

# KING

## DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume:01 Issue No.14 Sunday 21-06-2026 Published From : Vijayawada, Hyderabad Pages : 8 | Rs.3/-

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## Ramdev Baba attends Yogandhra event in Undavalli, praises CM Chandrababu



**(king Reporter)** Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Yoga Guru Ramdev Baba led International Yoga Day celebrations at the Undavalli Caves. Explore the 'Yogandhra' initiative and the vision for a healthier Andhra Pradesh. On the occasion of International Yoga Day, the government is organising yoga programs across the state under the banner of 'Yogandhra'. A program was held today (Saturday) at the Undavalli Caves, where Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu performed yoga asanas alongside Yoga Guru Ramdev Baba. Speaking on the occasion, Ramdev Baba described Chief Minister Chandrababu as a visionary leader in the country. He noted that for the past 30 years, they have been fulfilling whatever Chandrababu has requested. Ramdev

Baba stated that Yoga is an integral part of our culture and traditions. He remarked that CM Chandrababu Naidu treats everyone equally, which is why people regard him like a god. He described Amaravati as the "Capital of Gods," noting that the city is designed to have 40 percent greenery and 60 percent built-up area, calling it a "divine land." He suggested that there is no need to travel to Switzerland, as a visit to Andhra Pradesh suffices. He praised the local mangoes and bananas, noting that they are cultivated using natural methods. Ramdev Baba also mentioned that this year's International Yoga Day is being observed under the theme 'Yoga for Healthy Aging'. International Yoga Day, Yogandhra, Chandrababu Naidu, Ramdev Baba, Amaravati

## AP govt to introduce special policy for rare disease patients

The Andhra Pradesh government is set to introduce a special policy to support patients suffering from rare diseases. An action plan is being formulated to provide free diagnostic tests and medical services. Preparations are underway to establish three referral centers and a 'Center of Excellence' for this purpose. In addition to creating a registry for rare diseases, the government plans to provide specialized training to medical professionals. These measures are being taken in alignment with the 'National Policy for Rare Diseases - 2021'. Minister Satya



Kumar Yadav revealed that Chief Minister Chandrababu has taken a keen interest in the formulation of this policy.

## CM Chandrababu attends 'Swachhandhra - Swarnandhra' program in Palnadu

**(king Reporter)** Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu attended the 'Swachhandhra - Swarnandhra' program held at Linganguntla in Chilakaluripet Mandal, Palnadu district. During the visit, he inspected the local Anganwadi center and distributed induction stoves to Anganwadis as part of the 'Net Zero' initiative. Andhra Pradesh news Subsequently, he is scheduled to visit the village's 'Praja Vedika' to participate in the 'Annadatha Sukhibhava - PM Kisan Yojana' program and interact with farmers, inquiring about crops cultivated through natural farming methods. Earlier,



upon his arrival in Linganguntla by helicopter, CM Chandrababu was accorded a grand welcome by Collector Kruthika Shukla and public representatives.

## CSR projects worth Rs 43 lakh inaugurated in four schools near Sri City

Sri City: Reinforcing their commitment to community development, Chart VRV, Parksons Packaging and Bergen Pipe Supports, in coordination with Sri City Foundation, have



completed and inaugurated a series of infrastructure projects worth about Rs 43 lakh in four government schools in and around Sri City on Friday under their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. At Zilla Parishad High School, Battalavallam, Chart VRV constructed separate toilet blocks for boys and girls at a cost of Rs 12 lakh while at Zilla Parishad High School, Varadaiahpalem, Parksons Packaging constructed a new girls' toilet complex and a drinking water facility with an investment of Rs 18 lakh. Bergen Pipe Supports undertook several

development works worth around Rs 10 lakh at Mandal Parishad Primary School, Chennavaripalem. The company renovated two classrooms, built a new main entrance, constructed a compound wall and refurbished the kitchen. In another initiative, the company completed the semi constructed multipurpose hall at Zilla Parishad High School, Madanapalem, at a cost of approximately Rs 3 lakh. Sri City CSR Director Nireesha Sannareddy urged students and teachers to make the best use of the newly created facilities.

## Bandi Bhagirath gets interim bail in POCSO case

The Malkajgiri Court has granted interim bail to Bandi Bhagirath, son of Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar, who was arrested in a POCSO case. The Malkajgiri Court has granted interim bail to Bandi Bhagirath, son of Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar, who was arrested in a POCSO case. Lawyers representing Bhagirath had requested the court to grant permission for him to appear for his engineering examinations. After considering their arguments, the court granted interim

bail until the 26th of this month. Bhagirath will appear for his engineering exams during this period. However, the court made it clear that he must strictly adhere to the stipulated conditions. The subsequent legal proceedings regarding the case will continue as usual.



## Atmakur top in development: Anam

**(king Reporter)** Atmakur (Nellore district): Endowments Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy has stated that Atmakur constituency has become a frontrunner in development and welfare under the two-year rule of the coalition government in the State. Addressing 'Trust, Development and Welfare' celebrations at Sridhar Gardens on Friday, the Minister said that under Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's leadership, the government is systematically fulfilling its promises and effectively implementing Super Six welfare schemes. He revealed that Rs 3,461.17 crore was spent on welfare and Rs 3,084.53 crore on development works in Atmakur, totaling a record Rs 6,545.7 crore in the last two years. Anam highlighted the repeal of the previous Land Titling Act to protect farmers, issuance of new Pattadar Passbooks, and benefits from schemes like PM Kisan,



pensions, free bus travel for women, and Talliki Vandanam. He also noted rapid progress on major irrigation projects including Somasila High Level Canal and temple restorations across the State. The Minister announced Rs 500 crore investment by a Chhattisgarh company for an industry on 300 acres in Marripadu and an upcoming MSME Park to create local employment. He expressed confidence in transforming Atmakur into a model constituency.

## Collector reviews arrangements ahead of President's visit to Anantapur

**(king Reporter)** Anantapur: District Collector O Anand and Superintendent of Police P Jagadeesh on Friday conducted a detailed inspection at the Central University of



Andhra Pradesh (CUAP) campus in preparation for President Droupadi Murmu's visit on July 1. Andhra Pradesh news The President will attend the university's first convocation ceremony as chief guest at 'Gnana Seema' campus. The Collector and SP, along with Vice-Chancellor Prof SA Kori, reviewed security, infrastructure,

transportation, and logistical arrangements. Anand directed officials to set up five helipads and submit their geo-coordinates immediately. He also instructed the Rural Water Supply department to drill borewells to ensure uninterrupted water supply. Road connectivity and other facilities were also assessed.



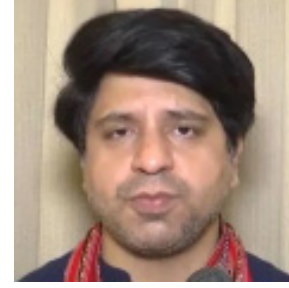
## The Opposition's biggest enemy is not Modi; it is itself

Democracy needs a strong opposition, not a fragmented one. Indian politics has often demonstrated that electoral success is not merely about defeating an opponent; it is equally about preserving organisational cohesion and adapting to changing political realities. Some parties illustrate this better. The Telugu Desam Party (TDP), which survived some of the most dramatic internal upheavals in modern Indian politics, emerged stronger each time. For decades, August was considered an inauspicious month for TDP. It faced two defining crises that could easily have destroyed it but ultimately became examples of political resilience. The first came in August 1984. While Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and TDP founder N T Rama Rao (NTR) was in the United States undergoing open-heart surgery, his trusted lieutenant Nandendla Bhaskara Rao staged a political coup. With the support of the Congress establishment at the Centre and Governor Thakur Ram Lal, Bhaskara Rao claimed majority support among legislators. On August 16, NTR's government was dismissed and Bhaskara Rao was sworn in as Chief Minister. Andhra Pradesh news NTR rushed back to India. Led by his son-in-law N Chandrababu Naidu and supported by leaders such as M Venkaiah Naidu, the TDP protected loyal legislators from poaching, organised public opinion and demonstrated its majority before the President of India. Public outrage forced a reversal, and exactly one month later, NTR was reinstated as the Chief Minister. A decade later came the second August crisis. Internal tensions over the growing influence of NTR's second wife Lakshmi Parvathi had created deep unease within the party. In August 1995, Chandrababu Naidu led a rebellion against his father-in-law. Legislators were housed at Hyderabad's Viceroy Hotel while a bitter power struggle unfolded. Naidu eventually secured overwhelming support from party legislators and assumed both the chief ministership and party leadership. Daggubati Venkateswara Rao, NTR's other son-in-law, along with several loyalist legislators, challenged Naidu's leadership. Yet that revolt too eventually fizzled out. The TDP endured because its organisational structure, cadre network and ideological commitment remained stronger than individual rivalries. Even when Chandrababu Naidu himself was arrested in September 2023, the party remained intact and eventually returned to power. The lesson is simple: strong leadership, organisational discipline and ideological clarity help political parties survive storms that would otherwise destroy them. Contrast this with the situation confronting several opposition parties today. Geographic Reference The Shiv Sena led by Uddhav Thackeray is facing what many observers describe as a June crisis. Defections continue to weaken the party. Members of Parliament, legislators and local representatives are leaving in significant numbers. Similarly, the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal is witnessing internal unrest and desertions and is on verge of being decimated. It would be too simplistic to ignore the role of political engineering and defections allegedly encouraged by rivals like the Eknath Shinde group which is now part of NDA.

