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## Godrej Agrovet To Launch Rs.300 Cr Oil Palm Unit In Khammam

HYDERABAD: Godrej Agrovet is set to operationalise Telangana's first integrated oil palm processing unit in Khammam district. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will inaugurate the facility shortly.

On Wednesday, Rakesh Swami, president (corporate affairs) of Godrej Industries Group, and Sougata Niyogi, CEO of Godrej Agrovet's Oil Palm Business, met the Chief Minister at MCRHRDI. They briefed him on the company's expansion plans and submitted a report on oil palm cultivation in Khammam district.

The project is coming up at Gubbagurthi village in Konijerla mandal with an investment of ₹300 crore. The unit will provide employment to over 700 locals.

The state government has allotted 113.5 acres for the factory, nursery, R&D centre and seed garden. The



company has requested an additional 35-40 acres for the seed garden.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister directed officials to widen the roads leading to the unit under the supervision of TGIIC.

The factory will have the capacity to crush 15 tonnes of fresh fruit bunches per hour. It is expected to generate direct employment for 150 people and indirect jobs for around 700 others.

The project will benefit oil palm farmers in Khammam and Bhadradi Kothagudem districts by improving processing infrastructure and reducing transport costs.

Telangana already has three oil palm factories, but the Khammam unit will be the first integrated complex with a processing plant, seed garden and refinery.

## Revanth Reddy Invites Canadian Investors to Telangana Investment Summit

HYDERABAD: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday sought greater international collaboration in Telangana's major infrastructure and urban development projects, including the Musi River Development Project, Hyderabad Metro Rail expansion and the proposed Future City initiative.

Canada's High Commissioner to India Chris Cooter met the Chief Minister at MCRHRDI and invited him to lead a delegation to Canada. The two discussed strengthening Canada-Telangana trade, investment and innovation partnerships.

Malaysian MP Saravanan Murugan and other international delegates, in the city for the Green Growth Economic Summit 2026, also met Revanth Reddy, who briefed them on investment opportunities in Telangana.



Cooter highlighted recent Canada-Telangana engagements, including Firan Technology Group's plan to set up a manufacturing facility, CIBC's Global Capability Centre in Hyderabad, and CPP Investments' strategic partnership with CtrlS Datacenters, committing up to 1 billion Canadian dollars.

The Chief Minister outlined Telangana's success in IT, life sciences, defence and aerospace, and Hyderabad's domi-

nance in attracting Global Capability Centres of Fortune-500 companies. He stressed the government's commitment to rejuvenate the Musi River as part of a riverfront economy, and sought Canadian support for solarisation and green economy initiatives.

He said top global universities were coming forward to set up campuses in Hyderabad and pitched the idea of Canadian universities establishing a multi-university campus.

Revanth Reddy welcomed growing Canadian engagement and invited companies, investors and institutions to participate in the second edition of Telangana's Global Investors Summit in December.

Cooter praised Telangana's forward-looking vision and talent pool, offered support for state initiatives, and invited the Chief Minister to visit Canada. He said a Canadian trade delegation will visit Telangana soon to hold discussions in energy, urbanisation, defence and aerospace.

Adviser and ex-officio special chief secretary to CM K. Ramakrishna Rao, Invest Telangana CEO B. Ajith Reddy, TGIIC MD Shashanka, ITE&C joint secretary Anudeep Durishetty and Industries director Nikhil Chakravarthy attended the meeting.

## Make Balkampet Yellamma Bonalu Grand, Ensure Foolproof Arrangements: Surekha

Hyderabad: Endowments Minister Konda Surekha has directed officials to organise the Ashada Bonalu celebrations and the annual kalyanotsavam of Balkampet Yellamma temple in a grand and incident-free manner.

Chairing a review meeting with officials of various departments, the minister stressed coordinated efforts to manage the large influx of devotees expected on July 20, 21 and 22. She said the temple, believed to be over 700 years old, holds immense spiritual significance, with devotees believing that visiting Goddess Yellamma is equivalent to darshan of the Ashtadasha Shakti Peethas.

Surekha instructed departments including police, GHMC, TSSPDCL, HMWS&SB, health, fire services, RTC and others to remain fully prepared. Special focus should be placed on crowd control, uninterrupted power sup-



ply, sanitation, drinking water, traffic management and medical facilities, especially in view of the monsoon season.

She emphasised that devotees should face no inconvenience while offering Bonalu or having darshan and must return home safely. Measures such as queue management, separate lines for women, elderly and differently-abled persons, and enhanced security at VIP entry points were also discussed.

The minister said arrangements including floral and lighting decorations, kalyana mandapam setup, rathotsavam preparations, prasadam

distribution and volunteer deployment should be completed on time. She also called for extensive publicity of the festival's cultural significance.

Special buses will be operated by RTC, while cultural programmes reflecting Telangana's traditions will be organised. Police were asked to strengthen security, manage traffic diversions and install systems to track missing persons if required. Officials briefed the minister on preparations, and she reiterated that all departments must prioritise safety, cleanliness, and convenience to ensure the successful conduct of the festival.

## Govt School Students Outshine Private Schools in Results: Ponnam

Hyderabad: Backward Classes Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Wednesday conducted a surprise inspection of Uyyalawada Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Gurukul School in Bijinipalli Mandal in Nagarkurnool district.

He enquired about the curriculum of the students and asked students if they are facing any problem. A solar plant was sanctioned for students to have hot water for bathing. He advised the students to study well and reach higher heights.

He asked about the details of the menu being served to the students and inspected the quality of essential commodities and vegetables in the store-room. He examined the food items cooked in the kitchen and advised that fresh vegetables should be used while cooking. Stating that the State government is top priority for welfare and education, he said the public representatives of all political parties in Telangana



should visit gurukul schools. The bureaucrats and other influential people must also visit Gurukuls and inspire the students.

Congratulating the students of the government schools for achieving excellent results compared to private schools, he said training should be given to them to enable them to prepare for Group I and II exams apart from UPPSE. Students should be involved in sports, cultural and innovation programs along with studies, the Minister said.

"As students are a future asset of the State, the Telangana government is giving top priority to education. Students should use Gurukuls and make good use of them effectively," he added.

## Bhatti: Centre Concealing Facts on Allotment of Tadicherla-2 Coal Block to Singareni

Hyderabad: Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Wednesday accused the Centre of concealing facts and misleading the public over the Tadicherla-2 Coal Block, asserting that the Centre had not made a fresh allocation to the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), but had merely granted the long-pending prior approval for a mining lease.

Addressing a media conference at Praja Bhavan, Bhatti Vikramarka strongly objected to Union coal minister G. Kishan Reddy's statement that the BJP-led government at the Centre had allotted the Tadicherla-2 block to SCCL. He clarified that the coal block had already been allotted to Singareni on September 16, 2013, by the then Congress-led UPA government following requests made by SCCL between 2010 and 2012. The allotment letter had specified that, since the block falls in a tribal area, mining could be undertaken only by a public sector undertaking and directed SCCL to expedite exploration and commence coal production.

Bhatti Vikramarka alleged that despite the allocation in 2013, the BJP government delayed granting the mandatory

mining lease approval for more than a decade, preventing SCCL from beginning mining operations and causing substantial losses to the company. He said the Congress government had persistently pursued the issue after assuming office, with repeated representations to the Prime Minister and the Union Coal Ministry. He said he personally met the Union Coal Minister on March 7, 2024, and again on May 20, 2026, seeking prior approval for the mining lease, which was finally granted only now.

While welcoming the approval, Bhatti Vikramarka said presenting it as a fresh allocation was unfortunate and misleading. He also demanded that all coal blocks located in the Godavari Valley coalfields and areas covered under the 1/70 Tribal Land Regulation, including Koyagudem-3 Open Cast Block, the Open Cast Dip Side Mine in Manuguru and Sathupalli Open Cast-3 Block, should be allotted exclusively to SCCL. He alleged that auctioning such blocks to private companies violated tribal land protections and urged the Centre to allocate them directly to Singareni through the Government-to-Government mechanism.

## Nara Lokesh Leads High-level Talks with Samsung in South Korea



New Delhi: Andhra Pradesh IT Nara Lokesh held discussions with senior executives of Samsung Electronics in South Korea, pitching the state as a potential hub for AI infrastructure.

The Minister has urged Samsung Electronics to develop Andhra Pradesh as a hub for AI infrastructure, including data centres, server manufacturing, servicing, and to explore setting up a display fab in the state.

Sharing the information on X, he said he met with Samsung Electronics (South Korea) executives, including Senior Director and APAC MX Business Head Helena Park, Director of B2B Business Hee Soo Yang, and Enterprise Business Global Sales Head VP Jun Lee, during his visit to Seoul.

"I met Samsung Electronics (South Korea) Senior Director, APAC MX Business Head Helena Park, Director B2B Business Hee Soo Yang, Enterprise Business Global Sales Head VP Jun Lee in Seoul," he added.

As per the Minister's post, the discussions focused on strengthening the data-centre pipeline in Andhra Pradesh, where he requested that the state be transformed into Samsung India's hub for the full AI-compute ecosystem, including data centres, server manufacturing, and servicing. Apart from this, he also urged the company to explore the possibility of setting up a display fabrication unit in Andhra Pradesh.

