

Clean, Prosperous AP My Goal, Says Naidu; Launches Rs.15,274-Crore Urban Projects

VIJAYAWADA: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday laid foundation stones for public health and municipal engineering works worth ₹15,274 crore across 120 urban local bodies (ULBs), asserting that Swachhandhra–Swarnandhra Mission would help achieve his goal of transforming Andhra Pradesh into a clean, healthy, and prosperous state.

Addressing the 18th Swachhandhra–Swarnandhra programme at Gudivada in Krishna district, Naidu reviewed the Online Works Monitoring System, visited MEPMA women's self-help group stalls, inaugurated Integrated Solid Waste Management plants at eight locations, presented Operation Clean Sweep awards to nine urban local bodies, and released a coffee-table book on the Swachhandhra–Swarnandhra campaign.

Recalling that Gudivada had been the constituency from which Telugu Desam Party founder N.T. Rama Rao entered electoral politics, the Chief Minister said TD promotes clean politics, self-respect, and honest public representation. His government, Chandrababu Naidu said, is committed to transparent governance, welfare schemes for all eligible beneficiaries, employment generation, and wealth creation.

The Chief Minister said cleanliness is not limited to just sweeping roads. It is essential to protect the environment and improve public health. He asked people to adopt a net-zero lifestyle by reducing household waste, segregating garbage at source, practising carbon-neutral living, and conserving rainwater.

The government has already introduced 126 electric autos for door-to-door garbage collection. We would add another 1,104 autos shortly. Waste management plants worth ₹528 crore and eight waste-to-energy plants are being established," Naidu pointed out.

Underlining that 140 million metric tonnes of legacy waste left by the previous government had been cleared, the AP CM said Andhra Pradesh would become a garbage-free state by October 2 through implementation of



Swachh Patham and Operation Clean Sweep.

highlighting irrigation, Naidu said Pattiseema Lift Irrigation Scheme has diverted 450 TMC of Godavari water to Krishna delta despite a 48 per cent rainfall deficit, generating a wealth of ₹50,000 crore. He reiterated that the Polavaram project and linking of rivers from Vamsadhara to Penna would permanently address drought in Andhra Pradesh.

Assuring full support to agriculture and aquaculture, the Chief Minister disclosed that the state government has taken up issues, such as falling shrimp prices and rising feed costs, with the centre, while continuing to supply power to the aqua sector at ₹1.50 per unit. He urged farmers to adopt natural farming and improve traceability and certification to meet global quality standards.

Naidu disclosed that ₹10,122 crore would be credited into mothers' accounts under the Talliki Vandanam scheme between July 22 and July 24, benefiting 67.47 lakh students. He assured that welfare measures, including Talliki Vandanam and assistance to Anganwadi workers and sanitation staff, would be continued despite financial constraints.

Attacking the previous YSRC government, the CM said voters had "cleaned up political garbage" in the 2024 elections. In this regard, he emphasised that obscene social media posts cannot be justified in the name of freedom of expression.

Referring to recent incidents in Srikakulam and Guntur, he asserted that law will be applicable to all, irrespective of political affiliations. No offender would be spared.

On the occasion, philanthropists Anne Narasimha Rao and Pushpa Leelavathi donated ₹3 crore for the development of Gudivada Bus Stand and Amaravati. Homemaker Sai Swetha donated her gold bangles for Amaravati. The homemaker's son Ganesh contributed his savings.

Those who participated in the programme included ministers P. Narayana, Kollu Ravindra, and Vasamsetti Subhash, MP Balashowry, and Gudivada MLA Venigandla Ramu.

Modi to Inaugurate Bhogapuram International Airport on August 1

Vijayawada: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the much-awaited Bhogapuram International Airport on August 1. Andhra Pradesh government will organise a grand ceremony to mark what Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu described as a "historic milestone" in the state's development.

Reviewing arrangements for the formal opening of the Greenfield international airport at a high-level meeting on Friday, the AP Chief minister said the airport would become a "Jewel of North Andhra" and serve as a catalyst for the region's economic transformation. He underlined that the project would usher in new opportunities in tourism, industry, trade, and employment while significantly improving air connectivity.

Naidu pointed out that the Bhogapuram airport project, launched by the previous Telugu Desam government in 2014, has been expedited by the present coalition government and completed within two years. He directed officials to ensure that the airport's inauguration by the Prime Minister turns into a memorable event in the state's history.

Those who attended the review meeting included Union civil Aviation minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, state minister Nadendla Manohar, BJP



state president P.V.N. Madhav, AP chief secretary G. Sai Prasad, DGP Harish Kumar Gupta, ministers Satya Kumar Yadav, Kinjarapu Atchannaidu, and Vangalapudi Anita, senior officials, and representatives of GMR, the company that has built the airport.

Officials of the civil aviation department and GMR briefed the AP Chief Minister about the airport's infrastructure, passenger facilities, and operational readiness. They informed him that all eight key statutory clearances required for commencing commercial operations have already been obtained.

Describing the airport as a game changer, Naidu said it would play a pivotal role in development of the Visakhapatnam Economic Region. Drawing a comparison with Hyderabad's Shamshabad International Airport, he said Bhogapuram would similarly transform North Andhra by attracting investments, generating employment, and accelerating economic activity.

The CM said the combined impact of irrigation projects, ports, national highways, industries, tourism initiatives, and the new airport would make development of North Andhra "unstoppable" in the coming years.

Naidu directed officials to showcase Andhra Pradesh's rich culture and artistic heritage throughout the airport. He said the inaugural event should feature tribal traditions and handicrafts, making every resident of North Andhra proud about the landmark project. He called for participation of students, youth, and the general public, so that the inauguration could be celebrated like a regional festival.

New ATC Tower Opens At Vijayawada Airport

VIJAYAWADA: Union civil aviation minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu on Saturday announced a series of measures to strengthen air connectivity from Vijayawada.

These include the launch of a new flight from Vijayawada to Kolkata via Varanasi from August 13 and introduction of a "Hub and Spoke" immigration model at the airport to simplify overseas travel for passengers. He said additional flight services from Vijayawada to Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad have already been introduced as part of the efforts to improve and expand connectivity from Vijayawada.

Ram Mohan Naidu made the announcements after inaugurating the newly built Air Traffic Control (ATC) Tower constructed at the Gannavaram International Airport at a cost of ₹77 crore.

Explaining the proposed Hub and Spoke model, the civil aviation minister said it would help eliminate immigration-related hassles for international travellers by enabling smoother transit through Vijayawada. He said the facilities in Vijayawada are part of the coalition government's commitment to create world-class aviation infrastructure.

After inaugurating the ATC, Ram



Mohan Naidu held a high-level review meeting with Airports Authority of India (AAI) officials in which MPs Vallabhaneni Balashowry and Kesineni Shivanath participated. The union minister directed officials to accelerate construction of the new terminal building with the goal of inaugurating it by Dasara. He described the project as one of central government's priorities.

The Union minister pointed out that the previous ATC facility had been functioning from a building constructed nearly five decades ago. It became inadequate in view of the sharp rise in air traffic. The new ATC tower, equipped with advanced technology and modern systems, has been designed to meet the airport's operational requirements for the next 30 to 40 years, he underlined.

During the review meeting, Machilipatnam MP Balashowry requested the Civil Aviation Minister to facilitate at least two Emirates flights a week between Vijayawada and Dubai. He underlined that this would significantly improve connectivity to destinations across Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Americas.

Governor, Naidu, Lokesh Laud Skyroot's Orbital Mission

Sriharikota: Andhra Pradesh Governor S. Abdul Nazeer, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh on Saturday hailed Skyroot Aerospace's successful launch of Vikram-1, describing it as a landmark achievement that has placed India's private space sector among a select group of nations with independent orbital launch capability.

The Vikram-1 rocket, India's first privately developed four-stage orbital launch vehicle, lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota at 12.05 pm under Mission Aagaman and successfully placed multiple technology demonstration payloads and commemorative postcards, including one from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, into low-Earth orbit.

Congratulating the Skyroot Aerospace team, Governor Abdul Nazeer described the mission as



a historic milestone and wished the company greater success in its future endeavours. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said the successful maiden orbital mission demonstrated that India's private space sector was ready to stand alongside the world's best.

"Heartiest congratulations to Skyroot, ISRO, IN-SPACE, NSIL and the thousands of scientists, engineers, technicians and partners whose vision, perseverance and excellence made this remarkable achievement possible," the Chief Min-

ister said in a post on X.

He said the mission marked the beginning of a new era in which India's scientific institutions and private entrepreneurs were together pushing the boundaries of innovation.

