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## PM Modi Inaugurates Landmark Pachpadra Greenfield Refinery



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagde, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma and others during the inauguration of the Pachpadra refinery site, in Balotra

## RS Praveen Kumar dares Congress to probe his Gurukul tenure, alleges Rs 2,000-cr tender scam

BRS general secretary RS Praveen Kumar has challenged the Congress government to investigate his nine-year tenure as Gurukul Secretary, asserting that no wrongdoing has been found despite 18 months of scrutiny.



Hyderabad: BRS general secretary RS Praveen Kumar intensified his attack on the Congress government, reiterating allegations of irregularities in the Gurukul procurement tenders.

Throwing an open challenge to the government, the former IPS officer said the Congress Ministers were free to investigate his nine-year tenure as Secretary of the Gurukul institutions.

"Conduct an inquiry against me and prove your charges, if you have the courage," he said, asserting that despite 18 months of scrutiny under the Congress government, no wrongdoing had been found against him. He declared that any inquiry against him would instead reveal the doctors, engineers and scientists who had emerged from the Gurukul system during his tenure.

Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan on Friday, Praveen Kumar accused Congress Ministers of evading a public debate on the alleged Rs 2,000-crore Gurukul tender scam by using the police to prevent BRS leaders from reaching Gun Park. He said Harish Rao and other leaders including him were arrested to block the proposed debate. State & Local Government

The BRS leader alleged that G.O. No. 17 centralised procurement and facilitated corruption. He insisted that the procurement process, projected as transparent by the government, was marred by large-scale irregularities and vowed that the BRS would continue its campaign until the order was withdrawn.

He questioned whether Welfare Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar, Adluri Laxman Kumar and Mohammed Azharuddin had approved GO No. 17. He accused Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar and Adluri Laxman Kumar of shielding the Chief Minister instead of addressing the allegations.

Praveen Kumar said the Congress government ignored institutional procedures in the procurement process. Those responsible for the current procurement decisions would ultimately face legal consequences, he asserted.

## El Nino may hit Kharif crops, Telangana farmers cautioned by Irrigation Minister

Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy cautioned farmers in Telangana about possible challenges to agriculture this Kharif season due to the El Nino effect. He noted that the southwest monsoon has weakened, with the state recording 22 per cent less rainfall in June, delaying sowing in several areas.

Nalgonda: Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy sounded a caution to farmers about possible challenges due to El Nino effect this Kharif season. He urged them to plan crops carefully and use water wisely during the season.

Speaking to farmers at a series of official programmes during his tour of Suryapet here on Friday, the Minister said farmers should be wary of the fact that El Nino had impacted rainfall in many parts of the country.

He said the southwest monsoon has been weakened due to El Nino. Telangana also recorded about 22 per cent less rainfall in June which delayed sowing in several areas. A large part of the Godavari river basin lies in Maharashtra and poor rainfall there has delayed wa-



ter flow into Telangana, he explained.

Uttam Kumar Reddy advised farmers to avoid crops that require a lot of water in areas where supply was uncertain. He suggested growing crops that need less water and can withstand dry conditions.

He also said water from reservoirs should be used carefully and stressed

that drinking water should be given top priority, followed by irrigation needs.

The Minister expressed confidence that with proper planning and cooperation, Telangana can manage the challenges of El Nino and continue agricultural growth.

## Bhatti pegs Telangana debt at Rs. 8.21 lakh crore, higher than earlier estimates

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Friday pegged Telangana's outstanding debts at Rs. 8.21 lakh crore, including pending bills and energy dues, a figure higher than earlier estimates.

Hyderabad: After having presented a white paper in the Assembly in December 2023 and putting Telangana's total outstanding debts at Rs. 6.71 lakh crore (from 2014 to 2023), Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Friday jacked up the State's total outstanding debts to Rs. 8.21 lakh crore.

This includes Rs. 40,154 crore pending bills (employees, capital works, schemes etc) and Rs. 1.09 lakh crore of pending bills (DISCOM Energy dues, Singareni power dues etc), he argued.

Interestingly, the cabinet Ministers seem to have



different claims on the State debts. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Tuesday went on record saying Telangana's outstanding debts stood at Rs. 8.11 lakh crore. However, his cabinet colleague Jupally Krishna Rao put the figure at Rs. 7.30 lakh crore, at a press conference on Wednesday,

but on Friday, he jacked up to Rs. 8.21 lakh crore. State & Local Government

During the press conference, Bhatti Vikramarka singled out former Ministers T Harish Rao and KT Rama Rao and criticized them for their remarks on the State's financial condition. He accused the previous BRS government of pushing Telangana into a debt trap during its ten-year rule and alleged that the opposition was now trying to mislead the public through false propaganda.

He admitted that after assuming office, the Congress government released a White Paper on the State's finances in the Assembly. In addition, the Congress government, he said, has undertaken debt restructuring. As a result, the repayment burden for the period 2025-26 to 2031-32 has been reduced from Rs. 34,058 crore to Rs. 11,915 crore, resulting in savings of Rs.

22,142 crore for the State.

**Congress government's borrowings under scrutiny**

Interestingly, while the BRS charged that the Congress government had borrowed Rs. 4.14 lakh crore in the last two and half years, the Deputy Chief Minister maintained that his government had borrowed only Rs. 1.77 lakh crore.

Even this figure is at variance with what the Chief Minister said in the Assembly on March 18 this year. Revanth Reddy admitted that the Congress government had borrowed Rs. 3.47 lakh crore.

These loans were raised in the last 27 months from December 1, 2023 to February 28, 2026. In the Socio Economic Outlook 2026 released by the State government, it is clearly mentioned that between December 2023 and December 2025, total borrowings by the State government and related entities amounted to Rs. 3.19 lakh crore.

Bhatti Vikramarka reasoned out that within just two and a half years, the State government has repaid Rs. 2,08,681 crore, including both principal and interest, on loans taken by the previous government, he stressed.

## KTR to sponsor education of 50 underprivileged girls at SPARSA

BRS working president KT Rama Rao has announced that he will sponsor the education and empowerment of 50 economically disadvantaged young women as part of his 50th birthday initiative. Politics

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao announced that he would sponsor the education and empowerment of 50 economically disadvantaged young women as part of his upcoming 50th birthday initiative. Geographic Reference

Calling his effort a humanitarian responsibility, he hoped that more individuals would come forward to contribute to similar causes.

Speaking at the SPARSA 2026 annual meeting at the JRC Convention Centre in Film



Nagar on Friday, Rama Rao appreciated the organisation's efforts in promoting women's education, skill development and employment under its "Touch A Life" initiative.

He also assured continued support for initiatives aimed at women's social and economic empowerment, describing SPARSA's work in transforming the lives of thousands of families as commendable.

Actress and activist Amala Akkineni attended the event as the guest of honour.

## AP CM Chandrababu Naidu breaks ground on Rs 16,350-crore JSW green steel plant in Kadapa

Kadapa (Andhra Pradesh): Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Friday launched the construction work of JSW Rayalaseema Integrated Steel Plant at Sennapurallapalli and Peddadanluru villages in this district.

The integrated steel plant will be developed by JSW Andhra Pradesh Steel Limited in two phases in 1,100 acres with a total investment of Rs 16,350 crore, said an official press release.

Phase-I will involve an investment of Rs 4,500 crore, while Phase-II will bring an additional investment of Rs 11,850 crore, taking the plant's capacity to two million tonnes per annum (MTPA). Metals & Mining

Commercial production is targeted to commence by March 2028.

Designed as a modern Green Steel facility, the plant will adopt scrap-based Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) technology powered by renewable energy, significantly reducing carbon emissions.

"The project was originally approved in 2019 and witnessed foundation ceremonies in 2019 and again in 2023," said the press release.

Following the formation of the TDP-led coalition government in 2024, the project was "revived" through sustained engagement with JSW, it said.

The Government has advanced critical external infrastructure required for the project, said the press release. A dedicated water supply infrastructure was being taken up for the



project; connectivity to National Highway (NH-67) is under execution while a 12-kilometre railway link connecting the plant to Muddanuru Railway Station is being pursued through RITES under the PM Gati Shakti initiative, the release added. Chemistry

The project is expected to generate thousands of direct and indirect employment opportunities, promote ancillary industries across Rayalaseema and strengthen Andhra Pradesh's emergence as one of India's leading steel-producing states, the release said.

Addressing a public meeting following the launch of the steel plant's construction work, Naidu said the Rayalaseema region is now home to horticulture, rare minerals and green energy, including the manufacturing plants of Royal Enfield, Kia cars and others.

Naidu said Rayalaseema will see the arrival of space, aerospace, defence, drone, electronics, automobile, renewable energy and food processing industries. Executive Branch

Lashing out at the previous YSRCP government, Naidu alleged that it did not lay even a single brick in the five years it ruled but noted that the

TDP-led coalition has resolved several issues in the past two years, leading up to the beginning of the steel plant's construction.

Earlier, he said some "selfish people had worked for their vested interests" and noted that 14,000 acres were allotted to Brahmani Steels in 2007 to create false hopes.

Hinting at YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Naidu alleged that the person who had worked for five years as the CM did not do anything worthwhile for Kadapa district or Rayalaseema.