"Centring on the data-centre pipeline in AP, I requested to transform AP into Samsung India's hub for the full AI-compute stack, including data centres, server manufacturing, and servicing. I was urged to explore possibilities for setting up a display fab in AP," he added.

The minister was invited by the Republic of

## AP Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan Announces Rs. 2 Lakh Ex Gratia for Rag Picker Killed in Pithapuram Mishap



Pithapuram: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan expressed grief over the death of a man in an accident involving a garbage collection vehicle in Pithapuram.

According to the reports, Ravuri Yesu Babu, a rag picker, died after he was accidentally buried under waste while it was being unloaded from a garbage collection vehicle in Pithapuram.

Pawan Kalyan directed the officials to conduct a thorough inquiry into the incident and conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

Following the Deputy Chief Minister's directions, officials immediately provided an ex gratia of Rs. 2 lakh to Yesu Babu's family.

Pawan Kalyan also directed the authorities to provide an outsourcing job in the Pithapuram Municipality to the deceased's wife, Ravuri Maniratamma, to support the family's livelihood.



## CM Naidu Expresses Displeasure Over Tobacco Board's Functioning



Amaravati: Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu directed tobacco companies to immediately start tobacco purchase operations to instill confidence among farmers and expedite the auction process. He made it clear that all tobacco must be procured at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed by the State Government and that the price should not fall below Rs 200 per kg.

Reviewing the current status of tobacco procurement with officials and traders at the Secretariat on Wednesday, the Chief Minister questioned why traders had slowed down purchases in Andhra Pradesh though the problem was not there

in Karnataka. Expressing dissatisfaction over the functioning of the Tobacco Board the Chief Minister warned tobacco companies against causing hardship to farmers. He cautioned that companies should consider the long-term consequences if farmers shifted to alternative crops due to inadequate support. The

Chief Minister reviewed the procurement commitments made by 28 companies and the actual purchases completed so far. He warned that companies which had submitted procurement indents but failed to honour will not be spared. He particularly criticized the slow pace of procurement by the three largest manufacturing compa-

nies—ITC Limited, Godfrey Phillips India Limited and VST Industries. Together, these companies had submitted indents for 95.50 million kg of tobacco but had procured only 17.6 million kg so far.

Representatives of the trading companies explained that the present crisis was mainly due to tobacco cultivation exceeding

market demand. They said purchases had already exceeded their actual requirements and that declining exports had further affected procurement. However, they assured the Chief Minister that procurement would continue. Officials informed the Chief Minister that the absence of an open market for tobacco had aggravated the problem. While companies had placed indents for 142 million kg, farmers had produced 232 million kg, leading to oversupply, falling prices and slower procurement.

Ministers K. Atchannaidu, Anam R a m a n a r a y a n a Reddy, Gottipati Ravi Kumar and Dola Bala Veera Anjaneya Swamy participated in the review meeting.

## Revenue Reforms, Simplified Governance Top Priority



Vijayawada: Ensuring transparent, simplified and people-centric revenue administration and protecting the rights of the poor are the state government's top priority, claimed Revenue Minister Anagani Satya Prasad on Wednesday.

The minister inaugurated the newly constructed Tahsildar office at Uyyuru along with Krishna district collector DK Balaji, joint collector M Naveen and Penamaluru MLA Bode Prasad.

He said the integrated government office complex housing the offices of tahsildar, MPDO, police station and ICDS was mooted during 2014-19 to provide different public services under one roof. Though the project was later stalled, it was completed after the present government assumed office in 2024, at the initiative of MLA Bode Prasad and support from do-

nors.

The minister said the government was addressing grievances received through gram sabhas and revenue conferences, while chief minister Chandrababu Naidu was personally monitoring revenue reforms. He said the statewide re-survey was being implemented transparently, with pattadar passbooks issued only after farmers completed e-KYC and gave their consent.

The government, he said, is simplifying the provisions of Section 22-A by ensuring that only lands involved in court disputes remained on the prohibited list and that landowners would receive prior notice before any inclusion.

Registration services were also being modernised through slot booking, service centres and automation to improve transparency and efficiency.

Satya Prasad reiterated the government's commitment to accelerating Amaravati's development, shaping Visakhapatnam as an IT and aerospace hub, creating 20 lakh jobs and attracting global investments. He said investments worth `23,000 crore had already been secured. Collector Balaji stressed the need for the state to have modern revenue offices to improve citizen services. He thanked former public representative Sajja Venkateswara Rao for his donation of land for the complex.

MLA Prasad said the government was simultaneously executing several key infrastructure projects across the Penamaluru constituency.

## Godavari Water Released into Polavaram Right Canal via Pattiseema



Vijayawada: Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu has released Godavari river water into Krishna delta by switching on Pattiseema and Tadipudi lift irrigation schemes located in West Godavari and East Godavari districts respectively on Wednesday.

Marking the occasion, the minister also offered 'Jala Harathi' to the river.

The minister said the Pattiseema project that was taken up to link Godavari and Krishna rivers had proven to be of immense utility to the farmers in Krishna delta area. Some 442tmc of Godavari water was diverted to Krishna delta ever since the execution of Pattiseema

lift scheme and this helped increase farm production in the state.

In the context of the warnings about a super El Niño phenomenon, chief minister Chandrababu Naidu had come up with an action plan to optimise usage of every drop of water for the benefit of the people in the state, he said.

Ramanaidu said the government would take up a 'Jaladhara-Jala Harathi' programme to link drains, canals and tanks to help recharge groundwater tables. He noted that since three months were over since the programme was launched, the results could be seen soon. If the ground water tables rise even by a meter, it would help improve water storage capacity by 99tmc, he said.

The minister said that in the last 70 years' history of the Godavari river, the inflows were relatively less in the beginning of July. He called upon the farmers to cooperate with the government's efforts to conserve water and raise dry crops to optimise the usage of water.

He slammed the YSR Congress for its "unwarned criticism" of the Pattiseema lift scheme earlier and said time would prove the utility of such projects.

## Jagan Demands TET Exemption For Teachers Recruited In 2011



Vijayawada: Former chief minister and YSR Congress president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy called it unfair to ask the teachers having 20-25 years of experience in teaching to clear the Teacher Eligibility Test, which involves multiple subjects and the minimum qualifying mark is 60 per cent.

The former CM took to X on Wednesday and pointed out that more than one lakh teachers, who have been working in schools since 2011, are facing serious difficulties, as they have been asked to clear the TET. He underlined that these teachers had been recruited only after clearing the competitive exams held at that time, when TET had not been in existence.

Jagan Mohan Reddy asked how the state government could justify imposition of a qualification with retrospective effect.

He maintained that though the Right to Education Act makes TET mandatory from 2011 onwards, there is merit in the demand from teachers to give them exemption from it, as they have already proved their merit by clearing the competitive exams held during the time of their recruitment. Further, they have been educating students since then.

The former chief minister referred to the involved teachers' allegation that the compulsory TET is blocking their promotions and also creating uncertainty over their job security.

Jagan Mohan Reddy demanded the state government exert pressure on the central government to exempt all teachers, who had been appointed in 2011, from TET and provide them the long overdue relief.

## TTD Suspends VIP Darshans On Key Festival Days From July 14 To Sept. 23

TIRUPATI: The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has cancelled VIP break darshans on select days between July and September due to important rituals and festivals at the Srivari temple, including the annual Brahmotsavams. The facility will remain unavailable on July 14 for Koil Alwar Tirumanjanam, July 17 for Anivara Asthanam, July 19 for Pedda Maryada to the Swamiji of Sri Andavan Ashramam and July 29 for the Chaturmasya Sankalpam of the Tirumala Jeeyar Swamijis. VIP break darshans will also be suspended on August 22 and 24 for Pavitrotsavams-related rituals, and on September 8 and from September 14 to 23 during the Brahmotsavams. TTD said recommendation letters would not be accepted on the previous day of these events, except from protocol dignitaries, and advised devotees to plan their pilgrimage accordingly.

## SIR Forms Digitization Must Be Completed Within the Deadline: District Collector Bhavesh Mishra



Nirmal District Staff Reporter : Nirmal District Collector Bhavesh Mishra directed officials to complete the digitization of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) forms within the stipulated deadline.

On Wednesday, the Collector inspected the ongoing SIR process at Gajulapet in Nirmal town. He reviewed the progress of digitizing the SIR forms submitted by voters and sought details from the officials. He instructed Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to complete the digitization process accurately and within the prescribed timeframe. The Collector also enquired about the progress made so far.

