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New Ways Open Up For Nari Shakti: PM

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the NDA government's efforts over the last 12 years have created an environment where women can realise their full potential and contribute more to nation-building. The Prime Minister said new avenues for India's "nari shakti" have opened up as his government focused on providing "dignity, opportunity and empowerment".

In a series of posts on X, Modi stated that his

government's efforts to encourage women-led development are visible across sectors, as women are playing a prominent role across diverse fields — from financial inclusion and entrepreneurship to education, healthcare, sanitation, housing, sports, science, and governance.

The Prime Minister noted that he is particularly happy to see India's nari shakti make a mark in sectors like science, space and innovation. He highlighted that their growing participation in emerging fields such as drone technology is opening new avenues of opportunity and transforming the development landscape across the nation.

Modi shared that the government is actively supporting self-help groups, which are going a long way in making women finan-



cially independent.

Sharing a "Sanskrit Subhashitam", Modi stated that India's nari shakti is the cornerstone of nation building. "Today, our mothers, sisters, and daughters are increas-

ing the pride of Maa Bharati with their amazing talent and skills in every field," he observed.

"Over the last 12 years, the NDA government has worked to further women-led development. And this is visible across sectors. From financial inclusion and entrepreneurship to education, healthcare, sanitation, housing, sports, science and governance, women are playing a prominent role across diverse sectors. The efforts of the NDA government are rooted in dignity, opportunity and empowerment. They have helped create an environment where women can realise their full potential and contribute even more strongly to nation-building," the Prime Minister posted on

X. "I am particularly happy to see India's nari shakti make a mark in sectors like science, space and innovation. Their growing participation in emerging fields such as drone technology is opening new avenues of opportunity and transforming development landscape across the nation. Our government is actively supporting self-help groups, which are going a long way in making women financially independent," Modi added.

Amarnath Yatra: Shah Chairs Meeting To Review Security Preparedness

New Delhi : Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday chaired a high-level meeting to review the security and operational preparedness for the upcoming annual Amarnath Yatra, officials said. The yatra is scheduled to begin on July 3.

The meeting was attended by National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval, Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, Army Chief Gen Uppendra Dwivedi, and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Director General GP Singh, besides other senior security and administrative officials.

The 57-day pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine in the Himalayas requires a massive security deployment, with the Central and Union Territory agencies working in close tandem.

Officials said the agencies are combining advanced surveillance technology, intelligence-led monitoring, and multi-agency coordination to ensure a completely secure environment for the devotees.

Pilgrims will travel through the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district



and the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district.

Earlier this week, Lieutenant Governor Sinha reviewed the preparations, directing departments and security agencies to ensure smooth arrangements covering infrastructure, security, healthcare, sanitation, connectivity and pilgrim services.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police has also deployed sophisticated screening and anti-sabotage equipment.

These include portable RCIED jammers, deep search metal detectors, explosive and liquid explosive detectors, non-linear junction detectors (NLJDs), contraband busters, prodder vehicle search mirrors, optical fibrescopes, multi-type

CCTV systems, XBIS, vehicle-mounted XBIS, multi-zone DFMDs (Fixed/multizone), HHMDs, search metal detectors, and other specialised equipment, they added.

Police have also launched the QR-based "PahchanApp", designed to digitally verify workers and vendors operating along the yatra route.

Officials say the system will help prevent unverified individuals from infiltrating the pilgrimage ecosystem while improving accountability and crowd management.

Tenant verification drives, inspections of lodgement centres and intelligence-gathering operations have also been intensified.

The CRPF, which

plays a pivotal role in securing the pilgrimage, has undertaken extensive reviews of operational preparedness.

CRPF DG Singh also visited the Valley and took stock of security arrangements along the route to Baltal and directing commanders to adopt proactive measures.

He reviewed security and logistical arrangements along the yatra route up to the Baltal base camp and emphasised the importance of maintaining a robust security grid through close coordination among all the stakeholders.

Singh said inter-agency coordination must be strengthened to ensure a safe and incident-free pilgrimage.

Bhatti Assures Fund Release For Completion of Projects in Khammam

Hyderabad: Irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Thursday directed officials to vigorously pursue and fast-track the environmental clearance process for the Sitaramasagar lift irrigation scheme. The directive came at a review meeting along with Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Tummala Nageswara Rao, Vakiti Srihari, MPs, MLAs and MLCs on major irrigation projects in the erstwhile Khammam district.

Bhatti, who is also finance minister, assured full support and timely release of funds for speedy completion of irrigation projects in the district.

Uttam Kumar Reddy called on officials to step up work on land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement, forest and environmental clearances, and resolution of court cases. "Compile all pending requisitions immediately and submit them to district collectors and revenue divisional officers for time-bound action," he



told the officials.

On the Sitarama lift irrigation scheme, Uttam Kumar Reddy said pending environmental clearances should be expedited, and that procedural delays should not deprive farmers of irrigation benefits. The government accords top priority, despite financial constraints arising from borrowings made by the previous government, to mobilising resources and completing all viable ongoing irrigation projects, he said.

Following a proposal from Srinivas Reddy, the irrigation minister gave in-principle approval to lift water from Sitarama Lift Package-I to the Bayyaram upland tribal areas in Yellandu Assembly constituency, and directed officials to prepare the required proposals. He also said diverting Godavari waters from the Sitarama project to the Paleru balancing reservoir through the NSP Left Canal system should be accorded top priority.

On the issue of submergence in Bhadrachalam division from the backwaters of Andhra Pradesh's Polavaram project, Uttam Kumar Reddy assured the meeting that the matter will be taken up with the Polavaram Project Authority.

He also said he will undertake a comprehensive tour of irrigation projects in the erstwhile Khammam district within a fortnight to review progress on the ground.

Revanth Sanctions Rs 75 Lakhs From CMRF For Baby's Spinal Atrophy Treatment

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Friday assured financial assistance of Rs 75 lakh from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF), for the treatment of one-year-old Aryansh from Telangana, who is battling Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) Type 2.

"We will ensure the best treatment for Baby Aryansh. The CMO officer handling CMRF will contact the parents immediately," the Chief Minister said, responding to an appeal for urgent financial aid by the parents Kasula Kiran and Kasula Naveena on the X platform. "Let us all pray and hope for his total recovery, and wish him a good, healthy, long



life," the CM replied.

The child requires a life-saving injection that costs Rs 1.5 crore. His parents, along with influencer Naveen Ramsing, have been campaigning for funds and have so far raised around Rs 75 lakh through public donations. Another Rs 75 lakh is urgently needed to secure the treatment. Hospital administration said that the injection slot must be booked before June 20, and the treatment has to be administered before the end of July, prompting the parents to seek the support of the Telangana Chief Minister, Health Minister C. Damodar Raja Narasimha, and other possible channels, for the boy to get a second lease of life.



Saturday 13, June, 2026

VIZAG STEEL PLANT TRAGEDY — ADDRESS LOOPHOLES IN SAFETY STANDARDS

The death of nine workers at the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) due to the malfunction of a ladle carrying molten metal came as a grim reminder of the loopholes in the safety standards at India's first shore-based integrated public sector steel plant. The workers were engulfed in a torrent of liquid steel at 1,500–1,600 degrees Celsius following the explosion. It was a preventable tragedy. Experts suspect that inadequate maintenance of the plant could have led to the accident. The ladle must be periodically inspected before operation. There is a shortage of experienced people to run a critical unit like the Steel Melt Shop (SMS) where the tragedy occurred. Unfortunately, no lessons were learned from past mistakes. One feels a grim sense of déjà vu whenever an industrial mishap occurs. The patterns are disturbingly familiar. As are the responses that follow. Ex gratia is announced, a probe is ordered, and a few officials are suspended amid a political blame game. It's business as usual until the next tragedy strikes. Apart from the investigation initiated by Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), which runs the plant, the Union Steel Ministry has constituted a three-member external inquiry, headed by the Director-in-Charge, Bokaro Steel Plant, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), to conduct an independent inquiry. Monday's tragedy was not an isolated incident in the history of the steel plant, fully operational since 1992. It is the latest in a long record of preventable accidents.

The worst-ever mishap took place on June 14, 2012, when 19 workers, including some officers, were burnt alive in a massive explosion in the oxygen plant. In the immediate aftermath, trade union leaders made a damning allegation that routine maintenance at the plant had been neglected for more than 12 months. After every major accident at VSP, inquiry committees came to the same conclusion that 'no human error was involved' in the incidents. This raises serious questions about safety protocols. For the record, the VSP, with a capacity of 7.3 million tonnes per annum, conducts an external safety audit every year and internal inspections every three months through the plant's safety engineering department. There is a need for an independent probe as the inquiry committees led by officials from sister public sector undertakings — however competent the members may be — cannot substitute for a genuinely independent forensic investigation. It is also time to critically assess the operational efficiency of ageing equipment, as the plant has seen capacity expansions in 2015 and 2017. Rigorous life-cycle assessments of critical equipment — ladles, cranes, refractory linings, oxygen supply systems — must be conducted. While India is the second-largest steel producer globally, safety remains a critical concern. According to the Directorate General of Mines Safety, over 4,500 industrial accidents occur annually in India, with a significant share from the steel sector.

Rajnath Vows To Flush Out Illegal Immigrants, Implement UCC



Hyderabad: Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said that the BJP-led government would push out every illegal immigrant from the country and introduce the Uniform Civil Code nationwide. He also announced the party's commitment to implement 33 per cent reservation for women in legislative bodies.

