Pradesh, the union Government and Telangana took place in recent months regarding the interlinking proposal, but the minutes had not been made public. He said even Revanth Reddy participated in one of these meetings. He demanded that the State government disclose the details of these discussions.

Targeting both the Congress government in Telangana and the BJP-led Centre, Harish Rao accused them of remaining silent over the attempt to divert Telangana's rightful share of Godavari waters. He questioned the role of union Ministers G Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay, as well as BJP MPs from Telangana, asking why they failed to safeguard the State's interests.

He also raised concern over Krishna water utilisation, stating that Telangana used only about 25 per cent of the available water while Andhra Pradesh utilised nearly 75 per cent. He alleged that similar neglect was now extending to the Godavari basin.

Demanding immediate intervention, the BRS leader called upon the State government to oppose the Polavaram-Cauvery link, convene a special Assembly session to pass a resolution against the project and organise an all-party delegation to Delhi. He said the BRS was prepared to join or lead a broader public movement if necessary to protect Telangana's water rights.

Naidu Vows Dispute-Free Pattadar Passbooks For 90 Lakh Farmers

VIJAYAWADA: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday said the state government would issue dispute-free pattadar passbooks, with error-free records, to 90 lakh farmers after completing the land resurvey programme.

Addressing the 'Mee Bhoomi Reddy-Mee Hakku' programme at Sidhantham village in Penugonda mandal of West Godavari district, Naidu said land resurvey had been completed in 6,688 villages and pattadar passbooks issued to 26.46 lakh landowners after updating the records.

He said 62.32 lakh pattadar passbooks were yet to be distributed and assured landowners that they would be issued the papers within the stipulated time-frame.

The chief minister said the government was carrying out the resurvey with the participation of farmers. After verification of land details and completion of e-KYC, pattadar passbooks were being printed using blockchain technology and QR codes to prevent tampering of records.

He said the passbooks were being printed with multiple security features, similar to those used in currency notes, along with the state emblem.

Criticising the previous government, Naidu alleged that it had created disputes in non-disputed lands, tampered with land records and attempted to implement the Land Titling Act in a



manner detrimental to landowners. The present government repealed the act after assuming office, he said.

The chief minister noted that the previous government had printed the photograph of the then CM on pattadar passbooks and spent substantial funds on boundary stones carrying his portrait.

He said the government was addressing issues relating to service inam lands and lands

brought under section 22-A of the Registration Act. He said several long-pending land disputes, including those in Settipalli village of Chittoor district, had been resolved.

"We have been reaching out to landowners and farmers directly every month and issuing pattadar passbooks to them. For the unwarant act of (the YSRC government), it took them nearly three years to 'cleanse' the land records," he said.

The CM said the government had completed the final record of rights process in 1,836 villages under resurvey 2.0 and introduced 100 per cent auto-mutation for sale, gift and partition transactions covering nine lakh land dealings.

The procedure for inheritance transfers had been simplified by fixing stamp duty at `100 for properties valued below `10 lakh and `1,000 for properties above that value.

Naidu said old land records, including 1B, Adangal, DKT and Inam records, were being digitised. Villages were being migrated to Webland 2.0 only after achieving at least 80 per cent e-KYC compliance, he added.

The chief minister said 1.37 lakh acres of village service inam lands had been removed from the purview of section 22-A.

Referring to farmer welfare measures, Naidu said 46 lakh farmers had received `8,985 crore under the Annadata Sukhibhava scheme, including the Centre's contribution.

He also referred to difficulties being faced by aquaculture farmers due to the West Asia conflict, stating that feed costs had increased. The matter has been taken up with the central government, he said, and hoped there would be a positive response.

Naidu also said waste generated by the aquaculture sector could be utilised for manufacturing nutraceutical products.

Naidu, Pawan to Attend NDA Chief Ministers' Meeting in Delhi

Vijayawada: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan will leave for New Delhi on Tuesday to participate in the NDA Chief Ministers' and Deputy Chief Ministers' meeting scheduled for June 10.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will preside over the meeting, which assumes significance as the NDA government at the Centre



completes two years of its third term in office on June 9.

The meeting is expected to deliberate on governance, development initiatives and coordination among NDA-ruled states.

Political circles are also closely watching the developments amid speculation over a possible Union Cabinet reshuffle after June 15, adding further significance to the NDA meeting.

PM Modi Expresses Grief Over Vizag Steel Plant Accident, Announces Ex-Gratia for Victims

The Prime Minister announced an ex-gratia of `2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) to the next of kin of the deceased and `50,000 for those injured Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Vijayawada: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and many others expressed condolences to the families of the dead in the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant mishap on Monday.

The PM said, "Saddened by the mishap. Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. Praying that the injured recover at the earliest. The local authorities are providing all possible assistance to the affected. An ex gratia of `2 lakh from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given `50,000."

Naidu said, "I am distressed to learn that several workers have lost their lives. I have spoken to the concerned officials and directed them to undertake relief measures in coordination with all the government departments."

Education minister N. Lokesh said, "The loss of life of workers in the VSP accident is an irreparable tragedy. I convey my deepest condolences to the families of the deceased. I pray that the injured recover swiftly. The government machinery is overseeing medical aid to the affected and relief operations at the accident site."

The Chief Minister held a review meeting with chief secretary Sai Prasad and senior officials and with the Visakhapatnam collector on the mishap. The collector informed the CM that eight persons were killed, six were injured, and of them, the condition of two was critical. Among the dead, five were permanent employees while three were contract workers.

Naidu directed him to provide better medical care to the injured persons. Later, he spoke to the Union minister for steel H.D. Kumaraswamy over the phone and urged him to extend support to the affected families.

Survivors Recount Chaos After Steel Plant Mishap

Visakhapatnam: Workers who survived the accident at the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant described scenes of confusion and panic after a molten steel blast in the steel melting shop on Monday.

According to employees, the blast triggered a fire and dense smoke, making it difficult for workers to move to safety and assess the situation inside the unit.

"There was smoke all over the place and the workers were blinded before they succumbed to the fire," said Sudhakar, a worker who sus-



tained minor injuries in the incident. State home minister Vangalapati Anitha said the situation at the site was marked by confusion due to heavy smoke and intense heat following the accident. Senior trade union leader Varasala Srinivasa Rao said around 40 workers were assigned to

the section at the time of the incident. He noted that about 15 workers had stepped out for a tea break shortly before the mishap occurred. "It was a miraculous escape for them to go out at the time of the incident," Srinivasa Rao said.

A senior steel plant official said authorities are verifying worker attendance and deployment details as part of the inquiry into the accident.

Investigations are underway to ascertain the circumstances leading to the mishap.

Anitha Distributes Passbooks, Assures Permanent Land Rights

Visakhapatnam: Deputy Chief Minister Anitha claimed that nearly 70 per cent of the passbooks prepared during the previous administration contained mistakes, creating difficulties for landowners. Anitha claimed that nearly 70 per cent of the passbooks prepared during the previous administration contained mistakes, creating difficulties for landowners. She also alleged that the Land Titling Act had generated fear and uncertainty among the public. The present government, she said, has rectified these issues by issuing passbooks bearing the official state emblem and containing accurate land details.