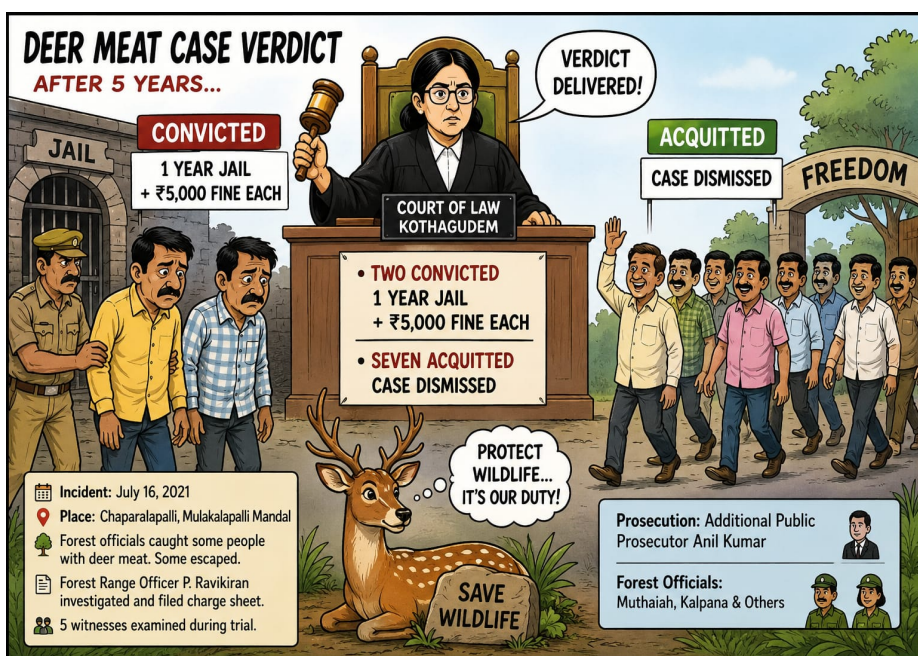
He emphasized that BLOs must visit every voter's residence to collect the duly filled SIR forms. Stressing the need for transparency, he instructed officials to conduct the SIR process in a fair and transparent manner. He also directed supervisors to continuously monitor the implementation of the process.

During the visit, the Collector interacted with local residents and observed them filling out the SIR forms. He advised voters to approach the Help Desk for assistance if they had any doubts regarding the SIR process.

Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) Devidas, Municipal Commissioner Ravi Babu, Tahsildar Raju, and other officials and staff participated in the inspection.

## Two Sentenced to One Year in Jail in Deer Meat Case; Seven Acquitted

Sensational verdict delivered after five years; Court also imposes ₹5,000 fine on each convict



Kothagudem: The First Additional Judicial First Class Magistrate Court in Kothagudem on Wednesday delivered its verdict in a five-year-old deer meat case. Magistrate K. Sai Sri sentenced two accused, whose guilt was proved, to one year of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹5,000 each.

### What Happened?

On the night of July 16, 2021, Forest Department officials conducted inspections near the tank area on the outskirts of Chaparalappalli village in Mulakalappalli mandal. During the operation, several persons were allegedly found in possession of deer meat. On noticing the officials, some of the suspects fled the scene.

Following an investigation, the Forest Department registered a case against multiple individuals. The then Forest Range Officer P. Ravikiran completed the investigation and filed the charge sheet before the court. During the trial, the court examined the statements of five witnesses.

### Two Found Guilty

After considering the evidence, the court found Jabbari Nageswara Rao and Kanchu Bhooshayya, both residents of Ramachandrapuram, guilty of the offence. The court sentenced each of them to one year in jail and imposed a ₹5,000 fine.

### Seven Acquitted

The remaining seven accused were acquitted after the court held that the charges against them could not be proved beyond reasonable doubt.

In this case, Additional Public Prosecutor Anil Kumar represented the prosecution, while Forest Department officials Muthaiah, Kalpana, and others assisted during the investigation and trial.

## TGSRTC Emerging as Country's Best Public Transport System: Ponnam Prabhakar

Nagarkurnool : Telangana Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar undertook an extensive tour of Nagarkurnool district on Wednesday, inaugurating and laying foundation stones for several development projects. He was accompanied by Tourism, Culture and Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, Nagarkurnool MLA Dr. Kuchukulla Rajesh Reddy, and MLC Kuchukulla Damodar Reddy.

The minister began his visit by laying the foundation stone for a new TGSRTC bus stand at Timmajipet. He later made a surprise visit to the BC Residential School at Uyyalawada, where he interacted with students, enquired about their academic facilities and grievances, and instructed officials to address their issues promptly.

Later, he unveiled the statue of former Chief Minister Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy in Nagarkurnool town and inaugurated the newly constructed Regional Transport Authority (RTA) office. He also laid the foundation stone for the construction of a new TSRTC bus stand in Nagarkurnool town.

Addressing a public meeting, Ponnam Prabhakar said Telangana State Road



Transport Corporation has emerged as one of the best public transport organizations in the country. He stated that TSRTC currently operates 10,170 buses through 97 depots and 364 bus stations, serving nearly 6.5 million passengers every day with the support of around 55,000 employees.

The minister said the Mahalakshmi free bus travel scheme for women has become a historic success, with over 326 crore free journeys recorded so far. According to him, women have collectively saved ₹1,377 crore in travel expenses under the scheme, providing significant financial relief to families.

Criticizing the previous government, he alleged that TSRTC had been neglected for a decade, with no new buses purchased during that period. He said the present govern-

ment resolved the key demands of RTC employees soon after assuming office and reinstated 355 employees who had lost their jobs under various circumstances.

He appreciated the contribution of TGSRTC drivers, conductors and employees in strengthening the corporation and appealed to the public to support the state-owned transport service.

The minister also urged eligible citizens to cooperate with the ongoing Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls by filling out the enumeration forms provided by Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and submitting the required documents to safeguard their voting rights.

Referring to the delayed monsoon, he advised farmers to opt for crops requiring less water while adopting scientific farming prac-

tices to improve productivity and income.

Ponnam Prabhakar assured that the proposed Nagarkurnool bus stand would be built with modern amenities and developed as a model bus station for the state. He also reiterated the government's commitment to extending RTC bus services to every village connected by roads.

He said the government continues to implement welfare schemes despite financial constraints, including the Indiramma Housing Scheme, which aims to provide permanent houses to all eligible homeless families.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Jupally Krishna Rao said the Mahalakshmi scheme has significantly transformed the lives of women by reducing household transportation ex-

penses. He praised Ponnam Prabhakar for steering the Transport Department efficiently and putting TGSRTC back on the path of profitability.

Jupally alleged that the previous government had pushed TGSRTC towards privatization, whereas the present government is focused on strengthening the public transport system. He added that despite the burden of debts inherited from the previous regime, the government is successfully implementing welfare programmes such as Indiramma houses, new ration cards, fine rice distribution, ₹500 bonus for fine paddy, farmer welfare, and women welfare schemes.

He appealed to the people to continue supporting MLA Dr. Kuchukulla Rajesh Reddy for the overall development of Nagarkurnool and assured that the state government remains committed to addressing the needs of the district.

District Collector Hemanta Keshav Patil, Superintendent of Police Dr. Sangram Singh G. Patil, senior district officials, public representatives, Congress leaders, party workers and a large number of people attended the programme

## MLA Payam Venkateswarlu Inspects Marellapadu Project Works, Directs Officials to Complete Right Canal by Month-End

Ashwapuram : Pinapaka MLA Payam Venkateswarlu conducted a field inspection of the ongoing works at the Marellapadu Project and its Right Canal in Ashwapuram Mandal, Bhadrachal Kothagudem district, on Wednesday. He reviewed the progress of construction and instructed officials to ensure that all works are completed within the stipulated timeline while maintaining high-quality standards.

During the inspection, the MLA emphasized that there should be no delay in the execution of the project. He directed the



concerned officials to accelerate the works and complete them as per engineering standards so that farmers can benefit at the earliest.

Speaking on the occasion, Payam Venkateswarlu said that the Marellapadu Project and the Right Canal,

which are part of the Seetharama Project, should be completed by the end of this month to make irrigation water available to farmers without delay. He stressed that quality should never be compromised while speeding up the construction.



The MLA stated that the welfare of farmers remains the government's top priority. He said the completion of the project would ensure timely irrigation to ayacut farmers, improve agricultural productivity, and strengthen the rural economy.

Officials from the concerned departments, Mandal leaders, district party leaders, Sarpanches, Deputy Sarpanches, Ward Members, party workers, and local public representatives participated in the inspection.

## Dr. Narahari Gets Second Term as TGGDA State President

Nagarkurnool : Dr. B. Narahari from Nagarkurnool district has been unanimously elected as the State President of the Telangana Government Doctors' Association (TGGDA) for the 2026-2028 term. The new state executive committee was elected unanimously, reflecting the unity and collective strength of government doctors across Telangana.

The newly elected executive committee includes Dr. R. Lal Prasad Rathod as Secretary

General and Dr. A. Lakshmi Narayana as Treasurer. Dr. B. Umakanth Goud, Dr. A. Sri Krishna Rao, Dr. R. Deen Dayal and Dr. C.H. Kalyan were elected as Vice Presidents, while Dr. J. Bhupender Singh Rathod, Dr. M. Vishnu Vardhan, Dr. A. Vishal, Dr. K. Ramesh and Dr. V. Ravi Praveen Reddy were elected as Secretaries.

The newly elected body thanked government doctors across the state, TGGDA primary members, unit office bearers and General Council members for reposing faith in them.

Dr. Narahari and the executive committee members said they would work with commitment towards the welfare of government doctors, protection of service conditions and safeguarding professional dignity.