He alleged that the previous rulers did not newly irrigate even an acre of land in Rayalaseema. Geographic Reference

Further, he accused YSRCP of indulging in "destructive politics" and called it a party lacking credibility.

Alluding to Jagan, Naidu said the former promoted MAVIGUN (Machilipatnam, Vijayawada and Guntur region) as the capital yesterday and today he is backing Vijayawada.

"Mentally unsound people are doing politics," said Naidu, alleging that the previous government had gambled under the garb of three capitals.

Claiming that YSRCP is indulging in caste politics over the disappear-

ance (Gade Sai Krishna's custodial murder) case in Vijayawada, Naidu emphasised that police discharge their duties "responsibly". Politics

Further, the resources belonging to Rayalaseema must be utilised in this place itself, and the local raw material should be used right here to manufacture iron, he said.

Likewise, Naidu said measures would be initiated to offer jobs to locals in the plants being established here. He promised to create jobs within the state to stop youth from relocating.

Referring to Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP), Naidu said when the industry was in a crisis, financial aid of Rs 11,440 crore was received from the Centre.

According to the CM, the arrival of JSW Steel Plant will have an impact on the socio-economic conditions of this region.

Asserting that JSW Steel Plant will begin production in two years, Naidu promised to return in two years to inaugurate it. Calculators & Reference Tools

Further, the CM noted that JSW has come forward to invest in the space and drone cities coming up in Tirupati district.

Powered by horticulture, the CM said Lingala mandal in Rayalaseema has emerged as the place with the highest per capita in the state.

Naidu said the foundation for Global Horticulture Hub in Madanapalli will be laid by August 15 and vowed to develop Gandikota to rival the Grand Canyon in the US.

## Naidu Focuses on Development, Grievance Redressal During Kuppam Tour

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu continued his second-day tour of Kuppam constituency in Chittoor district on Saturday, with a focus on development and speedy resolution of public grievances.

A large number of locals and party supporters gathered to meet the Chief Minister during his visit. Naidu interacted warmly with residents, enquired about their well-being, and spent time listening to their concerns. Several people submitted petitions highlighting both personal and constituency-level issues, which the Chief Minister received and directed officials to address promptly.

As part of his tour, Naidu visited Nallagampalle village, where he inspected houses adopting innovative net-zero practices. He closely examined eco-friendly features such as rooftop solar systems, induction cooktops, terrace



gardening, and rainwater harvesting mechanisms. Appreciating the initiative, he encouraged the adoption of sustainable practices in rural areas. In a notable moment, the Chief Minister visited a villager's home and interacted with the family. He enquired about the number of solar panels installed, their electricity generation, and whether it was sufficient for household needs. He also asked about the reduction in electricity bills. The family expressed happiness over the Chief Minister personally visiting their home and interacting with them. Later, Naidu in-

augurated a CT scan centre at the Kuppam Area Hospital and visited the Sanjeevani exhibition stall. He also interacted with patients undergoing treatment and reviewed the quality of medical services. However, the Chief Minister expressed displeasure over poor sanitation within the hospital premises. Noticing garbage and unhygienic conditions, he pulled up the hospital superintendent and questioned the maintenance standards. He directed officials to immediately clear the waste and upgrade the facility into a model hospital at the earliest.

## Lokesh Seeks Master Plan for Mangalagiri Temple Development



Vijayawada: Education minister Nara Lokesh has asked officials to prepare a master plan for development of the historic Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple at Mangalagiri, with emphasis on pilgrim amenities and preserving the shrine's architectural and religious heritage.

The minister made the call after launching the temple restoration and infrastructure works with Rs 6.3 crore from the endowments fund. He laid the foundation for a new Yagasala, reconstruction of the Vahana Mandapam and Ghanta Mandapam and restoration of the historic Sri Krishnadevaraya Mandapam.

He also unveiled a commemorative plaque and reviewed architectural models of the proposed works.

Lokesh was accorded a traditional Purna Kumbha welcome by temple priests and officials. He offered special prayers to Lord Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy and Goddess Rajyalakshmi, following which the priests gave him teertha prasadam and blessings.

The minister advised officials to execute the development works in accordance with temple traditions without causing inconvenience to devotees. He stressed the need to ensure uninterrupted

darshan and regular distribution of nitya prasadam. He also inspected the temple Pushkarini and suggested measures for its improvement.

Lokesh received petitions from the public and interacted with devotees.

Endowments commissioner K. Ramachandra Mohan, temple executive officer Koganti Sunil Kumar, members of the temple trust board, Padmasali welfare and development corporation chairman Nandam Abbaddiah, APMSIDC chairman Chillapalli Srinivasa Rao, TTD board member Tammishetty Janaki Devi, Telugu Desam leaders and local representatives attended the programme.

## Tributes Paid To Alluri Sitarama Raju On 129th Birth Anniversary

NELLORE: Minister for social welfare Dr Dola Sree Bala Veerananeya Swamy on Saturday said the courage and sacrifice of freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju should continue to inspire future generations.

Paying floral tributes to Alluri's statue in Ongole on the occasion of his 129th birth anniversary, the minister, along with MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy, joint collector Kalpana Kumari, MLAs Damacharla Janardhana Rao, B.N. Vijay Kumar and Mukku Ugra Narasimha Reddy, recalled the tribal leader's contribution to India's freedom struggle.

He also noted that the government had named the Bhogapuram International Airport after the freedom fighter.



Srinivasulu Reddy said the state government remained committed to the welfare of tribal communities in line with Alluri's ideals.

Officials, public representatives and tribal leaders attended the programme.

## Naidu Asks Officials to Turn Kuppam's Net Zero Village into a Model for AP

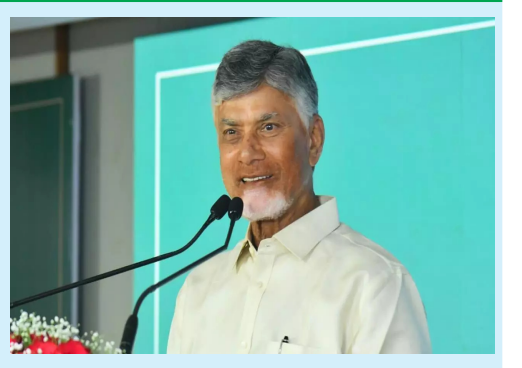
Kuppam: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday directed officials to transform Nallagampalli village in Kuppam constituency into a model for the state for its successful implementation of 'Net Zero' practices. Net Zero refers to a state where greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere are balanced by their removal. "Naidu directed officials to make Nallagampalli village a model for the state as it is successfully implementing Net Zero," said an official press release quoting the CM.

On the second day of his visit to Kuppam constituency, which he represents, Naidu toured households implement-

ing Net Zero and inspected solar rooftop, solar, induction cooktops, rainwater harvesting, kitchen composting, terrace gardening and other practices. Taking Nallagampalli model as a case study, the Chief Minister directed officials to expand Net Zero initiative constituency-wide, and called for including electric vehicles (EVs) under Net Zero.

As part of solar expansion in Kuppam, Naidu said nearly 7,500 SC and ST families, 40,000 OBC families and over 7,000 OC families will benefit. Naidu instructed officials to expand rooftop solar power unit installation across Kuppam constituency to reduce "their electric power expenditure." Later, the CM

inaugurated CT Scan and dialysis centres in Kuppam area hospital. He also inspected the hospital. During inspection, he enquired about Sanjeevani, a health record digitisation programme, and asked officials to ensure public satisfaction. Naidu directed officials to compile reports assessing how Sanjeevani has benefited the people of Kuppam, among other instructions. Further, Naidu directed police officials to stringently crackdown on marijuana and drug abuse, among other instructions.



## Nizamabad Athletes Get Major Boost as TPCC Chief Promises Indoor Stadium :

**Mahesh Kumar Goud Assures Swift Action on Sports Infrastructure—**



Nizamabad, July 4, 2026 : In a significant development for the sporting community of Nizamabad, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud assured that the long-pending demand for an Indoor Stadium in the district would soon become a reality.

The assurance came during the "Olympic Run" organized by the Nizamabad District Olympic Association, where Mahesh Kumar Goud attended as the chief guest and interacted with athletes, sports organizers, and youth participants.

Addressing the gathering, District Olympic Association General Secretary Dr. Bobbili Narsaiah drew attention to the struggles faced by local sports persons. He stated that athletes from Nizamabad have consistently excelled at national and international competitions despite the absence of proper infrastructure, professional coaching, and modern training facilities.

He emphasized that many talented players are forced to practice under difficult conditions due to the lack of stadiums and trained coaches in the district. Narsaiah urged the government to take special initiatives for the welfare and development of athletes by constructing modern sports facilities and appointing experienced coaches.

He further remarked that investment in sports development would inspire the youth and strengthen public confidence in the government's commitment toward nurturing talent.

Taking immediate note of the concerns raised, Mahesh Kumar Goud contacted the State Sports Minister over the phone during the event and requested immediate action for the establishment of an Indoor Stadium in Nizamabad. Sharing the minister's response with the gathering, he announced that the government is prepared to initiate the project with an estimated budget of Rs. 5 crore.

