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Govt Allocates Rs.20 Cr for Bonalu Celebrations in Hyderabad



Hyderabad: Backward Classes Welfare Minister Ponnababbar has asked officials to work in coordination across all departments to conduct the Bonalu celebrations even more grandly this year. He said the State government has allocated Rs.20 crore for the celebrations.

He said that after the formation of Telangana state, the state government is giving utmost priority to the Bonalu festival, which stands as a symbol of Telangana's culture, traditions, beliefs, and spiritual heritage.

He chaired a high-level review meeting with officials from various departments at the Dasarathi Auditorium in Dr. MCR HRD Institute in Jubilee Hills, regarding the arrangements for the Bonalu festivals to be conducted under the aegis of the Endowments Department in Hyderabad district, Ranga Reddy, and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts from July 16 to August 13.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that Bonalu is not just a religious festival, but a cultural symbol that reflects the soul of Telangana. Noting that lakhs of devotees will flock to Hyderabad from all corners of the state during the Ashadha month and visit various temples for darshan of Ammavaru, he directed Endowments Department officials to ensure darshan for the last devotee as well.

Pointing out that the Hyderabad administration has experience in successfully conducting major religious and cultural programs like Bonalu, Ganesh festival, Ramzan, and Moharram, he suggested conducting the Bonalu festivals with the same coordination, planning, and dedication.

Since Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Ministers, elected representatives, senior officials, and lakhs of devotees are likely to participate in various programs, he directed all departments to effectively carry out their responsibilities.

The Minister mentioned that the government is continuously increasing financial assistance to temples. In 2021, financial aid of Rs.5.80 crore was provided to 1,028 temples; in 2022 and 2023 to 1,073 temples each; in 2024 to 1,253 temples; and in 2025, record-level assistance to 3,026 temples. He instructed the administrations of Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts, along with Endowments Department officials, to ensure the identification process for eligible temples is transparent, and aid is provided considering devotee crowds, temple needs, and local conditions.

Emphasizing that utmost priority should be given to devotee facilities, the Minister directed that there should be comprehensive arrangements including continuous power supply at major temples, special electrical illuminations, floral decorations, drinking water facilities, distribution of prasadam, sanitation maintenance, queue lines, CCTV surveillance, medical camps, emergency response systems, and fire safety measures.

Noting that a large number of devotees are likely to utilize the free bus travel scheme for women, he suggested that TGSRTC should operate special bus services.

Since a large number of devotees are expected at Golconda, Balkampet, Ujjaini Mahakali, Sabzi Mandi, and Akkanna Madanna temples, he directed police, traffic, intelligence, GHMC, and other civic departments to prepare comprehensive plans for security, traffic control, and crowd management.

He suggested giving special priority to the safety of women devotees and women staff on duty, and taking measures through advance planning so that no inconvenience is caused to the general public.

The Minister directed the Information and Public Relations Department to conduct extensive publicity on the uniqueness of Bonalu festival, history, traditions, program schedule, traffic restrictions, and facilities provided by the government. He suggested achieving widespread publicity through print media on the speciality of Bonalu. He indicated that all officials should work together in coordination during the conduct of the festivals.

Mentioning the historical importance of Golconda Bonalu, the Minister suggested continuing free entry for devotees visiting Golconda fort during the Ashadha month through the Archaeology Department.

Revanth Reddy Calls Tungabhadra Meet Historic



Nalgonda: Agriculture minister Tummala Nageswara Rao on Thursday directed officials to ensure quality healthcare services in government hospitals that meet public satisfaction, during a surprise inspection at the Government General Hospital in Khammam.

He reviewed the ongoing construction of the Critical Care Unit and interacted with patients and attendants to assess medical facilities.

Stating that there was no scope for negligence in patient care, the minister sought details from medical officials on services, infrastructure, cleanliness and availability of medicines. He said providing better healthcare remained a primary objective of the state government.

He instructed officials to ensure timely treatment

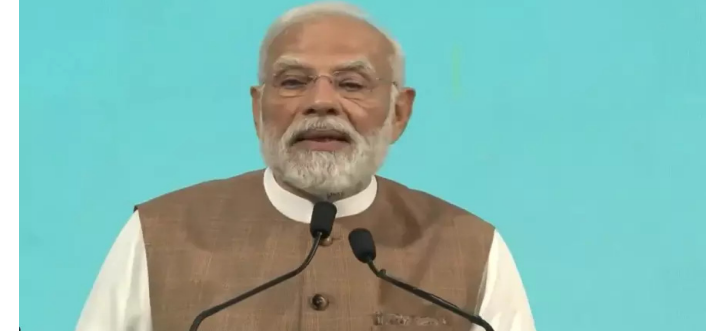
and avoid inconvenience to patients and attendants. Doctors were asked to communicate with patients to instil confidence.

The minister also directed authorities to expedite the Critical Care Unit works and strengthen sanitation measures, including preventing water stagnation and maintaining a litter-free environment. He asked officials to repair internal roads and keep them free of potholes.

He suggested planting colourful saplings along the main approach road to the hospital.

Rayala Nageswara Rao, Puvvalla Durga Prasad, hospital superintendent Dr Narender and health department officials were present.

Amazon's Record Investment Shows Growing Interest In India: Modi



New Delhi: Welcoming Amazon's record USD 48 billion investment, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that it showed a growing interest across the world to invest in India. The statement followed a high-level meeting in New Delhi between Prime Minister Modi and Amazon Chief Executive Officer Andy Jassy, where the technology giant announced it will allocate 48 billion dollars in capital to India between 2026 and 2030.

"A great meeting with Mr. Andy Jassy. I welcome Amazon's record \$48 billion investment in India. This will create new opportunities for our youth. At the same time, it shows the growing interest across the world to invest in India," the Prime Minister posted on X.

The PM's post was in reply to Amazon CEO Andy Jassy's post which confirmed that Amazon would invest 48 billion USD in India in the coming five years. "Really enjoyed my meeting with Prime Minister @narendramodi about what's ahead for Amazon in India. We've been serving customers, sellers, developers, startups, and enterprises in India for more than a decade and just getting started. Shared that we're investing \$48 billion over the coming five years, including \$21+ billion in AI and cloud infrastructure. By 2030, we plan to support 3.8 million jobs, enable \$80 billion in ecomm exports, and bring benefits of AI to 15 million small businesses and 4 million government school students. Excited about what's ahead. Still early days for what we can build."

"We've invested USD 40 billion in India since the year 2010. And then at the end of last year, we announced that we were going to invest another USD 35 billion in India between 2026 and 2030. And we just announced today that we're going to increase that amount from 35 billion to an incremental USD 48 billion of investment between 2026 and 2030," Jassy added. The primary driver for the increased financial commitment stems from expanding demands within the digital economy, prompting the company to scale up its resource allocation from an initial USD 35 billion targeted for the late-decade window. A specific segment of this capital deployment targets advanced digital systems. The updated projection introduces a specific USD 13 billion addition to accelerate cloud computing and artificial intelligence development, adjusting the total planned investment for cloud infrastructure to more than USD 21 billion over the five-year period. This capital deployment will expand Amazon Web Services data center capacities in Mumbai and Hyderabad.

"A fair amount of our investment is in our marketplace business, but the incremental USD 13 billion we announced today is focused on cloud and AI," Jassy said. "India is becoming such a significant cloud and AI hub around the world, and we have so much demand here that we're continuing to invest in the country on the cloud side and the AI side as well." "The investment trajectory also outlines long-term employment and economic metrics. The company intends to scale its employment ecosystem from the 2.8 million direct and indirect jobs supported in 2024 to approximately 3.8 million jobs by the conclusion of 2030. Additional targets established through 2030 involve enabling USD 80 billion in cumulative e-commerce exports, extending AI benefits to 15 million small businesses, and introducing AI education to 4 million government school students. "Prime Minister's vision over the last 12 years is just remarkable. And you can see it in the development of the country and how important the country is in almost every aspect around the world," Jassy said.

"And when I have the good fortune to spend time with him, he has so many ideas for how to continue to make the country better on every dimension. It's very noteworthy, it's very remarkable, and it's impressive. "Amazon's cumulative financial commitments in India between 2010 and 2030 will stand at more than USD 88 billion, balanced across e-commerce networks, quick commerce operations, and technology infrastructure.

Tummala Tells Khammam GGH To Improve Services

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The minister also directed authorities to expedite the Critical Care Unit works and strengthen sanitation measures, including preventing water stagnation and maintaining a litter-free environment. He asked officials to repair internal roads and keep them free of potholes.

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Naidu, DKS, Revanth Inaugurate Tungabhadra Gates

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Nizamabad Sets Benchmark in Praja Palana – Pragathi Pranalika Implementation :

State Education Secretary Dr. Yogita Rana Commends District Officials Innovative Welfare Initiatives and Public-Centric Governance Appreciated



Nizamabad June 25, 2026 : Nizamabad district has emerged as a model district in the implementation of the State Government's ambitious Praja Palana – Pragathi Pranalika programme, said State Education Secretary and District Special Officer Dr. Yogita Rana during a high-level review meeting held at the Integrated District Offices Complex on Thursday.

Reviewing the district's performance under the 99-day action plan, Dr. Yogita Rana appreciated the district administration for successfully executing government programmes with dedication while also introducing several innovative and humanitarian initiatives aimed at public welfare. She praised the coordinated efforts of all departments and directed officials to continue working with the same commitment and team spirit.