## BJP claims Rahul losing support within Congress, cites Tharoor's remarks on Modi

New Delhi: The BJP on Saturday claimed that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is losing support within his own party and cited Congress MP Shashi Tharoor's purported remarks praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attack the opposition leader. BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla alleged that Tharoor's remarks on Modi's handling of the seafarers issue before US President Donald Trump contradict Gandhi's stand. "It is embarrassing. Yesterday was Rahul Gandhi's birthday, but he did not receive any gift. Dr Shashi Tharoor contradicted Rahul Gandhi's stand on the

same issue, saying Prime Minister Modi articulated India's position on the sailors' issue very forcefully before President Trump and conveyed the country's stance effectively," Poonawalla said in a video statement. The BJP leader further claimed that Tharoor has praised Modi's leadership qualities. "Not just that, Tharoor has been effusively praised Prime Minister Modi's vision, articulation, dynamism and oratory."



## Congress govt eyes revenue growth through tourism, sand exports



Hyderabad: To boost its revenue, the Congress government has decided to explore new avenues focusing on tourism development on public-private partnership (PPP) model, sand exports, improve registrations and transport-related collections. At the Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting held at the Dr BR Ambedkar State Secretariat, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka stressed the need to maximise returns from the State's resources and directed officials to prioritise revenue-generating sectors. The committee reviewed plans to expand tourism through the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, with a special focus on temple, eco and health tourism. Officials were asked to prepare a comprehensive tourism development plan, including proposals for weekend helicopter tourism and projects in the backwaters of Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar. The panel also reviewed

desilting activities at reservoirs including Lower Manair, Upper Manair and Medigadda. It decided in principle to permit crusher units that comply with prescribed regulations for robo sand. Officials were also directed to study the feasibility of exporting sand to neighbouring States. In the registrations sector, the committee noted an increase in registrations following the revision of slab-based land values.

The meeting also reviewed measures to improve Transport department revenues. The committee discussed legal and policy issues relating to Bharat (BH) Series vehicle registrations and taxes. Bhatti Vikramarka directed officials to convene a meeting of Transport Ministers from southern States on the issue. Revenue generation through regularisation of industrial lands was also reviewed during the meeting.

## Raidurg land auction case: Telangana govt weighs future dealings with SBI

Hyderabad: After suffering a major setback, the Telangana government is reportedly considering withdrawing its deposits and discontinuing services with the State Bank of India (SBI) in retaliation against the bank approaching the High Court over the recent Raidurg land auction, sources said. The Telangana Government Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIC) auctioned five acres of land in Raidurg on May 28. The auction fetched a record Rs.237 crore per acre. However, SBI filed two writ petitions alleging that the government had auctioned land that had earlier been allotted to the bank. The dispute pertains to Plot No. 1A, measuring five acres in Survey No. 83/1 of Hyderabad Knowledge City at Raidurg. The land was allotted to the erstwhile State Bank of Hyderabad in 2010 for the establishment of a banking office complex. Following the merger of State Bank of Hyderabad with SBI in 2017, the bank proposed setting up an Advanced Capability Centre and Innovation Centre on the site. The issue escalated after TGIC conducted the auction, prompting SBI to challenge the move before the High Court. The court subsequently stayed further proceedings in the matter. With the controversy attracting attention and putting



the government on the defensive, officials are said to be examining various options. Sources indicated that the government is considering withdrawing its deposits and discontinuing services routed through SBI branches across Telangana. Details relating to government deposits, transactions and services handled by the bank are reportedly being compiled. Apart from routine challan collections and treasury transactions, SBI also handles the payment of salaries to government employees and pension disbursements. The volume of these transactions runs into several crores of rupees every month. Officials believe that any decision to curtail banking arrangements with SBI could have implications for salary payments, pension disbursements and certain welfare programmes that rely on Direct Benefit Transfer mechanisms. Such a move could also raise concerns among government employees, pensioners and welfare scheme beneficiaries as well, they stressed.



## Jana Sena opens Telangana office, set to launch 'Janavani' to hear citizens' issues

Hyderabad: Jana Sena Party on Friday opened its Telangana state office with the party president and Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan declaring that Jana Sena will accelerate its political journey in Telangana. Addressing the party leaders after inaugurating the party office in Manikonda, he said people's problems should be the agenda of the party. He called upon the party cadres to work to fulfil Telangana's aspirations and hopes. He said the first priority should be the nation's integrity and unity. The Jana Sena chief claimed that he understands the soul of Telangana. "The soil here, the struggles, the sacrifices—all of these have inspired me. The caste-free struggles for rights led by the youth in Telangana are immensely valuable. This is a land of struggles... a blessed land. The Jana Sena movement began from the soil of Telangana," he said. The actor-politician provided direction to the party cadres on how the party's journey in Telangana should progress. He urged them to take the party's principles and ideology to the people. He urged the senior leaders to guide the newcomers, so they understand the party's ideology. Pawan Kalyan called on them to conduct 'Janavani' in Telangana to listen to people's problems. "When someone comes to us to share their problem, we must first respect them. We must listen to their issue carefully. We must find a solution. Prepare a plan to conduct the Janavani programme in Telangana as well. Listen to people's issues from all regions. Bring the problems of those who come to us to the attention of officials and public representatives so they can be resolved. If they still remain unresolved, let's think about how to launch public movements. First, set up a platform to fully hear people's issues. Ensure this works strongly in all regions," he said. The Jana Sena leader said that the Telangana region is like the heart of India. He recalled that with the iron man Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vision, a five-day Police Action took place in Hyderabad.

## Telangana CID arrests Worldline VP in Falcon fraud case

Hyderabad: The Telangana CID has arrested Sheik Mohideen (46), Executive Vice President of Mumbai-based Worldline E-Payment Gateway, in connection with the multi-crore Falcon Invoice Discounting fraud case. According to CID, the Falcon platform allegedly lured investors with fake invoice discounting schemes linked to reputed multinational companies, promising high returns within short periods. The fraud is suspected to have collected nearly Rs 4,215 crore from 7,056 investors across the country, with over 4,000 victims reportedly losing around Rs 792 crore. CID officials said Mohideen allegedly facilitated the operation by providing payment gateway services to the accused. The investigation found that Worldline earned about Rs 7.53 crore in transaction-related revenues from the platform's operations. The suspect was produced before the court and remanded in judicial custody.

## Telangana medicos oppose proposal to raise faculty retirement age to 70



Hyderabad: A proposal by the State Government to increase the retirement age of senior faculty in Government medical colleges of Telangana from 65 years to 70 years is attracting a lot of fire from young medicos and senior residents. Multiple associations representing senior residents and PG medical students on Saturday expressed their frustration at such a proposal, which they maintained will significantly have adverse consequences on the career progression of thousands of young doctors already serving in government medical institutions. "If a GO is issued in this regard, over 1,500 senior residents across Telangana will be left with no option but to initiate an indefinite statewide protest followed by strike. Extending the retirement age will block recruitment, delay promotions, deny opportunities to qualified young specialists, and adversely impact the future of medical education in the state," members of Telangana Senior Residents Doctors Association (T-SRDA) said. Opposing the proposal, the members of Telangana Junior Doctors Association (T-JUDA) said that it will obstruct the academic advancement, shrink opportunities, impact the future of faculty recruitment, restrict leadership opportunities and threaten the academic dy-

namism of medical education.

Unequivocally opposing such a proposal, the members of Healthcare Reforms Doctors Association (HRDA), Telangana, urged the State government to immediately abandon and withdraw any proposal to increase the retirement age of medical college faculty beyond 65 years and make attempts to fill all existing faculty vacancies and create additional posts in newly established Government medical colleges.

Demands of T-JUDA/T-SRDA and HRDA

Immediate withdrawal of any proposal seeking enhancement of the retirement age of medical college faculty beyond 65 years.

Expedited recruitment to all vacant teaching posts across Government Medical Colleges.

Timely promotions for eligible faculty members to ensure a transparent and merit-based academic structure.

Creation of additional faculty positions in newly established medical institutions to accommodate the growing pool of specialists.

Development of honorary mentorship, advisory, and emeritus roles for retired professors

## Singareni CMD assures adequate coal supply to Telangana thermal plants during monsoon

Peddapalli: Chairman and Managing Director of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), Dr Buddhaprakash Jyoti assured the supply of adequate coal to thermal power stations in the state to meet Telangana's power requirements in the monsoon season. Although coal production may face certain challenges during the monsoon season, Singareni would ensure adequate coal supply to thermal power stations. TGGENCO Chairman Dr Harish met SCCL CMD Dr Buddhaprakash Jyoti at Singareni Bhavan, Hyderabad on Friday. During the meeting, they reviewed coal supply arrangements for thermal power stations and discussed measures to ensure uninterrupted power generation at all thermal plants, including the Yadadri Thermal Power Station, by maintaining adequate stocks of quality coal throughout the monsoon season. Responding to the concerns, Singareni CMD explained that nearly 93 percent of Singareni's coal production comes from open-cast mines, and heavy rainfall often causes significant disruptions to coal production operations in these mines. However, keeping the state's power requirements in view, SCCL has



been implementing well-planned measures to ensure uninterrupted coal supplies to thermal power stations. Several precautionary measures have already been undertaken in all open-cast mines to minimize the impact of the monsoon, he informed. The meeting also reviewed in detail the coal stock position and the quantity of coal required to be supplied to thermal power plants during the rainy season. Annually, SCCL supplies nearly 28 million tonnes of coal to thermal power stations in Telangana. Each day, about 60,000 to 70,000 tonnes of coal is supplied to the thermal plants, the SCCL Directors informed. The CMD emphasized that there should be no disruption to the state's power requirements and also stressed that no compromise should be made in maintaining coal quality.