He also assured that official orders regarding the Indoor Stadium would be issued within a week, drawing loud applause and appreciation from athletes and sports enthusiasts present at the event.

Welcoming the announcement, Association President Praveen Reddy, Vice President Bhaktavatsalam, General Secretary Dr. Bobbili Narsaiah, along with Raja Goud, Javid, Nanchari, Srinu, Vasu, and other representatives felicitated Mahesh Kumar Goud with a shawl and thanked him for responding positively to the demands of the sporting community.

Sports organizers and athletes expressed optimism that the proposed Indoor Stadium would open new opportunities for aspiring players and pave the way for Nizamabad to emerge as a strong sporting hub in Telangana.

## No Negligence in Voter List Revision; Not a Single Vote Should Be Missed: ITDA Project Officer B. Rahul



The Election Commission of India has launched a comprehensive voter list revision drive to ensure transparency and accuracy. Pinapaka Constituency VRO and ITDA Project Officer B. Rahul instructed Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and Supervisors to carry out the process carefully and without errors.

Speaking at a training programme held at the Rythu Vedika in Manuguru on Saturday, Rahul directed BLOs to collect and record every voter's information accurately while filling out the enumeration forms. He explained that the forms contain separate sections for voters who were enrolled in the 2002 electoral roll and those who were not, and officials must select the appropriate category based on each voter's details.

As many citizens are still unaware of the process, he instructed BLOs to conduct door-to-door visits, educate voters, and ensure that not a single eligible voter is left out of the electoral roll. If a voter's name is not found in the 2002 voter list, officials should record the details of close relatives and update the voter's current residential information.

Rahul also directed officials to collect essential details such as the voter's date of birth, Aadhaar number, mobile number, parents' or guardian's details, and their EPIC (Voter ID) numbers. Married applicants should provide their spouse's name and Voter ID number, while unmarried applicants may leave that section blank.

He advised voters to keep supporting documents ready, including an Aadhaar Card, Birth Certificate, Class 10 Certificate, Ration Card, Permanent Residence Certificate, Forest Rights Certificate, Caste Certificate, House Rent Receipt, or Electricity Bill, to avoid future deletion or discrepancies in the voter list.

## Petfolk is all set to launch 100 Petfolk Outlets across India by Mid – 2027.

Hyderabad, 4th July, 2026: Petfolk, one of India's most ambitious and fastest-growing pet care brands, today celebrated the grand Launch of its exclusive pet grooming pod at Botanical Gardens, Kondapur— The Opening of the innovative Grooming Pod was graced by Distinguished Chief Guests Smt. Sunita Bhagwat, IFS – Vice Chairman & M.D TGFDC (Telangana Forest Development Corporation) and Sri Laxman Ranjeet Nayak, IFS, Executive Director, Eco Tourism, TGFDC (Telangana Forest Development Corporation) , whose presence underscored the growing significance of the pet care Industry, within India's broader consumer economy.

PETFOLK has its presence across multiple cities featuring grooming centres, mobile grooming units and more, Petfolk has steadily built a reputation for delivering professional, accessible, and Joyful pet care service. The Botanical Garden launch serves as the brand's most visible statement yet — a High-energy signal that Petfolk is ready to scale, and scale decisively.

With this launch, Petfolk has formally entered an aggressive expansion phase, announcing its goal to Reach 100 outlets across India within the next twelve months. This growth will be driven by a diverse mix of Formats — flagship experience centres, compact grooming pods, mobile grooming units, Partnerships, and several first-of-their-kind concepts currently in development. Each format has been Designed with a singular purpose: to meet pet parents wherever they are and deliver a consistent, High-quality experience.

What distinguishes Petfolk from a conventional grooming chain is the depth and ambition of its long-term Vision. The brand is actively building a comprehensive pet care ecosystem — one that addresses every Stage of a pet's



life, from early grooming habits to ongoing wellness and nutrition. As part of this next Phase, Petfolk will be launching its own line of branded products, including pet shampoos, supplements, Grooming essentials, accessories, and everyday pet care solutions, further deepening its presence in the Lives of Indian pet parents.

At its core, Petfolk's mission has always been straightforward: to make professional pet care more Accessible, more convenient, and more enjoyable for every pet parent across India. As the country's Pet-owning population continues to grow — and as pet parents become increasingly discerning about the Quality of care their companions receive — Petfolk is positioning itself to be the brand that sets the Standard, city by city, format by format. With today's launch at Botanical Garden, Kondapur and the road ahead leading to 100 locations nationwide, Petfolk is not Just growing — it is redefining what a pet care brand in India can be.

## Comprehensive Care Available for Scoliosis Patients at Yashoda Hospitals, Somajiguda: Dr. Madhu Kiran

Bureau Chief Warangal July 3: On the occasion of Scoliosis Awareness Month, Yashoda Hospitals, Somajiguda, is conducting an awareness campaign regarding the condition. Scoliosis is a spinal disorder; in many instances, it goes undetected until the condition worsens. Medical experts emphasize that early detection through regular health check-ups and timely treatment can significantly reduce the risk of spinal curvature, chronic pain, and the need for complex surgeries. Since scoliosis typically manifests during adolescence, parents, teachers, and doctors should be vigilant for early signs in children. Key indicators include uneven shoulders, asym-



metrical hip or waist levels, a protruding shoulder blade, or a visible curve in the spine. Scoliosis is a three-dimensional spinal deformity in which the spine not only curves sideways but also rotates. Many early-stage cases can be managed through observation, physiotherapy, and the use of spinal braces for support. However, if left untreated, it can lead to severe complications such as physical deformity, reduced lung function, persistent back pain, and psychological stress. Comprehensive care for scoliosis patients is available at Yashoda Hospitals, Somajiguda. Speaking on the

occasion, Dr. Madhu Kiran Yaragadla, a specialist spine surgeon at Somajiguda, explained that scoliosis is not merely caused by poor posture while sitting or standing; it is a structural issue involving the spine that requires timely examination. The good news is that early detection and monitoring can often eliminate the need for extensive interventions. He urged parents not to ignore any visible asymmetries in their children's shoulders, waist, or back. He emphasized that with expert guidance and appropriate treatment, both children and adults can lead active, healthy lives. Doctors and staff members participated in the event.

## National Conference of Media & Communication Nodal Officers Held in New Delhi by the Election Commission of India

**Officials from Telangana's Department of Information and Public Relations Participated**

Bureau Chief, New Delhi July 4: District Public Relations Officers, Media Nodal Officers, and Social Media Nodal Officers from Telangana State's Department of Information and Public Relations participated in a one-day national conference for Media & Communication Nodal Officers, organized by the Election Commission of India in New Delhi. At the conference attended by approximately 240 District Public Relations Officers from 15 states and Union Territories, Election Commission officials provided comprehensive insights into the role of communication in election management, media handling, election laws, the use of digital technology, the curbing of misinformation, social media challenges, and methods for rapidly disseminating election-related information to the public. Speaking on the occasion, Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar emphasized that the role of media and public relations officers is crucial in conducting free, fair, and transparent elections. He noted that communication officers bear the responsibility of not only swiftly conveying official information released by



the Election Commission to the public but also effectively countering misinformation, misconceptions, and malicious propaganda. Explaining the significance of the Special Summary Revision (SSR) process, he stated that this exercise is being undertaken to ensure in accordance with the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955 that only the names of eligible Indian citizens are included in the electoral roll. It was stated that the media and public relations officers play a crucial role in dispelling public misconceptions about the electoral process and conveying the facts. During the conference, senior Election Commission officials delivered special presentations on topics such as transparency in election conduct, Form-17C, the Election Commission's powers under Article 324, election campaign regulations, the regulation of 'paid news,' and the challenges posed by social media and artificial intelligence, along with strategies to address them. They also explained how services including voter registration, modification of voter

details, polling station information, candidate affidavits, and election results have been made accessible to the public on a single platform via ECINet, a comprehensive digital platform developed by the Election Commission. It was suggested that a widespread campaign be undertaken to encourage every smartphone user to utilize ECINet. Extensive discussions were held regarding methods for more effective election communication, coordination with the media, social media usage, raising public awareness about elections, and strategies to swiftly counter misinformation; several suggestions were made in this regard. Participants included N. Shankar (Additional Chief Electoral Officer) and Prasanna Raj (Special Deputy Collector) from the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Telangana; U. Venkateswara Rao (Joint Director, Telangana State Media Academy); and M. Kiranmayi and Public Relations Officers, Commissionerate of Information and Public Relations, Telangana. Along with Vanaja, District Public Relations Officers including Meenakshi, Indira, Anil, Viswesh, Rajendra Prasad, B. premalath and S. Srinivas participated.

Sunday 05, July, 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.

## From Independent to Chief Minister: Revanth Reddy Marks 20 Years in Politics



NAGARKURNOOL: Marking a significant milestone in his political career, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy returned to Midjil Mandal in Nagarkurnool district to address a massive Thanksgiving rally (Krutagnatha Sabha). Reflecting on his two-decade journey, the Chief Minister emotionalized his deep roots with the local public, stating that the political "sapling" planted by the people of Midjil on July 4, 2006, has today grown into a mighty tree leading the state.

