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### Sanjay Jaju Set to Become Next CS of Telangana, Relieved from Central Services



Hyderabad: Senior IAS officer Sanjay Jaju is set to become Chief Secretary of Telangana, official sources said here on Tuesday. Jaju will assume office on June 30, the day Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao demits office upon completion of his extended tenure.

A 1992 batch IAS officer of the Telangana cadre, Jaju was relieved from Central deputation and repatriated to his parent cadre on Tuesday. His return to the state came exactly a week before the retirement of Ramakrishna Rao, a development that has all but confirmed his appointment to the state's top bureaucratic post.

The order issued by the Centre's department of personnel and training (DoPT) stated: "The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved repatriation of Sanjay Jaju to his parent cadre on the request of Government of Telangana."

Jaju has had one of the longest stints in Central services among Telangana cadre officers, lasting nearly 13 years. During this period, he held several key assignments, including secretary in the Union ministry of information and broadcasting. Ahead of his repatriation, he as secretary, ministry of development of northeastern region (DoNER).

Before going to the Centre, Jaju held several important positions in the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh including as commissioner of the erstwhile Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad and as collector of East Godavari district.

Sources said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy favoured Jaju for the post primarily because of his extensive experience and long innings at the Centre. The Chief Minister has been placing significant emphasis on maintaining close coordination with Union ministries and departments to secure approvals and funding for several flagship projects and development initiatives.

According to officials, the state government was aggressively pursuing Central clearances and financial support for major infrastructure and development projects, including the expansion of Hyderabad Metro Rail, the Musi river rejuvenation project, development of new airports, the Regional Ring Road, proposed bullet train corridors, the Regional Ring Rail project and Bharat Future City.

In this context, the Chief Minister is understood to have felt that Jaju's vast experience in the Central government and his familiarity with Union ministries would provide Telangana with a distinct advantage in securing the required approvals and assistance from New Delhi.

Though senior IAS officers Jayesh Ranjan and Vikas Raj were said to be in contention for the Chief Secretary's post, Revanth Reddy ultimately opted for Jaju, taking into account his long tenure and network within the Central government. Jaju is set for retirement in March 2028.

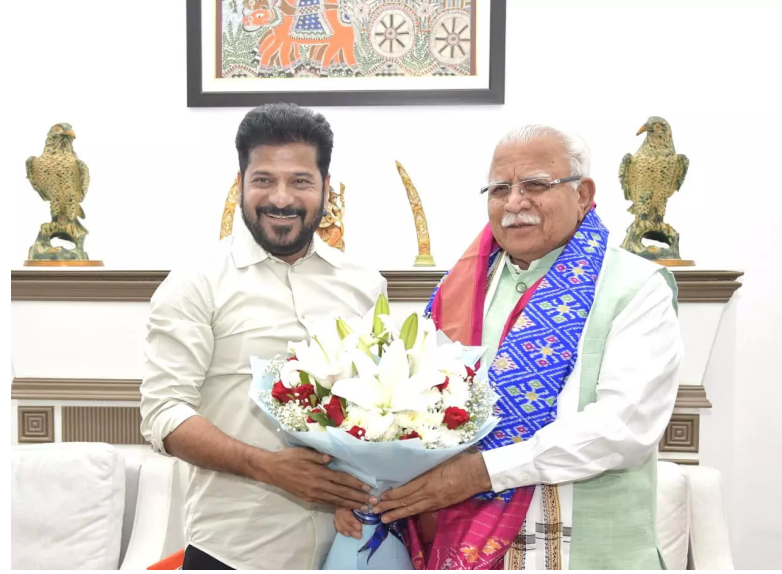
The transition will mark the end of Ramakrishna Rao's tenure as Chief Secretary. Originally due to retire in August 2025, Ramakrishna Rao received an unprecedented 10-month extension. The extension was granted in two phases — first for seven months until March 2026 and subsequently for another three months until June 2026.

### SBI Arm To Chart Metro Rail Future

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's efforts to secure the support of the Central government for the takeover and expansion of the Hyderabad Metro Rail (HMR) project yielded positive results on Tuesday, with the two sides reaching a consensus to determine the future course of action based on a report to be prepared by SBI Capital Markets Limited (SBICAPS).

The decision was taken during a series of high-level meetings held by the Chief Minister in Delhi with Union urban affairs minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday and Union railway minister Ashwini Vaishnav on Monday, in the presence of Union coal and mines minister G. Kishan Reddy. The discussions focused on the proposed takeover of Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase-I by the state government and the expansion of the network under Phase-II.

During the meeting, the Centre and the state agreed to appoint SBICAPS as the consultant to undertake a detailed study of the Hyderabad Metro Rail project. The consultant will conduct a comprehensive assessment of the valuation of Metro Rail Phase-I, examine the financial requirements for the state government's proposed takeover of the project, identify suitable lending



institutions, and recommend mechanisms for mobilising loans required for the takeover.

SBICAPS will also study the proposed Metro Rail Phase-II expansion, including construction costs, financing requirements, funding options and other related issues. The consultant will also examine the overall financial and operational aspects of the project and submit recommendations to both governments. The meetings marked a breakthrough for the Telangana government, with Revanth Reddy succeeding in convincing Vaishnav and Khattar about the state government's plans to take over the HMR project and pursue its large-scale expansion. Officials described the discussions as constructive and productive.

A consensus was reached that all future decisions relating to the HMR would be taken after the submission of the SBICAPS report. Both governments agreed that the consultant's findings would form the basis for determining the future action plan on the Phase-I takeover as well as the

implementation of the proposed Phase-II expansion.

To facilitate the study and ensure its early completion, the Centre and the state also decided to nominate senior officials to coordinate with the consultant. A senior official from the Union government and the special chief secretary of the state's municipal administration and urban development (MA&UD) department have been designated as nodal representatives for coordination during the study. The MA&UD special chief secretary has already been nominated by the state government for this purpose.

The two officials will work with SBICAPS to provide information, facilitate consultations and expedite the study and subsequent official processes. The arrangement is expected to help ensure the timely submission of the consultant's report and enable quicker decision-making on the future of the HMR project.

"The discussions held between Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Union ministers on the takeover of Metro Rail Phase-I and the proposed Metro Rail Phase-II project have become productive," a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office said.

### Telugu Too Has Gone to US, Says Bhatti

Hyderabad: "We used to say Telugu people were going to America. But today, Telugu itself has gone to America," Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said, referring to a recent claim about Telugu being the fastest-growing language in the United States.

Speaking at a grand reception hosted by the United States Consulate in Hyderabad to celebrate the 250th anniversary of American Independence, Bhatti said that American companies are coming to Telangana not only for cost-based reasons, but for capability, scale and trust.

With US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor and US Consul General Laura



Williams in attendance, Bhatti said, "If you give us a development centre, we will send back a global CEO. In the 1990s, when Hyderabad was beginning its journey as an IT city, Microsoft came here... Years later, a Hyderabad, Satya Nadella, rose to lead Microsoft globally."

Referring to the Telugu diaspora in the United States, the deputy chief minister said, "America has always been described as a great melting pot. Today, Telugu is one of the newer flavours in that melting pot, bringing with it aroma, enterprise, and a very Hyderabad confidence in the future."

The next chapter of the Telangana-US partnership, Bhatti said, will be written in artificial intelligence, life sciences, clean energy, resilient grids, electric mobility, higher education, research and entrepreneurship.

The Deputy Chief Minister and the Ambassador also unveiled a ceremonial plaque marking the renaming of the road adjoining the US Consulate as "Donald Trump Avenue." The Telangana government said the move honours the United States and reflects Hyderabad's growing importance in strengthening US-India ties.

Praising Hyderabad's contribution to the relationship between the two countries, Gor said the city's progress in areas such as information technology, aerospace and defence demonstrates the strength of bilateral cooperation. "Nowhere is the rapid growth of our partnership more visible than in Hyderabad," Gor said, adding that ongoing trade and investment initiatives would further strengthen economic ties between the two nations.

Consul General Laura Williams praised the region's growing innovation ecosystem, particularly in aerospace, defence, artificial intelligence and biopharmaceuticals. She said the US Consulate remains committed to supporting collaboration, talent exchange and innovation between the two countries.

### Harish Rao calls for 'Congress Bachao, Singareni Bachao' fight to protect SCCL



Kothagudem: Former Minister T Harish Rao has called upon all the SCCL labour unions and employees to fight collectively with the slogan 'Congress Hatao, Singareni Bachao' to safeguard the Singareni Company for future generations.

He demanded the Union Coal Minister G Kishan Reddy order a CBI inquiry and a Central Vigilance probe into the corruption in Singareni. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has brought Singareni to the brink of privatisation. If unions and workers do not fight, setting aside political affiliations, the Congress government would hand it over to Adani and Ambani, he cautioned.

Harish Rao made a powerpoint presentation here on Tuesday on the issues being faced by the SCCL and sought to know how 40 lakh metric tonnes of coal vanished. When the BRS questioned it, the government presented figures showing a reduced count; records indicated a daily stock depletion of 40,000 tonnes.

On the other hand, Union Minister Kishan Reddy wrote a letter to Revanth Reddy, the very person responsible for the disappearance of coal. Both Kishan Reddy and Revanth Reddy colluded to betray Singareni, he alleged.

While Telangana Genco should have held 25 lakh tonnes of coal reserves, only six lakh tonnes were available- a deficit of 76 percent. Similarly, at Yadadri power plant, against a required stock of 11 lakh tonnes, only two lakh tonnes were present- an 82 percent deficit. Telangana travel guide

If the figures related to coal production were indeed accurate and there was no shortage, why was there such a low stock level at Genco, Harish Rao questioned. Production stood at 70 million tonnes in 2023 during the BRS regime, but it has dropped to 58 million tonnes during 2025-26, he said.