Calling it a proud moment for every Indian and an inspiration for young innovators, Naidu wished continued success for India's space programme.

IT and education minister Nara Lokesh witnessed the launch from the Mission Control Centre along with his son Nara Devansh, while hundreds of school students and

young space enthusiasts watched the launch from the viewing gallery.

Congratulating the Skyroot team, Lokesh said witnessing Vikram-1 successfully reach orbit on its maiden mission was a matter of immense pride. "This is just the beginning. As Skyroot grows bigger, Andhra Pradesh will grow with them. We remain committed to building the ecosystem that will help them and many more space pioneers reach even greater heights," he said.

In another post on X, Lokesh recalled his first meeting with the Skyroot founders in Visakhapatnam and said their ambition had convinced the state government to support the company. He said the government had approved a start-up-friendly package and envisioned the proposed Space City at Tirupati with companies such as Skyroot playing a central role.

Hyderabad-based Skyroot sends India's first private orbital rocket Vikram-1 into space

Sriharikota: India's first private orbital-class rocket, Vikram-1, carrying multiple technology demonstration payloads and a postcard from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, lifted off from the spaceport on Saturday.

Named "Mission Aagaman" (Arrival), the test flight marks a historic milestone for the country's commercial space sector and is being executed by Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace. On a cloudy day, the seven-storey-tall, four-stage Vikram-1 rocket lifted off at 12.05 pm from the First Launch Pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre here. Following a "planned hold" due to apparent navigation issues, the launch took place

35 minutes later than the originally scheduled time of 11.30 am. After its initial journey of just under 16 minutes, Vikram-1 is expected to place the payloads, both domestic and foreign, into Low Earth Orbit (LEO) at an altitude of 450 km with an inclination of 60 degrees.



Vikram-1, named after the legendary Vikram Sarabhai, who is often regarded as the Father of India's space programme, is built with an all-

carbon composite structure and powered by in-house-developed propulsion systems, including 3D-printed engines and high-thrust solid-fuel rocket boosters.

The rocket is carrying payloads from Grahaa Space, Cosmoserve, DCubed and Skyroot's own SCOPE, along with an artwork titled "Cosmic Bloom".

BJP Leaders Show Unity After Reconciliation Meet

HYDERABAD: In a sign that the BJP high command is moving swiftly to settle internal rifts ahead of the Assembly elections in Telangana, Union minister of state for home Bandi Sanjay Kumar and Malkajgiri MP Etala Rajender appeared together after a reconciliation meeting and declared that there were no differences between them.

The meeting, held at the residence of senior BJP leader Dr K. Laxman, was convened under the supervision of state in-charge Abhay Patil, who reportedly conveyed a firm message from the Central leadership — stop factional chatter, close ranks and focus on bringing the party to power.

Party president Nitin Nabin's stern message to party leaders during his recent three-day visit seems to have made an impact. Nabin had told party leaders that the BJP's path to power lay not in depending on Delhi for every move, but in building a strong local structure, disciplined and united force, taking the fight to the grassroots and mak-



ing every worker a 'voice of the people'. The intervention was seen as part of a broader strategy to replicate the "Bengal formula" of Central oversight, strict discipline and a campaign built on emotional connection with the people. Nabin had outlined a definitive roadmap for the 2028 state elections and urged leaders to build a formidable organisational strategy. Drawing parallels with the BJP's relentless fight against the Trinamul Congress in West Bengal, he stressed that the same political transformation is fully achievable in Telangana, if leaders shun their differences and aggressively challenge the ruling Congress.

After the closed-door discussion, both leaders addressed the media and projected unity. Sanjay said the party's word was final for him and that he would work with every leader to strengthen the BJP's prospects in the state. Rajender echoed the sentiment, asserting that the BJP would form the next government and claiming that voters were fed up with the policies of the previous BRS regime and the unfulfilled promises of the Congress government.

Behind the public show of harmony, however, the message from Delhi appears clear. The Central leadership, acting on internal feedback, has stepped in to cool tempers and enforce a ceasefire among key leaders. Abhay Patil's recent dinner meeting with Rajender, followed by the joint sit-down with Sanjay, suggested the party was determined to avoid any public feud that could derail campaign momentum.

For now, the BJP is trying to project discipline, unity and renewed purpose — even if that unity has been stitched together under direct instructions from the top.

Dr Laxman later targeted the Congress, accusing it of failing to deliver on its poll commitments and saying people were increasingly disillusioned with the ruling dispensation. He added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was giving special attention to Telangana's development and dismissed talk of serious differences within the state unit.

Telangana: Vivek Bats For Education, Skills And Social Responsibility

MEDAK: Minister for labour, employment, training, factories and mines Dr G. Vivek Venkataswamy on Saturday said dedicating a portion of one's earnings to society is not charity but a responsibility that every individual should willingly undertake.

Participating in programmes at Chegunta and Siddipet, the minister said his commitment to social service was inspired by his father, Venkataswamy, who believed in giving back to society.

He said government schools today offer far more than basic education and equip students with the knowledge, skills and confidence to compete globally.

Highlighting the importance of skill development, Vivek said



rapid advances in artificial intelligence were transforming the job market. To prepare youth for emerging opportunities, the state government is establishing Advanced Technology Centres to provide cutting-edge skill training. He added that TOMCOM is also offering foreign language training while creating employment opportunities in both domestic and international markets.

The minister said students studying in

government schools could achieve the highest positions if they set ambitious goals, worked hard and maintained discipline. He noted that many students from rural backgrounds were securing admissions to premier institutions, including IITs, IIITs, medical colleges and engineering colleges, attributing their success to determination, discipline and quality teaching.

He specially appreciated the teachers of Chegunta Government

High School, noting that two students from the school had recently secured admission to IIT, which, he said, reflected the dedication of the faculty.

Vivek said the state government was giving top priority to strengthening infrastructure in government schools by providing better classrooms, toilets and other essential facilities. He also appreciated the contribution of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives and voluntary organisations in improving educational institutions. Stressing the importance of sports and cultural activities in students' overall development, the minister urged them to excel academically, respect their parents and grow into responsible citizens with strong values.

CM Revanth: State Govt Plans Industrial Park For Women Entrepreneurs

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said on Saturday that the state government would consider developing another industrial park for women entrepreneurs on city outskirts, following the success of the existing FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) Industrial Park in Patancheru.

Revanth Reddy told a delegation of FLO members that the state government would allot 1,000 square yards of land adjacent to Shilparamam in Hitec City for the construction of the FICCI headquarters and an acre in Bharat Future City to make the organisation a partner in the state's flagship project.

The Chief Minister said the government was constructing Indira Mahila Shakti Bhavans in 22 district headquarters to strengthen self-help groups. These centres, to be inaugurated soon, were being developed with corporate-level infrastructure and would function as hubs for training, marketing and business promotion. In addition, foundation stones had been laid for 8,000 Indira Stree Shakti Bhavans for SHGs.

He said the govern-



ment was working to enable SHG products to be marketed globally through Amazon and suggested that FLO institute annual awards to recognise outstanding women SHGs excelling in business. The Chief Minister also noted that FLO was celebrating its silver jubilee while FICCI would complete 100 years in 2027.

Highlighting the success of the Indira Mahila Shakti Bazaar near Shilparamam, he said the government had allotted land worth nearly ₹1,000 crore for the project, where more than 150 shops run by women SHGs were re successfully selling rural handicrafts and traditional products.

Promising continued engagement with women entrepreneurs, Revanth Reddy said he would hold review meetings with them once every three months to understand their requirements and facilitate business growth.

He noted that Telangana's women SHGs were creating a new socio-economic revolution, with nearly 67 lakh women associated with the groups and loans worth ₹16,000 crore already extended to them. Women, he said, were now successfully operating petrol pumps and competing with major corporate players.

Under the Indira Mahila Shakti programme, the government has set an ambitious target of generating 1,000 MW of solar power under the ownership and management of women SHGs, he said.

Revanth Reddy said the maintenance responsibility of 27,000 government schools had been entrusted to women SHGs. The government had also assigned them the task of stitching two pairs of uniforms for 27.5 lakh government school students, paying ₹75 for each uniform.

Telangana Gurukul Students Meeting CM Revanth Reddy Reflects Government's Educational Success, Says...

HYDERABAD: Welfare minister Adluri Laxman Kumar on Saturday said Gurukul students were becoming the state's future brand ambassadors after TGSWREIS NEET achievers and athlete Sai Pravallika met Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.