Recalling his entry into Burgula Ramakrishna Rao, Revanth Reddy reminded the gathering that he won his first major election as an Independent ZPTC candidate from Midjil in 2006, despite it not being his native constituency. He paid tribute to the rich political legacy of the Mahabubnagar region, invoking legendary stalwarts like Burgula Ramakrishna Rao, the first Chief Minister of Hyderabad State, and former Union Minister Jaipal Reddy.

"The unconditional trust the people of Midjil placed in an independent outsider twenty years ago is the sole reason I stand before you as Chief Minister today," Reddy said. Highlighting the historical neglect of the region which was tagged as a backward 'dark mandal' in 2006 the Chief Minister publicly requested Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka to officially adopt Midjil Mandal to ensure its rapid development.

Shifting focus to his administration's governance versus the previous BRS regime, Revanth Reddy launched a scathing attack on former CM K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR). He accused the previous government of systemic feudal arrogance, citing the alleged mistreatment of iconic Telangana activist Gaddar, and the suppression of Dalit protestors in Nerella.

Reddy contrasted his government's welfare schemes, such as the Indiramma Indlu housing initiative and the nationwide trailblazing caste census, against what he termed as unfulfilled promises by the BRS.

"The previous government pushed a state with ₹70,000 crores of debt into a staggering crisis of ₹8.50 lakh crores," the Chief Minister alleged. He concluded his speech with sharp questions aimed at the assets of the KCR family, asking how the top leadership of the BRS managed to acquire vast farmhouses and thousands of crores worth of land while the common public was denied basic housing and employment over the last decade.

## Congress Alleges Modi-Shah Regime Poses Gravest Threat to Electoral Democracy

New Delhi: The Congress on Friday said democracy faces the "gravest of threats" from the current dispensation, days after opposition parties urged the Supreme Court to take steps to restore the integrity and accountability of the electoral process. In a letter to the Chief Justice of India, leaders of several Opposition parties had written, saying "democracies turn to anarchies when institutional mechanism fails" and "when the judiciary fails, it indicates a complete breakdown of the Republic".

The opposition parties demanded that the entire SIR (special intensive revision) process be suspended and launched at a time when the next assembly election is at least five years away. They also raised the alleged misuse of central agencies and sought serious consideration of restoring ballot papers where appropriate. Sharing the opposition parties' letter to the CJI in a post on X, Congress general secretary K C Venugopal said the Supreme Court is entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring that injustice is not done and the free and fair nature of elections is protected.

"Electoral democracy in our country faces the gravest of threats from the Modi-Shah regime," he said in his post. Venugopal said that on June 28, 24 opposition parties, along with an Independent MP, wrote to the CJI on the flawed SIR process, the "partisan role" of the Election Commission of India and other election-related issues. "It is the role of our judiciary to guard our democracy from the excesses of the executive - especially one which is hell-bent on destroying the Constitutional framework that gives us our democracy."

"In our democracy, the Supreme Court is entrusted with the onerous responsibility of ensuring injustice doesn't prevail. Therefore, it has a vital role to play in protecting the free and fair nature of elections, and also to make sure that they seem to be free and fair. Without this, injustice against 1.4 billion voters persists every single day," he said in his post. "We are releasing this letter, in the interest of transparency, and in the hope that the Hon'ble Supreme Court will take the firm steps urgently required to restore the integrity and accountability of and faith in the election process of crores of our people," Venugopal said.

TMC MP Derek O'Brien also said on X, "Significant. This is the first time since five meetings of the INDIA bloc have been held, that parties opposed to the BJP, have jointly signed a letter/document". In their letter, various leaders of political parties said it is addressed to the Supreme Court through the CJI and is not intended to influence the decision of any cause pending before any court. "We all, representing like-minded political parties, firmly opposed to the BJP, believe that the electoral process is being manipulated and outcomes in multiple instances do not reflect the will of the people. There are several reasons for this. "First, how the Election Commission (EC) is constituted is and has always been decided by the government in power," the letter



said, citing various other instances on the functioning of the EC. The opposition leaders have also alleged, "There was complete lack of transparency and administrative confusion in the implementation of this process exacerbated by the timeframe within which it was required to be done." "The whole process of the SIR, according to us, was meant to favour the BJP," they alleged. The Opposition leaders alleged that there was "massive deletion of names" from electoral rolls in West Bengal and this "devious plot" left 27 lakh people without right to vote. They also alleged that recently conducted elections in Delhi, Haryana and Maharashtra were "manipulated". "In light of what we have stated, we do expect the impending SIR process be suspended and be launched at a time when the next Assembly election is at least five years away so that representatives of the Commission can go to each house for verification of voters, instead of a process of documentation which has never been adopted in the past," the letter stated. "We believe this is a matter that warrants wider public discussion, including a serious consideration of restoring ballot papers where appropriate. "We find, and it is a matter of grave concern, that the agencies of the government, in particular the CBI, the ED and the NIA, are used only to target those in opposition. These agencies are also used for the purpose of manipulating the outcome of results in the elections, apart from bringing down elected governments," the letter to the CJI said. Noting that judges do not live in ivory towers, the opposition leaders said, "You too are aware of what is happening on the ground." "We respect all institutions as we must. We honour them as we must. But when institutions themselves become instruments of oppression, carry forward the agenda of the government, then the future of our democracy is fraught with grave consequences. "When all else fails, people still repose their trust in the judiciary. So when the judiciary fails to respond, it indicates a complete breakdown of the Republic. Democracies turn into anarchies when institutional mechanisms fail completely," the letter said. Noting that they are not questioning the judiciary, the leaders said, "We turn to the courts when every mechanism fails. When this too fails, it leaves the question - who do we now turn to? We leave that question for you to ponder upon."



## Trump Says US Gave Iran 'Week Off' for Khamenei Funeral

South Dakota [US]: US President Donald Trump on Friday (local time) punctuated his address with a sharp, provocative swipe at Iran, claiming to have given the nation a "week off" for the funeral ceremony of slain Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Touching on the ongoing tensions in the Middle East during his address marking America's 250th Independence Day at Mount Rushmore, the President claimed that US pressure had "broken the spirit" of the Iranian leadership, leaving them "dying to settle."

Trump asserted that the US had granted a temporary suspension of hostilities for humanitarian reasons, stating that "we are nice people."

"We knocked the hell out of Iran. They're dying to settle. We gave them a week off for a funeral because we're nice people," the President told the crowd.

The President also pointed to successes in Venezuela, stating that his administration's swift actions saw victory over rivals in the Latin American nation.

"We beat Venezuela in one day," he added, framing these instances as evidence of the US having "created the strongest and most powerful military" in history.

Beyond the theatre of foreign policy, the President touted what he described as an unprecedented economic turnaround.

"We built the biggest and most dynamic economy and by the way, our country today is doing better than it's ever done before. Never had anything like it. With as of last week 19.2 trillion dollars pouring into the United States right now from all over the world. That's the investments being made and the record was three. Four years and four years, the last administration did much less than one and we did 19.2 in 12 months," he stated.

He further claimed that tariffs and a favourable business climate have triggered a manufacturing boom, with new plants and factories being built at "a number we've never, ever seen before," effectively stating that the nation is currently "the hottest country anywhere in the world."

"Thanks to our great election win November 5th and the tariffs, plants and factories are being built all over the United States right now and they're being built at a number that we've never, ever seen before. So much more there's we're breaking records by double, triple, quadruple. We created the strongest and most powerful military. We won two world wars, the Cold War and left America's enemies in the depths of history," Trump said.

Contrasting the nation's trajectory with the state of affairs two years ago during former President Joe Biden's tenure, which he characterised as a time when America was "mocked" and "in decline," President Trump pointed to a staggering surge in foreign investment.

"Two years ago, we were laughed at, mocked, and a nation in decline... and today, we are the hottest country anywhere in the world," he said, adding, "We're respected like no nation in the world is respected... and I want to tell you: the best is yet to come!" he stated.

Trump's remarks were made against the backdrop of ongoing funeral rites for former Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei.

According to Press TV, the tribute ceremony marked one of the largest international gatherings in Iran since Khamenei's death.

Iranian officials estimate the multi-day funeral will draw between 15 and 20 million mourners.

Ceremonies will continue through the weekend with the body lying in state at Tehran's Grand Mosalla before a funeral procession through Tehran on Monday.

Further rites are scheduled in Qom and later in Baghdad, Karbala and Najaf before burial in Mashhad on July 9.

The gates of the Mosalla are expected to open to the public at 6 a.m. (local time) on Saturday, although organisers said there is a possibility of an earlier opening depending on circumstances.

## Crop Diversification and Oil Palm Cultivation Should Be Promoted:

Nirmal District Staff Reporter : Seasonal Diseases Must Be Prevented Through Timely Measures: –

Telangana Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju

Telangana Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju directed officials to encourage farmers to adopt crop diversification practices and expand the cultivation of oil palm crops.

On Saturday, the Chief Secretary conducted a review meeting on the Agriculture Department with District Collectors and senior officials through video conference from the State Secretariat in Hyderabad.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that the State Government has set a target of bringing 85,000 acres under oil palm cultivation during 2026–27. He instructed district officials to take proactive steps to achieve this target and promote crop diversification. He also advised farmers to focus on vegetable cultivation and adopt micro-irrigation techniques.