The minister further announced that the government would soon introduce a dedicated telephone-based grievance system through which citizens can report instances where welfare and development benefits fail to reach eligible beneficiaries. "Our government is committed to serving the people with sincerity and dedication," Anitha said. District collector S. Ramsunder Reddy informed the gathering that the process of bifurcating joint Land parcel Map (LPM) records would be completed by the end of July. He stated that the new passbooks are error-free and include comprehensive land information along with QR codes to ensure transparency and easy verification. The programme was attended by S Kota MLA Kolla Lalitha Kumari.



The deputy Chief minister held an emergency review meeting with officials from East Godavari district and the APCCB to examine a report submitted on the pollution levels in the Godavari.

Expressing concern over the findings, Pawan Kalyan questioned why officials had failed to act despite evidence of pollution and noted the presence of coliform bacteria beyond permissible limits.

He said residues from chemical fertilisers and industrial effluents had led to elevated nitrate levels in

the river, making the water unsuitable for bathing and domestic use. He warned that consumption or use of polluted water could lead to diseases such as cholera, typhoid, gastroenteritis and skin ailments.

Referring to the discharge of industrial effluents from Andhra Paper Mills, the deputy Chief minister said the pollution was affecting both public health and the livelihoods of fishermen. He directed the management to upgrade and strengthen its wastewater treatment systems.

With regard to untreated sewage being released into the river by the Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation, Pawan Kalyan said no untreated wastewater should be allowed to enter the Godavari.

He directed officials to conduct a survey and prepare a comprehensive report on the number of sewage treatment plants required and the estimated cost involved. He also assured that efforts would be made to secure Central assistance for measures aimed at improving the quality of Godavari River water.

PAWAN KALYAN ORDERS ACTION OVER GODAVARI POLLUTION

VIJAYAWADA: Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan on Monday directed the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) to issue show-cause notices to Andhra Paper Mills and the Rajamahendravaram Municipal Corporation for allegedly polluting the Godavari River through the discharge of industrial effluents and untreated sewage respectively.

He also ordered disciplinary action against APPCB officials in Rajamahendravaram for failing to prevent pollution of the river.

66 complaints to Baldia Prajavani

Victims who changed the route of solutions at a snail's pace
Victims who are submitting complaints directly to the Collector



Warangal Corporation;: Actually, the Baldia has not been able to resolve public complaints so quickly, and the relevant officials and staff have brought up the issue. The town planning, engineering and other staff who did not resolve the problems even when the Commissioner was there are not enough people to take care of the complaints received, and the accusation that there is no one to take care of the complaints received is becoming true. It seems that some of the victims who have returned are directly queuing for the grievances held on Monday at the Hanumakonda Collectorate.

However, Chahat Bajpai, who was the previous Baldia Commissioner, recently became the Hanumakonda District Collector, and she is currently continuing as the Special Administrative Officer from the In-charge Commissioner.

It is learnt that some of the victims who came to lodge their complaints after learning that there was no Commissioner in the Baldia Grievances yesterday (Monday) reached Hanumakonda Collectorate and submitted their complaints directly to the Collector.

S.E. Rajkumar received the complaints

On Monday, at the Baldia Prajavani, Superintendent Engineer (SE) Rajkumar along with senior officers from various departments received applications from the city people for the resolution of various problems.

The details of the complaints received on this occasion were as follows by department.. Town Planning....19

Engineering...21

Revenue.....08

Health Sanitation..12

Water Supply.....04

Horticulture...02, a total of 66, according to the officials.

CP Ravinder Radekar, DFO Shankar Lingam, EE Sanjay Kumar, Deputy Commissioner Sammaiya, Tax Officer Ramakrishna, MHO Dr. Rajesh, HO Laxma Reddy, officers of all wings and other employees participated in this program.

Government giving priority to women

-MP Shetkar distributes Indira Shakti sarees

Zaheerabad June: Zaheerabad MP Suresh Kumar Shetkar said that the state government is distributing Indira Shakti sarees to enhance the dignity of women. On Monday, at the SV Function Hall in Zaheerabad, Sangareddy district, along with Municipal Chairman Yunus, MP sarees were distributed to women of MEPMA and DRDA savings societies. He reminded that the public government in the state is giving women a big platform in all fields and is taking steps to-



wards making them millionaires. He said that the government giving priority to women is the Congress government. Members of women's groups danced and created a buzz at the saree distribution program. Municipal Commissioner Prabhakar, Vice Chairman Sirisha Reddy, CDC, Atma, Ketaki Temple Chairmens Mubhin, Ramalinga Reddy, Shekhar, councilors, leaders and women participated in the program in large numbers.

Expedited settlement of applications is to be afforded:: Rajeeshwari, District Revenue Officer

A DRO that has attended a Public Hearing and received applications from the public

Peddapalli Correspondant June 08: On the eve of the public awareness programme, the district revenue officer Rajeshwari had already received applications from the public at the district collectorate in Nellore. B. Shankar of townships of the Colony of Nalla Pochammam applied for grant of single bed rooms in the name of the disabled while writing to EE Housing, the DRO said it would take necessary steps forthwith. B. Shankar of the Colony of Markandaya of Godavari Khani applied for grant of a wheelchair for the photograph of a disabled person while writing to the DRO he said necessary steps should be taken forthwith. Mr Ravi Kumar of the village of Eklasapur in the Antargamma division wrote to the ideal school asking for the vacant watchman's post to be given to him while writing to the Varadhhi Society he said it would examine and rectify the problem. The public awareness programme was attended by concerned district officials, others.



NAKSHA Pilot Project Must Be Completed Expeditiously: Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao

NAKSHA Survey Works Progressing in Manuguru Municipality: District Collector Ankith

Bhadradi Kothagudem District : State Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao on Monday reviewed the progress of the NAKSHA (Land Re-Survey and Urban Property Boundary Identification) programme through a video conference with District Collectors across the state. He stated that the government is implementing digital land survey initiatives on a priority basis with the objective of establishing a transparent and dispute-free land administration system.

During the review meeting, the Chief Secretary directed officials in the pilot project districts to ensure close coordination between the Survey and Revenue De-



partments and to carry out field-level surveys using rover-based survey equipment. He emphasized the need for accurate surveys of all properties within municipal limits and instructed officials to expedite the preparation and registration of the Record of Rights (RoR).

Participating in the

video conference from the IDOC office, District Collector Ankith informed the Chief Secretary that Manuguru Municipality has been selected under the NAKSHA Pilot Project in Bhadradi Kothagudem district. He said that field surveys are currently being conducted by the Survey and Revenue

Departments and that necessary steps are being taken to initiate the RoR registration process through the Municipal Administration Department.

The Collector further explained that Manuguru Municipality consists of 15 revenue wards, which have been divided into 97

survey blocks. A total of 7,524 properties have been identified within the municipal limits. Of these, surveys for 5,064 properties have already been completed, while the digitization process has been completed for 2,074 properties.

He reiterated that all concerned departments are working in coordination to achieve the project targets within the stipulated timeframe and to provide citizens with transparent, accurate, and accessible land records.

Additional Director of Survey Srinivas, Manuguru Municipal Commissioner Prasad, and officials from the concerned departments also participated in the video conference.

TPCC Working President Jaggareddy Felicitates Young Cricketer Naveen Manith Assures Full Support for His Future Cricketing Career

SANGAREDDY June 8,2026: TPCC Working President T. Jaggareddy felicitated emerging cricketer Naveen Manith from Sangareddy for his outstanding performances at the national level and assured him of complete support in pursuing a successful cricketing career.