Addressing a meeting of intellectuals in Secunderabad, Singh said the BJP had delivered on every promise it had made to people, including the abrogation of Article 370, abolition of triple talaq, reforms in Waqf, and construction of a grand Ram Mandir, in the last 12 years.

The minister said the NDA and the BJP enjoyed public trust, affection and blessing, which was reflected in the series of state elections, including the recent huge victory in West Bengal.

Singh said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tenure, India's international standing has risen dramatically. Modi's leadership had strengthened India's cultural, social, spiritual and economic fabric, and for making the country ready to become a "developed nation", he said.

Singh said an international survey had ranked Modi, the longest-serving elected Prime Minister of India, as the world's most popular leader with the highest approval rating. Singh said credibility — integrity, clean

intention, capacity to work and ability to convert promises into results — was at the core of Modi's leadership. He asserted that the BJP has consistently challenged the "credibility crisis" in Indian politics by aligning words with actions.

Singh recalled major achievements, including the termination of the Indus Water Treaty, suspension of water supplies to Pakistan, implementation of GST, four new Labour Codes, replacement of colonial laws, and the Ramliila and Ayodhya temple promise fulfilled. He highlighted massive progress in defence, with the budget rising from Rs 2.5 lakh crore to nearly 18 lakh crore, and zero tolerance for corruption.

He emphasised social transformations, including 56 crore Jan Dhan accounts, 12 crore toilets built, 82 per cent rural households now receiving piped water under Jal Jeevan Mission, women's property ownership under PM Awas Yojana, Ujjwala gas connections, and Ayushman Bharat providing Rs 5 lakh free medical treatment.

Singh said that India has lifted 25 crore people above the poverty line, improved its global equality ranking to fourth, and is poised to become number one in equality within five to seven years. Singh also lauded Operation Sindoor and recalled how it demonstrated India's resolve to reply in the same language to those who do not understand peace, while reaffirming India's role as a trusted global partner through Vaccine Maitri and humanitarian aid.

Coal minister G. Kishan Reddy, BJP state president N. Ramchander Rao, Rajya Sabha MP Dr K. Laxman, party vice-president and Mahabubnagar MP D.K. Aruna, Malkajgiri MP Etala Rajender and others spoke at the event.

Harish Rao says trend of CMs losing polls to repeat in Telangana

BRS leader and Siddipet MLA T Harish Rao has predicted that Telangana will witness a repeat of the national trend of Chief Ministers losing elections, asserting that Congress will be ousted in the next polls. Hyderabad City Guide



Karimnagar: Senior BRS leader and Siddipet MLA T Harish Rao said that a new trend is being witnessed in the country with the Chief Ministers being defeated in elections.

The recent elections in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu were the best examples and a similar kind of result would be seen in Telangana in the next election, he predicted during his address to the Huzurabad party workers meeting held in Jammikunta on Friday.

Refuting the Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's statement that the BRS would not get opposition status in the next election, MLA said the BRS was certain to get ruling party status. The CM should realise that the Congress candidates would not get even the deposits since people have determined to put an end to Hitler-like rule of Revanth Reddy.

It has widely been discussed everywhere that the Congress government should go and the BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao should come to power in the state. So, the BRS would definitely come to power and Chandrashekhara Rao would become the Chief Minister.

Using abusive language has become a routine practice for the Chief Minister and like air pollution, there was sound pollution prevailing in the state with the abusive language used by Revanth Reddy. So, the people have decided to put an end to sound pollution by teaching a befitting lesson to the CM.

Though the CM already has a palatial house in Jubilee Hills, he constructed a camp office by spending Rs 100 crore. Revanth Reddy also constructed another camp office in Future City by spending Rs 100 crore.

Despite having a helicopter, CM was now hiring a new helicopter by spending Rs 5 crore a month. Revanth Reddy wasted hundreds of crores of the public money for football matches and beauty contests. Moreover, CM also arranged money to the congress party to contest in the elections held in the neighboring states.

Ravanth Reddy, who deceived the farmers on all fronts, is going to cheat the community in the name of Rythu Discom. Instead of 24 hours, the congress government was supplying only 11 hours power to the agriculture sector. If Rythu discom was implemented, farmers would get only 5 to 6 hours electricity.

People never faced troubles for power and drinking water when Chandrashekhara Rao was the CM. Uninterrupted electricity was supplied even during the summer. Water also flowed in canals.

However, power cuts have started in the congress regime while standing crops were withered due to lack of water supply. Farmers were also facing troubles for fertilizer.

Talking about Rythu Bandhu, Harish Rao said that Revanth Reddy rebuffed one installment of RB. Recently, RB was paid to the farmers who have below 2 acres of land. Rebuffing Rs 20,000 crore of Rythu Bandhu, Revanth Reddy was claiming that congress government waived the loans of farmers.

However, the BRS government never stopped Rythu Bandhu even during the period of Covid pandemic. In the entire country, Chandrashekhara Rao was the only leader who deposited Rs 74,000 crore in the bank accounts of farmers in eleven installments, Harish Rao informed.

NEET-UG 2026 Gets 15-Minute Extension

New Delhi: The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Friday announced a series of student-friendly measures for NEET (UG) 2026, including additional rough-work space, and an extended examination window. The medical entrance examination is scheduled to be held on June 21.

According to the NTA, the examination will be conducted from 2 pm to 5:15 pm, providing a total window of 195 minutes. The duration of the examination has been extended by 15 minutes.

"This window is designed to accommodate the invigilation formalities at the start and end of the examination, such as the signing requirements, which candidates earlier felt reduced their effective working time," the agency said. The NTA has also doubled the number of pages provided for rough work in the question-paper booklet from two to four pages, giving candidates additional space for calculations and reasoning.

"Candidates may preferably use the rough-work pages provided at the beginning and at the end of the booklet for this purpose," it said.

In another change, the agency has redesigned the placement of rough-work pages to better support left-handed candidates.

Earlier, rough-work pages were provided only at the end of the booklet. Under the revised format, two rough-work pages will be placed at the beginning of the booklet, immediately after the instruction page, in addition



tion to those at the end in both English and regional-language versions of the question paper.

"The booklet now offers rough-work space at both the front and the back, allowing every candidate to work comfortably, and is especially helpful for left-handed candidates, who account for nearly 10% of all candidates," it said.

The NTA said these measures reflect its recognition that small, thoughtful changes in examination design can make a meaningful difference to a candidate's comfort during the high-stakes hours of the examination. "NTA reaffirms its commitment to conducting NEET (UG) 2026 in a fair, secure and candidate-friendly manner, and to continuously improving the examination experience for the lakhs of aspirants who appear for it," it added.

The NEET-UG for admissions into medical courses took place on May 3 this year but was cancelled by the NTA on May 12 amid allegations of a paper leak. The CBI is currently investigating this matter. PTI KSH GJS DV

Srinivas Goud slams delay in health cards for Telangana employees and pensioners

Former minister V. Srinivas Goud criticised the Congress government for delaying health cards for employees and pensioners, alleging that nearly 15 lakh families were affected. He also raised concerns over pending PRC issues, salary delays and healthcare access.

Hyderabad: Former Minister V Srinivas Goud criticised the Congress government for delaying the implementation of health cards for employees and pensioners, depriving them access to quality health care. He said nearly 15 lakh families were facing uncertainty over healthcare coverage. City & Local Guides

Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan on Friday, Srinivas Goud said the Congress government had been in power for two-and-a-half years and formed a committee to study and make recommendations for effective implementation of the health cards. However, he said health cards were not issued to employees and pensioners.

"Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy assured to issue health cards from June 1, but did not deliver," he said, adding that contract employees, who perform duties on par with regular government staff, also were not receiving salaries on time, while retirement benefits were being delayed.

Criticising the government over the pending Pay Revision Commission (PRC), Srinivas Goud said the Congress promised to resolve the issue within six months of coming to power but failed. He questioned the need to deduct Rs 2,000-Rs 3,000 from employees' salaries, without implementing health coverage.

"Hospitals were reluctant to provide treatment under Aarogyasri scheme. Action must be taken against hospitals which deny or delay treatment to government employees under the Employees Health Scheme (EHS)," he demanded.

Senior BRS leader G Deviprasad said the government created confusion over the proposed health card system and deducted money from employees' salaries without their consent. He called for the immediate establishment of a trust and clear guidelines for implementing the scheme.

TNGOs Association former president Mamindla Rajender was also present.



NAIDU SAYS 2024 MANDATE A RESPONSIBILITY, NOT A VICTORY

Tirupati: Declaring that elected representatives must act as public servants rather than rulers, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu asserted the NDA alliance government has spent the last two years working to rebuild Andhra Pradesh, treating the 2024 electoral mandate not as a victory but responsibility entrusted to the alliance by the people.

Addressing the "Two Years of Trust, Development and Welfare" public meeting organised by the NDA government at Daminedu near Tirupati on Friday, the Chief Minister pointed out that the NDA secured a historic mandate with a 57 per cent vote share and 164 Assembly seats after people responded to its call for saving Andhra Pradesh and

protect democracy. "We neither became complacent after the victory nor got discouraged by the condition of the state. We chose to work as servants of the people, rather than rulers," he informed the gathering.

Launching a sharp attack on the previous YSRC government, Naidu alleged that AP had been left in deep financial and institutional distress. "The destructive rule began with the demolition of Praja Vedika and culminated in a debt burden of nearly ₹10 lakh crore. Institutions had been weakened, irrigation projects neglected, investors driven away and the aspirations of youth compromised," he maintained.