Referring to CPI MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao's reported statement in support of the government claims on coal reserves, Harish Rao asked him to physically show where exactly the coal reserves were present.

The CPI might be an ally of the Congress, but because of it the party should not do an injustice to Singareni. The MLA must decide whether his party would side with the Congress, a party mired in scams or would it stand with the workers, Harish Rao suggested.

### Uttam, Tummala Ask Centre to Procure More Rice From State

Hyderabad: With Telangana recording the highest-ever paddy procurement in its history, the state government has requested the Central government to enhance the Rabi 2025-26 rice procurement target from the present 35 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) to 54.50 LMT of rice.

Ministers N Uttam Kumar Reddy and Tummala Nageswara Rao called on Union minister for consumer affairs, food and public distribution Pralhad Joshi in New Delhi on Tuesday, seeking an upward revision of Telangana's rice procurement target. During the meeting, the state ministers have also sought permission to deliver the entire quantity in the form of boiled rice, arguing that Rabi paddy grown in the state is predominantly suitable for parboiled rice milling.

The procurement has touched 80.09 LMT during Rabi 2025-26 alone, and is expected to rise further as arrivals continue from late-harvesting districts. Combined procurement during Kharif and Rabi of KMS 2025-26 has reached a historic 152 LMT, the highest ever recorded in Telangana and the erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh.

The state delegation also sought extension of the CMR (custom milled rice) delivery schedule to facilitate seamless milling and supply to the Central Pool. The state explained that storage shortages, overlapping procurement seasons and heavy arrivals had slowed the movement of rice to the Food Corporation of India warehouses.



### AP Cabinet Clears Investment Proposals of Rs.34,000 Crore



Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet on Tuesday cleared a slew of major policy, industrial, infrastructure and welfare initiatives aimed at accelerating economic growth, attracting investments and generating employment across the state.

The Cabinet cleared investment proposals worth nearly Rs.34,000 crore finalised by the Investment Promotion Board, which are expected to generate about 35,000 jobs.

Chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, the cabinet meeting approved 87 agenda items covering industrial investments, data centres, tourism projects, renewable energy ventures and employee welfare measures.

Briefing the media, information minister Kolu Parthasarathy said the government was keen on creating integrated industrial ecosystems rather than standalone manufacturing units.

Giving top priority to Amaravati, the Cabinet gave approval for capital infrastructure under which a Rs.426.46 crore package for Undavalli Trunk Infrastructure and an allotment of Rs.130.38 crore for the AP judicial academy. It okayed a proposal of APCRDA to create 95 temporary posts for land pooling works.

A major highlight of the Cabinet meet was the approval of large-scale data centre investments that will position Amaravati and Visakhapatnam as emerging global digital infrastructure hubs. CtrlS Data Centers Ltd will establish a 100mw facility in Anakapalli district with an investment of Rs.2,788 crore, while Sify Infinit Spaces Ltd will expand its proposed 500mw data centre project in Visakhapatnam with a total investment of Rs.15,266 crore.

In a significant relief to government employees, the cabinet approved a one-time option for eligible Contributory Pension Scheme employees to switch to the Old Pension Scheme. The decision will benefit 10,715 employees and involve a projected expenditure of Rs.34,850.83 crore up to year 2067.

The Cabinet also approved incentives and land allocations for several major industrial projects, including rare-earth magnet manufacturing units by Proterial India and NAN MagneTech, AP JSW Steel's beneficiation plant in Prakasam district, Premier Energies' solar manufacturing expansion in Tirupati, Royal Enfield's motorcycle plant, and defence-sector projects by Ananth Technologies, Spacefields and Icom Tele Ltd.

In the IT sector, approvals were granted for PCB manufacturing projects by Zeitfab India and Smile Electronics, new facilities by Infnx Technology Solutions and Eclat Health Solutions, and the launch of the Amaravati Quantum Valley initiative involving 11 advanced technology firms.

The Cabinet also approved a 50 per cent capacity enhancement of the Yaganti Pumped Storage Project in Nandyal district from 1,000mw to 1,500mw, along with several solar, wind and compressed biogas projects under the state's clean energy policy.

Tourism received a major boost with clearances for luxury hospitality projects, including Accor, Crowne Plaza, Holiday Inn, Marriott, Club Mahindra, Oberoi and Daiwik hotel ventures in Amaravati, Visakhapatnam, Tirupati and Kurnool.

Among other decisions, the Cabinet approved revised port operational limits for Machilipatnam and Ramayapatnam ports, a sustainable aviation fuel facility at Kakinada, extension of the retirement age to 62 years for employees of state PSUs and autonomous bodies with retrospective effect from January 1, 2022, establishment of technology-enabled registration service centres, expansion of BC welfare residential schools, scholarship support for SC and ST students in deemed universities, and infrastructure projects in Amaravati backed by World Bank, ADB and HUDCO funding.

### AP to Have Single Portal for Business Clearances: Lokesh

Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh government is working on a unified digital clearance system that will provide approvals for establishments ranging from small kirana shops to large data centres.

This was stated on Tuesday by IT minister Nara Lokesh. Chairing a meeting of the ministerial committee constituted to achieve the state's target of generating 20 lakh jobs, Lokesh directed the officials to develop a single-window portal aimed at improving the state's Speed of Doing Business.

The meeting was attended by ministers Kondapalli Srinivas, Kandula Durgesh and T.G. Bharat along with senior officials from various departments.

Lokesh said nearly 750 major industrial projects proposed for AP were at different stages of implementation and expected to generate substantial employment opportunities. He directed officials of the industries department and the state economic development board to closely monitor the projects and facilitate their early grounding.

Emphasising the need to accelerate industrial activity, the minister called for regular foundation-laying ceremonies and project inaugurations by expediting approvals and execution. Officials should also ensure that a large number of projects commence operations before the state's Partnership Summit in November.

To attract more invest-



ment, Lokesh asked officials to organise extensive roadshows across states and overseas ahead of the summit.

Officials informed the meeting that 210 major projects had progressed to the next stage during the past month, while implementation of 26 IT and electronics projects was advancing rapidly. Lokesh directed state-level officials to review project progress with district collectors every fortnight.

The minister stressed the need for coordination among departments to provide industries with uninterrupted power, water and other infrastructure. In view of rising energy demand, he directed officials to expedite renewable energy projects under implementation.

Lokesh also advised officials to bring newly established micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) under the government's industrial support framework.

Referring to the upcoming Bhogapuram airport, he said additional hotel accommodation would be required in Visakhapatnam to meet the anticipated increase in tourist and business traffic. Officials, he said, must facilitate the addition of more hotel rooms in the city.

The meeting also reviewed steps to attract garment and textile industries, including employment-linked incentives. The government would examine extending a one-year banking facility for captive power generation by existing textile units, Lokesh said.

With Anakapalli, Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram emerging as a steel manufacturing hub, several companies have sought the development of a slurry pipeline for transporting raw materials. Lokesh asked officials to study the proposal and submit recommendations.

### Boost to Government Staff: AP Cabinet Clears OPS; Retirement Age Raised to 62

Vijayawada: In a major boost to government employees, the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet on Tuesday approved two proposals — restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for eligible employees recruited before September 2004 and enhancement of the retirement age from 60 to 62 years.

This would benefit those working in state-owned institutions, societies and residential educational institutions.

The cabinet decided to extend OPS to around 11,000 employees appointed against posts notified before September 2004, bringing them out of the contributory pension scheme. The decision, taken under the provisions of Memo-57, would provide greater financial security and social protec-



tion to employees and their families after retirement.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said the government would ensure employee welfare. He noted that the government had earlier extended family pension benefits to families of CPS employees.

The Cabinet approved raising the retirement age from 60 to 62 years for employees and teachers working in public sector undertakings, SC, ST, BC and Minority Welfare societies, Gurukul institutions and other government-supported societies, bringing them on par with state government employees.

The decision will be implemented retrospectively from January 1, 2022. This is expected to benefit more than 15,000 employees.

The government has also decided to consider re-engaging retired personnel in institutions based on operational requirements.

AP NGO Association state president and AP JAC chairman A. Vidyasagar welcomed the decisions. He said these would provide long-term stability, dignity and security to thousands of employees and their families.

### AP Panel Seeks Ban on Smartphone Use by Children Below 13 Years



Anantapur: AP State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (APSCPCR) has recommended a graded policy to restrict smartphone and social media use by children below 13 years, citing concerns over mental health, academic performance, sleep disruption, and online safety.

The panel has submitted its report to human resources development minister Nara Lokesh.

According to APSCPCR member Dr D. Sreenivasa Murthy, the commission has prepared a detailed report after studying the legislative models of smartphone usage by children in Australia, France, and China. Australia has a minimum age of 16 years for social media accounts, while France has moved toward tighter school and social media restrictions. China's "Minor Mode" framework has age-based screen-time controls and mandatory safety features.

The panel report has suggested screen-time guidelines, including zero passive screen exposure for children below two years, and limited supervised use for older age groups.

Sreenivasa Murthy told Deccan Chronicle that AP should move quickly to frame a child digital safety policy and push for wider national reforms to protect children from online risks.

According to him, India is the world's second-largest smartphone market, with an estimated 900 million users as of 2025. Alarmingly, over 60 per cent of children under 10 years in India are reported to own or regularly use a smartphone. In AP, the penetration of low-cost smartphones in semi-urban and rural parts means children as young as 6 years or 7 years are routinely exposed to un-moderated internet content.

A landmark study by India's National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) covering 5,811 participants across six states has found that 60 per cent of children used smartphones — their parents' devices — for instant messaging. Strikingly, 38 per cent of 10-year-olds possess Facebook accounts, and 24 per cent are on Instagram, despite minimum age requirements of 13 years.