Pravallika was part of the Indian women's 4x400 metres relay team that won gold at the inaugural Asian Under-23 Athletics Championships 2026 in Ordos, China. Laxman Kumar accompanied her and the NEET rankers during the meeting.

"Poverty is never a barrier to excellence when students receive the right opportunities, quality education and



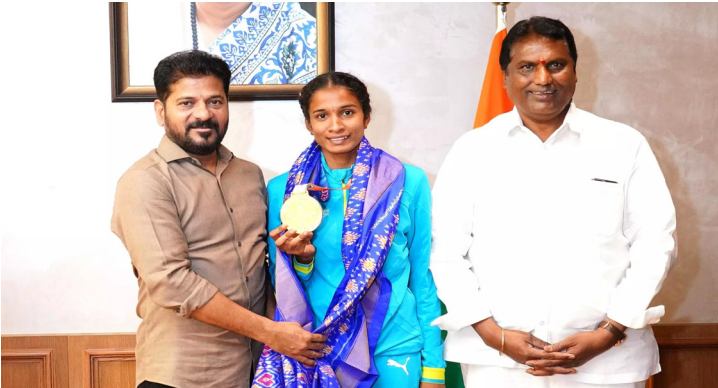
government support," he said.

The minister credited the students' achievements to the government's education reforms, teachers' commitment and parents' trust. Gurukul institutions, he said, provided quality teaching, nutritious food, residential facilities, digital learning support and specialised coaching for NEET, JEE and the Civil Services.

"True social justice lies in helping children from economically disadvantaged families enter premier institutions and move into leadership roles," he said. He said Telangana wanted its Gurukul system to become a national benchmark and treated every disadvantaged child's dream as a public responsibility.

Revanth Pats Athlete Pravallika, NEET Rankers from Govt Social Welfare Institutions

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday commended gold winner in the recent Asian U23 Athletics Championships, Pravallika Narimalla. and NEET rankers from Telangana government's social welfare residential institutions who called on him. The students of Telangana Social Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (TGSWREIS), who achieved impressive ranks in NEET-2026, and also Pravallika called on Reddy here, an official release said. Pravallika won gold in the women's 4x400 m relay in



the Asian U23 Athletics Championships held recently in China. State Minister for Social Welfare and Scheduled Castes Development, Adluri Lakshman Kumar and several officials were present on the occasion.

Mayor Inaugurates All India Chess Championship



Karimnagar: Karimnagar mayor Kolagani Srinivas on Saturday said chess helps improve memory, concentration and analytical skills among children. He inaugurated the 4th All India Open and Juniors Chess Championship-2026, organised by Genies Chess Academy in Karimnagar. Addressing the participants, Srinivas encouraged young players to excel in the game and bring laurels to Karimnagar and the country through their achievements. Deputy mayor Y. Sunil Rao, tournament organiser K. Anudeep and others attended the event.



Sunday 19, July, 2026

INDIA-UK FTA OPENS NEW OPPORTUNITIES

As the historic free trade agreement with the United Kingdom comes into effect, culminating years of tough negotiations, a slew of opportunities beckons Indian exporters across key sectors. The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) is a win-win proposition for both countries and would go a long way in deepening economic engagement and creating new opportunities for businesses, workers and investors. The most significant outcome is that the agreement will provide zero-duty market access for nearly 99% of India's exports, covering sectors like textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, marine products, chemicals and processed foods. Additionally, the social security agreement will provide support to Indian professionals working temporarily in the UK and strengthen the competitiveness of Indian enterprises. Indian professionals on temporary assignments will be exempt from double social security contributions for up to five years, enhancing the global competitiveness of our workforce. This provision is projected to benefit over 75,000 professionals and 900 companies across IT, financial, healthcare, education, telecommunication, and consultancy sectors. This is truly a significant moment for India, as its farmers, entrepreneurs and MSMEs will stand to gain. The free trade agreement was signed in London last year in the presence of visiting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Keir Starmer. It is expected to boost bilateral trade between the two economies by \$34 billion annually and open new avenues for India's IT, financial, education, professional and business services sectors.

For the agricultural sector, the agreement provides zero-duty access to all products, with specific exclusions for chicken, pork, eggs, rice, and sugar. It also grants duty-free access to 97.1% of tariff lines for processed food products, offering Indian exporters an immediate edge in the UK's agricultural import market, which exceeds \$90 billion. Gems and jewellery exporters expect shipments to the UK to grow by 230% to \$2.5 billion within the next three years, while exporters of engineering goods expect sales to almost double to \$7.5 billion over the next four to five years. At the same time, the agreement safeguards sensitive farm products such as dairy, vegetables, apples, edible oils, oats, millets, cooking oils and others by placing them on the sensitive list, and no duty concessions have been granted to the UK on these items. Enhanced market access and regulatory certainty will support Indian service providers in IT and IT-enabled services, financial and professional services, healthcare, education, engineering, telecom and consultancy services. The foundation for the agreement was laid through the India-UK Enhanced Trade Partnership and the Roadmap 2030, launched in May 2021, which set an ambitious target of doubling bilateral trade to \$100 billion by 2030. Following 14 rounds of negotiations, the agreement, comprising 30 chapters, was concluded on May 6 last year and signed in London two months later.

CCI Revival Issue Triggers BJP-BRS Slugfest



Adilabad: The long-pending revival of the closed Adilabad unit of the Cement Corporation of India (CCI) has reignited political sparring between the BJP and the BRS, with both parties trading allegations and claiming commitment to reopening the factory. The issue has remained a major election promise for nearly two decades, with political parties and candidates contesting Assembly and Parliament elections repeatedly assuring voters that the unit would be revived. The CCI plant, commissioned in 1984, suspended production in 1996 and was formally closed in 1998. The latest political confrontation began after a BRS delegation, led by party working president K.T. Rama Rao, met Union minister for heavy industries H.D. Kumaraswamy and urged the Centre to revive the Adilabad unit, citing limestone reserves sufficient for another 100 years. The delegation said reopening the plant would

generate direct and indirect employment for thousands of unemployed youth in the district. Former minister Jogu Ramanna later warned that he would launch an indefinite hunger strike if the state and Central governments failed to initiate steps to revive the unit before August 31. While welcoming the proposed industrial park and airport for Adilabad, Ramanna accused BJP MLA Payal Shankar and MP Godam Nagesh of neglecting the CCI revival, alleging that the reopened unit could provide employment to nearly 6,000 people. He also alleged that Payal Shankar was attempting to facilitate the transfer of the existing CCI infrastructure to a private businessman or convert the land into a real estate venture for personal gain. Rejecting the allegations, Payal Shankar accused the BRS of politicising the issue. He said Ramanna was unable to accept the development taking place in Adilabad under the present government and questioned why the previous BRS government had failed to establish the industrial park and airport. The BJP MLA also alleged that K.T. Rama Rao, who served as industries minister during the BRS regime, had failed to pursue the revival of the Adilabad CCI unit while in power. He said the BRS leadership was now "shedding crocodile tears" over the issue after neglecting it for years.

Telangana's Iron Age and Prehistoric Sites Being Lost to Development, Warns Archaeologist Dr E. Sivanagi...

Hyderabad:Iron Age burial sites across Telangana and prehistoric remains around Hyderabad are being lost to expanding cultivation, irrigation works and real-estate activity, archaeologist Dr E. Sivanagi Reddy warned on Saturday. Speaking at Pleach India Foundation's "Heritage @Every Step 2.0" exhibition, he called for archaeological checks before development permissions, greater community participation and heritage lessons for students from Classes VIII to X.

