

KING

DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume : 01 Issue No. 146 Tuesday 30, June, 2026

Published From : Hyderabad and Vijayawada

Pages : 8

Rs. 3/-

8 Newly-Elected MPs Sworn In as New Rajya Sabha Members



New Delhi: Eight newly-elected MPs of the Rajya Sabha, including Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and BJP leader Tarun Chugh, took oath as members of the Upper House on Monday. Rajya Sabha Chairman C P Radhakrishnan administered the oath of office to the new members. While Kharge took the oath separately in Radhakrishnan's chamber, the seven other members took oath in the Rajya Sabha chamber. Apart from Kharge and Chugh, the six other new members included Jitendra Meghji bhai Kanzariya and Mansingh Meraman Parmar (Gujarat), M Nagaraja (Karnataka), Rajendra Hiralal Jain (Maharashtra), Adhikarimayum Sharda Devi (Manipur) and Alka Singh (Rajasthan).

Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh, Leader of the House J P Nadda, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju and Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal were present at the oath-taking, both inside the chairman's chamber as well as in the House. Kharge took oath in Hindi while holding a copy of the Constitution in his hand. Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi and MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were present during his oath-taking. Radhakrishnan congratulated and welcome the new members into the House.

Musi Rejuvenation Project: A Strong Foundation for Telangana's Future: Ponguleti



Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's prestigious Musi Rejuvenation Project will stand as a historic initiative that shapes Telangana's future development and transforms the contours of Hyderabad city, said Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy.

With the rejuvenation of the Musi River, this project is being designed to breathe new life into the city, while enhancing environmental conservation alongside improving the living standards of the people.

On Monday, the Minister conducted a comprehensive review in his chamber at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat with senior officials on land acquisition, rehabilitation, and related matters required for this project.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister noted that the Chief Minister's vision is to rejuvenate the Musi River and transform

it into a hub for tourism, employment, and economic growth, with the aim of elevating Hyderabad to a world-class city.

He explained that this project is not merely a development program, but a resolve to provide future generations with a healthy, safe, and eco-friendly living environment. Recalling that people have been suffering from Musi River pollution for decades and considering the hardships faced by those in flood-prone areas during monsoons, he stated that this project has been shaped with those challenges in mind.

Through flood control, water purification, increasing greenery, and establishing roads, parks, walkways, and recreational centers, the government is moving forward with the goal of turning Musi riverfront areas into vibrant new living hubs.

As the Chief Minister Reddy had already clari-

fied earlier, the Musi project is not against anyone, and the government is proceeding without causing injustice to anyone, he reminded. He made it clear that every decision will be taken from a humanitarian perspective to ensure that the lives of the poor are not adversely affected in the name of development programs. He directed officials to consider the people's perspective in the land acquisition process for this prestigious project and ensure decisions are made with a humanitarian approach. He ordered the immediate formulation and implementation of an action plan to allocate double-bedroom houses to families losing their homes.

The Minister emphasized that the government will not compromise in providing legal compensation and necessary rehabilitation to those losing their lands.

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 back-

drop, 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 Bapu Ghat at

Langar Houz and an 11-kilometre stretch from Gandipet to Bapu 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.

Congress Govt Always Stands With Farmers' Welfare: Ponnamm

Hyderabad: On the occasion of Eruvaka Pournami, Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar joined farmers in sowing castor seeds in Kurella village of Koheda Mandal in Husnabad constituency inaugurating kharif agricultural activities.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister extended Eruvaka Pournami greetings to the state's farming community. He expressed joy at launching agricultural programs in Kurella village while praying to Mother Earth that abundant rains fall in Telangana, allowing farmers to reap bountiful harvests, good health, and happiness.

Prabhakar noted that Eruvaka Pournami is a symbol of Telangana's farming culture. He described it as a sacred day when farmers begin new agricultural activities by paying obeisance to Mother Earth and nature, aspiring for good crops.

Recalling that our elders said, "Annam



Para brahma Swaroopam" (rice is the form of the supreme being), the minister stated that the farmer who produces that rice is the backbone of the nation. He emphasized that only when farmers are content will the state prosper, which is why the Congress government is giving utmost priority to farmers' welfare.

The minister explained that the state government is steadfastly supporting farmers in every way, including improving irrigation facilities, supplying quality seeds and fertiliz-

ers, and providing agricultural infrastructure.

He advised farmers to cultivate using scientific methods, follow the guidance of agriculture officials, and use only quality seeds. He suggested using water judiciously to promote nature-friendly agriculture and taking precautions in crop selection considering climate changes. He called on farmers to move forward using modern technology to achieve higher yields.

The minister expressed that he is praying to God for abundant rains across the state this kharif

season, for all crops to grow prosperously without pests or insect attacks, and for farmers to receive good economic returns.

Wishing that every farmer's family lives in happiness and comfort with Mother Earth's blessings, the minister reiterated that the state government will always stand by farmers' welfare.

He clarified that farmers' welfare is the government's goal and that the government is continuously committed to the development of the agriculture sector.

Naidu Orders Simpler Public Services, Expands Digital Grievance Redressal

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday directed officials to simplify the delivery of government services and make them more accessible to the public. Chairing a review meeting at the Real Time Governance Society (RTGS) Centre in the State Secretariat, he stressed the need for citizen-friendly governance and faster grievance redressal.

The Chief Minister instructed officials to introduce a simplified process for key government services, with the first phase covering 11 categories of public services. He also directed that the public grievance system be expanded by allowing citizens to submit complaints through the Mana Mitra WhatsApp platform, including voice messages.



Naidu further asked officials to address mobile network connectivity issues across the state within the next three months. Officials informed the meeting that nearly 3,000 locations currently face connectivity problems. The Chief Minister directed them to co-

ordinate with telecom service providers to resolve the issue on priority.

During the meeting, officials also presented the progress of the **Navachetana Early Childhood Development Screening** programme being implemented by the Women and Child Wel-

fare Department. They said 33,949 children have been screened so far through Anganwadi centres and household visits, with a pilot project planned for follow-up interventions.

Officials informed the Chief Minister that a circular has been issued directing senior officers to un-

dertake regular field visits. As per the new guidelines, Secretaries will spend three days, Heads of Departments six days, and District Collectors eight days every month in the field to identify issues and ensure their timely resolution.

Naidu also reviewed improvements to the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) and was briefed on the use of artificial intelligence and other digital technologies in governance. Representatives of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) visited the RTGS Centre during the review and were shown how the platform is used for governance and disaster management. The Chief Minister also urged CII to establish its Global Leadership Centre in Andhra Pradesh at the earliest.

CM Naidu Calls For Citizen-Friendly Services, Voice Message Grievance Redressal on Mana Mitra



Vijayawada: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to make government services more citizen-friendly and ensure that public grievances received through voice messages on the Mana Mitra WhatsApp governance platform are also addressed. Chairing a review meeting with senior officials at the Real Time Governance Society in the Secretariat on Monday, he stressed the need to simplify access to government services, particularly those availed frequently by the public.