## PM Modi extends birthday wishes to President Droupadi Murmu, hails her public service

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday extended greetings to President Droupadi Murmu on her birthday, praising her remarkable journey of public service and describing her life as an inspiration for millions across the country. In a post on X, the



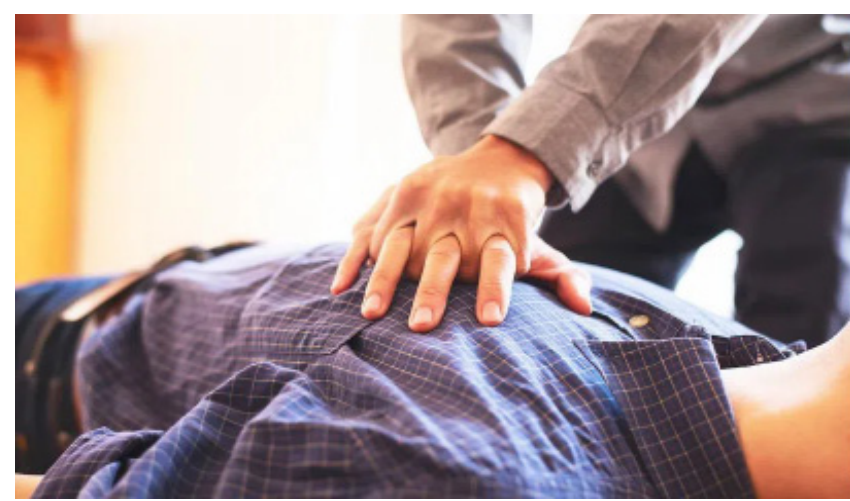
Prime Minister said, "Warm birthday greetings to the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu Ji. Her journey, marked by courage, simplicity, humility and unwavering commitment to public service, continues to inspire people across the country." Highlighting President Murmu's contributions to nation-building and social welfare, Modi added, "Through her many years in public life, she has served the nation in an outstanding manner, especially passionate about the wellbeing of the underprivileged and marginalised. Her steadfast dedication to India's development is very motivating." Extending his wishes, the Prime Minister said, "May she be blessed with a long and healthy life in the service of the nation. I look forward to meeting her later today at the programme in Odisha." Joining the greetings, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also lauded President Murmu's commitment to public service and constitutional values. In a post on X, he wrote, "Heartfelt birthday greetings to Her Excellency the President, Smt. Droupadi Murmu Ji. Your simple life, unwavering dedication to the upliftment of tribal society, and steadfast commitment to constitutional values serve as an exemplary inspiration for all citizens of the

country." "I pray to Lord Sri Jagannath Ji for your long and illustrious life and excellent health," he added. President Droupadi Murmu, the 15th President of India, assumed office on July 25, 2022, becoming the first tribal woman and the youngest person to hold the country's highest constitutional office. Before becoming President, she served as the ninth Governor of Jharkhand from 2015 to 2021.

Born on June 20, 1958, in Uparbeda village of Odisha's Mayurbhanj district to a Santhal tribal family, President Murmu's life story is one of perseverance and determination. Beginning her education at a village primary school, she went on to pursue higher studies in Bhubaneswar, becoming the first girl from her village to pass the matriculation examination and earn a college degree. She graduated from Ramadevi Women's College in 1979 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Economics. Overcoming social and economic challenges, President Murmu built a distinguished career in public service, earning respect across political and social spheres. Her rise from a remote tribal village to Rashtrapati Bhavan remains one of the most inspiring stories in contemporary Indian public life.

## Rajendranagar police saves infant's life with timely CPR after road accident

Hyderabad: The Rajendra nagar police rescued a one-year-old infant who had stopped breathing following a road accident, by administering timely Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and first aid. The incident occurred on Friday night when Deputy Commissioner of Police (Rajendranagar) S.



Srinivas, was conducting routine patrols in the jurisdiction. According to police, a car travelling from Bengaluru to Hyderabad, lost control and crashed into a roadside tree on the Shamshabad-Aramghar route. The impact of the collision left several occupants injured, including a one-year-old child reportedly became unconscious and stopped breathing. DCP Srinivas and his escort personnel who were nearby rushed to the accident site. Noticing the critical condition of the infant, the police team swiftly initiated Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) under the DCP's guidance. Their persistent efforts proved successful as the child regained consciousness bringing immense relief to the distraught parents. The police personnel then ensured that all the injured victims were shifted to a nearby hospital for further medical treatment. Hyderabad Commissioner of Police, VC Sajjanar appreciated the work of the Rajendranagar DCP, S Srinivas and his team.

## SP warns pan shop owners against selling tobacco to minors

Mahabubnagar: The 56th birthday celebrations of Rahul Gandhi were held on Friday at the party office under the leadership of Mahabubnagar District Congress Committee (DCC) President Sanjeev Mudiraj. On the occasion, Congress leaders and party workers gathered at Clock Tower Junction in Mahabubnagar and celebrated Rahul Gandhi's birthday by cutting a massive 56-foot cake and extending their heartfelt wishes. Addressing the gathering,

Sanjeev Mudiraj conveyed his greetings to Rahul Gandhi and praised his efforts towards national development, social justice, and youth welfare. He stated that Gandhi has been consistently fighting for justice, equality, and democratic values in the country. He also expressed the hope of Congress party members that Rahul Gandhi would become the Prime Minister of India. As part of the celebrations, Sanjeev distributed clothes to orphaned children at the Red Cross. The programme

was attended by Government Whip and MLA Yennam Srinivas Reddy, State General Secretary AP Mithun Reddy, MUDA Chairman Laxman Yadav, Mayor Gummala Mamatha Srinivas, Deputy Mayor Surender Reddy, and others. Andhra Pradesh news Corporators, Sarpanches, Youth Congress leaders, INTUC leaders, Mahila Congress leaders, party leaders, and a large number of party workers also participated in the event.



## India diversifies LPG imports during West Asia conflict as OMCs absorb price shock



New Delhi: India sharply diversified its liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) sourcing during the West Asia conflict, increasing imports from the US, Iran and several other countries to reduce dependence on the Gulf region, while state-owned fuel retailers absorbed much of the surge in international prices to shield households. Before the conflict, roughly 90 per cent of India's LPG imports came from West Asian suppliers, leaving the country heavily exposed to regional disruptions. By April 2026, the United States accounted for nearly one-third of India's LPG imports, up from just 8 per cent in February, according to a Crisil report. The shift was aided by a 2.2 million tonne-per-year LPG supply agreement signed with the United States in late 2025, equivalent to about 10 per cent of India's annual import requirement. Iran also re-entered India's import basket, accounting for around 6 per cent of April imports, while supplies were sourced from countries like Argentina, Chile, France and the Netherlands. The diversification helped maintain supplies during the conflict, but came at the cost of longer supply chains and higher freight expenses. The disruption nevertheless weighed heavily on demand. LPG consumption fell to 2.47 million tonnes in April from 3.2 million tonnes in February as tighter availability and rising prices curbed usage. After growing 6 per cent to a record 33.2 million tonnes in fiscal 2026, India's LPG consumption declined 13 per cent year-on-year in both March and April, before falling 20 per cent in May. Commercial and industrial users bore the brunt of the decline, with consumption dropping more sharply than household demand as market-linked cus-

tomers responded quickly to higher prices and supply constraints. Crisil said the conflict also triggered a sharp increase in global LPG prices. The Saudi Aramco Contract Price, the benchmark for Indian imports, rose 46 per cent between February and June as markets priced in supply risks and elevated freight costs. However, the increase was only partially passed on to domestic consumers.

The price of a 14.2-kg household LPG cylinder in Delhi rose about 10 per cent between February and June, while the price of a 19-kg commercial cylinder surged more than 79 per cent. The limited increase in household cooking gas prices led to a sharp rise in under-recoveries for oil marketing companies as procurement costs outpaced retail prices, it said, adding that the under-recoveries on domestic LPG cylinders in Delhi rose to Rs 651 per cylinder in May, while cumulative losses borne by fuel retailers during March-May were estimated at nearly Rs 22,000 crore. The easing of tensions in West Asia and the potential reopening of key trade routes are expected to reduce immediate supply concerns and moderate global LPG prices. However, the disruption exposed India's continued dependence on imported LPG and the risks associated with concentrated sourcing. While diversification and higher domestic production helped cushion the impact, the sector remains vulnerable to geopolitical disruptions, freight market volatility and swings in international energy prices, underscoring the importance of maintaining a broader import portfolio, the report added.

## Re-exam: NEET candidate from Nagpur allotted Abu Dhabi exam centre

New Delhi: A major administrative lapse has come to light ahead of the Re-NEET UG 2026 examination, after a candidate from Maharashtra's Nagpur was reportedly allotted an examination centre in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, due to an apparent error in the admit card issued by the National Testing Agency (NTA). The incident has sparked concern among students and parents just a day before the re-examination scheduled for June 21. According to the student's family, Abdullah had selected Nagpur, Wardha, and Bhandara as his preferred examination cities during the application process. However, his admit card displayed an examination centre in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Speaking to IANS on Saturday, the candidate's father, Mohammad Talib, expressed shock and confusion over the unexpected allocation of a foreign examination centre. "I don't know how this has happened. Only the agency can explain it now. We had selected three preferred examination centres, but I don't understand why they want us to go to Abu Dhabi," he said.