The TGGDA leadership assured that it would continue efforts to resolve long-pending issues related to promotions, recruitments, transfers, service conditions and welfare of government doctors. The election of Dr. Narahari as TGGDA State President for the second consecutive term has been welcomed by government doctors across the state.

Thursday 09, July, 2026

### ELEVEN YEARS ON, DIGITAL MIS-SION STILL FACES CHALLENGES

Technology has the power to bridge socioeconomic gaps and propel a nation into a new era of innovation and a knowledge economy. The 'Digital India' mission, launched 11 years ago to transform India into a digitally empowered society, has demonstrated this in an exemplary manner by building a robust digital infrastructure and providing a host of government services online. Today, India can boast of recording the highest penetration of digital payment methods in the world. The ubiquitous presence of QR code scanners across the country — from small street vendors to large retailers — tells the success story of the country's digital transformation. This widespread adoption is driven by the simplicity, affordability, and adaptability of QR codes, making them a convenient tool for both businesses and consumers. The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) now processes a staggering 75 crore transactions daily and is recognised by the IMF as the world's largest real-time payment system. India accounts for nearly half of all real-time digital payments in the world. While digital adoption is one of the big success stories of India, several challenges remain. Among them are the rural-urban and gender digital divides, cybersecurity and data privacy enforcement, welfare-authentication exclusion errors, and language and institutional gaps. Nearly 103 crore Indians now have internet connections, but that still leaves several hundred million people outside the net, and access is not evenly distributed. Fibre-optic connections reach only about 7% of households nationally, and just over 3% in rural areas. Most connectivity still rides on mobile data rather than the stable broadband network.

Rural youth are also considerably less likely to own a device outright, and women are particularly less privileged on this count, making the digital divide an uncomfortable reality. In rural India, only around 57% of young women own a phone against over 81% of young men. Another challenging area is the poor public awareness about where to report online frauds, especially among rural and female users, at a time when instances of digital fraud are rising sharply. As UPI, Aadhaar and DigiLocker have become load-bearing infrastructure for the country, they have also become easy targets for cyber fraudsters. The mission has weathered periodic UPI outages that exposed how much now depends on a small number of systems staying up, and analysts expect more coordinated, AI-assisted phishing and fraud attempts in the years ahead. The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, gives India, for the first time, a comprehensive legal framework for handling personal data, but its rules are still being operationalised, and the harder test — consistent enforcement, and genuine recourse for citizens whose data is misused — is still ahead. Overall, the impact of the digital mission has been transformational. Powered by the Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, and Mobile (JAM) trinity, the sovereign digital identity framework has facilitated the government to transfer Rs 51.5 lakh crore directly to citizens through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

## TGSRTC restores 118 more JBM electric buses after safety clearance

TGSRTC has restored 118 more JBM electric buses after detailed safety inspections, taking the total number of cleared buses to 268. Services were suspended on July 2 following battery-related fire incidents, with the remaining fleet expected to resume operations soon.



Hyderabad: After nearly a week-long suspension over battery safety concerns, TGSRTC has begun restoring JBM electric bus services in phases, with 118 more buses receiving fitness clearance on Wednesday. Geographic Reference

According to officials, the technical team certified all 118 buses as 100 per cent fit for operation after detailed inspections. The corporation operates a fleet of 500 JBM electric buses across the State.

Earlier, 150 buses had already been cleared and returned to service. With the latest approvals, a total of 268 buses are now back on the roads, while the remaining fleet is expected to

resume operations over the next few days after completing safety checks. History TGSRTC Managing Director Y Nagi Reddy has directed Regional Managers across all regions to operate additional bus services on routes where JBM electric buses are still unavailable, ensuring that passengers do not face inconvenience.

The fitness certification is being issued only after inspections by TGSRTC's technical team, JBM engineers, and battery experts from China at the Command and Control Centre set up at Bus Bhavan in Hyderabad.

TGSRTC had suspended the operation of all JBM electric buses across Telangana on July 2 as a precautionary measure following a series of battery-related fire incidents, including one near Alugunur in Karimnagar district on June 21.

The corporation had made it clear that buses would be allowed back into service only after each vehicle was individually certified as 'Fit for Operation' and all prescribed safety conditions were met.

## Gachibowli FCI Layout Work Defies Court Order

Hyderabad: Construction activity allegedly continued in violation of a court stay order at the FCI Employees Cooperative Housing Society layout near Gachibowli junction, prompting a site inspection by officials.

HYDRAA commissioner A.V. Ranganath and Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) commissioner G. Srijana visited the layout on Wednesday following complaints from plot owners. Officials alleged that constructions were being carried out by Sandhya Sridhar Rao, owner of Sandhya Convention, despite a High Court stay.

Officials observed that roads and park areas in the layout were allegedly encroached upon, with land being levelled and excavation work underway. They took serious note of the violations, stating that roads, parks, and



public utility spaces in the layout belong to the CMC and would be protected.

The layout, developed in the 1980s across 20 acres with 162 plots, has reportedly undergone significant alterations, prompting residents to approach authorities earlier. The matter had reached the High Court, which issued a stay on further construction.

Officials warned that strict legal action would be taken against violations of court orders and assured residents that steps would be taken to safeguard roads, parks, and public spaces in the layout.

## Revanth dismisses BRS demand to operate Kaleshwaram pumps, cites lack of flood waters

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy defended the government's decision not to operate the Kannepally pump house, citing inadequate rainfall and floodwaters due to El Niño. He challenged K Chandrashekhara Rao to suggest repairs for the Kaleshwaram project and criticised Congress legislators for weak political messaging.

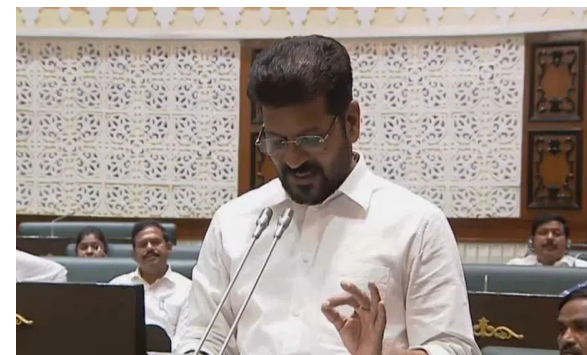
Hyderabad: Despite a substantial flow of water downstream at Medigadda, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Tuesday sought to defend the State government's decision not to operate the Kannepally pump house, contending that there was neither adequate rainfall in the catchment area nor floodwaters in the River Godavari to justify lifting water. Hinduism

Participating in a meeting where a presentation on the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme was made at Praja Bhavan, the Chief Minister attributed the situation to the impact of El Niño. "Due to the El Niño effect, there were no rains and no floodwaters. How can water be lifted to the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages?" he asked.

The presentation was delivered by Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy to around 200 elected representatives from the Congress. A similar presentation had earlier been conducted on July 9, 2025. Fluid Handling

Revanth Reddy said the Kaleshwaram project was designed to lift nearly two tmcft of floodwater every day from the Godavari and store it for irrigation purposes. He accused the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) of misleading farmers in north Telangana by claiming that water could be lifted from Medigadda despite the absence of adequate inflows.

"When there is no rain and no water, how can there be floods? Even if there is some flow, what is the scope for lifting water?" he asked, reiterating that the government remained committed to



repairing the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages and restoring them to operation.

The Chief Minister also challenged BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao to present his views on the Kaleshwaram project and suggest remedial measures. Natural Disasters

"If he writes to the Speaker, we will convene a joint session of the Assembly and the Council. Experts will also be invited. He should explain how the repairs should be carried out, and he will be given an opportunity to do so," Revanth Reddy said.

Finds fault with Congress leaders for failing to respond

The Chief Minister also expressed dissatisfaction with Congress legislators for failing to effectively counter the Opposition's narrative.

"The Congress government is implementing several welfare and development programmes. But no one is talking about them. Why are you not responding boldly?" he asked the elected representatives

## Harish Rao challenges Revanth Reddy to hand over Irrigation portfolio for three months to revive Kaleshwaram project



Hyderabad: Stepping up the BRS offensive over the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme, former Irrigation Minister and BRS deputy leader T Harish Rao on Wednesday challenged Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to hand over the Irrigation portfolio to him for three months. He vowed to demonstrate how the State's reservoirs could be filled by utilising available Godavari River floodwaters. Geographic Reference

"If I fail to lift water to Yellampalli within three months, I will quit politics," he declared, asserting that he had served as Irrigation Minister for 13 years and was prepared to prove his claims.

Delivering a detailed presentation on Kaleshwaram project at Telangana Bhavan on Wednesday, Harish Rao gave a point-by-point rebuttal to the Chief Minister's allegations. Countering the BRS's claims one lakh cusecs water being discharged wastefully downstream without repairing Medigadda barrage, Revanth Reddy declared that no water was available in Godavari River due to rainfall deficiency. Executive Branch

The BRS deputy leader said the Congress government failed to utilise abundant flood flows despite drought-like conditions and the looming El Niño threat. He stated that with more than 90,000 cusecs of water flowing at Medigadda and substantial inflows at other barrages, the government should have immediately operated the Kannepally and Devadula pump houses to fill reservoirs across Telangana.