Officials said the process of simplifying procedures had begun, but so far covered only 11 categories of services. Naidu called for strengthening the public grievance redressal system by making it more accessible. Officials must facilitate the submission of grievances through online platforms and the Mana Mitra WhatsApp service, including complaints received through voice messages. Reviewing mobile connectivity across the state, the CM said gaps in network coverage should be addressed on priority. Officials informed him that nearly 3,000 locations were facing connectivity issues. He directed them to coordinate matters with telecom service providers and resolve these within three months.

Officials also made a presentation on the women and child welfare department's 'Navachetana' early childhood development screening programme. They informed the CM that 33,949 children had been screened across the state through visits to Anganwadi centres and households. They said a pilot project would also be taken up to provide follow-up interventions for children identified with developmental issues.

Officials informed the CM that, based on his earlier directions, a circular had been issued prescribing mandatory field visits by officials. Under the guidelines, secretaries will undertake field visits for three days a month, heads of departments for six days and district collectors for eight days. Naidu directed officials to use these visits to identify and resolve local issues. Officials also informed him that standard operating procedures had been issued to strengthen the Public Grievance Redressal System.

Later, the Chief Minister, accompanied by director general of the confederation of Indian industry Chandrajit Banerjee and other representatives, visited the RTGS Centre at the Secretariat. IT secretary Katamaneni Bhaskar explained its functioning and presented case studies on the use of RTGS during natural calamities. Naidu also called for the early establishment of the CII global leadership centre.

Farmers Honoured At Eruvaka Dhanya Lakshmi Utsavam

NELLORE: Eruvaka Dhanya Lakshmi Utsavam was celebrated with religious fervour at the Sri Udaya Kaleswara Swamy Temple in Gandavaram on Monday on the occasion of Eruvaka Pournami. The programme was organised by the Hindu Dharma Parirakshana Trust.

Women farmers performed Dhanya Lakshmi Puja to paddy grains at the temple, following which new clothes and paddy seeds were distributed to them.

APSRTC regional chairman and BJP Kisan Morcha national vice-



president Sannapureddy Suresh Reddy, Trust state coordinator Kota Sunil Kumar, district coordinator P.T. Jagannatham, library corporation chairperson M. Shanthy Kumari, former MLA Mekapati Chandrasekhar Reddy and civil supplies corporation director Vemireddy Pattabhirami Reddy participated in the celebrations.

Addressing the gathering, the speakers described agriculture as a "great yajna" and farmers as its true performers. They said Eruvaka Pournami marks the beginning of the agricultural season, when farmers traditionally worship farm implements, paddy seedlings and grains. They stressed that the prosperity of society depends on the well-being of the farming community and called for continued support for farmers.

Public representatives, temple officials and a large number of women farmers attended the programme.

Yeruvaka Pournami Celebrated Across Godavari Districts

Kakinada: Yeruvaka Pournami, marking the commencement of the agricultural season, was celebrated across Kakinada, the Ambedkar Konaseema, Eluru, Polavaram, East Godavari and West Godavari districts on Monday, with farmers performing traditional rituals before beginning cultivation.

Tourism minister Kandula Durgesh extended his greetings to the farming community and urged farmers to adopt natural farming and alternative crop cultivation. He said the government would extend all possible support to farmers.

The tradition of worshipping farmland and livestock, he said, reflected the close bond between farmers and nature and expressed hope for good rainfall, abundant harvests and prosperity despite the threat of the El Niño effect.

In Polavaram district, collector Dinesh Kumar, state ST commission chairman S. Bojjireddy, Rampachodavaram MLA and legislative committee chairperson Miriyala Sirisha Devi, joint collector Surapati Prashant and others participated in the celebrations at Gangavaram village.

The collector said the programme was organised



to create awareness on kharif cultivation, promote modern agricultural practices, encourage the use of quality seeds and fertilisers, disseminate information on government schemes, strengthen coordination between agriculture officials, scientists and farmers, and improve farm incomes through higher productivity.

He urged farmers to adopt scientific farming methods and make effective use of government schemes. He said 10,430 quintals of paddy seed had been supplied to farmers in Polavaram district with a 90 per cent subsidy.

At Pithapuram, Sri Viswa Vignana Vidya Adhyatmika Peetham seer Umar Alisha participated in the traditional Bhijarohana programme after ceremonially ploughing the ashram land. He expressed hope that farmers would receive good yields despite the possible impact of El Niño and said the Peetham had been organising Yeruvaka Pournami celebrations for the past seven years, beginning each year with worship of cows before cultivation.

Rajamahendravaram's entomology coordinator and principal scientist Narasimha Rao, Peruri Suribabu, progressive farmer Padma Reddy and others were present.

Kakinada collector Harendhira Prasad and Jaggampeta MLA Jyothula Nehru participated in the celebrations at Mamidada village in Jaggampeta mandal. The collector distributed subsidised red gram seeds to farmers.

Konaseema collector Mahesh Kumar and Amalapuram MLA A. Ananda Rao took part in the celebrations at Samanasa village, while West Godavari collector Nagarani and Tanuku MLA Radhakrishna participated in the programme at Mandapaka village in Tanuku mandal.

AP Aims At Shift Of 2 Lakh Students From Private To Govt Schools: Lokesh



Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh government has set a target of attracting two lakh students from private schools to government schools in the next academic year. Stating this on Tuesday, education minister Nara Lokesh said on Monday that 1.06 lakh students had shifted to government schools this academic year. Speaking at a

programme in Tadepalli to facilitate meritorious students from government educational institutions, Lokesh said the government's education reforms were aimed at improving the quality of public education and restoring confidence in government schools. A total of 55 Class X students and 61 Intermediate students, recognised as Shining Stars

for their academic performance, were honoured. Class X students received a cash award of ₹30,000, a medal and a certificate, while Intermediate students were presented with laptops and medals. Congratulating the students, Lokesh said their achievements had restored the reputation of government educational institutions. Their

performance had also reflected positively on the government's efforts to strengthen the education sector.

The minister announced that a statewide Parent-Teacher Meeting would be organised in July. Comparing education with farming, he said sustained effort and patience were essential to achieve

lasting results. Referring to 'Dream Walls' and 'Gratitude Walls' introduced in schools, Lokesh observed that many students aspired to become doctors, engineers and IAS officers, but very few expressed an ambition to enter public life. He encouraged young people to consider politics as a means of effecting social transformation.

Government is Fulfilling the Dream of Home Ownership for the Poor: MLA Payam

Aswapuram Correspondent : Aswapuram, June 29: Pinapaka MLA Payam Venkateswarlu said that fulfilling the dream of home ownership for poor families is one of the Telangana State Government's key priorities. He stated that under the Indiramma Housing Scheme, quality houses are being provided to every eligible underprivileged family.



and extended his best wishes.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said that owning a house provides every family with security, dignity, and self-confidence. He added that the government is effectively implementing various welfare schemes to improve the living standards of economically weaker sections.

