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PM Modi Holds Delegation-Level Talks with Seychelles President

Victoria [Seychelles]: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday held delegation-level talks with Seychelles President Patrick Herminie at the State House as part of his three-day State Visit to the East African island nation.

The discussions were aimed at further strengthening the longstanding bilateral partnership between India and Seychelles.

The Indian delegation included External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

The Seychelles delegation comprised Vice President Sebastien Pillay, Principal Minister and Minister for Fisheries, Agriculture and the Blue Economy Wallace Cosgrow, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Diaspora Barry Faure, and Minister for Finance, Eco-



nomical Planning, Trade and Investment Pierre Laporte, among other senior officials.

Before the delegation-level meeting, PM Modi and President Herminie also held bilateral talks.

Earlier in the day, the Prime Minister received a ceremonial Guard of Honour at the State House and took part in formal ceremonial proceedings alongside President Herminie, reflecting the close ties between the two countries.

PM Modi arrived in Victoria on Saturday and was received at the airport

by President Herminie, several cabinet ministers and senior officials. The welcome ceremony featured cultural performances, including a traditional dance from Gujarat's Kutch region.

The Prime Minister is visiting Seychelles from June 27 to 29 at the invitation of President Herminie and will attend the country's Golden Jubilee National Day celebrations on Monday as the Guest of Honour, marking 50 years of Seychelles' Independence.

On Saturday, PM Modi also visited the Seychelles National Botanical Garden and handed over the India-built Fast Patrol Vessel PS LESPWAR, along with six ambulances, 10 utility vehicles and five laser-guided boats to strengthen Seychelles' maritime surveillance and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) patrol capabilities.

The Ministry of External Affairs said the initiative reflects the growing strategic partnership between India and Seychelles, particularly in promoting security and cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region.

CM Revanth Reddy Launches Development Projects in Nalgonda

Nalgonda: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy visited Nalgonda district on Sunday and launched a series of development initiatives aimed at strengthening the region's infrastructure. The Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the first phase of the Nalgonda Municipal Corporation's drinking water project, including the construction of a water treatment plant at an estimated cost of ₹83 crore. He later attended a public meeting at Nagarjuna Degree College in Nalgonda, where he addressed residents and party workers.

As part of his tour, Revanth Reddy also inaugurated works related to several development projects across the dis-



trict. The state government formally launched the construction of HAM (Hybrid Annuity Model) roads from Nalgonda district, with the foundation ceremony held at Kanagal. The Chief Minis-

ter unveiled the project's pylon, marking the commencement of the road development programme. State Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy participated in the events along with

other public representatives and officials. The projects are expected to improve drinking water supply and road connectivity, contributing to the district's overall development.

Fear of KCR getting credit behind Congress neglect of Palamuru-Rangareddy project: KTR

Vikarabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Sunday charged that the Congress government was deliberately delaying the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Project (PRLIP) because it feared that BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao would receive credit for the project.

Addressing party workers in Vikarabad, Rama Rao said the previous BRS government had completed nearly 90 per cent of the PRLIP works. Government

"Had the project been completed as scheduled, nearly 10,000 acres in the Vikarabad constituency would have received irrigation water," he claimed. He also said that Congress leaders had created hurdles for the project while in opposition by filing court cases against it, and were now neglecting it after coming to power.

Rama Rao also criticised the Speaker, alleging that despite BRS MLAs switching loyalties and campaigning for the Congress while wearing party scarves, no action had been initiated against them. "The Speaker is behaving like Dhritarashtra," he remarked.

He further objected to the Speaker's reported criticism of the BRS government over the State's debt burden, saying it was unfair for a person holding a constitutional position to make such allegations.

Defending the previous BRS government, Rama Rao said that after 2014 it had raised loans of about Rs 2.80 lakh crore, which were used for providing 24-hour quality power supply, implementing the Rythu Bandhu scheme, establishing medical colleges and residential schools, and carrying out various welfare and development programmes.

In contrast, he alleged that the Congress had failed to fulfill promises such as extending Rythu Bandhu benefits to tenant farmers and agricultural labourers, increasing pensions, and implementing other assurances made during the elections. "People are counting the mistakes being committed by the Congress government and are eager to roll down the shutters on this government," Rama Rao said.