Accusing the Congress government of criminal negligence, Harish Rao said water meant for Telangana farmers was being allowed to flow downstream instead of being lifted and stored for irrigation. He stated that nearly 90 per cent of tanks in the erstwhile Warangal district had dried up while the government had failed to operate even the available pumps. Telangana business directory

Continuing his attack, the former Minister accused the government of deliberately neglecting the Kaleshwaram project to discredit former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao with political motive. He maintained that Chandrashekhara Rao created the infrastructure required to lift and distribute water, but the present Congress government was unwilling to use it.

Harish Rao also challenged Revanth Reddy to produce documentary evidence supporting the latter's claim that the erstwhile Congress governments had secured Maharashtra's approval for constructing the proposed Tummidihatti project at a Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of 152 metres. "If such an agreement exists, make it public and I will resign immediately," he said. He demanded that Revanth Reddy apologise to the people of Telangana if he failed to produce the document.

The former Minister questioned why the project was never executed despite the Congress being in power simultaneously at the Centre, in Maharashtra and undivided Andhra Pradesh for nearly 10 years. He stated that Rs 2,328 crore had been misappropriated in the name of the surveys and mobilisation advances for the proposed Tummidihatti project without any tangible work.

He rejected the Chief Minister's criticism of consultancy firm WAPCOS, pointing out that it was the Congress-led UPA government that had originally engaged the agency and that the present State government too had continued to rely on it.

Harish Rao also dismissed the government's claims regarding technical objections to Kaleshwaram project. He said the committee of retired engineers had not opposed the Medigadda barrage but had only suggested routing water from Medigadda to Yellampalli before pumping it to Mid Manair. He asserted that all statutory clearances for the Kaleshwaram project had been obtained. Geographic Reference

Alleging that the government was releasing water downstream instead of using it to save standing crops, he said the BRS would continue exposing what he termed misinformation on the irrigation project with documentary evidence.

# Kalamandir Foundation's 18th Anniversary Celebrations Held on a Grand Scale

*'Seva Ratna' Awards Presented to Social Workers; Fashion Show by Persons with Disabilities Steals the Spotlight*  
*Prominent Personalities from Politics, Cinema and Business Attend the Event*

Hyderabad, July 8, 2026: The 18th anniversary celebrations of the Kalamandir Foundation were held on a grand scale at Pradhan Conventions in Gachibowli, Hyderabad. The mega event witnessed the participation of several prominent personalities from the political, film and business fraternities.

MLAs Prathipati Pulla Rao, Ganta Srinivasa Rao and Bhashyam Praveen; former MLA Bigala Ganesh Gupta; police officer Sajjanar; film producers Bandla Ganesh and SKN; actors Murali Mohan, Akkineni Amala, Shivaji, Shivaji Raja and Raja Ravindra; Dr. Ch. Preethi Reddy; director Nandini Reddy; and Nikhat Zareen were among the distinguished guests who attended the event.

Marking its journey



into its 18th year, the Kalamandir Foundation organised a series of special initiatives reflecting its continued commitment to social responsibility.

The 'Seva Ratna' Awards were presented to individuals who have been working tirelessly behind the scenes for the welfare of society. Through these awards, the Foundation recognised and honoured their dedicated service and contribution to the community.

As part of its edu-

cational initiatives, merit scholarships were distributed to talented students to support them in pursuing higher education. The Foundation also extended financial assistance to handloom weavers and orphanages, reaffirming its commitment to supporting traditional livelihoods and vulnerable sections of society.

A fashion show featuring persons with disabilities emerged as one of the major highlights of the celebrations. A special panel discussion fea-

turing eminent personalities was also organised to deliberate on social issues and the expansion of community service initiatives.

Candidates who successfully completed skill development training programmes conducted under the aegis of the Foundation were presented with graduation certificates on the occasion.

Padma Shri awardee Deepika Reddy was felicitated by Jhansi. National badminton player



Surya Charishma was honoured by MLAs Ganta Srinivasa Rao and Prathipati Pulla Rao. Special awards were presented to Enugu Shiva Aryan Reddy and Karunasri of Amrutha Hastham Trust.

Pranav Enterprises CEO and Swayam Krushi Trust founder Kranthi Sagar addressed the gathering.

Nakshatra R. Gola, Malla Tulasi Rambabu, Guntiram Jena, Gangadhar Gupta, Tank Bund Shiva, Dr. Raghunathan and

Rama Rao were honoured with the Seva Ratna Awards for their contributions to society. Gajam Narendra was also felicitated during the programme.

Dr. Preethi Reddy honoured 30 handloom weavers at the event. Caps Gold contributed ₹30 lakh as a donation towards the Foundation's social initiatives.

Speaking on the occasion, veteran actor Murali Mohan appreciated the Foundation for organising such meaningful so-

cial service programmes and said that initiatives of this nature deserved recognition and encouragement.

MLA Ganta Srinivasa Rao recalled the words of Mother Teresa and said, "Hands that serve are holier than lips that pray." He appreciated the Foundation's efforts in promoting a culture of service.

MLA Prathipati Pulla Rao lauded the organisers for conducting inspiring programmes that en-

courage individuals and organisations to contribute to society.

Actor Shivaji said, "Our culture teaches us the noble thought that everyone should prosper and that we should be among them. Kalamandir deserves appreciation for organising such a remarkable programme. No matter how much wealth one earns, ultimately our needs are limited. If we help someone in need, somewhere and in some form, I strongly believe that the goodness will return to our children. Whatever position I am in today is because of the good deeds of my parents."

The programme was organised under the leadership of Kalamandir Managing Director Chalavadi Prasad, Director Kalyan Annam and CEO Bharadwaj.

## Additional Collector Venu Gopal Issues Ultimatum to MeeSeva Centres

**Strict Action Against Overcharging and Violation of Rules**

Bhadradi Kothagudem: District Additional Collector Venu Gopal has warned that strict action will be taken against MeeSeva centres found collecting charges beyond the government-approved service fees or violating operational guidelines. He stressed that MeeSeva centres must function as transparent, efficient, and citizen-friendly service centres.

On Wednesday, the Additional Collector reviewed the functioning of MeeSeva centres during a meeting held at the Burgampahad Tahsildar's Office. Later, he conducted another review meeting with officials in Bhadrachalam Mandal, where he issued key directions to ensure better public service delivery.

Addressing the officials and MeeSeva operators, Venu Gopal directed that all centres must operate strictly during the prescribed working hours and



should not demand unnecessary documents from applicants. He instructed that the government's digital receipt system must be implemented without exception, with receipts being sent directly to applicants through SMS instead of issuing paper receipts.

He also emphasized that all supporting documents should be scanned clearly before uploading and that records must be maintained properly and updated regularly. Since people visit MeeSeva centres with trust in the government, operators should treat every applicant courteously and ensure hassle-free services.

Venu Gopal stated that transparency, accountability, and a service-oriented approach at MeeSeva centres would further strengthen public confidence in government services.

The review meetings were attended by the Tahsildars of Burgampahad and Bhadrachalam, Gram Panchayat officials, Revenue Inspectors, MeeSeva centre operators, e-District Manager Saideswara Rao, District Manager Krishnamurthy, and other officials.

## Special Training for Sarpanches and Panchayat Secretaries to Accelerate Village Development

**Training to be held on July 9 & 10 at three centres across the district – DRDO Vidyachandana**

Bhadradi Kothagudem: District Rural Development Officer (DRDO) Vidyachandana has announced that special constituency-wise training programmes will be conducted for Sarpanches and Panchayat Secretaries to strengthen planned and comprehensive village development across the district.

The training sessions will focus on the preparation and implementation of the Gram Panchayat Comprehensive Development Plan (GPDP), providing participants with practical guidance on planning and executing development initiatives.

On July 9, training will be held from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM at Kothagudem Club for Sarpanches and Panchayat Secretaries from the Kothagudem, Yellandu, and Wyra Assembly constituencies. On the same day, another session will be conducted at Veerabhadra Function Hall, Bhadrachalam, for representatives from the Bhadrachalam and Pinapaka Assembly constituencies.

On July 10, a separate training programme will be organized at Chalikani Adamma Function Hall, Patwarigudem, for Sarpanches and Panchayat Secretaries from the Aswaraopeta Assembly constituency.

The programme will cover key topics including prepara-



tion of the GPDP, identification of village needs, prioritisation of development works, implementation of government guidelines, and designing development activities with active public participation.

Vidyachandana urged all Sarpanches and Panchayat Secretaries of the respective constituencies to attend the training programmes at their designated venues on time and contribute to the successful implementation of the initiative.

## SCCL Must Lead South India's Energy Security: Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy

Hyderabad | July 4, 2026: Union Minister for Coal and Mines, Shri G. Kishan Reddy, has called upon the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) to play a pivotal role in strengthening South India's energy security by expanding coal production, securing new coal blocks, and preparing a long-term strategy for sustainable growth.

During a comprehensive review meeting held at Singareni Bhavan, Hyderabad, the Minister directed SCCL to formulate a 10–15 year strategic roadmap to address the country's rising electricity demand. He stressed that coal would continue to remain a vital source of energy for India in the coming decades and urged the company to increase production while reducing operational costs and improving efficiency.

