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Revanth to Launch Telangana's Biggest Road Works Today

Hyderabad: The state government is set to roll out its biggest-ever road infrastructure programme, with an investment of ₹19,300 crore for the reconstruction and upgradation of 13,541 km of roads and buildings (R&B) and panchayat raj roads across the state under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM). Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will formally launch the works at a public meeting in Nalgonda on Sunday.



The ambitious programme, covering 96 Assembly constituencies, aims to restore badly damaged roads, construct new stretches and upgrade existing infrastructure, including rural roads, single-lane and double-lane roads, and four-lane roads connecting district headquarters. The government has directed the executing agencies to complete the works within 30 months. Thereafter, the contractors will be responsible for maintaining the roads for 15 years, ensuring long-term upkeep and sparing motorists the recurring problem of pothole-ridden roads.

The initiative comes after years of deteriorating road conditions across the state. Roads under both the R&B and panchayat raj departments have suffered extensive damage due to inadequate maintenance. Successive years of heavy rains and floods have washed away several bituminous

roads and bridges. Districts including the erstwhile Nizamabad, Khammam, Medak and Warangal witnessed severe damage during last year's monsoon.

Although temporary repairs were taken up, permanent restoration could not be carried out due to lack of funds. Rural roads have been in an even worse condition, with many villages becoming inaccessible to autorickshaws, two-wheelers and even ambulances during the rainy season, triggering widespread public complaints and demands for new roads.

Roads and buildings minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said the R&B department would improve 441 roads across 32 districts at a cost of ₹13,006 crore, divided into 34 packages. The panchayat raj department will execute works on 2,162 roads covering 7,449.50 km at a cost of ₹6,294.81 crore through 17 packages. Together, both departments will simultaneously execute road works worth ₹19,300

crore, making it one of the largest infrastructure programmes undertaken by the state.

Under HAM, the government pays 40 per cent of the project cost during construction in instalments, while the private developer invests the remaining 60 per cent. The developer maintains the road for 15 years, and the government repays the 60 per cent as annuities, along with interest.

The government will release a 10 per cent mobilisation advance to contractors to facilitate commencement of works. Accordingly, the R&B department will provide about ₹1,300 crore, while the panchayat raj department will release around ₹630 crore from budgetary allocations. Of this mobilisation advance, five per cent will be released after contractors secure bank loans for the projects and the remaining five per cent after the works begin, enabling faster execution of the road network across Telangana.

Set up Musi Experience Centre To Raise Awareness Among People: CM

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to set up a 'Musi Experience Centre' here to raise people's awareness on the Musi riverfront project taken up by the state government. He said the proposed centre, to be established at the Necklace Road around Hussain Sagar lake, should reflect various aspects of the rejuvenation project. He suggested that officials establish a system to gather feedback from the visitors.

Reddy, who held a meeting with officials on the first phase of the Musi riverfront project, also directed that the government's double-bedroom houses be allotted to those living in the riverbed as part of the rehabilitation



project, an official release said late on Friday night. He instructed that either Transferable Development Rights (TDR) or compensation be offered to land owners for land acquisition. He also directed that the structures in defence lands where the proposed Gandhi Sarovar Project would come up should be relocated by the

state government to avoid delays in project execution. The defence authorities recently granted working permission for the Gandhi Sarovar Project at Babu Ghat here as part of the ambitious Musi River rejuvenation programme. The Babu Ghat on the banks of the Musi River here is a memorial dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi. The ashes of the Father of the

Nation were immersed in 1948 at the confluence of the Isa and Musi rivers, where Babu Ghat was built. The state government is taking up a major plan for the rejuvenation of the Musi River over a stretch of 55 km. In the first phase, this project will extend from Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar lakes up to Gandhi Sarovar.

PM Modi Receives Grand Welcome from Indian Diaspora in Seychelles

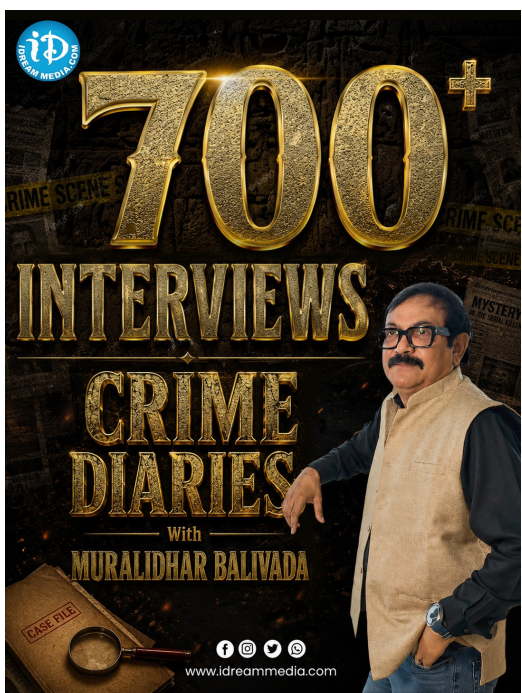
Victoria: A Large number of people from the Indian diaspora gathered outside the Seychelles International Airport on Saturday to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who arrived here on a three-day visit. At the airport, Modi was given a grand welcome by President Patrick Herminie and a high-level delegation. The prime minister also received a ceremonial Guard of Honour. Upon his arrival, Modi was greeted by dance performances, among them one group performed a dance from Kutch.

"Amazing cultural connect!" Modi posted on X. "The welcome at the airport in Seychelles included a dance from Kutch. The manner in which our diaspora has preserved and celebrated culture from different parts of India is appreciable," he added. He accompanied President Herminie to the Seychelles' National Botanical Garden for a tree plantation drive. There, Modi was also seen feeding the native Aldabra giant tortoises. The prime minister, who is undertaking the state visit



at the invitation of President Herminie, will participate in the National Day celebrations as the Guest of Honour.

The Master of Interviews: Muralidhar Balivada's Historic 9-Year Journey Reaches a Stellar 700-Episode Milestone!



In an era dominated by sensationalism and fleeting news cycles, veteran journalist Muralidhar Balivada has successfully carved out a unique niche, transforming the art of one-on-one interviews into a powerful instrument of social documentation. Over the past nine years, his relentless and deeply insightful journey hosted on the digital platform iDream Media has achieved an extraordinary milestone of 700 comprehensive interviews, setting an unprec-

edented benchmark in Telugu broadcast history. By delving into the inner minds of elite law enforcement officers, eminent advocates, distinguished jurists, former Naxalites who once chose the path of armed rebellion, top-tier civil servants, and financial experts, his conversations have captivated millions of viewers globally. Crucially, his work transcends regional boundaries as Muralidhar has brought the inspiring life stories and complex professional challenges of Telugu-

origin IPS officers serving across various Indian states onto the global stage. Capturing the authentic insights of high-ranking administrators at this scale is an achievement distinct to his run on iDream.

This remarkable journey commenced in 2017 with a thought-provoking debut interview featuring the former Director General of Police (DGP) of undivided Andhra Pradesh, H.J. Dora. Since then, Muralidhar has consistently pushed boundaries,

tracking an uninterrupted series titled "From Sub-Inspector to DGP," which highlights the unique institutional and personal hurdles faced by police personnel across all ranks. The progression of this series has marked significant landmarks in the digital broadcast landscape, where the 100th episode featured former Andhra Pradesh DGP, Dr. M. Malakondaiah, IPS, the 200th episode hosted Chandra Ladda, IPS, Chief of AP Intelligence, and the 300th episode featured Prakasam District Superintendent of Police, Malika Garg, IPS. Moving forward, the 500th episode hosted Shikha Goel, IPS, a prominent senior police official in Telangana, and the 600th episode featured Kerala State

DGP, A. Chandrasekhar, IPS. By continually documenting the strategic insights of such seasoned administrators, Muralidhar Balivada has proudly crossed the rare 700-episode mark.

Muralidhar's approach fundamentally shifts the focus away from routine crime reporting to a deeper exploration of institutional machinery. His interviews cover the inner workings of the police department, forensic science laboratories, prison administration, prosecution wings, and the judiciary. By balancing the raw, transformative narratives of reformed activists with the legal acumen of top defense lawyers and judges, he treats sensitive socio-legal matters with utmost dignity. Consequently,



these archival interactions have garnered billions of views online, establishing a permanent reference library for future generations.

Muralidhar's influence extends far beyond the screen as he commands a massive, highly engaged following across major social media platforms, where each new episode trends within minutes of its release. Beyond his professional identity as a journalist, Muralidhar is widely recognized for his humanitarian efforts. He actively leverages his reach to assist individuals facing severe hardships or legal distress, stepping forward to provide timely, personal support. This blend of professional integrity and quiet philanthropy has earned him widespread respect from both the general public and top-tier bureaucrats alike.