Talib explained that his son, Abdullah Mohammad Talib, had appeared for the earlier NEET examination and was allotted a centre in Nagpur. According to him, the examination went smoothly and there were no irregularities in the application



process or in the selection of examination centres. "In the previous NEET exam, he got a centre in Nagpur itself. His paper went very well. There was no mistake from our side while choosing the centres. We had opted for Bhandara and two other locations, but were allotted Nagpur. We never requested any centre outside India," he said.

The unexpected development has reportedly taken a severe emotional toll on the student. "After hearing about the Abu Dhabi centre, my son went into shock. He is currently sleeping after taking medication. Whenever we try to talk to him, he breaks down and starts crying," he said. Talib further stated that NTA officials had acknowledged the issue and informed the family that the error appeared to have originated from their end.

## Man tries to foil son's suicide bid, both run over by train in UP

Deoria: A man and his son were run over by a train here when the father was trying to save his son, who allegedly stepped onto the railway track to take his own life following an argument between the two, police said on Saturday. The incident occurred around 11 pm on Friday near the Gauribazar western railway crossing on the Gorakhpur-Chhapra rail section. According to police, Shravan Jaiswal (55) and his son Rakesh Jaiswal (24), residents of Udyog Nagar under the Gauribazar police station area, had gone to the market on a motorcycle on Friday night when they had an argument. As the dispute escalated, Rakesh rode the motorcycle towards the railway tracks. The two had another argument near the west-

ern railway crossing, the eyewitnesses said. When a train was approaching from the Gorakhpur side, Rakesh suddenly stepped onto the railway track. Shravan rushed to pull his son away, but before he could do it, the two were run over by the train. Both of them died on the spot, the eyewitnesses said. After receiving the information about the incident, Circle Officer (Rudrapur) Satyendra Kumar Rai and other police personnel rushed to the spot. Police inspected the site, collected necessary evidence and took custody of the bodies, police said.

Based on preliminary investigation, the matter appears to be linked to a family dispute, Rai said. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem, he said.

## KTR visits ex-MLA Balka Suman's family, extends solidarity

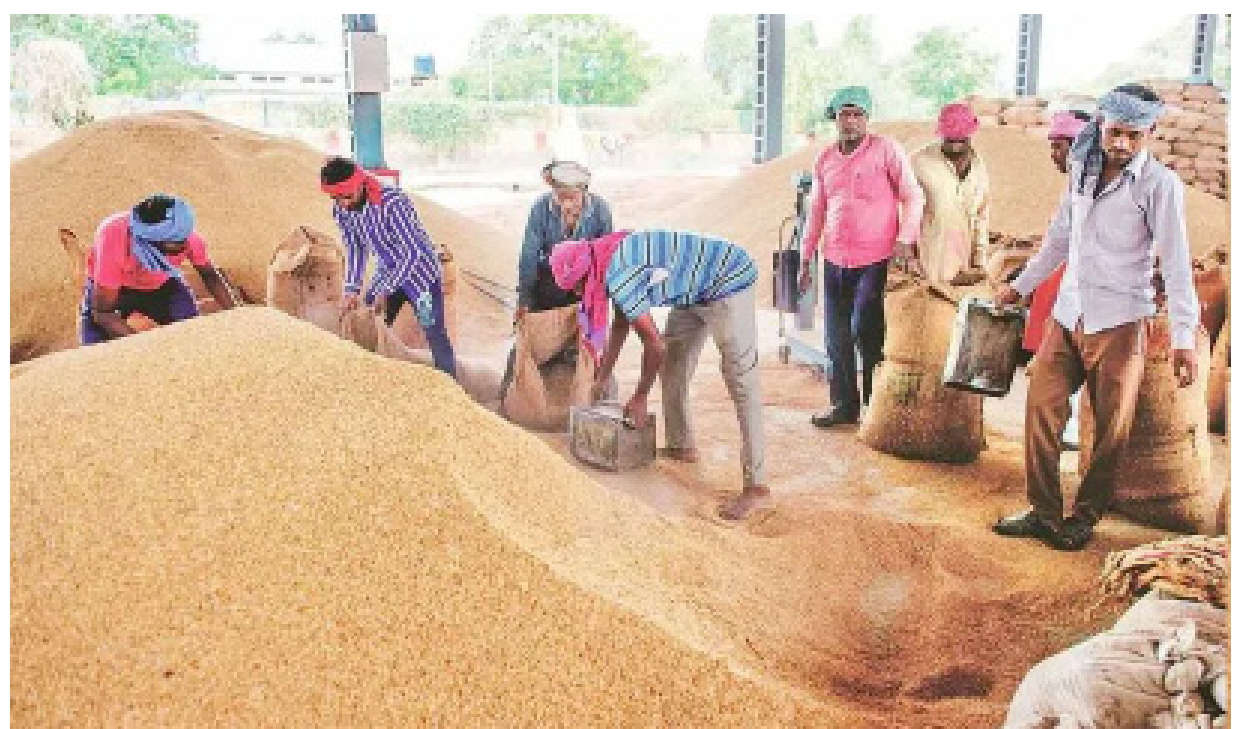


Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Friday visited the residence of former MLA Balka Suman in Hyderabad and met his family members, assuring them of the party's full support. He expressed solidarity with the family and told them not to worry as the party was standing by Suman and his family. Suman was arrested on May 30, for alleged militant activity remarks against Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL). During his visit, Rama Rao said the Congress government imprisoned Suman by filing illegal cases be-

cause he was fighting for public issues and questioning alleged corruption in Singareni. He termed Suman a strong opposition leader and said the cases were politically motivated.

He accused the government of attempting to suppress opposition voices through cases and intimidation. Despite such actions, he said, BRS leaders would continue their fight and would not be deterred by what he called political vendetta. He also exuded confidence that the party continues to enjoy public support.

## Telangana govt plans modern grain silos across 20 locations



Hyderabad: The State government has initiated steps to modernise its grain storage infrastructure by exploring the establishment of advanced grain silos at 20 locations in major paddy producing districts. The initiative is said to be part of a broader effort to strengthen grain procurement, storage, transportation and distribution systems through technology-driven solutions. Civil Supplies and Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy who chaired a meeting at Dr BR Ambedkar State Secretariat on Friday, directed officials to prepare detailed proposals on suitable locations, storage capacities, investment requirements and implementation strategies. According to officials, the government is examining the feasibility of developing a silo network

with an initial storage capacity of 50,000 metric tonnes. The proposed facilities are aimed at reducing post-harvest losses, preserving grain quality, improving transportation efficiency and strengthening the overall supply chain.

The existing procurement mechanism will continue without any changes. Self-Help Groups (SHGs), IKP centres and Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS), which currently play a key role in procurement, will continue to be involved. Officials informed that modern silos would enable automated grain handling, digital quality testing, scientific storage and sensor-based monitoring. The system is also expected to help address challenges such as labour shortages and transportation delays.

## Sanam Shetty: What is stopping the makers to mention the lead heroine's name on the poster?

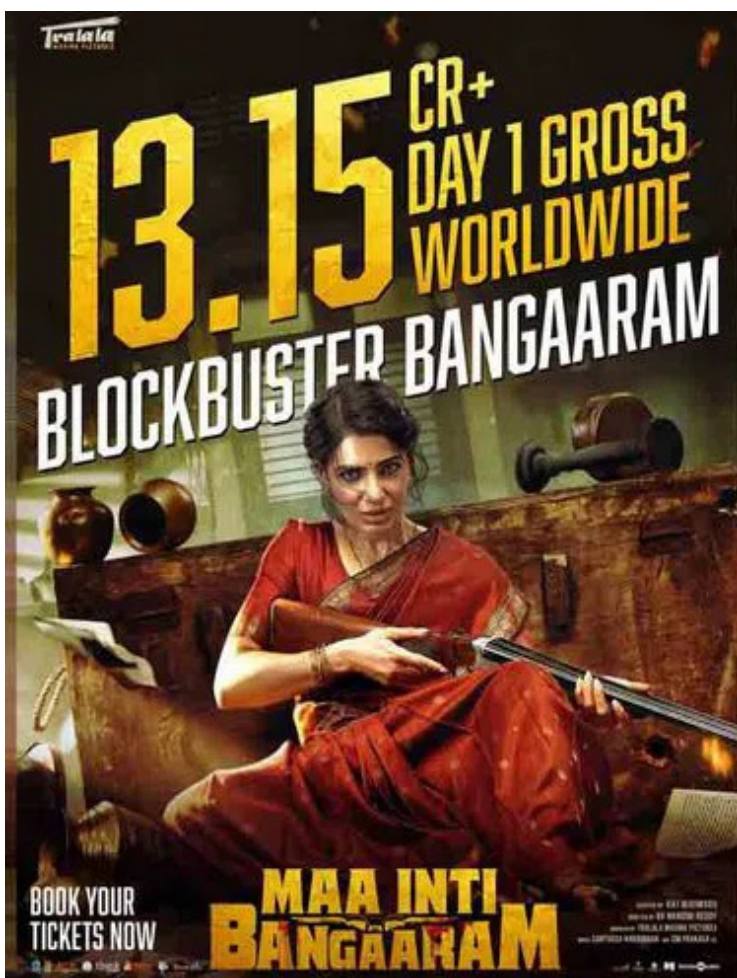
Chennai: Actress Sanam Shetty has taken exception to a poster of director Venky Atluri's much awaited film, 'Vishwanath & Sons', featuring actors Suriya and Mamitha Baiju in the lead, as the poster in question did not feature the name of Mamitha Baiju, who plays the heroine in the film. The makers of 'Vishwanath & Sons' on Friday released the first single from the film, 'Pattampoochi', much to the delight of fans and film buffs. While the poster announcing the release of the single had Suriya's name in it, it did not have Mamitha Baiju's name. Taking exception to this gender inequality, actress Sanam Shetty, quoting a tweet of actress Mamitha Baiju, wrote on her X timeline, "What is stopping the makers to mention the lead heroine's name on the poster? All other main names are mentioned except hers!" She went on to say, "This is unfair and high time we change this trend! @\_mamithabaiju has earned her name that's why she is cast in such a big film! But even if she was a newbie, the heroine rightfully deserves to get equal credits everywhere. Cinema Industry needs to evolve...one change at a time! #equality #cinema #female ArtistRights." The link to the song, which was released on Friday, was shared by actor Suriya on his social media timelines. Suriya wrote, "A first is always special - here's the first single from #Vishwana thandSons #Pattampoochi. A @gvprakash musical. sung by @Sublahshini. Written by @Arunraja kamaraj/@ramjowrites." G V Prakash Kumar has scored the music for the number that has been rendered by Subhalashini and has lyrics by Arunraja Kamaraj. For the unaware, the eagerly awaited family entertainer is to hit screens worldwide on August 14 this year. Directed by blockbuster filmmaker Venky Atluri and produced by