He wished the beneficiary families a happy, healthy, peaceful, and prosperous life in their new homes.

On Monday, the MLA attended the housewarming ceremony of newly constructed Indiramma houses at Badugu Bazar in Aswapuram Gram Panchayat. He congratulated the beneficiaries, Gade Madhavi and Siliveru Anasurya, along with their family members,

Among those present at the event were MRO Suryaprakash, MPDO Mutyala Rao, Housing Assistant Engineers Uday Kumar and Bharath Kumar, Gram Panchayat Secretary Yakub, public representatives, Congress leaders, government officials, and the beneficiaries' family members.

We will provide double bedroom houses to deserving journalists Former MLC Konda Muralidhar Rao



Warangal Bureau: Former MLC Konda Muralidhar Rao said that he will provide double bedroom houses to all deserving journalists working as journalists in Warangal East constituency. On Monday, journalist representatives politely met Konda Muralidhar Rao at his residence in Hanumakonda Ramnagar. On this occasion, journalist representatives requested Konda Muralidhar Rao to provide double bedroom houses built for journalists in Desaipet, Warangal East constituency to all deserving journalists. Responding to this matter, he announced that he would definitely provide them to all deserving journalists. He especially revealed that identity cards issued by the government should be mandatory and they would be given on the basis of seniority.

Similarly, he urged journalists to work as transparently as possible, and to make the development programs of the government welfare schemes and programs accessible to the public in the form of news articles. Although there has already been some delay in the issue of double bedroom houses, he assured that all eligible journalists will be granted double bedroom houses very soon.

Journalist representatives Korukoppula Narender, Jakku Vijay, Kandula Sridhar, Jannu Swamy, Vijayan, Harish, Balaji Nayak, and Eastern journalists participated in this program.

Students' Welfare and Quality Education Top Priority: Collector Hemanta Keshav Patil

Nagar Kurnool : Nagarkurnool District Collector Hemanta Keshav Patil conducted a surprise inspection of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya at Pentlavelli in Kollapur constituency on Monday. He reviewed educational standards, hostel facilities, food arrangements, and overall school management while interacting directly with students and staff.

During the visit, the Collector inspected classrooms, hostel rooms, kitchen, dining hall, sanitation facilities, drinking water, electricity, and campus cleanliness. He directed officials to ensure quality education, nutritious food, and proper maintenance of all facilities for students.

The Collector stated that the government aims to provide corporate-level education and better infrastructure in government schools. He instructed teachers and officials to closely monitor students' academic progress and resolve infrastructure gaps, including the pending compound wall construction, at the earliest.



SIR Enumeration Form Distribution Process Must Be Completed Within the Deadline: Chief Electoral Officer Sudarshan Reddy

Nirmal District Staff Reporter : The distribution of SIR (Special Intensive Revision) Enumeration Forms should be completed within the stipulated deadline, directed State Chief Electoral Officer Sudarshan Reddy.

On Monday evening, the Chief Electoral Officer held a video conference with Collectors of all districts to review the progress of the distribution of Enumeration Forms under the SIR process.

During the meeting, he instructed officials to ensure that the distribution of Enumeration Forms is completed within the prescribed timeline. He reviewed the district-wise progress of form distribution completed so far. He emphasized that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) must personally visit every household to distribute the forms. He clarified that only BLOs are authorized to distribute the Enumeration Forms and that no other individuals are permitted to do so. BLOs were also instructed to wear their official identity cards while carrying out the distribution.

He further directed that Help Desks must be established to address public queries regarding the SIR process. He stated that only BLOs are authorized to use the Enumeration App. Officials were instructed to create widespread public awareness about the SIR process and to promote it regularly through various media and social media platforms. He also stressed that the completed Enumeration Forms must be collected back from all voters.

District Collector Bhavesh Mishra participated in the video conference from the Collectorate meeting hall. After the meeting, the Collector instructed officials to



speed up the distribution of Enumeration Forms and ensure that the process is completed within the deadline. He directed that the SIR process should be carried out strictly in accordance with all prescribed guidelines and warned officials against any negligence in the distribution process.

Bhainsa Sub-Collector Ajmeera Sanket Kumar, RDO Devidas, other officials, and staff also participated in the video conference.

Measures Should Be Taken to Prevent Public Hardship During Heavy Rains and Floods: District Collector Bhavesh Mishra

Nirmal District Staff Reporter : District Collector Bhavesh Mishra directed officials to take all necessary precautionary measures to ensure that people do not face hardships during heavy rains and flood situations.

On Monday evening, the Collector chaired a review meeting at the Collectorate conference hall with officials of various departments to discuss preparedness for heavy rains and floods.

Addressing the officials, the Collector said that proper advance planning and precautionary measures can help protect people from the impact of heavy rainfall and flash floods. He instructed officials from the NDRF, Revenue, Police, Fire Services, Panchayat Raj, Municipal Administration, Health, and Roads & Buildings (R&B) departments to remain on high alert throughout the monsoon season.

He emphasized that timely communication is crucial during emergencies. Officials were instructed to continuously inform residents living in project catchment areas, downstream villages, and low-lying areas about weather forecasts and water levels. Coordination with local public representatives was also stressed.

The Collector directed officials to install warning signboards at damaged roads, potholes, and dangerous water flow areas, preventing public access to such locations. He also instructed that adequate police security be deployed near irri-



gation projects and that residents in surrounding areas be informed well in advance before opening project gates.

Special attention should be given to pregnant women and critically ill patients by shifting them to nearby hospitals whenever necessary. Residents living in flood-prone areas should be evacuated to safer places before floodwaters rise.

He further instructed concerned departments to be fully prepared for the immediate restoration of damaged roads and disrupted electricity supply. The NDRF was directed to conduct extensive awareness and preparedness activities on disaster prevention.

Speaking on the occasion, District Superintendent of Police Dr. Janaki Sharmila said that police personnel would install barricades at projects and dangerous water bodies during heavy rains and floods to prevent public entry. She assured that the police department would work in coor-

Complete Distribution of Enumeration Forms Within Deadline: Chief Electoral Officer Sudarshan Reddy

Bhadradi Kothagudem, June 29: Telangana Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Sudarshan Reddy has directed all District Election Officers to ensure that the distribution of Enumeration Forms under the Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls-2026 is completed within the stipulated deadline so that every eligible voter receives the form.

The directions were issued during a video conference held from Hyderabad with District Election Officers to review the implementation of the Special Summary Revision programme. District Election Officer and Collector Ankit participated in the meeting from the IDOC Camp Office.

Addressing the officials, the Chief Electoral Officer instructed that the Enumeration Forms must be distributed only by Booth Level Officers (BLOs) through door-to-door visits. He made it clear that under no circumstances should unauthorized persons be involved in the distribution process.

He directed every BLO to visit each household in their jurisdiction, distribute the forms to all eligible voters, and create awareness among the public about filling and submitting the forms within the prescribed deadline. He also informed that only the details of voters who submit the completed Enumeration Forms will be included in the draft electoral roll. Therefore, extensive awareness campaigns should be conducted to



ensure that every eligible voter submits the form.