He also criticised the Congress government over the allotment of land for a proposed naval radar station at Damagundam. He claimed that the BRS government had earlier refused to allot the land, but Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy immediately allotted 2,900 acres because he feared Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

CABINET MEET ON JULY 2 TO FINALISE FEE REIMBURSEMENT

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has convened a Cabinet meeting on July 2 to deliberate and decide on fee reimbursement for students, approve the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Phase-I of the Musi rejuvenation project and decide the future course of action on the Centre's new VB-G RAM G rural employment programme.

Official sources said the



Cabinet will deliberate on and finalise the state's fee reimbursement policy, including the timeline for release of funds to students, amid legal uncertainty over the implementation of GO 9 issued on June 6.

The order converted the fee reimbursement scheme into a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) model from the 2026-27 academic year, under which the reimbursement amount will be credited directly into the bank accounts of eligible students instead of being released to college managements, a practice that has been in place since the scheme was introduced in the erstwhile undivided Andhra Pradesh in 2008.

The policy has run into legal hurdles after several private college managements approached the Telangana High Court challenging certain provisions of GO 9. They objected to the clause prohibiting institutions from collecting tuition fees from students at the time of admission and also opposed

the provision directing the government to transfer fee reimbursement directly to students without first clearing pending dues to colleges. According to the management, arrears exceeding ₹10,000 crore have accumulated since 2021 during the previous BRS government's tenure.

The High Court has granted an interim suspension of GO 9 and directed the state government to file its counter-affidavit. The matter is expected to come up for hearing later this week. Against this backdrop, the Cabinet is expected to review the legal position and finalise a revised policy on the implementation of the fee reimbursement scheme.

The government is planning to release fee reimbursement amounts by August 15 to fresh applicants who submit their applications between April and July, subject to the final policy and legal clearance.

Another major agenda before the Cabinet is the

approval of the DPR for Phase I of the Musi rejuvenation project. Under the first phase, the government proposes to clean and develop a nine-kilometre stretch of the Musi River from Himayat Sagar to Babu Ghat at Langar Houz and an 11-kilometre stretch from Gandipet to Babu Ghat, creating an integrated development corridor of about 20 kilometres where the streams converge.

The Cabinet will also discuss the future of the Centre's VB-G RAM G programme, which is slated to replace the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) from July 1. The Telangana government is yet to notify the implementation of the new scheme, having raised objections to certain provisions. The Cabinet is expected to decide whether the state should implement the new programme from July or explore alternative options.

Jupally Launches Rs.30-cr Works In Bhainsa, Opens 440 2BHK Houses



ADILABAD: Tourism minister Jupally Krishna Rao on Sunday laid the foundation stone for development works worth ₹30 crore and inaugurated 440 double-bedroom houses in Bhainsa town, distributing them to beneficiaries along with house pattas. The minister also launched works for modernisation of the drinking water supply system under the AMRUT scheme at a cost of ₹28.18 crore and restoration of the Mahadevpur tank with an outlay of ₹2.14 crore.

Addressing the gathering, he said the works would provide a lasting solution to drinking water issues in Bhainsa and help improve groundwater levels. He said the government was taking steps to sanction Indiramma houses under the second phase and assured justice to oustees of the Palsikar Rangarao project. He said the state government was ensuring transparency in welfare schemes and working to extend benefits to eligible sections.

Adilabad MP Godam Nagesh said the development works would change the face of Bhainsa and assured further development. Earlier, the Minister visited the Gnana Saraswati Temple and offered prayers. He reviewed security arrangements following a recent theft and later inspected the Mahankali temple, where a theft had occurred. He directed officials to expedite the tender process for development works.

BRS Has No Future: CM Revanth Reddy

HYDERABAD: Stepping up attacks on the BRS Party, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said people of the state have permanently socially boycotted former CM K Chandrasekhar Rao's family, and the opposition party has no future.

Addressing a rally in Nalgonda, Reddy asserted that the Musi River rejuvenation would be undertaken, come what may, and that the SLBC project would be completed before the next Assembly elections.

Reddy said the state government is ready to convene special sessions of the Legislative Assembly and Council and challenged the opposition party to come for a debate comparing the performances of the previous 10 years of BRS rule, two-and-a-half years of the current Congress government in the state, and 12 years of the BJP government at the Centre.