District Collector Ila Tripathi presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the activities undertaken across the district under the programme. Police Commissioner

Sai Chaitanya and senior officials from various departments were also present during the review meeting.

Dr. Yogita Rana particularly appreciated the district administration for organizing mass housewarming ceremonies in 3,304 Indiramma houses in a single day, conducting large-scale cleanliness drives and s h r a m d a a n programmes with public participation in all municipal divisions, and organizing health camps in welfare hostels and residential schools. She also lauded the Collector's humanitarian approach towards resolving issues faced by transgender persons in the district.

Stating that governance should always remain people-oriented, the Special Officer emphasized that officials must focus on identifying and resolving public grievances promptly. She instructed departments to create awareness among eligible beneficiaries so that government welfare schemes reach every deserving citizen without delay.

Recalling her earlier

tenure as District Collector of Nizamabad, Dr. Yogita Rana said the district had earned national recognition in programmes like MGNREGS, e-NAM, and Haritha Haram due to the efficient functioning of the district machinery. She expressed confidence that the officials would continue to uphold the same reputation through dedicated service.

Highlighting the State Government's priorities, she said special focus is being given to education, healthcare, sanitation, infrastructure, and women empowerment. Through initiatives such as Indira Mahila Shakti canteens, solar power

projects, petrol bunks, and rental bus services, the government is supporting women economically and socially.

Speaking about the education sector, Dr. Yogita Rana stated that the government is committed to providing international-standard education in government institutions. Young India Integrated Residential Schools and Telangana Public Schools are being established with modern facilities, and construction works are already underway in Armoor, Bodhan, and Banswada constituencies.

She further informed that breakfast and mid-day meal schemes would soon be extended to all government schools and colleges in phases. Free textbooks, notebooks, uniforms, and other educational facilities are also being provided to students. She urged teachers and officials to encourage more admissions in government schools by building confidence among parents regarding the quality of education.

District Collector Ila

Tripathi, while addressing the meeting, explained that several key programmes were implemented successfully in the district between March 6 and June 12. She said pending files across departments were cleared under administrative reforms, road safety committees were formed in villages under the "Arrive Alive" initiative, and the district achieved remarkable progress in paddy procurement and farmer payments.

The Collector also highlighted the issuance of new ration cards, conduct of mega job fairs for unemployed youth, and successful implementation of the Badi Bata campaign to increase student enrolment in government schools.

Additional Collectors Kiran Kumar and Bhujang Rao, Sub-Collector Abhigyan Malviya, DFO Siddharth Vikram Singh, Additional DCP Shubham Nagrale, Municipal Commissioner Dilip Kumar, RDOs, trainee officers, and officials from various departments attended the review meeting.

Quality Development Plans Must Be Prepared Starting at the Village Level – Collector Ankith



Bhadradri Kothagudem | June 25: District Collector Ankith directed officials to prepare quality Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) by identifying local needs, infrastructure requirements, and key issues at the village level. He emphasized that officials from all departments should work in coordination to ensure the overall development of villages.

A one-day orientation program on Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP) was conducted on Thursday at the IDOC Conference Hall under the chairmanship of Collector Ankith. The program was attended by District Rural Development Officer Vidyachandana, Zilla Parishad Chief Executive Officer Nagalakshmi, and DRO Padmavathi. MPPDOs, MPOs, Panchayat Secretaries, and Computer Operators from across the district participated in the training.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector stressed the importance of identifying public needs and local issues through Gram Sabhas and preparing action plans based on priority. He stated that people's participation is essential for the successful development of villages.

During the training session, participants were given detailed guidance on preparing effective development plans by integrating Panchayat Advanced Indicators (PAI) with the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP). Officials also explained the guidelines of the 16th Finance Commission, PESA Gram Panchayats, Sabhasar, Nirnay App, and the use of the e-Gram Swaraj Portal.

The Collector instructed officials to focus on sanitation, drinking water supply, infrastructure development, effective implementation of government welfare schemes, and tax collection in villages. He urged Panchayats to strive for excellence and earn recognition at both the state and national levels.

District Panchayat Officer Vidyachandana, Panchayat Secretary M. Sai, MPDO Sankeerth, MPO Veerareddy, and MPO Sandhya served as resource persons and provided comprehensive training on various topics.

The orientation program was attended by district officials, DLPOS of Kothagudem and Bhadrachalam divisions, MPDOs, MPOs, Panchayat Secretaries, Computer Operators, and other staff members from all mandals across the district.

Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan – Viksit Bharat Ki Pehchan

(Stay Away from Addiction... Pathway to Progress) District Collector Bhavesh Mishra

Nirmal District Staff Reporter : District Collector Bhavesh Mishra called upon the youth to stay away from intoxicating substances and strive towards achieving higher goals in life. He participated as the chief guest in the "Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan – Viksit Bharat Ki Pehchan" program organized on Thursday at Deeksha Junior College as part of the Mission Parivartan initiative and addressed the students.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector expressed concern over the increasing tendency among youth to fall prey to substance abuse due to the pressures of modern lifestyle and stress. He stated that becoming addicted to intoxicants is equivalent to ruining one's life and advised young people to develop strong determination to stay away from such habits.

He urged students not to become addicted to mobile phones and social media, but instead to devote their valuable time to reading books. He encouraged them to draw inspiration from the biographies of great scientists and social reformers.

The Collector observed that poverty, academic pressure, and unnecessary comparisons with others often lead young people into mental distress and wrong paths. He advised students to remain focused on their studies and engage themselves in positive and productive activities to avoid negative thoughts.

During the program, he interacted with the students, answered their questions, and addressed their concerns. Later, he administered a pledge to all participants for a Nasha Mukta Bharat (Drug-Free India).

The program was attended by District Welfare Officer Vinutha, District Intermediate Education Officer Parashuram, Psychiatrist Dr. Alladi Suresh, College Principal Venkata Reddy, faculty members, and students.



Bhadrachalam ITDA PO Rahul Receives National Award as Best Project Officer in India

Bhadrachalam | June 25: Bhadrachalam ITDA has earned a rare national recognition. Rahul, the Project Officer of ITDA Bhadrachalam, who has rendered outstanding services for the development of tribal communities, has been selected as the Best Project Officer in India.

At a prestigious ceremony held on Wednesday at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi, Rahul received the award along with a cash prize of ₹5 lakh from NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Ashok Kumar and Ministry of Tribal Affairs Secretary Ranjan Chopra.

The award was conferred in recognition of Rahul's innovative initiatives and dedicated efforts in tribal welfare, education, healthcare, and infrastructure development. Under his leadership, ITDA Bhadrachalam has successfully implemented several developmental programs, earning recognition at the national level.

The achievement has been widely appreciated by tribal communities, government officials, and public representa-



tives, who have extended their congratulations to Rahul. Many have described the award as a matter of pride not only for ITDA Bhadrachalam but also for the entire state of Telangana.

"National recognition for dedicated service to tribal development – A proud moment for ITDA Bhadrachalam!"

NAME OF CHANGE

I, PANCHUMURTHI KOTESHWAR RAO S/o PANCHUMURTHI KRISHNA RAO, R/o 13-198/16/KLR/2/592, Medchal, Telangana have changed my name from PANCHUMARTHU KOTESHWAR and also my father name PANCHUMARTHU KRISHNA, R/o 5-31/5 TIRUMALAPUR, GUNTURPALLI CHITYAL WARANGALAP mentioned in my Passport vide No. F8429166, Hence my name changed as PANCHUMURTHI KOTESHWAR RAO and also my father name changed as PANCHUMURTHI KRISHNA RAO, Address also changed as R/o 13-198/16/KLR/2/592, Medchal, Telangana.

Panchumurthi Koteswar Rao Mobile No.9000434424

KMC SPEEDS UP DRAIN DESILTING WORKS

Kakinada: The Kakinada Municipal Corporation (KMC) has accelerated desilting of major drains across the city ahead of the monsoon following instructions from Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. KMC has identified 23 major drains covering nearly 69 km for desilting to ensure the free flow of rainwater and prevent waterlogging. The works, estimated to cost ₹1.90 crore, have been awarded to five contractors, who are deploying JCBs and tractors.

According to officials, the drive gained momentum after Jana Sena leader Nandamuri Veera Venkata Vinod raised the issue of poor drainage during the Deputy Chief Minister's recent interaction with the public in Kakinada.

KMC superintending engineer P. Venkata Rao told Deccan Chronicle that the desilting programme had begun about a month ago and was expedited following the Deputy Chief Minister's visit. He said workers were removing silt, plastic waste and other debris clogging the drains to ensure smooth flow of water during the rainy season. He said the expenditure would be met from the KMC's general funds and stressed that quality standards would be maintained throughout the works.

DISHA Committee member N. V. V. Vinod said the civic authorities had responded promptly to the grievance he had raised with the Deputy Chief Minister. He said desilting had begun along the Main Road, with drain slabs being removed to facilitate cleaning and prevent water stagnation. He added that local residents and traders had welcomed the initiative and urged the corporation to continue regular maintenance to keep the Smart City clean.