Reflecting on this monumental 700-interview milestone, Muralidhar Balivada shared that his primary objective has always been to document authentic reality and preserve the life stories of eminent personalities as historical archives for posterity. He expressed deep gratitude to CH. Vasudev Reddy, the head of iDream Media, for his unwavering institutional support. He also extended his heartfelt thanks to the distinguished dignitaries who placed their trust in his platform, and to the global Telugu audience whose enduring viewership remains his greatest strength. Moving forward, this legally grounded and socially conscious endeavor continues to inspire the next generation of broadcast journalists.



20% SIR Forms Digitised in Eluru



KAKINADA: Eluru district collector K. Vetri Selvi on Saturday said 15,79,042 enumeration forms, accounting for 96.04 per cent of the total, have been distributed across the district as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. She said 3,30,537 forms, or nearly 20 per cent, have already been digitised. Pedavegi mandal recorded the lowest distribution at 95.42 per cent. The Collector directed officials to achieve 100 per cent distribution within the next 24 hours.

Vetri Selvi said the SIR process, which began on June 15, will continue until July 14. She instructed every Booth Level Officer (BLO) to visit each household within their polling station jurisdiction, distribute enumeration forms to voters and ensure the completed forms are digitised. She said the objective of the SIR was to ensure that every eligible citizen is included in the electoral roll while preventing the inclusion of ineligible persons. The exercise also involves correcting entries, removing duplicate names and enrolling newly eligible voters. The collector inspected the distribution of enumeration forms by BLOs and supervisors in Pedavegi village and directed officials to complete the exercise without delay. She warned that disciplinary action would be initiated against SIR personnel who lag behind in the distribution of enumeration forms.

Minister Sandhya Rani Launches Balamrutham Plus



Visakhapatnam: Women and child welfare minister Gummidi Sandhya Rani on Saturday launched Balamrutham Plus, a pilot nutrition programme aimed at tackling child malnutrition at Salur in Parvathipuram Manyam district.

Addressing the gathering, the minister said the state government was committed to achieving a "Malnutrition-Free Andhra Pradesh and Healthy Childhood" through targeted interventions. She said the initiative forms part of the Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) programme to improve the nutritional status of vulnerable children.

The pilot project is being implemented jointly by the Women and Child Welfare Department, Vijayavani Charitable Foundation (VCF) and Tata Trusts. It will run for 24 months in NTR, Parvathipuram Manyam and Tirupati districts.

Under the programme, around 5,000 children aged seven months to five years, identified with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) or Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), will receive nutritional support. Each child will be provided three kg of Energy Dense Nutritious Food (EDNF) every month to improve nutrition and support healthy growth.

Sandhya Rani said the initiative is expected to reduce growth deficiencies and improve the overall health of malnourished children. She directed officials to identify every eligible child and ensure uninterrupted supply of nutritional supplements.

The minister stressed that improving child nutrition remained a priority for the government and called for coordinated efforts by field-level officials, healthcare workers and anganwadi staff to ensure the programme's success.

Naidu Disburses Rs.300 Cr to Veligonda Project Evacuees

Nellore: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday released `300 crore towards Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) of 2,351 families displaced by the Veligonda project in Markapur district. He reaffirmed his government's commitment to completing the irrigation project next year.

Addressing farmers and project oustees at Gantavanipalle in Yerragondapalem constituency, the Chief Minister declared that the R&R amount would be credited into beneficiaries' bank accounts within two days. He announced that another `600 crore would be released shortly.

Naidu disclosed that the coalition government has sanctioned `905 crore for rehabilitation and earmarked over `3,000 crore for completing the remaining works of the project.

Describing Veligonda as the lifeline of



Prakasam, Nellore, Kadapa, and Markapuram regions, the Chief Minister said the project would irrigate 4.47 lakh acres and provide drinking water to 23 lakh people across the four districts. Phase-I of the project, scheduled for completion by July 31, will irrigate 1.19 lakh acres and supply drinking water to four lakh people. Phase-II will extend irrigation to another 3.25 lakh acres and

provide drinking water to 11.25 lakh people.

Naidu said the project, conceived during the tenure of former chief minister N.T. Rama Rao and initiated in 1996, is estimated to cost `10,580 crore. He explained that the project, once completed, would boost groundwater levels, promote horticulture, and support agro-food pro-

cessing industries which, along with the upcoming Ramayapatnam Port and industrial clusters, would generate employment for local youth.

Later in the day, the AP CM launched the Sanjeevani programme at the Primary Health Centre in Kishtamsettipalle in Giddalur constituency. After reviewing healthcare services and interacting with patients, he asked

people to adopt healthy lifestyles through yoga, meditation, pranayama, regular exercise, and nutritious diets rich in traditional millets.

Highlighting sustainable agriculture, Naidu said Andhra Pradesh has emerged as the national leader in natural farming, covering nearly 20 lakh acres. He urged farmers to reduce the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides. He pointed out that the government has introduced a dedicated app to promote scientific and natural farming practices. He clarified that there is no shortage of urea in the state.

The Chief Minister encouraged students to acquire skills in artificial intelligence and quantum technologies, saying these fields would shape future employment opportunities. He reiterated that the government is examining incentives for larger families in view of emerging demographic challenges.

Collector Warns Tobacco Firms Over No Bid

Nellore: Prakasam district collector P. Rajababu on Saturday warned tobacco companies of strict action, including blacklisting, if they deliberately reject tobacco lots with No Bid at auction platforms.

Inspecting the Ongole-I and Ongole-II tobacco auction centres along with Tobacco Board executive director B. Vishwashree, the collector expressed displeasure that companies had not changed their approach despite a recent review meeting chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

He said every tobacco bale brought to the auction should be purchased and warned that arbitrary price cuts and the No Bid practice would not be tolerated.



Rajababu said the Tobacco Board had permitted cultivation of 140 million kg, but farmers had produced nearly 230 million kg this season. He said companies could not cite excess production as a reason to avoid procurement and must share responsibility in protect-

ing farmers' interests.

He announced that only companies actively procuring tobacco this season would be allowed to participate in next year's auctions. From Monday, an agriculture department officer of assistant director rank will monitor auction centres to ensure fair procurement.

The collector also assured farmers that the government would implement the Chief Minister's directive to prevent the average tobacco price from falling below Rs200 per kg.

The Tobacco Board warned that registered companies which continue to skip auctions would face cancellation of their registration from next week.

Political Vendetta Tops Telugu Desam Grievance Meet

Vijayawada: Allegations of political vendetta, illegal land encroachments, police excesses and administrative apathy dominated the public grievance programme organised at the Telugu Desam's central office in Mangalagiri on Saturday.

Home minister Vangalapudi Anitha and TD national vice-president Md Nazeer received petitions from people across Andhra Pradesh seeking intervention in a range of unresolved issues.

Among the complaints was one from P. Mani of Mannur village in YSR Kadapa district, who alleged that he was abducted and assaulted in June 2023 by supporters

of a former YSRC MLA after posting a Facebook message defending democratic principles. He claimed that although he sustained serious injuries, the accused escaped action through political influence, while police allegedly filed counter-cases against him and illegally detained his family members.

Several representations related to alleged land irregularities during the previous YSRC regime. K. Chandrasekhar of Ravulapalem alleged that 3.41 acres of government inam land worth nearly Rs 18 crore had been encroached upon and converted into an unauthorised layout with



political backing. Another petitioner from Devarapalli village sought action over the alleged encroachment of 80 cents of government pond land and the development of an illegal layout.

Visakhapatnam resident P. Koteswara Rao urged the government to implement a 2017 order

providing alternative land in exchange for property donated for temple purposes. He alleged that the process had been stalled during the previous government.

Other petitions related to alleged false criminal cases against TD activists, delays in land surveys and

boundary settlements, inaction in assault cases, harassment by money-lenders and threats from rowdy-sheeters. Representations seeking pensions, ration cards, housing assistance, employment and medical aid were also submitted.

Later, addressing the media, the minister Anitha criticised the YSRC's visit to Amaravati, alleging that rowdy-sheeters had accompanied party leaders and attempted to intimidate farmers in the capital region. She said the government would conduct a thorough inquiry and reiterated its commitment to completing Amaravati by 2027.

YSRC SEEKS JUSTICE FOR ASSAULTED TRIBAL WOMAN

Nellore: YSRC women's wing working president Kakani Poojitha on Saturday demanded immediate justice for the tribal woman who was allegedly stripped, assaulted and publicly humiliated in Kavali, and sought stringent action against those responsible.

Addressing a press conference at the YSRC district office in Nellore, Poojitha alleged that crimes against women had increased under the coalition government and accused the police of failing to act promptly in the Kavali incident.

She claimed that although the incident occurred on June 19, a case was registered only on June 26. She also alleged that the victim's whereabouts and details of her treatment had been kept from the public.



Poojitha further alleged that instead of taking action against the accused, the police had booked the victim's son, who was reportedly in a relationship with a Muslim girl.

Referring to another alleged assault on a woman in Duttalur mandal, she claimed that no case had been registered in that incident either, alleging selective policing.