Jaggareddy, who learned about the young player's achievements through his father Madhu, a Congress leader and physiotherapist, praised Naveen's dedication and talent. He assured the youngster that he would extend all possible assistance, including support for advanced training and participation in various tournaments.

Encouraging Naveen to continue excelling in the sport, Jaggareddy ex-



pressed confidence that he would bring laurels to Sangareddy district and Telangana in the coming years.

Eighteen-year-old Naveen Manith, who recently completed his Intermediate education, has been passionate about cricket since childhood and has steadily built an impressive record through hard work and perseverance.

National-Level Achievements

Represented Telangana in the Under-17 National Championships organized by the School Games Federation of India (SGFI) in Patna, Bihar, in 2024.

Played for Telangana in the Under-19 National Championships held in Chandigarh in 2026.

Scored a half-cen-

ture for Medak district against Mahabubnagar in the prestigious Venkataswamy Gold Cup Senior League.

Registered an impressive century while playing for a reputed club in Delhi.

Currently represents Sporty Club in the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA)

Leagues, featuring in T20, One-Day, and Two-Day matches.

Groomed Under Experienced Coaches

Naveen began his cricket journey in Class VI at MS Cricket Academy, where he trained under coaches Chandramouli and Inam. He received encouragement from HCA United Medak District President Rajender Reddy, which helped him progress further. At present, he is training under coach Iqbal at the Iqbal Cricket Academy in Hyderabad.

The felicitation programme was attended by TPCC General Secretary Topaji Ananth Kishan, former cricketer Raghu, and several others, who congratulated Naveen on his achievements and wished him greater success in the future.

Apprenticeship Mela a Grand Success... 34 Candidates Get Career Opportunities..!

Manuguru : The National Apprenticeship Mela, organized as part of the Central Government's Skill Development and Employment Promotion initiative, was successfully conducted on Monday at the Government ITI, Manuguru. This was stated by ITI Principal D. Venkateswara Rao.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that several reputed companies participated in the mela, including VLR Facilitators, Shakti Hormones, and Wohit Turbo from Hyderabad, L&T Amaravati from Vijayawada, Talluri Textiles from VM Banjara, Prathama ITC from Bhadrachalam, and Chaturya Engineering Works and APY Engineering & Constructions from Manuguru.

Around 100 youth attended the Apprenticeship Mela. After conducting interviews, company representatives selected 34 candidates for apprenticeship opportunities.

The selected candidates were advised to report directly to the respective companies. The Principal also stated that candidates who could not attend the mela may still approach the Government ITI, Manuguru, and efforts will be made to connect them with participating companies.



"Every ITI graduate should undergo apprenticeship training. It serves as a strong foundation for future employment opportunities," Principal Venkateswara Rao emphasized.

The program was attended by Training Officer G. Ravi, Superintendent Jyothi Rani, Senior Assistant Sadhana, ATOs G.V. Krishna Rao, M. Srinivasa Rao, A. Narasayya, Venugopal Naidu, D. Mahesh, and Komaram Dharmiah, along with ATC Master Trainer Poornachandra Rao and other ITI staff members.

The event has brought renewed hope to the youth, proving to be a significant platform for skill development and career advancement.

"A Pathway to Employment for ITI Students – 34 Candidates Secure Opportunities Through the Apprenticeship Mela!"

Village Assemblies Key to Comprehensive Rural Development: Collector Hemanta Keshav Patil

Youth Must Stay Away from Drugs: SP Dr. Sangram Singh G. Patil

Nagarkurnool : District Collector Hemanta Keshav Patil stated that Gram Sabhas are vital platforms for the comprehensive development of villages and play a crucial role in addressing local issues. He was speaking at a Gram Sabha held on Monday at Chandubatta village in Nagarkurnool mandal as part of the State Government's 99-Day Special Action Plan. The meeting was conducted under the chairmanship of village Sarpanch Tirupati Goud and attended by District Collector Hemanta Keshav Patil and Superintendent of Police Dr. Sangram Singh G. Patil as chief guests.



and proposals for development works and ensure that government welfare schemes reach every eligible beneficiary. He emphasized that public participation is essential for rural development and that decisions taken in Gram Sabhas contribute significantly to village progress.

Speaking on the occasion, SP Dr. Sangram Singh G. Patil said that youth play a key role in the development of society and urged them to stay away from drugs and other intoxicating substances. He called upon parents, teachers, and village elders to take special care in preventing young people from falling into drug abuse.

The SP warned that drug addiction not only destroys the future of youth but also adversely affects families and society. He advised young people to focus on education, employment, sports, and personality development to achieve their goals in life. He also appealed to villagers to immediately inform the police about any instances of drug sale or consumption in their areas.

SP Dr. Sangram Singh G. Patil further created awareness on cybercrime, road safety, and women's safety, and requested public cooperation in maintaining peace and law and order in villages.

The Gram Sabha was attended by RDO Suresh Babu, DSP Srinivasulu, Market Committee Chairman Ramana Rao, MPDO Chinnamma, MPO Rajeev Prasanna Kumar, Village Secretary Anvesh, officials from various departments, public representatives, village elders, women's self-help group members, youth, and a large number of villagers.

Addressing the gathering, Collector Hemanta Keshav Patil described Gram Sabhas as the foundation of the democratic system. He said they provide an important forum for identifying village issues and collectively working toward solutions. He encouraged villagers to openly present their needs and concerns during Gram Sabha meetings.

The Collector directed officials to prioritize the development of basic infrastructure, including drinking water facilities, sanitation, roads, street lighting, education, and healthcare. He instructed departments to prepare advance plans

TGFDC Brings New Hope to the Lives of Persons with Disabilities..!

50 Special Motorcycles Distributed Free of Cost Chairman Podem Veeraiah Attends as Chief Guest

Mahabubabad : Taking another significant step towards promoting self-employment and independence among persons with disabilities, the Telangana Forest Development Corporation (TGFDC) distributed 50 specially designed motorcycles free of cost at a programme held at the Forest Department Office in Mahabubabad district on Monday.



ability (CSR) initiative with the objective of improving the livelihood opportunities of persons with disabilities and making their daily travel easier.

Recalling that similar vehicles were earlier distributed to 75 beneficiaries in Bhadradi Kothagudem district, he stated that 50 units have now been sanctioned for Mahabubabad district.

He said the beneficiaries were selected based on the recommendations of the District Collector. He further noted that both the government and public sector organizations are committed to the welfare and empowerment of persons with disabilities, and that these vehicles would play a crucial role in enhancing mobility, employment opportunities, and self-reliance.

The programme was attended by Corporation CGM Venkateshwar Reddy, the District Forest Officer, Corporation GM Skylab, district officials, Forest Department and Corporation officials, public representatives, beneficiaries, and other dignitaries.

After the event, the beneficiaries expressed their gratitude to the Telangana Forest Development Corporation and Chairman Podem Veeraiah for extending this valuable support.

"Wings to Their Steps... Another Leap Towards Self-Reliance"

The initiative received widespread appreciation from the local community for empowering persons with disabilities and improving their quality of life.

The programme was attended by TGFDC Chairman Podem Veeraiah as the Chief Guest, who personally handed over the vehicles to the beneficiaries.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that the specially designed motorcycles are being distributed under the Corporation's Corporate Social Responsibility

Students Extend Warm Welcome to New Principal of GMC Nagarkurnool

Nagarkurnool : The students of Government Medical College, Nagarkurnool, accorded a warm welcome to Dr. Dawood Sulamani Mohammed, who recently assumed charge as the new Principal of the institution.