Suryadevara Naga Vamsi & Sai Soujanya, the film is expected to offer audiences wholesome entertainment, packed with emotions, humour and heart-warming family moments. The film has created tremendous excitement among audiences ever since the makers released a teaser. The teaser introduces Sanjay Vishwanath, an international pistol shooter who continues to chase his dreams even in his 40s. Suriya appears in a layered role, portraying both fatherly warmth and emotional depth. His stylish presence and the impactful dialogues penned by Venky Atluri bring back shades reminiscent of his iconic performances. Adding freshness to the narrative is Mamitha Baiju, who brings vibrant and charming energy to the film. The teaser hints at an unconventional love story involving a noticeable age gap. With Venky Atluri's sensibility in storytelling, the film is expected to handle this aspect with depth and emotional maturity. Apart from Suriya and Mamitha Baiju, the film also stars Radhika Sarathkumar and Raveena Tandon in key roles. The film has cinematography by Nimish Ravi and editing by Navin Nooli. The film is to be distributed in Tamil Nadu by Think Studios, ensuring a strong theatrical release across the state.

## Samantha: The most heartening thing is seeing women contribute so heavily to the opening day

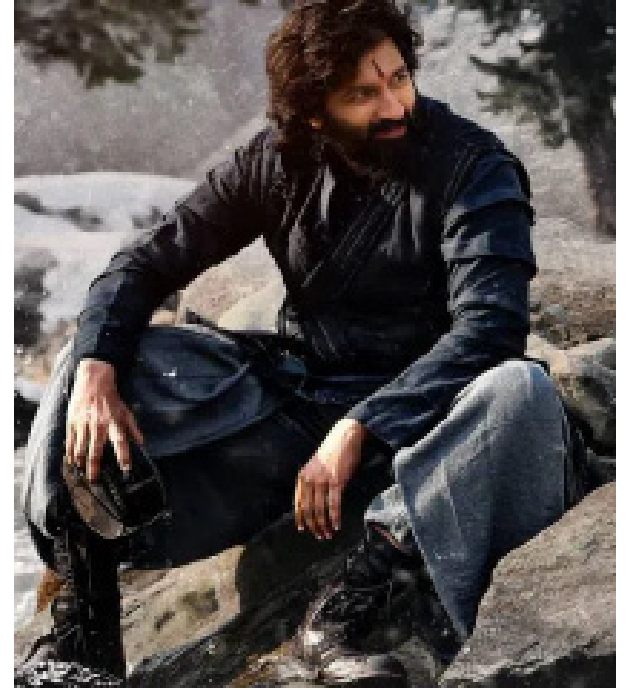
Chennai: Actress Samantha, whose film 'Maa Inti Bangaram' has reportedly grossed over Rs 13.15 crore worldwide on its first day, has now penned a note of happiness, in which she has expressed delight at how women had contributed so heavily to the film's opening day's collections. Taking to her Instagram page to pen a note of happiness, the actress, who is also the producer of the film, wrote, "To see a film open so well on day one is hugely humbling and means the world to us. So very glad to see the day when audiences embrace a film irrespective of whether it is male-led or female-led. And it's beautiful to see people show up wholeheartedly - from the young to the seniors - to cheer the film's release." She went on to say, "The most heartening thing



of all is seeing women contribute so heavily to the opening day. For the longest time, we've heard that theatrical openings are driven by male audiences. It's wonderful to see the audience for cinema continue to grow and evolve. Our little production house delivered! Tra-la-laaaaa." The actress had only recently disclosed that it was the "resilience" of the character she portrayed in the film that made her fall absolutely in love with it. Interestingly, the actress also went on to name Swarna (her character in Maa Inti Bangaram) as being the closest to the real Samantha among all the characters she had played in Telugu films. The actress, who was asked at a press conference about the action sequences in the film being realistic, had responded saying, "If you see in the film, there are no slow motion sequences, no flying shots, no build up shots. It's extremely realistic. It's real punches. I too have suffered blows. I've bled. They are extremely realistic action sequences. I did all the action sequences myself. That is why everybody likes the action and it looks like I did it."

## Gopichand-starrer Bharta Varsha's first single 'Veera Jayadheera' released

Hyderabad: The makers of director Sankalp Reddy's grand historical action saga 'Bharata Varsha', featuring Telugu star T Gopichand in the lead, have now released 'Veera Jayadheera', the first single from the historical, much to the delight of fans and film buffs. Taking to its social media timelines, production house Srinivasaa Silver Screen wrote, "One Warrior. One Destiny. An inspiring beginning. Celebrate the might of a Lone Protector with #VeeraJayadheera. #BharataVarsha First Single out now. An @anudeepdev Musical. Penned by @boselyricist." The song, composed by Anudeep Dev and sung by Deepak blue and Lakshmi Meghana, has lyrics by Academy Award winner Chandrabose. The song which speaks of the glory of the lead character features some breathtaking visuals shot in Kashmir. T Gopichand, who appeared in a fierce warrior getup, sporting long hair, a rugged beard, and exuding an imposing aura in the previously released title glimpse, is seen riding snow clad mountains in this number, which instantly triggers curiosity about the film and raises expectations. The period film, which is being produced on an ambitious scale by Srinivasaa Chitturi under the banner of Srinivasaa Silver Screen, has Pavan Kumar presenting it. Sources claim that 'Bharata Varsha' will be the most extravagant venture in Gopichand's career. Sources claim that director Sankalp Reddy, known for his inventive narratives and technical finesse,



is bringing to screen a powerful yet lesser-explored chapter of Indian history. The film promises a visually immersive experience with deep emotional weight, while T Gopichand steps into a role unlike anything he has attempted before. For the unaware, actress Ritu Varma plays the female lead opposite Gopichand in this film. The film boasts a strong technical lineup, with Soundar Rajan cranking the camera and Anudeep Dev composing music. Editing for the film is being handled by one of the best in the business, Chota K Prasad. The film, which will have a number of action sequences in it, has three stunt choreographers - Venkat, Pruthvi and Real Satish working on it. It also has two dance choreographers in Shankar, Vijay Polanki.

## Actor Kayadu Lohar announces break from social media to focus on mental well-being

Chennai: Actress Kayadu Lohar has now announced that she will be taking a small break from social media in order to give her mind the rest that one gives to one's body. Taking to her Instagram page to share a post in which she announced her decision, Kayadu Lohar said, "Taking a small step back from social media. Sometimes, the mind needs the same kind of rest that we give our bodies. I've been feeling the need to slow down, disconnect for a bit, and spend more time being present with myself and life beyond a screen." She further said, "Thank you to everyone who has supported me, encouraged me, and spread kindness here. Your messages and love have meant more than you know. I'll be away from social media for a while, but any important updates will be shared by my team on this account. Wishing everyone lots of peace, happiness, and kindness. See you soon." The actress had, only last month, penned an adorable birthday wish to her younger brother. On her Instagram page, Kayadu Lohar had said, "Happy birthday to my baby brother @udailifts. No matter how much you grow up, you'll still always be my baby brother. Before becoming anything in life, I became an elder sister first." She had gone on to add, "Being your elder sister is basically a full-time job, giving you advice you don't listen to, protecting you from everyone and still reminding you that I'm always right." The actress, in a lighter vein added, "I may tease you, fight with you and act bossy sometimes, but that's my elder sister privilege. Nobody can trouble my little brother except me." On a serious note, she said, "No matter where life takes you, your sister will always stand right behind you, protecting you, supporting you, and loving you endlessly. Okay, enough now! Happy birthday!"

On the work front, Kayadu Lohar next has director Mariyappan Chinna's horror thriller 'Immortal', featuring actor G V Prakash along with her in the lead. A teaser of the film that was released by the unit some time ago begins on a funny ro-



mantic note. It has G V Prakash, who is a die hard romantic, having a conversation with a friend. He says, "Imagine how it would be if a handsome guy like me and a very beautiful girl like me in the same house."