The Chief Minister pointed out that the NDA government re-



leased seven White Papers after assuming office to place the state's true condition before the public. It has since restored law and order, stabilised governance and rebuilt damaged systems. He accused the YSRC of obstructing develop-

ment, alleging that political opponents are spreading misinformation while the government is focused on development and jobs and opportunities for the younger generation.

Highlighting welfare initiatives, Naidu said

pensions worth over ₹65,000 crore have been distributed under NTR Bharosa, while schemes, such as Talliki Vandanam, free bus travel for women under Shakti, and Annadata Sukhibhava are benefiting lakhs of families. Welfare sup-

port is also being extended to toddy tappers, temple priests, imams, muezzins and other traditional occupational groups.

The Chief Minister underlined that the NDA government has filled 15,941 teacher

posts through Mega DSC, recruited 5,757 police constables, and cleared employee dues worth ₹21,000 crore within 23 months.

Naidu asserted that the state has regained investor confidence through industry-friendly policies and faster approvals. 175 MSME parks are being established across the state. Investments are being made in defence, aerospace, drones, information technology and manufacturing sectors.

The Chief Minister said Rayalaseema is emerging as a horticulture and industrial hub, while projects, such as Handri-Neeva, Kalyani Dam, and the proposed Srisailam-Tirupati water connectivity would strengthen the region's growth prospects. He highlighted the repeal of the

Land Titling Act, land record reforms, and the government's decision not to increase electricity tariffs despite absorbing an additional burden of ₹4,668 crore.

Naidu congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi for completing 12 years in office. He thanked the centre for consistently supporting AP on several key issues, including Polavaram, Amaravati, Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, and the Railway Zone. He called upon people to embrace the spirit of "My Nation, My Responsibility. He assured that the NDA government would continue pursuing welfare, development, and transparent governance, while working towards the vision of Swarna Andhra Pradesh 2047.

AP Moves From Destruction to Development in Past Two Years: Lokesh



Tirupati: Contrasting the NDA government's two-year record with the previous YSRC regime, education minister Nara Lokesh on Friday claimed that Andhra Pradesh has moved from "destruction to development," with the coalition restoring peace, expanding welfare programmes, and attracting investments across the state. Addressing the NDA government's second anniversary public meeting at Daminedu near Tirupati, Lokesh said the state has undergone a significant transformation since the coalition assumed office in 2024. He underlined that political violence, intimidation, encroachments and administrative excesses associated with the previous regime have given way to stability and good governance. Lokesh alleged that the previous government left behind a legacy of political vendetta and misgovernance. Referring to incidents involving Amarnath Goud, Dr Sudhakar, Subrahmanyam and Misba's family, he said the people have not forgotten the events between 2019 and 2024. As a result, the electorate had reduced the YSRC from 151 Assembly seats to 11. The minister accused the opposition of now obstructing development by filing hundreds of cases against the Mega DSC recruitment process and attempting to stall investments. Highlighting the NDA government's performance, he said social security pensions have been enhanced to ₹4,000, while pensions for persons with disabilities and bedridden beneficiaries have been increased. The government has reopened Anna Canteens, filled over 16,000 teacher posts through Mega DSC, recruited 6,000 police constables, and initiated steps to fill another 10,000 government vacancies.

Lokesh maintained that welfare programmes for women, weavers, fishermen, and auto drivers, apart from free bus travel under Stree Shakti and free LPG cylinders under Deepam, show the NDA government's

commitment to welfare despite financial constraints.

The minister said the NDA government has attracted major investments across different regions of the state. While companies, such as Google and ArcelorMittal are investing in North Andhra, Quantum Valley is being developed in the coastal region. Rayalaseema has secured projects such as Royal Enfield, LG Electronics, Carrier, Reliance Industries, and proposed fighter aircraft manufacturing units.

Lokesh declared that the state government would take up a ₹1-lakh-crore Mission Rayalaseema programme aimed at transforming the region into "Royal Seema".

Comparing Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to Virat Kohli, he said there is no alternative to the CM when it comes to development-oriented politics. Praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the minister reiterated that AP is benefiting from the "double-engine bullet train government" at the centre and in the state. He called for unity among TD, Jana Sena, and BJP workers, urging coalition cadres to take the government's achievements to the people and work towards ensuring continuity in governance.

AP Witnesses Widespread YSRC Protests Over 'NDA Alliance Betrayal'

VIJAYAWADA: Andhra Pradesh witnessed widespread political protests on Thursday as the YSRC staged demonstrations across all 175 Assembly constituencies as part of a campaign titled Two Years of Chandrababu's Betrayal and Backstabbing. The opposition party alleges that the ruling coalition government had failed to honour its election commitments and betrayed public trust.

Thousands of YSRC leaders, cadres, women, farmers, youth, students, job aspirants, and unemployed participated in rallies, bike processions and symbolic protests throughout the state. Demonstrators accused the government of abandoning its much-publicised "Super Six" promises, failing to address unemployment, allowing price rise to burden households, and compromising the in-



tegrity of the DSC-2025 recruitment process. Protesters released black balloons, burnt copies of the coalition manifesto and effigies, and displayed placards highlighting what they termed unfulfilled promises, and growing public hardship.

The protests led to tense scenes in several districts after police allegedly intervened to prevent demonstrations. In Tadipatri, former MLA Kethireddy Peddareddy had been reportedly placed under

house arrest. He later staged a dharna, alleging political discrimination. In Rajamahendravaram, police stopped a procession led by former MP Bharat, prompting party workers to launch a sit-in protest.

Similar confrontations have been reported in Visakhapatnam. District president K.K. Raju accused police of stopping YSRC workers from joining the agitation and acting in favour of the ruling alliance. A protest led by former MLA Vasupalli Ganesh Kumar in Visakhapatnam South ended in a stand-off with police. YSRC leaders alleged that democratic protests are being suppressed through police restrictions. They vowed to continue their agitation and hold the government accountable for what they described as two years of broken promises.

MP Purandeswari Says Rs 704 Crore Given for NH Roads in Her Constituency

Kakinada: MP Daggubati Purandeswari on Friday said works worth Rs 704 crore have been sanctioned for an 11-km stretch of the national highway within her Rajamahendravaram Lok Sabha constituency.

The MP, along with BJP MLC Somu Veerajju, Anaparthi MLA Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy, and Jana Sena Rajamahendravaram Assembly in-charge Anusri Satyanarayana, addressed media in Rajamahendravaram in connection with completion of two years of the alliance government in Andhra Pradesh and 12 years of the NDA government at the centre.

Purandeswari said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is working towards transforming India into a leading global economic force and ensuring that the benefits of development reach rural areas. The MP said construction of a 2.45-km flyover at Gammon Bridge Junction is under way at a cost of Rs 246.79 crore. An additional Rs 11.87 crore has been sanctioned for street lighting and junction improvement works.

Purandeswari said development works on NH-16, NH-216A and NH-216 are progressing well.



An indoor stadium (Arena-2) is being constructed in Rajamahendravaram at a cost of Rs 13.76 crore under the Khelo India scheme. A proposal for Arena-3 is being prepared, while sports infrastructure is being developed at SKVT Government College at a cost of Rs 4 crore under the USHA scheme.

The MP said Rs 87 lakh has been sanctioned for the development of Gowthami Library. The centre has okayed the restoration of seats at Allu Ramalingaiah Homeopathy College. Further, plans are being prepared for

restoration of the historic Havelock Bridge at a cost of Rs 94.74 crore. Purandeswari said flight services connecting Rajamahendravaram to Tirupati, Mumbai, and New Delhi have been introduced and steps are being taken to provide night-landing facilities at Rajamahendravaram Airport.

Highlighting development works in her Rajamahendravaram constituency, the MP said Rs 324.68 crore have been released for drinking water supply projects, including Rs 202.02 crore for the Rajamahendravaram region, Rs 94.31 crore for Nidadavolu, and Rs 70.05 crore for Kovvuru. She said further allocations include Rs 271.43 crore for the modernisation of Rajamahendravaram Railway Station, Rs 30.95 crore for Anaparthi Railway Station, and Rs 27.13 crore for Nidadavolu Railway Station. Works worth Rs 4,812 crore are proposed for the expansion of the Nidadavolu-Duvvada railway line, construction of a new 4.3-km rail-cum-road bridge across the Godavari, and railway line realignment projects. On the occasion, Purandeswari received petitions from the public under the grievance redressal programme.

Harish Rao slams Congress govt for scrapping Pharma City, says investments shifted to Andhra Pradesh

Hyderabad: The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has said that the Congress government's decision to abandon the Pharma City project has forced several companies to shift their investments to Andhra Pradesh. City & Local Guides

During an informal chat with media persons here on Thursday, the

BRS deputy floor leader and MLA T Harish Rao reiterated that the BRS would scrap the Future City project after returning to power.

Harish Rao said several companies had planned major investments in Pharma City during the BRS government's tenure. However, uncertainty cre-

ated by the Congress government's policies prompted many of them to relocate their projects to Sri City in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh, he claimed.

Had the Pharma City project been continued, Telangana would have attracted substantial investments and generated employment opportuni-



ties, he said. The BRS leader recalled that while in opposition,

the Congress had promised farmers that lands acquired for Pharma City would be returned to them. After coming to power, the government was instead allocating the land to select interests, he alleged.