She urged home minister Vangalapudi Anitha to personally visit the victim's family, ensure justice and direct the police to take stringent legal action against all those responsible. She also called on the police to function impartially and strictly in accordance with the law.

Welfare that will remain in the hearts of the poor

-Congress Party Leader Narsima Reddy

Zaheerabad, June 27: Congress Party Senior Leader P. Narsima Reddy participated in the inauguration ceremony of the Mogulappa newly built Indiramma house in Didgii village of Zahirabad mandal of Sangareddy district. He participated and inaugurated it. He congratulated the beneficiaries and shared happiness with them. Later, the beneficiaries honored them. Speaking on the occasion said that the main goal of the public government is to provide a house of their own to poor families.

He said that the government is working hard to improve the living standards of the poor by providing them with a permanent residence through Indiramma houses. He said that the construction work of Indiramma houses is going on rapidly in Zahirabad constituency and that the responsibility of providing a house to every eligible poor family is the Congress government. Lead-



ers Ramulu, Mallareddy, imampatel, somasheker, sarpanch Jagadamba, Dy sarpanch Suresh and others participated in this program.

One Year After Sigachi Factory Tragedy, CITU Demands Full Compensation for Victims' Families

SANGAREDDY, Correspondent: June 27, 2026: As the first anniversary of the Sigachi Industries factory explosion approaches on June 30, CITU State Working Committee member Athimela Manik has urged the Telangana government and the company management to immediately release the remaining compensation to the families of the 54 workers who lost their lives in the accident.

In a press statement, A.Manik alleged that the tragic incident at the Sigachi plant in Pashamylaram in Sangareddy District. Industrial Area was the result of the company's negligence, as indicated by expert committee reports. He said that despite the findings, only the company's CEO was arrested, calling it a mere token action.

He recalled that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, who visited the accident site a day after the tragedy, had announced compensation of 1 crore for the family of each deceased worker.



He also noted that Sigachi Industries had informed SEBI that it would provide 1 crore compensation to each victim's family. However, Manik alleged that the promise remains unfulfilled. According to CITU, only 24.61 crore has been disbursed so far, while 29.38 crore is still pending. He claimed that individual families have received only 45 lakhs to 57 lakhs, leaving more than 50 lakhs yet to be paid in each case.

Demanding immediate payment of the remaining compensation, Manik warned that CITU would launch protests in front of the Sigachi factory if the dues are not cleared without further delay.

Precautions should be taken to prevent electricity and water problems

-Zahirabad Municipal Commissioner G.Prabhakar

Zaheerabad, June:

Zahirabad Municipal Commissioner G. Prabhakar has made it clear that precautions should be taken to prevent electricity and drinking water problems. A review meeting was held at the conference hall of Zaheerabad Municipality on Saturday. Deputy DE Mahesh, AE Venkatesh, water supply, electricians and work inspectors participated. Commissioner Prabhakar suggested that street lights and water supply problems should not arise. Saying that there should be no darkness in Zaheerabad, he wanted steps to be taken to light the street lights. He made it clear that water problems should not arise in any street. He said that the authorities and staff should be vigilant and work with dedication.



Stop messing with students' future, release pending fee reimbursements worth Rs. 12,000 crore immediately, government has failed to protect the rights of SC and NT students: DGYS

Sardar Singh, state coordinator of SC and NT Students Youth Association (DGYS), has demanded that the government immediately release the fee reimbursement arrears of about Rs 12,000 crore owed to SC and NT students in the state and save the educational future of thousands of students. Speaking at a press conference organized in Hyderabad, he criticized the government for showing complete negligence in the implementation of the Right to Education Act. He said that even though the Congress government has entered its third year, there has been no expected progress in resolving the problems of students. He said that the fact that the state still does not have a full-fledged education minister is a testament to the government's negligence in the education sector. Thousands of SC and NT students are facing difficulties in colleges due to non-release of pending fee reimbursement funds, with certificates being suspended, exams, higher education and job opportunities being affected, they have expressed their concern. He explained the immediate steps that the government should take as follows: The fee reimbursement arrears of SC and NT



students should be released immediately. The admission process should be conducted in a completely transparent manner. The high fees charged in private colleges and hostels should be controlled. Strict legal action should be taken against those who indulge in caste discrimination in colleges. Special campus placement drives should be organized for SC and NT students in government and private educational institutions. An effective control system should be implemented on private universities. For the welfare of students, education and home department officials should conduct surprise inspections in hostels. He said that the infrastructure, laboratories and modern technological resources of government educational institutions in the state have not developed to the desired level. He urged that steps should be taken to develop government engineering colleges to match the standards of leading educational institutions and provide quality education. Stating that registering cases against those who raise questions about student problems and suppressing movements is against the spirit of democracy, he suggested that the government should come forward to solve the problems instead of suppressing them. He warned that if necessary, the movement will be further intensified across the state to protect the educational rights of SC and NT students. In this meeting, DGYS leaders and student representatives

Cancer Healer Center Continues Nationwide Growth with Launch of 31st Centre in Coimbatore, 2nd in Tamil Nadu

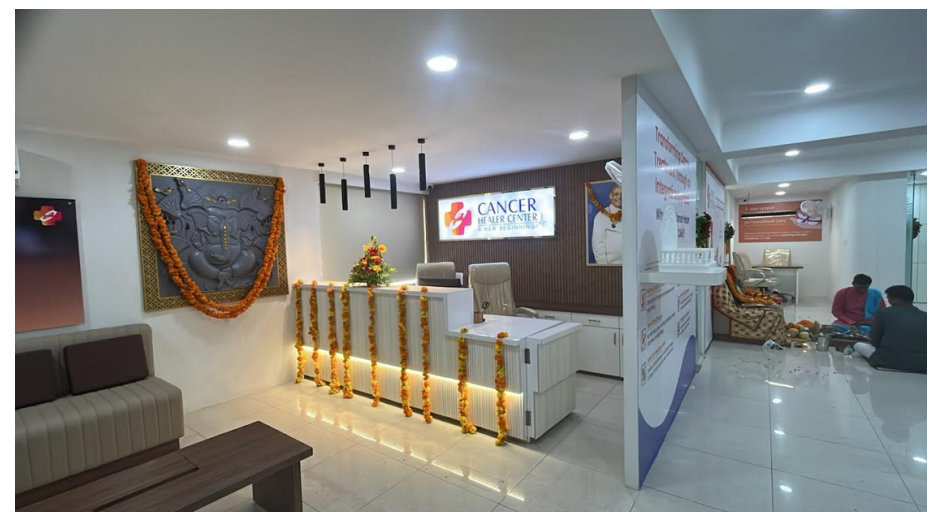
With its new Coimbatore centre, Cancer Healer Center aims to strengthen access to timely cancer consultation, early guidance and continued care for patients across western Tamil Nadu.

Coimbatore, June 2026: After recently launching its 30th centre in Pune, Cancer Healer Center has further expanded its national footprint with the launch of its new centre in Coimbatore, marking its 31st facility across India and second centre in Tamil Nadu. According to ICMR-NCDIR's Tamil Nadu cancer profile, the state was projected to record 78,641 new cancer cases in 2020, including 35,863 cases among men and 42,778 among women. The profile also points to key cancer-linked risk factors in the state, including tobacco use, second-hand smoke exposure, alcohol use, obesity and other lifestyle-related risks.

The data highlights stomach, mouth and lung cancers among the leading cancer sites in men, while breast, cervix and ovarian cancers remain among the leading cancer sites in women. These trends underline the need for greater awareness around symptoms, screening, timely diagnosis and structured care guidance, especially beyond major metro cities.

The newly opened Coimbatore centre has been established to support patients from Coimbatore and nearby regions with cancer consultation, personalised treatment planning, regular monitoring and follow-up guidance. The centre is expected to help patients and families who often face delays due to lack of clarity around reports, treatment pathways, second opinions and continuity of care.

Cancer Healer Center follows an immunology-informed approach to cancer care, with emphasis on understanding each patient's disease profile, immunity, medical history, treatment response and overall quality of life. The Coimbatore centre will provide structured support to patients through personalised care path-



ways, follow-up assistance and compassionate guidance during the course of treatment.

Speaking at the launch, Dr. Tarang Krishna, Managing Director, Cancer Healer Center, said, "Cancer care is not only about treatment; it is also about timely guidance, clarity and continuous support for patients and their families. Many patients lose valuable time because they are unsure about symptoms, diagnosis, reports or the next step in their care journey. With our Coimbatore centre, our aim is to bring structured, patient-centric and immunology-informed cancer care closer to people in western Tamil Nadu and nearby regions."

He further added, "Tamil Nadu has a significant cancer burden, and the need for awareness, early diagnosis and regular follow-up cannot be overlooked. Through this centre, we hope to support patients with timely consultation and help families navigate cancer care with greater confidence."