The exhibition was based on its 'Preserve Heritage for Posterity' campaign, under which teams visit villages, identify neglected remains, record them, study their period and historical value, and inform residents about their importance. The foundation said it had documented more than 1,800 heritage sites and the heritage of more than 1,500 villages across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. "The alarming situation is with Iron Age burials," Reddy said. Many such burial grounds lie on land that was earlier outside cultivation, but canals, irrigation access and intensive farming have led to their removal, he said. "We are losing valuable evidence of the Iron Age as more land is brought under active agricultural operations." Boulder formations around Hyderabad face a similar threat from construction and real-estate projects, according to Reddy. "Before permission is given, the Archaeology Department should survey the area and certify that no remains of the past are present." He cited the destruction of rock art at Kokapet after boulders were blasted as an example of what could be lost. Prehistoric evidence had also been noticed along areas linked to the Musi development project and brought to the



government's notice, he said. Community participation formed much of his talk. Reddy said the foundation first explained the value of a sculpture, inscription or structure to residents rather than blaming them for using it as an ordinary stone. One inscription of Krishnadevaraya, dated February 26, 1518, had been used as a temple step, he said. The inscription records the ruler's visit to Vijayawada. After its importance was explained to the priest and residents, it was taken inside and mounted properly. "Earlier, people did not bother. Now they are taking responsibility, shifting sculptures to schools and panchayat offices, and developing sculpture gardens," he said. Reddy claimed the state Archaeology Department had not declared a new protected monument for about 15 years. Newly identified objects often remain outside formal protection, which leaves local residents as their immediate custodians, he said. "Why can't we sensitise local communities? Local communities have come forward to own and preserve these sites." The exhibition displayed prehistoric stone tools, ancient coins, miniature sculptures and historical beads from different periods. Among the panels were a 16th-century structure inside a temple tank at Kalvabugga in Nandyal district, a 9th-century Mahavir image at Nangunuru in Karimnagar district, carvings near Bhadrakali Lake, and a rock shelter at Ranganayakulu Gutta in Mahbubnagar district. A coin section covered examples from the 6th century BCE to the 20th century CE. "Even if five or ten people begin to appreciate heritage and come forward to preserve it, that is our main intention," Reddy said, adding that the Telangana government should introduce at least one lesson or exercise on archaeology and heritage in Classes VIII, IX and X. "Students should learn what an archaeological site is, how it can be identified and how visitors must behave at such places,"he said, adding, "When we respect heritage, we appreciate it. When we appreciate heritage, we automatically preserve it."

Telangana: Congress To Launch SIR Awareness Drive

ADILABAD: The Congress will organise village-level awareness meetings in Adilabad district to educate people about the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls and ensure that all eligible voters are enrolled. Adilabad District Congress Committee (DCC) president Naresh Jadhav said the party would conduct awareness programmes on the SIR exercise and voter enrolment across villages, following booth-level training programmes for Booth Level Agents (BLAs) held last month. He said the party high command and AICC Telangana in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan had instructed Congress leaders to actively participate in the SIR process, organise awareness campaigns and submit reports on booth-level voter mapping, digitisation and enrolment. Jadhav said the first awareness meeting would be held at Bharampur village in Talamadugu mandal on July 19



Revanth: Filled 70K Jobs, BRS Misleads

HYDERABAD: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday said that the Congress government had filled nearly 70,000 vacancies in various departments within the first year of assuming office, and said the BRS' claims to the contrary were an attempt to mislead to unemployed youth. Without naming BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao directly, Revanth Reddy described him as a "wolf in sheep's clothing" trying to deceive Telangana's youth. He questioned if the BRS leadership had ever genuinely worked to provide jobs despite being in power for a decade. He was speaking at Ghatkesar after laying the foundation stone for 'Smruthi Vanam', memorial for noted Telangana poet late Ande Sri. He was apparently replying to the BRS criticism of the government at its Yuva Sangrama Sabha earlier in the day. The Chief Minister said while the previous BRS government merely issued notifications, the Congress government had removed legal and administrative hurdles and completed the recruitment process. "We handed over appointment letters to nearly 70,000 selected candidates in the presence of their parents at LB Stadium and Shilpakala Vedika. We witnessed the joy in the eyes of those parents," he said. He alleged that the BRS government had failed to complete recruitments despite issuing notifications and instead allowed repeated examination paper leaks. "Did your family ever think of conducting examinations fairly and filling vacancies? You earned hundreds of crores through paper leak scandals but never cared for unemployed youth," he charged. Revanth Reddy questioned whether the BRS leadership had ever treated unemployed youth humanely, alleging that many aspirants were driven to despair and suicide during the previous regime. He said the Congress government had conducted the Group-I examination after a gap of 16 years and ensured recruitment in various departments. The Chief Minister also attacked the BRS government over the state's finances, asking how BRS leaders had become wealthy while Telangana had been burdened with massive debts. He alleged that the BRS government had left the state with debts of nearly ?8 lakh crore while indulging in "farmhouse politics." Revanth Reddy said Telangana society had elevated ordinary BRS leaders to the highest offices, but the BRS leadership had betrayed the people's trust. He asserted that as long as he remained Chief Minister, he would not allow "a cannabis plant like BRS to grow in the sacred Tulasi garden of Telangana," saying his government drew inspiration from poet Ande Sri, balladeer Gaddar and Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, while questioning whom the BRS looked up to. He said Telangana's people had not forgotten the alleged corruption and exploitation under the BRS regime and warned that the state would not forgive those who attempted to dominate it again. "No one can enslave Telangana. If anyone tries, Ande Sri's songs will return as the voice of resistance," he remarked. Appealing to unemployed youth to not fall prey to BRS' "false propaganda," Revanth Reddy assured that every vacant government post would be filled and appointment letters issued through a transparent recruitment process. Highlighting measures taken by his government to honour Telangana movement activists and their families, the Chief Minister said Shankaramma, the mother of Telangana martyr Srikanthachary, had been appointed member of the State Women's Commission. He said the granddaughter of Telangana icon Chakali Ailamma had been appointed to the commission and Telangana Joint Action Committee chairman Prof. Kodandaram had been made an MLC. The government had also honoured nine eminent poets with cash awards of ?1 crore each, recognising their contribution to Telangana's cultural identity, he said. Revanth Reddy questioned why the people should bring back a government that functioned only for the benefit of one family. Declaring that the Congress government would remain in power until 2034, he said, "This is the future and this is history. You only have a past; you have no future." Paying rich tributes to Ande Sri, the Chief Minister said the poet was not merely a literary figure but a symbol of the Telangana movement. He recalled considering Ande Sri as an elder brother and family member, praising him for fearlessly standing against feudal forces. He alleged that the previous BRS government had neglected Ande Sri and had even insulted revolutionary balladeer Gaddar by making him wait outside Pragathi Bhavan in the scorching sun.



63 Cases Settled in Special Lok Adalat Across Bhadradi Kothagudem District



Kothagudem | July 18: A total of 63 cases were settled through mutual agreement during the Special Lok Adalat held across Bhadradi Kothagudem district on Saturday.

The Special Lok Adalat dealt with cheque bounce cases and Union Bank of India loan recovery cases, offering litigants an opportunity to resolve their disputes amicably and receive speedy justice without prolonged legal proceedings.

According to official information, Kothagudem Court recorded the highest number of settlements with 44 cases, followed by Bhadrachalam Court with 12 cases, Manuguru Court with 4 cases, and Dummugudem Court with 3 cases. No cases were settled at Yellandu Court.

No Compromise on Singareni Coal Quality: CMD

Special Monitoring from Production to Supply; Dedicated Officers Appointed for Every Area
Consumers Must Receive Coal of the Declared Grade: CMD Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyothi



Singareni Bhavan | July 18: In view of the rising power demand in Telangana due to El Niño conditions, Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has decided to strengthen coal production while ensuring that there is no compromise on coal quality. SCCL Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyothi has issued key orders appointing special officers for every area to closely monitor quality and operational performance.

The special officers will oversee coal production, quality control, grade maintenance, transportation, productivity enhancement, operational efficiency, coordination between area and corporate offices, and the implementation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities over the next three months.

During a video conference with General Managers of all Singareni areas held from Singareni Bhavan on Saturday evening, the CMD conducted a comprehensive review of coal

quality.

Addressing the officials, Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyothi emphasized that the quality of Singareni coal is the company's hallmark and made it clear that there would be no compromise under any circumstances. He directed officials to ensure that consumers receive only the coal grade officially declared by the company.

Officials informed the CMD that in some areas, the mixing of shale and non-grade material with coal was affecting quality. He instructed them to take strict measures to prevent such incidents and to carry out mining operations strictly according to the annual seam-wise coal gradation plan.

The CMD also directed that coal seams be thoroughly cleaned before blasting in opencast mines, adequate separation be maintained between coal and overburden layers, and shale and rocks be kept separate from coal and disposed of only in overburden dumps. He further in-

structed officials to strictly follow standard operating procedures for maintaining coal galleries and handling fire-prone coal.

He ordered that sufficient crushers be installed and kept operational at all opencast mines and coal handling plants. Every coal handling centre has also been instructed to prepare and implement a daily grade-wise coal dispatch plan.

"Maintaining coal quality from production to final delivery is the responsibility of every official. By supplying high-quality coal, we must further strengthen the confidence of our consumers in Singareni," Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyothi said.

The review meeting was attended by Director (Operations) L.V. Suryanarayana, Director (Projects & Planning) K. Venkateswarlu, Director (E&M) M. Tirumala Rao, Executive Director (Coal Movement) B. Venkanna, General Manager (Coordination & Marketing) T. Srinivas, and other senior officials.