"Neurologically, the prefrontal cortex — the brain region responsible for impulse control, judgment, and decision-making — is not fully developed until the mid-20s. For children below 13, whose cognitive and emotional architecture is still forming, unrestricted smartphone use poses unique dangers," Dr. Sreenivasa Murthy observed.

India's own NCPCR and Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 provide foundational frameworks. But their enforcement remains critically weak.

The APSCPCR member said Andhra Pradesh has a significant opportunity to lead nationally by adopting a graded, enforceable smart-phone policy for children below 13 years.

### TD Chief Palla Raises 14 Issues Before House Panel

Visakhapatnam: Telugu Desam state president and Gajuwaka MLA Palla Srinivasa Rao on Tuesday submitted a memorandum to the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Petitions Committee, highlighting 14 issues related to land disputes, rehabilitation, compensation and livelihood concerns in Visakhapatnam district.

The committee, chaired by Deputy Speaker and Petitions Committee chairman K. Raghu Rama Krishna Raju, reviewed the representations at the Visakhapatnam collectorate.

Srinivasa Rao urged the committee to ensure time-bound resolution of long-pending issues affecting local residents.

Addressing the panel, the MLA said the matters raised had a direct bearing on the livelihoods, property rights and welfare of thousands of people. He highlighted the difficulties faced by residents of Kunchamamba Colony, Rasalamma Colony, Gudivada Appanna Colony and Siddhartha Nagar due to the classification of their lands as water-body properties.

The MLA also raised concerns over pending rehabilitation benefits for families displaced by the Pharma City project. He said several affected families were yet to receive house-site allotments. The committee instructed officials to complete the allotment and registration process within two months.

Other issues discussed included the continued inclusion of residential areas in the 22-A prohibited lands list, alleged irregularities relating to R-Cards issued to Visakhapatnam Steel Plant evacuees, pending compensation for lands acquired for public infrastructure projects and unresolved grievances of Akkireddypalem farmers whose lands were acquired more than three decades ago.

### Amaravati Will Emerge as a Model Capital City, Says Union Minister Tokhan Sahu

Vijayawada: Union minister of state for housing and urban affairs Tokhan Sahu on Tuesday said Andhra Pradesh's capital city Amaravati has the potential to emerge as a model capital in the country, citing its planned development and proposed modern infrastructure. Sahu made the remarks during a review meeting at the AP Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) office in Amaravati, where he assessed the implementation of urban development and housing schemes.

He praised Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's vision for Amaravati and said developmental activities in the state were pro-



gressing rapidly with the NDA in power at both the Centre and the state. He assured the state of continued support from the Union government for its development initiatives. Officials from the municipal administration and housing departments briefed the minister on the progress of various schemes. They made presentations on the status of Tidco housing projects, welfare programmes implemented through the Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA), deployment of electric buses and works being undertaken under the Urban Challenge Fund. Earlier, municipal administration minister P. Narayana met the Union minister at the CRDA office.

## Seed Revolution at Farmers' Doorsteps..!

Quality Seeds for Higher Yields is the Goal – Syed Iqbal Hussain

Karakagudem | June 23: As part of its commitment to farmers' welfare, the Telangana Government's Seed Fair (Vittana Mela) was organized enthusiastically in Karakagudem Mandal. The program was held at the Rythu Vedika in Battupalli Gram Panchayat limits and was attended by Mandal Congress Party President Syed Iqbal Hussain and Regalla Sarpanch Badish Parvathi, who interacted with farmers.

Conducted under the guidance of Pinapaka MLA Payam Venkateswarlu and organized by the Agriculture Department, the Seed Fair brought new hope to the farming community. Leaders advised farmers to use only certified quality seeds to achieve higher productivity and better yields.



Speaking on the occasion, Syed Iqbal Hussain stated that the State Government is committed to providing quality seeds and making agriculture more profitable for farmers. He urged farmers to adopt modern cultivation methods and follow the technical guidance provided by agriculture officials.

Later, the leaders visited various stalls set up at the Seed Fair and gathered information on different seed varieties, agricultural products, and innovative farming technologies.

Agriculture Department officials, Battupalli Deputy Sarpanch Irri Venkanna, former Regalla Deputy Sarpanch Badish Lakshminarayana, farmers, public representatives, and villagers participated in large numbers.

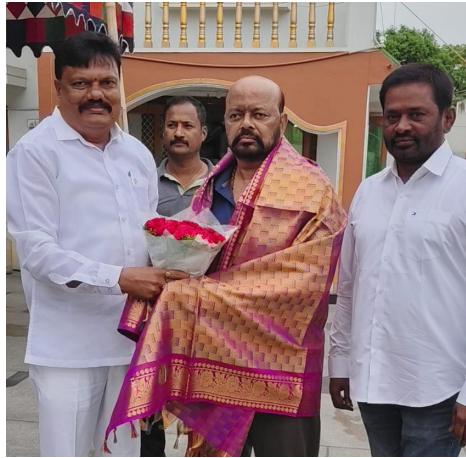
The Seed Fair successfully created awareness among farmers with the message:

"A prosperous harvest begins with the right seed... When farmers prosper, the State prospers."

## Meesala Prakash appointed as Warangal District Library Chairman

Warangal Bureau; Senior Congress leader Meesala Prakash has been appointed as the Chairman of Warangal District Library. He has been playing a key role in strengthening the party and public service activities in Warangal East constituency for a long time. Prakash is known to be a close friend of Minister Konda Surekha and Konda Murali. Congress ranks are expressing joy over getting this post.

After assuming responsibility on Tuesday, he prepared special plans for the development of libraries in the district. He said that his main goal is to provide necessary study material and state-of-the-art digital facilities, especially to the unemployed youth preparing for competitive exams. He said that he will work to mod-



ernize libraries in rural areas and increase the interest in reading among students.

Meesala Prakash thanked Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the Konda couple for their cooperation in his appointment. Local leaders expressed hope that the district library organization will make further progress under his leadership.

## Olympic Association Accused of Neglecting Sports Development in Sangareddy

SANGAREDDY Correspondent : June 23, 2026: Treasurer of the erstwhile Merak District Olympic Association, Mohammed Javed Ali, has alleged that the association's leadership has failed to promote sports development and neglected its responsibilities over the past three years.

Addressing a press conference in Sangareddy on Tuesday, Mohammed Javed Ali said that despite the completion of three years since the association elections, not a single general body meeting had been conducted. He criticized the leadership for limiting its activities to a few sports associations and schools without informing or involving all affiliated organizations.

He alleged that the association had confined its activities to organizing the annual Olympic Run and failed to conduct meaningful sports promotion programs throughout the year. According to him, the leadership had ignored its responsibility of supporting and developing athletes in the district.

Mohammed Javed Ali appreciated former MLA T. Jagga Reddy for securing 10 crore for the development of Ambedkar Stadium and said that recognizing and appreciating those who contribute to sports infrastructure was justified. He also thanked TGIIIC Chairperson Nirmala for her support toward sports development initiatives.

Questioning the decision to celebrate Olympic Day on June 24 in Sangareddy, Javed Ali pointed out that the event is observed worldwide on June 23. He demanded an explanation from the association leadership regarding the postponement of the celebrations.

Youth Associations Federation, Base Ball President Kuna Venu said that public representatives bringing funds for development should be welcomed irrespective of political affiliations. He praised Jagga Reddy and Nirmala jaggareddy for their commitment to public service and sports development.

Venu further stated that responsible and dedicated individuals should be entrusted with key positions in the Olympic Association. He alleged that despite rules limiting the tenure of the association president to four years, the same individual had continued in the post for nearly a decade.



## Vijay Sales announces 'Back to School' Sale with Exciting Deals on Laptops, Tablets and Learning Essentials

Instant Bank Discount, No Cost EMI and Loyalty Reward Benefits Across Leading Technology Brands

Hyderabad, June 23rd, 2026: Vijay Sales, one of India's leading electronics retail chains, has announced its 'Back to School' Sale, bringing attractive offers across a wide range of laptops, smartphones, tablets and everyday technology essentials.

As students, young professionals and families continue to rely on technology for learning, productivity and entertainment, the sale offers access to some of the most sought-after devices across categories at compelling prices.

### Computing Power for Every Student

The wide range of computing devices at Vijay Sales are just perfect for students preparing to set the stage for academic achievements.

To elevate the learning experience, the powerful Apple MacBook range is available at an effective starting price of just ₹60,490, inclusive of instant bank cashback. For those looking to tackle assignments and online courses with ease, high-performance laptops start at an accessible ₹46,499. Meanwhile, those who prefer a more portable option for reading e-books or taking notes on the go can find great deals on a versatile range of tablets starting at ₹16,999.

### Stay Connected with Smart Devices

Staying connected for both studies and social life is easier than ever with amazing deals on smartphones, starting from ₹10,499. To complement your device, Truly Wireless Stereo (TWS) earbuds start from just ₹799 - perfect for online classes or even enjoying music between study sessions. Additionally, Vijay Sales also features a wide selection of other earphones and headphones to choose from.



### Tech Accessories to Boost Productivity

To help build the perfect study-from-home workspace, the sale includes everyday essentials like printers starting at ₹4,999 and pocket-friendly storage devices from just ₹949. Students can further enhance their productivity and stay stylish with trendy smartwatches starting from ₹1,299. Additionally, high-speed routers are available from ₹1,549 and mobile accessories start from just ₹189, ensuring students have all the right tools for a seamless academic year.

Whether it's a student purchasing their first laptop, upgrading to a more powerful device for college projects, or investing in accessories to enhance productivity, Vijay Sales offers solutions across multiple

budgets and requirements.

Commenting on the sale, Mr. Nilesh Gupta, Director, Vijay Sales, said: "At Vijay Sales, our goal is to help students start the academic year equipped with the tools they need to learn, create, and succeed. Along with attractive offers on laptops, smartphones, tablets and accessories, we are also providing flexible payment options and additional benefits to make technology purchases more accessible and rewarding."