The friend replies, "It would be jealousy-inducing." To this, G V Prakash gleefully says, "It must." The teaser then shows G V Prakash having a conversation with actress Kayadu Lohar in a flat that looks exactly like the one he was seen talking about a while ago to his friend. "If I ask you something, will you mistake me," he asks her and she shoots back, saying, "You will anyway ask something that is wrong." The teaser makes it evident that G V Prakash's character in the film is romantically interested in the character that Kayadu Lohar plays. He tells her, "My room has a lot of mosquito problems" to which she replies, "Mine has problems caused by bats. Is it alright?" It is then that the horror phase starts. He wakes up in the middle of the night and looks through the keyhole, only to find a beast with the face of a bat! The film, apart from G V Prakash Kumar and Kayadu Lohar, also features a host of actors including TM Karthik, Kumar Natarajan, Lollu Sabha Maaran, Aaditya Kathir, Arshu Maharjan, Pema Tsamchoe and Sunita Shrestha. On the technical front, the film, which has been produced by Arunkumar Dhanasekaran, has cinematography by Arun Radhakrishnan and music by Sam CS. Editing for the film is by Siva Lokesh while art direction is by Siva Sankar. Stunts for the film have been choreographed by R. Sakthi Saravanan while dances have been choreographed by Sabarish.

## Andhra Premier League T20: Simhadri Vizag Lions crushes Royals of Rayalaseema by 59 runs

Hyderabad: Simhadri Vizag Lions scored a 59-run win against Royals of Rayalaseema in the Andhra Premier League T-20 cricket championship match at Dr YSR Stadium in Kadapa.

Batting first, Vizag Lions scored 217 for six in 20 overs with K.H. Veera Reddy 50, 22b, 4x4, 4x6), N. Himakar (41, 25b, 4x4, 2x6) and K. Maheep Kumar (33, 19b, 4x4, 1x6) being the main scorers. In reply, Royals was bowled out for 158 in 19 overs despite fine knocks by S. Dhruva Kumar Reddy (52, 31b, 3x4, 4x6) and GSP Teja (62, 47b, 7x4, 1x6) even as the others found the bowling of B. Vinay Kumar (three for 33) too good to handle.

Veera Reddy was named 'player of the match'.

The scores: Simhadri Vizag Lions 217/6 In 20 overs (K.H. Veera Reddy 50, N. Himakar 47, P. Girinath Reddy 41, K. Maheep Kumar 33, PathanSharief 2/21) bt Royals of Rayalaseema 158 in 19 overs

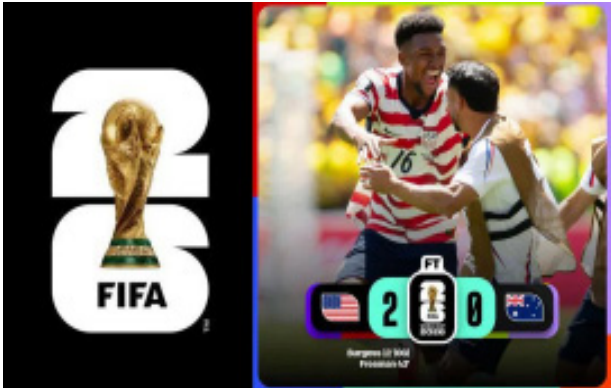


(S. Dhruva Kumar Reddy 52, GSP Teja 62, B. Vinay Kumar 3/33).

Player of the match: K.H. Veera Reddy 50

## 2026 FIFA WC: United States beats Australia 2-0 to seal knockout berth

Seattle: The United States secured a place in the knockout stage of the FIFA World Cup 2026 after defeating Australia 2-0 in a Group D match on Friday. The victory gave the Americans six points from their opening two matches, ensuring qualification for the round of 32 with one group fixture remaining. Despite the absence of captain Christian Pulisic due to a calf injury, the United States made a strong start and took the lead in the 11th minute. Folarin Balogun broke down the left flank and sent a low ball into the penalty area, where Australian defender Cameron Burgess inadvertently turned it into his own net while attempting to clear, reported Xinhua. "It was surreal... obviously at first it was disallowed? so I was kind of anxious when it went to VAR," Freeman said. "It was so emotional for me because you dream of this moment." Australia tried to respond through a series of counterattacks but struggled to create clear-cut chances against an orga-



nized U.S. defense. The host doubled its advantage shortly before halftime through a header from Alex Freeman, son of Super Bowl champion wide receiver Antonio Freeman. "I don't know if it was the occasion, but we looked sluggish, heavy-legged," Australia coach Popovic said. "I think the players showed how good they are in the second half, but obviously at this level you can't give away that much in the first." Holding a two-goal advantage, the United States controlled much of the second half and limited Australia to few opportunities in front of goal.

## FIH Women's Nations Cup: India thrash Chile 6-0 to enter final

Hyderabad: The Indian women's hockey team registered their fourth consecutive win, securing a dominant 6-0 victory against Chile in the semi-finals of the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup in Auckland on Saturday. Navneet Kaur (6', 13'), Deepika (14', 18'), Neha (32') and Rutuja Dadaso Pisal (39') found the back of the net for India, while captain Salima Tete was adjudged the 'Player of the Match' for her all-round performance as India booked their place in the final, where they will face the winner of the second semi-final to be played between the USA and hosts New Zealand. After an encouraging start to the game that saw India control possession in the early exchanges, they earned their first penalty corner in the 6th minute. Navneet made the opportunity count as her shot rifled into the corner of the goal to give India the lead. India added a cushion in the 13th minute after an exquisite run and cross from Salima from the left flank found Navneet unmarked in front of the Chilean post to deflect the ball in for her second goal. Dragflicker Deepika further extended India's advantage through a penalty corner in the 14th minute and quickly made it 4-0 as she scored again off a set-piece in the 18th minute. Deepika's brace took



her to the top of the goal-scorers' charts in the tournament with six goals to her name. Heading into the second half with a healthy 4-0 lead, India continued to pile on the pressure on the Chileans. Neha converted another penalty corner in the 32nd minute, which swelled India's lead to 5-0 and extended a clinical display of short-corner execution. Rutuja Dadaso Pisal joined in the goal-fest in the 39th minute when she sounded the board with a reverse hit from open play, which made it 6-0. Savita was called into action by the Chilean forwards in the final quarter and made a couple of brilliant saves. However, Chile could not manage to find a way past her as India saw out the remaining minutes for a commanding 6-0 win to book their place in the title clash.

## When and where to watch Tunisia vs Japan; know all details



Guadalupe: Japan will be aiming to take a major step towards the Round of 16 when they face Tunisia in their second Group F fixture of the 2026 FIFA World Cup. After earning a hard-fought point against the Netherlands in their opening match, the Samurai Blue know that a win would leave them on the brink of qualifying for a third consecutive knockout-stage appearance. Their campaign began with an impressive display of resilience, as Japan twice came from behind to secure a 2-2 draw against the Dutch. The result not only showcased their character but also strengthened their position in a group where every point could prove decisive. Tunisia, by contrast, arrive under considerable pressure after suffering a heavy 5-1 defeat to Sweden in their tournament opener. Only Curaçao's 7-1 loss to Germany was more lopsided in the opening round. The setback came on the heels of a 5-0 friendly defeat to Belgium, prompting the dismissal of head coach Sabri Lamouchi. Former Saudi Arabia boss Hervé Renard has since been appointed to stabilise the team and revive its campaign. The expanded 48-team World Cup format means a four-point haul is often enough to place teams in a strong position to advance, making this encounter particularly significant for Japan. Having already demonstrated their ability to compete with one of Europe's strongest sides, they will back themselves against Tunisia, a side still searching for confidence after consecutive heavy defeats. If Japan reproduces the discipline and composure shown in its opener, it will be well placed to edge closer to another appearance in the knockout rounds.

**How to watch Tunisia vs Japan live in India:**

Live streaming and live telecast of the

FIFA World Cup 2026 football matches will be available on the Zee5 platform and app in India. A subscription will be needed.

Live telecast of the FIFA World Cup 2026 will be available on the Unite8 Sports 1, Unite8 Sports 1 HD, Unite8 Sports 2, and Unite8 Sports 2 HD TV channels in India.

**Key details:**

Date and kick-off time: Sunday, June 21, 09:30 AM IST

Venue: Estadio BBVA, Guadalupe, Mexico

Referee: Istvan Kovacs

**Squads**

**Tunisia –**

Goalkeepers: Sabri Ben Hassan, Abdelmouhib Chamakh, Aymen Dahmene  
 Defenders: Ali Abdi, Mohamed Amine Ben Hamida, Adem Arous, Dylan Bronn, Raed Chikhaoui, Moutaz Neffati, Omar Rekik, Montassar Talbi, Yan Valery  
 Midfielders: Mortadha Ben Ouanes, Anis Ben Slimane, Ismael Gharbi, Rani Khedira, Hadj Mahmoud, Hannibal Mejri, Ellyes Skhiri

Forwards: Elias Achouri, Khalil Ayari, Firas Chaouat, Rayan Elloumi, Hazem Mastouri, Elias Saad, Sebastian Tounekti

**Japan –**

Goalkeepers: Tomoki Hayakawa, Keisuke Osako, Zion Suzuki  
 Defenders: Ko Itakura, Hiroki Ito, Yuto Nagatomo, Ayumu Seko, Yukinari Sugawara, Junnosuke Suzuki, Shogo Taniguchi, Takehiro Tomiyasu, Tsuyoshi Watanabe  
 Midfielders: Ritsu Doan, Wataru Endo, Junya Ito, Daichi Kamada, Takefusa Kubo, Keito Nakamura, Kaishu Sano, Ao Tanaka

Forwards: Keisuke Goto, Daizen Maeda, Koki Ogawa, Kento Shiogai, Yuito Suzuki, Ayase Ueda

## India look to end Dutch leg of Pro League on a high against Netherlands

Rotterdam: A mixed bag of a campaign so far, India would look to end the Dutch leg of the FIH Pro League on a high when they take on hosts Netherlands in the return leg here on Sunday. Ranked eighth in the FIH chart, India started with a narrow 2-3 loss against world no.2 the Netherlands before stunning world champions Germany 3-1. They then suffered a 1-2 loss against the Germans in the return leg on Thursday. Placed eighth in the nine-team Pro League standings, the Indians, who are taking this tournament to try and test their resources before the World Cup and Asian Games later this year, will look to end the Dutch leg on a high note with a positive result. The match against the Netherlands holds huge significance for India as after that they will travel to England to play against the hosts as well as against arch-rivals Pakistan. The Harmanpreet Singh-led side will take on Pakistan in London on June 23, before taking on hosts England. They face



Pakistan again on June 26. India will round off their Pro League campaign with a return leg match against England on June 28. It will be the first time that India and Pakistan will lock horns since the Asian Champions Trophy clash in Hulunbuir, China, in 2024 which India won 2-1, thanks to captain Harmanpreet's brace. The European leg of the Pro League has witnessed some close matches for India against higher-ranked sides and it only remains to be seen how chief coach Craig Fulton motivates his men to lift their game and end on the positive side of results.