Before his transfer to Nagarkurnool, Dr. Dawood Sulamani Mohammed served as the Principal of Government Medical College, Mancherla, where he was known for his effective administration and dedication to strengthening medical education.

Welcoming the new Principal, students expressed confidence that the college would achieve greater heights in academics, research, and healthcare services under his leadership. They conveyed their best wishes and assured him of their wholehearted support for the continued growth and development of the institution.



Awareness Program on Plastic Eradication under Praja Palana – Pragati Pranalika 99-Day Action Plan"

Nirmal District Staff Reporter : As part of the Praja Palana – Pragati Pranalika 99-day action plan, an awareness program on plastic eradication was conducted at Adelli Nandanavanam in Sarangapur Mandal under the chairmanship of M.D. Nazeer Khan, Deputy Forest Range Officer.



On this occasion, a cleanliness drive was carried out by removing plastic plates, glasses, and other waste materials from the surroundings of Nandanavanam.

Participants were educated about the harmful effects of plastic usage on the environment. It was noted that thousands of devotees visit Adelli Nandanavanam every Sunday for recreational and social gatherings, resulting in the accumulation of large quantities of plastic waste. To address this issue, discussions were held on promoting the use of steel plates as an alternative to plastic plates.



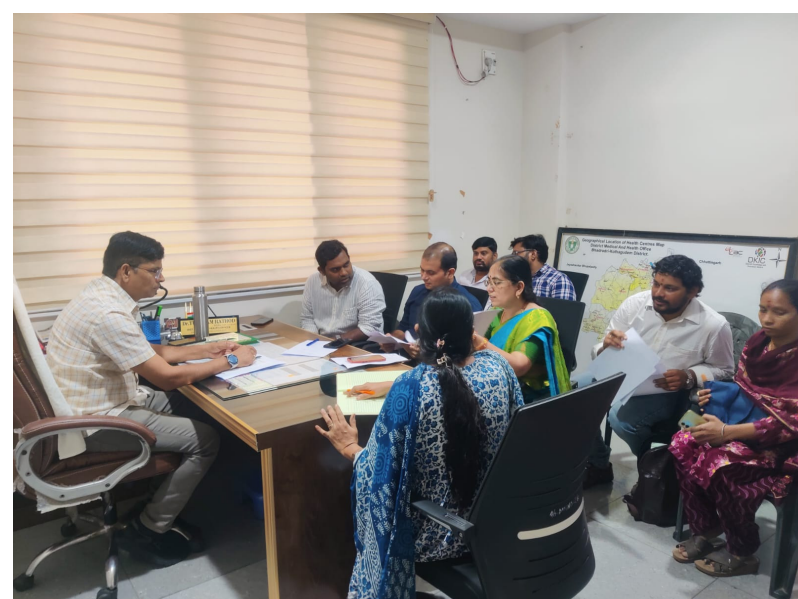
Several donors who attended the program came forward to donate steel plates. Officials stated that steps would soon be taken to replace plastic plates with steel plates at Adelli Nandanavanam.

The program was attended by chief guests Dandu Sayanna, Sarpanch of Adelli; Aziz Khan, MPDO of Sarangapur; Shankar, Principal of Government Junior College, Sarangapur; the Adelli Village Development Committee (VDC) Chairman and members, Panchayat Secretaries, and FBOs including Vennela Sujatha.

Special Action Plan in Bhadradi District for Control of Sickle Cell Anemia

Mandatory Screening Tests for Pregnant Women and Newborns Special Focus on Identification of New Cases in Bhadrachalam and Cherla Areas

Bhadradi Kothagudem District Correspondent: The Health Department has launched a special action plan in Bhadradi Kothagudem district to control and prevent Sickle Cell Anemia and Hypothalassaemia. A review meeting was held on Monday at the District Medical and Health Office under the chairmanship of District Medical and Health Officer Dr. Tukaram Rathod.



Dr. Vijayalakshmi, State Director of the Institute of Genetics, Hyderabad, attended the meeting as the chief guest and provided key guidelines to officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Vijayalakshmi emphasized the need for early identification, prevention, and management of Sickle Cell Anemia and Hypothalassaemia cases in the district. She instructed officials to conduct screening tests for pregnant women and their spouses. If both parents test positive, appropriate diagnostic tests should also be conducted for the fetus.

Special training programs should be organized for staff nurses conducting screening tests to improve the quality and efficiency of testing procedures. She also stressed the importance of identifying new cases, particularly in the Bhadrachalam and Cherla regions.

She further directed that newborn babies should undergo screening tests for Sickle Cell Anemia and Hypothalassaemia within 48 hours of birth. The program is to be effectively implemented through teaching hospitals and government hospitals across the district.

Officials were instructed to expand screening activities in government hospitals located at Bhadrachalam, Palvoncha, Yellandu, Aswaraopeta, Manuguru, and Cherla. Regular monthly review meetings should be conducted to monitor the progress of the program and ensure its successful implementation through coordinated efforts of trained healthcare staff.

The meeting was attended by Program Officers Dr. Pratap, Dr. Rakesh, Dr. Harish, Dr. Dinesh, Deputy DMO Nagalakshmi, and other officials.

With the objective that "early detection can protect future generations," the District Health Department is taking significant steps toward the prevention and control of Sickle Cell Anemia and Hypothalassaemia in Bhadradi Kothagudem district. **Headline Option: "Bhadradi Launches Special Drive Against Sickle Cell Anemia; Mandatory Screening for Pregnant Women and Newborns"**

Temple Presidents Invite Collectors



Bureau Chief Warangal June 8 : On the occasion of the successful completion of three years of the Metla Bavi Sri Dhana Maisamma Temple in the 34th Division of Warangal East Constituency with the blessings of the Goddess, the local people and the support of donors, the third anniversary celebrations will be held on the 20th and 21st of this month under the auspices of the temple president Thota Babanna. For these celebrations, the temple president Thota Babanna presented invitation letters to Warangal District Collector Dr. Satya Sharada and Hanumakonda District Collector and Baldia Special Administrative Officer Chahat Bajpayee and extended a courtesy invitation to them as distinguished guests.

Warangal East journalist Eeda Srinath, 33rd Division BJP leaders Naresh, Ravi, and others participated in the program.

INTUC Holds Victory Rally After Winning HMWS&SB Union Polls



HYDERABAD: A victory rally was held on Sunday from Khairatabad to Gandhi Bhavan following the election of Mogulla Rajireddy as the INTUC-backed candidate in the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) Employees Union polls.

The rally was followed by a felicitation programme at Gandhi Bhavan, attended by Telangana PCC president B. Mahesh Kumar Goud.

Former mayor Bonthu Rammohan, along with INTUC leaders R.D. Chandrasekhar, Naganna Goud, Adil Sharif, Kasireddy Jagan Mohan Reddy, Bhaskar Reddy, M.B. Vijay Kumar Yadav and L.D. Paul, and other trade union members, participated in the event.