Later, District Election Officer and Collector Ankit instructed officials to implement the CEO's directions effectively at the field level. He directed the Booth Level Officers to visit every household, distribute the Enumeration Forms, and ensure that the completed forms are collected within the stipulated time.

The Collector also instructed officials to continuously monitor the distribution and collection process to ensure that the details of every eligible voter are accurately recorded. He emphasized that the Special Summary Revision programme should be conducted strictly as per the guidelines without any lapses.

Election Department Superintendent Ranga Prasad, Election Master Trainer Poosapati Sai Krishna, Election Department staff member Naveen, and other officials participated in the video conference.

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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.

Everyone Should Participate in the Special Revision of the Electoral Roll: District Collector Bhavesh Mishra

Nirmal District Staff Reporter : District Collector Bhavesh Mishra appealed to all eligible voters in the district to submit their Enumeration Forms by July 24 as part of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls.

On Sunday, the Collector inspected the SIR process in Ward No. 29 of Nirmal town. He interacted with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to review the progress of the programme. Later, he visited households in the locality, created awareness among voters, and distributed Enumeration Forms.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that the Special Revision Programme will continue from June 25 to July 24. During this period, voter data collection, corrections, and verification will be carried out extensively. He stated that BLOs are visiting every household and distributing two copies of the Enumeration Form.

He advised voters to fill in the forms carefully after verifying whether their names, or the names of their parents, grandparents, or other family members, appear in the 2002 Electoral Roll. After completing the form, voters should sign it, attach a passport-size photograph, and submit it to the concerned BLO. One copy will be retained by the BLO, while the other should be kept safely by the voter.



The Collector informed that voters can verify their details either by contacting their BLO or by using the "Search by Electoral" option on the voters.eci.gov.in website. He clarified that the votes of all those who submit their Enumeration Forms will remain secure, while the records of those who fail to submit the forms may be subject to further verification.

Emphasizing that participating in the Special Electoral Roll Revision is the responsibility of every citizen, the Collector urged all eligible voters in the district to complete the process before July 24.

Later, at the Collector's Camp Office, in the presence of a BLO, District Collector Bhavesh Mishra personally verified his own voter details. He filled out the reprinted Enumeration Form using the information available in the 2002 Electoral Roll, attached a passport-size photograph, and submitted it to the BLO.

He once again appealed to all voters to participate in the Special Enumeration Programme and submit their forms before July 24.

The programme was attended by Town Tahsildar Raju, ward supervisors, Booth Level Officers (BLOs), local residents, and other officials and staff.

Two Drops for a Full Life

The Pulse Polio Programme was inaugurated in Kadam Mandal by MLA Vedma Bojju Patel.

The slogan "Two Drops for a Full Life" is a guiding message for ensuring a healthy future for every child. Polio is a dangerous viral disease that can leave young children permanently disabled. There is no permanent cure for polio, but it can be effectively prevented through the Pulse Polio vaccine.

The poliovirus mainly spreads through contaminated water and food. Children under the age of five are at the highest risk of contracting the disease. Once infected, polio can weaken the arms and legs, leading to permanent disability. Therefore, it is essential to protect every child by administering two drops of the polio vaccine.

India successfully implemented the Pulse Polio Programme and has been recognized as a polio-free country. However, since the poliovirus still exists in some parts of the world, continued vigilance is necessary. For this reason, all children below five years of age should receive two drops of the oral polio vaccine during every Pulse Polio campaign organized by the government.

From birth, children should receive all the vaccines recommended by healthcare professionals, including the Pulse Polio vaccine. Even if a child has received polio drops several times



before, it is important to administer the two drops during every Pulse Polio campaign to ensure stronger protection against the disease.

Parents, teachers, ASHA workers, Anganwadi staff, and healthcare professionals must work together to ensure that every child receives the polio vaccine. This message should reach every household, whether in villages or cities. Society must reject myths and misconceptions about polio and follow the advice of medical experts.

Together, let us protect every child and ensure a healthy, polio-free future. Just two drops can make a lifetime of difference.

Farmers' Welfare is the Primary Objective of Cooperative Societies: President Nageswara Rao

Manuguru, June 29: As part of the Cooperative Week Celebrations held at the Manuguru Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society, Society President Nageswara Rao ceremonially hoisted the Cooperative Flag.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that cooperative societies have become the backbone of farmers' development. He stated that the society has been providing quality seeds, fertilizers, green manure, and other essential agricultural inputs to farmers in a timely manner. He also highlighted that procurement centers have been established to purchase paddy directly from farmers at remunerative prices, ensuring better support for the farming community.

Nageswara Rao further said that cooperative societies are implementing several beneficial schemes for farmers and that the Cooperative Week Celebrations play an important role in creating awareness about modern farming techniques and improved agricultural practices. He urged farmers to make full use of the services offered by cooperative societies and strengthen their economic well-being.

Among those who participated in the program were Vice President Kondeti Ramamohana Rao, Directors Pinnamaneni Madhavi and Gummala Rambabu, CEO Sunil, TRS leader Auto Rambabu, staff members Guntupalli Raghavulu and Satish, along with several farmers and local leaders. The event was conducted enthusiastically with a large number of farmers in attendance



Musi Rejuvenation Project: A Strong Foundation for Telangana's Future: Ponguleti



Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's prestigious Musi Rejuvenation Project will stand as a historic initiative that shapes Telangana's future development and transforms the contours of Hyderabad city, said Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy.

With the rejuvenation of the Musi River, this project is being designed to breathe new life into the city, while enhancing environmental conservation alongside improving the living standards of the people.

On Monday, the Minister conducted a comprehensive review in his chamber at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat with senior officials on land acquisition, rehabilitation, and related matters required for this project.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister noted that the Chief Minister's vision is to rejuvenate the Musi River and transform it into a hub for tourism, employment, and economic growth, with the aim of elevating Hyderabad to a world-class city.

He explained that this project is not merely a development program, but a resolve to provide future generations with a healthy, safe, and eco-friendly living environment. Recalling that people have been suffering from Musi River pollution for decades and considering the hardships faced by those in flood-prone areas during monsoons, he stated that this project has been shaped with those challenges in mind.

Through flood control, water purification, increasing greenery, and establishing roads, parks, walkways, and recreational centers, the government is moving forward with the goal of turning Musi riverfront areas into vibrant new living hubs.

As the Chief Minister Reddy had already clarified earlier, the Musi project is not against anyone, and the government is proceeding without causing injustice to anyone, he reminded. He made it clear that every decision will be taken from a humanitarian perspective to ensure that the lives of the poor are not adversely affected in the name of development programs. He directed officials to consider the people's perspective in the land acquisition process for this prestigious project and ensure decisions are made with a humanitarian approach. He ordered the immediate formulation and implementation of an action plan to allocate double-bedroom houses to families losing their homes.

The Minister emphasized that the government will not compromise in providing legal compensation and necessary rehabilitation to those losing their lands.