The Chief Secretary directed officials to ensure adequate availability of urea, DAP, and other complex fertilizers for farmers. He warned that strict action would be taken



against anyone diverting fertilizers illegally and instructed District Collectors to maintain close monitoring of fertilizer distribution.

He also ordered the speedy completion of the Farmer Registry process. Reviewing the district-wise progress, he noted that Telangana ranks first in the country, with 71.45% completion of the Farmer Registry.

Highlighting the increased risk of seasonal diseases during the monsoon, he instructed officials to remain vigilant and take preventive measures to stop the spread of dengue, malaria, typhoid, and other communicable diseases.

District Collector Bhavesh Mishra participated in the video conference from the District Collectorate conference hall. Addressing the meeting, he said that the district administration is taking steps to increase the area under oil palm cultivation and has prepared mandal-wise action plans to achieve the targets.

He assured that farmers would receive sufficient supplies of urea and stated that a strict monitoring system has been put in place to prevent fertilizer diversion.

The Collector also informed that effective measures are being taken to prevent the spread of seasonal diseases. He said that he has personally inspected government hospitals, held review meetings with Health Department officials, and ensured that sanitation drives are being carried out extensively across the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Collectors B. Venkateshwarlu and Kishore Kumar, DRO Rathod Ramesh, Agriculture Officer Anjiprasad, DPO Srinivas, DEO Bhojanna, officials from various departments, and other staff members.

## Commissioner Warns Officials on Land Acquisition; Orders Completion Within Two Months

The Commissioner for R&R and Irrigation Land Acquisition, K. Shivakumar Naidu, has directed officials to complete the land acquisition process for the State Government's prestigious irrigation projects within the stipulated deadline. During a video conference held from Hyderabad on Saturday, the Commissioner reviewed the district-wise progress of land acquisition and instructed officials to resolve all pending issues without delay.

District Collector Ankit participated in the video conference and briefed the Commissioner on the status of land acquisition works being carried out in the district.

Target of Surveying 15 Acres Per Day

The Commissioner instructed officials to expedite the land survey process by completing surveys of 15 acres per day and to



finish the entire land acquisition process within two months. He directed every survey team to be present in the field by 8:30 a.m., ensuring surveys are conducted when farmers are available.

He further instructed officials to issue advance notices to farmers regarding survey schedules in each village. The Revenue, Survey, and Irrigation Departments were asked to work in close coordination and resolve issues on the spot. Daily progress reports on land acquisition are also to be submitted.

Survey Target of 3,000 Acres in the District

District Collector Ankit stated that a special action plan has been prepared to accelerate land acquisition works. Seven dedicated survey teams have been deployed with the objective of completing the survey of nearly 3,000 acres within two months.

He added that farmers are being informed in advance, and surveys are being conducted with their cooperation. The district administration is committed to resolving all issues promptly and completing the land acquisition process within the prescribed timeframe.

The video conference was attended by Additional Collector Venugopal, Special Deputy Collectors Ravindranath and Venkata Rao, along with officials from the Revenue, Irrigation, Survey, and Land Acquisition Departments.

## Every voter should be made aware of SIR -Congress Party Mandal President Narsimha Reddy



Zaheerabad July:: With the aim of making the people fully aware of the Special Voter List Amendment (SIR) process, Mandal Congress President P. Narsimha Reddy went door to door in Algol village of Zaheerabad mandal of sangareddy district on Saturday to make people aware. Speaking on the occasion, Narsimha Reddy said that the Special Voter List Amendment process is a very crucial issue for every voter. He advised that the right to vote is the foundation of democracy and that every eligible voter should have complete understanding so that his name is properly registered in the voter list and necessary amendments are made. He said that the responsibility of disseminating correct information to the people without any room for misconceptions and doubts about the SIR process lies with the public representatives, officials and

political parties. He clarified that he is fully ready to explain this process to every household and every voter and create awareness. He said that he will be available to provide information, guidelines and necessary assistance related to the SIR process without causing any difficulties to the people. He said that if voters have any doubts, the staff on duty there will immediately resolve them and provide necessary assistance. Zaheerabad Mandal Congress President Narasimha Reddy called on everyone to actively participate and check their details without neglecting the voting process, saying that protecting the right to vote is the responsibility of every citizen. CDC Director Mallareddy, former MPTC Thukkaram, senior leaders Narasimhu, BLOs, BLAs, along with Congress leaders, activists and others participated in this program.

## Doddi Komaraiah Remembered on Death Anniversary; TGIIC Chairperson Nirmala Jaggareddy Pays Floral Tribute

SANGAREDDY, Correspondent : July 4, 2026: Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIC) Chairperson Nirmala Jaggareddy paid floral tributes to the statue of Doddi Komaraiah, the first martyr of the Telangana Armed Peasant Struggle, on the occasion of his death anniversary.

Speaking on the occasion, Nirmala Jaggareddy said that Doddi Komaraiah's courageous fight for farmers' rights against the oppressive rule of the Nizam remains a landmark in Telangana's history. She described his sacrifice for social justice, equality, and the dignity of farmers as an enduring source of inspiration for future generations.

She called upon people, particularly the youth, to follow Komaraiah's ideals and dedicate themselves to public service. She also noted that the Telangana Armed Peasant Struggle laid a strong foundation for the movements that eventually led to the formation of Telangana State, and stressed that the sacrifices of martyrs like Doddi Komaraiah should always be remembered.

Nirmala Jaggareddy said the Congress government is



committed to upholding the ideals of the martyrs and working for the welfare of the people.

Among those present were Congress Sangareddy Constituency Convener Cheryala Anjaneyulu, TPCC General Secretary Topaji Anantha Kishan, Sangareddy Municipal Chairperson Kuna Vanitha Santosh, TNGOs President MD Jawed Ali, Gen. Secretary V Ravi, Block President George, former Block Congress President Chidrupa Raghu Goud, Town President Kiran Goud, leaders Kuna Santosh and Ram Reddy, councillors Ramesh and Shailesh Reddy, along with several party leaders and workers.

## BRAOU Open Degree Admission Brochures Launched

Nagarkurnool: Admissions for the 2026 academic year have commenced at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University Study Centre at Government Science Degree College, Nagarkurnool, Principal Madan Mohan and Study Centre Coordinator M. Anjaiah announced.

Students who have completed Intermediate, ITI, or any two-year diploma course are eligible to apply for degree programmes through the Open University. The officials clarified that an Open University degree is equivalent to a regular degree and urged students to complete the admis-



sion process by August 7.

Applicants must submit their SSC (10th) memo, Intermediate or other qualifying certificates, Aadhaar card, caste certificate (if applicable), and passport-size photographs. For further information, students may contact 7382929779 or visit the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University Study Centre at Government Science Degree College, Nagarkurnool.

# India-Peru FTA Unlikely in the Near Future: Goyal

New Delhi: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday said negotiations for a proposed India-Peru free trade agreement (FTA) are unlikely to conclude anytime soon, citing concerns over market access in certain products. "There are certain concerns. There are many products where we cannot offer them market access. I do not see Peru FTA happening very soon," he told reporters here on the sidelines of the 17th Toy Biz International B2B Exhi-

tion. Negotiations for the proposed India-Peru FTA started in 2017. On India-Canada FTA, the minister said a team of Indian officials will be visiting Canada for the next round of negotiations. "Canada FTA is progressing well...our team is going on Monday for next round of negotiations. We are trying that we should conclude it in the next six months or so," he said. Goyal also in-



formed that on July 13, he will be travelling with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Union Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting, and Electronics and IT, Ashwini Vaishnaw to Brussels for the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) meeting. "Our effort is that it becomes a supplement to the FTA which we have finalized and will help us to smoothen the edges and make it easier to implement the FTA going forward," he said.

## PM Modi To Make His Maiden New Zealand Visit, Will Fly Next Week

Auckland: New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon said on Friday that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will make his first official visit to New Zealand next week.



In April 2026, the two nations signed a free trade agreement in April that will eliminate 95% of tariffs on goods from New Zealand.

Agreement, signed in April, which will deliver more jobs, higher exports and stronger economic growth for New Zealand.

"Prime Minister Modi's visit is historic, with this being the first to New Zealand by an Indian Prime Minister in 40 years," Luxon said in a statement. Modi will arrive in Auckland on July 10, departing a day later.

"This will unlock new opportunities to grow our goods and services exports into a market of 1.4 billion people - bringing more money into Kiwi communities, creating jobs and lifting wages," Luxon further said in his post.

In a post on X, he said, "I'm delighted to announce Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will make his first official visit to New Zealand next week. India is one of the world's largest and fastest-growing economies, and a country of enormous importance to New Zealand's economic prosperity. We are taking the two countries' relationship to the next level with our New Zealand-India Free Trade

Earlier on May 6, New Zealand Trade and Investment Minister Todd McClay stated that the two-way trade between India and New Zealand is poised to double within a few years as both nations finalize a high-quality Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Discover more The minister noted that the FTA caters to New Zealand's consumers who seek high-quality goods and services, which, he mentioned, are readily available in the Indian market.