Sabitha Indra Reddy alleges Congress is taking credit for BRS-era Koheda fruit market project

FORMER MINISTER P SABITHA INDRAREDDY ACCUSED CHIEF MINISTER REVANTH REDDY OF POLITICISING THE KOHEDA INTEGRATED FRUIT MARKET PROJECT AND CLAIMING CREDIT FOR A BRS-ERA INITIATIVE. SHE ALSO QUESTIONED LAND ACQUISITION DECISIONS, FARMER COMPENSATION AND THE GOVERNMENT'S DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Hyderabad: BRS deputy leader and former Minister P Sabitha Indra Reddy castigated Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for twisting facts to blame the BRS and attempting to cover up his failures, during the foundation-laying ceremony for the Koheda Integrated Fruit Market. She said the Chief Minister indulged into political criticism, rather than addressing public issues.

In a statement, Sabitha Indra Reddy asserted that the BRS government under K Chandrashekhara Rao had originally conceived the idea of an international-standard fruit market at Koheda, acquired nearly 300 acres of land and prepared a comprehensive roadmap for the project. However, she said the Congress, which earlier opposed shifting the market to Koheda when the BRS proposed developing a super-specialty hospital at the old Gaddiannaram market site, was now attempting to claim credit for the same project.

Firing salvos at the government, the BRS deputy leader sought an explanation for changing the market location despite land already being earmarked by the previous regime, and asked whom the originally allocated land would ultimately benefit. She also demanded that compensation be paid to farmers cultivating the present site before construction begins.

The former Minister maintained that the BRS never opposed development and recalled that the concept of the Regional Ring Road was initiated during the K Chandrashekhara Rao government. However, she alleged that the Congress government was acquiring fertile agricultural land for corporate and real estate interests without farmers' consent.

She accused the government of abandoning key



projects such as Pharma City while simultaneously pursuing the Bharat Future City project as a real estate venture. Referring to Revanth Reddy's earlier criticism of Pharma City, she asked whether he could categorically assure the public that no pharmaceutical industries would be established in the same area under the new project.

Sabitha Reddy also defended the Kaleshwaram and Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation projects, stating that they had transformed Telangana into the country's leading paddy-producing State by providing irrigation and recharging groundwater. She said allegations that these projects failed to deliver water, amounted to an insult to both farmers and the previous government. AP News Updates

Accusing the Congress of failing to implement its Six Guarantees, delaying farm loan waivers, neglecting Rythu Bharosa and disappointing unemployed youth, the former Minister said Revanth Reddy targeted BRS leaders at Koheda only to divert attention from his government's shortcomings. She asserted that the BRS would continue to question anti-people policies of the Congress government.

They protested during UPA: Congress mocks BJP over rising LPG prices

The Congress criticised the Modi government over the latest LPG price hike, alleging burden on households and questioning fuel diversification claims. The Centre defended the increase, attributing it to rising global prices and asserting that India continues to offer relatively cheaper cooking gas

New Delhi: The Congress on Sunday launched a scathing attack on the Modi government over domestic LPG price hike, asking why the BJP leaders aren't taking to the streets with cylinders in protest now when they used to raise a hue and cry about inflation during the UPA era.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made "grand claims" in Parliament about diversifying fuel sources across 41 countries in response to the West Asia conflict and asked what became of that.

Why does a shortage of LPG persist in rural areas even today, he asked. The Congress president's remarks came after the price of a 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinder in Delhi was raised to Rs 942 from Rs 913, while beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) will continue to pay an effective Rs 642 per cylinder after receiving a subsidy of Rs 300 per refill on the first four refills annually, down from 9 refills announced last year.

The increase follows a Rs 60-per-cylinder hike on March 7, taking the cumulative hike to Rs 89 per 14.2-kg cylinder. State-run oil marketing companies were estimated to be losing about Rs 703 on every LPG cylinder sold before the latest revision.

In a post in Hindi on X, Kharge said, "Soaring domestic LPG prices threaten to devastate the kitchens of the common people! The Modi government has hiked the price of domestic LPG cylinders by Rs.89 over the last four months."

"We have three questions: Modi ji had made grand



claims in Parliament about diversifying fuel sources across 41 countries in response to the West Asia conflict. What became of that? Why does a shortage of LPG persist in rural areas even today? Under the Ujjwala scheme, 5.56 crore families did not get even a single refill (or got only one) during 2025-26. Of these, 3.30 crore families did not opt for a single cylinder refill. This situation predates the West Asia crisis. Is this not the result of the Modi government's profiteering?" Kharge said.

"Modi ji and BJP leaders used to raise a hue and cry about inflation during the UPA era. Is it not true that the Modi government has increased domestic LPG prices by Rs 530 over the last 12 years? Why aren't BJP leaders taking to the streets with LPG cylinders in protest now?" he said.

The government on Sunday said Indian households continue to pay among the lowest prices for cooking gas globally despite a sharp rise in international PG prices triggered by disruptions in West Asia.

Telangana: Bhatti Says Education Spending Is Investment In Future

NALGONDA: Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Sunday said the Young India Integrated Schools initiative of the state government was aimed at creating a strong educational environment for poor students.

Inspecting construction works at Laxmipuram in Khammam district, he said expenditure on education was an investment in future generations. He reiterated that the Congress government had accorded priority to education and welfare, and cited measures such as strengthening government schools and increasing mess and cosmetic charges, which he said were not revised during the previous BRS government's nine-year tenure.

He directed officials to expedite construction of the school building and ensure completion within the stipulated timeframe. He said quality should not be compromised and asked officials to regularly supervise the



works.

Officials informed him that the 'G+1' slab works for the administrative building and Blocks 2, 3 and 4 had been completed. Ground-floor slab work for Block 1 was in progress, while foundation work for three other blocks had been completed.

At Yadavalli in Mudigonda mandal, while laying the foundation stone for a 33/11 KV sub-station taken up at a cost of ₹3.15 crore, he stressed adherence to quality standards to ensure durability. He said the sub-station would help ensure uninterrupted power supply to surrounding villages.

Referring to road works in Mudigonda mandal estimated at ₹33 crore, he said improved transport facilities and better connectivity with national highways would follow upon completion.

He instructed officials to monitor all development works regularly to maintain quality standards and reviewed the status of construction of a 50-bed hospital building in Mudigonda.

Telangana State Warehousing Corporation chairman Rayala Nageswara Rao, Telangana State Handicrafts Development Corporation chairman Naidu Satyanarayana and Stambhadri Urban Development Authority chairman Puvvalla Durga Prasad were present.

Tummala Says State Strengthening Power Infrastructure

Nalgonda: Agriculture minister Tummala Nageswara Rao on Sunday said the state government was strengthening power infrastructure by setting up new substations and transmission lines to ensure quality and uninterrupted electricity supply.

He, along with Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, inaugurated a 33/11 kV sub-station at Pakabanda in Khammam.

Addressing the gathering, he said the government was providing free electricity to agricultural pump sets and domestic connections up to 200 units. He said the state had met peak summer demand without power cuts.

He directed officials to shift electric poles obstructing development works in municipal areas and called for coordination among roads and buildings, electricity, municipal and irrigation departments for timely completion of projects. He also asked officials to prepare plans for setting up solar power plants on government lands.

He urged the public not to believe Opposition claims on free power to farmers.

Officials noted that peak demand had increased from 15,000 MW in 2023 to 18,548 MW at present and was expected



to rise further due to projects such as Musi River rejuvenation, Future City, industrial expansion, Pharma City and data centres, along with agricultural growth.

The minister said the government was focusing on green energy with a target of generating 20,000 MW of renewable energy by 2030 and was examining the establishment of a dedicated 'Farmer DISCOM' to improve services for the agricultural sector.

He said despite an increase of about 3,500 MW in demand over the past two-and-a-half years, there had been no power cuts in the state.