The Coimbatore centre will also contribute to Cancer Healer Center's wider efforts to promote awareness around early warning signs, risk factors, timely medical attention and the importance of consistent follow-up. The organisation believes that accessible consultation and care guidance can play an important role in reducing delays and helping patients take informed decisions.

With this launch, Cancer Healer Center has strengthened its presence in Tamil Nadu and continues its focus on making cancer care more accessible, personalised and continuous for patients across India.

Pulse Polio Programme Must Be Made a Grand Success

- District Medical & Health Officer Dr. Tukaram Rathod

Bhadradi Kothagudem District Correspondent: District Medical & Health Officer (DM&HO) Dr. Tukaram Rathod conducted a Zoom review meeting with district medical officers and health staff regarding the upcoming Pulse Polio Programme. During the meeting, he issued key instructions to ensure the successful implementation of the campaign.

Dr. Rathod directed all medical officers and health personnel to ensure that every child between 0 and 5 years of age receives Pulse Polio drops during the programme commencing on June 28. A total of 98,818 children in the district are expected to be covered under the campaign.

To implement the programme effectively, the district has established 925 Pulse Polio booths, 38 transit points, and 1,001 vaccination teams.

The DM&HO emphasized that achieving



100% coverage of eligible children is the collective responsibility of all medical officers and health workers. He also urged the staff to implement all national health programmes efficiently and with dedication.

On the occasion, Dr. Rathod also unveiled the Pulse Polio campaign banner.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Rakesh (Programme Officer), Dr. Pratap (Programme Officer), Deputy DEMO Nagalakshmi, CHO Nagabhushanam, HEO Ram Prasad, Rama Rao, Harikrishna, Nursing Officer Priya, and other health officials.

Sunday 28, 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.

Govt Fulfilling All Promises of RTC Workers: Ponnam



Hyderabad: Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has clarified that the government is implementing every promise made to RTC workers. He stated that it is regrettable that some leaders of worker unions were distorting facts and attempting to mislead the workers and the public.

He recalled that RTC union leaders and the Ministers under the leadership of Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka held discussions. Approximately 30 representatives from each union engaged in detailed discussions for 14 hours and arrived at unanimous decisions with everyone's approval, the minister reminded.

In the meeting, it was decided that out of a total of 32 demands, 29 issues fall under the RTC management's purview, while three are under the government's purview. He informed that actions have already been taken through the committee to resolve the 29 issues under the management's purview.

The three key issues under the government's purview are the elections for RTC recognition unions, the 2021 PRC, and the merger of RTC with the government. Regarding the PRC, he stated that the government announced an 11 per cent increase will come into effect starting from July salaries.

He said it is not right that the first demand of RTC workers was the elections for recognition

of unions, and now they are changing their tune to mislead the public and workers. In connection with the merger, the Minister noted that workers unanimously decided in the meeting that worker representatives must necessarily be included in the committees forming the policies.

However, if the worker leaders in those committees are to be from recognized unions, the decision to first conduct the elections for recognized unions was taken in the presence of everyone, he revealed.

As part of this, the government has already initiated the process for recognition of union elections and appointed Labour Joint Commissioner Sunita as the nodal officer for the elections, he informed. The election schedule will be released, and the verification process is underway to conduct the recognition union elections soon, he said.

To protect the interests of the workers, the government is following the process of first conducting the recognition union elections and including representatives from that union in the merger committees, he stated.

Prabhakar said it is not right for some worker union leaders to act in a way that prevents the recognition of union elections from happening and also makes the merger process controversial. He appealed to the workers to recognize the facts, as the government is working with a pure heart to fulfill every promise it has made, and not to believe false propaganda.

The Congress government, which stands by its word, intends to include worker leaders from the recognition union in the committee to formulate merger policies so that no troubles arise in the future regarding the merger process, he added.

KTR accuses Revanth Reddy of failing Telangana's farmers



Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Saturday slammed Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for failing to protect farmers' interests. He charged that under the Congress government, development had disappeared and the State had been left with destruction and despair.

Addressing party workers at Maheswaram, Rama Rao said that Rythu Bandhu had vanished while "Rahul Bandhu" had taken centre stage. He claimed that instead of receiving input subsidy assistance under the Rythu Bandhu scheme, farmers were struggling to get urea. The Congress government had promised to make urea readily available, but farmers continued to face hardships, he alleged.

Rama Rao said that while in the Opposition, Revanth Reddy had questioned why Rythu Bandhu assistance was not extended for a third crop. The Congress had also promised to increase the assistance to Rs.15,000 and provide pensions to two members of a family instead of one. None of those promises had been fulfilled, he alleged. "The slogan 'Congress must be dethroned and KCR must return' is reverberating across Telangana. Though Revanth Reddy is the Chief Minister, people continue to think of former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao," Rama Rao stressed.

According to him, Telangana had emerged as a top-performing State in several sectors during the BRS government. He said Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma visited the Integrated Command Control Centre built during the previous BRS regime and was impressed by the technology used there.

KTR calls Revanth Reddy 'Hitler Reddy' Rama Rao maintained that the hardships witnessed during the Congress rule in united Andhra Pradesh had returned under the present government to haunt the people.

Claiming that Revanth Reddy had himself admitted to admiring German dictator Adolf Hitler, he asked whether people could expect welfare and development from such a person. He referred to the Chief Minister as "Hitler Reddy".

He also accused the Chief Minister of misleading people on the debt incurred by the previous BRS government.

Rama Rao said Telangana's debt stood at Rs.72,000 crore when the State was formed in 2014. Over the next 10 years, the BRS government borrowed Rs.2.80 lakh crore, he claimed.

In contrast, he alleged that the Congress government had borrowed Rs.4 lakh crore in just two-and-a-half years without laying a single brick for development.

He said the BRS government had established 1,020 residential schools and spent Rs.1.20 lakh crore on providing quality education to 6.5 lakh children. It also spent nearly Rs.1 lakh crore to address six decades of power shortages. Under the Kalyana Lakshmi scheme, Rs.1 lakh was provided to each of 14 lakh young women for their weddings, he added.

The previous government had also constructed new Collectorate buildings and established a medical college and a nursing college in every district, he said. In contrast, the present government was unable to provide gunny bags to farmers at procurement centres, he alleged.

"While KCR deposited Rs.72,000 crore into farmers' accounts, Revanth Reddy has made 72 trips to New Delhi in just 30 months," Rama Rao remarked, alleging that all the gunny bags were being diverted to the national capital.

The BRS working president also alleged that valuable lands were being plundered by Congress leaders under the guise of the proposed Fourth City and Future City projects.

He said BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao had conceived the Pharma City project to generate employment for local youth in the Ranga Reddy region. According to him, the project was planned to meet global standards, remain pollution-free and operate with a Zero Liquid Discharge system. Farmers were persuaded to part with their land, and 14,000 acres were acquired in Maheswaram and Ibrahimpatnam, he recalled.

Rama Rao recalled that before the 2023 Assembly elections, Congress leaders had promised to scrap the Pharma City project and return the acquired land to farmers. However, after coming to power, Revanth Reddy was now saying the land would not be returned, he said.

"They are making tall claims about a Future City spread across 30,000 acres. But the Law does not permit the Chief Minister to allocate Pharma City lands to his son-in-law or brother," Rama Rao said.

He urged party workers to treat the SIR programme with utmost seriousness and ensure that the names of eligible voters were not removed from the electoral rolls.

Wear a Helmet, Save Your Life: Sajjanar Asks Riders



Hyderabad: Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar underscored the importance of wearing a helmet to protect themselves from causing head injuries.

Responding to an accident that happened recently at Rajajinagar in Bengaluru, he said in a

post on 'X' that accidents never come with an invitation!

"Whether through nature's fury or a technical glitch... no one knows in what form an accident will strike. Many wear helmets out of fear of the police or to avoid a fine. That's wrong!"

"A helmet isn't meant to save the 'fine' that lands in your pocket. It's to ensure the lamp in your home doesn't go out! It's to protect the smiles of your family members who wish for you to reach home safely!"

"Let not a moment's discomfort become the cause of lifelong pain. Whether it's a short trip or a long journey don't forget your helmet. Remember, your safety is the greatest gift you give to your family," he added

Thank You, Says Trump As Telangana Names Road in Hyderabad After Him



Washington: Donald Trump expressed his gratitude for naming a road in Hyderabad, India, after him, saying he was the first US President to be honoured this way. Trump's remarks on Truth Social on Friday came after the Telangana government named a road adjoining the US Consulate in Hyderabad as "Donald Trump Avenue". "The new Donald Trump Avenue in Hyderabad, India - The first US President to ever be honoured in this way. Thank you," Trump said, sharing a photograph of Telangana deputy chief minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and US envoy to India Sergio Gor unveiling the ceremonial plaque earlier this week. The newly named Donald Trump Avenue is also close to the offices of major American tech firms, including Microsoft, Google and Amazon. The Telangana government described the designation as a tribute to the United States and a recognition of Hyderabad's growing role in US-India relations.