India Distances Itself From Unofficial India-Pakistan Track 2 Dialogue



New Delhi: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Monday said the government has no involvement with retired diplomats and military officials participating in overseas discussions on India-Pakistan ties in their personal capacities and that New Delhi does not even take cognisance of such deliberations. Misri's remarks to the media at Victoria in Seychelles came in the wake of reports that Indian and Pakistani experts comprising retired military officials, diplomats and politicians participated in Track 2 discussions on the sidelines of a regional security conference in Colombo last week.

"Dozens of these kinds of events take place in dozens of places around the world on a whole variety of subjects. There's nothing new, nothing special about these events," the foreign secretary said.

"As far as we are concerned, these are private events organised by private parties. There is nothing official about them."

The foreign secretary was responding to a media query.

"Obviously, I cannot speak for the government of Pakistan, but as far as the government of India is concerned, there is no official participation, no official support or involvement, in these visits.

"(It) should be obvious therefore that anybody from India who is participating in these events, whether they are retired diplomats, retired military officials, members of civil society, they speak for themselves and they represent their own point of view," Misri said.

The foreign secretary said India does not take any cognisance of these events.

"They do not in any way, they cannot in any way represent the view of the government of India. So that is the other important thing to keep in mind," he said.

Where Is the 25% Free Admission Quota in Private Schools? What Does the Right to Education (RTE) Act Say?

Nirmal District Staff Reporter : A Ground-Level Analysis on Protecting the Educational Rights of Poor Children

Education is not a business—it is a constitutional right of every child. Access to quality education is a fundamental right, and no child should be deprived of schooling because of poverty or social disadvantage. With this objective, the Government of India enacted the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009.

Under Section 12(1)(c) of the Act, all non-minority, unaided private schools are required to reserve 25% of seats at the entry level (Nursery/LKG/Grade 1) for children belonging to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Disadvantaged Groups (DG), free of cost.

However, despite the law being in force for several years, complaints continue to emerge from different regions regarding poor implementation. Concerns range from admission practices to the treatment of children admitted under the quota.

Constitutional and Legal Background

Article 21A of the Constitution of India guarantees free and compulsory education to every child between the ages of 6 and 14 years. The RTE Act was enacted to give effect to this constitutional mandate.

The Supreme Court has also clarified that the 25% reservation is not limited to providing admission alone. Schools must ensure that these children receive equal treatment, a discrimination-free environment, and access to all educational facilities on par with other students.

Who Must Comply?

The 25% reserva-



tion applies to all non-minority unaided private schools.

Minority educational institutions enjoy certain constitutional protections. However, it is the responsibility of education authorities to verify whether a school genuinely possesses an officially recognized minority status. Schools without valid minority recognition cannot legally claim exemption from the 25% quota.

Illegal Fee Collection: What Does the Law Say?

Section 13 of the RTE Act contains important safeguards. It prohibits schools from:

Collecting donations, capitation fees, development charges, building funds, or any other additional payment for admission.

Conducting entrance examinations or interviews for children or parents during the admission process.

Violation of these provisions may attract a penalty of up to ten times the amount of the illegal fee collected.

There are also allegations that some private schools collect extra charges under labels such as digital classrooms, computer education, IIT foundation courses, and similar heads. Education authorities must investigate such complaints and take appropriate action where violations are established.

Equal Rights and Protection Against Discrimination

Children admitted under the 25% quota must be treated equally with all other students.

They are entitled to equal access to:

- Classrooms
- Libraries
- Laboratories
- Playgrounds
- Co-curricular and extracurricular activities

Under Section 17, corporal punishment and mental harassment are strictly prohibited.

Schools must not segregate students admitted under the free quota, humiliate them publicly, or discriminate against them in any manner. If a child struggles academically, schools should provide additional academic support rather than forcing the child to leave by issuing a Transfer Certificate (TC).

School Recognition and Safety Standards (Section 18)

No school can legally operate without government recognition.

To obtain recognition, schools must provide minimum infrastructure, including:

1. Safe buildings with fire safety and structural stability certificates.
2. Well-ventilated classrooms and safe drinking water.
3. Separate, hygienic toilets for boys and girls.
4. Accessible facilities, including ramps and suitable toilets for children with disabilities.

Implementation Challenges

Many economically weaker families remain unaware of their rights under the RTE Act.

There are also allegations regarding irregularities in school enrolment records and UDISE data. Education experts believe that authorities should regularly conduct physical inspections to verify student strength, admissions, and compliance with statutory provisions.

Role of Society and Parents

Journalists covering education should undertake investigative reporting to examine issues such as:

Whether school fee structures have been officially approved.

Whether the lottery process for 25% admissions is transparent.

Whether schools are illegally collecting money from students admitted under the free quota.

Telangana: Bhatti Blames BRS For Pushing Telangana Into Rs.81-Cr Debt During Its Tenure

NALGONDA: Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Monday alleged that financial mismanagement by the previous BRS government had pushed the state into a debt of ₹81 lakh crore.

Addressing the media after attending the Maha Kumbhabhishekam at the Jamalapuram Venkateswara Swamy temple in Errupalem mandal of Khammam district, he alleged that the family of BRS president and former chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had amassed wealth and was using it to run a campaign against the Congress government through media platforms.

He criticised BRS leaders for neglecting public welfare and focusing on the interests of a single family, and alleged that their actions were against the principles of the Constitution.

Bhatti said the Congress government led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy was functioning in line with constitutional principles and prioritising welfare and development despite financial constraints.

He said the Indiramma housing scheme aimed to eliminate



homelessness, with about 4.5 lakh houses sanctioned and ₹22,500 crore allocated.

The Deputy Chief minister said fine-quality rice was being supplied free of cost to 1.06 crore families under the Public Distribution System. He added that about 53 lakh families were benefiting from free electricity up to 200 units, with the government bearing a significant share of power bills in several villages.

He said the free bus travel scheme for women had received ₹10,600 crore in support from the finance department to the RTC, and that a free breakfast scheme launched this academic year was benefiting 27 lakh students, including those in government and residential schools.

He said ₹2,216 crore had been allocated for temple development across the state, including works in tribal areas.

Tummala Calls Co-Op Banks Farmers' Pillars



Nalgonda: Agriculture minister Tummala Nageswara Rao on Monday said cooperative banks should function as financial pillars for farmers and rural communities by providing savings, credit and other banking services.

He was speaking after inaugurating the new building of the Khammam District Cooperative Central Bank (DCCB) branch at Kalluru in Khammam district, along with Sathupalli MLA Matta Ragamayi Dayanand.

The Minister said the growth of cooperative banks depended on improving farmers' incomes, as timely loan repayments would strengthen the banking system and enable extension of credit to more farmers. He asked bank officials to encourage deposits

from traders and the public to expand operations.

He said a proposal had been submitted to set up an integrated Sub-Collector's office at Sathupalli. He added that a palm oil factory coming up at Vemsur would generate employment and that a proposal had been sent to upgrade the Khammam-Aswaraopeta road into a four-lane national highway.