The New Zealand government is committed to promoting up to USD 20 billion in investment into India over the next 15 years. To facilitate this flow of capital, the Indian government agreed to establish a special New Zealand "single desk" to streamline and accelerate investment clearances. "The Indian government has agreed to set up a special New Zealand desk or single desk to help clear those investments, and so they can take place a lot more quickly. It's easier for New Zealanders to invest," he said.

## Telangana Cabinet Approves VB G Ram G, To Move SC Against Act

Hyderabad: The state Cabinet on Thursday approved the implementation of the VB-G RAM G Act in the state with effect from July 1, while simultaneously deciding to challenge certain provisions of the legislation in the Supreme Court, contending that they were against the interests of states and violated the spirit of federalism.



Briefing the media after the Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, information and public relations minister, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, said the Cabinet held a detailed discussion on the implementation of the new legislation and expressed strong objections to several provisions that were incorporated without consulting the states.

labourers, and had forwarded the resolution to the Union government. It decided to once again communicate the state's opposition to the Centre. The minister said the Cabinet also deliberated on the recommendations made by the Cabinet sub-committee headed by irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy. The sub-committee had concluded that the Centre's unilateral decision to implement the VB-G RAM G scheme, which imposed an additional financial burden on state governments, was contrary to the federal structure

and the constitutional spirit. During the meeting, the Cabinet sought details from officials on whether other states had accepted the new legislation. Officials informed the ministers that all other states had decided to implement the new Act. In view of the prevailing situation and to ensure that employment opportunities for MGNREGS workers are not disrupted, the Cabinet decided that the state had no alternative but to implement the new law. Accordingly, it approved

the issuance of a notification to bring the VB-G RAM G Act into force in Telangana with retrospective effect from July 1, 2026. At the same time, the Cabinet resolved to pursue a legal battle against the contentious provisions of the Act by approaching the Supreme Court. It also decided to raise the issue in Parliament and question the Centre over what it described as its unilateral approach in enacting and implementing the legislation without adequately consulting the states.

## Telangana Records 101.4% Coverage in Pulse Polio Campaign



The statewide Pulse Polio immunization programme concluded successfully, with the health department achieving 101.4 per cent coverage, surpassing its target.

door visits to identify and vaccinate children who were initially missed.

According to official estimates, the state has around 4,097,749 children in the 0-5 age group. However, a total of 4,153,185 children were administered polio drops during the drive, exceeding expectations.

Special drives were conducted in construction sites, migrant labour colonies, high-risk areas, slums, and child care homes to ensure that no child was left out of the immunization programme.

Health officials said the achievement was made possible through a combination of polio booths and extensive door-to-

State Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha congratulated doctors, officials, ANMs, ASHA workers, Anganwadi staff, volunteers, and other frontline personnel for their dedicated efforts in making the

programme a success.

He also appreciated parents across the state for actively participating by ensuring their children received polio drops.

The minister reiterated that the government remains committed to maintaining the state's polio-free status and will continue to stay vigilant to safeguard the health of every child.

He added that the success of the programme was made possible due to public cooperation and the tireless efforts of the health department staff.

## MUSI REJUVENATION PROJECT GETS CABINET NOD

The Telangana cabinet has approved tenders for the Rs 7,345 crore Musi Rejuvenation project's first phase, covering 21 km from Himayath Sagar to Babu Ghat. Alongside, 147 posts have been sanctioned for execution and monitoring, with additional staff to be deputed if required.

Hyderabad: Despite opposition from different quarters, the State cabinet has approved the proposals to float tenders for the Musi Rejuvenation project's first phase covering 21 km with a cost of Rs. 7,345 crore.



In the first phase, works would be executed from Himayath Sagar to River Esa and Osman Sagar to River Musa confluence point to Babu Ghat. To execute works and monitor them, creation of 147 posts has been approved by the cabinet and if required, more staff would be deployed on deputation.

menting the scheme as per the prescribed terms and conditions, he said. The Minister said along with students up to 12th standard, nearly 1.5 lakh teachers, lecturers and staff, would be extended free mid-day meals, milk and snacks. The cabinet also approved 6,278 posts in different TIMS hospital, including Sanathnagar, LB

Nagar and Alwal and super specialty hospital, Warangal. This apart, CMRF LOCs would also be processed at these hospitals, he said. The cabinet approved allotment of lands for constructing warehouses in five to six assembly constituencies. Accordingly, 50 acres has been approved at Bollikunta in Warangal and 10 acres at

Kakarlaphad in Rangareddy to the State Warehousing Corporation. Similarly, 20 acres has been allotted for establishment of Jawahar Navodaya at Peddapally in Mahabubnagar and 19 acres at Kodad in Suryapet districts. Also, the cabinet approved allotment of five acres for setting up Kendriya Vidyalaya at Chalgal in Jagtial, he said.

## Revanth Reddy Hails Osmania Doctors for Historic Surgical Feat

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Thursday congratulated doctors at Osmania General Hospital for achieving a landmark surgical milestone, calling it a moment of pride for the state's public healthcare system.

In a post on social media, the Chief Minister noted that the achievement comes just days after the celebration of National Doctors' Day, adding greater significance to the accomplishment.

He lauded the medical team led by Dr Ch Madhusudan for scripting "medical surgery history" at the historic hospital, one of Telangana's premier government healthcare institu-



tions.

The Chief Minister extended his congratulations to all members of the team, appreciating their dedication, expertise, and contribution to advancing healthcare standards in the state.

## Least Bothered By Congress Leaders Remarks: Ramchander Rao



Hyderabad: Telangana BJP President N Ramchander Rao on Thursday hit out at Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president B Mahesh Kumar Goud over his comments targeting BJP National President Nitin Nabin, saying that the BJP is least bothered

about the remarks made by the Opposition.

Speaking to ANI, Rao said that not only the party cadres but the general public had welcomed Nabin wholeheartedly. The Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, TPCC chief also commented on a major personal win – while more recently clashing with them for failing to back his war against Iran.

However, the party cadre and the public grandly welcomed Nabin. This has clearly made the Congress Pa and its TPCC president uneasy, as they are worried about the BJP's growing presence in the state.

Nitin Nabin's visit exposed the Congress party's corruption and further strengthened the BJP's prospects in the state. "We are least bothered by the Congress Party's remarks. The BJP is growing stronger, and we will come to power," he said.

## KTR tears into Congress Ministers for evading debate and arrest of BRS leaders

**BRS working president KT Rama Rao accused the Congress government of avoiding a public debate by arresting BRS leaders and preventing them from participating. He demanded an Assembly session to discuss the State's finances, Gurukul tenders and the government's alleged failures.**

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao ridiculed the Congress government for orchestrating a political drama by challenging the opposition BRS to an open debate and then using the police to prevent BRS leaders from participating. He said Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and his Ministers lacked the courage to face a public debate on issues ranging from the State's debt to alleged irregularities in Gurukul residential school tenders. City & Local Guides

"The Congress leaders have no courage to face the BRS. If they cannot debate with us, they should abstain from throwing open challenges," he said.

The remarks came after former Ministers T Harish Rao, V Srinivas Goud, senior leader RS Praveen Kumar and several other BRS leaders were arrested, while heading to the Telangana Martyrs' Memorial at Gun Park. Minister Jupally Krishna Rao who challenged for an open debate on the State finances, also did not turning up at Telangana Bhavan and Rama Rao was also prevented from leaving Telangana Bhavan.

Addressing the media at Telangana Bhavan, Rama Rao said BRS leaders had assembled at Telangana Bhavan by 10 a.m., keeping a chair and ceremonial shawl ready for Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, who had earlier expressed willingness to debate there. However, he said the Minister failed to turn up, while Harish Rao and other leaders were arrested when they attempted to proceed to Gun Park for another debate with Ministers Ponnamm Prabhakar, Adhuri Laxman Kumar and Mohd Azharuddin.

"We waited at Telangana Bhavan, and when we tried to go to Gun Park, we were stopped by the police. The Ministers issue challenges from one place while using the police to block us elsewhere. It only shows the government's moral bankruptcy," he said.

Police personnel prevented the BRS working president from leaving Telangana Bhavan to either reach Gun Park or visit the Kanchanbagh



Police Station, where the arrested BRS leaders were being detained. Demanding their immediate release, he questioned why the government feared a public debate if it was confident of its claims.

Escalating the political challenge, Rama Rao demanded that the government convene a special session of the Assembly to discuss the Congress government's 30 months of betrayal, deception and failures, including the State's finances, alleged corruption in Gurukul tenders and unfulfilled election promises.

If the government has the courage, let it allow a full discussion in the Assembly. We are ready to place every fact before the people," he said.

The BRS leader also targeted the Congress government on a range of issues, alleging corruption, failure to deliver promised police recruitment, irregularities in welfare and infrastructure projects, and inaction on farmers' concerns. He challenged the government to match the BRS record in housing construction, with the previous BRS regime built one lakh houses in Hyderabad. City & Local Guides

"Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy claimed that the Congress will construct over one lakh Indiramma houses in Hyderabad. We have already constructed one lakh dignity homes for the poor. If the Congress manages to construct at least one home more than the BRS, I will quit politics," he declared.