"You (BRS) keep



saying that the people want you to come back to power. It is not the people who want that—only your family does. Telangana society has permanently socially boycotted your family. You have no political future. There will be no positions for you in the future. All that remains for you is to talk about the past," he slammed the BRS party.

He further said the state government has spent over ₹1.50 lakh crore for farmers through initiatives such as the farm loan waiver, Rythu

Bharosa, the farmer bonus, and several other welfare programmes. According to him, the government has procured 80 lakh tons of paddy this year.

The chief minister warned that those who create hurdles for the Musi River rejuvenation project will be dumped in the river. He noted that pollution from the Musi River was causing women in Nalgonda to give birth to children with eye and limb deformities.

"Should we step down just because we

are cleaning up the Musi River?" he asked.

The chief minister also attacked the previous regime, alleging that it indulged in phone tapping and even recorded private conversations between husbands and wives.

Reddy said the principal opposition was making false allegations that there were financial irregularities in the state-owned coal miner, Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL), even though no tenders had been invited.

INTUC Opposes 4 Labour Codes

Hyderabad: All India INTUC president G. Sanjeeva Reddy called for the rejection of the four Labour Codes, alleging that they threatened workers' rights, dignity and security, at the organisation's 316th Working Committee meeting in Bengaluru, where labour protections and social justice were discussed.

Sanjeeva Reddy said the time had come to defend the rights and legal protections secured by the working class. Describing the Labour Codes as "inhuman, unlawful and anti-constitutional," he warned that their implementation would adversely



affect workers.

Chief guest D.K. Shivakumar said farmers, soldiers, workers and teachers were the four pillars of a progressive democracy and a prosperous nation. "A farmer feeds the country, a soldier

protects it, a worker builds the economy and a teacher shapes future generations," he said.

Shivakumar said society could neither progress nor sustain itself unless these groups received the

respect, protection and support they deserved.

The meeting concluded with a pledge by participants to remain united against policies they said weakened labour rights, democracy and social justice.

Nitin Nabin Vows a Repeat of West Bengal in Telangana



Nabin said.

"Though the BJP tried hard to oust the corrupt and family rule by the BRS, there seem to be some gaps, which help the Congress to come to power. It is high time to go with a renewed spirit to defeat the Congress and the BRS, which are surrendering to the AIMIM and appeasement politics," Nabin said. He promised to bring real development, politics of development and not politics of dynasty and corruption by the Congress and the BRS in the coming three municipal corporation elections in the city.

Union minister for coal and mines G. Kishan Reddy appealed to party workers to save Hyderabad from the MIM, which spread during the Congress and the BRS rule. The MIM is dictating the recruitment of police officers. Many bastis in the old city with a Hindu population have turned empty due to the pressure politics of MIM leaders, who are getting all the support from the ruling parties. The BJP workers must work with the BLOs and ensure that bogus voters are not enrolled, and every eligible Indian voter must be enrolled in the voter list," Kishan Reddy said.

BJP state president N. Ramchander Rao charged that Revanth Reddy turned the state into an adda (fiefdom) for his real estate and ignored the basic infrastructure in the city. After every rain, the roads in the city become like rivers with floodwaters. He asked the party workers to ensure that all eligible voters were enrolled during the SIR, and warned that otherwise, the Rohingya and Bangladeshi people would join as voters.

Earlier, Nabin inaugurated the newly constructed Rangareddy district party office in Shamshabad and eight other district party offices virtually. He called on party workers to turn the premises into active centres of resolve and public service, intensify door-to-door outreach and strengthen public trust in the BJP leadership and policies.

He congratulated cadres on the openings in Rangareddy Rural, Adilabad, Asifabad, Nirmal, Kamareddy, Siddipet, Medak, Wanaparthy and Nagarkurnool. He described the offices as more than buildings — as "sankalp kendras" (centres of resolve) and service hubs designed to deepen the party's connection with citizens.

Union Cabinet Reshuffle Buzz Keeps Aspirants From Telangana on Edge

Hyderabad: Speculation over an imminent reshuffle and expansion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Council of Ministers gathered momentum on Sunday, with reports circulating in political circles that members of parliament (MPs) had been asked to remain in Delhi on Monday and Tuesday in anticipation of a possible exercise.

However, Telangana BJP leaders dismissed the possibility of an immediate Union Cabinet reshuffle, citing the Prime Minister's overseas engagements and the ongoing visit of the party's national president Nitin Nabin to Telangana.