Reviewing mine-wise coal production, dispatch, overburden removal, ongoing and proposed mining projects, statutory clearances, and expansion plans, the Minister instructed SCCL to actively participate in the upcoming coal mine auctions conducted by the Ministry of Coal to secure additional mining blocks and strengthen its production capacity.

Shri Kishan Reddy emphasized that SCCL should focus not only on commercial success but also



on long-term national energy security. He urged the company to maintain transparency with employees by keeping them informed about the organization's current situation, challenges, and future plans.

To drive reforms and ensure sustainable growth, the Minister proposed the formation of a special committee to identify future challenges and implement strategic reforms. He assured the management that the Central Government would extend full support for SCCL's expansion and development.

**Coal Gasification a Priority**

Highlighting the importance of clean coal technologies, the Minister advised SCCL to venture into coal gasification, even on a pilot basis. He suggested exploring such a project in the Ramagundam industrial region, where fertilizer and other industries could benefit from coal-based gasification, creating new growth opportunities for the company.

**Prepare for Rising Power Demand**

Referring to forecasts of the possible impact of El Niño, Shri Kishan Reddy said electricity demand is expected to rise significantly across agricultural and industrial sectors. He directed SCCL to strengthen coal production, transportation infrastructure, and supply systems well in advance to ensure uninterrupted fuel supply to thermal power stations.

The Minister also instructed the company to expedite transportation contracts so that increased coal production reaches consumers without delay.

**Employees Are SCCL's Greatest Strength**

Describing employees as the company's greatest asset, Shri Kishan Reddy urged the management to build confidence among the workforce and ensure that every employee actively contributes to SCCL's future growth and success.

Earlier, SCCL

Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti, IAS, presented a detailed report on the company's production, dispatch performance, and challenges in launching new mining projects. He informed the Minister that the withdrawal of SCCL's Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) status has created difficulties in obtaining forest clearances for mining projects.

Responding positively, the Union Minister assured that the issue would be taken up with the concerned authorities for an early resolution. He also assured support in resolving transportation-related issues concerning SCCL's Naini Coal Mine in Odisha.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Coal and SCCL, including Secretary Vikram Dev Dutt, Joint Secretary Sanjeev Kumar Kassi, Adviser Veera Reddy, SCCL Directors, Executive Directors, General Managers, and other senior officers.

## KTR slams Telangana government over re-lease of Godavari waters amid rain deficit

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao came down heavily on the Congress government for allowing Godavari River floodwaters flow downstream even as Telangana farmers in large parts of the State grappled with acute water scarcity and mounting agricultural distress due to deficient rainfall. He said the government was displaying greater indifference, despite the worsening conditions.

Raising concern over the rain deficit and the looming El Nino impact, Rama Rao said lakhs of cusecs of water were flowing downstream from Medigadda barrage, while farmers were struggling to begin sowing and transplantation due to inadequate rainfall. He questioned why the government had failed to operate the Kannepalli pump house to lift water through the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme and protect crops.

Targeting Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the BRS working president said the government prioritised political vendetta against the BRS and making farmers suffer by refusing to utilise the Kaleshwaram project. Stating that Kaleshwaram was designed to harness



Godavari River floodwaters during such periods, he said the project had proved its relevance even in drought-like conditions.

He urged the government to stop its political campaign against the project and instead use the available water to safeguard agriculture. He also appealed to farmers to question the government's callous approach, asserting that political rivalry should not come at the cost of Telangana's farming community.

## Sajjanar Advises 15-Foot Cap on Ganesh Idols

Hyderabad: Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar on Wednesday directed organisers to prioritise safety during the upcoming Vinayaka Chaturthi festival and take preventive measures to avoid accidents.

Chairing a meeting with representatives of the Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsava Samiti at TGICCC in Banjara Hills, he referred to past incidents, including fatalities due to electrocution and difficulties faced by tall idols during processions.

Officials explained that overhead electric wires in city streets are generally at a height of around 22 feet, while



transport trolleys used for idols are about 4 feet high. Based on this, organisers were advised to limit idol height to within 15 feet to prevent contact with electric lines.

The samiti was asked to create awareness among mandap organisers and coordinate with idol makers to adhere to the height guidelines. Sajjanar also cautioned against attempts to lift electric wires using sticks or pipes during processions.

He said the meeting was held in advance to

ensure that safety measures are incorporated during the idol-making stage itself.

Stressing that public safety was paramount, he called for cooperation from all stakeholders to ensure the festival is conducted peacefully without incidents.

The Commissioner assured that the Hyderabad City Police would extend full support to ensure smooth conduct of the festival and convenience for devotees.

## Kishan Accuses Congress of Gross Negligence in Paddy Procurement



HYDERABAD: The 2026 FIFA World Cup, billed as the biggest combat sport event, has added new technologies for telecast. But Indian viewers have been left disappointed as match timings do not suit pubs, clubs or sports bars for live screenings. The only saving grace was the Argentina-Egypt match at 9 pm on Tuesday, which drew large crowds for public screenings.

Jayesh of Ten Downing Street, Gachibowli, said the turnout was huge as the match coincided with business hours. Fans arrived in team jerseys and enjoyed the pulsating contest. "During live screenings customers are in their best mood and business improves, similar to cricket matches," he said.

The World Cup features 104 matches. Fans in Hyderabad have picked favourite countries and star players, with social media reels and updates adding to the craze. However, the timings in host nations USA, Canada and Mexico do not align with Indian hours.

Varun Peter Jaldi, a corporate employee, said he and his IT colleagues usually watch matches together at sports bars. "This time the FIFA timings did not suit us. We miss the haptouts," he said.

Mahmood Ali, wealth manager and former soccer player, said several legendary players are making their last FIFA appearance, drawing fan attention. "Because of the timings we are forced to watch at home or catch repeat telecasts. In the last World Cup we watched at Nizam Club as timings were suitable. This time it failed," he said.

Cricket World Cups have fewer than 50 matches but generate huge revenue from screenings in Hyderabad. FIFA, with more than 100 matches, has not matched that impact.

Ketan Agarwal, director of Fat Pigeon, Chubby Cho and Peanuts pubs, said: "FIFA brings revenue worldwide, but here the timings and government restrictions hit screenings. The big game failed to bring much business to Hyderabad."

## Telangana Takes Up Rs.13,000-Cr Road Modernisation: Komatireddy

Nalgonda: Roads and buildings minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Tuesday said Telangana has embarked on one of the country's largest road modernisation programmes, with 441 roads covering 6,092 km being developed at an estimated cost of ₹13,000 crore under 34 Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) packages.

Launching road infrastructure works worth ₹338 crore and laying the foundation stone for 14 road projects covering 149 km in the Ibrahimpatnam, Maheshwaram, Medchal and LB Nagar constituencies, the minister said the new projects were part of the state's flagship initiative to improve connectivity, road safety and economic activity.

He said the government had undertaken infrastructure development beyond political considerations with the objective of creating world-class road networks that would serve as a benchmark for the country. He expressed confidence that the projects would reduce traffic congestion, improve road safety, enhance regional connectivity and attract fresh investments while generating employment opportunities.

The ₹338-crore package includes the development of key road corridors connecting Hayathnagar-Thorur-Koheda-Anajpur, Anajpur-Abdullapurmet-Bandaraviryal, Hayathnagar-Kuntloor-Pasumamula-Taramatipet, Sagar Road-Injapur-Thorur-Brahmanpally-Ragannaguda and Sagar Road-Injapur-Hayathnagar. These roads will be upgraded into modern four-lane corridors with central lighting and improved safety features to cater to the needs of rapidly growing suburban areas.

Telangana State Road Development Corporation (TSRDC) Chairman Malreddy Ram Reddy said widening major roads into four-lane corridors would strengthen connectivity and promote balanced regional development. He described the sanction of ₹338 crore for the road works as a historic milestone for the constituency and said several development initiatives were progressing under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.



## Adluri Backs SC Status Demand For Dalit Christians



HYDERABAD: Telangana social welfare minister Adluri Lakshman Kumar on Wednesday said the demand for Scheduled Caste status for Dalit Christians was a constitutional issue linked to equality and social justice.

Addressing a consultation meeting in Hyderabad, attended by minority welfare minister Mohammed Azharuddin, he said conversion changes religion but does not remove caste-based discrimination or socio-economic disadvantages.

"If discrimination remains unchanged, why

should rights change?" he asked, stating that the issue should be viewed from the perspective of social justice rather than religion alone.

He said Dalit Christians continued to face exclusion in villages, workplaces, educational institutions and marriage alliances even after conversion.

The minister criticised the Union government for delays in taking a decision. "Postponing justice is, in

effect, denying justice," he said, calling for constitutional measures to extend SC status based on prevailing social conditions.

He said the state government, under Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, was committed to supporting marginalised communities. Inputs from the consultation would be compiled into a report and submitted to the Chief Minister.

Referring to Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, he said the focus was on ensuring justice for communities facing discrimination.

A memorandum submitted by the Telangana Christian Joint Action Committee sought removal of religion-based restrictions in the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, and urged the State to pass a resolution, request the Centre to bring legislation, conduct socio-economic studies and strengthen welfare measures. Azharuddin said the issue would be taken up with the Centre and Union ministers, including Kiren Rijju.