Massive Arrangements Made for Pulse Polio Drive in Nizamabad District :

Nizamabad June 27, 2026 : With the objective of achieving a completely polio-free society, the District Medical and Health Department has made extensive arrangements for the successful conduct of the Pulse Polio Immunization Programme scheduled on Sunday, June 28, across Nizamabad district.

As part of the awareness campaign, an awareness rally was organized on Saturday from the Government General Hospital in Nizamabad city under the supervision of District Medical and Health Officer Dr. B. Rajashri. The rally was inaugurated by Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Bhujanga Rao, who flagged off the procession in the presence of health officials and staff.

The rally passed through important areas including the Bus Stand and Tilak Garden junction while participants raised slogans promoting polio eradication and child health awareness. Awareness posters related to Pulse Polio were also unveiled on the occasion.

Speaking to the media, the Additional Collector stressed the importance of ensuring that every child below five years of age receives Pulse Polio drops without fail. He directed officials to implement the programme in a systematic and effective manner to avoid missing any eligible child.

The health department informed that Pulse Polio drops will be administered from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM at designated booths on Sunday. Special house-to-house visits will be conducted on June 29 and 30



for children who fail to attend the booths on the scheduled day. Dr. Rajashri stated that a total of 1,91,883 children below five years have been identified in the district. To cover all beneficiaries, 1,007 Pulse Polio booths have been established, including 241 urban booths and 766 rural booths. In addition, 37 transit booths and 37 mobile booths have also been arranged.

For smooth implementation of the programme, the department has appointed 101 supervisory officers, 4,277 booth members, 428 health workers, 1,112 ASHA workers, and 1,501 Anganwadi workers. The district has also stocked 2,11,100 doses of Pulse Polio vaccine.

Officials stated that special attention is being given to remote villages, tribal tandas, brick kiln labour colonies, construction sites, slum areas, and other high-risk zones to ensure complete vaccination coverage.

The District Medical and Health Department appealed to parents and guardians to bring all children below five years to the nearest Pulse Polio booth and cooperate in making the district completely polio-free.

Several officials, medical officers, ANMs, ASHA workers, Anganwadi staff, nursing students, and health department personnel participated in the awareness programme.



High Alert Over Godavari Floods..! District Administration on Alert; Minister Tummala Issues Key Directions for Preparedness

Bhadradri Kothagudem | June 27: In view of heavy rainfall in the upper catchment areas of the Godavari River, the Bhadradi Kothagudem district administration has been placed on high alert to tackle possible flood situations. A district-level review meeting was held at the Collectorate under the chairmanship of State Minister for Agriculture, Marketing, Cooperation, Handlooms and Textiles, Tummala Nageswara Rao.

The Minister conducted a detailed review of flood-prone areas, villages along the Godavari river basin, rehabilitation centres, drinking water supply, electricity, medical services, food distribution, road safety, and



emergency relief measures.

During the meeting, Pinapaka MLA Payam Venkateswarlu brought to the Minister's attention the situation in flood-affected villages of his constituency. He urged officials to take proactive measures to ensure that people do not face any hardship and instructed all departments to remain vigilant at the field level. He also stressed the need to provide all essential facilities at rehabilitation centres and to keep emergency response teams fully prepared.

The meeting was attended by MLAs Tellam Venkat Rao and Ram Das Naik, the District Collector, Sub-Collector, Superintendent of Police, ITDA Project Officer Rahul, and officials from various departments, who reviewed the district's flood preparedness.

Addressing the officials, Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao said, "The safety of people's lives and property is the government's highest priority. All departments must work in coordination to minimise the impact of floods. The public should also cooperate by following the instructions issued by the authorities."

People's Safety is the Top Priority – District Administration Fully Prepared with Advance Measures to Face Godavari Floods.

BLOs Brief MLA Payam Venkateswarlu on Special Electoral Roll Revision

MLA Calls for Creating Awareness Among Every Eligible Voter

Manuguru | June 27: As part of the Special Electoral Roll Revision programme, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) visited Arundhati Nagar in Samithi Singaram village of Manuguru Mandal and handed over the Special Electoral Roll Revision application forms to Pinapaka MLA Payam Venkateswarlu and his family members. The officials also briefed the MLA on the process of receiving applications, verification of voter details, and inclusion of all eligible citizens in the electoral roll.



Speaking on the occasion, MLA Payam Venkateswarlu said that the Special Electoral Roll Revision is

an important exercise that strengthens the democratic system. He instructed officials to ensure that no eligible voter is left out of the electoral roll and to carry out the process with utmost responsibility.

The MLA emphasized the need to create widespread awareness about the voter list revision process, especially in villages, colonies, tribal habitations, and remote areas. He advised Booth Level Officers to clearly explain the application procedure, required documents, and voter registration process in a simple and easily understandable manner.

He further directed officials to conduct the revision process in a transparent and efficient manner, ensuring that citizens do not face any inconvenience. He stressed that every eligible citizen should be given the opportunity to exercise their democratic right to vote.

The programme was attended by Mandal Revenue Officer Naresh, Deputy Tahsildar Rama Rao, Samithi Singaram Sarpanch Kalaboyina Madhava Rao, District General Secretary Polamuri Raju, State leaders Sama Srinivasa Reddy and S. Ganesh Reddy, Congress Party leaders, Booth Level Officers, and other concerned officials.

TGMFC Chairman Distributes Welfare Assistance to Minority Beneficiaries in Adilabad :

Adilabad, June 27, 2026 : In a significant initiative aimed at strengthening self-employment opportunities among minority communities, a welfare distribution programme was conducted in Adilabad district on Saturday.

Mohd. Obedulla Kothwal Hon'ble Chairman of Telangana Government Minorities Finance Corporation (TGMFC), accompanied by B. Shafiqullah IFS, Secretary Minorities Welfare Department, and the District Collector of Adilabad, distributed 400 sewing machines, 10 mopeds, and financial assistance cheques of



Rs. 50,000 each to selected beneficiaries.

The distribution was carried out under various government welfare schemes including :

- * INDIRAMMA MINORITY MAHILA SHAKTI
- * INDIRAMMA MINORITY MAHILA YOJANA
- * REHABILITATION OF FAKHEER COMMUNITY

Speaking on the occasion, the dignitaries stated that the Telangana Government is continuously working for the upliftment and economic empowerment of minorities by providing sustainable livelihood opportunities and financial support.

Hundreds of beneficiaries participated in the programme and appreciated the government's efforts in supporting economically weaker sections through welfare-oriented schemes.



Foundation Laid for Bhadradi Sri Rama Temple Development; ₹351 Crore Mega Project Launched

Bhadrachalam | June 27: The Telangana Government has officially launched a prestigious development project for the renowned Sri Sita Ramachandra Swamy Temple at Bhadrachalam, one of the state's most revered pilgrimage destinations. The ambitious project, estimated at ₹351 crore, was inaugurated on Saturday in a grand ceremony.



The inaugural event was attended by Bhadrachalam MLA Dr. Tellam Venkata Rao, Bhadradi Kothagudem District Collector Ankit, and other district officials, who formally commenced the development works.

Speaking on the occasion, MLADr. Tellam Venkata Rao expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Revenue & Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, and Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao for sanctioning ₹351 crore for the temple's comprehensive development.

He stated that the project would be executed in accordance with Agama Shastra traditions, preserving the temple's ancient architectural heritage while ensuring the highest standards of quality. The government aims to complete the works on a priority basis, enhancing the spiritual grandeur of Bhadrachalam and further strengthening its importance as a major pilgrimage and tourism destination.

The event was also attended by mandal officials, Major Gram Panchayat Sarpanch Poonem Krishna, Deputy Sarpanch Ratnam Kavitha, party leaders Ratnam Ramakanth, Kondishetty Krishnamurthy, Narra Ramu, Arikella Tirupathi Rao, Chintidi Chittibabu, Bheemavarapu Venkata Reddy, Balusu Naga Satish, Doddipatla Koteswara, ward members, youth leaders Gadi Vijay, Vemula Anil, and several other public representatives and officials.

New Delhi: Cong. Plans Big PCC, AICC Shake-up

NEW DELHI: The Congress is preparing for another round of changes in its leadership structure as part of a wide-ranging organisational overhaul. A reshuffle of at least half a dozen Pradesh Congress Committees (PCCs) and a majority of AICC secretaries, general secretaries and state in-charges is expected in the coming days.

The exercise is aimed at filling vacancies created by resignations, electoral setbacks and organisational adjustments.

According to party sources, the issue was discussed recently by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi and AICC general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal. The immediate priority is to strengthen state leadership in poll-bound states before finalising changes among AICC general secretaries and state in-charges.