State Machinery on Alert Over El Niño Impact

Be Prepared with Advance Action Plans; Farmers to Be Guided Towards Alternative Crops
Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju Directs Districts to Prepare Special Action Plans

B h a d r a d r i Kothagudem | July 18, 2026: With the possibility of below-normal rainfall and drought-like conditions due to the anticipated Super El Niño phenomenon, Telangana Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju has directed all government departments to remain on high alert and implement comprehensive advance action plans.

The directions were issued during a statewide video conference held from Hyderabad on Saturday with District Collectors to review preparedness for the potential impact of Super El Niño. Discussions focused on drought mitigation measures, agricultural planning, drinking water management, promotion of alternative crops, and coordinated departmental action. Bhadradi Kothagudem District Collector Ankit, IAS, participated in the meeting from the Inte-



grated District Offices Complex (IDOC).

Addressing the officials, the Chief Secretary instructed every district to formulate a dedicated contingency action plan, continuously monitor the evolving situation, and take timely preventive measures. He emphasized that all departments must work in close coordination to ensure that citizens do not face hardships in the event of adverse weather conditions.

He also directed the Agriculture Department to conduct extensive awareness campaigns encouraging farmers to cultivate low water-intensive alternative crops. Officials were instructed to educate farmers on



crop diversification, water conservation practices, and climate-resilient farming methods while ensuring the timely availability of quality seeds, fertilizers, and technical support.

The Chief Secretary further instructed districts to maintain comprehensive reports on rainfall trends, cultivated area, alternative crop planning, drinking water availability, fodder management, employment guarantee works, and department-wise preparedness. He said all departments should attend review meetings chaired by district in-charge ministers and special officers with complete and up-

dated information.

District Collector Ankit stated that B h a d r a d r i Kothagudem district has already initiated coordinated preparedness measures involving all departments in anticipation of possible El Niño conditions. He said awareness programmes are being conducted to educate farmers on alternative cropping patterns, water-saving techniques, and drought-resilient agricultural practices.

The Collector added that the district administration is ensuring the availability of seeds and fertilizers while giving special priority to drinking water supply, fodder man-

Collection Racket in NREGS Works in Soan Mandal..?

Nirmal District Staff Reporter : Blame Game Between District and Mandal Officials; Allegations Against Each Other

Serious allegations have surfaced regarding illegal collections by some employees working under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in Soan Mandal of Nirmal district, including the mandal headquarters and several Gram Panchayats.

According to local residents, money is allegedly being collected from individuals for works such as filling soil in nursery bags, maintenance of nurseries, and other NREGS-related activities under the Gram Panchayats.



Questions are being raised as to why money is being collected for works that are supposed to be carried out under government rules without any such charges.

Meanwhile, the issue has reportedly led to a blame game between district-level and mandal-level officials, with each side accusing the other over the alleged irregularities.

Local residents have demanded a thorough investigation into the matter and urged the authorities to take strict action against those found responsible. They insist that if the allegations are proven true, the guilty officials should face stringent disciplinary action.

Every drop of water should be absorbed into the ground - Aim to increase groundwater

-Watershed works should be expedited
-At least six farm ponds should be established in every gram panchayat
-Sangareddy District Collector Prateek Jain

Zaheerabad, July: In order to increase groundwater in the district and make long-term irrigation water resources available to farmers, District Collector Prateek Jain has instructed the concerned officials to give top priority to rainwater conservation. He suggested that watershed programs should be implemented scientifically and efficiently to ensure that every drop of water is absorbed into the ground. On Saturday, the District Collector inspected the watershed development works, recharge borewell structures, percolation tanks, mini percolation tanks and other rainwater conservation structures being undertaken under the PMKSY scheme in Sajjapur, Khanapur and Badampet villages of Kohir mandal of Zaheerabad constituency in sangareddy district at the field level. He spoke to the officials



on the quality of work, capacity of structures, and rainwater storage methods and made several suggestions. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that recharge structures should be widely set up in every village so that rainwater does not go to waste and seeps into the ground. He instructed the officials to take up water conservation works like recharge borewell structures, percolation tanks, mini percolation tanks, and farm ponds in a planned manner that will help increase groundwater.

He suggested that at least six farm ponds should be

set up in every gram panchayat, and that every farmer should be made aware and encouraged to set up a spring pond or a crop pond in his agricultural land. He said that the storage of rainwater in these ponds would not only restore groundwater but also provide protective irrigation to crops when needed. The Collector said that through watershed programs, favorable conditions would be created, especially for the expansion of horticultural crops and the cultivation of wet crops. He instructed the officials to undertake similar watershed development works in Narayankhed, Andol, Zaheerabad and other constituencies on a large scale. DRDO PD Jyoti, officials of the relevant departments, MPDOs, technical staff, farmers and others during this visit.

Osmania University Hosts National Seminar on AI, Human Values and Future Skills : Experts Advocate Ethical Artificial Intelligence and Human-Centred Innovation on World Youth Skills Day

Hyderabad July 18, 2026 : Calling for a balanced approach to technological advancement and human values, the Minorities Cell of Osmania University organized a National Seminar on “The Holistic Self in an Era of AI: Exploration of Human Values, Ethics and Future Skills” on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day. The seminar served as a vibrant platform for academicians, researchers, industry experts, policymakers and students to deliberate on the growing influence of Artificial Intelligence and the need to preserve ethical values in an increasingly digital world.

Delivering the inaugural address, Prof. Kumar Molugaram, Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor of Osmania University, said Artificial Intelligence has emerged as one of the most transformative technologies of the century and that students must prepare themselves to meet the challenges and opportunities of the AI era. Referring to the rapid evolution of communication technologies, he noted that the younger generation is entering the age of 6G and must develop proficiency in AI tools and digital innovations to remain globally competitive.

The Vice-Chancellor stressed that technological excellence should never be separated from ethical responsibility. He observed that despite remarkable scientific progress and a global population of nearly 830 crore, millions of people continue to live without adequate healthcare, education and other essential services. He urged young innovators to use Artificial Intelligence as a force for inclusive development and social welfare, ensuring that technological benefits reach every section of society, particularly the marginalized and underprivileged.

The keynote address was delivered by Maulana Syed Bilal Abdul Hai Hasani Nadwi, Chancellor of Nadwatul Ulama, Lucknow, and General Secretary of the All India Payam-e-Insaniyat Forum (AIPIF). He emphasized that compassion, justice, honesty, empathy and respect for humanity remain the foundation of every progressive civilization. While acknowledging the immense potential of Artificial Intelligence, he cautioned that technological advancement without moral guid-



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ance could weaken the social fabric. He appealed to students to combine knowledge with character and innovation with service to humanity.

Delivering an expert lecture on “AI and Future Skills,” Prof. C. S. Mujeebuddin, Founder and CEO of ClinoSol Research Pvt. Ltd., highlighted the growing demand for professionals equipped with AI literacy, critical thinking, creativity, innovation, adaptability and problem-solving abilities. He said continuous learning would become the defining characteristic of successful professionals in the coming decades.

Speaking on “AI and the Future of Your Career,” Mr. Meer Ahmed, Co-founder and Director, Digital Transformation, explained how Artificial Intelligence is reshaping industries, governance, education and business models across the globe. He encouraged students to embrace technological change with confidence and develop multidisciplinary skills to excel in the evolving employment landscape.

Addressing the session on “Ethics and Research Integrity,” Dr. Sreedhar Yeshamaina, Vice President of Clinical Development and Medical Affairs and Global Head of Pharmacovigilance, underscored the importance of maintaining transparency, accountability and scientific integrity in research. He remarked that innovation earns public confidence only when it is supported by ethical practices and responsible leadership.

The seminar witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty members, scholars, research students and professionals, who actively engaged in discussions on integrating Artificial Intelligence with ethical governance, sustainable development and human welfare. Speakers unanimously observed that future technological progress must remain people-centric and guided by compassion, responsibility and universal human values.

In her concluding remarks, Prof. Hameeda Bee, Director, Minorities Cell, Osmania University, thanked the University administration, distinguished speakers, Prof. M. Lingappa, Prof. I. Daisy, Dr. Madhavi, Dr. Mohd. Akhter Ali, faculty members, staff, students and members of the All India Payam-e-Insaniyat Forum (AIPIF) for their invaluable support in making the national seminar a meaningful and successful academic event. She noted that the programme reaffirmed Osmania University’s commitment to promoting knowledge, innovation and ethical leadership for a technologically advanced and socially responsible future

MLA Payam Venkateswarlu Hands Over Rs.5 Lakh LOC to Samithi Singaram Beneficiary

Manuguru | July 18, 2026: Pinapaka MLA Payam Venkateswarlu on Saturday handed over a Letter of Credit (LOC) worth ₹5 lakh to Pothurajula Susmitha, a resident of Samithi Singaram village in Manuguru mandal, at his camp office.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said the Telangana Government is committed to supporting poor and needy families through various welfare initiatives. He stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the Congress government is implementing welfare schemes transparently and ensuring that assistance reaches every eligible beneficiary.