To make purchases even more rewarding, Vijay Sales is offering its guests, 0.75% MyVS loyalty reward points on every purchase through the My VS Rewards programme. The same is redeemable at stores at ₹1 per point.

The Back to School Sale is currently live across Vijay Sales stores and on the Vijay Sales website, allowing customers to shop from a wide selection of products and take advantage of these limited-period offers.

## Spiritual glory Ardhanariswara Divine Dance Festival



The Ardhanariswaram National Dance Festival being held at Rabindra Bharathi under the auspices of Telangana Sangeet Natak Academy is getting a great response. Shiva Parvati's Ananda Thandavam Spirituality is enhancing the sense of divinity. Mumbai artistes Sri Pavitra Bhatt and Smt Aparna Shastri performed a duet performance on the second day of the dance festival on Tuesday. Adisankaracharya Ardhanarishwara Stotram, Nataraja Swami Kunchita Padam was impressively presented. The spiritual journey of Lord Shiva and the glory of cosmic dance were performed by Mumbai artistes and mesmerized. After that, Bangalore

Bharatanatyam artist Dr. Vasanth Kiran entertained the audience. Gopalakrishna Bharathi's vocal composition was sung by Mr Vasanth Kiran himself and Tamil historian Nandanar Nataraja merged with Swamy and a wonderful performance as Nayanar and received applause. The way in which Chidambaram Sabhapathi walked through the fire pit and merged into Nataraja Swami and liberated his soul was impressive. Finally, Hyderabad's sensational Bharatanatyam artiste Smt Vaishnavi Sainadh with her troupe captivated the audience. Invoking Shiva, the perfect primordial teacher of cosmic rhythm and Akshyas through dance, the performance was electrify-

ing throughout. Complete footwork, highly complex mathematical patterns, performed with great rhythmic power, Bharata Natyam is amazing. Speaking of equality and universal harmony, the wordplay to the beautiful rhythmic music was remarkable. Smt

Vaishnavi Sainath turned the beauty of the universe into Parvati Devi and presented the solo dance piece with exquisite grace, as well as Sandhya Samaya Tandavam and Uma Maheswara's thrilling Tandavam scenes mesmerized the minds. Director General of Prisons Services Smt Soumya Mishra, IPS and Padma Shri awardees Dr. Ananda Shankar Jayant, Smt Uma Maheswari, Dr Kalakrishna participated as guests and hailed Ardhanarishwar dance festival as amazing. The artists were felicitated and honoured. Chair Person of Telangana Sangeet Natak Academy, Acharya Dr.

Alekhya Punjala said that we have got assurance from the ministers to conduct dance and drama training at the primary school level in the recently organized youth drama festivals, and now it is gratifying to announce that minister Mr Jupalli Krishna Rao has announced that the artists who have been recognized are being given concessional accommodation facilities in tourist places. who has talent from different states, has given an opportunity to the Ustad Bismilla Khan youth awardees in Ardhanarishwaram National Dance Festival. Commentator Muralikrishna, Supervised by Mr R. Vinod Kumar, Mr Ashok.



Wednesday 24, June, 2026

## BIG CHALLENGES REMAIN IN REGULATING COUGH SYRUPS

India may take pride in earning the tag of the 'pharmacy of the world', but along with it comes the responsibility of ensuring the strictest standards for products that can make the difference between life and death. A series of tragedies in the recent past, involving the deaths of children due to the consumption of adulterated cough syrup manufactured by Indian pharma companies, seriously damaged the country's reputation as a global pharma hub. The Centre's latest decision to end the over-the-counter sale of cough syrups and other syrup-based medicines is a welcome step, but the bigger challenge is ensuring foolproof quality standards. As per the notification issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, a doctor's prescription is mandatory to buy cough syrups or any syrup-based medication. While the move is ostensibly meant to strengthen regulatory oversight of syrup formulations and to align the exemption framework with contemporary public health and safety requirements, it is only a very small step in a series of reforms that are urgently needed in the drug regulatory system. While many consumers have long treated such cough syrups as harmless remedies for seasonal ailments, more serious systemic lapses were exposed when the deaths of children were attributed to the cough syrups manufactured in the country. Indian-made cough syrups were linked to mass child deaths in Gambia, Cameroon and Uzbekistan. Back home, similar tragedies were reported in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. These incidents have exposed serious lapses in drug safety.

The reports of fatalities linked to sub-standard medicines have repeatedly raised questions about quality control, testing and oversight. A plethora of problems plagues the pharma sector. Manufacturing units operate in unregulated conditions. Apart from rampant corruption, there is chronic understaffing and inconsistent inspections. Licences cancelled after a major incident are quietly reversed once public attention fades. There is no system for doctors to flag clusters of poisoning symptoms, and there is no effective drug recall mechanism. So, contaminated batches remain in circulation and cause deaths again. Despite rules that mandate every batch of raw material and final product be tested, and records maintained, there is no documentation of a chain-of-custody of inputs. Experience shows that tighter rules alone will not guarantee safer outcomes. India has no shortage of regulations governing the sale of medicines, yet prescription drugs often remain easily available without proper scrutiny. The real challenge lies in enforcement. Unless pharmacies are regularly inspected and violations attract meaningful penalties, the latest notification risks becoming another well-intentioned rule with limited impact on the ground. Stronger audits, criminal liability for negligence and swift justice are essential. Without them, every adulteration tragedy chips away at public trust — the most vital ingredient in any medicine. Though the Union government has been insisting on stricter adherence to revised manufacturing practices and periodic inspections, enforcement remains patchy. State regulators lack manpower, and penalties are rarely effective.

## Hanumakonda Collector Recommends Modern Designs for City Parks



Hanumakonda: Hanumakonda district collector and Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC) special officer Chahat Bajpai on Tuesday directed officials to prepare modern designs for improving and developing parks across the city.

Chairing a review meeting on development of urban park with representatives of World Resources Institute (WRI) and municipal officials at the Hanumakonda Collectorate, the collector reviewed plans aimed at enhancing recreational facilities at public spaces.

Bajpai said the Children's Park at Balasamudram, developed using design inputs from WRI, has emerged as a model project. He suggested that similar technical support be extended for development of other parks in the city.

The collector instructed officials to prepare comprehensive development proposals for Keerthinagar Park in Warangal area, along with other parks, anganwadi centres and schools. He wanted future projects to be designed keeping in view public requirements, children's recreational needs, and environmental conservation.

Stressing the importance of urban green spaces, Bajpai said parks play a key role in promoting greenery and providing a healthy environment for residents.

Officials said WRI would extend technical cooperation for the proposed initiatives. Those who attended the meeting included WRI consultant representative Elaine Agit, GWMC superintending engineer Raj Kumar, executive engineers Ravi Kumar and Santosh Babu, and deputy engineer Raj Kumar.

## Mulugu Emerges as Model District in Telangana's 99-Day Praja Palana Initiative



Mulugu: Mulugu district has emerged as a model district under the state government's 99-day Praja Palana—Pragathi Pranalika initiative by recording significant progress in governance, welfare, and development programmes, special officer Hanumanth K. Jandage said on Tuesday.

Addressing a review meeting at the collectorate conference hall, Jandage said the programme has strengthened the link between the government and the public by ensuring responsive and accessible administration.

He stressed that the initiative should continue as an ongoing process, rather than remain a one-time exercise. Those who attended the review meeting included district collector Borkhade Hemant Sahadeorao, superintendent of police Sudheer Ramnath Kekan, DFO Vikas Meena, additional collector (revenue) C.H. Mahender, and DRO Ravi Kumar. Sahadeorao presented a detailed review of achievements recorded over the past 99 days across various departments.

His presentation highlighted the progress in resolving land-related grievances received

through Prajavani and Gram Sabhas, expediting file clearances, improving sanitation, strengthening healthcare services, implementing welfare schemes and addressing public grievances. Jandage commended the district administration for its coordinated approach and said the combined efforts of various departments have resulted in improved service delivery and tangible benefits for citizens.

The special officer highlighted several initiatives undertaken in the district, including child-focused Gram Sabhas and campaigns against child marriage by the women and child welfare department, educational festivals and technology-oriented training programmes by the education department, and activities taken up under the mahila shakti programme. The meeting reviewed progress in providing electricity facilities at anganwadi centres, identification of eligible farmers for oil palm cultivation, preparedness of schools for the new academic year, implementation of Indiramma housing projects and welfare schemes such as Mahalakshmi and Cheyutha, issuance of new ration cards and ongoing infrastructure development works.

Jandage said a comprehensive report on the district's achievements is being prepared for submission to the state government. He called for continued coordination among departments to ensure that pending goals are achieved. Later speaking to media, the special officer said several initiatives undertaken in Mulugu district could serve as models for replication in other parts of the state

## Hyderabad Metro Rail takeover by Telangana government takes a curious turn

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Metro Rail (HMR) takeover by Telangana government from L&T Metro has taken a curious turn, with the government taking up the process of Metro Phase-I valuation despite completing the exercise last year.

Interestingly, the government has now appointed SBICAPS as consultant to take up asset valuation, raise loans required for takeover and select lending agencies.

All this was done after the State government earlier engaged IDBI Capital for financial and legal due diligence and Delhi Metro Rail's consultancy arm for a technical review. Subsequently, based on the recommendations of the IDBI Capital, the value of Metro Phase I assets was estimated to be between Rs 20,544 crore and Rs 22,102 crore.

The government has not explained what will happen to the upfront fee of Rs 84 crore it paid for the release of the first tranche of loan. This was done as per the terms stipulated by IRFC.

Another curious aspect behind the appointment of SBICAPS is that the State government is heading for a face-off with the State Bank of India (SBI) on the Raidurg land auction issue. The government had threatened to pull out all its deposits and halt all governmental transactions with SBI after the bank approached the Telangana High Court and secured a stay on the auction of a prime Raidurg land parcel that fetched Rs 237 crore per acre.