He said efforts would be made to bring development opportunities from both the state and the Centre to the constituency.

Matta Ragamayi Dayanand said the cooperative bank offered loans at lower interest rates compared to private banks and urged farmers to repay loans on time. She also asked officials to create awareness about available loan schemes.

Municipal Polls Are Semi-Finals for Telangana: Bandi Sanjay

Hanamkonda: Union minister of state for home affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Monday expressed confidence that the BJP would win the Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC) in the forthcoming civic elections and secure the mayoral post.

Addressing a meeting of BJP's booth-level presidents and senior leaders at the Arts and Science College grounds in Warangal, Sanjay described the upcoming municipal elections in Hyderabad, Warangal, Khammam and Siddipet as the "semi-finals" ahead of the party's goal of forming the government in Telangana.

He urged party workers to take the Congress government's unfulfilled election promises to the people and hold its leaders accountable.

Alleging that substantial central assistance to Warangal had not resulted in visible development, Sanjay accused the previous BRS government and the present Congress government of failing to utilise central funds effectively.

He claimed that flagship initiatives, including Smart City projects, had fallen short of expectations, citing recurring water-logging and civic issues during moderate rainfall.

Promising improved urban infrastructure under BJP leadership, Sanjay said the party would transform



Warangal if it is elected to power in the municipal corporation. Referring to Karimnagar, he claimed the BJP had demonstrated its ability to deliver effective urban governance.

He called on party workers to strengthen grassroots outreach by visiting every household and creating awareness about welfare schemes and development programmes implemented by the Modi government.

The Union minister also highlighted central projects sanctioned for the region, including the proposed Mamnoon Airport, Kazipet railway manufacturing unit, textile park, and projects under the Smart City Mission and AMRUT scheme.

Claiming that the political atmosphere in Telangana was increasingly favourable to the BJP, Sanjay said the party expected to improve its performance significantly in the Greater Warangal municipal elections and was confident of winning the mayoral post.

He urged the party cadre to remain focused on public issues and local concerns, assuring them of full support from the party leadership.

Voter list revision process should be conducted transparently

-State Congress leader Siddham Ujwal Reddy

Zaheerabad, June."State Congress leader Siddham Ujwal Reddy have urged the officials to conduct the special comprehensive revision of the voter list in a speedy and transparent manner. On Monday evening he toured Burridipad and Chiragpalli villages in the mandal and went door to door to create awareness about the revision process. Speaking to the booth level officials and agents on this occasion, he ordered them to strictly follow the guidelines issued by the Election Commission. He clarified that the details of every voter should be recorded as per the rules and that the process



should be carried out accurately without any mistakes. He suggested that the registration process should be carried out smoothly by providing necessary awareness to the people so that everyone who is eligible gets the right to vote. Later, he personally inspected the progress of the enumeration work in the villages and gave several key suggestions and guidelines to the staff participating in the program. Along with them, CDC Chairman Mubeen, Zaheerabad Mandal Congress Party President P. Narasimha Reddy, Sarpanchs Mallikarjun, Sunil, Councillor Arun Kumar, senior leaders Srikanth Reddy, Hanmanth Reddy, Ashwin Patil, Imam Patel, Dilip Kumar, Kishtha Reddy and booth level officers, agents, Congress party workers and others participated.

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.

SPORTS



US Open 2026 badminton: Kidambi Srikanth finishes runner-up after final loss to Su Li Yang

India's Kidambi Srikanth finished as runner-up at the US Open 2026 after a grueling three-game defeat to Chinese Taipei's Su Li Yang in the final, prolonging the former world number one's wait for a BWF World Tour title

Hyderabad: Former world number one Kidambi Srikanth's wait for a BWF World Tour title was extended further after he went down against Chinese Taipei's Su Li Yang in the men's semifinals of the US Open Badminton tournament here on Sunday night.

The 33-year-old, facing an opponent who is nine years younger to him, pushed himself to find that winning momentum but could not avoid a 21-15, 16-21, 21-9 loss in an hour and nine minutes.

It was Su who got off the blocks fast in the opening game as he took a 10-5 lead. Srikanth levelled the scores at 10-10 before the Taipei shuttler won seven consecutive points to runaway with the game.



Srikanth kept pace with Su in the second game for the first half and then changed the tempo to move from 15-13 to 20-13 before converting his fourth game point. However, the effort did take a toll on Srikanth's tired legs.

Though he stayed neck-and-neck with Su till 9-7, the 24-year-old then took eight straight points to seal the match.

En route to the final, Srikanth produced the tournament's ultimate act of sportsmanship during a tense semifinal moment; when officials refused to correct a wrong call despite heavy protests, he walked up to the referee to concede, handing the point back to Japan's Okimoto.

Badminton Asia Junior Championships: India knocked out by Hong Kong in thrilling quarterfinal relay tie

India's campaign at the Badminton Asia Junior Mixed Team Championships ended in the quarterfinals with a loss to Hong Kong. Despite holding early leads in the unique 110-point relay format, a late doubles collapse sealed India's exit in Japan



Yatsushiro (Japan): India's campaign in the Badminton Asia Junior Mixed team championships came to an end at the quarterfinal stage as they went down against Hong Kong 2-1 here on Monday.

India started strong in the opening set with Dev Ruparelia and Tanvi Patri giving the team a strong start as India led 22-12 after two matches. The doubles combinations then ensured that there were no hiccups as they clinched the set 55-44.

But the start of the second game turned things around for Hong Kong as Can Yee Hei beat Ruparelia 11-8 and IP Sum Yau extended their lead to 22-16. The doubles combinations could not cut down the deficit as the match went into a decider.

Ruparelia once again gave India a lead by beating Chan 11-9, but Ip managed to close the gap to 22-21.

The mixed doubles combination of Bjorn Jaison and Dianka Waldia kept India ahead with a 33-32 as the match against Cheung Sai Shing and Wing Chi Chu ended 11-11.

Tanvi Reddy Andluri and Baruni Parshwal went down to Chu and Yi

Kiu Yu 5-11 and India could not recover from that and lost the set 55-43.

The 26th edition of the junior continental badminton championships will be held in two parts – the team event from June 26 to 30 and individual events from July 1 to 5.

The team event adopted a relay format, with the first side to reach 110 points declared the winner. The individual events will begin after the conclusion of the mixed team competition.

India's challenge at the 2026 Badminton Asia Junior Championships was spearheaded by the duo of Tanvi Patri and Abhinav Garg who will feature in the 19-member Indian squad for the championship.

Raducanu Withdraws From Wimbledon Due to Injury

Wimbledon: Britain's Emma Raducanu has withdrawn from Wimbledon because of a stress fracture in her lower right leg, dealing a blow to home hopes for the grass-court Grand Slam. The 23-year-old, who is seeded



11th, was due to start her campaign on Monday against Croatia's Antonia Stokich. "I've done everything possible to try to get to the start line but after a final scan last night the niggle I've been experiencing has developed into a stress fracture," Raducanu said. "I've been medically advised to stop pushing through," added the British number one, who won the US Open in 2021.