Private -to-government School Shift by Students Crosses 1 Lakh in AP



Vijayawada: Education minister Nara Lokesh has directed officials to place special emphasis on student attendance and learning outcomes in government schools during this academic year, following a significant rise in enrolments from private institutions.

While reviewing the performance of the school education sector with officials on Thursday, the minister heard that more than 1.06 lakh students had newly enrolled in government schools this year after shifting from private schools. Officials attributed the increase to a series of reforms undertaken in the education sector.

During the meeting, officials reported that as many as 3,515 schools, out of the 7,620 upper primary schools in the state -- accounting for 46.13 per cent -- had achieved enrolments up to their maximum capacity. The minister noted that the growing preference for government schools reflected the positive impact of the state government's educational reforms.

Officials also stated that 159 schools have been transformed into model primary schools this year, improving infrastructure and academic standards.

The issue of high fees being charged by private schools also came up for discussion. Lokesh directed officials to study regulatory mechanisms adopted by other states for controlling excessive school fees and examine their suitability for implementation in Andhra Pradesh.

In a major technology-driven initiative, officials said a pre-pilot Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tutor programme would be launched from September 5 under Phase-I in 175 LEAP schools. The project will provide AI-based support in Mathematics and Science for students of Classes IX and X.

The minister suggested that the AI Tutor system be integrated with classroom clicker devices in future to improve student engagement and assessment.

The review meeting also discussed the regularisation of IERP posts and the recruitment of guest lecturers for High School Plus institutions.

Separately, officials briefed the minister on plans to establish a state-level Central Library in Amaravati, a District Central Library in Visakhapatnam and a Skill Excellence Centre in Mangalagiri.

Lokesh reviewed the proposed building designs and offered suggestions. Officials said arrangements were under way to lay the foundation for the State Central Library in Amaravati next month.

Education special chief secretary (in-charge) Syamala Rao, school education director Tameem Ansariah and education infrastructure corporation MD Deeven Reddy, among others, attended the meeting.

MSME Utsav To Connect Youth With Industry

Vijayawada: The NTR district administration will organise MSME Utsav-2026 at the RTIH campus in Enikepadu on June 27 to mark International MSME Day and promote entrepreneurship among young people. Addressing a press conference on Thursday, NTR district collector Dr G. Lakshmisha said the event would bring together entrepreneurs, industry experts, start-up enthusiasts and aspiring business owners on a common platform to exchange ideas and explore business opportunities.

The collector said Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) play a vital role in generating employment, promoting self-employment and driving industrial growth through the effective use of local resources and skills.

He said aspiring entrepreneurs would showcase their products and business ideas through exhibition stalls and interact with industry leaders, investors and mentors. The event would provide guidance to young innovators to help convert their ideas into successful enterprises. Dr Lakshmisha urged the youth to make use of the opportunity to explore entrepreneurship and establish their own businesses.

He also highlighted the district's 'One Family-One Entrepreneur' initiative and said MSME parks were being developed in every Assembly constituency to strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem. RTIH-Vijayawada CEO G. Krishnan, AP MSME industries association president D. Durgaprasad, JRD Tata ELA chairman T. Vinod Babu, Prakasa Spectro Cast Pvt. Ltd. managing director T. Parthasarathi and district industries officer M. Madhu were present.



Protecting Farmers' Interests Key to Tungabhadra Dam Restoration: Chandrababu Naidu

Koppal: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday highlighted the importance of inter-state river linking and cooperative water management while addressing a public meeting following the inauguration of 33 newly restored spillway gates at the Tungabhadra Dam at Hosapete in Vijayanagara district. "We have successfully revived the Tungabhadra Dam and safeguarded the interests of lakhs of farmers who depend on its waters," he said.

Naidu praised Union Jal Shakti Minister C. R. Patil for bringing together the governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana to discuss water-sharing and irrigation issues, describing the meeting as a historic step for the region.

"The Tungabhadra Dam plays a crucial role in supplying irrigation water to farmers and drinking



water to people across Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana," Naidu said. Referring to the cultural significance of the river, he noted that there is a popular saying comparing the sanctity of the Tungabhadra's waters to that of the Ganga.

Recalling the damage caused when the dam's 19th gate was washed

away in 2024, the Chief Minister said a stop-lock gate was installed with the assistance of expert Kannayya Naidu to prevent water wastage. He added that the restoration of all 33 crest gates has now been completed through the joint efforts of the Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka governments.

Emphasizing the need for greater water connec-

tivity, Naidu said India could become "unstoppable" if major river systems such as the Ganga and Cauvery were linked. He cited the Ken-Betwa river-linking project in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh as an example of successful inter-basin water transfer.

The Chief Minister advocated linking the Godavari and Cauvery riv-

ers, saying such a project would benefit Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana and Tamil Nadu by ensuring better utilization of available water resources. He said the meeting convened by Union Minister C.R. Patil and attended by the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana focused on protecting the interests of farmers across the region.

AP To Develop 16 De-Addiction Centres at Rs 9.86 Crore Expense

Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh government would develop 16 de-addiction centres at a cost of Rs 9.86 crore and develop the centres in Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam and Kadapa as 'centres of excellence'.

Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav said this here on Thursday to mark the International Day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

He said the state would develop de-addiction centres located in Kurnool, Tirupati, Guntur, Srikakulam, Nandyal, East Godavari, Prakasam,



Anakapalli, West Godavari, Palnadu, Chittoor, Sri Satya Sai, Bapatla, Visakhapatnam and NTR Kadapa to provide medical treatment and provide counselling.

Health joint secretary Ronanki Gopalakrishna said that out of Rs 9.86 crore, some Rs 8 crore would be used for furniture and meeting other requirements in the de-addiction centres. With the remaining amount, a biofeedback machine and other medical equipment would be installed.

The biofeedback machine would be used to address mental tension and depression among the addicts. Such cases/addicts would be referred to the centres of excellence having more amenities.

Director of medical education A. Vishnuvardhan said that after the alliance government assumed power in the state, it majorly curbed the ganja sale. "In 2025-26, some 44,860 patients got medical treatment free of cost in the out-patient ward while 3,255 patients took treatment through the in-patient ward.

In 2026-27, from April to May, 12,161 persons got treatment through the in-patient ward and 1,018 through the out-patient ward. In Kurnool district, the highest number of 5,222 patients took the treatment last year.

Satya Kumar Yadav said that at present, 25 de-addiction centres were functioning in the state, where doctors provided treatment to those addicted to ganja, opium, sedative injection etc while trained professionals were providing psychological counselling.

He said the current need is to fill up 346 posts in these de-addiction centres. More than 200 posts were lying vacant since 2024 and the present government started filling them up. So far, 57 posts were filled and notification issued for 123 posts. These and an additional 57 posts would be filled up soon.

AP: Minister Anitha Urges Students To Lead Anti-Drug Drive



Vijayawada: Home and disaster management minister Vangalapudi Anitha on Thursday urged students to become ambassadors of the anti-drug movement, saying a drug-free Andhra Pradesh can be achieved only through collective public participation. Addressing an awareness seminar on 'Eradication of Drugs and Youth Empowerment' at VIT-AP University on the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the minister said drug abuse posed a serious threat to the nation's future by destroying the health, potential and aspirations of young people. The programme was organised by the Elite Anti-Narcotics Group for Law Enforcement (EAGLE).

Anita said the state government was pursuing a zero-tolerance policy against narcotics under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan. She described Andhra Pradesh's achievement of zero ganja cultivation as a historic milestone. She said illegal ganja cultivation spread across nearly 25,000 acres in the Agency and Andhra-Odisha Border (AOB) regions over the past three decades had been eradicated through sustained enforcement and coordinated action. She commended the Andhra Pradesh Police and EAGLE teams for dismantling drug trafficking networks, noting that their efforts had also been recognised in the State Assembly.

EAGLE chief Aake Ravikrishna said continuous surveillance, intelligence-based operations and public participation had made zero ganja cultivation possible. He said the mission aimed not only to enforce the law but also to protect young people from drug abuse. VIT-AP University vice-chancellor P. Arulmozhivarman said educational institutions had a responsibility to shape responsible citizens. Guntur Superintendent of Police Vakul Jindal stressed that the fight against drugs required the collective efforts of educational institutions, parents, students and society. EAGLE Cell SP Nagesh Babu administered an anti-drug pledge to participants. EAGLE Cell SP Swaroop Rani, Registrar Jagadish Chandra, Deputy Director of Student Welfare Khadeer Pasha, faculty members and students attended the programme.

Friday 26, June, 2026

STUDENT SUICIDES, SYSTEMIC TRAGEDIES

Attributing student suicides on campuses solely to mental health problems is to ignore the larger structural issues responsible for the alarming trend. These tragedies should not be viewed in isolation as problems of individuals but rather as the culmination of institutional, social, and cultural breakdown. Every death is a cry in the wilderness; a silent scream that should haunt us collectively as a nation. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, over 13,000 student suicides are reported every year across the country. The Supreme Court-appointed National Task Force (NTF) on student suicides, headed by former judge Justice S Ravindra Bhat, has rightly concluded that there is now an urgent need to move beyond reactive measures towards structural, preventive, and sustainable solutions. Despite years of reports, University Grants Commission (UGC) regulations, and government strategies, India has no direct statutory framework for suicide prevention in higher education. The most glaring gap is the complete absence of any direct statutory, regulatory or institutional framework to address and prevent suicides. Most interventions so far have been generic and reactive. The NTF surveyed over 2.43 lakh students and 2,119 higher educational institutions across the country, but despite several deadline extensions, only 3.5% of the institutes submitted their responses to the survey. This shows their callousness towards the problem.