Harish Rao also claimed that the previous BRS government had secured all necessary envi-

ronmental clearances for the project. He said the approvals contained provisions under which they could lapse if the land was used for purposes other than those originally approved.

Accusing Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy of taking irrational decisions, he said the government's approach

had driven investments away from Telangana and affected employment prospects for youth. AP News Updates

Rs. 2000 crore scam The former Minister also alleged that a Rs. 2,000 crore scam was behind the government's decision to postpone schools reopening to June 15.

Paddy Procurement Successfully Completed in the District: District Collector Bhavesh Mishra

Nirmal District : District Collector Bhavesh Mishra stated that the grain procurement process in the district has been completed successfully.

Speaking to media representatives at a press conference held on Friday evening at the Collectorate conference hall, the Collector said that 1.58 lakh metric tonnes of maize had been procured and transported to warehouses. He further informed that 1.75 lakh metric tonnes of paddy had been purchased and shifted to rice mills and storage facilities.

The Collector stated that the district recorded a production of 30,000 metric tonnes of sorghum (jowar), of which 20,000 metric tonnes have already been procured. The remaining quantity will be purchased within the next three days. Payments for the procured crops are being credited to farmers' bank accounts on a regular basis.

He credited the smooth completion of the procurement process to the coordinated efforts of officials



from various departments at the field level.

Regarding the upcoming cropping season, the Collector assured farmers that there would be no shortage of fertilizers. He emphasized that farmers need not worry about the availability of urea, as the district currently has 10,734 metric tonnes of urea in stock. Farmers were advised to book urea through the designated booking app according to their requirements.

He also announced that special posters displaying fertilizer prices and related information would be placed at all fertilizer shops. Farmers facing overpricing issues can report complaints by contacting 8977751754. The Collector warned fertilizer dealers against charging prices above the prescribed rates and stated that strict action would be taken against violators. Notices have already been issued to several dealers found selling fertilizers at higher prices.

The Collector further informed that the SIR process will commence from June 26, and requested the media to create awareness among the public about the program.

The meeting was attended by Civil Supplies officials Rajender and Sudhakar, Markfed DM Mahesh, DRDO official Vijayalakshmi, Horticulture Officer Ramana, representatives of print and electronic media, and other officials and staff members.

Collector Orders Termination of Eight Anganwadi Workers

Nagar kurnool : District Collector Hemanta Keshav Patil has taken strict action against Anganwadi staff for negligence in discharging their duties.

The Collector issued orders terminating the services of eight Anganwadi staff members after finding them absent from duty and showing negligence in their responsibilities. The action was taken as part of disciplinary measures to ensure accountability and uninterrupted public services.

Officials stated that strict monitoring will continue across projects and warned that disciplinary action will be initiated against employees who fail to perform their duties responsibly.



Do Not Ignore Leg Ulcers: Vascular Surgeon Dr. Vinay Kumar

At an awareness program organized by Yashoda Hospitals, Secunderabad, Vascular Surgeon Dr. Vinay Kumar educated people in Nagarkurnool district headquarters about leg ulcers and varicose veins. Speaking on the occasion, he said that diabetes (sugar) can damage nerves and reduce blood circulation in the legs, increasing the risk of developing chronic leg ulcers. He warned that neglecting leg ulcers may worsen the condition and could eventually lead to amputation in severe cases. He advised people to identify symptoms at an early stage and undergo proper medical evaluation to prevent complications.

Dr. Vinay Kumar explained that Peripheral Angioplasty treatment, which is currently available, can remove blockages in blood vessels and restore blood flow to the legs. He stated that this treatment provides an effective solution without the need for major surgery. He added that advanced vascular treatments are available at Yashoda Hospital, Secunderabad, and advised patients to consult a vascular surgeon before the condition reaches a stage requiring amputation. He said that with modern vascular care, a permanent solution for leg ulcers is possible. Yashoda Hospitals Marketing Manager Sudarshan Reddy Raju and others also participated in the program.



Singareni Medical Board to Resume Soon

Bhatti Vikramarka Directs Management to Ensure Transparency Appointment Letters to be Issued to 335 Dependents in Mancherial

Hyderabad Correspondent: The Telangana Government has announced good news for Singareni employees. Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu has directed the Singareni management to restart the Medical Board process, which had been stalled for some time due to various reasons. He emphasized that the Medical Board should be conducted in a transparent, impartial, and controversy-free manner.

Speaking on the issue, Bhatti Vikramarka said that concerns raised by workers regarding the Medical Board were brought to his notice during a recent meeting with ministers and MLAs from the coal belt region. Keeping the interests of the workers in mind, the government has taken a positive decision to resume the process.

He instructed the management to ensure that only genuinely eligible employ-



ees benefit from the Medical Board process and that their dependents receive compassionate appointments. He further stressed that there should be no scope for irregularities, malpractice, middlemen, or fraudulent activities in the implementation of the scheme.

The Deputy Chief Minister also announced that appointment letters would be distributed to 335 eligible dependents under compassionate appointments at a special program to be held in Mancherial on June 13. He directed

officials to make all necessary arrangements for the event.

Bhatti Vikramarka stated that the government is also working towards resolving the long-pending issue of alias names in Singareni. Legal opinions are being sought on the matter, and appropriate action will be taken in accordance with rules and regulations.

Highlighting the achievements of the present government, he said that 2,657 posts have been filled in Singareni since the formation of the

People's Government. Of these, 555 were external recruitments and 2,102 were compassionate appointments. The age limit for compassionate appointments was increased from 35 to 40 years, benefiting hundreds of eligible candidates.

The Minister said the government is giving top priority to the welfare of Singareni employees. A Rs.1.25 crore accident insurance cover and a Rs.10 lakh natural life insurance cover have been provided to

40,000 employees. Contract workers have also been covered under a Rs.40 lakh accident insurance scheme.

He further stated that workers received a profit-sharing benefit of Rs.1,500 crore over the last two years. Bonus payments are also being extended to contract workers. Additionally, the government spends over Rs.300 crore annually on providing quality healthcare services to employees and their families.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to the future of Singareni, Bhatti Vikramarka said efforts are underway to expand the company, secure new coal blocks, and create more employment opportunities for future generations. Plans are also being explored to expand Singareni's operations into other states while enhancing production and productivity to remain competitive in the market.

JOINT KHAMMAM DISTRICT FOCUSES ON IRRIGATION EXPANSION

High-Level Review Meeting Held at Jalasoudha

* Review of Sitarama and Sitamma Sagar Projects Progress

* MLA Payam Venkateswarlu Raises Pinapaka Constituency Issues

* Government Committed to Expanding Irrigation Facilities: Uttam Kumar Reddy

Hyderabad, June 11: A high-level review meeting on the progress of major irrigation projects, completion of pending works, and expansion of irrigation facilities in the erstwhile Khammam district was held at Jalasoudha in Hyderabad under the leadership of Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy.

Ministers Tummala Nageswara Rao, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Vakiti Srihari, along with MLAs, public representatives, and senior officials from the erstwhile Khammam district, participated in the meeting.

The review focused on the progress of the Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project, Sitamma Sagar Project, and the Munneru-Paleru Link Canal works. Discussions were also held on land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R), forest clearances, and other issues affecting project implementation. Officials presented the current status of the projects, targets, and challenges being



faced.

During the meeting, Pinapaka MLA Payam Venkateswarlu highlighted several key issues related to his constituency. He explained the benefits of the Sitarama Project in providing irrigation and drinking water facilities to farmers and the public. He also stated that increased groundwater levels due to the project would create favorable conditions for establishing new industries in the region.

The MLA urged the government to expedite the construction process of the Domalavagu Project, which is crucial for farmers in Burgampahad Mandal. He also stressed the need for the Marellapadu Lift Irrigation Scheme in Ashwapuram Mandal and requested the construction of the proposed Left Canal alongside the ongoing Right Canal works.

Payam Venkateswarlu further explained the importance of the Pulusubontha Project in Karakagudem Mandal, which is expected to provide irrigation water to thousands of acres. He also dis-

cussed the proposed lift irrigation facilities at Annaram and Bhoopathiraopeta in Manuguru and Pinapaka mandals and requested immediate repairs to causeways and bridges damaged by floods in low-lying areas.

The meeting also discussed the economic, social, and geographical impacts of the Polavaram National Project. The MLA appealed for scientific assessment and precautionary measures to ensure that local people do not suffer any losses and requested the state government to submit a comprehensive report to the Central Government.

Speaking on the occasion, Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy directed officials to accelerate development works related to key irrigation projects in Khammam, Bhadradi Kothagudem, and Mahabubabad districts. He reiterated that the state government remains committed to the welfare of farmers, expansion of irrigation facilities, and efficient utilization of water resources, and is determined to complete all projects at the earliest.

Special Environmental Awareness Campaign Concludes Successfully

Nirmal District Staff Reporter : As part of the Praja Palana – Pragati Pranalika 99-Day Action Plan, the 12-days special awareness campaign organized by the Forest Department from June 1 to 12 th concluded successfully today.

During the campaign, students, youth, and the general public across the district were educated on environmental protection, wildlife conservation, the impacts of global warming, the harmful effects of plastic usage, and the importance of banning plastic.

To promote environmental awareness among students, essay writing, elocution, and drawing competitions were conducted. Certificates of appreciation and mementos were presented to students who excelled in these competitions.