According to sources in the Telangana unit in the BJP, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been on an official visit to Seychelles since June 27 and is scheduled to return only on Monday, June 29, making it unlikely that a Cabinet reshuffle or expansion could be undertaken on Monday or Tuesday at such short notice.

Another factor cited by party leaders is the three-day visit of the BJP national president to Telangana, which concludes only on Tuesday. They argued that any Cabinet expansion is unlikely before Wednesday, as the party leadership would prefer to complete the organisational programme before taking up a major political exercise at the Centre.



Despite ruling out an immediate reshuffle, Telangana BJP leaders expressed confidence that Modi would carry out a Cabinet reshuffle and expansion sometime in July, before the commencement of the monsoon session of Parliament, which is expected to begin in the third week of the month.

Currently, Telangana is represented by two ministers in the Union Cabinet. Union minister G. Kishan Reddy holds Cabinet rank, while Bandi Sanjay Kumar serves as minister of state. Party leaders believe both are likely to retain their positions in the reshuffle, while there is also a possibility that the Prime Minister may induct one more leader from Telangana into the council of ministers. Speculation is rife within the party that Mahabubnagar MP D.K. Aruna, Adilabad MP Godam Nagesh, Nizamabad MP Dharmapuri Arvind and Malkajgiri MP Etala Rajender are in the race for a ministerial berth if Telangana is given additional representation in the Cabinet.

BJP sources further pointed to the Prime Minister's packed diplomatic schedule in early July as another reason why the Cabinet exercise may be delayed. Modi is expected to undertake visits to Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand between July 6 and 11.

In addition, Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi is scheduled to visit New Delhi from July 1 to 3. In view of these international engagements, party leaders said the likelihood of a Cabinet reshuffle before July 11 appears remote, although they remain confident that the exercise will be completed ahead of the Monsoon Session of Parliament expected in the third week.

TELANGANA MUST GET ITS URBAN PLANNING RIGHT

Urbanisation may be India's future. But, it is Telangana's present. Telangana is urbanising at a pace few Indian states do. While 36 per cent of India's population lives in urban areas, Telangana has already crossed the 50 per cent mark, placing it alongside Gujarat (50.2 per cent) and ahead of Maharashtra (49.4 per cent). By 2036, nearly 58 per cent of Telangana's population is expected to reside in urban centres.

Cities around the world have struggled with the consequences of rapid urban growth. What separates successful cities from struggling ones is not the pace of growth but the quality of planning. Hyderabad holds the potential to present a mirror to what may be 'India's tomorrow'. If Telangana gets urban planning right today, Hyderabad can become more than a successful city. It can become a model for urban In-



dia.

Unlike other metropolitan regions such as Delhi, Mumbai or Kolkata, Hyderabad still has considerable room for strategic planning. Much of its future growth will occur through expanding suburban centres. This provides a rare opportunity to plan ahead and build infrastructure before congestion becomes irreversible.

Telangana should focus on four priorities. First, planning must adopt a metropolitan approach that integrates Hyderabad with surrounding districts. Planning must also move from a mere spatial, two-dimensional master plan to a coordinated comprehensive master plan involving all aspects such as transport, water, sewage, waste-management and the spread of social facilities like schools, hospital etc. Singapore and Seoul present a ready reference model.

Telangana Government to Consult Non-BJP Ruled States on VB-G RAM G

Hyderabad: The Telangana Cabinet sub-committee examining the Union government's proposed VB-G RAM G to replace the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act on Saturday favoured reaching out to other non-BJP ruled states, including Karnataka and Kerala, to explore coordinated legal and political action.

The sub-committee felt that the wider political and administrative implications of the proposed legislation had not yet been adequately communicated to the public. It decided to place the issue before the state cabinet on July 2. The Cabinet is expected to take a final decision on whether Telangana should adopt the central framework, enact its own legislation, approach the Supreme Court, or pursue a combination of legal and administrative measures.

The sub-committee, chaired by minister for irrigation and civil supplies N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, met for the second time in less than



a week and proposed consultations with the chief ministers of Karnataka and Kerala to assess whether the two states would be willing to pursue a common legal strategy or other coordinated measures to protect the powers and financial interests of states.

Sharing the concern voiced by the members of the committee, minister Uttam Kumar Reddy said that an appropriate decision was the need of the hour. There is growing concern over the proposed central legislation which threatens to weaken the federal structure by reducing the role of state gov-

ernments in implementing rural employment programmes.