Last year, the apex court held that mental well-being is inseparable from the right to life under Article 21 and noted that there was a legislative and regulatory vacuum in the country with respect to a unified, enforceable framework for suicide prevention. An exacting examination system, parental expectations, an individual's limitations, and the debilitating fear of failure can take a heavy toll on young minds. What is more appalling is that student suicides are reduced to cold statistics, and society is becoming increasingly numb to these tragedies. The entire education ecosystem that puts a premium on success and shuts the doors on alternative career avenues is to blame for the sorry state of affairs. A mismatch between rising aspirations and shrinking opportunities has created enormous stress — a pressure-cooker kind of situation for the youth. This must be treated as a public health crisis requiring urgent attention. Parents, too, must candidly discuss career choices and the aptitude of their children and not push them into difficult corners. The government needs to enact a robust oversight mechanism and invest in creating some support structures to lessen anxiety among students. The Task Force identified "extensive delays, inconsistencies and inequities in scholarship disbursement" as a primary factor, compounding stress for students from poorer backgrounds, alongside steep fee hikes across public universities that have repeatedly pushed students to desperation. Institutional failures include extremely rigid attendance policies, poorly planned academic curricula, faculty shortages, and excessive reliance on inexperienced guest faculty.

No US Deal Sans Benefits: Piyush Goyal

New Delhi: India and the United States reviewed the progress of the interim bilateral trade agreement (BTA) during a two-day ministerial meeting, discussing issues, including market access, digital trade and non-tariff barriers. While the two countries appear closer than ever to sealing the first phase of the trade deal, neither side gave any indication whether all differences have been resolved ahead of a key tariff deadline next month.

Multiple rounds of discussions were held on both Tuesday and Wednesday between commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal and US trade representative Jamieson Greer. Both India and the US aim to conclude the trade pact before the expiry of the 10 per cent temporary tariffs imposed by the US on all its trading partners on February 24. The tariffs will expire on July 24.

The commerce ministry, in an official statement, said that "recognising the growing significance of the India-US economic partnership amid evolving global trade dynamics, both sides reiterated their shared goal of expanding bilateral trade, fostering innovation, and building resilient, trusted supply chains".

"The discussions focused on pathways to conclude an interim agreement as an important milestone towards a comprehensive BTA. The two leaders conducted a comprehensive review of core elements, including enhanced market access, digital trade, supply chain resilience, reduction of non-tariff barriers, and expanded cooperation in strategic sectors," the ministry said.

As per the ministry, the two sides expressed confidence that ongoing negotiations will further deepen economic ties and strengthen the com-



prehensive global strategic partnership between India and the US. "Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to an agreement that is balanced, commercially meaningful, and delivers tangible benefits for businesses, farmers, workers, and consumers in both countries," the ministry said.

Soon after the meeting, Mr Goyal, in a post on X, said that he reviewed the progress of the ongoing India-US trade discussions and explored avenues to further deepen our economic partnership. "I appreciate Mr Greer's leadership and the sustained efforts of both teams in advancing our discussions in a constructive and forward-looking manner," he said.

Amidst the bilateral trade talks, a senior US official also said that the United States and India are "very, very close" to concluding a historic bilateral trade deal that will open the 1.4 billion-strong Indian markets to American goods on reciprocal and mutually beneficial terms. "We're not measuring the relationship by meeting. We're measuring it by results..." US deputy assistant secretary of state Bethany Poulos Morrison said in a social media post.

Defected MLAs asked to file counter affidavits in High Court

The Telangana High Court on Thursday directed Congress MLAs Danam Nagender and Bandla Krishna Mohan Reddy to file their counters in petitions challenging the Speaker's refusal to disqualify defected legislators. Geographic Reference

Hyderabad: Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin of the Telangana High Court on Thursday directed MLAs Danam Nagender and Bandla Krishna Mohan Reddy to file their counters in the batch of petitions challenging the Assembly Speaker's decision rejecting disqualification proceedings against MLAs accused of defecting from the BRS to the ruling Congress party.

The Division Bench was hearing a batch of writ petitions filed by BRS legislators questioning the orders of Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, who had held that there was insufficient material to conclude that the ten legislators had incurred disqualification under the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution. Politics

The petitioners contended that despite ample material being placed before the Speaker to establish defection, no action had been taken against the legislators who had allegedly switched allegiance after



being elected on BRS tickets in the 2023 Assembly elections.

The present batch of petitions also includes a plea filed by BJP Legislature Party leader Aleti Maheshwar Reddy seeking disqualification of Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender on the grounds of defection.

During the hearing, the Bench took note of the submissions and directed respondents Danam Nagender and Bandla Krishna Mohan Reddy to place their stand on record by filing counters. The matter was adjourned to July 22 for further hearing.

Form Shortage Hits SIR in City

Hyderabad: The distribution of enumeration forms for the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral roll was stalled in four Assembly constituencies in Hyderabad on the first day owing to non-availability of the forms in English. Elsewhere in the state, booth level officers distributed close to nine lakh forms.

In the city, voters in Bahadurpura, Yakutpura, Musheerabad and Jubilee Hills Assembly segments failed to receive the forms, while in Chandrayangutta the work began at 4 pm. Acknowledging the delay, officials said that voters in these constituencies would receive the forms from Friday.

"The only two constituencies which are yet to receive forms at the ERO level are Bahadurpura and Yakutpura because of a printing delay. At the Musheerabad and Jubilee Hills constituencies, officials received the forms and the BLOs may distribute from Friday," an official told Deccan Chronicle.

A BLO from Bahadurpura constituency said that he waited all day for the forms to arrive at the GHMC deputy commissioner's office. "As they did not arrive till the evening we returned home after spending all day attending meetings related to SIR," said P. Arjun, a BLO of Doodhbowli.

Information received from the districts indicated that the enumeration phase began across all the Assembly constituencies, with the forms being distributed in Telugu. A small number of BLOs could not reach voters in a few booths, sources said.

Those who felt filling physical forms was a needless exercise found the option of filling the enumeration form online handy. "If your name appears in 2002 SIR list, your mobile number is registered with ECI and if your name is on the voter ID and matches with your name on Aadhaar card, online mapping can be done," said Farooq Hussain, a former Saudi expat who uploaded his details online on ECI website on Thursday.

There were complaints of mismatch of BLO numbers uploaded on the website <https://ceotelangana.nic.in/>. "Our party activists have complained to us about the BLO mobile number mismatch in Kukatpally and in some other areas. When the number was called on the website, the individual denied that he was a BLO," alleged P. Rajesh Kumar, chairman of the state Congress' Election Commission Coordination Committee. In most of the places, booth level agents (BLAs) of various political parties began active coordination with the BLOs.

Despite the election authorities remaining confident that the distribution of forms would be completed by July 1, Friday's holiday for the 10th Muharram (Youm-e-Ashura) and the National Pulse Polio immunisation drive between June 28 and July 1 are likely to delay the process. Close to 40,000 ASHA and Anganwadi workers have been engaged as BLOs, are also expected to work for the Pulse Polio drive.

An ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) worker said they had decided to avoid SIR work until the Pulse Polio drive is completed. "Since there are clear directions, we have decided to place complete focus on Pulse Polio. ASHA and Anganwadi workers are already made to take up laborious duties particularly in populated districts like Hyderabad. How can they be expected to work for both the SIR and Pulse Polio drives?" asked K. Revathi, ASHA Workers Union, general secretary (Medchal).

CM Revanth Asks Staff To Work Longer

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday called upon government employees to work for an additional hour every day to help strengthen finances, increase revenue generation and improve the delivery of public services. He urged employees and officials to focus on curbing illegal activities, plugging revenue leakages, identifying tax evaders and ensuring strict collection of tax arrears so that the state could mobilise more resources for welfare of employees and people.

Addressing a meeting after the signing of memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with 16 banks for providing accident insurance coverage of up to ₹1.5 crore to government employees, contract workers and outsourcing staff, the Chief Minister said the success of every welfare scheme depended on the dedication and efficiency of government employees. He said additional revenue generated through better enforcement and administrative efficiency would be utilised for both employee welfare and public welfare.

Revanth Reddy noted that the accident insurance initiative was first introduced in Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), where the families of 45 workers who died in



accidents were provided insurance assistance of ₹1 crore each, he said the government had decided to extend the benefit. The Chief Minister appealed to employees to directly bring their grievances and demands to his attention, assuring them that the government was ready to resolve issues through dialogue. He said the Congress government viewed employees with respect and recognised their role in ensuring welfare benefits reached people at the grassroots level.

Criticising the previous BRS government, Revanth Reddy said that Telangana had been burdened with debts of ₹8.11 lakh crore during the past decade, pushing the state into severe financial distress. He said the previous government had borrowed heavily at interest rates exceeding 11 per cent and had disrupted administrative systems, resulting in delayed salary payments and instalment-based disbursements to employees. He said the Congress government had worked with the Centre to reduce borrowing costs to around 7.5 per cent and had spent nearly ₹2 lakh crore on debt servicing during the 30 months since assuming office.

