

CM Naidu Invites PM for Bhogapuram Airport Inauguration

Vijayawada: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi and invited him to inaugurate the Bhogapuram International Airport on August 1.

The two held a one-on-one meeting at Parliament House for more than 30 minutes, during which they discussed a range of national and state political developments.

Sources indicated that the PM accepted the invitation. The two leaders also discussed issues concerning the development of Andhra Pradesh as well as the prevailing political situation at the national and state levels.

Union ministers Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu and Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma, along with MPs Lavu Sri Krishna



Devarayalu and Kaliseti Appala Naidu, were present.

An interesting moment unfolded when Naidu introduced Appala Naidu to the PM as the MP representing the Bhogapuram airport constituency. Modi responded warmly, saying he knew the MP well and appreciated his habit of travelling to Parliament on a bicycle.

Sources said the CM met commerce and industry minister

Piyush Goyal. They discussed the problems being faced by aqua farmers, shrimp feed manufacturers and tobacco growers, besides exploring the possibility of bringing new industrial projects to Andhra Pradesh. Naidu sought policy support and central assistance for the growth of these sectors.

Naidu later met Jal Shakti minister C.R. Patil to discuss irrigation projects and the proposed Godavari-

Cauvery river linking project. He urged the Centre to convene a meeting of all stakeholder states to build consensus on the ambitious interlinking proposal. Sources said the Jal Shakti ministry favoured a Banakacherla-Cauvery link instead of the Srisaillam-Cauvery alignment.

Naidu maintained that utilising surplus river water instead of allowing it to flow into the sea would serve the national interest

and expressed his willingness to support the Centre's proposal if all participating states agreed. The Union minister is understood to have agreed to convene a meeting of the concerned states.

Naidu also met housing and urban affairs minister Manohar Lal Khattar and pressed for early approval, funding and implementation of the Visakhapatnam Metro Rail project, which he described as a long-cherished aspiration of the people of north Andhra.

He also invited Khattar for the Bhogapuram airport inauguration.

Union Minister of State Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma said the Delhi meetings would help accelerate infrastructure development, strengthen agriculture-linked sectors and transform the growth prospects of north Andhra.

Thalliki Vandanam Scheme Benefits 67.47 Lakh Students, Says Lokesh

Vijayawada: Declaring that children are the state's greatest asset and education its most valuable investment, education minister Nara Lokesh on Tuesday said the government is committed to ensuring that "no child is deprived of education due to financial constraints."

Releasing funds under the Thalliki Vandanam scheme, Lokesh said the programme provides financial assistance to every eligible school-going child in a family without any cap on the number of beneficiaries.

The government had released the funds at the beginning of the academic year for the second consecutive year to help parents meet educational expenses on time.

Under the scheme, the government is depositing `10,120.78 crore into the bank accounts of 42.70 lakh mothers, benefiting 67.47 lakh students across the state. The fund transfer process would continue until July 24, he said.

Reiterating the government's focus on education, Lokesh said every child deserves access to quality education, and described investment in students as an investment in



Andhra Pradesh's future.

He expressed gratitude to mothers striving to educate their children despite financial hardships and said the government recognised their commitment to securing a better future for their families.

Later, addressing the second day of the 'Mana Illu - Mana Lokesh' outreach programme at CK Convention Centre in Mangalagiri, where permanent land title deeds were distributed to beneficiaries from Mangalagiri and Tadepalli mandals, Lokesh said the government was fulfilling the long-pending aspirations of the people.

He said the government had distributed 3,000 permanent land titles in the first phase and another 3,000 in the second phase through a transparent process.

Listing development initiatives, Lokesh said work on a 100-bed hospital, parks, com-

munity halls and crematoriums was under way. A `1,800-crore project had been planned to address underground drainage and drinking water issues in the constituency with Central and state funding.

Works on drinking water supply, piped gas, the Mahanadu retaining wall, development of the Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple, reopening of Anna Canteens and installation of drinking water plants were also in progress.

Temples, churches and mosques would be developed in phases, he said.

Lokesh said MP Pemasani Chandrasekhar, who could not attend the programme because of the ongoing Parliament session, was working to secure more central projects for Andhra Pradesh. The Nidamaru Railway Over Bridge was expected to be completed within 12 months.

Protesting students are not 'terrorists'; Pradhan must resign: Rahul Gandhi

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday expressed full support for the protesting students, saying their demands, including Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation, are fully legitimate and non-negotiable. He claimed the government and its leadership were in panic and were therefore targeting students and opposition leaders.

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha also said he did not care about the manner in which he was "dragged, punched and removed" from the protest site outside the Prime Minister's residence on Tuesday, stressing that his "job is to express the will of India's people" and "these are small costs".

Protesting students are not terrorists and are simply asking for an education system that works and is fair, Gandhi said at a presser as he backed the demands for an apology to students from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and holding everyone responsible for the assault on students accountable.