The MLA urged the public to make full use of the government’s welfare schemes and assured that the government would continue to stand by every deserving family in times of need.

Congress Makes Grand Preparations for Minister Ponguleti and MLA Payam's Visit

Foundation stones to be laid for development works worth ₹33 crore; party leaders urge massive participation

Manuguru, July 18: The Congress Party has called upon its leaders, workers, and supporters to ensure the grand success of the visit of Telangana Revenue and Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy and Pinapaka MLA Payam Venkateswarlu to the Pinapaka Assembly Constituency on July 19.

Addressing a meeting held at the Congress Party office in Manuguru on Saturday, Mandal Congress President Peerinaki Naveen and Town Congress President Kuram Ravi said that foundation stones would be laid for several development projects worth nearly ₹33 crore across three



mandals in the constituency.

They stated that the Minister and the MLA would inaugurate the BT road construction work at Guttamallaram and lay the foundation stone for the High-Level Bridge across the Kodipujula Vagu between Samithi Singaram and Lankamallaram, along with other key development projects.

The Congress leaders appealed to party leaders, workers, public representatives, supporters, representatives of affiliated organizations, INTUC, Mahila Congress, Youth Congress, SC Cell, Minority Cell, and the general public to participate in large numbers and make the programme a grand success.

Among those present at the meeting were District General Secretary Polamuri Raju, District Secretary Dobbala Venkatappaiah, District Executive Member Bonagiri Siva Saidulu, Mandal Mahila Congress President Kurapati Soujanya, Samithi Singaram Deputy Sarpanch Gandla Suresh, Ganesh Reddy, Minority Cell President M.D. Rahim Pasha, Desaboyina Lavakumar, Fourth Ward Member Uke Krishnaveni, Swaroopa, Rama, and several other Congress leaders and activists.

PDSU holds huge rally and dharna in Zaheerabad

Zaheerabad July: A huge rally was held in Zahirabad town on Friday under the auspices of PDSU. The rally and a dharna was held demanding the immediate release of pending scholarships of Rs 10,500 crore and the reversal of the decision to close 23,000 government schools. A request petition was submitted to the RDO. PDSU District Secretary S Srikanth said that it is not right to do injustice to students. He accused the Chief Minister of continuing his administration with the idea of ??completely depriving students from poor and vulnerable groups of education. He demanded the release of pending fee reimbursements and scholarships. He said that it is wrong to see poor students studying dependent on scholarship fee reimbursement and to deprive them of education. He said that if government schools are closed, there is a risk that students in rural areas will be deprived of education. Therefore, they demanded that the decision to close gov-



ernment schools be immediately withdrawn and basic facilities should be provided in government schools. District Vice President MD Ismail, Anil. Division Secretary Gopal, leaders Anirudh. Krantikumar, Paulraj. Sanjana, Sunil, Karan, Miraj, Mallesh, Pawan, Eeshwar, Varalakshmi, Sirisha, Mahasri and others participated in this program.

HPV Vaccine Essential for Protecting Girls' Health: Medical Officer Dr. Swapna

Nagar Kurnool : An HPV (Human Papillomavirus) vaccination programme was conducted at Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV), Uppununthala, under the supervision of Medical Officer Dr. Swapna.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Swapna educated the students about the importance of the HPV vaccine. She said the vaccine plays a crucial role in preventing cervical cancer and stressed the need to successfully implement the government’s initiative by ensuring 100 percent vaccination coverage among all eligible girls aged 14–15 years. She added that the programme is highly beneficial for safeguarding the health of adolescent girls.

MPHEO Madhu Naik, PHN Kavitha, MLHPs, Health Assistants, ANMs, ASHA workers, the Headmaster, teachers, and medical staff participated in the vaccination programme.



The Body Shop Announces Its Iconic End of Season Sale with Up to 50% Off on Customer Favorites

The limited-time sale features major discounts on most-loved Skincare, Bodycare, Haircare, and Fragrance essentials.

Hyderabad, July 2026: The Body Shop, the British-born international ethical beauty brand, has unveiled its much-anticipated End of Season Sale (EOSS), offering discerning beauty enthusiasts discounts of up to 50% on an expansive portfolio of its most-loved ranges. Running for a limited period, the sale makes premium, ethically crafted self-care more accessible to customers across the country.

This season’s EOSS spans The Body Shop’s signature categories, with substantial savings on cult favorites that have defined beauty routines for generations. Skincare lovers can rediscover the hydrating power of Vitamin E Intense Moisturiser (100ml) or the purifying clarity of Tea Tree Face Wash, while Bodycare aficionados can stock up on the uplifting Marigold Shower Gel and nourishing Moringa Body Lotion. The sale also extends to The Body Shop’s fragrance wardrobe, with signature scents including the romantic Full Rose Eau de Parfum and the bold, gender-neutral Black Musk Eau de Toilette available at exceptional prices.

Celebrating its commitment to ethically sourced ingredients and high-performance formulations, The Body Shop’s End of Season Sale invites customers to indulge in conscious self-care while enjoying meaningful savings. From everyday essentials to iconic fragrance favorites, the offer reflects the brand’s belief that beauty should do good for people and the planet.

With its nature-inspired formulations and community-conscious values, The Body Shop’s End of Sea-



son Sale presents a thoughtful way to refresh beauty routines and embrace responsible consumption, without compromise.

The Body Shop’s End of Season Sale is now live for a limited period across all The Body Shop stores in India and online at www.thebodyshop.in. Offers are valid on select ranges while stocks last.

Telangana Seeks Centre's Help To Fight El Nino

Hyderabad: The Telangana Cabinet on Friday decided to write to the Centre seeking urgent financial assistance and intervention to tackle the drought-like conditions prevailing due to the impact of El Nino. The Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy also decided to submit a report detailing the adverse impact of the rainfall deficit on agriculture, allied sectors, drinking water, irrigation, and the livelihoods of rural labourers.

Briefing the media on the details of the meeting, minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said that the state government would urge the Centre to depute a special team to assess the ground situation and extend financial assistance for implementing El Nino contingency plans. The cabinet noted that Telangana was facing nearly a 40 per cent rainfall deficit, raising serious concerns over agriculture, water availability and power supply.



Revanth Reddy directed all departments to prepare contingency action plans to address drinking water supply, irrigation, agriculture and uninterrupted power supply. In view of the India Meteorological Department's warning that the situation could worsen, he instructed all departments to remain fully prepared with advance measures.

The Cabinet directed collectors to ensure that no drinking water scarcity arose anywhere. Officials were asked to respond promptly to public complaints and take measures to prevent

hardship to the people. All available water in reservoirs and irrigation projects should be prioritised for drinking water needs.

The government also decided to ensure uninterrupted power supply. Officials were instructed to make adequate arrangements for power generation and purchase electricity, if required.

Appealing to farmers to adapt to the prevailing conditions, the Cabinet advised them to avoid cultivating water-intensive crops and instead opt for crops that require less water. It also de-

cided to conduct statewide awareness programmes and public meetings to educate people about the impact of El Nino, the prevailing drought conditions, available water resources and the precautions farmers should take.

The cabinet directed Planning Board vice-chairman G. Chinna Reddy to lead a team of agricultural experts and scientists to prepare a special report on the impact of El Nino on the farm sector. The report will recommend suitable crops for the current conditions and suggest measures for crop management, farmer preparedness and livestock protection.

To closely monitor the evolving situation, the Cabinet decided to hold emergency review meetings across all districts. Special review meetings will be conducted on July 20 on a unified district basis under the leadership of district incharge ministers.

AICC reviews Telangana Congress government through Ministers' feedback

Hyderabad: Amid mounting criticism of the Congress government over its handling of several issues in Telangana and growing internal differences within the party, the AICC has begun seeking direct feedback from Cabinet Ministers. AICC in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan held one-on-one meetings with several Ministers, including Tummala Nageswara Rao, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Jupally Krishna Rao and D Seethakka, in Hyderabad on Friday.