The Chief Minister said the government had restored financial

discipline and ensured that salaries were credited to employees on the first day of every month from January 1, 2024, despite fiscal challenges. He added that nearly ₹2,000 crore was being released every month towards retirement benefits and other pending employee dues, fulfilling promises made to the workforce in a phased manner. The Chief Minister also criticised the Opposition for obstructing major development projects such as the Musi River rejuvenation programme, Metro Rail expansion and the Regional Ring Road. Accusing BRS leader K. Chandrashekar Rao, K.T. Rama Rao and T. Harish Rao of acting against public interests, he alleged that the Opposition was attempting to stall initiatives designed to benefit the people. Stating that he had not taken a single day of leave in the last 30 months, Revanth Reddy said every visit to Delhi was aimed at safeguarding Telangana's interests and securing support for the state's growth agenda. He maintained that all major plans conceived by the government were gradually taking shape and reiterated that his sole objective was to resolve public issues, accelerate development and make Telangana the leading state in the country.

Officers' Protest in Front of GM Office Demand for Wage Revision and Payment of PRP Arrears

Manuguru | June 25: Demanding the immediate resolution of their long-pending issues, officials under the banner of the Coal Mines Officers Association of India (CMOAI), Manuguru Area, staged a protest in front of the GM Office on Thursday. Wearing black badges and carrying placards, the officers expressed their dissatisfaction and pressed for their demands.



ment to rectify the losses incurred due to the 2017 wage revision and implement the pay upgrade system that is currently being followed in Coal India.

The leaders stated that although officers play a crucial role in the growth and development of the organization, their legitimate concerns continue to be ignored. They expressed disappointment over the delay in resolving officers' issues and warned that the agitation would continue in various forms until justice is done.

The protesters appealed to the Singareni management to address their genuine demands without further delay. The protest was attended by CMOAI leaders V. Madan Naik, R. Madhubabu, P. Ramesh, Dr. Suresh, and several senior officers.

"When will the grievances of officers be addressed? Growing pressure mounts on Singareni management over PRP arrears and wage revision demands."

Speaking on the occasion, CMOAI leaders demanded the immediate payment of Performance Related Pay (PRP) arrears that have been pending for the last two years. They also urged the Singareni manage-

GITAM Alumna Sets Record with 30 Guinness World Records

SANGAREDDY Correspondent : June 25, 2026: GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, has celebrated a remarkable achievement by its School of Technology alumna, Shivali Srivastava (2016-2020 batch), who has earned a total of 30 Guinness World Records, creating a unique milestone in the country.

Shivali, along with her parents Kavita Srivastava and Anil Srivastava, recently received recognition for seven additional Guinness World Records, taking their family's total tally to an unprecedented 30 titles. With this accomplishment, Shivali has emerged as the individual holding the highest number of Guinness World Records in India.

Known for her exceptional skills in origami and paper art, Shivali has transformed her passion into a journey of creativity, dedication, and perseverance. Working alongside her parents, she has crafted lakhs of intricate paper creations, earning international acclaim for their artistic excellence.

University officials praised Shivali's achievement, describing it as an inspiring example of innovation, hard work, and family collabo-



ration. The GITAM community extended its heartfelt congratulations to Shivali and her family for bringing global recognition to India through their outstanding contributions to art and creativity.

The university expressed pride in her success and wished her continued achievements in the years ahead.

August Deadline Set: Collectors Intensify Focus on Yathalakunta Tunnel Works

Sathupalli | June 25: The construction of the crucial Yathalakunta Tunnel, a key infrastructure project for the united Khammam region, has come under close review by district authorities. Bhadradi Kothagudem District Collector Ankith and Khammam District Collector Divakar T.S. jointly inspected the ongoing tunnel construction works at Yathalakunta in Sathupalli Mandal on Thursday and conducted a comprehensive review of the project's progress.

During the visit, the Collectors examined the quality of work, safety standards, technical specifications, pending tasks, and challenges faced during construction. After assessing the pace of execution, they directed officials to ensure the tunnel project is completed by August as per the target schedule.

Speaking on the occasion, Collector Ankith emphasized



that no compromise should be made on quality in a project that will provide long-term benefits to the public. He instructed officials to strictly adhere to engineering standards and technical guidelines. Keeping the monsoon season in mind, he also directed authorities to take preventive measures to ensure uninterrupted water flow and avoid any obstructions.

Khammam District Collector Divakar T.S. stated that all concerned departments should work in coordination to complete the project within the stipulated timeframe. He stressed the need for continuous monitoring of progress and immediate resolution of any issues that may arise during execution.

The Collectors further highlighted that safety measures must remain a top priority throughout the construction process. Officials were instructed to regularly monitor safety margins and ensure that the project delivers a durable and high-quality infrastructure asset for the public.

The inspection was attended by Irrigation Department Tunnel and Safety Secretary Colonel Parikshit Mehra, Chief Engineer S. Srinivas Reddy, Executive Engineer B. Krishna, along with officials from various departments and engineering staff.

The inspection has drawn considerable attention across the district, with the message being clear: "Yathalakunta Tunnel targets August completion, with speed, quality, and safety at the forefront of the administration's agenda."

Appointment of Nirmal District President – Madiga Hakkula Parirakshana Samithi (MHPS)

Nirmal District Staff Reporter : The Madiga Hakkula Parirakshana Samithi (MHPS) is striving to further strengthen its activities across the state. Recognizing your dedication, commitment, and efforts towards the protection of community rights and the empowerment of society, Aadharla Mahender is hereby officially appointed as the Nirmal District President of MHPS.

Through this appointment, you are expected to effectively implement the principles, objectives, and policies of the organization throughout Nirmal District, Telangana State, and contribute significantly



to the development and welfare of the Madiga community.

This appointment was made under the leadership of MHPS Founder President Maisa Upender.

We are confident that under your leadership, the organization will become stronger and play a vital role in securing the rights and welfare of the Madiga community.

The appointment program was attended by MHPS State Working President Sunke Prabhakar, Suryakanth, Bhoomesh, and other members.

Implement GO No. 6 for Gram Panchayat Workers: TUCI Demands

Wages, PF, ESI and Insurance Benefits Should Be Provided to Panchayat Workers



Bhadradi Kothagudem District | June 25: Trade Union Centre of India (TUCI) District President R. Madhusudhan Reddy has demanded that Gram Panchayat workers be paid category-wise wages as per GO No. 6 or GO No. 60. He also urged the government to provide PF, ESI, and insurance benefits to all Panchayat workers, increase workforce strength in proportion to the growing population, reduce workload, and ensure salaries are paid on the first day of every month.

On Thursday, a representation highlighting

these demands was submitted to Panchayat Raj Minister Seethakka. Responding to the delegation, the Minister reportedly assured that GO No. 6 would be implemented for Gram Panchayat workers and that efforts would be made to ensure they receive wages in accordance with the government order.

Speaking on the occasion, R. Madhusudhan Reddy stated that across Telangana, nearly 54,200 registered workers and around 6,000 unregistered workers are employed in 12,732 Gram Panchayats. He pointed out that the State Government had abolished 73 scheduled GOs, reorganized wage structures into three zones, and issued GO No. 6 through a Gazette notification announcing revised wages.

He further demanded that thousands of Gram Panchayat workers, who contribute significantly to maintaining cleanliness and enhancing the state's reputation, be recognized as contract and outsourcing workers and be made eligible for the enhanced wages under GO No. 6. He urged the government and the Minister to honor the assurance given and ensure immediate implementation of the revised wage structure.

Students Lead Awareness Rally for a Drug-Free Society

Nagarkurnool : Marking the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, an awareness rally and several awareness activities were organised at the Government Science Degree College in the district headquarters.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Madan Mohan administered a pledge to students, urging them to stay away from drugs and contribute towards building a healthy and responsible society. He highlighted the importance of awareness and collective responsibility in preventing substance abuse among youth.

Following the pledge, a large-scale awareness rally was con-



ducted to spread the message against drug abuse and illegal trafficking. Students participated enthusiastically and carried placards promoting a drug-free society.

AO Mohammed Ifran and faculty members Anjaiah, Vanitha, Umadevi, Kodandaramulu, Ramakrishna, and others took part in the programme and encouraged students to become ambassadors of awareness in their communities.

Restore Security to R.S. Praveen Kumar

** Withdrawal of security draws criticism*

** Contributions to education and social upliftment praised*

** Governments urged to restore protection immediately*

Karimnagar correpondent : Gadapa Raju Swaero has urged the Central and State governments to immediately restore security to Dr. R.S. Praveen Kumar, BRS State General Secretary, retired Additional DGP, and former Gurukul Secretary. He termed the withdrawal of security as unfortunate and said it reflects an unfair approach towards a leader who has dedicated his life to public service and national security. He praised Dr. Praveen Kumar for introducing significant reforms in the education sector and empowering students from disadvantaged communities through quality education. He recalled the achievements of Malavath Poorna, who climbed Mount Everest under his guidance, and many other students who excelled in IITs, medicine, engineering, and defence services. Gadapa Raju stated that Dr. Praveen



Kumar's services to society are invaluable and demanded that his security cover be reinstated without delay.