SBICAPS or SBI Capital Markets Limited is the investment banking and corporate advisory arm of SBI, which offers a full range of financial services including project advisory, capital markets, mergers and acquisitions, and structured finance.

The decision to appoint SBICAPS triggers more questions. There is no clarity on the upfront fee of Rs 84 crore paid by the State government and who will bear the interest component of nearly Rs 2.5 crore a day for the loan raised for takeover of Metro Phase-I.

As per the agreement signed with L&T on April 29, the State government agreed to refinance the Rs 13,538.53 crore debts of L&T Metro.

The decision to appoint SBICAPS was taken during Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's meeting with Union Ministers ML Khattar and Ashwini Vaishnaw in New Delhi on Tuesday. The Chief Minister along with Union Minister G Kishan Reddy met the Union Ministers to discuss the delay in disbursement of loan amount by the IRFC for the Metro Phase I takeover and the proposed Metro Rail Phase II project.

Revanth Reddy's meeting with the Union Ministers came after a political storm where he accused Kishan Reddy of stalling the loan disbursement by IRFC. He had dashed off an open letter to Kishan Reddy seeking his help in facilitating a meeting with the Union Minister for Railways on the issue.

It was not immediately known on what transpired in the meeting in New Delhi, but the Chief Minister's Office issued a press release on Tuesday afternoon saying SBICAPS had been appointed as the consultant. The terse statement neither throw any light on the earlier valuation by the IDBI Capital nor did it give any information on why SBICAPS was chosen.

The statement merely said the consultant will study the valuation of Hyderabad Metro Phase-I, raise loans required for takeover, and select lending agencies. This apart, a study will also be taken up on Metro Rail expansion, construction cost, and financing for Metro Phase-II.

## Telangana Seeks Major Revision in Rice Procurement Target

Hyderabad: Seeking recognition for its record-breaking agricultural output, the Telangana government has approached the Centre for a major upward revision of its Rabi 2025-26 rice procurement target, arguing that the existing allocation fails to reflect the State's actual paddy production and procurement, forcing it to shoulder thousands of crores in additional expenditure to protect farmers' interests.

Leading a high-level delegation to New Delhi, the Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, accompanied by Agriculture Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao, met Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Pralhad Joshi and pressed for immediate approval of several key demands concerning procurement and Custom Milled Rice (CMR) delivery.

The state has requested enhancement in the Rabi 2025-26 rice procurement target from the present 35 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) to 54.50 LMT of rice, equivalent to 80.09 LMT of paddy already procured by the State.

Telangana has also sought permission to deliver the entire quantity in the form of boiled rice, arguing that Rabi paddy grown in the State is predominantly suitable for parboiled rice milling.

The request comes against the backdrop of Telangana recording the highest-ever paddy procurement in its history. During Rabi 2025-26 alone, the procurement has already touched 80.09 LMT and is expected to rise further as arrivals continue from late-harvesting districts. Combined procurement during Kharif and Rabi of KMS 2025-26 has reached a historic 152 LMT, the highest ever recorded in Telangana and the erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh.

Uttam Kumar Reddy informed the Union Minister that Telangana had originally projected procurement of around 90 LMT of paddy during the



Rabi season based on production estimates.

However, the Centre fixed the procurement target at only 35 LMT of rice, equivalent to 51.47 LMT of paddy. The State has now procured nearly 29 LMT more paddy than the quantity covered under the approved target, resulting in a mismatch between ground realities and official allocations.

The delegation argued that farmers should not suffer because of lower procurement targets fixed by the Centre. Despite severe operational challenges, including heatwave conditions, shortage of hamalies, storage constraints, transportation bottlenecks, overlapping maize arrivals and unseasonal rains, the State ensured uninterrupted procurement at Minimum Support Price (MSP) and according to Fair Average Quality norms.

The Ministers' delegation also sought extension of the CMR delivery schedule. They requested an additional 60 days for completion of pending Rabi 2024-25 deliveries and a further 120-day extension for Kharif 2025-26 deliveries to facilitate seamless milling and supply to the Central pool.

The State explained that storage shortages, overlapping procurement seasons and heavy arrivals had slowed the movement of rice to the Food Corporation system.

Another important demand raised before the Union Minister was that future procurement targets, particularly for Kharif 2026-27, should be aligned with production and procurement estimates submitted by the State government. Telangana maintained that unrealistic targets adversely affect procurement operations and create avoidable hardships for farmers and the State administration.

The delegation highlighted the enormous financial burden Telangana has been carrying due to procurement beyond the targets approved by the Centre. Official figures presented to the Union Minister show that during the last three major procurement seasons, Telangana procured 69.50 LMT of paddy over and above the quantities covered under Government of India targets. This resulted in an additional MSP-related financial burden of nearly Rs 16,446 crore on the State exchequer.

The burden was heavy during Rabi 2025-26, when Telangana procured 80.09 LMT of paddy against the Centre's target equivalent of 51.47 LMT, resulting in surplus procurement of 28.62 LMT and an estimated additional financial liability of Rs 6,837 crore. Similar burdens of Rs 5,278 crore and Rs 4,331 crore were incurred during Rabi 2024-25 and Kharif 2025-26 respectively.

Telangana's remarkable growth in paddy production has been driven by expanded irrigation infrastructure, improved agricultural practices, assured power supply and sustained support to farmers. However, procurement targets have not kept pace with the State's agricultural transformation.

The Ministers' delegation urged the Central government to recognise the changed agricultural realities in the State and support its farmers by approving the enhanced procurement target, permitting boiled rice deliveries and rationalising future procurement norms.

## Farmers Show Enthusiastic Response to Seed Mela Quality Seeds for Higher Yields: Collector Ankith

Bhadradi Kothagudem | June 23: District Collector Ankith has urged farmers to make the best use of the Seed Melas being organized by the government for the welfare of the farming community. On Tuesday, he inaugurated the Seed Mela at the Rythu Vedika in Jagannadhapuram village of Palvoncha Mandal.

During the event, the Collector inspected seed and agricultural product stalls and verified the authenticity of seed packets by scanning the QR codes printed on them. He stated that the Agriculture Department has made extensive arrangements to provide farmers with certified, high-quality seeds at affordable prices under one roof.

The Collector said that the Seed Melas, being conducted from June 23 to June 30, offer a wide range of agricultural inputs, including fine varieties of paddy seeds, pulses, oilseeds, vegetable seeds, as well as modern agricultural products such as Nano Urea and Nano DAP. He encouraged farmers to take advantage of this opportunity and purchase quality seeds for the Kharif season.

He further informed that Seed Melas are being organized through 43 Rythu



Vedikas across the district and that adequate arrangements have been made to ensure the timely availability of seeds and fertilizers. Urea booking is being facilitated through a mobile application, and farmers facing any issues were advised to contact Agriculture Department officials immediately. He assured that sufficient urea stocks are available in the district to meet farmers' requirements.

Warning against the sale of fake seeds and the illegal diversion of seeds to the black market, the Collector said strict action would be taken against offenders. He cautioned that cases may even be booked under the Preventive Detention (PD) Act if necessary.

The Collector stated that all departments are working in coordination to ensure that farmers face no difficulties during the Kharif season and that the government has taken special measures to provide all essential agricultural inputs on time. He expressed hope that farmers would achieve higher yields by using quality seeds.

Later, Collector Ankith personally distributed seed packets and urea to farmers who had purchased seeds at the mela and booked urea through the application.

The programme was attended by District Agriculture Officer Babu Rao, Society Chairman Kotwal Srinivas, Tahsildar Dhara Prasad, Agriculture Department officials, and a large number of farmers.

## Centre Gives Green Signal for Jagtial Bypass Road : Underpasses at Anthargaon and Ambareepet Also Approved

Jagtial June 23, 2026 : In a major development for Jagtial district, the Central Government has approved the construction of a bypass road for Jagtial town and sanctioned underpasses at Anthargaon and Ambareepet villages on the Jagtial-Karimnagar National Highway (NH-563).

Nizamabad MP Arvind Dharmapuri stated that the approvals were granted following his representation to the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways regarding the growing traffic problems and the need for better road infrastructure in the district.

He said Union Minister Nitin Gadkari informed him through an official communication that the Centre has approved the four-laning of the Jagtial-Karimnagar highway along with the bypass road proposal. The Minister also sanctioned underpasses at key junctions to ensure safe and uninterrupted movement of vehicles and pedestrians.

The MP said these projects will significantly improve connectivity, reduce traffic congestion within Jagtial town, and provide safer travel facilities for the public.

Arvind Dharmapuri expressed gratitude to Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on behalf of the



people of Jagtial district and assured that he would continue striving to bring more development projects to the region.

## PM Svanidhi Boosting Confidence Among Street Vendors :



Nizamabad June 23, 2026 ; Urban MLA Dhanpal Suryanarayana Gupta said that the PM SVANidhi Scheme is providing strong financial support to street vendors and helping small traders become self-reliant.

Participating in the "Svanidhi Mahotsavam" organized by MEPMA at New Ambedkar Bhavan in Nizamabad

city on Tuesday, the MLA stated that the Central Government is encouraging poor and middle-class families through easy loan facilities for small businesses.

He said beneficiaries are initially provided Rs. 10,000 loans and can avail higher amounts with regular repayment of installments. He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's



Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative for strengthening street vendors and women entrepreneurs across the country.

The MLA highlighted that Nizamabad Urban Constituency secured second place in the state in women beneficiaries availing loans under the scheme. He said awareness among women regarding self-employment and financial

empowerment has increased significantly.

Later, Dhanpal Suryanarayana Gupta visited stalls set up by women groups and purchased products through digital payment methods, encouraging cashless transactions.

Deputy Mayor, BJP corporators, MEPMA officials, bank managers, and others participated in the programme.