The programme was attended by Sushant Sukhdev Bobade IFS, as the chief guest. Other



participants included Nagini Bhanu DFO, G. Ramakrishna Rao FRO, M.D. Nazeer Khan DRO, Forest Department staff, and students participated .

Pre-Monsoon Measures Taken: Drain Desilting Works Undertaken in Manikantha Nagar



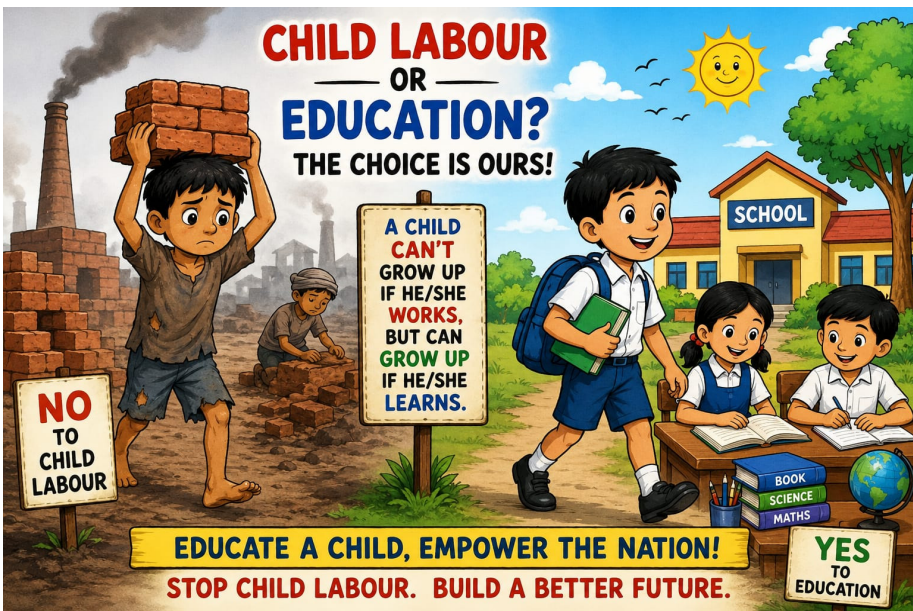
Samithi Singaram: Keeping the upcoming monsoon season in view, Samithi Singaram Gram Panchayat has initiated precautionary measures to prevent water stagnation in

Manikantha Nagar. To avoid rainwater overflowing onto roads due to silt accumulation in drainage canals, desilting works were carried out with the assistance of a JCB machine.

The cleaning operation was conducted from morning till evening on Friday. The drains were thoroughly cleared to ensure the free flow of rainwater without any obstructions. Panchayat officials paid special attention to preventing inconvenience to residents during the rainy season. The programme was supervised by Samithi Singaram Gram Panchayat Sarpanch Madhava Rao and local Ward Member Vankudoth Nagendra Babu. Local residents also participated and extended their support for the village development activities.

“We will continue to take proactive measures to ensure that people do not face any difficulties during the monsoon season,” Gram Panchayat representatives stated. **Headline: Pre-Monsoon Precautionary Measures: Drain Desilting Works Taken Up in Manikantha Nagar**

Education is the Strongest Weapon Against Child Labour



On one side, a child toiling in brick kilns, workshops, or roadside establishments; on the other, a child walking confidently toward a school with books in hand. The difference between these two lives is not merely one of circumstance—it is a reflection of the choices made by society. Education remains the most powerful tool to eradicate child labour and secure a brighter future for children.

Over the past two decades, increased access to education in India has contributed significantly to reducing child labour. However, poverty, migration, lack of awareness, and financial hardships continue to force many

children away from classrooms and into workplaces. Experts agree that wherever educational opportunities expand, child labour declines.

Childhood is meant for learning, playing, and growing not for carrying heavy loads or working long hours. Child labour deprives children of their basic rights, affects their physical and mental development, and limits their future opportunities. Children who miss out on education often remain trapped in cycles of poverty and low-paying jobs.

In many rural areas, children are still engaged in agricultural work, brick kilns, small industries, hotels, and other informal sectors. While families may

depend on the income generated by these children, such short-term gains often result in long-term losses. Education equips children with knowledge, skills, and better employment prospects, enabling them to support their families more effectively in the future.

Education is more than literacy. It builds confidence, develops critical thinking, promotes social awareness, and empowers children to become responsible citizens. Schools serve as the first line of defense against child labour by providing a safe environment for learning and personal growth.

Government initiatives such as the Right to Education Act, free

schooling, midday meal schemes, residential schools and scholarship programs have helped bring more children into the education system. However, laws and welfare programs alone are not enough. Parents, teachers, local communities, and civil society organizations must work together to ensure that every child is enrolled in school and remains there.

Child labour is a social evil that robs children of their dreams and potential. Education is the key to breaking this cycle. Every child deserves a classroom, not a workplace; a book, not a burden. By promoting education and eliminating child labour we can build a stronger, more prosperous, and more equitable India.

Let us end child labour and protect the future of our children



ShriDhanlakshmi Auto Agencies Pvt. Ltd.

Recognized as Best Performing Dealership at Tata Hitachi's Annual Awards

Vijayawada 12th June'26: Tata Hitachi hosted the Annual Dealer Awards 2026 ceremony on 11th June 2026 in Bengaluru to honour and celebrate the remarkable achievements of its esteemed dealer network.

This prestigious event served as a platform to showcase Tata Hitachi's commitment to fostering strong partnerships and recognizing outstanding contributions by rewarding top-performing dealer partners.

In addition to formal recognitions, Tata Hitachi ensured that the occasion was a truly enjoyable and memorable experience for all dealer partners. From thoughtfully planned networking opportunities to engaging entertainment and a vibrant celebratory atmosphere, the event was designed to express genuine appreciation and offer a well-de-



served break to the brand's front-line ambassadors.

Apart from the overall performance awards, recognitions were also presented to dealer partners for their excellence in various aspects of business such as sales, attachments, spare parts, marketing, and more. ShriDhanlakshmi Auto Agencies Pvt. Ltd., was honoured with the award for Best Dealership for FY 2025-2026.

ShriDhanlakshmi Auto Agencies Pvt. Ltd. is one of Tata Hitachi's

trusted dealer partners in Andhra Pradesh, with its headquarters located in Vijayawada. The dealership has established a strong regional presence through its network of touchpoints in Narasaraopet-Guntur, Rajahmundry, Visakhapatnam (Vizag), and Tekkali, ensuring seamless sales, service, and customer support across key infrastructure and construction markets in the state.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Sandeep

Singh, Managing Director Tata Hitachi said,

“We are immensely proud to recognize the exceptional achievements of our dealer network through the Annual Dealer Awards 2026.

The unwavering dedication and commitment of our dealer partners has played a significant role in our success. We are very happy to recognise and celebrate our achievements together.”

Transparency Must Be Prioritized in the Implementation of MeeSeva Services: E-District Manager S aideswara Rao

Kothagudem, June 12 : E-District Manager S aideswara Rao created awareness among officials regarding the digital systems being implemented by the government to provide MeeSeva services to citizens in a more transparent and efficient manner. He addressed a meeting held on Friday at the Tahsildar Office in Kothagudem under the chairmanship of Tahsildar Pullaiah. Village Panchayat Officers, Revenue Inspectors, MeeSeva Centre Operators, and Section Officers participated in the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, S aideswara Rao said that the scrutiny of applications related to Income, Caste, Residence, Family Member Certificates, Economically Backward Class (EBC), Other Backward Class (OBC), and other services is being carried out completely through an online system. He instructed officials to verify only the digital documents submitted by applicants and approve or reject applications strictly as per rules and guidelines. He clarified that there is no need to accept physical documents.

He also provided special training to officials on the usage of the verification mobile application introduced by the government for Village Panchayat Officers and Revenue Inspectors. He explained that the application would simplify the verification process and help dispose of applications within the stipulated time. Officials were advised to examine every application impartially and ensure timely disposal.

S aideswara Rao warned MeeSeva Centre opera-



tors to collect only the fees prescribed by the government and stated that strict action would be taken against those collecting excess charges. He also advised operators to ensure accurate entry of applicant details and avoid errors during the data entry process.

He further emphasized that officials and MeeSeva Centre operators should work in coordination to provide quality services to the public. In case of any technical or administrative issues, they were advised to contact the concerned Tahsildar's office for assistance.

Village Panchayat Officers, Revenue Inspectors, MeeSeva Centre Operators, and Section Officers attended the meeting.

Obstructions in Taliperu Left Canal Must Be Cleared; Quality Healthcare Services Should Be Ensured for the Public: Collector Ankit



Dummugudem, June 12 : Bhadradi Kothagudem District Collector Ankit conducted an extensive field visit in Dummugudem Mandal on Friday and inspected the Taliperu Project Left Canal as well as the Dummugudem Primary Health Centre. During the visit, he issued several important instructions to officials regarding irrigation water supply and healthcare services.

The Collector first inspected the Taliperu Left Canal in Veerabhadrapuram village and reviewed the canal's condition, water flow, and ayacut details with officials. According to officials, the Taliperu Project provides irrigation water to nearly 24,700 acres, while the 46.46-kilometre-long Left Canal supplies water to about 21,100 acres through 34 distributaries.

Collector Ankit directed officials to immediately remove weeds, silt, and garbage accumulated in the canal and ensure uninterrupted water flow. He emphasized the need for continuous monitoring so that irrigation water reaches even the tail-end ayacut lands

and instructed officials to focus on efficient canal maintenance for timely water supply to farmers.