Rama Rao also questioned the BJP over the status of alleged investigations into senior Congress leaders, including the purported "RR Tax" allegations and AMRUT tender irregularities, while accusing both the Congress and BJP of shielding each other on corruption.

He maintained that the Congress leadership had once again backed out of a debate after issuing repeated public challenges, asserting that the government lacked the confidence to defend its record before the people.

## Trump's ties to Erdogan sold him on this year's NATO summit, Turkey may win big in other ways

**Donald Trump is set to attend the NATO summit in Turkey at President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's invitation, amid warming US-Turkey ties. Discussions may include defence deals such as F-35 jets and engine sales, despite ongoing congressional opposition and geopolitical tensions Executive Branch**

Washington: President Donald Trump has berated and belittled many of his European counterparts expected to attend next week's NATO summit in Turkey. But host Recep Tayyip Erdogan has drawn on his close ties with the US president to secure his presence at the Ankara event – an appearance that may even come with a significant gift related to Turkish defence. History

Trump has frequently lavished praise on the Turkish president, calling him a "hell of a leader" and a good friend. "I would not have gone for most people," Trump said last week. "But he called me up. He said: Please, I have it in Turkey. You got to be there. The United States has to be in there." And so I'm going out of respect to President Erdogan."

Leveraging that respect has helped Erdogan avoid the disarray that the US president's absence would cause the alliance, particularly at a time when Trump has been repeatedly threatening to pull US forces from Europe and scale back America's role in NATO, unsettling allies. Trump has long rebuked other NATO countries over their defense spending – and claimed last year's pledge to collectively boost it as a major personal win – while more recently clashing with them for failing to back his war against Iran.

But Trump has sweetened the deal for Erdogan by also hinting that he could make news during his visit related to jet engines and the potential sale of F-35 fighter jets barred for years because of Turkey's closeness with Moscow.

The Republican president's affinity for strongmen leaders has long made him an admirer of Erdogan, who amassed power in Turkey first as its prime minister and now in his 13th year as president. Executive Branch

"His relationship with Erdogan, which is pretty strong, is consistent with what seems to be a pattern of his preference," said Philip Gordon, who served as national security adviser for Vice President Kamala Harris.

"It has often been pointed out he seems to have better relationships with adversaries and autocrats, and he certainly says nicer things about them than with allies." Gordon, now at the Brookings Institution, added, "Erdogan is taking full advantage of it."

Erdogan snubbed Biden but bets on Trump

Trump – who is expected to have a bilateral meeting with Erdogan on the sidelines of the NATO summit – will be the first US president to visit Turkey since Barack Obama in 2015. By contrast, US President Joe Biden's administration kept Erdogan at arm's length during his four years in office over Turkey's democratic backsliding and close ties to Russia. History

Opposition parties and human rights organizations have accused Erdogan of undermining democracy and curbing freedom of expression. They say baseless investigations and prosecutions of human rights activists, journalists, opposition politicians and others remain a persistent problem in Turkey.

Soner Cagaptay of the Washington Institute said Erdogan and Trump "clicked" personally during Trump's first term. When Biden extended an invitation in 2024 for Erdogan to visit the US after Turkey endorsed Finland and Sweden's NATO membership, Erdogan decided not to go.

"That was Erdogan's way of signaling



to Trump, Hey, you are going to probably win the elections," Cagaptay said. "I think Trump saw that as a giant gesture."

Trump signals steps toward jet sales for Turkey  
During a meeting with NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte last week, a reporter asked Trump whether he was taking "a big gift bag for Erdogan" on the trip, noting that Ankara wants F-110 jet engines and F-35 fighter jets.

"Yeah, I think so," Trump responded. "Yeah, I'm going to probably do something that's going to make him very happy." Trump had also suggested last September that the US could soon start selling F-35s to Turkey.

Turkey was barred from the program in 2019 after it purchased Russian-made S-400 missile defense systems. US officials have feared that Turkey's use of the Russian system could enable Moscow to gather information on the F-35's capabilities.

At the Oval Office meeting, Vice President JD Vance said Washington was exploring ways to sell Turkey the jets, emphasizing that any sale would ensure Turkey has complied with US law. There is significant bipartisan opposition on Capitol Hill to selling the F-35s to Turkey as long as Ankara is in possession of the Russian missile defense systems, including from influential Republicans such as Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jim Risch of Idaho.

Meanwhile, the F-110 jet engines that Turkey is seeking to purchase would power its domestically produced KAAN fighter jets. The State Department last week took a step toward making those sales, sending key lawmakers a notice that it planned to bypass congressional opposition to more than \$700 million of the jet-engine sales to Ankara, according to two people granted anonymity to discuss details of a nonpublic notification.

"In this case, the State Department did not even attempt to justify its decision," New York Rep. Gregory Meeks, the top Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said in a statement last week. "It did not invoke any emergency authority, did not present a written rationale, and for months refused to make a good-faith effort to brief me on implications of the sale for the US-Turkey relationship, Turkey's continued possession of the Russian S-400 system, and other regional security concerns." History

The relationship between the US and Turkey is thawing in other ways, too. Earlier this year, the Justice Department dropped a major case against Turkey's state-owned Halkbank, which had been accused of helping Iran evade US sanctions.

Erdogan lauds Trump's friendship and phone calls

When he returned to the White House for his second term, Trump appointed a close friend as ambassador to Turkey: Tom Barrack, a longtime ally who also served as the chairman of his inaugural committee. "Barrack is playing a crucial role as a facilitator in the relationship," said Ahmet Kasim Han, a professor of international relations at Ankara's TED University.

Erdogan and Trump have frequently held telephone calls to discuss Syria, Gaza and the wider Middle East, and Turkey joined Trump's Board of Peace aimed at overseeing the ceasefire in Gaza. Trump claimed this month that he asked Erdogan to stay out of the war in Iran and that the Turkish leader complied, though there is no indication that Turkey had ever intended to get involved.

Trump expressed admiration for Erdogan even while standing beside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at a joint press conference last year. Netanyahu, whose government is at odds with Ankara, had hoped to win Trump's support for pushing back on Turkish influence in Syria, but instead found himself watching as Trump showered praises on Erdogan and urged Netanyahu to be "reasonable." Executive Branch

Last year, after meeting with Trump at the NATO summit in The Hague, Erdogan told reporters that the US president is quick to return his calls, an anecdote that illustrated their close ties.

"With my friend Trump, we are opening the door to a new era in Turkish-American relations," Erdogan said. "The process of telephone diplomacy between us has never exceeded 24 hours so far. When we call, the other side responds within 24 hours."

## Political Heat Rises in Telangana Over Gurukul Tender Allegations



Hyderabad: Political tensions escalated in Telangana after the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) alleged corruption in Gurukul tender allocations.

Responding to the challenge for a public

debate, ministers Ponnamm Prabhakar, Adhuri Laxman, and Azharuddin reached the Martyrs' Memorial at Gun Park. They also stated their willingness to attend a discussion at the Somajiguda Press Club, as suggested by former IPS officer R. S. Praveen Kumar.

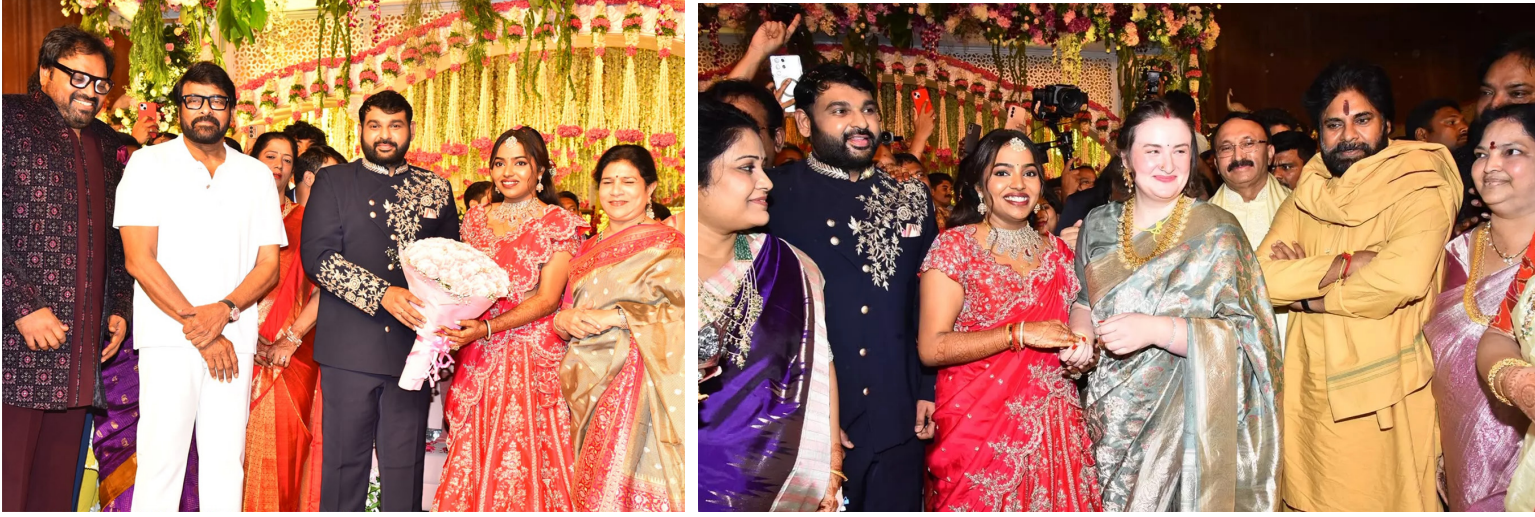
Meanwhile, senior BRS leaders were asked to come to Gun Park. Former ministers T. Harish Rao and K. T. Rama Rao reached Telangana Bhavan, following which Harish Rao and other leaders set out towards the Martyrs' Memorial at Gun Park.