## Power Sector Is Not for Sale... We Will Resist Privatization!

Workers Roar at Bhadradi Power Plant  
Employees Express Strong Opposition to Privatization Plans

Manuguru | June 23: Employees and workers must unite and strongly oppose any attempts to privatize the power sector, said M.A. Wajid, Vice President of the Telangana Power Employees Joint Action Committee (JAC) Central Committee and State President of Workers Union-1535.

A massive protest was organized by employees on Wednesday in front of the main gate of the Bhadradi Thermal Power Station (BTPS) in Manuguru, Bhadradi Kothagudem district. Hundreds of employees participated in a rally from the administration building to the main gate, raising slogans against privatization and expressing strong re-



sentment over the proposed decisions.

Addressing the gathering, M.A. Wajid alleged that there was an attempt to hand over the Coal Plant, Ash Plant, and Gas Plant units of BTPS to private contractors. He called upon all workers to remain united and fight against such decisions.

"It is unfortunate that the management is ignoring the concerns and protests of employees. The privatization tenders must be withdrawn immediately. Otherwise, we will intensify our agitation across the state," he warned.

Later, TSGPE JAC Convener S. Srinivas Reddy and TEE JAC Convener Chandulu stated that larger-scale protests would be organized following the call given by the Central JAC. They announced that BTPS would become a focal point for future agitation programs.

The protest was attended by TSGPE Executive Secretary B. Ravi Prasad, Assistant Engineers Association leaders Mahesh and Ramesh, and trade union leaders V. Prasad, B. Satyanarayana, P. Samba, T. Shobhan, Siddula Hussain, Krishnakanth, Anil, and several others.

## Everyone Must Contribute to the Eradication of Drug Abuse

Nirmal District Staff Reporter : As per the instructions of Nirmal District Superintendent of Police, Dr. Janaki Sharmila, IPS, an awareness program against drug abuse was conducted in Beeravelli village of Sarangapur mandal.

During the program, awareness was created about the harmful effects of drug consumption and the importance of staying away from narcotic substances to lead a healthy and productive life.

Speaking on the occasion, Sarangapur SI Srikanth emphasized the need to work towards building a drug-free youth population. He urged young people to stay away from drugs and other harmful addictions.

As part of the awareness campaign, wall posters highlighting the dangers of drug abuse were displayed in the village.

Police personnel Ravi and Linga Rao, along with villagers, participated in the program.



## Nizamabad Administration Launches Intensive Electoral Revision Exercise; BLO Kits Distributed :

Nizamabad June 23, 2026 : As part of the Election Commission's ongoing efforts to ensure free, fair, and transparent elections, District Collector Ila Tripathi distributed official kits to Booth Level Officers (BLOs) engaged in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Nizamabad district.

The programme was organized at the Collector's chamber on Tuesday, where the Collector, along with senior district officials, handed over the kits received from the Office of the State Chief Electoral Officer. The kits are intended to assist BLOs in conducting extensive door-to-door verification and updating voter information at the grassroots level.

During the interaction, Collector Ila Tripathi directed the BLOs to carry out the revision process with utmost sincerity and accuracy. She stated that the Election Commission



has launched the Special Intensive Revision drive with the objective of preparing a clean, transparent, and comprehensive voter list by identifying eligible voters and rectifying inaccuracies in the electoral database.

The Collector emphasized that Booth Level Officers have a key responsibility in strengthening the democratic process by ensuring that every eligible citizen is included in the voter rolls while eliminating errors and duplicate entries. She advised the officials to interact politely with residents during household visits and ensure that all necessary voter details are collected properly.

She further instructed the BLOs to complete the assigned work within the scheduled timeline and maintain regular coordination with election authorities for smooth execution of the programme. The Collector noted that public cooperation and efficient field-level verification are essential for the success of the Special Intensive Revision exercise.

Additional Collector Kiran Kumar, Trainee Collector Suresh, District Revenue Officer Geetha, Election Wing Supervisor Balaraju, and other concerned officials participated in the programme.

## Municipal Council Approves Development Funds at General Body Meeting

**SANGAREDDY**  
Correspondent : June 23, 2026: General body meeting of the Sangareddy Municipal Council was held on Tuesday at the Municipal Office under the chairmanship of Municipal Chairperson Mrs. Kuna Vanitha Santosh. The meeting discussed and approved 16 agenda items related to civic development and public services.

Keeping in view the upcoming monsoon season, the council approved an allocation of 20 lakh for road improvement works in various wards to prevent roads from turn-



ing muddy and waterlogged during rains. Funds were also sanctioned for the development of the municipal dump yard.

During the meeting, ward councillors highlighted issues pertaining to sanitation, street lighting, and borewells in their respective wards. Responding to their concerns, Chairperson Kuna Vanitha Santosh assured the council that necessary measures would be taken and the issues would be resolved at the earliest.

Vice-Chairman Hafez Shaik Shafi, Municipal Commissioner Srinivas Reddy, councillors, and municipal officials attended the meeting.

## BRS awareness program on SIR

**Former MLA Nannapuneni Narender participated KTR to attend BLA meeting on 29th of this month**

**Warangal Bureau ; Warangal East Constituency**

On Tuesday, as part of the preparations for the BRS Party Working President KTR Sabha to be held in Warangal East Constituency on 29th of this month in the 32nd Division, the first Mayor of Greater Warangal and former MLA of Warangal East, Nannapuneni Narender, participated in the preparatory meeting organized by the division in-charge Tobacco Sandeep.

**Speaking on the occasion, he said that**

BRS Party Working President KTR will be attending the party membership registration program for BLAs and party workers on 29th of this month in Warangal East Constituency as the chief guest.

Especially, he called



upon the workers and BLAs from every division of the constituency, including the 32nd division, to attend in large numbers and follow the party's instructions and actively participate in the SIR program to be held from June 25 to July 24.

He advised that those whose names were on the voter list in 2002 do not need additional certification documents, and those who got the right to vote after 2002 should submit any one of the 17 types of certification documents specified, fill in the form and submit it to the relevant BLO or MRO office.

He also asked the party workers to take the responsibility of providing new voting rights to the youth who have completed 18 years of age and to take care that not a single eligible voter is removed from the list.

**Our vote – our responsibility**

With the slogan "Our vote is our responsibility", he advised the workers to check the details of the voters in each booth and ensure that every eligible person has the right to vote.

Key leaders of the BRS Party's 32nd Division, BLAs, youth leaders, women leaders, and activists participated in this program.

## Measures Should Be Taken to Ensure Timely Salaries for Outsourcing Employees: District Collector Bhavesh Mishra

**Nirmal District Staff Reporter :** District Collector Bhavesh Mishra has directed officials to take necessary steps to ensure that all outsourcing employees working in various departments across the district receive their salaries on time.

On Tuesday evening, the Collector chaired a review meeting at the Collectorate conference hall to discuss the payment of salaries to outsourcing employees, details of personnel working in different departments, and other related issues.

During the meeting, he reviewed department-wise information regarding outsourcing employees and examined the details submitted by departments and



agencies. He instructed agencies to credit salaries directly into the employees' bank accounts immediately after funds are released by the government.

The Collector warned that strict action would be taken against agencies that show negligence in disbursing salaries. He also emphasized the importance of depositing Provident Fund (PF) contributions on time. Vacant posts approved by the government should be filled transparently and in accordance with the prescribed rules and regulations, he said. He further directed officials not to delay the submission of employee details.

District Revenue Officer (DRO) Rathod Ramesh, District Employment Officer Vijayalakshmi, officials from various departments, representatives of outsourcing agencies, and other staff members attended the meeting.

# Green Signal for Bhadradi Airport!

### Key Feasibility Report Expected in 10 Days; Centre Puts Project on Fast Track

New Delhi/Bhadradi | June 23: A major breakthrough has been achieved in the long-awaited dream of a Greenfield Airport in Bhadradi. The project gained fresh momentum after a meeting between Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu and Telangana Ministers Tummala Nageswara Rao and Uttam Kumar Reddy in New Delhi.

**Feasibility Report Within 10 Days**

With the two previously proposed locations found unsuitable due to technical reasons, the Telangana Government has identified an alternative site. The Union Minister has directed officials to submit a comprehensive feasibility report on the new location within ten days, underscoring the Centre's commitment to expediting the project.

**Railway Line and Hills Hindered Earlier Proposals**

Studies revealed that the earlier proposed sites were not suitable for airport development due to the presence of an electrified railway line and nearby hills, which failed to meet aviation safety standards. As a result, the government shifted its focus to a new location.

**Good News for Bhadrachalam Devotees**

Bhadrachalam, popularly known as the "Southern Ayodhya," attracts lakhs of devotees every year to the Sri Sita Ramachandra Swamy Temple. The proposed airport is expected to make travel significantly easier for pilgrims arriving from across India and abroad.

**New Opportunities for Industry and Tourism**

Bhadradi Kothagudem district is already home to major industries such as Singareni Collieries, Heavy Water Plant, ITC, and BPL. According to Minister Tummala, the airport will boost investments and accelerate growth in industrial, educational, and tourism sectors, cre-



ating new economic opportunities for the region.

**Mamunoor Airport Foundation Stone in July**

Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu announced that the foundation stone for the Mamunoor Airport in Warangal district will be laid in July. He also stated that the Centre is taking swift steps to secure necessary approvals for the proposed Adilabad Airport project.

**Bhadradi's Dream Taking Shape**

Minister Tummala assured that the Telangana Government would extend full support in land acquisition, infrastructure development, and regulatory clearances. The latest developments have rekindled hopes among the people of Bhadradi that their long-cherished dream of an airport will soon become a reality.

"The day is not far when the skies of Bhadradi will witness the sound of aircraft wings." This version is suitable for newspapers, websites, and social media publication.