Make Chalo Hyderabad Programme a Grand Success

- Dharna at Indira Park for the resolution of Deputy Sarpanches' issues

- False reports on cheque power should be condemned

- Demand for Rs. 5,000 honorarium for Deputy Sarpanches

- Demand for Rs. 3,000 honorarium for Ward Members

- Call for large-scale participation of public representatives from Karimnagar district

Karimnagar: Telangana State Deputy Sarpanches Forum State Vice President Dussa Kumar has called upon everyone to make the "Chalo Hyderabad" programme, scheduled to be held tomorrow in Hyderabad, a grand success. He urged Deputy Sarpanches and Ward Members from Karimnagar district to participate in large numbers in the dharna programme being organised by the Forum at Indira Park in Hyderabad to seek solutions to the issues faced by Deputy Sarpanches.



Speaking on the occasion, Dussa Kumar said that the reports being circulated regarding the cheque power of Deputy Sarpanches should be strongly condemned. He demanded that the government provide adequate respect and powers to Deputy Sarpanches, who play a crucial role in the development of village panchayats. He also urged the government to take an immediate decision to provide a monthly honorarium of Rs. 5,000 to all Deputy Sarpanches in the state and Rs. 3,000 to Ward Members.

He stated that the dharna programme would serve as a platform to resolve the issues of Deputy Sarpanches and Ward Members and appealed to everyone from Karimnagar district to participate and make the programme successful. Dussa Kumar said that there is a need to unite and fight for the rights of public representatives.

Implement OPS in Telangana on the Lines of Andhra Pradesh

- Old Pension Scheme should be extended to employees notified before September 1, 2004

- TRTF welcomes the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet decision

- Equal justice sought for employees recruited under the united notification process

- Demand to extend OPS benefits to Telangana employees and teachers

- Government urged to ensure post-retirement financial security

Rangareddy District: The Rangareddy district unit of the Telangana Teachers Federation (TRTF) has welcomed the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet's decision to implement the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for employees and teachers whose recruitment notifications were issued before September 1, 2004, in accordance with the guidelines of the Central Government. On this occasion, the federation extended its congratulations to the employees and teachers in Andhra Pradesh who have benefited from this decision.

TRTF Rangareddy District President M. Ramesh Goud and General Secretary Jama Kushal stated that employees selected through the same recruitment notification and the same selection process in the erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh joined service in two different states following the bifurcation. They said that the Andhra Pradesh Government deserves appreciation for taking a humane and legally justified decision in line with the guidelines of the Central Government.

However, they expressed concern that thousands of employees and teachers serving in Telangana, who were recruited through the same process, are still deprived of the benefits of the Old Pension Scheme and continue to suffer losses. They emphasized that employees and teachers in Telangana who were appointed under the united recruitment notifications should also be given equal justice.

The TRTF leaders demanded that the Telangana Government immediately implement the Old Pension Scheme for employees and teachers whose recruitment notifications were issued before September 1, 2004, on the same lines as Andhra Pradesh. They stated that such a decision would provide financial security to employees after retirement. The TRTF Rangareddy district unit appealed to the Telangana Government to take a positive decision on this issue and fulfil the aspirations of employees and teachers across the state.



Fake Currency Racket Busted



The accused have been identified as Syed Rasool of Jagtial district, Bashipaka Anjaiah of Kadavendi village, Chinta Sudarshan of Devarupulla village, and Gopaldas Laxmaiah of Bandakothapalli village. Preliminary investigation revealed that the accused were using a printer and other materials to produce fake currency notes with the intention of circulating them in the market.

Police seized one printer, 150 A4 sheets printed on one side with images of ₹500 notes, counterfeit currency material worth approximately ₹3 lakh, eight bundles of black paper, a Maruti Suzuki Brezza car, cash amounting to ₹85,000, and four mobile phones from the possession of the accused. The seized items have been taken into custody as material evidence in the case.

Officials stated that counterfeiting currency is a grave economic offence that threatens the integrity of the nation's financial system and undermines public confidence. They reiterated that stringent action would be taken against individuals involved in the manufacture, possession, or circulation of fake currency.

Cases have been registered against the accused under relevant provisions of law, and they have been produced before the concerned authorities for further investigation. Police are also probing whether the accused have links with a larger network and the extent of counterfeit currency circulated by the group.

Police urged the public to remain vigilant and immediately report any suspicious currency transactions or illegal activities, emphasizing that stringent measures will continue to be taken to curb counterfeit currency rackets and safeguard the economic interests of the nation.

- **Secret Counterfeit Currency Operation Unearthed in Devarupulla**
- **Police Foil Conspiracy to Undermine the Nation's Financial System**
- **Gang Caught Red-Handed Printing Fake ₹500 Notes Using Printer Technology**
- **Counterfeit Currency, Cash, Printer and Vehicle Seized During Raid**
- **Stringent Legal Action Initiated Against the Accused**

Devarupulla Mandal Correspondent, June 24: In a major breakthrough, police busted a counterfeit currency racket operating clandestinely in Devarupulla village of Jangaon district and arrested four persons allegedly involved in printing fake currency notes. The operation was carried out following credible intelligence inputs regarding the illegal manufacture of counterfeit Indian currency.

Acting swiftly on the information, Devarupulla Sub-Inspector Srujan Kumar, along with his team, conducted a raid on Wednesday morning at the residence of Chinta Sudarshan in Devarupulla village. During the search, police found four individuals allegedly engaged in printing counterfeit ₹500 currency notes.

Health Cards Must Be Issued Immediately: TUTF Demands

- Criticises Government for Collecting EHS Contributions Without Issuing Guidelines

- Demands Immediate Resolution of PRC and DA Issues

- Seeks Teacher Transfers and Promotions with July 31 as Cut-off Date

- Urges Government to Withdraw School Merger Plan and Appoint One Teacher for Each Class

- Calls for Abolition of CPS and Restoration of OPS

Kalwakurthy: The Telangana United Teachers Federation (TUTF) State President Thumma Lachiram has demanded that the government immediately issue health cards to employees and teachers and ensure their implementation in all corporate hospitals. Addressing a meeting held at Kalwakurthy in Nagarkurnool district, he said that although 1.5 percent EHS contributions had been deducted from the salaries of employees and teachers for the month of May, the government had not yet issued the required guidelines, which was unfortunate. He expressed concern that employees and teachers were being forced to borrow money and bear medical expenses on their own due to the absence of proper healthcare support. He urged the government to issue health cards without further delay and make them valid in all corporate hospitals.

Lachiram alleged that instead of resolving major issues such as the Pay Revision Commission (PRC) and Dearness Allowance (DA), the government was introducing a health insurance policy that employees and teachers had not demanded, thereby diverting attention from their genuine concerns. He demanded that the long-pending PRC be announced by June 30 and that pending DA arrears be released immediately.



TUTF also demanded transparency in the teacher adjustment process and suggested that the student strength as on June 30 should be taken as the basis for adjustments. It urged the government to appoint one teacher in schools with one to nine students and ensure that schools with 60 students have five teachers, followed by one teacher for every additional 20 students. The federation further demanded teacher transfers and promotions by taking July 31 as the cut-off date, completion of pending spouse transfers, regular recruitment to MEO posts, withdrawal of the school merger proposal, abolition of the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS), restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), and immediate clearance of all pending bills to provide financial security to employees and teachers.

State General Secretary P. Raghunandan Reddy, Founder President D. Malla Reddy, Finance Secretary P. Mogulayya, Audit Committee Convener M. Gopal, and several district and state leaders participated in the meeting.

Training for Booth Agents on Electoral Roll Revision

- Special Awareness Programme Held at Revathi High School

- Representatives of All Political Parties Participate

- Detailed Explanation on Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls

- Master Trainers Clarify Doubts of Booth Agents

- Chairman Praveen Kumar Seeks Public Cooperation

Shankarpally, June 24: A special training and awareness programme was conducted on Wednesday at Revathi High School for Booth Level Agents and representatives of political parties to ensure the successful implementation of the Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls in Shankarpally Municipality. The programme, held at 3 p.m., witnessed the participation of Booth Agents, party presidents and secretaries representing all political parties in the municipal limits.

Addressing the gathering as the chief guest, Municipal Chairman Sata Praveen Kumar said that the electoral roll is one of the most important pillars of the democratic system. He stressed that every eligible citizen should be included in the voters' list and that the process of deleting ineligible entries must be carried out in a transparent manner. He urged political party representatives and Booth Level Agents to work in coordination throughout the revision process.

The Chairman appealed to the public to provide accurate information when Booth Level Officers conduct door-to-door surveys as part of the Special Summary Revision programme. He stated that everyone has a



responsibility to create awareness regarding voter registration, corrections, deletions and change of address in the electoral roll. He called upon all sections of society to cooperate in strengthening democracy.

On the occasion, Master Trainers Balaji and Ashirvadam gave a detailed presentation on the Special Summary Revision process of electoral rolls. They clarified the doubts raised by Booth Agents and explained the procedures to be followed during the survey, along with the required documents and relevant guidelines.

Municipal Commissioner A. Yogesh, Master Trainers Balaji and Ashirvadam, Booth Level Agents, public representatives, Booth Level Officers and municipal staff participated in the programme. Officials appealed to the residents of the town to extend their full cooperation for the successful completion of the electoral roll revision programme.