The Congress is focusing on Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Manipur, where Assembly elections are due early next year, followed by Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh later in 2027. Except in Punjab, where it faces the Aam Aadmi Party, the Congress is locked in a direct contest with the BJP in these states. The party is currently in power in Himachal Pradesh.

Punjab is among the states where a change in the Pradesh Congress Committee president is under active consideration, sources said. The leadership is reviewing the state's organisational structure after several rounds of consultations.

Political speculation is also gathering pace in Rajasthan, where PCC president Govind Singh Dotasra is set to complete six years in office next month. Party leaders said discussions over a leadership change have intensified in recent weeks, with former deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot, currently in charge of Chhattisgarh, emerging as the frontrunner in internal discussions and social media campaigns. Rajasthan in-charge Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa is likely to be shifted as Punjab polls are approaching. If Pilot is made RPCC chief, the post of Chhattisgarh in-charge will fall va-



cant.

In Uttar Pradesh, where the Congress is allied with the Samajwadi Party to take on the BJP, caste representation has become a key consideration. Until recently, state in-charge Avinash Pande, PCC chief Ajay Rai and Congress Legislature Party leader Aradhana Mishra all belonged to upper castes. Pande was replaced on Friday by Rajendra Pal Gautam, a Dalit leader. Party insiders said the leadership is considering appointing an OBC leader either as PCC president or to another key organisational post to broaden its voter outreach.

SouthAsians & Diaspora

Further leadership changes in the Delhi and Madhya Pradesh units are also under consideration. Party sources said the leadership is weighing the elevation of some state unit presidents to key national roles while identifying new faces to head crucial state units.

Alongside changes in state leadership, the Congress is expected to reshuffle several AICC general secretaries and state in-charges. Delhi in-charge Qazi Nizamuddin may be relieved of his organisational responsibilities to focus on Uttarakhand, while Mukul Wasnik may be shifted from Gujarat and Rajni Patil from Himachal Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh in-charge Manickam Tagore was appointed Tamil Nadu Congress president on Saturday.

The latest exercise follows a series of vacancies created in recent months. Party insiders said the leadership is also reviewing the performance of in-charges in states where friction with state units has persisted.

Trump Likely to Visit India Early Next Year: Rubio

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said President Donald Trump is likely to visit India in the early months of next year, highlighting the strength of India-US ties and the close relationship between President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking to news agency IANS at the White House, Rubio said he expects to travel to India before the end of this year to prepare for Trump's visit.

"We're hoping. That's what we're working towards sometime early next year to have the President come," Rubio said, adding that he looks forward to returning to India to help finalise arrangements for the visit.

Rubio described the India-US partnership as being in a "very positive" phase following the recent meeting between Trump and PM Modi on the sidelines of the G7 Summit. He said both leaders share a close personal rapport,



which has further strengthened bilateral relations.

"I think it's going fantastic. It's very strong. We had a great meeting with the Prime Minister at the G7. We're hoping to finalise a trade deal. We're on the last inches of getting it done," Rubio said.

The proposed visit would be Trump's first trip to India since February 2020 and his first since returning to the White House for a second term.

Praising Prime Minister Modi's leadership, Rubio said he is a "fan" of the Indian leader and credited him with raising India's profile globally.

"Modi has made India a global power," Rubio said.

Rajnath Remarks Distorted: Defence Ministry

New Delhi: The defence ministry on Saturday rejected claims circulating on social media that defence minister Rajnath Singh had stated that no Indian soldiers were killed during Operation Sindoor, calling such interpretations misleading and factually incorrect.

The clarification came amid a political controversy following the inscription of names of six armed forces personnel who died during the operation at the National War Memorial earlier this month.

In a statement, the ministry said certain social media posts had selectively quoted an isolated portion of Singh's address in Parliament on July 28, 2025 to suggest that no casualties were suffered during the operation.

"These posts have selectively quoted an isolated portion of the speech to falsely imply that the Raksha Mantri claimed that no Indian soldier lost his life during Operation Sindoor. These are deliberately misleading and factually incorrect," the ministry said.

The controversy was triggered after opposition leaders, including Congress leader Manish Tewari, shared a clip of the minister's speech and questioned the remarks. "Was he oblivious of the facts when he addressed Parliament? For 13 months later government releases names of six soldier killed during Operation Sindoor," he wrote on social media platform X.

Responding to the criticism, the ministry said the remarks had been made in a specific context, referring to what it described as a false narrative at the time claiming that Indian pilots had been lost during the operation.



"It must be recalled that at the time of the defence minister's address, a particularly persistent and dominant narrative had taken hold... which claimed that Indian pilots had been lost during Operation Sindoor. This narrative was entirely false," the ministry said, adding that the minister's statement was a response to that claim.

"It was in direct reference to this specific and mischievous narrative that the defence minister made the statement in question," it said.

The ministry maintained that Singh's address was a comprehensive account of the operation, describing it as a successful mission in which Indian forces demonstrated precision and professionalism.

"His statement in Parliament was, in its entirety, a proud and accurate account of the remarkable success of Operation Sindoor," it said.

According to the ministry, more than 100 terrorists and Pakistani soldiers were neutralised during the operation, and infrastructure damage was inflicted on Pakistani air bases and deployments along the Line of Control.

Reiterating its position, the ministry said the government remains committed to honouring personnel who lost their lives. "The Raksha Mantri and the Government of India remain steadfast in their respect, gratitude, and reverence for every member of the Indian Defence Forces..." it said.

It added that the names of the personnel have been inscribed at the National War Memorial in recognition of their sacrifice and that support measures have been extended to their families. The clarification seeks to address the political row over the interpretation of the minister's remarks.

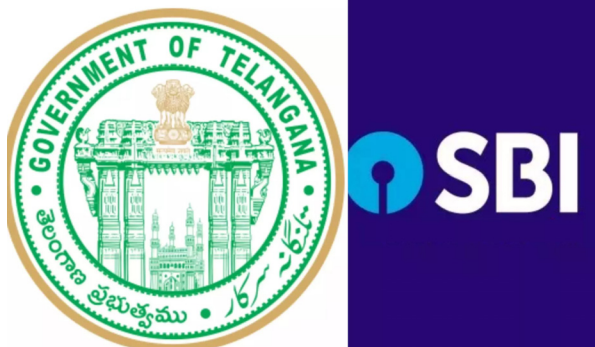
Telangana, SBI Settle for Alternative Land

Hyderabad: The long-running dispute between the Telangana government and the State Bank of India (SBI) over prime Raidurg land has moved towards settlement, with both sides agreeing in principle to resolve the issue through allotment of an alternative parcel.

The breakthrough came at a meeting in the Secretariat on Saturday chaired by chief secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, attended by finance principal secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania, TGIIC vice-chairman and MD K. Shashanka, and senior SBI officials including deputy MD G.S. Rana, CGM Neelesh Dwivedi and AGM G. Poovazhagi. SBI is expected to withdraw its petition in the High Court against the Raidurg auction soon.

The discussions followed a June 22 meeting where the government proposed alternative sites. SBI representatives inspected them on June 23 and conveyed acceptance. The bank said it would act after Board approval and take necessary steps in line with court proceedings. Both sides agreed to conclude the matter expeditiously after statutory formalities.

The dispute dates back to August 6, 2010, when the then Andhra Pradesh government allotted five acres in Survey No.83/1 at Raidurg to the erstwhile State Bank of Hyderabad (SBH) at a concessional price of ₹13.30 crore for an of-



office complex. Possession was handed over in January 2011, but construction never commenced. APIIC issued notices from 2012 onwards and later proposed cancellation.

TSIIC finally cancelled the allotment on January 22, 2021, and resumed possession on February 1. After SBH merged with SBI, the bank challenged the cancellation in the High Court. During litigation, the government offered alternative land at Osmannagar and Gandipet, while the court directed reconsideration of SBI's representations.

The issue resurfaced this year after TSIIC issued an e-auction notification for the Raidurg land in May. SBI opposed the auction, but the High Court adjourned the case on June 22. The government reiterated that the bank had failed to utilise the land despite repeated opportunities and maintained its offer of an alternative site.

New Employees Health Scheme from July 15

Hyderabad: The new Employees Health Scheme (EHS) will begin on July 15, the Employees Health Care Trust decided at its first meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao.

The trust will issue detailed regulations within a week, address excess deductions and begin talks with hospital managements before finalising package rates and the list of empanelled hospitals.

It was decided that when both spouses are employees, one of them will be exempt from paying the contribution. Authorities will also issue orders to refund amounts deducted beyond the required contribution.

Health department officials and Trust members will meet hospital representatives within a week to discuss



the scheme and related arrangements. Package rates and the list of hospitals will be finalised at the next meeting.

The meeting followed the government's decision to run the EHS through the Employees Health Care Trust in Telangana.

Jupally Asks Congress BLAs to Monitor SIR

Adilabad: Tourism minister Jupally Krishna Rao on Saturday said the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls was critical for Congress leaders planning to contest MLA, MP, MPTC and ZPTC elections, as well as for the party.