FIFA World Cup 2026: Germany vs Paraguay Round of 32 live streaming, telecast channels, IST start time, and squad details

Four-time champions Germany face a defensively stubborn Paraguay side in a high-stakes FIFA World Cup 2026 Round of 32 knockout match at Foxborough, with live broadcast available in India on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports network channels

Foxborough: Germany enter the World Cup round of 32 carrying both confidence and caution as it prepares to face Paraguay in a knockout clash that presents an opportunity to end a long wait for sustained success on football's biggest stage.

Having reached the World Cup knockout rounds for the first time since 2014, Julian Nagelsmann's side topped a competitive group despite stumbling in its final group-stage outing, surrendering an early lead in a 2-1 defeat to Ecuador.

That setback may have dented momentum, but Germany remain the overwhelming favourite against a Paraguay side that advanced as one of the best third-placed teams after collecting four points.

Gustavo Alfaro's men earned progression thanks to a vital victory over Türkiye before grinding out the draw they needed against Australia, though their lack of attacking threat has remained a recurring concern throughout the tournament.

Paraguay's defensive discipline has been the foundation of its campaign and will once again be its primary weapon. Expect a compact shape designed to frustrate Germany, limit space between the lines and force the Europeans into patient possession. However, the South Americans have struggled to consistently create chances, a weakness that could prove costly in a knockout fixture where opportunities are likely to be scarce.

History also leans heavily in Germany's favour. The nations last met at the 2002 World Cup, where Germany edged Paraguay 1-0 before eventually reaching the final. More than two decades later, Die Mannschaft will hope for a similarly professional performance as it targets a place in the last 16.

While Germany has yet to fully convince under Nagelsmann, Paraguay's blunt attack could allow the four-time world champions to rediscover their rhythm when it matters most.

How to watch Germany vs Paraguay live in India

Live streaming and live telecast of the FIFA World Cup 2026 matches will be available on the Zee5 platform and app in India. A subscription will be needed.

Live telecast of the FIFA World Cup 2026 will be available on the Unite8 Sports 1, Unite8 Sports



1 HD, Unite8 Sports 2, and Unite8 Sports 2 HD TV channels in India.

Key details

Date and kick-off time: Tuesday, June 30, 02:00 AM IST

Venue: Boston Stadium, Foxborough, Massachusetts, United States

Referee: Jalal Jayed

Squads:

Germany –

Goalkeepers: Manuel Neuer, Oliver Baumann, Alexander Nubel.

Defenders: Joshua Kimmich, Jonathan Tah, Nico Schlotterbeck, David Raum, Robin Koch, Waldemar Anton, Benjamin Henrichs, Maximilian Mittelstadt, Yann Aurel Bisseck.

Midfielders: Jamal Musiala, Florian Wirtz, Leon Goretzka, Aleksandar Pavlovic, Felix Nmecha, Pascal Grob, Angelo Stiller, Karim Adeyemi, Serge Gnabry.

Forwards: Kai Havertz, Deniz Undav, Niclas Fullkrug, Leroy Sane, Jonathan Burkardt.

Paraguay –

Goalkeepers: Ugurcan Cakir, Altay Bayindir, Berke Ozer.

Defenders: Merih Demiral, Caglar Soyuncu, Abdulkemir Bardakci, Samet Akaydin, Eren Elmali, Mert Muldur, Zeki Celik, Ferdi Kadioglu, Yusuf Akcicek.

Midfielders: Hakan Calhanoglu, Orkun Kokcu, Ismail Yuksek, Salih Ozcan, Okay Yokuslu, Kaan Ayhan, Irfan Can Kahveci, Can Uzun.

Forwards: Kenan Yildiz, Arda Guler, Kerem Akturkoglu, Baris Alper Yilmaz, Cengiz Under, Semih Kilicsoy, Bertug Yildirim, Deniz Gul

Hyderabad Heroes Crowned Champions Of Rugby Premier League Season 2

Hyderabad: Hyderabad Heroes were crowned champions of the Rugby Premier League Season 2 after defeating Mumbai Dreamers by 41-17 in a thrilling final at the Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad on Sunday.

"Extremely extremely proud of the boys throughout the tournament were one of the one of the teams, but I always reminded him that what you needed to prove it so I did more than anything. Just really proud that after all the hard work, they got a reward, which is what we came for, and that was the win. Yeah, in the final man, that was the quality from the team only been together for not even three weeks, so I couldn't ask for much more." Said DJ Forbes, Head Coach, Hyderabad Heroes.

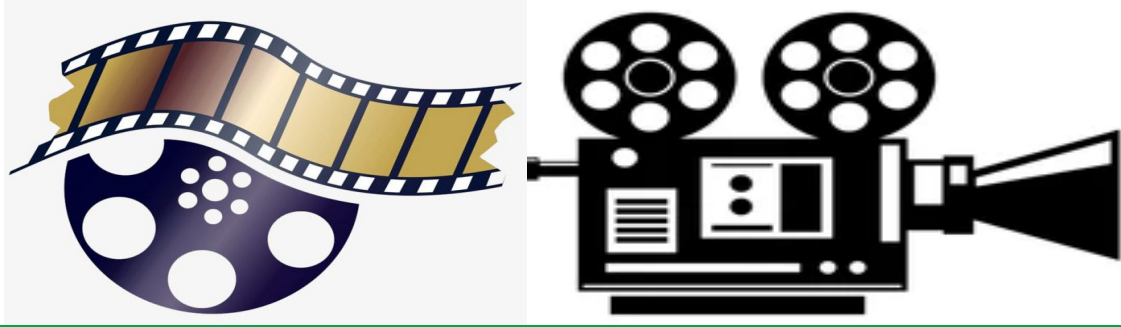
"Extremely, extremely proud of the boys. Throughout the tournament, we were definitely one of the one of the better teams, but I always reminded him that what you needed to prove it so that the results will follow. Just really proud that after all the hard work, they got a reward, which is what we came for, and that was the win. Yeah, in the final, that was the quality from the team who has



only been together for not even three weeks, so I couldn't ask for much more." Said DJ Forbes, Head Coach, Hyderabad Heroes.

"Very happy that we were able to get this win, we have worked really hard to be able to achieve this. The way the team has bonded off the field, it was only about finally just showcasing that on the field. Very proud of the team and to be able to win the Indian player of the tournament is only further proof of the effort." Said Sumit Kumar Roy, Vice Captain, Hyderabad Heroes & Indian Player of the Tournament. Organised by GMR Sports in partnership with Rugby India, the second season of the league concluded in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Telangana Shri Anumula Revanth Reddy, Mr. Kiran Kumar Grandhi, Corporate Chairman, GMR Group, Mr. Chiranjeevi, Indian actor and philanthropist, Ms. P.V. Sindhu, World Champion and Olympic medalist, Ms. Mrunal Thakur, acclaimed Indian actress, Mr. G.B.S. Raju, Chairman, GMR Airports Ltd., and Mr. Rahul Bose, President, Rugby India and League Commissioner of the Rugby Premier League. Hyderabad Heroes produced a clinical performance in the final to overcome Mumbai Dreamers by 41-17 and claim the Rugby Premier League Season 2 title. The Dreamers dominated early possession but were unable to convert it into points as Hyderabad's disciplined defence forced crucial turnovers. The Heroes capitalised through swift counter-attacks, with Francisco Coscolluela's steal setting up Taitaifono Tavita before Manuel Moreno won possession to create an easy finish for Shivam Shukla. Maurice Longbottom then added a drop goal to give Hyderabad complete control heading into the break.