## Diet Charges For Hostel Students Hiked By 10%

VIJAYAWADA: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday announced a 10 per cent increase in diet charges for students studying in government hostels and residential educational institutions run by welfare departments.

The revised rates would take effect from the second quarter of the current financial year.

The decision was taken during a review meeting on the functioning of the welfare department, at the state secretariat.

Rejecting the finance department's suggestion to postpone the hike until next year because of financial constraints, the chief minister directed the officials to implement it immediately, saying students from weaker sections deserve better nutrition without delay.

The chief minister asserted that the welfare of students from BC, SC, ST and Minority communities could not be compromised. Education remained the most-effective means of transforming the lives of socially and economically weaker sections, he noted.



Naidu emphasised that students enrolled in welfare hostels and residential educational institutions should receive education and facilities comparable to those available in the best private schools. Officials must expand the network of Gurukul institutions across the state, giving preference to establishing Gurukuls instead of conventional hostels.

The chief minister also called for the development of Gurukul campuses with modern infrastructure, improved amenities and biodiversity park concepts. He asked officials to study the feasibility of adopting Net Zero practices in residential schools to promote sustainability.

To strengthen infrastructure, the govern-

ment has allocated ₹100 crore as maintenance grants for hostels and residential schools.

Focusing on academic excellence, Naidu directed officials to establish special coaching centres for meritorious SC, ST, BC and Minority students and provide intensive coaching for competitive examinations, including IIT, NIT and NEET entrance tests.

He stressed the need to recruit the best teachers to ensure quality education and mentoring for students aspiring to higher education.

The chief minister also urged officials to encourage Non-Resident Indians to adopt welfare hostels and help improve educational standards. They must build strong alumni networks for welfare hostels, residential schools,

Gurukuls and Ashram schools while encouraging professionals to voluntarily offer educational and medical services to students.

Naidu said welfare should extend beyond financial assistance and focus on improving livelihoods and incomes of disadvantaged communities. Officials must ensure effective implementation of schemes such as SASKI, Poorvodaya and VBG Ramji.

He also emphasised promoting horticulture, rubber, coffee and turmeric cultivation to enhance farmers' incomes.

The chief minister highlighted the government's initiatives, including reservations in liquor shops for traditional toddy tappers, quarry allocations for the Vaddera community and

financial assistance for barbers, fishermen and handloom workers.

He asked officials to prepare proposals to further strengthen the economic status of various communities and examine amendments to the by-laws of caste corporations using the Brahmin Corporation as a model. He also ordered the construction of Anganwadi buildings under the VBG Ram G programme.

Officials informed the meeting that students suffering from homesickness have been provided a smart card-based telephone system enabling them to speak to their parents for four minutes daily. They also said infrastructure works worth ₹120 crore under the SASKI programme, including RO plants, toilets and other facilities in social welfare and tribal welfare schools, are in progress.

Ministers DBV Swamy, S Savitha, G Sandhyarani and NMD Farooq, along with minority welfare adviser Mohammed Sharif, attended the review meeting.

# Fishing Boat Owners Seek PM's Intervention In Vizag Tragedy



Visakhapatnam: The East Coast mechanised fishing boat owners association has escalated its protest over the recent boat accident off the Visakhapatnam coast, which claimed the lives of six fishermen.

Association president Vasupalli Janakiram an-

nounced that a complaint has been submitted to prime minister Narendra Modi, home minister Amit Shah and defence minister Rajnath Singh, alleging that the state government failed in its response and urging the Centre to order a high-level independent inquiry.

Janakiram said a complaint has also been lodged with the national human rights commission, accusing the state government of failing to uphold the fishermen's right to life.

He explained that despite informing the district collector, the marine police, and the fisheries de-

partment officials about the accident around 10:30pm on July 4, no effective search operations were launched until the following morning.

Survivor Kari Chinna's account, he said, confirmed that the fishermen were alive and awaiting rescue until 8 am but could not be saved due to

the delay in the rescue operations.

The association condemned the conduct of minister Kolli Ravindra, who visited the affected families after the incident.

Janakiram said the minister's actions like the handing over cheques worth ₹10 lakh and leaving the spot without lis-

tening to the f

## Govt Approves Pan-India Rollout of Rs 60,000-Crore PM-SETU Scheme



The government on Tuesday approved the pan-India roll-out of the Rs 60,000-crore Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) scheme across 200 Industrial Training Institute (ITI) clusters, while also clearing strategic investment plans worth Rs 1,237.58 crore. The decision was taken by the 4th National Steering Committee (NSC) chaired by Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

The approved plans include Jindal Naveen

Avasar Limited in Odisha and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India in Gujarat as anchor industry partners, along with Apollo Medskills and two other approved ITI clusters in Telangana. The strategic investment plans, recommended by the respective state steering committees, pave the way for industry-led upgradation of multiple ITI clusters nationwide. Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Jayant Chaudhary urged more industry players to come forward and contribute towards the government's vision of transforming ITIs across

the country.

"I urge more industry leaders to come forward in transforming ITIs into world class institutions," the minister said in a post on X. In a major decision, the committee approved the transition of PM-SETU from its pilot phase to a nationwide roll-out across all 200 identified ITI clusters, enabling states and Union Territories to take up implementation based on industry readiness and implementation capacity.

It also approved measures to simplify implementation, enhance industry participation, encourage greater involvement of public sector undertakings (PSUs), and expand the institutional ecosystem supporting PM-SETU implementation. PM-SETU is one of the government's flagship schemes aimed at modernising India's ITI ecosystem through industry partnerships, upgraded infrastructure, future-ready curricula and improved employability outcomes.

## Education And Health Are Investments, Not for Vote-Banks: CM Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said that the government would promote India's youngest state as 'Developed and Healthy Telangana' by introducing welfare and nutritious food distribution schemes for students and women to ensure that the population was in good shape.

Revanth Reddy said that the state government had introduced many initiatives to build a healthy and developed state. "We introduced the breakfast scheme in government schools to ensure that the children of the poor do not go hungry and also launched a breakfast and lunch scheme for teachers," he said.

Addressing a meeting after inaugurating a plant to manufacture Balamrutham, pre-cooked food provided to children below six years of age, in Nacharam on Tuesday, the Chief Minister recalled that then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had launched the initiative of setting up Balamrutham plants to



support pregnant women in Mahbubnagar district and it had now grown into an industry.

The government was taking all measures to strengthen the government schools on par with the corporate educational institutions. "Our goal is to provide quality education to students as the government is considering spending on education as an investment. We are not introducing such schemes for vote-bank but for the better future of the students, the

Chief Minister said.

Revanth Reddy highlighted the women empowerment schemes introduced by the state government, including the one to promote one crore women as millionaires by 2034.

"We have provided free RTC bus travel facilities to over two crore women. We allotted Indiramma houses in the names of women, providing 200 units of free electricity, supplying fine-quality rice to 3.28 crore people, set a target to

build one lakh houses to support the poor in urban areas, made women the owners of 1,000 RTC buses and entrusted a 1,000-megawatt solar power generation projects to women," Revanth said.

The CM stated that the Congress government was moving forward to empower women financially adding that Indira Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi to minister Danasari 'Seethakka' Anasuya had proven that they can excel in politics.

## Any Pumping at KLIS Barrages Only After Repairs: Uttam



Hyderabad: Irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Tuesday stoutly defended the state government's decision that operations at the Kaleshwaram barrages will begin only after their total rehabilitation. He said the Congress Government had already taken up work on the Medigadda rehabilitation design and would now move ahead with the Tummidihatti project, which he described as a technically superior, economically viable and energy-efficient alternative.

Uttam Kumar Reddy was speaking during a detailed presentation on the status of the Medigadda barrage, and the rest of the key components of the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation scheme (KLIS) at Praja

Bhavan. The presentation was attended by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, ministers, MP's, MLAs, MLCs, among others.

He said the demand by BRS leaders that water be pumped upstream in Godavari from Medigadda using the Kannepalli pumphouse is irrational and cannot be done, as according to all the technical findings since the sinking of a part of Medigadda barrage, it was found that Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla barrages have the same designs and suffer from the same flaws.

Water cannot be stored at Annaram and Sundilla, just as it cannot be stored at Medigadda as the gates of the barrages have to be kept open as per NDSA recom-

mendations to save the structures from further damages. The government, he said, is committed to rehabilitating the barrages and putting them to use from the monsoon season next year.

## Ponnam Prabhakar Launches Daily Shuttle Service for IT Employees

Hyderabad: Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Tuesday launched a daily shuttle service for IT employees at JRC Convention Centre to improve their daily commute.

Speaking at the event, he said, "The government is taking all necessary measures to make Hyderabad a global city. I request all IT employees to make use of RTC services and electric vehicles. We are introducing new initiatives, including the EV Policy, to strengthen the transport system in Telangana."

The minister also said that the Telangana State



Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) is introducing new bus services on routes that currently lack adequate public transport facilities.

TPCC Campaign Committee Chairman Madhu Yashki Goud, Additional Transport Commissioner Ramesh, and representatives of Daily Shuttles attended the programme.