## Farmers' Welfare is the Government's Mission: MLA Payam's Strong Message at Gutta Mallaram

### From Rythu Bharosa to Quality Seeds, Government Stands by Farmers Direct Interaction with Farmers on Irrigation, Fertilizers, and Seed Availability

Manuguru | June 23: Stating that farmers are the backbone of the state and that the welfare of farmers is essential for overall development, MLA Payam Venkateswarlu said that the Telangana Government is moving forward with a strong commitment to farmer welfare. He was speaking as the chief guest at a Farmers' Awareness Meeting held on Tuesday at the Rythu Vedita in Gutta Mallaram village of Manuguru Mandal, Bhadradi Kothagudem district.

Addressing the gathering, the MLA said that the State Government has given top priority to agriculture and is providing security and support to farming families through schemes such as



Rythu Bharosa and Rythu Bima. He noted that Farmers' Meetings are being organized across the state from June 23 to June 30 to create awareness among farmers about government schemes, modern agricultural practices, and advanced technologies for achieving higher crop yields.

He further stated that the government has taken special measures to ensure the availability of quality seeds and fertilizers for the ongoing Kharif season. Farmers were advised to adopt scientific farming methods and make use of the guidance and recommendations provided by Agriculture

Department officials. MLA Payam Venkateswarlu said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the government is continuously working for the upliftment and prosperity of the farming community with the belief that "If the farmer prospers, the state prospers."

Later, the MLA interacted directly with farmers and discussed issues related to irrigation, seed and fertilizer supply, and other agricultural requirements. He directed the concerned officials to take immediate action on the issues raised by the farmers.

The programme was attended by Agriculture Department officials, Congress leaders, public representatives, sarpanches, members of farmers' coordination committees, party workers, farmers, and a large number of villagers.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA remarked that "A farmer's smile is the true address of Telangana's development."

## MLA Dr. Kuchukulla Rajesh Reddy Promotes Blood Donation Through Birthday Initiative

Nagarkurnool : A Mega Blood Donation Camp was inaugurated by Nagarkurnool MLA Dr. Kuchukulla Rajesh Reddy at the MLA Camp Office as part of celebrations marking his birthday.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said that blood donation is one of the most valuable humanitarian services and that donated blood can help save lives during medical emergencies. He encouraged people to voluntarily participate in blood donation drives and contribute towards social welfare.

Dr. Rajesh Reddy stated that celebrating birthdays through public welfare activities instead of limiting them to greetings and ceremonies reflects a spirit of service and social responsibility. He said such initiatives create awareness and encourage people to engage in meaningful community service.

He also called upon youth to actively participate in social service programmes and work towards creating a healthier and more compassionate society. He noted that voluntary blood donation is a simple act that can make a significant difference in saving lives.



Party leaders, public representatives, party workers, supporters, Youth Congress leaders and local residents participated in the programme in large numbers. Several volunteers came forward to donate blood and expressed their commitment to supporting humanitarian causes.

## ICC, UNICEF to host matchday takeover at Lord's during Women's T20 World Cup

ICC, UNICEF UK and ECB will host a matchday takeover at Lord's during the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 match between England and West Indies. The initiative aims to raise funds and awareness for UNICEF's global child support programmes

Hyderabad: The International Cricket Council (ICC), UNICEF UK and the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) will host a special matchday takeover at the iconic Lord's Cricket Ground in London when England take on the West Indies at the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 on 24 June. City & Local Guides

In taking over Lord's, the ICC and UNICEF are aiming to raise both funds and awareness for UNICEF's projects supporting children around the world, with a fundraising target of £100,000 from the activation.

UNICEF UK Supporter Nabhaan Rizwan, a passionate cricket fan and two-time BAFTA-nominated actor, will attend the game and walk out with the trophy alongside England legend Isa Guha in support of the Play for UNICEF matchday. History

"I'm excited to be at Lord's on Wednesday, 24 June for the Play for UNICEF match day takeover," said Rizwan. "As a huge cricket fan, I can't wait to see England play West Indies for this ICC Women's T20



World Cup game, during which fans will also be able to donate to support UNICEF's work for every child."

The wider takeover of Lord's will see a branded UNICEF presence across the ground, with the UNICEF flag featuring in the Anthem Ceremony, and global broadcast audiences encouraged to support through dedicated donation messaging throughout the day.

## Linda Noskova Beats Jessica Pegula to Claim 2026 Berlin Open Title

Berlin: Linda Noskova claimed the 2026 Berlin Open title on Sunday after defeating Jessica Pegula 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 in a hard-fought final, securing the first grass-court title of her career.

The triumph marks the second WTA singles title of Noskova's career and improves her record in WTA Tour finals to 2-5, according to the WTA website. The victory will also propel the Czech star into the Top 10 of the WTA rankings for the first time, with Noskova set to surpass Karolina Muchova and become the new Czech No. 1.

Noskova had a strong record when winning the first set, going 16-1 in such matches since her loss to Mirra Andrejeva in Brisbane in January. She improved that to 17-1 after taking the opening set against Jessica Pegula in the final. Noskova started brightly, winning the first three games with powerful serving and aggressive shot-making. She broke for 2-0 after excellent court coverage and a volley winner, then held a long service game to move 3-0 up. Pegula fought back to level at 3-3, but Noskova held firm in a tight game to break again and take the set. In the second set, Pegula raised her level and surged from 3-3 to lead 5-3, eventually winning the set to force a decider. Noskova responded strongly in the third set, breaking early to lead 2-0 and quickly moving 3-0 ahead. Although Pegula



pushed back and even saved a championship point late on, Noskova stayed steady. She finished the match with a forehand winner after Pegula's final shot went long, sealing the title in style. With her win, Linda Noskova became the second Czech woman to win a title on Sunday, after Marie Bouzkova defeated Emma Navarro in a three-hour final to lift the Nottingham Open.

It marked the fourth time two Czech women won WTA singles titles on the same day. The previous instances, according to the WTA website, were: October 1, 2016: Petra Kvitova (Wuhan) and Karolina Pliskova (Tashkent) January 7, 2017: Katerina Siniakova (Shenzhen) and Pliskova (Brisbane) September 18, 2022: Linda Fruhvirtova (Chennai) and Siniakova (Portoroz).

## World Cup Match Day 12: Spain, Belgium, Uruguay Promise Entertainment

Tonight's FIFA World Cup matches will be highly entertaining, as football lovers could even witness some potential upsets in Group G and Group H. Title favourites Spain are set to take on Saudi Arabia in the first game of Match Day 12, followed by the matches between Belgium and Iran, Uruguay and Cabo Verde, in the late hours, and a game between New Zealand and Egypt tomorrow morning.

Spain vs Saudi Arabia (09:30 PM)

A wounded Spain will aim to get their World Cup challenge firmly back on track when they face Saudi Arabia in Atlanta on Sunday.

Spain coach Luis de la Fuente said his players had been stung by the criticism after they were held to a goalless draw in their opening match by Cape Verde, the African archipelago of just over half a million people who are making their World Cup debut.

The European champions arrived in North America as one of the favourites, but with Lamine Yamal only able to appear as a second-half substitute on his return from injury, La Roja were unable to find the target against Cape Verde.

De la Fuente, who confidently described his squad as the best in the world before the tournament, said they would show their true colors on Sunday.

"This generation of footballers is highly competitive and really fired up... It's going to be a completely different story," he said at his pre-match press conference on Saturday.

Saudi Arabia had drew 1-1 in their opening game against Uruguay, making it necessary for the Green Falcons to win the game against Spain to keep their knockout dreams alive.

Belgium vs Iran (12:30 PM)

Belgium will again be without Jeremy Doku with respiratory problems as they face Iran.

Without the winger, Belgium sputtered to a draw in their opener against Egypt.

Iran coach Amir Ghalenoeei said he has been told US travel restrictions on his team will finally be eased for their third group game, against Egypt in Seattle on June 26, but he claimed the



treatment they have received so far had adversely affected their on-field performance.

Despite that, Iran remain in contention for knockouts from Group G after drawing 2-2 with New Zealand in their first game.

Uruguay vs Cabo Verde (03:30 AM)

Cape Verde, the team that frustrated Spain, will play "without fear" when they face Uruguay in Miami on Sunday, coach Pedro Leitao Brito, known as "Bubista", said.

"We didn't come just to take part. We want to play all the matches and to be able to show that we have the level to take on the best teams in the world," he added

"Our aim is to play all the games with courage, in an organised way but also without fear."

Voizinha, the 40-year-old Cape Verde goalkeeper who held Spain at bay with a remarkable performance, will be watched by his mother on Sunday after she arrived in Miami on a US visa.

Ana Candida Evora travelled from Cape Verde's capital Praia after her son tearfully told reporters she had not been granted a visa in time for the first game, but the US State Department has now provided her with the necessary document.

Meanwhile Latin American giants Uruguay would be looking to register their first full three points after their surprising draw against Saudi Arabia. The team studded with superstar footballers playing in Europe will not have anything less than a victory in their minds as they step foot on the pitch at the Miami Stadium.

## SPORTS



## Former Wimbledon Champion Vondrousova Gets 4-year Ban for Refusing Doping Test

Former Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova was suspended for four years on Monday for refusing an anti-doping test, the latest high-profile player sanctioned. The Czech cited "mental stress" and fear when the testing agent "rang my door late at night without properly identifying themselves." The International Tennis Integrity Agency made the announcement, saying Vondrousova refused a test in December and the maximum four-year ban for a routine first offense was reached by an independent tribunal following a hearing this month.

Vondrousova became Wimbledon's first unseeded female champion when she beat Ons Jabeur in the 2023 final. She reached a career-high ranking of No. 6 that year. She also reached the French Open final in 2019, losing to Ash Barty. The 26-year-old Vondrousova detailed her reaction to the missed test in an Instagram post in April. "It is very tough for me to talk about this, but I want to be transparent with you about my mental health," Vondrousova said. "The recent doping control incident happened because I reached a breaking point after months of physical and mental stress."