The Congress government has faced criticism over its handling of the Bandi Sai Bhageerath POCSO case and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's remarks referring to German dictator Adolf Hitler. Besides these issues,



sections of the public have expressed dissatisfaction over the implementation of welfare and development programmes. Against this backdrop, and amid criticism of the Chief Minister's functioning, the AICC is seeking feedback directly from the Ministers.

Each meeting reportedly lasted about 45 minutes. The Ministers were given a questionnaire and asked to submit their re-

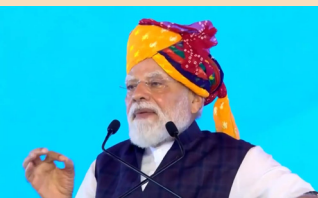
sponses. The questions covered coordination between the party and the government, party appointments, internal differences, cadre motivation and the use of social media. The Ministers are also believed to have discussed the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise.

The AICC in-charge's direct interaction with the Ministers has drawn attention within Gandhi Bhavan and sparked political discussion. She also met District Congress Committee (DCC) presidents and sought their feedback. Several DCC presidents are learnt to have flagged poor coordination between local MLAs, district in-charge Ministers and the party cadre.

India's Development Did Not Halt Despite Oil Supply Crisis: PM

Jind: Indian Railways would have come to a standstill had the situation from the West Asia conflict arisen before 2014 because most trains then ran on diesel, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday while stressing that nearly 99 per cent of the network has been electrified in the 12 years of his government. In a broadside against the Congress-led UPA government after flagging off India's first hydrogen-powered train connecting Jind to Sonipat in Haryana, the prime minister said the country has "got another gain" because of big changes that had taken place in Indian Railways since his government came to power.

The country, he said, has taken a giant leap towards green mobility with the hydrogen train. "You are seeing that for past several months, war has been going on in West Asia, across the entire region of (Strait of) Hormuz, involving Iran and the Gulf. It is through this sea route that India receives a huge quantity of petrol, diesel, LPG gas and fertilisers for our farmers.



But for the last three to four months, this route has continuously remained a battlefield....," he said.

Modi went on to ask what would have happened had this taken place before 2014 when his government came to power. But friends, this is not the situation of 2014. "It is Modi who thinks well before and also turns solutions to problems into reality on the ground," he said. The prime minister said electrification of Indian Railways began in 1925, almost 100 years ago but in the nine decades from then to 2014 only 30 per cent of the country's railway network was electrified. "The remaining 70 per cent depended on diesel. At the pace at which only 30 per cent was completed in those 90 years, it would have taken another 200 years to achieve full electrification. Indian Railways might never have been fully electrified and would have continued to rely on diesel," he said.

But in the past 12 years, nearly 99 per cent of India's railway network has been electrified and in Haryana, the railway network has been electrified 100 per cent, he said. "As a result, despite the war and the resulting oil supply crisis, India's railways did not come to a halt. The country's development did not come to a standstill. Trains continued to run without interruption," he said. Modi also spoke about his recent visits to Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand and stated that India signed several agreements during these visits, which received widespread attention.

"However, one important subject did not receive as much discussion. It concerns the youth of our country, especially the youth of Haryana, and that is sports," said Modi. The prime minister said he held extensive discussions with the governments of Australia and New Zealand on the matter. "In the coming years, we will work closely with both countries in areas such as the sports industry, athlete training, and several other related fields.

Murmu Set to Visit Moldova, North Macedonia, Romania From July 19-25

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu will undertake state visits to Moldova, North Macedonia and Romania from July 19-25 to boost bilateral ties with the three countries. She will visit Moldova on July 20 at the invitation of Moldovan President Maia Sandu. This is the first-ever visit by an Indian president to Moldova, the MEA announced on Friday. During her visit, President Murmu will meet and hold delegation-level talks with her counterpart. She will also meet President of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, Igor



Grosu. President Murmu will also interact with members of the Moldova-India Parliamentary Friendship Group, address a business forum and have interactions with members of the Indian community in that country. At the invitation of the President of North Macedonia, Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova, President Murmu will visit North Macedonia from July 21-22.

This will be the first-ever visit by an Indian president to North Macedonia, the Ministry of External Affairs said. Also, at the invitation of Nicusor Dan, President of Romania, Murmu will then visit Romania from July 23-25. This would be the first visit by an Indian president after a gap of over three decades, the MEA said. Murmu's visit to the three countries reflects the importance India attaches to strengthening its bilateral ties with these nations alongwith India's engagement with the wider eastern European region, it said.

CM Naidu Seeks Central Help to Cut Shrimp Feed Costs, Boost Horticulture

Vijayawada: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday urged the Union Government to adopt suitable policy measures to reduce the soaring cost of raw materials used in shrimp feed production.

He said the steep rise in input costs has placed severe financial stress on aqua farmers and threatened India's seafood export competitiveness.

During a meeting with finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman here, Naidu said the aquaculture sector supported the livelihoods of nearly 30 lakh people in Andhra Pradesh, including farmers, workers, hatcheries, feed manufacturers, processors and exporters.

The shrimp feed manufacturers, he said, have reported a sharp increase in

raw material prices between January and April, pushing production costs up by over 20 per cent. The prices of fish meal, fish oil and soy lecithin have risen sharply, adding nearly `25,000 to the cost of producing one tonne of shrimp feed.

The Chief Minister urged the Centre to promote domestic consumption of shrimp, strengthen farmer producer organisations, improve branding, processing and market linkages, and create an institutional mechanism to shield the sector from fluctuations in global demand.

He also sought a `100-crore corpus through the national fisheries development board for the proposed AP prawn producers coordination committee.

Expressing concern over



US trade measures, Naidu requested the Centre to negotiate lower tariffs on Indian seafood exports. He felt the existing countervailing duties, proposed anti-dumping

measures and reciprocal tariffs could seriously impact Andhra Pradesh, which accounted for nearly 80 per cent of India's shrimp ex-

ports.

He also sought assistance in identifying alternative global markets.

Tobacco: Raising the is-

sue of tobacco farmers, the CM said the highest GST slab on tobacco products and heavy excise duties had slowed procurement, adversely affecting growers and allied sectors. Against an estimated production of 230 million kg, only 34 million kg has been procured so far this season. He urged the Centre to take steps to protect farmers' interests.

Naidu also sought full central support for the Rayalaseema integrated horticulture development plan, which envisages developing 201 horticulture clusters with an investment of `14,906 crore, benefiting around nine lakh farmers.

The ambitious plan proposes irrigation projects worth `20,884 crore, upgrading 5,721km of rural roads at a cost of `4,562 crore, and

attracting `1 lakh crore in public and private investments. The project aims to increase horticultural production to 435 lakh metric tonnes by 2030, generate an annual Gross Value Added of `81,000 crore and create employment for nearly 19.7 lakh people.

School of Agriculture: The CM also sought Central support for establishing the Indian School of Agriculture in partnership with Reliance Industries as a global centre for AI-driven, climate-resilient agriculture, research and innovation. He said the state would sign an MoU with Reliance on August 3 and had already identified land for the institution.

Naidu invited Sitharaman to inaugurate the Rayalaseema Horticulture Hub on August 6 and 7.

322 Farmers Get Pattadar Passbooks After Decades

Tirupati: A decades-old land records issue in Pothireddipalem village of Kovur mandal in Nellore district moved towards resolution on Friday, with 322 farmers receiving new pattadar passbooks.

Kovur MLA Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy distributed the passbooks after inaugurating a Village Health Centre built at a cost of Rs 36 lakh.

Addressing the gathering, the MLA said several farming families had been cultivating their land for years without pattadar passbooks. She said the issue was taken up with the government, which facilitated the issuance of the documents.

Prashanthi Reddy thanked Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Revenue Minister Anagani Satya Prasad for their support. She said about 140 appli-

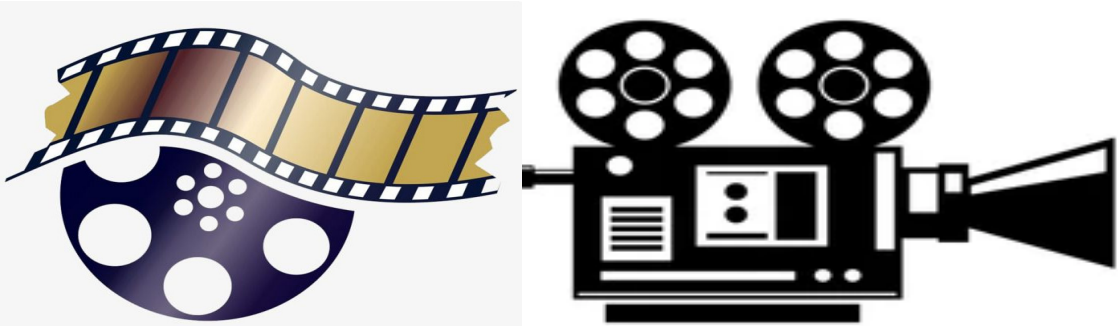


cations were still pending and expressed confidence that they would be cleared soon.