Later, the Collector paid a surprise visit to the Dummugudem Primary Health Centre, where he inspected various departments and reviewed the delivery of medical services. He interacted with patients undergoing treatment in the inpatient ward and enquired about the healthcare facilities and services being provided. He also examined staff attendance and the overall functioning of the health centre.

The Collector interacted with students who had come for Physical Fitness Certificates and sought details about the procedure being followed for issuing the certificates. He then inspected the medicine storage room and reviewed the availability and stock position of essential drugs. In addition, he examined inpatient and outpatient registers and other medical records. Collector Ankit instructed officials to ensure that emergency medicines required for snakebite and scorpion sting victims are always available at the health centre. He also enquired about the treatment protocols being followed for snakebite cases.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector stressed that canal maintenance should be carried out effectively to ensure timely irrigation water supply to farmers. He also directed medical staff to work responsibly and provide quality and prompt healthcare services to every patient visiting government hospitals. He stated that all government departments should work in coordination, keeping the welfare of farmers and the public in mind.

Yamini Slams Congress Over Remarks on Constitutional Institutions

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh BJP leader Sadineni Yamini on Tuesday criticised the Congress party for allegedly targeting constitutional institutions and undermining their credibility.

Reacting to the Congress's response to the rejection of the Rajya Sabha nomination papers of its senior leader Meenakshi Natarajan in Madhya Pradesh over alleged discrepancies, Yamini said scrutiny of nomination papers was conducted in accordance with election laws and not at the direction of any political party.



She said if the Congress believed there were no lapses in the nomination papers, it should pursue the matter before the appropriate election authorities.

Yamini objected to remarks made by Congress leaders describing the Election Commission as being influenced by the BJP. She said such comments amounted to casting aspersions on constitutional institutions.

The BJP leader maintained that constitutional bodies function within the framework of established laws and procedures and should not be subjected to political attacks over administrative decisions.

Revanth Wants Taskforce to Create Six Global Cities in India

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday urged the Centre to establish an "M6 Cities Taskforce" to transform India's six metropolitan cities — Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru — into globally-competitive urban centres.

Addressing the governing council meeting of NITI Aayog, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in Delhi, Revanth Reddy said these six cities housed nearly 10 per cent of India's population and contributed almost one-fourth of the nation's GDP, yet continued to lag behind leading global cities.

He proposed a national task force empowered to act swiftly and sought an investment of ₹1 lakh crore for each metropolis, describing it as an investment in infrastructure that would generate jobs, revenues and economic growth.

The Chief Minister also sought the Centre's support for eight major projects in Telangana, which include the Regional Ring Road, a 12-lane expressway linking Bharat Future City with Machilipatnam Port, Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase-II, Musi River rejuvenation, recognition and funding for the 30,000-acre Bharat Future City project, assistance for the Palamuru-Rangareddy lift irrigation scheme, support under the India Semiconductor Mission, including APMP and OSAT facilities and a Micro-LED fabrication unit, and establishment of an Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in



Hyderabad.

Revanth Reddy presented a report titled "Inclusive Human Development – For Viksit Bharat @2047", outlining Telangana's strategy for inclusive growth through education, skill development and a knowledge-driven economy.

The report drew on findings of the SEEP survey, which covered 3.55 crore people across 242 castes and nearly 97 per cent of households, revealing significant educational disparities among social groups and underscoring the need for education-led social transformation.

The report identified key shortcomings in the existing education system, including declining public confidence in government schools, lack of English-medium education, inadequate transport facilities, absence of pre-primary education and limited digital learning opportunities. To address these challenges, the government is establishing Telangana Public Schools offering education from pre-primary to Class XII on a single campus with transport, meals, laboratories, libraries and digital learning facilities.

The government was also setting up one Young India Integrated Residential School in each of the state's 105 Assembly constituencies outside the capital at an estimated cost of ₹24,000 crore. Other initiatives include free electricity to over 26,000 educational institutions, strengthening of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, the Anna Akka Learning Initiative for AI and digital literacy, notification of over 11,000 teacher posts and formulation of a State Education Policy aligned with the National Education Policy 2020.

The report highlighted Telangana's focus on skill development through the Young India Skills University and the transformation of 65 ITIs into Advanced Technology Centres in partnership with Tata Technologies. Through TOMCOM, the state is also preparing youth for overseas employment opportunities. Revanth Reddy said Telangana aims to become a \$1-trillion economy by 2034 and achieve a \$3-trillion GSDP by 2047 through a development model built on urban, peri-urban and rural growth.

India Must Focus On Its Priorities Despite West Asia Crisis: Niti Aayog

New Delhi: Niti Aayog vice-chairman Ashok Kumar Lahiri on Thursday said that India must continue focusing on human capital development and not allow the West Asia crisis to disrupt its long-term priorities. "The country can't be paralysed by external shocks," he told the media after the 11th Governing Council meeting of the NITI Aayog in New Delhi here. The vice chairman also said that during the meeting, energy security amid geopolitical uncertainty was discussed at length, but no chief minister sought specific assistance due to the West Asia crisis. "We can't change the wind, we can only trim the sails. India is playing its role during the West Asia crisis," Lahiri said.

"We are growing the fastest. We have to keep doing our homework,



which is the development of human capital. Because of the West Asia crisis, we can't be paralysed, we have to keep doing our work," he added. The theme of this year's Governing Council meeting, he said, was 'Inclusive Human Development for Viksit Bharat @2047', with discussions focused on educa-

tion and broader human development goals. "A well-educated population is key to success," he said.

During the briefing, Niti Aayog member Rajiv Gauba also said that the situation in West Asia remained a concern in the background of discussions, but no chief minister specifically sought support from the Centre

due to the geopolitical developments. "The West Asia situation is there on the back of everyone's mind. None of the chief ministers specifically asked for any assistance due to this situation. There was discussion on energy security and the need to expedite implementation of the schemes related to it," Gauba said.

TN CM Vijay To Raise Key Issues At NITI Aayog Meeting

New Delhi: All eyes are now set on Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay, who will be delivering his maiden address at a national forum by speaking at the 11th Governing Council meeting of the NITI Aayog at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre. CM Vijay is likely to raise issues regarding central fund allocation and voice regional concerns at the NITI Aayog meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which commenced here on Thursday.

Vijay is also likely to demand the allocation of funds for key infrastructure projects. Earlier, upon his arrival at the Tamil Nadu House, he was received by Chief Secretary M Saikumar and Tamil Nadu Resident Commissioner R. Jaya.

The NITI Aayog meeting will discuss measures to promote entrepreneurship, enhance skills, and create sustainable employment opportunities nationwide. Discussions will also focus on collectively charting an implementation roadmap that leverages key enablers, including governance, digital public infrastructure, and partnerships, while ensuring accountability and measurable impact. The theme of this year's



meeting is "Inclusive Human Development for Viksit Bharat @2047."

The meeting has brought together Chief Ministers and Lieutenant Governors from across the country to discuss the Inclusive Human Development Framework.

Future City Gains Traction Among People

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's Future City project on the outskirts of Hyderabad has received a major expansion, with 37 more villages in Rangareddy district seeking merger with the project area, taking the number of villages associated with Future City to 93. The development comes in addition to the 56 villages that were included in the project under an earlier government notification.

The state government had asked gram panchayats to pass resolutions seeking merger with Future City and submit them to the government for approval. Responding swiftly to public

demand, Revanth Reddy approved the inclusion of the additional villages after local representatives and residents sought their merger with the Future City Development Authority (FCDA) limits.

The decision was taken on Wednesday after the Chief Minister inaugurated the FCDA headquarters at Mirakhanpet in Kandukur mandal. The eco-friendly office complex, constructed for ₹20 crore, is equipped with solar power facilities and bio-sewage treatment plants. Following the inauguration, the Chief Minister held discussions with ministers and later attended a public meeting.



During the meeting, locals displayed placards demanding that their villages be brought under the Future City project. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, while addressing the

gathering, also urged the Chief Minister to consider the request and announce the merger in the Legislative Assembly. Reacting immediately, Revanth Reddy signed the petitions submitted by

the villagers and directed officials to include the respective villages in Future City.

With the latest expansion, 28 villages in Maheshwaram mandal

and nine villages in Kandukur mandal will become part of the project. The move was welcomed by local public representatives and residents, who expressed happiness over the Chief Minister's prompt response to their demands.

The state government had earlier issued a gazette notification for the merger of 56 village panchayats from Kandukur, Maheshwaram, Ibrahimpatnam, Manchala, Yacharam and Kadthal mandals into the FCDA limits. Subsequently, public representatives from Kandukur and Maheshwaram mandals in

Maheshwaram Assembly constituency passed resolutions seeking the inclusion of additional villages.

The villages proposed from Kandukur mandal include Nedunur, Bachupalli, Jaitwaram, Pulimamidi, Dhannaram, Chippalapalli and Muralinagar. From Maheshwaram mandal, the villages are Pendmala, Subhanpur, Uppugadda Thanda, Thuprakurdu, Kolla Padkal, Mansanpally, Ramchandraguda, Gangaram and Enditanda. These resolutions were endorsed by local elected representatives and submitted to the government.