The Heroes maintained their relentless tempo after half-time, with Tavita again creating space on the left for Diego Ardao to score. Mumbai finally found a breakthrough as quicker ball movement released Ethan McFarland, but Hyderabad continued to punish turnovers, with Ardao grabbing his second before Kevin Wekesa finished a flowing move out wide. Terio Tamani extended the advantage early in the final quarter, while James Turner pulled one back for the Dreamers before setting up Sukumar Hembrom late on. However, Hyderabad's clinical finishing and defensive intensity ensured they closed out a commanding victory.



CINEMA

Ravi Teja Irumudi Kattu Gives Fans Goosebumps

The makers of Ravi Teja's upcoming film Irumudi have released the first song from the movie.

The makers of Ravi Teja's upcoming film Irumudi have released the first song from the movie. Titled Irumudi Kattu, the song has created a strong first impression among movie lovers and devotees. It introduces the spiritual theme of the film and gives a glimpse of the emotional journey that the story will follow.

The movie is directed by Shiva Nirvana and produced by Mythri Movie Makers. Ever since the first look was released, the film has attracted attention because of its different concept. Now, the first song has increased the excitement even more.

Music director GV Prakash Kumar has composed a devotional track that combines traditional sounds with modern music. The tune creates a peaceful and spiritual feeling, making it easy for listeners to connect with the emotions in the song. The music highlights the importance of faith and devotion throughout.

The lyrics are written by Shiva Nirvana and Kalyan Chakravarthy. They explain the spiritual journey of an Ayyappa devotee in a simple and emotional way. The song talks about taking the sacred Mandala Deeksha, carrying the holy Irumudi, and finally reaching the famous Sabarimala temple.

Singer Ananthu brings life to the song with his heartfelt voice. His emotional singing made



the devotional number even more touching.

One of the biggest highlights of the song is Ravi Teja's new look. Known for his energetic mass roles, the actor appears in a calm and devoted character this time. His sincere performance has impressed fans and shows a different side of his acting. Choreographer Baba Baskar has designed the visuals using traditional devotional movements, giving the song an authentic feel.

The song also introduces important members of the hero's family. Priya Bhavani Shankar plays his wife, while Baby Nakshatra appears as his daughter. Their presence adds warmth and emotion to the visuals.

With its meaningful lyrics, soulful music, and impressive performances, Irumudi Kattu has given the film a memorable beginning. The devotional song is expected to become a favorite during Ayyappa pujas and has raised expectations for the rest of the movie's soundtrack.

Ram Commences Shoot For His Most Ambitious Project RAPO23

Ram Pothineni has begun his most ambitious film yet, #RAPO23, marking a major milestone in his career as it serves as his directorial debut.

Ram Pothineni has begun his most ambitious film yet, #RAPO23, marking a major milestone in his career as it serves as his directorial debut. The landmark project was launched today on a grand scale with a traditional pooja ceremony. During the event, producer Krishna Pothineni handed over the script, while P Murali Mohan and PV Ravi Kishore handled the camera switch-on and clapboard duties respectively.

Ram directed the muhurtham shot himself. Following the pooja ceremony, the regular film shoot commenced today with several cast members. Ram has conceived and written the story for this project, promising a gripping psychological action thriller set against a dark neo-noir backdrop.

His dual responsibility behind and in front of the camera underlines his commitment to bringing this unique vision to life and delivering a distinctive concept to Telugu audiences. With an



unconventional story at its core, the production is currently assembling a star-studded ensemble to play crucial roles. The film marks to be highest budget film in Ram's career too. More details regarding the cast will be made very soon.

Happy Journey Teaser: A Perfect Entertaining Trip

Annapurna takes the lead to take everyone on the trip and entire film is shot in exotic locations of Paris.

Happy Journey stars female stars of yesteryear like Aamani with senior most actress Annapurna in leading roles. Popular young actors like Vamsi, Payal Radhakrishnan, Sunaina, Ravi Shiva Teja are part of the ensemble. The movie talks about women becoming a group and travelling to Paris to make lifelong memories.

Annapurna takes the lead to take everyone on the trip and entire film is shot in exotic locations of Paris. The beautiful visuals, heart-touching moments, fun and comic beats make it a well packaged tour entertainer. Annapurna's get-up and her performance stand-out with Aamani, Jhansi sharing their moments with Vamsi, Ravi Shiva Teja.

The filmmakers have authentically shot entire film in real locations and the efforts are visible on screen



in visuals. Director Abhiramm Naidu trusted the script and material that evokes emotions rather than bringing a popular ensemble. The shots and story showcase his confidence.

Balaji Gutta and Gundala Koushik Reddy have produced the film with great planning and clear execution plan as shooting an entire film in another film needs meticulous preparation. The teaser gives a pleasant feeling and intrigues to watch what memories these characters would share on screen.



Aakankshaa Sharma Graceful Traditional Look

Leaning against a dark stone wall with sunlight highlighting her features, she gently touches her hair while gazing softly at the camera.

In this graceful photograph, Aakankshaa looks ethereal in a classic cream and white saree paired with a matching short-sleeved blouse. Leaning against a dark stone wall with sunlight highlighting her features, she gently touches her hair while gazing softly at the camera.

Aakankshaa (Aakanksha Singh) began her career in theatre before making her television debut with the popular series Na Bole Tum Na Maine Kuch Kaha. She made her film debut in Bollywood with Badrinath Ki Dulhania (2017) and impressed in Telugu cinema with Malli Raava the same year, earning a SIIMA Award nomination for Best Female Debut. She has since delivered notable performances in films like Devadas, Pailwaan, and Runway 34.

Known for her expressive acting and poised screen presence, she has worked across Hindi, Telugu, and Kannada industries. With her dedication and versatility, Aakankshaa continues to explore meaningful roles.

She remains active with upcoming projects that are expected to showcase her range further in Indian cinema.

Tollywood Treads Carefully on Village Belle Roles

The 'village belle' has long been one of Tollywood's most enduring screen archetypes, with leading actresses winning audiences over in half-sarees, cotton saris and other traditional attire. But the recent controversy surrounding Janhvi Kapoor's look in Peddi has reignited a debate on where filmmakers should draw the line between glamour and authenticity. After social media accused the makers of sexualising a rural character, prompting reported changes to a few scenes, directors are becoming increasingly cautious while designing village-based heroines.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