Rural development and panchayati raj minister Danasari Anasuya Seethakka attended the meeting in person, while agriculture minister Thummala Nageswara Rao and employment minister G. Vivek Venkataswamy participated virtually. Senior officials, including special chief secretary Dana Kishore and commissioner of panchayati raj and rural development D. Divya, participated in the discussions.

Members of the committee strongly felt that the pro-

posed law infringes upon the constitutional powers of states and contains several provisions that may not withstand judicial scrutiny. Legal experts informed the committee that they had identified multiple constitutional issues that could form the basis of a challenge before the Supreme Court.

The committee held detailed discussions on whether Telangana should challenge the legislation in the Supreme Court instead of implementing it in line with the Centre's guidelines.

The Cabinet panel received suggestions from the representatives of nearly 20 civil society organisations. They also sounded critical of the centre introducing sweeping changes without consulting state governments. They described the move as a violation of cooperative federalism, saying employment guarantee programmes directly affect state finances, rural livelihoods and local implementation.

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.

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.

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 in-



structed 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.

Ponguleti Launches BT Road, Bridge Works



Nalgonda: Revenue minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Saturday directed officials to ensure quality and timely completion of development works to make them available for public use.

Laying the foundation stone for a BT road and bridge at Dubba Thanda in Kusumanchi mandal of Khammam district, being taken up at an estimated cost of Rs 16.13 crore, he said the government aimed to provide a permanent solution to transportation problems in rural areas. He said improving road connectivity to tribal hamlets remained a priority, as people faced difficulties due to muddy roads and overflowing streams during the monsoon.

He said construction of quality roads and bridges

would facilitate easier commuting and improve access to emergency services, education and agriculture-related activities.

The minister stressed the need to take measures to ensure that rains do not affect the execution of development works.

Earlier, he laid the foundation stone for a BT road from Lalsingh Thanda to Nereduvai at a cost of Rs 2.03 crore. He also launched works for two bridges on the Kondapuram-Motapuram road via Jeellacheruvu, with an estimated outlay of Rs 7.50 crore.

District collector Divakara T.S. and Police Commissioner Sunil Dutt were present.

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.



Monday 29, 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.

RS Praveen Kumar alleges Rs 2,041 crore scam in residential schools supplies



Hyderabad: BRS General Secretary RS Praveen Kumar on Saturday alleged a Rs 2,041 crore scam in the procurement of commodities for residential schools and challenged SC and ST Welfare Minister Adhuri Laxman to an open debate on the issue at the Press Club, Somajiguda, on July 2.

Praveen Kumar said that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy continued to make tall claims about eradicating drugs from the State. However, he claimed that Niranjana Jain, a contractor for supplying trunk boxes, was involved in drug peddling. He questioned what guarantee there was that drugs would not reach children under the guise of trunk boxes.

He recalled that City Police Commissioner CV Anand had earlier stated that Niranjana Jain owned several businesses and had allegedly approached drug peddlers nearly 30 times.

At a press conference here on Saturday, Praveen Kumar also questioned why TSCO, which was meant to work for the welfare of weavers, had awarded the fabric supply contract to Rajesh Agarwal.

He also charged that whenever charges were raised against the Congress government, the Chief Minister deputed Ministers Ponnampalapati Prabhakar, Adhuri Laxman and Mohammed Azharuddin to respond.

However, he claimed that meetings related to financial matters were being held in star hotels.

The Ministers were kept in the dark about these meetings. Draft government orders were issued soon after the meetings, but copies were not shared with the Ministers. The Chief Minister alone was signing them, he alleged.

Praveen Kumar claimed that industrial unit managements across different regions were referring to Jaiveer Reddy, Niranjana Jain and Mafatlal in connection with the award of contracts.

He alleged that tender specifications were being framed to suit the eligibility of their firms and questioned the connection between Mafatlal and Vem Narender Reddy. An inquiry should be conducted into their alleged nexus with the government, he demanded.

He also questioned how the Telangana Leather Corporation was entrusted with contracts for supplying stationery, ID cards, ties and belts. The BRS government would probe all these alleged irregularities after returning to power, he asserted.