PM Modi Expresses Grief Over Death of Shooter Jaspal Rana



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday condoled the passing away of Asian Games gold medallist shooter Jaspal Rana, and said his demise was a profound loss to the world of Indian sports. Rana, 49, breathed his last at a Delhi hospital on Thursday night. "Deeply saddened by the passing of Shri Jaspal Rana Ji. His passing is a profound loss to the world of Indian sports," Modi said in a post on X. The prime minister said Rana brought immense

glory to the nation through his extraordinary achievements in shooting and equally remarkable was his contribution as a mentor, shaping and guiding young athletes with great dedication. "His unwavering commitment to excellence, discipline and service to the sporting world earned him immense admiration. My thoughts are with his family, friends and the entire sporting fraternity in this hour of grief. Om Shanti," he said.

Indian men's and women's hockey teams set for action-packed fortnight across continents

Indian hockey fans can look forward to nearly two weeks of uninterrupted action as the men's team competes in the FIH Pro League in Europe and the women's team battles for promotion at the Nations Cup in New Zealand.



Hyderabad: Indian fans are set for an action-packed fortnight as both the Indian Men's Hockey Team and the Indian Women's Hockey Team take centre stage on the international circuit, offering supporters a rare opportunity to witness elite-level hockey almost every day from June 14 to June 28.

The Indian Men's and Women's Teams will be competing simultaneously across Europe and New Zealand, creating an almost uninterrupted stretch of international hockey for fans to enjoy.

Whether it is the men taking on World No. 1 Netherlands, reigning world champions Germany, arch-rivals Pakistan and World No. 4 England in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2025-26, or the women chasing promotion back to the Pro League at the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup New Zealand 2025-26 in Auckland, there will be no shortage of storylines, stakes and spectacle.

The timing could not be more significant.

With the FIH Hockey World Cup and Asian Games on the horizon, the upcoming fixtures offers a fascinating glimpse into the teams' structure ahead of two big events. For coaches, it is an opportunity to test combinations. For players, it is a chance to cement their place in the plans for the sport's biggest stages. For fans, it is an opportunity to witness two Indian teams chasing success in different continents.

The men's team begins its European campaign against the Netherlands in Rotterdam before taking on Germany in back-to-back encounters. Both nations are widely considered among the favourites for this year's World Cup, and the challenge couldn't have come at a better time as the Indian Team prepares to end its long wait for a World Cup title.

Adding another layer of intrigue, the fixtures in the Netherlands will allow the Indian squad to familiarise itself with conditions in one of the host nations for the 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup, which will have Belgium as the second host.

Then comes one of the most anticipated chapters in world hockey.

India and Pakistan will renew their historic rivalry – on June 23 and June 26 – in London, where India will also face hosts England. Few fixtures in international sport carry the emotion, history and anticipation of an India-Pakistan contest, and fans can expect both encounters to command global attention.

While the men battle Europe's elite in the FIH Pro League, the Indian Women's Hockey Team will have a major objective of its own.

Competing at the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup in Auckland, the women will be chasing the ultimate prize — a place in next season's FIH Hockey Pro League. Every match carries significance, and a strong performance could provide the perfect springboard ahead of the upcoming World Cup.

The tournament also presents a valuable opportunity for the squad to continue its upward trajectory against quality international opposition and build momentum heading into a crucial period for the team.

With high stakes, global rivalries and World Cup build-up all converging at the same time, June promises to be one of the most exciting periods on the Indian hockey calendar.

Former Indian hockey legend Rupinder Pal Singh believes fans are in for a memorable fortnight. "As players, these are the periods we look forward to because every match carries meaning. For fans, it's even more special because there will be Indian hockey on their screens almost every day. The men's team will be tested against some of the very best teams in the world, while the women's team has an opportunity to take a major step forward through the Nations Cup. It's a fantastic showcase of where Indian hockey stands today and where it wants to go tomorrow."

Former Indian women's team captain Rani echoed the sentiment and said, "It's rare to have both Indian teams competing simultaneously at such important tournaments. The women have a chance to fight for promotion to the Pro League, while the men will be challenging the strongest teams in world hockey. For supporters, it means nearly two weeks of continuous Indian hockey. We hope fans rally behind both teams because their support gives players immense confidence and motivation."

SPORTS



FIFA WC 2026: South Korea rally past Czechia 3-1 to make winning start

South Korea came from behind to defeat Czechia 3-1 in their opening FIFA World Cup 2026 match. Goals from Hwang In-beom and Oh Hyeon-gyu completed the comeback after Ladislav Krejci's opener, extending Korea's impressive run against European opponents.

Zapopan: South Korea came from a goal down to defeat Czechia and start their FIFA World Cup 2026 campaign with a 3-1 win at Guadalajara Stadium on Friday (IST).

Strikes from Hwang In-beom and Oh Hyeon-gyu sealed a perfect start for the East Asian side who had found themselves trailing to Ladislav Krejci's goal despite dominating the game.

Kovar saved a fierce left-footed strike from Lee Kang-in in the 14th minute before Son Heungmin, making his fourth FIFA World Cup appearance, sent a couple of decent opportunities off target and then couldn't quite connect with another chance in first-half stoppage time. Son was denied again 11 minutes into the second period, once more finding Kovar in his way.



Czechia then took the lead against the run of play in the 59th minute, captain Ladislav Krejci soaring through the air to meet a long throw from the right by Vladimir Coufal and thundering a header past a helpless Kim Seunggyu in the Korean goal, FIFA reports.

Hwang restored parity with a delicious effort eight minutes later, though, cutting inside before dinking home after a sublime ball into his path from Lee Kangin, and Oh Hyeongyu then completed the turnaround when he tucked in Hwang's low ball from the right in the 80th minute.

Czechia threw everything they had at finding an equaliser of their own, but the closest they came was when Adam Hlozek forced Kim into a phenomenal stop in the 82nd minute, leaving Korea to celebrate a third consecutive World Cup win over European opposition, following victories over Portugal in 2022 (2-1) and Germany in 2018 (2-0).

"It was our first game and a very difficult one. The win itself makes me happy, but what's even more positive is that our boys won by not giving up. I knew that we were more than capable of winning, so at 1-a1 I told the boys to keep playing the way we've been playing. Now, Mexico is another important match. We will spend the next week to prepare properly," said South Korea Hong Myungbo.

PV Sindhu confirms semifinal spot at Australian Open

PV Sindhu storming into the Australian Open semifinals with a dominant 21-6, 21-9 win over Chen Su Yu. She will face top seed Akane Yamaguchi next, while rising Indian star Tanvi Sharma exited in the quarterfinals

Sydney: World No. 10 PV Sindhu booked her place in the semifinals of the Australian Open currently underway at the Quaycentre in Sydney with a dominant victory over Chinese Taipei's Chen Su Yu.

In a match lasting just 27 minutes, the third-seeded Indian controlled both games from the beginning to seal a 21-6, 21-9 victory. The result marks Sindhu's second semifinal appearance of the season, having previously reached the last four at the Malaysia Open 2026.

An interesting semifinal awaits Sindhu as the two-time Olympic medallist takes on top seed and three-time world champion Akane Yamaguchi. The clash will be the 29th meeting between the two, with Sindhu holding a 15-13 advantage in their head-to-head record. However, the Japanese has won four of their last five encounters.

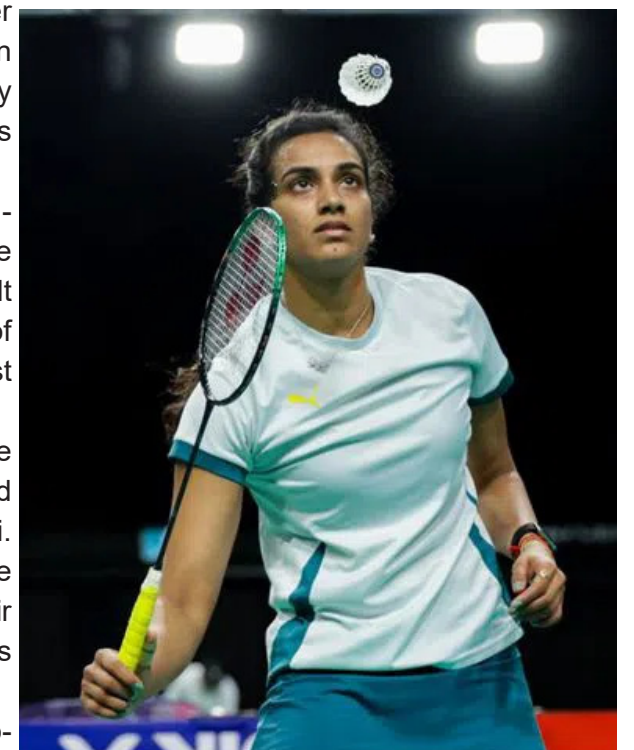
The result was Sindhu's second semifinal appearance in eight BWF World Tour events this season, offering a timely confidence boost after an inconsistent run on the circuit. The good run of young Indian Tanvi Sharma came to an end in the quarterfinals as she was outclassed by Japan's Akane Yamaguchi, whose solid defence and pinpoint accuracy were too difficult to counter.