The ITIA said Vondrousova "did not submit a sample when notified by a Doping Control Officer during an out-of-competition test attempt at her home at around 8 p.m. on 3 December 2025" and that she instead signed a refusal form. "I have never doped. I have never had a positive test," Vondrousova wrote on Instagram after the ruling was released. "Throughout my entire career, I have undergone countless anti-doping controls and have always stepped onto the court with a clear conscience. Just three days after the incident that ultimately changed my life, I was tested again. The result was negative. Just like every test before it."

Vondrousova was repre-



sented by Los Angeles-based lawyer Howard Jacobs, a specialist in doping rules cases. Jacobs helped two-time Grand Slam singles champion Simona Halep win an appeal case in 2024 at the Court of Arbitration for Sport against a four-year ban for doping. Vondrousova becomes the latest high-profile tennis player involved in a doping case after Halep, Jannik Sinner and Iga Swiatek.

Sinner accepted a three-month ban in a settlement with the World Anti-Doping Agency at the start of last year and Swiatek accepted a one-month suspension at the end of 2024. Halep, Sinner and Swiatek each proved they were not entirely responsible for their positive tests. "We recognize this is a significant ban," ITIA CEO Karen Moorhouse said. "You can't have an anti-doping system where a player is in a better place by refusing to take a test than they would by taking a test and testing positive. So that feeds into the structure of the doping rules that provides for a starting point in the four-year ban for refusing to take a test." Vondrousova's ban expires June 21, 2030. She can appeal the decision to the Switzerland-based CAS. During a hearing before the tribunal, Vondrousova presented explanations that stress and poor mental health affected her decision making, in addition to concerns for her safety because she claimed the tester did not identify herself. The tribunal also took testimony from the doping control officer and concluded the evidence offered "no compelling justification" for the test refusal. Tennis players and other pro athletes are required by anti-doping rules to specify where they will be available for a one-hour period each day to give samples for testing. The female testing agent showed up at Vondrousova's home outside the assigned hour that the player signed up for that day — in a surprise test. Athletes are required to submit for testing if they are located for a surprise test outside their assigned hour. If they are not found when a tester shows up outside assigned hours, there is no sanction. "Unpredictable testing is an essential tool to protect clean sport," Moorhouse said. "The independent tribunal ultimately supported that principle. This case is an important reminder that players can be tested at any time, in any place, and that refusal comes with significant risk." The ITIA would not say if any inconsistencies were found in Vondrousova's previous anti-doping history. "We wouldn't disclose that," said Nicole Sapstead, the ITIA's senior director of anti-doping, adding: "We look at all things like that." Vondrousova, ranked 122, hasn't played since January. Wimbledon starts next week.

## FIFA World Cup 2026: Algeria Complete Comeback to Beat Jordan 2-1

\*\*FIFA World Cup 2026: Algeria Rally Past Jordan 2-1 to Keep Knockout Hopes Alive\*\*

Algeria produced a spirited second-half comeback to defeat Jordan 2-1 in a crucial FIFA World Cup 2026 Group J encounter.

Jordan stunned the Desert Foxes by taking the lead in the 36th minute through Nizar Alrashdan, carrying a 1-0 advantage into half-time. Algeria responded strongly after the break, increasing the pressure and eventually finding an equaliser through Nadhir Benbouali in the 69th minute.

With momentum



firmly on their side, Algeria completed the turnaround in the 82nd minute when Amine Gouiri found the back of the net to put his side ahead. Jordan pushed for a late response, but Algeria held firm through the closing stages to secure all three points.

The victory breathes new life into Algeria's World Cup campaign, while Jordan's hopes of progressing from Group J have suffered a major setback ahead of their final group-stage match. The result leaves Algeria firmly in the race for a place in the knockout rounds after recovering from an early deficit.

## Stallion Vijay Deverakonda Falls, Gets Up And Charges

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



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

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

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

## Manasa Varanasi Looks Like a Dream in Floral Elegance

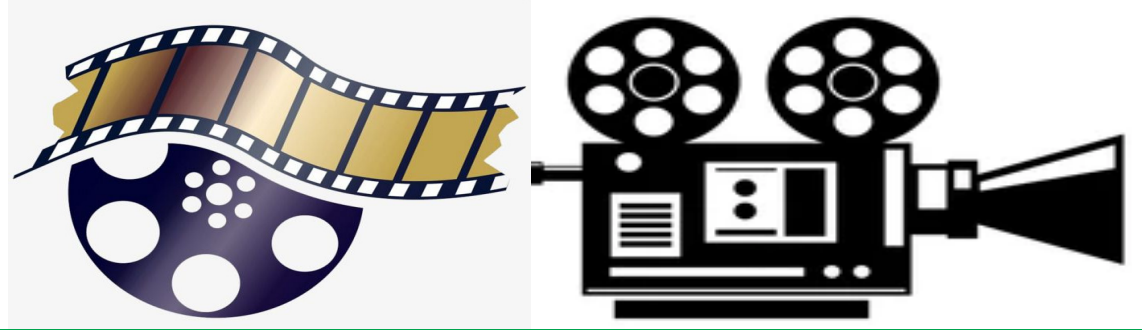
Manasa Varanasi continues to captivate audiences with her graceful presence and timeless beauty.

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

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

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

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



## CINEMA

## Kiran Abbavaram's 'Chennai Love Story' set for worldwide release on July 24

The makers of Chennai Love Story, starring Kiran Abbavaram and Sri Gouri Priya, have announced that the romantic entertainer will release worldwide on July 24. Directed by Ravi Namburii, the film explores themes of love, relationships and second chances.

Hyderabad: The makers of director Ravi Namburii's eagerly awaited Telugu romantic entertainer 'Chennai Love Story', featuring actors Kiran Abbavaram, and Sri Gouri Priya in the lead, have now announced that the film will hit screens on July 24 this year. History

Mass Movie Makers, the production house producing the film, took to its social media timelines to make the announcement. It wrote, "The wait is over. #ChennaiLoveStory – A timeless tale of love is ready to touch hearts across the world. Arriving in cinemas, Worldwide on July 24th. A Magical Love Story from the makers of #ColourPhoto & #Baby, with mesmerizing Music by Mani Sharma."

Sri Gouri Priya, for her part, took to Instagram to share the date announcement poster. She wrote, "July 24!!! Chennai Love Story releasing worldwide! Come fall in love!"

For the unaware, Sri Gouri Priya shot to fame with her performance in the Tamil romantic drama 'Lover', which went on to emerge not just a superhit film. Lover not only set the cash registers ringing at the box office, it was also hailed by the critics for its content that dealt with toxic relationships.

While Kiran Abbavaram plays a character called Steven Sankar in Chennai Love Story, Sri Gouri Priya plays a character called Nivi in the film.

A teaser released by the makers earlier shows Steven Sankar and Nivi having a conversation at a beach. Nivi asks Steven Sankar if he has watched the film 'Baby' and praises the way they have portrayed first love in it. She says that if one's first love fails, life turns into hell. She says an individual's first love is pure and that there is an element of truth in it, seeking to suggest that all other love affairs that happen after it aren't as honest or pure.

Steven Sankar responds to her argument saying, "If first love is the only one that is pure and honest, shouldn't all our love stories stop with our mothers. For isn't every individual's first love his/her mother?" Stating that there are several iconic love stories in history, Steven Sankar points out that for the protagonists of such stories, the love story for which they became famous wasn't their first love. He says that if one's first love fails for some reason, one's best love is about to start somewhere else.

Apart from directing the film, Ravi Namburii has also penned its screenplay. The film's story is by Sai Rajesh, who is also one of the producers of the film.



The film is being produced by SKN under the banners of Mass Movie Makers and Amrutha Productions. The film is being co-produced by Dheeraj Mogilineni.

On the technical front, the film has music by Mani Sharma. Cinematography for the film is by the very capable Viswas Daniel while lyrics for the songs in the film are by Anantha Sriram. Bhaskar Mudavat is in charge of art direction while Santhosh Naidu has been assigned the responsibility of editing the film. Costumes are by Devi Parchuri and the film is being co-directed by Lucky Bezawada

## ANIL'S MIDAS TOUCH: FOUR STARS NEED IT

Looking at this film's casting, one thing that comes to mind is that most of the star cast of the film needs immediate oxygen for their careers.

Director Anil Ravipudi is getting hailed as an instant hitter in Tollywood, as most of his films are ending up as blockbusters and making profits flow for the producers. Despite getting trolled for his cringe content, the filmmaker continues to make similar movies because they are doing well at the box office. After back-to-back heavy blockbusters like Sankranthi Vastunnam and Mana Shankara Varaprasad Garu, he's now teaming up with lucky charm Venkatesh and his debut film hero Kalyan Ram.

Looking at this film's casting, one thing that comes to mind is that most of the star cast of the film needs immediate oxygen for their careers. Means, they need a blockbuster badly, and at the right time they have got Anil Ravipudi's project; thank the stars. From Kalyan Ram to Keerthy Suresh to Kriti Shetty, the three want to hit



films badly, because their last bunch of films have failed massively at the box office. While Kalyan Ram keeps trying to do something new, they didn't click for him. Though Keerthy and Kriti upped the glam quotient, things are not working for them too. Apart from these three, there is another fourth person who needs a break from this project.

He is none other than GV Prakash, who is known for his soothing music. With the arrival of musical geniuses like Anirudh and Sai Abhyankar, GV is not getting the best films these days. And then, his music is also not working like before. At this juncture, if he proves big with Anil Ravipudi's movie, surely the absence of Devi Prasad, the busy schedules of Thaman, and the costly factor of Anirudh and Sai Abhyankar will make many projects land in GV's lap. We have to see if these four stars will get the desired breakthrough with Anil Ravipudi's Midas Touch.