The developments underline intensifying political confrontation between the ruling side and the opposition over the Gurukul tender issue.



## CINEMA

## Chiranjeevi, Pawan Kalyan Grace Meher Ramesh's Daughter's Wedding



At least three major Telugu stars turned up in full force for the wedding of director Meher Ramesh's daughter, Krishna Mohana, to Anirudh.

Megastar Chiranjeevi and his wife attended to bless the couple, closely followed by Andhra Pradesh Deputy

CM Pawan Kalyan and Anna Lezhneva. Victory Venkatesh Daggubati was also among the high-profile guests from various industries.

Given Meher Ramesh's long-standing personal and professional ties with Mega family, it was no surprise they were present.

## If Nagabandham Delivers, Two Things Will Prove

This Friday, the film Nagabandham is hitting cinemas and Akhanda producer Miryala Ravinder Reddy's brother-in-law, Virat Karne, is testing his luck for the second time.

This Friday, the film Nagabandham is hitting cinemas and Akhanda producer Miryala Ravinder Reddy's brother-in-law, Virat Karne, is testing his luck for the second time. More than the hero, two other things will be proven if the film turns out to be a blockbuster.

Back then, when producer Abhishek Nama overtook the film "Eagle" featuring Kalyan Ram from a director, many criticised him for putting his name as a 'director' just because he poured money into the project. Taking that criticism into mind, Abhishek has now taken up the direction mantle and carved out Nagabandham. Going by the trailer, it's not looking like any basic attempt but like something a talented and experienced filmmaker could do. So if the film clicks, earlier rumours on Abhishek Nama will be wiped off.

The second thing is an interesting one. In recent times, many films that have promised amazing Visual Effects in the trailer have turned out to be damp squibs when it



comes to the silver screen. Most of the effects fizzled out, some are unclear, some are illogical, and some are very cheapish quality and this happened with some big-ticket films. If Nagabandham's VFX stand out, then the film will show the way for others when it comes to producing films with realistic-quality CGI imagery.

Within a few hours, the truth of Nagabandham will be out, so let's see what happens.

## Half Dozen Heroes Bank On 'Uncertain' Month

Just after the monsoon rains start, usually in the month of July, the cinema industry considers this a dry season.

Just after the monsoon rains start, usually in the month of July, the cinema industry considers this a dry season. Because schools and colleges will be at full capacity, there are not many holidays, and at the same time, the footfall will be low. However, this year, Tollywood's young chaps are thinking that July will bless them with luck and sunshine.

On July 3rd, we have Satyadev testing his luck with Rao Bahadur at the box office, though he wants to score that blockbuster which never came his way. At the same time, a big producer's brother-in-law, Virat Karne, made his debut with Pedda Kapu, but things didn't work out; now coming up with Nagabandham, which is also another heavy-budgeted movie. Similarly, on July 10th, Akhil Akkineni



is testing his luck with Lenin to score that hit film that's evading him for a decade.

The buck goes to Tiruveer's Oh Sukumari on July 17th, who is another struggling hero waiting for a blockbuster to come his way. Then comes the dubbed film Makutam, which has Vishal in the lead, and after 20 years of a good run at the Telugu market, this hero is struggling to get things right. Though his last couple of films spun some money, somehow Kiran Abbavaram is waiting for the right blockbuster, and his July 24th-releasing Chennai Love Story is what he pins his hopes on.

These half dozen heroes are betting big on their respective movies in the uncertain month of July, and hope all of them gets their dreams fulfilled.

## SPORTS

## England defeat India in second T20 as Sooryavanshi debut headlines costly Bishnoi over

England defeated India by four wickets in the second T20 International at Manchester, taking a 1-0 series lead. Jacob Bethell's unbeaten 76 and a costly over from Ravi Bishnoi proved decisive after India posted 190 despite key contributions from Abhishek Sharma and Ishan KishanWorld news coverage



Manchester: Ravi Bishnoi became the perfect party pooper on Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's much-hyped debut, conceding 29 runs in an over as England romped home by four wickets against India in the second T20 International here on Saturday.

The 17th over, bowled by a profligate Bishnoi, saw him deliver two no-balls in the first two deliveries. Jacob Bethell (76 not out off 46 balls), keen to make amends for the T20 World Cup semi-final defeat, capitalised on the opportunity, smashing three towering sixes to ensure England completed the chase of 191 with an over to spare.

The afternoon began with anticipation over a 15-year-old Indian's debut and ended with a 22-year-old talented Englishman's swift counter-offensive that gave the hosts a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

The chase could not have started on a worse note for the hosts, as Phil Salt and Jos Buttler were snapped up by Arshdeep Singh.

However, to his horror, skipper Harry Brook (39 off 15 balls) was brutal on the seasoned seamer, smashing him for 27 runs, which included three sixes and two boundaries.

While Axar Patel (1/19 in 4 overs) had Brook caught down the leg side by Ishan Kishan, the England skipper had already set the platform for the counter-offensive.

Bethell was then joined by Tom Banton (39 off 32 balls), and the duo handled the Indian spinners with relative ease during their 67-run stand for the fourth wicket.

It also helped that India's spinners Ravi Bishnoi (0/60 in 4 overs) and Varun Chakravarthy (1/37 in 4 overs) did not match the English spinners, who were slower through the air and off the pitch. Only Axar Patel held his own.

Bishnoi and Chakravarthy bowled flat and quick on a skiddy surface, which made it easier for both Bethell and Banton to rock back and execute their shots. However, Chakravarthy did redeem himself in the final over when he removed Will Jacks which turned out to be an important moment in the game.

However skipper Shreyas Iyer's tactical move to bring in Arshdeep in the 13th over for his second spell, worked wonders as Banton picked the fielder at deep extra cover to bring India back in the game. But Bishnoi's over dashed all hopes of a win.

Earlier, Tilak Varma's last-over heroics ensured a decent 190 for 7 for India after Iyer opted to bat first.

Tilak (24 n.o. off 11 balls), whose batting approach has been heavily criticised, smashed Jofra Archer (1/40 in 4 overs) for 17 in the 20th over to take India to a respectable total even though it might have slightly below the par score of 200.

The extra bounce and cross winds on a skiddy surface did make batting difficult as the world saw the first glimpse of a 15-year-old debutant, who broke Sachin Tendulkar's nearly 37-year-old record, at international stage.

However, his stay was restricted to 10 balls in which he collected two sixes and a couple of singles to manage 14 before being stumped by Jos Buttler off off-spinner Will Jacks. Abhishek Sharma (43 off 24 balls), skipper Shreyas Iyer (37 off 22 balls) and Ishan Kishan (49 off 43 balls) all scored some runs but only looked comfortable in patches with England bowlers mixing it up quite nicely.

Kishan, in particular, was exceptionally scratchy, failing to pick the slower deliveries and altered length ones bowled by the spinners. While Archer's sheer pace and the bounce extracted off the surface had Abhishek in all sorts of trouble at the onset, it was seamer Sam Curran's (3/33 in 4 overs) pace-off strategy and assortment of slower variations that made life difficult for Indian batters post power play. World news coverage

Jacks (1/22 in 3 overs) and left-arm spinner Liam Dawson (1/27 in 3 overs) ended with good figures. Even Adil Rashid (0/21 in 2 overs) wasn't exactly taken to the cleaners as boundaries were hard to come by.

In his first 12 balls, Abhishek played and missed around 10 of them. Archer cranked it up to 90 miles per hour, pitching it on hard length and got it to deviate away. At the other end, even Sooryavanshi struggled to cope with the extra bounce but got a six each — first when Archer tried to cramp him for room and the left-hander played a no-look whip-scoop behind for a six.

The shot against Josh Tongue was a more familiar IPL type hoick over long-on. However, England skipper Harry Brook rightly introduced Jacks and he bowled a wide loopy off-break which Sooryavanshi jumped out and missed by a foot and half to get stumped. Abhishek, after an initial play and miss phase, got his mojo back against bowlers with comparatively lesser pace than Archer.

It was still hitting through the line that got him to 43 as he played the field admirably, targeting the shorter side. He should be cursing his luck when his snap flick off a Curran full-toss went straight to Tom Banton stationed at least 15 metres inside the mid-wicket boundary. Iyer and Kishan added 65 for the third wicket but even their biggest supporters won't claim that they could dominate the England attack during those middle overs.

Iyer, though, was a bit better trying to use his feet but the bigger dimensions of the Old Trafford ground made boundary scoring difficult.