"Minister Adhuri Laxman says the government floated tenders worth only Rs 674 crore and dismissed our allegations of a scam. We will be at the Press Club on July 2 at 11 a.m. for a debate and prove our allegations," Praveen Kumar said.

He alleged that nearly 26 days after the academic year began, students had yet to receive uniforms, utensils, school bags, bed sheets, towels and trunk boxes. In many places, notebooks and textbooks had also not been supplied.

Praveen Kumar said that during the BRS government's tenure, officials planned the procurement and delivery of these items between January and February. He claimed that contractors from Telangana were given priority, whereas the Congress government was now awarding contracts to firms from other States.

Revanth Reddy is mortgaging Telangana's water rights as 'Guru Dakshina' to his political mentor: Harish Rao

Hyderabad: Accusing Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy of compromising Telangana's legitimate rights over Krishna and Godavari waters for political interests, former Minister T Harish Rao demanded that the Congress government disclose the details of the meeting of the Chief Ministers of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka on Tungabhadra water sharing.

The BRS Deputy Floor Leader said the Chief Minister's lack of understanding of river water issues had become a serious threat to Telangana's future.

Addressing a press conference here on Saturday, Harish Rao said the previous BRS government had fought relentlessly and secured approvals for major irrigation projects. In contrast, he alleged, the Congress government was surrendering Telangana's interests before the Centre and neighbouring States.

He questioned the celebrations over the replacement of gates at the Tungabhadra Dam. Telangana's real concern, he said, was securing its rightful share of river waters and not symbolic events.

Harish Rao said Karnataka was moving ahead with the proposed 35 TMC Naveli Reservoir upstream of the Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS), while Andhra Pradesh was planning the 20 TMC Gundrevula Project downstream of the RDS. He said the two projects would enable the neighbouring States to impound nearly 55 TMC of water. This, he claimed, would severely affect inflows into the Srisailem Reservoir and jeopardise irrigation projects dependent on it, including the Kalwakurthy Lift Irrigation Scheme and the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Project.

"Despite these serious developments, the Telangana government failed to oppose either project or safeguard the State's interests," Harish Rao alleged.

He questioned whether the Chief Minister had secured any concrete assurance on Telangana's rightful allocation of 15.90 TMC under the Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme, the permanent closure of unauthorised Andhra Pradesh outlets on the RDS, or repairs to the RDS canal system and dam. "Revanth Reddy should disclose what transpired during the closed-door meeting attended only by the Chief Ministers of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, along with a senior union Water Resources official," Harish Rao demanded. He also questioned why Telangana Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and senior irrigation officials were reportedly kept out of the meeting.

The BRS leader alleged that Karnataka had already begun constructing three unauthorised



barrages on the Tungabhadra River without statutory approvals.

"Why did the Telangana government neither object before the Centre nor approach the Krishna River Management Board despite construction progressing substantially?" he asked.

Harish Rao accused Revanth Reddy of remaining silent while neighbouring States proceeded with projects that were detrimental to Telangana's water security. He recalled that the Gundrevula Project had earlier been stalled due to sustained objections raised by the previous BRS government.

He said Telangana had an allocation of 968 TMC of Godavari waters. The BRS government, he claimed, had secured approvals for projects utilising 383 TMC in nine-and-a-half years, apart from previously approved projects. In contrast, he alleged, the Congress government had failed to obtain approval for even one additional TMC in the last two-and-a-half years.

Harish Rao expressed concern over reports that the proposed Godavari river-linking plans could bypass Telangana's interests and jeopardise projects such as Sammakka Sagar, which is expected to irrigate nearly four lakh acres in Warangal and Nalgonda districts. He further alleged that instead of securing approvals for Telangana's pending projects, the State government was moving ahead with river-linking proposals that could ultimately benefit Andhra Pradesh at Telangana's expense.

Harish Rao also questioned whether the Chief Minister had obtained any assurance on Telangana's pending Godavari project clearances, the proposed river interlinking, or the protection of Telangana's rightful allocations under the Krishna Tribunal. "The BRS will never remain silent if Telangana's water rights are compromised," Harish Rao asserted. He urged the Chief Minister to clarify whether Telangana's 968 TMC Godavari entitlement, its 15.90 TMC allocation under the RDS, pending project approvals and the State's interests in the proposed river-linking initiatives had been adequately protected.

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.

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.