## CPGRAMS, digital life certificates driving transparency and citizen-centric governance: Dr Jitendra Singh



New Delhi: Union Minister of State Dr Jitendra Singh on Saturday said that initiatives such as CPGRAMS and Digital Life Certificates are transforming governance in India by enhancing transparency, improving service delivery and making public administration more citizen-centric. During talks with Republic of Korea Interior and Safety Minister Yun Hojung, he highlighted India's digital governance achievements and called for deeper cooperation between the two countries in areas such as e-governance, artificial intelligence and public administration. The minister made these remarks during a meeting with Republic of Korea Minister of Interior and Safety Yun Hojung, who is currently on an official visit to India. The two leaders, accompanied by their respective delegations, held extensive bilateral discussions lasting over an hour on strengthening cooperation in digital governance, public administration, capacity building and citizen services. Also Read - India's data centre pipeline reaches 8.33 GW driven by AI adoption, data localisation Advertisement Discover more Education news updates Geographic Reference Technology news digest Welcoming the Korean delegation, Dr Singh said India and the Republic of Korea share a Special Strategic Partnership rooted in democratic values, innovation and a common commitment to good governance. He referred to the Joint Strategic Vision

Statement finalised during the visit of Republic of Korea President Lee Jae Myung to India earlier this year, describing it as a roadmap for expanding bilateral cooperation. Highlighting India's progress in digital governance under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dr Singh said technology-enabled governance platforms have significantly improved service delivery and grievance redressal mechanisms. He noted that initiatives such as CPGRAMS and Digital Life Certificates have enhanced transparency, reduced procedural hurdles and brought governance closer to citizens. The minister said India and the Republic of Korea are vibrant democracies with shared values, cultural links and a commitment to the rule of law. He added that both countries, as major Asian economies, share a partnership that is historic as well as future-oriented. Dr Singh also recalled the historical ties between the two nations, referring to the marital connection between Princess Suriratna of Ayodhya and King Suro of the ancient Gaya confederacy, which continues to hold cultural significance in both countries. He appreciated Yun Hojung's contribution to strengthening India-Korea relations, particularly in his role as Chairman of the Korea-India Parliamentary Friendship Group, and expressed confidence that the visit would further deepen bilateral cooperation.

## Vessels with nearly 80 mn barrels ready to test Hormuz opening



New Delhi: Nearly 80 million barrels of crude oil are ready to transit the Strait of Hormuz if a tentative US-Iran deal leads to a sustained reopening of the vital shipping corridor. About 40 very large crude carriers (VLCCs), loaded with non-sanctioned Gulf crude, are currently stationed inside the Persian Gulf. Apart from them, Iranian oil and smaller tankers are also positioned in this area, making the true volume of supply waiting much higher, multiple reports said, citing data compiled by Vortexa. Before disruptions caused by the US-Iran conflict, roughly 15 million barrels per day of Gulf crude typically transited the Strait of Hormuz to Asian buyers. Roughly 21 VLCCs are signalling destinations toward Asia, including five bound for China, five are heading for ship-to-ship transfer hubs near Malaysia and Singapore, and at least three were observed heading toward the strait at normal speeds, the reports said, citing data. Three Saudi super tankers re-

appeared in the Gulf of Oman earlier this week, indicating resumption of traffic, while shipping groups cautioned that security risks remain. The US and Iran have signed a peace deal, and normal ship movement is expected to resume through the Strait of Hormuz. The tentative peace deal had resulted in a sharp decline in crude prices to around \$75 a barrel, and is expected to bring down inflation going ahead. Meanwhile, Iran has introduced new regulations for vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz, requiring ships to register in advance and obtain permits and insurance before entering one of the world's most critical energy shipping routes, despite the recent reopening of the waterway under a US-Iran agreement. Under the revised procedures, ship owners and operators must submit transit requests at least 48 hours before arriving at the Strait of Hormuz. Vessels must provide all required information in advance to avoid delays at entry and exit points.

## India's data centre pipeline reaches 8.33 GW driven by AI adoption, data localisation

New Delhi: India's data centre development pipeline has surged to 8.33 GW, more than five times the country's current live operational capacity of 1.6 GW, a report said on Saturday. The rapid growth of the data centre development pipeline is due to accelerating artificial intelligence adoption, cloud growth and data localisation requirements, the report from Knight Frank India said. India is emerging as one of the world's most attractive destinations for hyperscale digital infrastructure investments and currently has 0.32 GW of data centre capacity under construction, while another 2.92 GW has reached the committed stage, the report said. Additionally, 5.41 GW of capacity is in the early stages of development. The scale of the pipeline reflects growing confidence among hyperscalers, cloud providers, AI infrastructure operators and institutional investors, who continue to expand their presence in India to cater to rapidly rising digital demand. The significant share of early-stage developments—representing nearly two-thirds of the total pipeline—demonstrates strong confidence in India's long-term digital economy prospects. "While Mumbai continues to anchor hyperscale deployments owing to its connectivity advantages, Hyderabad is emerging as a preferred AI infrastructure destination," said Viral Desai, International Partner, Senior Executive Director- Occupier Strategy & Solutions, Industrial & Logistics, Capital Markets & Retail, Knight Frank India. City & Local Guides Mumbai accounted



for the largest share of future capacity development with a total pipeline at 3.75 GW. Hyderabad became India's second-largest future data centre market with a total development pipeline of 1.93 GW. Chennai is strengthening its role as a strategic gateway for international data traffic from the east, Desai added. Vizag has rapidly emerged as one of India's most active greenfield data centre markets, attracting gigawatt-scale development proposals backed by government support, availability of sizeable land parcels and planned subsea cable connectivity. The National Capital Region (NCR), Pune and Bengaluru are also witnessing sustained development activity as operators diversify capacity across multiple markets.

## PhonePe's wallet inactivity notifications: What users need to know

New Delhi: Recent wallet inactivity notifications from PhonePe have led to increased consumer interest in digital wallets and how they function. One of the key observations from these discussions is that many users continue to assume that their PhonePe account, UPI account, and PhonePe Wallet are the same. In reality, these are different payment instruments that operate independently and serve different purposes. As digital payments become increasingly common in everyday life, understanding how wallets work and how they differ from UPI can help consumers make informed decisions and better understand the products they use. Understanding the difference between UPI and wallets When you make a payment through UPI on PhonePe, the money is debited directly from your linked bank account. A PhonePe Wallet, on the other hand, is a prepaid payment instrument (PPI) where money is stored separately from your bank account. This distinction is important because the inactivity fee applies only to the PhonePe Wallet and not to UPI-linked bank accounts. Understanding how wallet inactivity charges work One of the concerns raised by users is whether PhonePe can deduct the inactivity fee from their bank account if their wallet has no balance. The answer is no. If a user's PhonePe Wallet has a zero balance and has remained inactive for an extended period, the inactivity fee will not be recovered from the user's linked bank account or through UPI. Similarly, the wallet balance will not become negative. In other words: - No deduction will be made from a linked bank account. - No deduction will be made via UPI. - A wallet with insufficient balance will not show a negative balance. Why some active PhonePe users may still receive notifications This happens because wallet activity and UPI activity are tracked separately. A customer may ac-



tively use PhonePe every day through UPI while their PhonePe Wallet remains unused for months or years. In such cases, the wallet can still be classified as inactive even though the user continues to use the PhonePe app. Advance Notification and User Choices According to PhonePe, affected users are notified 15 days in advance before any inactivity fee is deducted from the wallet balance. During this period, users have the opportunity to: - Activate their wallet. - Add money to the wallet if they wish to continue using it. - Withdraw eligible balances. Addressing common questions around KYC Some users believe they must complete Full KYC before they can reactivate their wallet. However, reactivating a wallet does not necessarily require converting a Minimum KYC wallet into a Full KYC wallet. Users can activate their wallet by completing OTP verification and making a transaction using the wallet. Upgrading to Full KYC is not a prerequisite for activation. Understanding wallet balances and cashback credits Another area of confusion involves cashback rewards. Many users assume that cashback balances are stored inside their PhonePe Wallet. In reality, cashback rewards are typically credited to a separate Gift Card Balance, which is distinct from the PhonePe Wallet. As a result, receiving cashback does not automatically mean that a wallet is active, nor does it mean the cashback balance is subject to wallet inactivity deductions.