He added that measures had been taken for the welfare of electricity department employees, including accident insurance coverage of ₹1 crore. He said plans were under way to install solar pump sets for six lakh acres cultivated by tribal farmers under the Indira Giri Jala Vikasa scheme.

Domestic LPG prices raised by Rs 29 per cylinder; 2nd hike since West Asia conflict began

New Delhi: Domestic cooking gas prices have been increased by Rs 29 per cylinder, marking the second hike in three months as state-owned oil marketing companies continue to face pressure from elevated global energy costs.

With effect from Sunday, the price of a 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinder in Delhi has been raised to Rs 942 from Rs 913, according to industry sources.

The latest revision follows a Rs 60-per-cylinder increase announced on March 7 after the conflict in the Middle East disrupted global energy markets and pushed up international fuel prices.

Despite that increase, oil marketing companies were reportedly unable to fully recover mounting losses on domestic LPG sales. Industry sources said state-run fuel retailers were estimated to be losing around Rs 703 on every domestic LPG cylinder sold prior to the latest price revision.

The fresh hike is expected to partially offset those losses, although companies are still believed to be under financial strain due to high import and supply costs.

The LPG price increase comes amid a broader rise in fuel prices across the country. Petrol and diesel prices have been increased by a cumulative Rs 7.50 per litre since mid-May, while compressed natural gas (CNG) rates have risen by around Rs 6 per kg during the same period.



According to industry estimates, oil companies continue to sell petrol and diesel below cost despite the recent revisions.

Retailers are reportedly incurring losses of about Rs 11 per litre on petrol and Rs 33.6 per litre on diesel, reflecting the impact of higher global crude oil and refined fuel prices.

The government has so far refrained from allowing a complete pass-through of international energy costs to consumers. Instead, a portion of the burden has been absorbed by state-owned fuel retailers as authorities seek to balance inflation concerns with the financial health of oil marketing companies.

Denmark's Christian Eriksen Collapses Again During Friendly Match With Ukraine

Copenhagen: Danish football player Christian Eriksen collapsed on the pitch in a match against Ukraine on Sunday, but was conscious, the Danish Football Federation said in a social media post. "Christian Eriksen is conscious and is doing well under the circumstances," the federation said in a statement on X, adding that the friendly had been called off. In 2021, Eriksen collapsed during a European championship match in Copenhagen and was given life-saving CPR treatment. He was later fitted with a special heart-starting device known as



an Implantable Cardioverter-Defibrillator (ICD). Neither Denmark nor Ukraine qualified for this year's World Cup.

Modi Congratulates Women's Football Team On Winning SAFF Women's Championship

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday congratulated the Indian women's football team on winning the SAFF Women's Championship 2026, saying this will encourage more youngsters to play football in the coming times. India clinched the SAFF Women's Championships football title for the sixth time and first after seven years with a dominant 3-1 win over Bangladesh in the summit clash in Goa on Saturday.

"Congratulations to the Indian Women's Football Team



on winning the SAFF Women's Championship 2026. They have played excellently through the tournament. This will encourage more youngsters to play football in the coming times. Best wishes to the team for their future endeavours," Modi said in a post on X.

Kochhar Bags Top-10 In Morocco; Lindh Wins Title

India's Karandeep Kochhar carded a flawless, bogey-free 68 to secure a joint ninth-place finish at the USD 500,000 IGPL Bharath Classic in Morocco

El Jadida: India's Karandeep Kochhar continued his impressive run on the Asian Tour with a bogey-free final-round 68 to secure a top-10 finish at the USD 500,000 IGPL Bharath Classic, while Sweden's Charlie Lindh stormed to victory with a tournament-best closing round.

Kochhar carded rounds of 66, 73, 70, and 68 to finish at 11-under-par, good enough for a share of ninth place and his third top-10 finish of the season. The result also lifted the Chandigarh golfer to 12th in the Asian Tour Order of Merit standings.

The tournament, co-sanctioned by the Indian Golf Premier League (IGPL) and the Asian Tour, was won convincingly by Lindh, who closed with a sensational eight-under 64 to finish at 18-under-par. The Swede, who had finished runner-up at the Kolon Korea Open in his previous start, capped off a superb week with an eagle on the 18th hole to secure a four-shot victory and move up to third on the Order of Merit.

For Kochhar, the week was another demonstration of his growing consistency. The winner of the IGPL Dubai event was outstanding from tee to green, regularly finding fairways and greens in regulation. His only frustration came on the greens, where he required at least 28 putts in each round, including 34 during his second-round 73.

On Sunday, Kochhar produced a flawless card, picking up birdies on the third, 10th, 11th, and 14th holes to sign off with a four-under-par effort. He finished the tournament with 16 birdies and remained firmly in contention throughout the week.

The 28-year-old Indian, who also registered a tied-fifth finish at the International Series Japan earlier this season, will now turn his attention to next week's USD 2 million International Series Morocco as he continues his pursuit of a maiden Asian Tour title. His only professional victory to date came on the Asian Development Tour in Egypt, a triumph that earned him full Asian Tour status.

Among the other Indian contenders, Gaganjeet Bhullar and Yashas Chandra were the next-best performers, both finishing tied for 27th at six-under-par. Bhullar closed with a 68 featuring five birdies and a lone bogey, while Yashas produced a bogey-free round of 68.

Rashid Khan finished tied for 41st at three-under after a final-round 71, alongside Kartik Singh and Sachin Baisoya. Baisoya's closing 67 featured two eagles on the par-five third and seventh holes, while Kartik endured a roller-



coaster round containing seven birdies, two bogeys, and two double bogeys.

Shaurya Bhattacharya signed off with a 71 to finish tied for 52nd, Aman Raj was tied for 56th after a round of 70, while Pukhraj Singh Gill, Raghav Chugh, and Udayan Mane ended the week in the lower half of the leaderboard. Amateur Jai Bahl finished tied for 67th.

At the top of the leaderboard, Lindh produced the round of the tournament to overturn a three-shot overnight deficit. Starting the day behind Thailand's Settee Prakongvech, the Swede surged through the field before delivering a memorable finish. With childhood friend Isaac Bondesson on the bag, Lindh reached the edge of the 18th green in two shots and rolled in a 20-foot putt from the fringe for an eagle to seal the title in style.

"It feels good—feels really good," Lindh said. "It feels like I'm still focused, but when everything settles a little bit, I will realize what I have done today. I have been playing well coming into this week, and I have been very, very excited to play golf the last couple of months because the game has been feeling better. And thankfully, I got some good results today."

American Charles Porter briefly threatened to force a dramatic finish and was tied for the lead after 17 holes at 16-under. However, a wayward second shot into a water hazard on the final hole led to a costly double bogey, leaving him tied for second with Settee at 14-under.

Thailand's Sarit Suwannarut fired a 66 to share fourth place with England's Sam Broadhurst, while American Marcus Plunkett joined Thailand's Poom Saksansin and Runchanapong Youprayong in a tie for sixth at 12-under.

Morocco's Ayoub Lguirati emerged as the leading local performer, finishing tied for 13th at nine-under-par.

The Asian Tour now heads to Rabat for the USD 2 million International Series Morocco presented by Visit Morocco, where Kochhar and several other Indians will look to build on their encouraging performances from El Jadida.