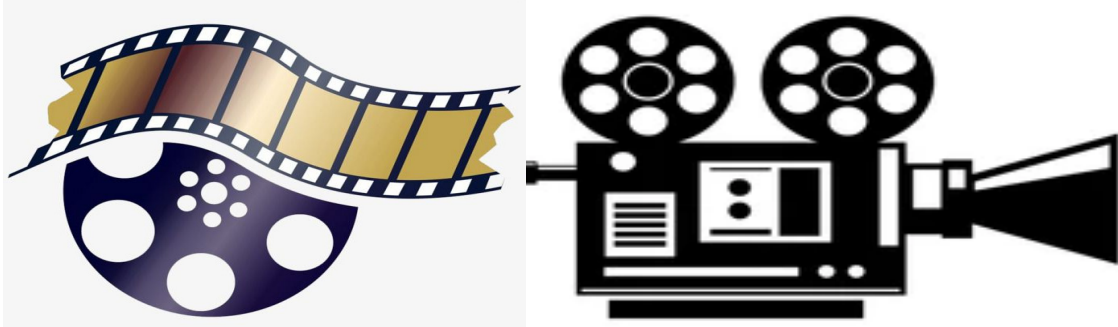
Tanvi's journey to the quarter-finals may have ended in disappointment but she produced a series of solid displays and a few major upsets that underlined her burgeoning promise and marked another important step in the career of one of India's brightest badminton prospects.

Yamaguchi advanced to the semis with a 21-14, 21-14 victory over India's Tanvi Sharma in 32 minutes.

In men's doubles, the Indian pair of Hariharan Amsakarunan and MR Arjun were forced to retire during the second game against opponents from Chinese Taipei.

Earlier, Sindhu, World Junior Championships runner-up Tanvi Sharma, and the men's doubles pair of Hariharan Amsakarunan and MR Arjun advanced to the quarterfinals. Tanvi continued her impressive run with a 21-12, 21-15 win over Malvika Bansod, while Sindhu defeated fellow Indian Isharani Baruah 22-20, 21-12. Hariharan and Arjun also progressed, overcoming Australia's Michael Owen and Dylan Soedjasa 21-17, 21-17.





CINEMA

Makutam Teaser: Vishal Stuns In Three Powerful Avatars

Actor Vishal is coming with a new film titled Makutam. The movie is very special because it marks his first project as a director.



Actor Vishal is coming with a new film titled Makutam. The movie is very special because it marks his first project as a director. After the success of Mark Antony and Madha Gaja Raja, fans are eagerly waiting for this ambitious film.

Makutam is being produced by Super Good Films as its 99th production. The movie is backed by the late producer RB Choudary and is written by Ravi Arasu. The film has already created curiosity with its posters and promotional content. Now, the makers have released the teaser, and it has received a positive response from movie lovers.

The teaser begins with a powerful scene where Vishal appears as an aged gangster. He lights a cigarette in front of a burning body, creating a strong impact. As the teaser continues, viewers get to see two more versions of Vishal. The actor appears in three different looks, each with a unique style and personality.

One of the biggest highlights of the teaser is Vishal's transformation. His appearance, expressions, and body language are completely different in all three roles. This has increased excitement among fans and movie audiences.

Actress Anjali also grabs attention with her action-packed role. In one scene, she is seen holding a knife and getting ready for a fight. Her powerful screen presence has become one of the talking points of the teaser. Dushara Vijayan and other important cast members are also seen briefly.

The teaser is visually rich and stylish. Cinematographer Richard M Nathan has captured the scenes beautifully. The background score by GV Prakash Kumar adds more energy and intensity to the teaser. The action sequences look grand and well-designed.

As a director, Vishal seems to have done an impressive job. The teaser shows his confidence in handling action, emotions and visual storytelling. The editing by NB Srikanth keeps the teaser engaging from beginning to end.

Bharatavarsha: Gopichand oozes magnetic charm as warrior

Macho Hero Gopichand is working with highly talented director Sankalp Reddy for his high budget warrior epic, Bharatavarsha.

Macho Hero Gopichand is working with highly talented director Sankalp Reddy for his high budget warrior epic, Bharatavarsha. The movie has created huge buzz and anticipation with the glimpse and promotional campaign till date.

On the occasion of Gopichand's birthday, the movie team have released a new poster with him as a warrior. With a bow and arrow in his hand, against the huge arsenal of forces, his machismo is on a full display. With International level technicians working on the film, the makers are promising an unprecedented cinematic experience.

The poster rises high curiosity and excitement further about this incredible action warrior saga. Anudeep Dev is composing music and Srinivasa Chitturi is producing this mega action drama on a massive scale. Further details to be announced soon.



Nani's The Paradise: Why No Clarification On Delay?

Despite claiming multiple times that they are not shying away from the August 21st release date, a date that Nani's upcoming film The Paradise locked after moving out of the March 2026 clash with the then-planned Peddi movie, there's no sound yet again. With Raviteja's Irumudi locking the date of The Paradise, things are very clear from the trade circles that the Dasara director's movie is not hitting cinemas as planned.



Even for a couple of months, producer Sudhakar Cherukuri maintained that they are hitting cinemas on August 21st as planned, and even gave assurance about it. However, reports are coming that the film's budget has shot up massively and the makers wanted to do some sort of magic for recovery. Keeping the Baahubali and Dhurandhar technique in mind, they have now decided to release the movie in two parts.

Some reports are doing rounds that currently they are filming both parts simultaneously, meaning the extra footage needed to extend Part 1 and the extra footage needed to fill Part 2, at the same time. That's the reason behind the movie's delay, and that's why they have given up the August 21st slot much earlier. If the production house

fails to give clarity over the same, fans might keep believing this story only.

On the other hand, these days many big films, including the likes of Peddi, Toxic, and many others, haven't stuck to the announced release date, and their change of plans is severely disrupting the plans of many other small films and medium-budget movies.

Samantha's 'Maa Inti Bangaaram' clears censor with U/A certificate

CBFC has cleared Samantha Ruth Prabhu's Maa Inti Bangaaram, directed by Nandini Reddy, with a U/A certificate. The trailer shows a mix of family drama and action, with Samantha playing a mysterious woman hiding a violent past while navigating family scrutiny.



Hyderabad: The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has now cleared director Nandini Reddy's upcoming action drama, 'Maa Inti Bangaaram', featuring actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu in the lead, for release with a U/A certificate. City & Local Guides

Tralala Moving Pictures, the production house producing the film, took to its social media timelines to announce the development.

It wrote, "#MaalintiBangaaram certified U/A. A complete family entertainer with a fresh twist. Bring your bangaaralu and join us in cinemas worldwide from June 19th, 2026."

A trailer of the film released some days ago has added to the expectations from the film.

The trailer released shows Samantha arriving at her boyfriend's place. She is met with a lot of questions that include, "I think I've seen you before." "What is your name?" and "where are you from?"

However, she asks a loaded question in reply. "Do you know who I really am?"

The trailer gives the impression that her partner, who fell in love with her, waited for her for two years and that she has now joined him at his place.

His family members ask her about what her caste is, whether she knows to cook and has how many siblings. However, these questions make her feel like she is being grilled like a criminal.

She is then introduced to Anusuya, the younger daughter-in-law of the house. Anusuya is referred to as "maa inti Bangaram" (the gold of our house) by the other members of the household.

"A daughter-in-law is expected to have many qualities to be seen as the ideal woman. She should be beautiful, lean, well behaved, should cook and sing," she laments and then declares, "I have none of those qualities. But I have one quality. I can risk everything to keep my family safe."

We then see Samantha bashing up baddies, left, right and centre. The trailer gives the impression that the film is full of action sequences.

At one point, she is seen delivering a threat to a bad guy. "Why did you talk to him like that?" asks a woman and Samantha replies, "Be it a hero or a housewife, when the dialogue lands right, it can scare anyone."

It is evident that she has a past which she has hidden from her present family in the film. And her past has had her throwing punches and delivering kicks!

'Maa Inti Bangaaram' is a family action comedy drama created by Raj Nidimoru and directed by Nandini Reddy.

The film stars Diganth and Gulshan Devaiah in key roles, with a supporting cast featuring Sree Mukhi, Gautami, Anand, Lakshmi, Srinivas Gavireddy, and Manjusha. Samantha's Tralala Moving Pictures has produced this film.

The actress, in January, had said that the world of her upcoming film is rooted and emotional with a narrative style dedicated to keeping family first, whilst maintaining its quirky, edgy energy.

Samantha had said: "Maa Inti Bangaaram tells the story of a woman whose strength comes as much from her vulnerability as from her courage. Playing this character and nurturing this film as a producer has been an incredibly fulfilling journey for me."

In the film, the actress has done most of the action sequences in a saree.

A source close to the film had previously shared: "After 'The Family Man' and 'Citadel', Samantha wanted to challenge herself further. In Maa Inti Bangaram, she's doing most of the action herself, and doing it in a saree. It's physically demanding and visually powerful, a portrayal audiences rarely get to see".

Sing Geetham postponed by a day

Legendary director Singeetham Srinivasa Rao and creative filmmaker Nag Ashwin, have come together for the musical fantasy film, Sing Geetham. Already buzz for the film is huge promising a new cinematic experience. The film story is set in a fantasy-infused supernatural world that demands a highly immersive atmosphere.

Hence, perfecting the creative details is the ultimate priority. So, the movie has been pushed by a day and will now release on June 12 instead of June 11. The makers are utilizing this time to perfect a few significant CGI and visual effects portions that drive the narrative.

Because these visuals play a vital role alongside the music, the team is focused on delivering a polished final product. This one-day delay highlights their dedication to offering a flawless theatrical experience for the audience.

The movie features Ayaan and Ahilya in the lead roles, with Shalini Kondepudi appearing in a prominent character. Adding to the scale of the film, Devi Sri Prasad has composed the soundtrack converting dialogues to songs.