BRS urges ECI to enforce 'one person one vote' during SIR

Hyderabad: Intensifying its efforts to enforce the "One Person, One Vote" principle, the BRS on Wednesday approached the Election Commission of India to treat duplicate voter registrations as a priority during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The party argued that the success of the SIR exercise depended not just on updating rolls but also on identifying and removing duplicate, migrated, deceased and other ineligible voters. Geographic Reference

A delegation of BRS leaders, including BRS MLC Dasoju Sravan, former MLC Karne Prabhakar and BRS general secretary Ravula Chandrasekhar Reddy, met Telangana Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) C Sudharshan Reddy at BRK Bhavan on Wednesday and submitted a representation in this regard.

In a representation to the Election Commission of India, the BRS leaders said duplicate and multiple registrations undermine the credibility and fairness of elections. They said Hyderabad's sta-



tus as a major employment and education hub has created conditions for multiple voter registrations from across the country.

The party pointed to the particular challenge posed by Telangana's bifurcation from Andhra Pradesh in 2014. Continued migration and social, educational and business links between the two States have left many individuals registered as voters in both, the party said.

The BRS called for a coordinated mechanism between the Chief Electoral Officers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to detect and remove cross-State duplicate registrations. It sought a technology-driven national verification exercise using de-duplication software, text matching, photo similarity checks and Aadhaar-Voter ID linkage verification. Politics

The BRS also demanded rigorous field verification by Booth Level Officers and Electoral Registration Officers in cases involving suspected duplicate or migrated voters. The party stressed that deletions should be carried out only after due process and in accordance with the law. The party called for a transparent grievance mechanism through which voters and recognised political parties could report suspected duplicate entries and track action taken.

Strict legal action against individuals found to have knowingly maintained registrations in multiple locations was also demanded.

The party also emphasised that no genuine voter should be removed without prior notice, proper inquiry and due process. It urged the Election Commission to issue clear instructions to election authorities to ensure transparency and accountability throughout the revision. Geographic Reference

Speaking to mediapersons after the meeting, Sravan argued that the true objective of SIR cannot be achieved unless the electoral process is completely freed from the menace of bogus and duplicate votes across the States. He pointed to lack of a scientific and dedicated mechanism to completely eliminate bogus and duplicate votes across the States. He emphasised the need to implement "One Nation, One Citizen, One Vote" principle.

He emphasised that only through coordinated efforts, cross-verification of voter databases, and meticulous scrutiny can the Election Commission ensure clean electoral rolls and strengthen public trust in the democratic process.

"The fundamental democratic principle is that every citizen should have only one vote in one location and should not be allowed to retain voting rights in multiple locations which is an offence under the Representation of the People Act, 1951," he said.

Harish Rao warns Revanth Reddy against compromising on Telangana water rights



Hyderabad: BRS Legislature Party deputy leader and former Irrigation Minister T Harish Rao accused the Congress government of failing to protect Telangana's water rights. He demanded that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy immediately intervene to stop Karnataka's alleged illegal projects on Tungabhadra River. City & Local Guides

He urged the State government to formally object to Karnataka's projects before the Central Water Commission (CWC), Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) and the Union Jal Shakti Ministry. He demanded that the government ensure strict enforcement of Bachawat Tribunal provisions, and, if necessary, move the Supreme Court to protect Telangana's interests.

In a five-page letter written to the Chief Minister, Harish Rao criticised that the present Congress government was jeopardising Telangana's interests by remaining silent over the ongoing construction of projects by the Karnataka government upstream of the Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS). He questioned whether the State government tacitly approved Karnataka's Kurdi Lift Irrigation Scheme and the proposed bridge-cum-barrages at Chikkalaparvi and Chikkalmanchi on Tungabhadra River.

The BRS deputy leader sought an explanation for Karnataka allegedly issuing No Objection Certificate (NOC) for the Kodangal Lift Irrigation Scheme and asked whether Telangana's water rights were used as a bargaining tool. He alleged that despite Karnataka proceeding with construction activities, including intake structures that were reportedly 60 per cent complete, the Congress government in Telangana had neither objected nor taken up the matter with the authorities concerned over the last year. Telangana travel guide

He contended that the projects, if completed, would significantly reduce inflows to the RDS and affect irrigation in Telangana. He alleged that Karnataka was already utilising water beyond its allocated share of 1.2 TMCft and warned that the new projects could further diminish Telangana's entitlement, rendering the RDS ineffective.

Harish Rao also accused the State government of failing to challenge projects being undertaken without approvals from the CWC, KRMB, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. He questioned the reasons behind the Congress government's inaction and sought clarity on any alleged understandings between Telangana and Karnataka.

The former Irrigation Minister said the impact would extend beyond the RDS, affecting the Thummilla Lift Irrigation Scheme, Bhima Project, Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme, Kalwakurthy Lift Irrigation Scheme and drinking water needs across the undivided Mahabubnagar region. He argued that reduced inflows into the Srisailem reservoir, could have long-term consequences for Telangana's irrigation and water security.

Harish Rao reminded that Telangana had historically suffered due to diversion of Krishna and Godavari River waters in undivided Andhra Pradesh and that the BRS government had reversed this trend after the State formation, by expanding irrigation and transforming drought-prone regions such as Palamuru.

He said the Congress government neglected the RDS Phase-II works initiated by the previous BRS government and had weakened the Bhima Project by diverting water allocations to the proposed Kodangal Lift Irrigation scheme.

Telangana HC questions Government over non-payment of fee reimbursement to colleges

Justice Juvvadi Sridevi of the Telangana High Court pulled up the State Government for failing to clear crores of rupees in admitted fee reimbursement dues to private colleges. Hearing petitions from engineering institutions, the Court sought a clear stand and directed the Government to furnish clarification by Thursday. Telangana travel guide

Hyderabad: Justice Juvvadi Sridevi of the Telangana High Court on Wednesday once again questioned the State Government over the continued non-payment of fee reimbursement dues to private educational institutions, asking how admitted dues running into crores of rupees could be kept pending indefinitely. City & Local Guides

Hearing a batch of petitions filed by several engineering colleges challenging certain provisions of G.O.Ms. No.7 dated April 29, 2026, the Judge orally observed, "You do not clear the dues and at the same time, how can the institutions be prevented from collecting fees from students? How can students be admitted without payment of fees?"

The Court was informed that despite earlier directions, the State had not furnished a clear explanation regarding the timeline for clearing admitted dues under Clause XIV of the Government Order, which provides for continuation of the existing mechanism for settlement of pending fee reimbursement amounts through institutions.

Expressing concern over the uncertainty surrounding payment of the dues, Justice Sridevi directed the State Government to place on record a clear stand on the issue and furnish the necessary clarification by Thursday.

The matter was adjourned for further hearing to Thursday, while the interim suspension of Clause XII of the Government Order, which restrains institutions from insisting upon payment of fees at the time of admission was extended.



Mega Health Camp Inaugurated by Praveen Kumar

- Free Health Camp Organised in Shankarpally Municipality
- Municipal Chairman Satha Praveen Kumar Inaugurates the Camp
- More Than 250 Residents Receive Medical Services
- Special Mammogram Screening Facilities for Women
- Comprehensive Health Check-ups Under Expert Supervision

Shankarpally, : A free Mega Health Camp was organised on Wednesday in Shankarpally Municipality with the objective of providing quality healthcare services to local residents. The camp, conducted under the auspices of Citizen Specialty Hospital, was inaugurated by Municipal Chairman Satha Praveen Kumar. Speaking on the occasion, he said that such initiatives play a crucial role in making healthcare services accessible to the public.

Chairman Satha Praveen Kumar emphasised that preventive healthcare is essential for building a healthy society. He urged people not to neglect minor health issues and advised them to undergo regular medical check-ups. He further stated that the municipality gives



top priority to public welfare programmes and would continue to organise more health camps in the future.

More than 250 residents availed themselves of the free medical services offered at the camp. The health camp included blood pressure, blood sugar and ECG tests. Special mammogram screening facilities were arranged for women to promote breast health awareness. In addition, specialist doctors, including General Physicians and Gynaecologists, conducted consultations and provided necessary medical advice. Preliminary screening for heart diseases and cancer was also carried out, along with health awareness sessions.

The programme received an encouraging response from the public. Among those present were Municipal Vice-Chairperson Julakanti Swetha Panduranga Reddy, Council Members, Co-option Members, Municipal Commissioner A. Yogesh, Manager V. Anjan Kumar, the medical team, municipal staff and a large number of local residents.

The initiative, undertaken by Shankarpally Municipality with a focus on public health, has been widely appreciated by the residents.

- Police conduct awareness programme for students at Chaitanya Junior College
- Officials explain the harmful effects of drug abuse
- Students advised to set goals and move forward with determination
- Call for collective participation in eradicating drug abuse

Shankarpally, June 24: Shankarpally Police have advised the youth to remain vigilant and stay away from the menace of drug abuse. As part of this initiative, a special awareness programme was conducted on Wednesday at Chaitanya Junior College, Shankarpally, to educate students about the dangers associated with narcotic substances.

The programme was attended by Shankarpally Sub-Inspector K. Suresh, Sub-Inspector Sreesailam, and other police personnel, who interacted with the students and created awareness about the serious consequences of drug abuse. They explained in detail how narcotic substances can adversely affect an individual's physical health, mental well-being, academic progress, and future prospects.