SPORTS



Alexander Zverev wins maiden French Open title after five-set battle

Paris: Alexander Zverev finally broke his Grand Slam duck after overcoming a spirited challenge from Flavio Cobolli 6-1, 4-6, 6-4, 6-7(5), 6-1 in a gripping French Open final on Sunday to lift the first major title of his career.

In an enthralling four-hour 20-minute contest on Court Philippe-Chatrier, the German fought back from the disappointment of letting a two-sets-to-one lead slip away and sealed the French Open 2026 crown in the decisive fifth set.

It brought an end to Zverev's long wait for a Grand Slam title, having suffered losses in three previous finals – at the US Open in 2020, Roland Garros in 2024, and the Australian Open in 2025, but the world No 3 managed to hold his nerve when it mattered, collapsing onto the clay in disbelief when he converted the championship point.

Zverev flew out of the blocks in the final, breaking Cobolli in the opening game, immediately asserting control at the baseline as his serve and groundstrokes were too potent for the Italian, who could not find a rhythm as the first set was over in just 34 minutes.

But Cobolli, in his first ever Grand Slam final, produced a fine response in the second set as the 24-year-old attacked with freedom, mixing in clever drop shots, and he found a breakthrough at 4-4 when Zverev sent a forehand wide.

The Italian held serve with authority, levelling the match to fire up the Paris crowd.

The third set turned out to be crucial. Holding serve all the way until the tenth game, it was a flurry of errors by Cobolli that handed Zverev a vital break which he then sealed when moving within one set of a long-awaited major title.

The nerves, however, began to show in the fourth set with Zverev gifting Cobolli a break in the first game, and then again when serving at 4-3 down.

The German clawed his way back to 5-5, but could not deny the Italian a sensational comeback in the tie-break as he battled back from 1-3 down, sealing it with a stunning forehand winner at set point to send



the match into a decider.

With the momentum now firmly with Cobolli, and Zverev faltering yet again, the final appeared to be slipping away.

But the German stepped up to produce the finest tennis of the contest.

Despite his struggles in the fourth-set tie-break, Zverev immediately responded with an improved level in the fifth. Serving superbly and winning 83 percent of first-serve points, coupled with consistent groundstrokes forcing a barrage of Italian errors, the second seed broke Cobolli early and never looked back, saving all four break points he faced to win 6-1.

This is a career-defining title for Zverev, who had already captured two ATP Finals titles, seven Masters 1000 crowns, and an Olympic gold medal, but the 29-year-old can now add a Grand Slam title to his remarkable achievements.

The victory also puts him in the annals of German tennis. He became the first German man to win the French Open since Henner Henkel in 1937, and the first German man to win any Grand Slam title since Boris Becker triumphed at the Australian Open in 1996.

For Cobolli, defeat brought an end to a wonderful tournament, but the Italian departs Roland Garros having reached his first ever major final and set to enter the world's top 10 for the very first time.

India SWOT analysis: Batting-heavy squad targets Women's T20 World Cup glory in England

New Delhi: India will enter the tenth edition of the Women's T20 World Cup in England and Wales on the back of winning the 50-over World Cup on home soil last year. The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side has a batting lineup capable of frightening any opponent, yet the bowling attack is still relatively inexperienced to excel in English conditions.

India's best finish in the Women's T20 World Cup came in 2020 when they became runners-up after losing to Australia in the final at Melbourne Cricket Ground. With the side set to open their Group 1 campaign against Pakistan on June 14 and followed by taking on Bangladesh, Netherlands, South Africa and Australia, IANS takes a look at the Indian team through an in-depth SWOT analysis.

Strengths: The batting is where India genuinely stands apart from other 11 teams. Since the last Women's T20 World Cup in 2024, their top order possesses the second-highest team average in the world (30.1) and run rate (8.8), which is behind only six-time winners Australia.

At the top, Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma have been nothing short of devastating. Their opening partnership has yielded 762 runs in that period, with a strike rate of 150, more than any other pair in women's T20s.

Smriti's record in England specifically warrants attention. Among batters with 500 or more runs in women's T20s in England, nobody averages higher than her 38.3. Despite her making 40 runs in the recent 2-1 T20i series loss in England, India will count on Smriti to get big runs at the top in the World Cup.

Shafali, meanwhile, brings something different – raw power coupled with immense maturity. Her strike rate of 157 during the powerplay since the 2024 World Cup is the highest among any batter who has faced a significant volume of balls, and she has somehow been even more destructive in the middle overs, striking at 164.

She has hit 16 sixes in this period, joint-second in the world alongside Smriti, Sophie Devine and Sobhana Mostary. One will hope that Shafali will finally hit her first T20 World Cup fifty in England, as her explosive power-game separates her from a lot of batters in T20s.

The spin bowling department is also another strength point of India, especially if hot conditions are on offer on match days. Post the 2024 edition, the Indian spin bowling unit has the second-best balls per wicket rate (17.9) after Australia, while picking 84 wickets in 24 innings at an economy rate of 7.6.

Sree Charani, who debuted in T20is in England last year and took ten wickets in that series to win Player of the Series award, will hold the key again



alongside Shreyanka Patil and Radha Yadav. Deepti Sharma, the all-time leading wicket-taker in women's T20s with 161 scalps, provides the experience that holds the Indian team together despite a slight recent mixed time in the format.

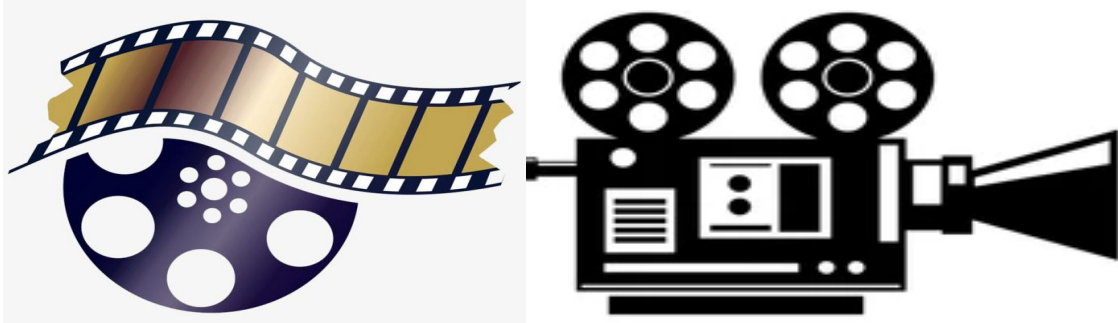
Weaknesses: The pace bowling department remains a persistent source of anxiety, especially with no Amanjot Kaur and Kashvee Gautam due to back and knee injuries respectively. With Renuka Singh Thakur not featuring in India's 2-1 series loss to England due to unknown reasons, it has meant that the side are well short of depth in fast bowling pool.

Moreover, not all bowlers in the Indian team have considerable experience of bowling in English conditions, which means there's inexperience aplenty and that's something which opposition batters will look to exploit. In the powerplay, when conditions in England may offer the most help, India have been the most expensive attack in – conceding at eight runs per over, and they take a wicket only once every 28 balls – again the worst figure among the top teams.

For a side that relies heavily on spinners to do the choking and wicket-taking job, the pacers giving away runs could prove to be costly. There is also the matter of India not settling its middle order – Yastika Bhatia did well on return to the T20i team after two years at number three, a place held by Jemimah Rodrigues for a long time. But her tendency to suffer a slowdown after power-play means the pressure comes more on batters coming after her to do the bulk of the scoring.