Addressing a training programme for the party's BLA-2 workers in Adilabad, he alleged that the BJP would focus on the SIR process to remove voters sympathetic to the Congress, as seen in other states. He asked party leaders to monitor the process closely to protect genuine voters.

The minister directed booth-level agents (BLAs) to track booth-level officers (BLOs) and obtain daily updates on the number of enumeration forms uploaded, identify anomalies and review the status of unmapped voters in their polling booths.

He also asked BLAs to focus on minority voters, stating that the BJP attempts to remove such votes under 'absent' or 'shifted' categories during household surveys.

Vedma Bojju said some party BLAs and Anganwadi workers appointed as BLOs were unable to supervise voter enumeration effectively, and suggested replacing them with qualified personnel.

He alleged that BJP MLAs Payal Shankar and Aleti Maheshwar Reddy were being given prior-



ity and that some officials were favouring them by withholding information on appointments.

Vedma Bojju further alleged that Payal Shankar was projecting proximity to the Chief Minister and acting like a Congress MLA to get work done. He said BJP legislators would not join the Congress and party leaders would have to contest against them in the next elections.

Former MP Soyam Bapurao urged the minister not to prioritise MLAs Payal Shankar of Adilabad and Anil Kumar Jadhav of the BRS in allocation of development works, and instead give preference to local Congress leaders and activists. Former MLA Atram Saku, Adilabad party in-charge Kandi Srinivas Reddy, market committee chairman Srikath Reddy, former DCC president Sajid Khan and TPCC former general secretary Gandrath Sujatha were among those who spoke.

Badminton Asia Junior Mixed Team Championships: India beats Kazakhstan 2-0 to reach quarterfinals

India secured a quarterfinal berth in the Badminton Asia Junior Mixed Team Championships with a commanding 2-0 victory over Kazakhstan in their Group C opener. The win sets up a decisive clash against Chinese Taipei to determine the group winners. South Asians & Diaspora

Hyderabad: Team India sealed their quarterfinals spot in the Badminton Asia Junior Mixed Team Championships with a dominant 2-0 (55-31, 55-21) win over Kazakhstan in their Group C opener here on Saturday. Geographic Reference

With the all important clash against Chinese Taipei to decide the group winner looming, India mixed things up in doubles.

Girls' doubles pairing of Durga Esha Kandrapu and Keerthy Manchala gave India a strong start with a 11-5 win over Alissa Kuleshova and Diana Namenova.

Puneeth Suresh and Deepti Raj Aditi were then taken the distance by Mustafa Malikzhan and Kuleshova but they managed to eke out a 11-10 win to take the score to 22-15. The Indians then dominated the next three categories to win the first set.



The second set then turned out to be a cakewalk as none of the players conceded more than six points in any of the matches.

Belgium Hammer New Zealand 5-1 to End Group Stage on a High

Belgium wrapped up their FIFA World Cup 2026 Group G campaign in emphatic fashion with a commanding 5-1 victory over New Zealand.

Leandro Trossard opened the scoring in the 28th minute before doubling Belgium's lead five minutes into the second half with his second goal of the match. Kevin De Bruyne made it 3-0 in the 66th minute, putting the Red Devils firmly in control.

New Zealand pulled one back through Elijah Just in the 84th minute, briefly giving the home side something to cheer about. However, Belgium responded immediately as Romelu Lukaku re-



stored the three-goal cushion in the 86th minute, before Alexis Saelemaekers added a fifth in stoppage time to complete the rout.

Belgium also made several changes throughout the second half, introducing Alexis Saelemaekers, Amadou Onana, Charles De Ketelaere, and Romelu Lukaku from the bench, while New Zealand rotated their squad with substitutions including Sarpreet Singh, Ryan Thomas, Liberato Cacace, and Francis De Vries.

The victory underlined Belgium's attacking quality and ensured they finished the group stage on a high, while New Zealand bowed out after a difficult outing against one of the tournament favourites.

ICC Women's WC: Shafali Verma vows to keep it simple against Australia

India opener Shafali Verma says simplifying her batting approach has helped her score consistently ahead of the must-win ICC Women's World Cup clash against Australia. She also backed India's fielding preparations and credited captain Harmanpreet Kaur for clearly defining her bowling role. Geographic Reference

Hyderabad: India's hard-hitting opener Shafali says a lot of things have improved in her batting.

Speaking on JioStar special show ahead of the big clash against Australia in the ICC Women's World Cup in UK, Shafali said: "Before the Pakistan match, I was overthinking. I was planning too much, how I would play the first ball, what shot I would play off the second ball. But after that game, I realised that I don't need to complicate things. I just need to keep it simple."

"When I bat, I watch the ball and react. I don't plan too far ahead. That has helped me score runs more freely. Because of that change, I think I am getting good scores now. I am not putting too much pressure on myself. I will try to continue this approach in the must-win game against Australia as well," she said. On the key lessons she has learned since the Pakistan game, Shafali said: "If my shots are not coming off, I don't force them. I take singles and keep the scoreboard moving. I think batting is all about not complicating things. Keep it simple, take singles, rotate the strike, and play along the ground when needed. If the ball is in my hitting zone, I go for it."

"Otherwise, I respect the good deliveries and look for ones and twos. That is the approach I have learned over time. Don't try to hit every ball. Stay calm, watch the ball, and react. Whatever I have learned so far, this is what I have understood," she said.

On how Captain Harmanpreet Kaur has helped her understand her role with the ball, Shafali said: "Harman di has kept my role very clear. She told me that I will have to bowl in the powerplay. So, I work on that in the nets as well. I bowl with the new ball,



focus on hitting the right areas, and try to keep the ball around the stumps. As an opener, I know that if you bowl outside the stumps, you give the batter room to score."

"So, I always try to bowl according to what I would expect as an opener, what line and length would trouble me. I bowl keeping that in mind; tight lines, stump-to-stump, and making the batter work for runs," she said.

On dropped catches, Shafali said: "Everyone is thinking of giving their 100 per cent. No one is dropping catches or misfielding on purpose. Sometimes it's just not your day, the ball doesn't stick, the timing is off, or the bounce surprises you. But we always back the player who is having a tough day, both on and off the field. Our preparation has been good. We had two days of practice before this match against Bangladesh." "We did fielding drills together as a team, half an hour of focused catching and ground fielding. So, I will not say that we are not preparing well. We are doing everything we can. It's just about the day. Some days things click, some days they don't. That's part of the game," she said.

On the must-win game against Australia, Shafali said: "Everyone knows Australia are a world-class team. But it's not like we haven't beaten them before. We recently beat them in a T20 series in Australia, and that gives us confidence. We have been playing against them for years now. We know their bowlers, their strengths, and their plans. So, we will keep things straightforward, which is important and back our own strengths. The more you overthink, the harder it gets."

SPORTS



Ireland Stun India by 34 Runs in T20I Series Opener at Belfast

Belfast: Immaculate Ireland bowlers gnawed on Indian batters' impatience on a rather pacy pitch with exemplary lengths, etching a historic 34-run victory in the first T20I match here on Friday. It was Ireland's first-ever victory over reigning T20 world champions India in any format, and the hosts have now taken a 1-0 lead in the two-match series. Chasing 183 on a pitch that had enough assistance for quick bowlers was not improbable but needed a different, pragmatic approach after power play.

But none of them had the patience, as India ended up at 148 all out, despite Abhishek Sharma making a 20-ball 50. Debutant pacer Jai Moondra (2/26) inflicted the first blow on his country of origin, eliciting an inside on to the stumps from Sanju Samson. The Irish bowlers continued to pull the length back as Indians perished with alarming regularity. Ishan Kishan went for a trademark hack to leg-side off Matt Hollard (3/28) and Lorcan Tucker completed a simple catch inside the circle.

In his first match as India's full-time T20 skipper, Shreyas Iyer attempted a flick off Hollard but could not impart force or distance to the pace-off delivery, getting caught in the deep by George Dockrell. India scored



68 in the power play but had lost three wickets. However, Abhishek played a gem, a 20-ball fifty, as wickets tumbled around him, and punished pacer Liam McCarthy for four boundaries in the third over as India breezed ahead.