The MLA said the coalition government had repealed the Land Titling Act introduced by the previous government, addressing concerns raised by farmers.

She said development and welfare works worth about Rs 770 crore had been taken up in the Kovur Assembly constituency over the past two years, while nearly Rs 10 crore had been disbursed to around 1,000 beneficiaries under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

Referring to the long-pending sugar factory issue, she said discussions with the Chief Minister and officials were under way to find a permanent solution.



CINEMA

Naga Vamsi Launches Yelage Pilla from Anakapalli

The makers of Anakapalli have released a brand-new romantic song titled Yelage Pilla, adding more excitement before the film's theatrical release on August 7.

The makers of Anakapalli have released a brand-new romantic song titled Yelage Pilla, adding more excitement before the film's theatrical release on August 7. The song was officially launched by leading producer Naga Vamsi, who praised the team and wished the movie great success.

Anakapalli is produced by Kandregula Naidu and Thrinadha Rao Nakkina under the Bhavya Sri Movie Makers and Nakkina Narratives banners. The film is directed by Khagesh Tammineni and promises to present a raw and rustic story with emotional and entertaining moments. Kandregula Kumar Raja is the co-producer of the film.

The movie stars Vikram Sahidev and Sandhya Vasishta in the lead roles. Apart from writing the story and screenplay, Thrinadha Rao Nakkina also plays an important role in the film. The teaser and previously released songs have already created good interest among movie lovers.

The latest song, Yelage Pilla, is a soft and romantic melody that highlights the sweet chemistry between the lead pair. The lyrics are written by Anantha Sriram, while Kapil Kapilan and Davzand have sung the song beautifully. The music has a pleasant feel, making it easy for listeners to enjoy from the very first hearing.



Producer Naga Vamsi appreciated the song after its launch. He said the tune is catchy, the lyrical video looks attractive, and Vikram Sahidev's dance moves are stylish and graceful. He also wished the entire team the very best and hoped the film would become a big success after its release.

The choreography of Yelage Pilla is simple yet appealing. The hook step performed by Vikram Sahidev has already started getting attention and is expected to become popular on social media platforms and short-video reels.

Earlier songs from the film, Ammoru Diginadi and Labbaru Bomma, received a positive response from audiences and trended on YouTube. With its fresh tune and romantic mood, Yelage Pilla is also expected to win the hearts of music lovers.

The film features cinematography by Maya V, editing by Srikrishna Attaluri, music by Davzand, and dialogues by Uday Bhagavatula. With a talented cast, strong technical team, and growing buzz around its songs, Anakapalli is gearing up for a grand worldwide theatrical release on August 7. Fans are now eagerly waiting to see the complete film on the big screen.

Rajamouli Family Says 'Don't Trouble The Trouble'

The trailer showcases that Fahadh plays the role of a small-time magician, and in the process of making a girl disappear, the girl turns into a ghost and haunts him.

For a long time, Malayalam star Fahadh Fassil's first Telugu film as a hero has been in production. Not many know that this movie is being produced by Baahubali makers, Shobhu and Prasad, along with Rajamouli's son Karthikeya. Now that the trailer of the movie is out, many are wondering how the family that's busy with "Varanasi" has carved out something brilliant in the meantime.

The trailer showcases that Fahadh plays the role of a small-time magician, and in the process of making a girl disappear, the girl turns into a ghost and haunts him. It's quite impressive in terms of content as director Sashank Yeleti makes sure that kids and families get glued to it big time. But what caught the attention of Telugu movie lovers is the presence of the whole Rajamouli family in the credits list.

The film is presented by SS Rajamouli, produced by his son SS Karthikeya, styled by his wife Rama and written by his cousin SS Kanchi. Well, that's Rajamouli's whole family saying Balayya's dialogue, "Don't Trouble The Trouble". So definitely many are hoping that the film will



give a stunning result at the box office, as the whole SS Rajamouli family is involved.

Though Rajamouli is also busy with Varanasi as the 2027 release deadline is approaching fast, it looks like he will take some time to promote "Don't Trouble The Trouble" also.

M.S. Raju's 'Agadha' Eyes August 14 Release, Promises A Mystical Big-Screen Experience

Mega filmmaker M.S. Raju is gearing up to present audiences with an intriguing cinematic experience through his upcoming mystic divine thriller Agadha. After creating curiosity with its visually striking teaser, the film has now officially locked August 14, 2026 as its worldwide theatrical release date.

Produced by Kasi Visalakshi Balusu under the Sri Adi Varaha Productions banner and presented by Ajay KR, Agadha is mounted on a grand scale. The makers are said to be extremely confident about the film, a confidence that is reflected in its rich visuals and the way the promotions are being planned.

The teaser has turned out to be a major talking point, crossing 14 million views and receiving an encouraging response from movie lovers. The mysterious backdrop, stunning visu-



als, haunting score and impressive production values have helped the film generate considerable buzz ahead of its release.

Speaking about the project, M.S. Raju called Agadha his dream venture and revealed that the teaser offers only a glimpse into the film's mystical world. According to him, the story blends mythology, suspense, emotions and fantasy, promising audiences a visually immersive theatrical experience.

Lead actress Kamakshi Bhaskarla believes her character Mahadevi will be remembered as one of the finest roles of her career. Shravan Reddy, who reunites with

M.S. Raju after Dirty Hari, said the film has several unexpected moments that will keep audiences engaged till the end.

The film also features Ulka Gupta, Jovika Vijay Kumar and Sijju in important roles.

On the technical front, Rakesh Venkatapuram has composed the music, while Nani Chamidishetty handles cinematography. Junaid Siddiqui is the editor, Rajeev Nair is the production designer, and Chaitanya Vegi has provided the additional screenplay. N.V.N. Subbaraju serves as the Executive Producer.

With positive early buzz and a unique mystical backdrop, Agadha is looking to make an impact when it arrives in theatres worldwide on August 14, 2026.

Varun Tej's Korean Kanakaraju to drop a massy banger

Blockbuster music director S Thaman has delivered a brilliant, massy, and peppy composition for this track.



Varun Tej is gearing up to enthrall audiences with his upcoming horror-comedy Korean Kanakaraju, and the excitement is building up rapidly. To delight the masses and music lovers, the film's team is releasing a brand new track called Raasa Gummadi. This highly energetic song has been officially scheduled to be out on July 19th.

Blockbuster music director S Thaman has delivered a brilliant, massy, and peppy composition for this track.

Daksha Nagarkar is set to appear in the special song and it is set to be a massy banger. Varun Tej's look and his dance moves will be talk of the town state makers. Slated for 7th August release, the movie is gaining huge momentum with each promotional material hitting out of the park.

Merlapaka Gandhi is directing the film with prestigious UV Creations producing it on a huge scale. Varun Tej in two distinctive roles and get-ups, is set to create a massive intrigue and excitement with this mass number.

Bollywood Hero Joins Balakrishna's NBK111 Shoot in Hyderabad

Nandamuri Balakrishna is busy working on his upcoming movie NBK111. The film is being directed by Gopichand Malineni and is one of the most awaited Telugu movies. The shooting is moving at a fast pace. After completing a major schedule in Mumbai, the film team has now shifted the shoot to Hyderabad.

The latest update has made fans even more excited. Bollywood star Sanjay Dutt has officially joined the cast of NBK111. He will be seen in an important role in the movie. Sanjay Dutt has already reached Hyderabad and is taking part in the current shooting schedule. The makers are filming several key scenes featuring him. Reports suggest that he will complete his shooting portions in the next few days.

This is another interesting collaboration between Telugu and Bollywood actors. Sanjay Dutt has been appearing in several South Indian films in recent years. His powerful screen presence has impressed audiences, and fans are eager to see him share screen space with Balakrishna.

Actress Kajal Aggarwal is playing the female lead in the film. She will be seen opposite Balakrishna. The movie also has music composed by S. Thaman, who is known for delivering energetic and popular soundtracks. The film is being produced by Venkata Satish Kilaru on a grand scale.

Initially, the makers planned to release NBK111 during the Dasara festival season. However, the latest reports say that the release has now been pushed to December 2026. An official announcement about the new release date is expected soon.