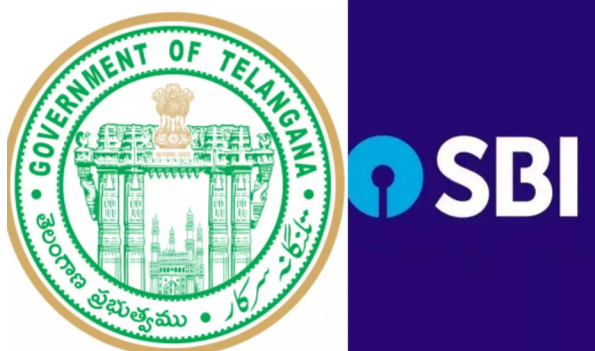
Telangana, SBI Settle for Alternative Land

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.



Sukumar, Bunny Vas Back Telugu Talent Naga Durga's Silver Screen Debut

The Telugu film industry is all set to welcome a promising new talent. Popular Telangana folk singer Naga Durga will be making her acting debut in an upcoming comedy entertainer starring Priyadarshi.

The project is being jointly produced by acclaimed filmmaker Sukumar and successful producer Bunny Vas under the banners of Sukumar Writings and Bunny Vas Works. Even before its official launch, the film has generated considerable interest thanks to its unique casting and strong creative team.

Naga Durga has earned immense popularity through her soulful folk songs and energetic stage performances across Telangana. Her authentic connection with local culture and audiences has made her a recognizable name, and now she is ready to take the next big step in her career by entering cinema.

The makers were reportedly looking for a fresh Telugu face who could bring authenticity and natural charm to the character. After several discussions and auditions, they finalized Naga Durga for a pivotal role opposite Priyadarshi.

Directed by Vamsi Reddy, the film is said to be a rooted Telangana family entertainer packed with humor, emotions, and relatable characters. The story will showcase the flavor, culture, and lifestyle of Telangana while delivering wholesome entertainment for family audiences.

Priyadarshi, who has consistently impressed audiences with his versatile performances, will headline the film. The actor's strong comic timing and natural acting style are expected to perfectly complement the film's rural Telangana backdrop.

The movie will be formally launched on June 25, with regular shooting scheduled to commence next month. With Sukumar and Bunny Vas introducing a talented Telugu girl to the big screen and Priyadarshi leading the cast, the project has already become one of the most eagerly awaited upcoming Telugu films.

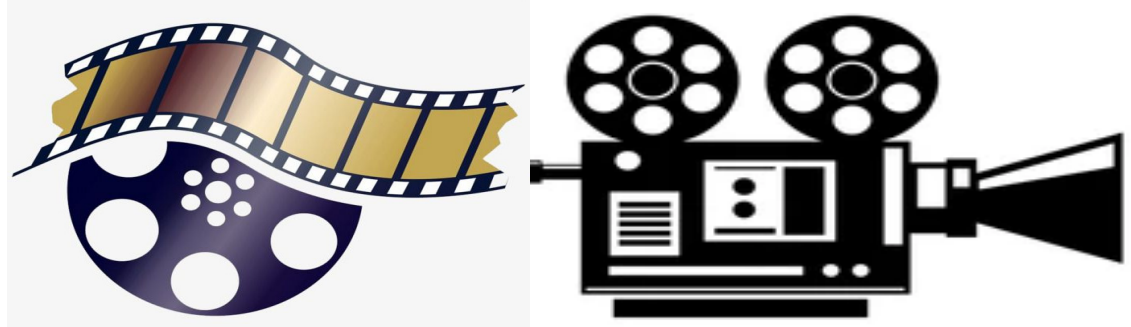
Teja Sajja Continues Old Ones, No New Films

Firstly, Teja Sajja has shot to fame with the HanuMan movie, though most of the credit went to director Prashanth Varma.

After getting fame, some heroes take certain decisions, which sometimes work out well, and sometimes don't. For example, after getting fame with Baahubali, Prabhas didn't get stuck there, but did a variety of films like Saaho, Adipurush and Salaar. That way, whether the film worked or not, he branched out into different genres and a variety of work. Here comes young hero Teja Sajja now.

Firstly, Teja Sajja has shot to fame with the HanuMan movie, though most of the credit went to director Prashanth Varma. Then came his other film Mirai, which is full of visual effects, fantasy, and various other characters as well as well-crafted elements in the story. And now, rather than choosing new movies, Teja is coming up with a Mirai sequel on one side, and the sequel of his other commercial film Zombie Reddy on the other side. With the young actor getting attached to the old story even after a couple of years, many are wondering if that's the right decision going forward.