But the left-hander found Ben Calitz with surgical precision through a pull off McCarthy, bringing a smile to Ireland players' faces. Those smiles only widened once Tilak Varma and Shivam Dube went without making much of an impact. The final nail was thudded on India's coffin when Arshdeep Singh fell to Matthew Humphreys, leaving the Irish camp in a joyous huddle. No debut for Sooryavanshi

Earlier, Indian pacers stuck to hard lengths and preyed on the aggressive tendencies of Ireland batters, limiting them to 182 for nine. The much-anticipated international debut for teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi did not happen, but the full house at Stormont ground had enough to cheer for as India, led by Harshit Rana (3/24) dominated from ball one. Ireland skipper Tucker made a half-century (50, 36 balls) but it was largely a lone hand. The Indian quicks did not try to pitch the ball up and search for swing, as many would expect in these conditions. But they placed their belief in back of the length deliveries and were rewarded handsomely. In the power play segment, the wickets of Tim Tector, Harry Tector and Ross Adair reduced the home side to 30 for three, and Ireland could only score 36 in the first six overs. Tim and Adair went for pull shots, and gave catches to Iyer and Samson respectively. Both fell to Rana and his intensity in the first match after recovering from a four-month injury lay-off might have pleased the team management. Harry went for a drive when Arshdeep (2/28) offered a rare fuller delivery, resulting in a simple catch to Samson. Dube too reaped benefits of shorter length, getting rid of Calitz, who had extracted two sixes off Prasad Krishna. Ireland were 51 for four then, but Tucker realised 64 runs for the fifth wicket to rescue them from a precarious position. Tucker was slow to begin, but the right-hander soon slipped into his aggressive, innovative self to give his side a move-on. Tucker tucked into left-arm spinner Axar Patel (2/33) in the 13th over, smashing 4, 4, 6 and he fetched his fifty in 35 balls. There was also a lovely scoop of Prasad Krishna, who was expensive (0/57), for a boundary. But Tucker's pull off a pace-off, short delivery from Rana ended in the hands of Tilak Varma in the deep. Ireland were 115 for five then. However, Delany and George Dockrell added 49 runs between overs 14.3 and 17.1 to take them past 150. Delany (49) was severe on Prasad whose lengths went awry in his last over. The powerful right-hander hammered the pacer for 4, 6, 6, 6 in the 16th over to take 27 runs from it. Washington Sundar too gave away 19 runs in his solitary over, and those three overs by him, Prasad and Axar made a huge difference in the eventual calculation.

FC Bayern Picks Indian Teen Aryan Bose to Their U-19 World Squad

German football giants FC Bayern Munich have signed Indian teenager Aryan Bose to their Global Academy Team.

The 17-year-old forward is reportedly the only South Asian player to be selected by FC Bayern Munich to their U-19 Global Academy.

The 2009-born player is set to play against elite football academies across Europe, a rare opportunity for Indian footballers. He will also be able to receive world class training, from the most successful club in the German Bundesliga.

He was scouted by the Germans from



Thailand, where he plays for the STB Academy

Indian-origin NZ player who played for FC Bayern Munich

The selection of Aryan Bose by FC Bayern Munich brings memories of an Indian-origin attacking midfielder Sarpreet Singh, who played in the senior team of the German champions. Aryan Khan will follow Sarpreet's footsteps, to hopefully play in the senior team one day.

Now playing for New Zealand in the FIFA World Cup 2026, he was associated with the club between 2019 and 2013, during which he played 38 games in the Bayern Munich II squad and two games in the senior team.



CINEMA

Nagabandham Gets Humungous Distribution Support

ABHISHEK NAMA IS CRAFTING A VISUAL SPECTACLE, NAGABANDHAM, ON A GRAND SCALE LIKE NEVER-SEEN-BEFORE IN INDIAN CINEMA.

Abhishek Nama is crafting a visual spectacle, Nagabandham, on a grand scale like never-seen-before in Indian Cinema. The movie promotional material has clicked with every audience member and it grew anticipation for the film to next level.

Theatrical and Digital rights of the film have been sold to huge amounts for a film without a star and this magnitude. Dil Raju, Suresh Movies, KVN Productions, Zee



Studios kind of big names are associated with distribution of the film. They have all seen business cut of

the film before signing agreements.

This further proves that the buzz for the film is super high and

they are showing immense confidence in Abhishek Nama's vision, craft and grand scale production.

Leading man Virat Karma's Naga Sadhu look and his warrior look have been appreciated all over.

With a huge ensemble cast and big theme that touches upon mythological history and Indian culture, the movie is one of the most anticipated Pan-India films releasing worldwide on 3rd July. Nishitha Nagireddy and Kishore Annapureddy are producing the film on a massive scale with Humungous trust over content.



Rashi Singh's Latest Saree Look is Pure Elegance

Rashi Singh looks absolutely radiant in this elegant new photograph, captured by @absolutelyrahu. Draped in a vibrant red saree with a stylish gold border from @thesjlabel, complemented by exquisite jewellery from @gokulamsignaturejewels, she dazzles with her warm smile and graceful presence. Styled by @stylebyannapurna, with flawless makeup by @reshma.makeupandhair and hair by @arkaa_makeovers, this glowing look is pure elegance.

The Chhattisgarh-born actress, who previously worked as an air hostess, made her Telugu film debut in 2021 with Sashi opposite Aadi Saikumar. She has since delivered memorable performances in Prem Kumar (2023), Bhoothaddam Bhaskar Narayana (2024), and Prasanna Vadanam (2024) as ACP Vaidehi.

In 2025–2026, she appeared in Blind Spot, Paanch Minar, Santhana Prapthirasthu, and the recently released Gossip (June 2026). She continues to expand her footprint in Telugu cinema with her natural acting and screen presence.

With several promising projects on the horizon, Rashi Singh is steadily rising as a talented and versatile actress in Tollywood.

Irumudi First Single Irumudi Kattu to be new Devotional Anthem

For the first time, Ravi Teja will be seen as a father on screen and the glimpse of his bonding with baby Nakshatra, playing his daughter, warmed hearts.

Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja and writer-director Shiva Niravana have joined hands for the first time for an intense emotional drama, Irumudi. For the first time, Ravi Teja will be seen as a father on screen and the glimpse of his bonding with baby Nakshatra, playing his daughter, warmed hearts.

Introducing the divine vibration and spiritual angle of the story, the movie makers have announced that the first single, Irumudi Kattu will release on 29th June. GV Prakash Kumar is composing music for the film and makers promise it to be new Devotional Anthem for all devotees of Lord Ayyappa.

Mythri Movie Makers are producing this visually crafted intense family drama that blends spirituality and human emotions perfectly. Ravi Teja's performance in this film will move hearts of people promise the makers and even the actor noted it as a special film. With high anticipation Irumudi is releasing on 21st August, worldwide.



Idupu Kayitham Title Sparks Andhra-Telangana Social Media Row?

The announcement of Idupu Kayitham, starring Priyadarshi and Naga Durga and directed by Vamshi Reddy Dondapati, has unexpectedly snowballed into a debate over language and regional identity. Soon after the makers unveiled the film's first-look poster, a section of social media users mocked the Telangana-flavoured title, with some sarcastically asking whether the film would be "dubbed into the Andhra language." Others questioned whether the dialect could even be considered "proper Telugu," triggering a sharp backlash from Telangana netizens.

Responding strongly, many users pointed out that Telugu cinema has predominantly been driven by Coastal Andhra dialects for decades without inviting similar criticism. They termed the remarks an example of linguistic chauvinism and an insult to Telangana's native culture and vocabulary, arguing that regional dialects are an integral part of the Telugu language and deserve equal respect.

Producer Madhura Sreedhar Reddy admitted that the sarcastic comments over the title were disappointing and said the controversy unnecessarily snowballed into an Andhra-Telangana debate. "Idupu Kayitham means divorce papers and is a commonly used expression in Telangana. If people were unfamiliar with the meaning, they could have simply asked us instead of making snide remarks. It unnecessarily revived an old regional issue and led to comparisons that were completely avoidable," he said.

Recalling his earlier experience with Dorasani, Madhura Sreedhar said he had faced similar trolling because of the film's Telangana identity. "Even then, I was subjected to cheap comments on social media, but I ignored them because the title reflected the soul of the film. Authentic storytelling should never be compromised out of fear of criticism. It may only be a small section making such comments, but it reveals a certain mindset. Such remarks hurt people and inevitably invite a backlash. If the film itself had contained something objectionable, criticism would have been understandable. But mocking a native Telangana title is simply not right," he observed.

He said the success of Telangana-rooted films has already demon-



strated that audiences are embracing authentic local stories and dialects. "Balagam, made on a budget of around ₹3 crore, went on to gross nearly ₹20 crore and became a cultural phenomenon. More recently, Raju Weds Rambhai, produced on a modest budget of around ₹2 crore, collected close to ₹10 crore at the box office. These films prove that rooted Telangana stories have both cultural and commercial appeal. If you explore Telangana folklore, you will discover immense depth and hundreds of untold stories waiting to be brought to the screen. Instead of ridiculing our native expressions, we should be encouraging more such films," he said.

Urging greater recognition for Telangana's cultural identity in cinema, Madhura Sreedhar appealed to the state government to consider measures to preserve and promote the region's dialect and storytelling traditions. "Just as Marathi, Punjabi and Bhojपुरi cinema have built distinct identities while remaining part of Indian cinema, Telangana too deserves recognition for its unique language, culture and narratives. We need Telugu cinema, but we should also celebrate Telangana cinema as a distinct cultural identity," he concluded.

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.