# CM cracks down on absent doctors

Bhubaneswar: Taking a firm stand against prolonged absenteeism among government doctors, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has ordered stringent action against medical professionals who have remained absent from duty for over five years, adversely affecting patient care. According to an official statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office, as many as 128 Medical Officers and Dental Surgeons posted in various government healthcare institutions across the State have remained absent from duty for more than five years. Notices were also published in newspapers seeking information regarding their status. In view of their unauthorised absence, the Chief Minister has directed the State Health and Family Welfare department to initiate disciplinary proceedings against the medical officers. Meanwhile, in a separate action, the Chief Minister has ordered the dismissal of Bichakshana Panigrahi, former Medical Officer of the Kandhamal Police Hospital, from government service. The CMO informed that Panigrahi has reportedly remained unauthorisedly absent since 2012. Despite repeated notices and instructions from the department concerned to explain the reasons for her absence and rejoin duty, she failed to comply. The government stated that her con-



tinued neglect of professional responsibilities and patient care led to the decision to remove her from service. Majhi underscored that the government is expanding healthcare infrastructure and medical education, but doctors remaining absent after an appointment will not be tolerated. He stressed that accountability is essential to ensure effective healthcare services across the State. "The State government is giving priority to healthcare services by opening new hospitals, modernising existing healthcare facilities, and establishing new medical colleges for medical education. However, many doctors remain absent from duty even after receiving appointments. This will not be accepted under any circumstances," said Majhi. The move assumes significance at a time when Odisha's public healthcare system continues to face an acute shortage of medical professionals, particularly in rural and remote areas.

# BESTIU launches 24-hour Hackathon 'CODE ATLAS-2026'



Anantapur: Bharatiya Engineering Science & Technology Innovation University (BESTIU) inaugurated its 24-hour Hackathon 'CODE ATLAS-2026' on Friday at University Pavilion through the School of Engineering and Applied Technology (SEAT). The event began with the traditional lamp lighting and a prayer song. Chairman Bharat Lal Meena, Chancellor Dr Rupa Vasudevan, and Vice-Chancellor Dr Nagajyothi Koripella encouraged participants to develop innovative solutions.

university's commitment to industry-oriented learning. Guest of Honour Karthik from DXC Technology inspired students with insights on continuous learning and adaptability. Problem statements were officially launched, setting the stage for an intense 24-hour coding challenge. Registrar Dr A Immanuel reiterated

# Puttaparthi job fair: MLA promises 25,000 jobs in constituency

Puttaparthi: MLA Palle Sindhura Reddy said the coalition government aims to create 20 lakh jobs across the State. She highlighted major upcoming projects including the 5th generation fighter jet manufacturing unit (Rs 1 lakh crore investment) in Puttaparthi and Reliance Solar Power project



(5,000 MW capacity on 33,000 acres with Rs 51,000 crore investment) in Amadaguru mandal. She informed that around 2,000 youth have already secured jobs through previous fairs and announced plans to generate 25,000 jobs in the constituency soon. Along with former Minister Dr Palle Raghunatha Reddy, she attended as chief guest at a job fair organised for unemployed youth at Brahmanapalli on Friday. The event was conducted by Andhra Pradesh Skill Development Corporation in collaboration

with Canara Bank Rural Self-Employment Training Institute. Andhra Pradesh news Former Minister Dr Palle Raghunatha Reddy urged youth to seize employment opportunities through skill development, noting that job fairs serve as excellent platforms for unemployed youth. He advised young men and women to acquire professional skills to secure good jobs and emphasized the need to master new technologies to keep pace with the rapidly changing times in today's competitive world.

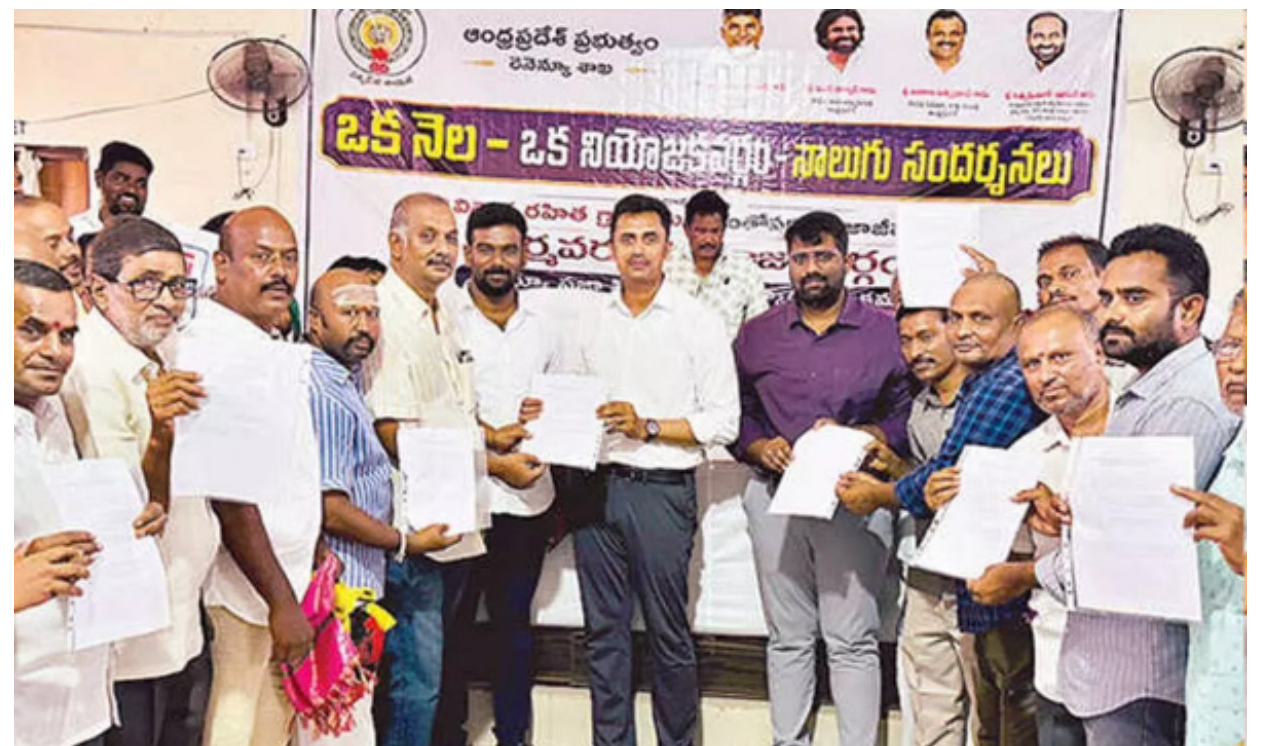
# 4 house burglars arrested



Dharmavaram: The district police arrested four persons, including an inter-state habitual burglar, in connection with a series of house burglaries in Dharmavaram town and surrounding areas. Addressing the media on Friday, SP S Satish Kumar said the arrests were made through scientific investigation using CCTV footage, technical evidence, and intelligence inputs. The accused were identified as Mallela Veeranjanyulu alias Guvva (41), a notorious criminal with nearly 25 years of history and involvement in 30-40 cases across multiple districts and States, along with Sake Narasimhulu, Devarakonda Vijay, and Gujjala Narayanamma, all resi-

dents of the Erraguntla area of Dharmavaram. Police recovered 11 sovereigns of gold worth Rs 14.5 lakh, silver ornaments, pledged receipts worth Rs 17 lakh, an autorickshaw, and mobile phones linked to 16 cases. Further investigation is underway. SP Satish Kumar advised residents to install quality CCTV cameras, strengthen home security with grills and alarm systems, inform local police before leaving houses unattended and make use of the Locked House Monitoring System. He also urged the public to promptly report suspicious persons or vehicles and support community vigilance measures to help prevent property offences.

# Collector resolves long-pending land issue in Mudigubba



Dharmavaram: In a major relief to nearly 250 families, district Collector Shyam Prasad has removed 3.28 acres of land in survey no 905-A at Gunjepalli fields in Mudigubba mandal from the prohibited properties list under Section 22-A. The decision, announced during 'One Month - One Constituency - Four Visits' public grievance redressal programme at Dharmavaram Revenue Divisional Office on Friday, ends years of hardship for residents, who were unable to buy or sell their properties. The programme was supervised by Collector Shyam Prasad, Joint

Collector Maurya Bharadwaj and other senior revenue officials. Dharmavaram TDP in-charge Paritala Sriram also participated. Families living on the land for years had been unable to carry out transactions due to the restriction. With the support of Paritala Sriram, the issue was brought to the Collector's notice, leading to swift resolution. Collector Shyam Prasad said the initiative aims to resolve public grievances quickly and bring governance closer to people. Residents also raised drinking water issues, which officials were directed to address immediately.

# Ananthalakshmi Int'l School signs MoU with Ratan Tata Innovation Hub

Anantapur: Anantha lakshmi International School has become the first school in the State to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Ratan Tata Innovation Hub. The MoU was formally exchanged between Principal Shalini KV and CEO of Ratan Tata Innovation Hub Dr R Hafeez Basha, in the presence of Chairman Anantha Ramudu and Vice-Chairman Ramesh. The partnership aims to foster innovation, entrepreneurship, design thinking, and emerging technologies among students through workshops, mentorship programmes, innovation chal-



lenges, and skill development initiatives. This collaboration strengthens the school's commitment to providing future-ready, holistic education and preparing students to become innovators and leaders of tomorrow.