## Take Up Party Name Issue With ECI Only, Delhi HC Tells Kavitha

HYDERABAD: Telangana Rakshana Sena president K. Kavitha's efforts to retain the 'TRS' tag for her political party hit a speed-breaker on Tuesday with the Delhi High Court advising the party to clarify to the Election Commission of India the questions the poll panel had raised with respect to registering of the party name.

Kavitha's party had filed a plea in the Delhi High Court seeking directions to the ECI that it should not ask for the dropping of the party name with the 'TRS' initials. The court informed the petitioners on Tuesday that it could not pronounce any judgment on this matter as that would amount to intervening in the ECI's functioning.

Instead, the court advised Kavitha's lawyers that she should respond to the June 23 letter from the ECI seeking alternative name suggestions for her party. It may be recalled that the ECI, citing objections it re-



ceived as part of the process of registering the name of the political party as Telangana Rakshana Sena with a TRS tag, had asked Kavitha to suggest alternate names.

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## Will Lenin Climax Meet the Hype?

This release is considered an important one for Akhil Akkineni. He has been looking for a strong commercial success, and Lenin could become a major turning point in his career if it connects with viewers.



Actor Akhil Akkineni is actively promoting his upcoming film Lenin, which is set to release on July 9. During almost every interview, he has spoken about one particular part of the movie the final 20 minutes. According to Akhil, the climax is the heart of the film and includes a major twist that will surprise the audience. He also says the ending carries strong emotions and gives the story a satisfying finish.

These statements have created a lot of excitement among movie lovers. Many fans are now eager to watch the film and see whether the climax lives up to the expectations. A strong ending can leave a lasting impression and make a film more memorable.

However, promoting a climax too much can also be risky. In recent years, several Telugu films were promoted by saying that their final 20 or 30 minutes would shock or amaze audiences. While some movies managed to impress viewers, others failed to match the high expectations created before release. Because of this, many moviegoers have become more careful about believing such claims.

For Lenin, everything now depends on how audiences react after watching the film. If the climax delivers the emotional impact and unexpected twist promised by Akhil, the positive response could help the movie perform well at the box office. Good word of mouth from viewers is often more valuable than heavy promotions.

There are also reports that people who watched early internal screenings have shared encouraging feedback. Even so, such opinions cannot fully predict how the general public will respond. The real verdict will come only after paid audiences watch the film in theatres.

This release is considered an important one for Akhil Akkineni. He has been looking for a strong commercial success, and Lenin could become a major turning point in his career if it connects with viewers.

The film's overseas premieres are expected to begin before its official release, and audience reactions will quickly reveal whether the much-talked-about climax truly stands out. Until then, fans can only wait and see if Lenin delivers the emotional ending and surprise that Akhil has been confidently promising throughout the promotional campaign.

## Rashmika Mandanna Has Something New

To prepare for this demanding role, Rashmika reportedly spent a lot of time learning martial arts and physical combat.

Rashmika Mandanna is getting ready to surprise her fans with a completely different role in her upcoming film Mysaa. The actress has already played many memorable characters in her career, but this film is expected to show a side of her that audiences have never seen before.



The first glimpse of the movie introduced Rashmika as a strong and fearless Gond tribal woman. Her look is simple, rugged, and powerful. The makers have created a dark and realistic world that matches the intense nature of her character. The short glimpse has already created excitement among movie lovers.

To prepare for this demanding role, Rashmika reportedly spent a lot of time learning martial arts and physical combat.

She has also performed several difficult action scenes on her own. These action sequences were filmed in dense forest locations and are expected to become one of the biggest attractions of the movie.

The team has now completed the teaser, and it will be released soon. People who have already watched it say that the teaser presents a completely transformed Rashmika. Many are calling it "Rashmika 2.0" because of her powerful screen presence and bold performance. Fans are now eagerly waiting to see the teaser and experience her new avatar.

Mysaa is directed by debut filmmaker Rawindra Pulle. Even though this is his first feature film, the project is said to be made on a grand scale with high technical quality. The story is centered around a female lead and promises strong emotions, thrilling action, and an engaging narrative.

The film is produced by Unformula Films, which is leaving no stone unturned to give audiences a high-quality cinematic experience. The makers believe the movie will stand out because of its unique story, realistic visuals, and intense action scenes.



## CINEMA

### 2026 Second Half: These Are The Biggies

Let's have a look at the Telugu biggies that might crack the code in the rest of the year.

Already half of 2026 is over, and Tollywood hasn't really capitalised on the space, except Peddi making ₹400 crores and Mana Shankara Varaprasad clocking another ₹300 crores. Some other big movies like Vishwambhara, Fauzi, The Paradise and other expected movies have got pushed to the second half, and without much clarity about the release dates, while some are yet to wrap the shooting. Let's have a look at the Telugu biggies that might crack the code in the rest of the year.

To start with, we have Raviteja's Irumudi, an offbeat film under Siva Nirvana's direction, which is hitting cinemas on August 21st. Then comes Vijay Devarakonda's Ranabali movie, which is being mounted on a grand scale by Mythri Movie Makers and is set for September 11th release at the moment. In the second half of September, there are rumours that Nani's The Paradise might hit cinemas, but it has not been confirmed yet.

That will be followed by Trivikram's Adarsha Kutumbam, which is hitting cinemas on October 2nd and features Venkatesh in the lead. If all goes well, a week later we have Chiranjeevi's



Vishwambhara, which might release on October 16th. The likes of Prabhas' Fauzi and Devarakonda's Rowdy Janardhana are targeting December, though clarity is yet to come.

If we take top dubbing films, there are the likes of Yash's Toxic on August 26th, Rajnikanth's Jailer 2 on October 15th and Ranbir Kapoor's Ramayana that is set for a Diwali release.

Currently these are the big films that Tollywood is banking on, and if all goes well, then these movies might hit together more than ₹2000 crores at the box office.

## Courtroom Drama Due Date Begins with Pooja

Begin typing your search above and press return to search.

The upcoming Telugu film Due Date was launched with a grand pooja ceremony on Wednesday in Hyderabad.

The upcoming Telugu film Due Date was launched with a grand pooja ceremony on Wednesday in Hyderabad. The movie is a commercial courtroom drama and is based on a burning social issue. The launch event was attended by many well-known personalities from the Telugu film industry.

The film is being produced by Eluru Srinu, who is widely known in the industry as a PRO and journalist. He has joined hands with producer Pawan Tarigopula to produce the movie under the Varshish Studios banner. The film is directed by Anand K. The lead roles are played by Lomesh Pudipeddi and Jayashree. Important roles in the film are played by Praneetha Patnaik, Vikshani, Chandu, and several other actors.

The muhurtham shot was filmed during the launch ceremony. Popular director Maruthi gave the ceremonial clap, while successful producer Bunny Vas switched on the camera. Produc-



ers SKN, Dheeraj Mogilineni, and Vamsi Nandipati handed over the script to director Anand K as part of the traditional launch event.

Several film personalities attended the ceremony, including directors Vijay Kanakamedala and VI Anand, along with many producers, directors, and guests from the Telugu film industry. Their presence made the event more special and memorable for the entire team.

Speaking on the occasion, the producers said that Due Date is not just a courtroom drama but a complete commercial entertainer with a fresh storyline. They shared that the movie is inspired by a current social

issue and will keep audiences engaged with interesting twists, emotional moments, and suspense from beginning to end.

The makers also said that every aspect of the film, including its title, story, screenplay, and presentation, has been designed to offer something different to viewers. They are confident that the audience will enjoy the fresh concept and strong emotional content.

The regular shooting of the film will begin soon. With an interesting subject, a talented cast, and an experienced technical team, Due Date has created positive buzz right from its launch. Fans are now eagerly waiting to see more updates about the movie in the coming months.

The cinematography for the film is handled by Chenchu Jinka, while Anand K directs the project. The film is jointly produced by Pawan Tarigopula and Eluru Srinu.

## Tabaahi Brings Romance, Fire, And Intensity To Toxic

The musical journey of Yash's much-awaited pan-India action spectacle Toxic has begun with a bang.

The musical journey of Yash's much-awaited pan-India action spectacle Toxic has begun with a bang. After grabbing nationwide attention through its intriguing glimpses, the makers have dropped the film's first single, Tabaahi, unveiling an intense romantic layer beneath the gritty world of this Geetu Mohandas directorial.

Instead of a conventional love story, Tabaahi explores an all-consuming relationship that catches Yash's character completely off guard. What begins as an emotional connection gradually transforms into an irresistible obsession, with Kiara Advani becoming the force that changes his world forever. Their romance is portrayed with raw intensity, making every frame pulse with desire, vulnerability, and undeniable chemistry.

Musically, Vishal Mishra delivers a winner by wearing the hats of both composer and singer. Ramajogayya Sastry pens impactful lyrics that amplify the song's passionate mood. Together, they create a number that is as emotionally stirring as it is instantly addictive.

Yash commands attention with a refreshed, ultra-stylish makeover, perfectly complementing his charismatic screen presence. Kiara Advani matches his energy with elegance and confidence, making the pair effortlessly captivating. Their crackling chemistry is another major highlight.

It's a sensational beginning to the film's musical promotions, and the anticipation for the upcoming promotional content has only intensified. The film, produced on a massive scale by KVN Productions, is set for a worldwide theatrical release on August 26.