Addressing the students, the police officials stated that drug addiction is a dangerous habit that can destroy the future of young people. They cautioned that many youngsters fall into the trap of drug abuse due to peer pressure, curiosity, or the pursuit of temporary pleasure, which eventually

Stay Away from Drugs



leads to severe health, psychological, financial, and social problems. Once addicted, overcoming the habit becomes extremely difficult, and it can negatively impact education, family relationships, and career aspirations.

The officials further explained that drug abuse can lead to physical deterioration as well as mental health issues such as stress, anxiety, and depression. They also warned that individuals addicted to drugs are more likely to become involved in criminal activities. Therefore, students were advised to stay away from negative influences, avoid bad company, and

remain focused on their academic and personal goals.

Police urged students and the public to immediately inform the authorities if they come across any information related to the sale or consumption of narcotic substances. They assured that the identity of informants would be kept strictly confidential. The officials emphasized that the eradication of drug abuse is possible only when society as a whole actively participates in the fight against this social evil.

Sub-Inspectors K. Suresh and Sreesailam advised the students to define their life goals clearly and strive to achieve them through education, discipline, and good habits. They encouraged students to adopt a healthy lifestyle and remain committed to building a bright and successful future free from the influence of drugs.

The awareness programme witnessed active participation from the college management, faculty members, police personnel, and a large number of students. The initiative not only enhanced awareness about the dangers of drug abuse but also encouraged students to become responsible citizens committed to creating a drug-free society.



CINEMA

Balakrishna Bats for Film Activities in Amaravati

Speaking at the launch ceremony of his 112th film with director Koratala Siva in Amaravati, Balakrishna said he is currently leading the charge for Telugu cinema to gradually move to Amaravati. He made it clear that certain efforts are being made to accommodate the Telugu film industry in the peoples capital of Amaravati and add another stream to the global city.

Even Balakrishna sounded extremely excited about this idea, as he said he will take it up on himself to ensure that Amaravati receives due diligence from the film industry. He commented that



AP contribute 70% revenue to Telugu film industry and it should rightly be rewarded for the same.

Once the film shootings and launch ceremony, start to shift to Amaravati the city and also the state in general will receive a boost to economy and tax slabs as well.

This is exactly what the NDA government has

been proposing for a long time now and it's finally turning to reality with Balayya's film with Koratala being the first big push. The real question is if the rest of the Telugu film industry plethora would follow suit and rightly contribute to AP. "Tollywood has to expand to neighbouring state and help it's growth in the days to come

Mirzapur Heads To Theatres With Explosive Teaser

The popular web series Mirzapur is now ready to entertain audiences on the big screen.

The popular web series Mirzapur is now ready to entertain audiences on the big screen. After becoming a huge hit on OTT, the makers have officially announced Mirzapur: The Movie. They also released the first teaser, which has already created a lot of excitement among fans.

The movie is set to release in theatres on September 4, 2026. It will be released in both Hindi and Telugu, allowing more audiences to enjoy the action-packed crime drama.

The teaser brings back some of the most loved characters from the web series. Pankaj Tripathi returns as the powerful Kaleen Bhaiya, while Ali Fazal is back as Guddu Pandit. One of the biggest surprises in the teaser is the return of Munna Bhaiya, played by Divyenndu. His appearance has made fans even more excited about the movie.

The teaser starts with Kaleen Bhaiya delivering a powerful dialogue. Soon after, Guddu Pandit is seen preparing for another violent battle. The teaser also introduces Jitendra Kumar in a new role. His character talks about building a bigger empire instead of simply running one, hinting at a fresh storyline.



The teaser features several action scenes, including gunfights, knife attacks, desert chases, and intense combat. It also shows beautiful desert locations along with luxury SUVs, giving the movie a much bigger scale than the web series.

Apart from the lead actors, familiar faces like Rasika Dugal, Shweta Tripathi, Sheeba Chadha, and Ravi Kishan also appear in the teaser. A small funny moment between Sheeba Chadha and Ravi Kishan adds a little humor before the story returns to its serious tone.

Mirzapur: The Movie is directed by Gurmeet Singh and written by Puneet Krishna. The film is produced by Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani.

The teaser promises that the movie will offer everything fans expect from the Mirzapur world powerful dialogues, intense action, strong performances, and shocking twists. After winning millions of fans on OTT, the franchise is now aiming for success on the big screen.

Havish Brings Attitude In Nenu Ready Birthday Poster

Young hero Havish celebrates his birthday today. On the special occasion, the makers of his ongoing flick Nenu Ready have come up with a new poster.

Young hero Havish celebrates his birthday today. On the special occasion, the makers of his ongoing flick Nenu Ready have come up with a new poster. The actor carries a composed and fearless demeanor that instantly captures attention. The design focuses on Havish's screen presence and attitude.

The film, directed by Thrinadha Rao Nakkina, is billed to be a full-fledged entertainer packed with fun and commercial elements. Having already generated curiosity with its teaser, glimpse, and promotional posters, Nenu Ready continues to build enthusiasm.

Backed by Nikhila Koneru under the Harniks India LLP banner, the movie has Mickey J Meyer providing the music.



Telugu Girl Lays 15 Rules To Bunny Vasu

Telugu girl from the state of Telangana, Naga Durga, is a popular name among the folk-songs-loving audience.



Telugu girl from the state of Telangana, Naga Durga, is a popular name among the folk-songs-loving audience. She's known for her classical Kuchipudi dances first, later became a regular main lead in folk songs coming from Telangana, and finally signed a Telugu movie as a heroine. Though many asked her to do web series and short films, she has always turned them down. Finally, she is making her debut with Priyadarshi's Idupu Kayitham.

Produced by Sukumar and Bunny Vasu, this film marks the first-ever silver screen act of Naga Durga. During the launch of the movie, Bunny Vasu stated that she laid almost 15 conditions to come aboard. "When I called her at the office, I thought that she would happily sign the film because it's being produced by Sukumar garu and me. However, she laid almost 15 conditions, saying what she would do and what she would not, if she had to do this movie. Then I realised that we are dealing with a Telugu girl and confident Telugu girls will be like that only," said Bunny Vasu.

Meanwhile, sharing her thoughts, Naga Durga stated that she hasn't really laid 15 conditions, but then she hasn't written it too. Looks like the actress is not comfortable with glamorous scenes and intimacy kind of stuff, which can be felt looking at her songs, and that's probably the condition she has put forward. She would be playing the role of 'Srilatha' in the movie Idupu Kayitham that will be on floors soon.

Tollywood Treads Carefully on Village Belle Roles

The 'village belle' has long been one of Tollywood's most enduring screen archetypes, with leading actresses winning audiences over in half-sarees, cotton saris and other traditional attire. But the recent controversy surrounding Janhvi Kapoor's look in Peddi has reignited a debate on where filmmakers should draw



the line between glamour and authenticity. After social media accused the makers of sexualising a rural character, prompting reported changes to a few scenes, directors are becoming increasingly cautious while designing village-based heroines.

"It has become difficult to portray village belle characters the way we once did. Every frame is dissected on social media and even genuine creative choices are often misunderstood," says a filmmaker. "The backlash has made directors far more careful while presenting rural women on screen."

However, filmmakers insist the controversy will not spell the end of the village belle. They argue that if a story is rooted in rural India, the heroine's appearance must remain true to its setting rather than being dictated by online outrage.

Producer Abhishek Agarwal, who introduced Bollywood actress Nupur Sanon in a traditional avatar in Tiger Nageswara Rao, says authenticity has always taken precedence over glamour. "It all depends on the story and the character. Nupur had absolutely no hesitation in transforming from a glamorous actress into a simple village girl because the film was set in a rural backdrop and her appearance had to reflect that reality," he says.

According to Agarwal, actors readily embrace transformations demanded by the script. "If the story unfolds in a village, the heroine obviously cannot be dressed in Western outfits. Whether they come from Bollywood or elsewhere, actresses are always willing to adopt new looks that suit the character and showcase their versatility," he adds.

In recent years, several actresses have earned praise for their convincing portrayals of rural women. Samantha's performance in Rangasthalam set a benchmark, while Rashmika Mandanna's Srivalli in Pushpa became one of Indian cinema's most celebrated village belle characters. Nupur Sanon in Tiger Nageswara Rao, Neha Shetty in Bedurulanka 2012 and Payal Rajput in Mangalavaram also embraced traditional rural avatars.

Director Jeevitha Rajasekhar believes the trend gathered momentum with Sukumar's Rangasthalam before being reinforced by Pushpa. "Rangasthalam started a new wave and Pushpa took it to another level. Sukumar has consistently told stories rooted in rural life, and those characters feel authentic and emotionally relatable. That is why audiences connect with them," she says.

She also believes such portrayals have revived interest in traditional Telugu attire among younger audiences. "It is heartening to see leading actresses proudly sporting half-sarees, cotton saris and other native outfits. These characters celebrate our culture and inspire other actresses to explore similar roles," she says.

Jeevitha points out that Telugu cinema is gradually embracing realism, much like Tamil and Malayalam cinema, where village-centric narratives have long flourished. "As filmmakers increasingly tell stories from villages and small towns, rural characters will continue to be an integral part of Telugu cinema. The focus should be on portraying them with authenticity and dignity rather than allowing isolated controversies to discourage filmmakers," she concludes.