The point of concern for India is also their finishing department – Richa Ghosh hasn't fired yet while Bharti Fulmali, who was brought into the Indian team for the second finisher role, has not got a consistent run and when she has come in, hasn't looked in prime touch.

Opportunities: A year ago, India lifted the 50-over World Cup on home soil and sent the nation into the joy of breaking the drought of a senior women's cricket silverware. Now, going all the way to the T20 World Cup title will help India become the third side to clinch back-to-back silverwares after Australia and England.



CINEMA

Nikhil's unwavering commitment for Swayambhu won hearts

Nikhil Siddhartha's Swayambhu has become one of the most anticipated Pan-India warrior epic.

Nikhil Siddhartha's Swayambhu has become one of the most anticipated Pan-India warrior epic. Since the announcement the excitement surrounding the movie has been building organically with each update. The songs composed by Ravi Basrur and huge visual landscape have always raised expectations from the film.

Directed by Bharat Krishnmachari and produced by Bhuvan, Sreekar the movie promises a spectacular visual experience that will stay with audiences forever. Nikhil has given 3 and half years of his career for the film putting his blood and sweat to achieve a Pan-India pinnacle.

On his birthday, makers released a BTS video of him training with International stuntmen to pull



off his own stunts. He worked hard, dedicated his time and even overcame injuries to finally, deliver a highly realistic convincing warrior portrayal. Currently, the movie VFX works are progressing rapidly and soon, makers will announce the release date.

Nagabandham Rare Feat, Fetches Fancy Rates

The most-awaited mythical adventure and thriller Nagabandham has managed to achieve something few big-ticket films are unable to accomplish in the current market.

The most-awaited mythical adventure and thriller Nagabandham has managed to achieve something few big-ticket films are unable to accomplish in the current market. The film has attracted exceptional interest from leading players, translating into a highly rewarding non-theatrical business much before its theatrical release. What's more, the movie fetched its makers fancy rates for non-theatrical rights.

Amazon Prime Video has bagged the streaming rights, while Star Maa has acquired the Telugu satellite rights. Zee has taken charge of the television rights for Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam versions, underlining the film's wide-reaching market appeal. Zee Studios will distribute the movie across North India and overseas territories.

What makes this feat particularly noteworthy is that the film is led by Virat Karra, who is still at the beginning of his career. Yet, the project's scale, the larger-than-life content, visual ambition, and strong creative confidence have convinced buyers to invest heavily in the film across languages.

Rather than depending solely on promotional hype, director Abhishek Nama reportedly gave prospective partners a glimpse of the film's strengths firsthand. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with industry circles impressed by its expansive world-building, technical finesse, and the momentum generated by its promotional content.

For the makers, this is more than a business victory. It is a validation of their decision to mount the film on a grand canvas, backed by extensive VFX work, lavish production design, and a belief that scale and storytelling can still continue to fetch impressive business.



With the trade already placing its faith in the project, Nagabandham now heads toward its July 3 release carrying substantial prospects

Sing Geetham Emaiyyindi: Innovative Track

Song does a fantastic job in showcasing little nuances that went into the making of the film.



Singeetham Srinivasa Rao's musical fantasy, Sing Geetham, has created high anticipation with its crazy concept and different promotional campaign. Now, the makers have unveiled Emaiyyindi Baboi Edo Ayipoyindi song from the film and it introduces us to the musical world that legend created.

Song does a fantastic job in showcasing little nuances that went into the making of the film. We see, Singeetham working hard on sets even at his age to bring perfection. The leads Ayaan, Ahilya Bamroo, and Shalini Kondepudi are seen rehearsing every moment in sync with all the characters several times.

Also, the song is innovatively sung by 11 singers - a mix of cast members and professionals. Composer Devi Sri Prasad has written lyrics with four others. Emaiyyindi Baboi Edo Ayipoyindi track creates great curiosity and intrigue about the concept, execution and magical musical world of Sing Geetham. The movie is set to release on 11th June, promising a never-seen-before experience.

Preity Mukundan's Role in 'Blast Zone' and 'Kannappa'; triggers debate

Actress Preity Mukundan has become a talking point on social media following the success of her latest Tamil film Blast Zone. The young actress, who played the daughter of senior actor Arjun Sarja and portrayed a skilled karate fighter in the film, has received praise for her performance and screen presence.

However, the appreciation has also sparked an online debate among fans from different film industries. Some social media users have been comparing Preity's role in Blast Zone with her appearance in Manchu Vishnu's Kannappa. According to these discussions, Blast Zone offered the actress a stronger, character-driven role, while Kannappa largely showcased her glamorous side.

The comparisons have led to criticism of



Tollywood from certain sections of fans, who argue that the Telugu film industry did not fully utilize the actress's acting potential. However, others point out that such comparisons may be unfair, as actors often choose roles based on various factors, including career strategy, opportunities, and the nature of the projects.

Interestingly, Preity Mukundan's journey in the entertainment industry began with glamorous appearances, including the popular Tamil music video Aasa Koodai. She later featured in several other music videos that highlighted a similar image. Her role in Kannappa was also part of that phase of her career.

Industry observers note that commercial cinema often requires actors to balance glamorous-oriented roles with performance-driven characters. Several leading actresses, including Trisha and Samantha, have successfully navigated both spaces during their careers.

For now, Preity Mukundan appears to be benefiting from the attention. With Blast Zone earning positive responses and her performance drawing praise, the actress has emerged as one of the young talents to watch in South Indian cinema.

Nushratt Bharuccha issues clarification over weird sounds on Instagram, reveals its source

Nushratt Bharuccha clarified viral Instagram stories after speculation over unusual sounds following the IPL final, explaining they were from a puppy at her friend's house. She urged responsible interpretation, denying misinformation while also sharing glimpses of her recent birthday celebrations with friends



not misinterpret or follow blindly. Think and act responsibly (sic)".

Earlier, the actress turned 40 on May 17, and celebrated her birthday in the most stylish and cheerful way possible, surrounded by close friends. The actress took to her social media account to share a carousel of pictures from her intimate birthday bash.

The birthday party also marked her reunion with her 'Pyaar Ka PUNCHAMA' co-star Ishita Raj. The two actresses were seen happily posing together, dancing together. In the pictures, Nushratt looked stunning in a bright pink strappy gown.

She was seen dancing barefoot, and having a ball of a time. The birthday party was attended by Bollywood stars Jacqueline Fernandez, Mrunal Thakur, Jacky Bhagnani, Rakuul Preet Kaur and others. In one picture, the actress was seen dancing her heart out with Mrunal Thakur.

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Nushratt Bharuccha has issued a clarification after her Instagram Stories went viral over alleged weird sounds after the IPL final between RCB and GT.

The actress took to the Stories section of her Instagram on Thursday, and shared screenshots from previous Stories, and penned a long note clarifying that the sounds were made by a puppy.

She wrote, "Kuch logon ne hadh hi kar di hai. Ek puppy ke rone ki awaaz se itna bawala mach gaya hai and someone has issued a fake clarification also on my behalf. So here's the reality... I was watching the match at my friends house and their young puppy was making these crying 'Sounds'."

This is the video made by my friend at the same time with the same sounds from another angle". She further mentioned, "This is the house where I was watching the match. This is the puppy. This is a video from that very night a while later. Fearing exactly what has happened, I was advised to delete that video and I did. People, calm your wild thoughts down! Owning a mobile phone doesn't empower harassment. Do