On the other hand, sometimes believing in the content that has already delivered results at the box office might help big time. Because the audience knows what's coming and how to prepare for the same. However, the downside is that those films as the world is already known, the audience will have high expectations, and if there's nothing new with the same old characters, they won't get excited. So we have to see how Teja Sajja impresses this time.



CINEMA

Nagabandham Trailer: Grand Tribute to Indian Culture

Nagabandham with a promise to give an immersive visual cinematic experience as a Grand Tribute to Indian Culture, is releasing on 3rd July.

Abhishek Nama made entire India notice his grand ambitious tale, Nagabandham. The songs and teasers have presented the ambition on a massive scale while hinting at the crux of the story laced in Indian Traditions and customs. Nagabandham with a promise to give an immersive visual cinematic experience as a Grand Tribute to Indian Culture, is releasing on 3rd July.

Now, with the trailer he has submitted his colossal visual texture that his film adventurously explores. We see Demons trying to grab Brahma Kamalam that grants them all the power and desires they ever wish for. Also, they challenge gods by looting ancient temples to establish their own unchallenged rule over the world. When humanity is in need for God's help, we see Lord Shiva responding as powers of Nagabandham are activated.

Virat Karina, the leading man as an adventure enthusiast and a Naga Sadhu has delivered a very neat performance. His hard work in transforming his looks to suit the character and



his body language changes in playing two different shades are commendable. Nabha Natesh and Ishwarya Menon are playing leading ladies.

Producers Kishore Annapureddy, Nishitha Nagireddy have shown great belief in the larger-than-life ideas that the film presents. Their passion is visible in each frame as it is not easy to mount such big film without any major stars. Junaid Kumar's background score elevates the visuals and technically, the movie is solid.

ANIL'S MIDAS TOUCH: FOUR STARS NEED IT

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

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

Looking at this film's casting, one thing that comes to mind is that most of the star cast of the film needs immediate oxygen for their careers. Means, they need a blockbuster badly, and at the right time they have got Anil Ravipudi's project; thank the stars. From Kalyan Ram to Keerthy Suresh to Kriti Shetty, the three want to hit films badly, because their last bunch of films have failed massively at the box office. While Kalyan Ram keeps trying to do something new, they didn't click for him. Though Keerthy and Kriti upped the glam quotient, things are not working for them too. Apart from these three, there is another fourth person who



needs a break from this project.

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

Weekend Telugu BO: What's The Final Verdict?

The Telugu box office has witnessed multiple new films that arrived at the ticket counters this weekend, and let us have a look at the kind of performance that they are able to put up in front of the audience.

The Telugu box office has witnessed multiple new films that arrived at the ticket counters this weekend, and let us have a look at the kind of performance that they are able to put up in front of the audience.

Maa Inti Bangaram has Samantha in the lead role, and it is the obvious choice for the family audience this weekend. This film has been able to pull the audience in reasonable numbers thanks to the Samantha factor.

Deewana has youngster Harshit Reddy and others in the lead roles, and it is turning out to be a youthful love drama with a hint of comedy element. Younger generation of the audience can give it a try this weekend.

Balan- The boy is a dubbed film, and it is a critically acclaimed social drama that has a strong plot that resonate with the current society. It might not be a film that will primarily appeal to the larger section of the audience, but it has won the applause of the critics.

Cocktail 2 is the reimagined version of the original film that was a blockbuster back in the day. But this film has not been able to pull the audience to theatre in big numbers, and a lot will depend on the kind of performance it can generate over the weekend.

In the OTT, space we have the third season of Save The Tigers and this is coming fresh from the success of the first two parts which could generate a reasonably good word of mouth. It can make for a happy family watching in



the OTT space which will help its cause on Disney + Hotstar.

Transfer Trimurtulu is the comeback film for Vadde Naveen. This film has an interesting premise and a reasonably good core point, but the execution is outdated and the narration is not up to the mark which makes it a mediocre film.

Subsequently, we have multiple notable films at the ticket counter this weekend, and it appears that Samantha will be running with the bigger section of the pie for now. A lot will depend on the kind of performance that this other bunch of films can put up over the weekend.