He said that "sensible" police personnel feel that action against students is a crime against the future of the country.

Addressing the press conference at the Indira Bhawan headquarters of AICC here, Gandhi alleged that the education system in the country is not only rigged, but it is also unaffordable to the poor and middle class.

He said while the poor suffer, those with money get through the exam system with paper leaks and that has to be changed.

He asserted that the three demands of students - resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, action against those who assaulted students and they be held accountable and the Prime Minister must apologise to students for what



has happened to them, are non-negotiable.

Gandhi also said no one will be allowed to distract from the key issues of students and the atrocities against them. "In every government, there comes a time when psychologically they collapse, the leadership collapses and that has happened.

"The government is actually in panic. This reaction that they have done with the students is a panic reaction; what they were doing with us yesterday was a panic reaction," he said.

"How I was treated is irrelevant to me. I don't care. Treat me five times worse, I don't care. The focus has to be on what was done to students, on the education system, on paper leaks, and the costs that these children have been forced to pay. Do whatever you want to with me, five times, ten times (more), I don't care.

"In fact, I like it, because I learn from it," he said on the manner in which he was treated by the cops.

"I am used to getting punched; it was not a problem. It was fine," he said, claiming that his job is to express the voice of the people of India and bring attention to issues where pain is being felt. "A couple of punches are not a problem at all. I am happy to take many more," he said.

Gandhi claimed that the cops did drag him and remove him, but they "told me in my ear to remove this government and that sentiment is there".

"Even police are not happy about what has happened. Sensible police personnel feel that this is a crime being done to the future of the country and the people we love. They can see their children in them," he said.

A video of alleged "police brutality" against students during Monday's 'Sansad Chalo' protest was shown at the start of his press conference.

Referring to the police action, Gandhi said, "The question is why is this happening to our students. What have

they done to have security forces aiming weapons at them, to be beaten up, to be thrashed?"

"They are protesting peacefully, asking for what this country owes them. They are simply asking as students in this country - 'we deserve an education system that is fair'.

"Children have committed suicides, they go through unlimited stress, and there is a legitimate, very deep problem in this country, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said.

"The thing that is clear to everybody is that our education system, which was known to be one of the best education systems in the world, is a rigged system," he said. "Children have committed suicides, they go through unlimited stress and there is a legitimate, very deep problem in this country."

Gandhi claimed 152 paper leaks have taken place in the last decade, but no convictions have happened. He said 7.5 crore students have been affected by the breakdown of the education system. "But there have been zero convictions despite 152 paper leaks," he said.

"Every month lakhs of students are told that all the stress you went through, you will have to undergo it again and 'we don't give a damn'," Gandhi said.

"A group of people are destroying our education system and the lives of our students," he said.

The annual exam expense of families is Rs 1.32 lakh crore, which is nearly equal to the education budget of Rs 1.4 lakh crore, Gandhi claimed.

"This is pure theft from these families, and after you steal from them you tell them the paper is leaked," he said, hitting out at the government.

PM Modi Calls for Jan Andolan for Viksit Bharat



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday called for a whole-of-government approach to achieve the goal of a 'Viksit Bharat', stressing that the vision should become a 'Jan Andolan' with youth at its core.

Modi chaired a high-level meeting with secretaries at his official residence to review progress in rural development, agriculture, social welfare and allied sectors. He said citizen welfare must remain central to all reforms and emphasised that policy changes should be aligned with people's needs to deliver effective outcomes.

The Prime Minister said reforms should not be limited to improving government functioning but should accelerate India's transition into a developed nation.

Highlighting changes in governance systems, he called for strengthening processes and undertaking mapping of emerging requirements across ministries and departments. Modi also stressed the need to address drug abuse among youth and called for institutional mechanisms to improve coordination across departments for youth-focused initiatives.

He underlined the importance of an integrated approach to sports development, noting the potential of sports tourism and suggesting that India should aim

to host major international events. He also called for promoting technology and innovation through startups in the sports sector.

Referring to agriculture, the Prime Minister said wider adoption of schemes such as PM KUSUM could drive sectoral transformation and highlighted the need to map global skill requirements to align with future opportunities. "The secretaries shared their experiences and perspectives on various initiatives and challenges in their respective domains. The Prime Minister shared his suggestions and his vision for the future course of action. The meeting was marked by comprehensive and productive discussions across the sectors, focusing on effective implementation, greater convergence and accelerated progress towards the goals of Viksit Bharat," the Prime Minister's Office said.

Pawar-Modi Meet Revives NDA Buzz

Mumbai: Nationalist Congress Party (SP) chief Sharad Pawar and party working president Supriya Sule met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Parliament on Wednesday, rekindling speculation about a possible political realignment of the party with the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance.

Although Pawar said the meeting was confined to problems faced by farmers in Maharashtra, its timing raised eyebrows among his alliance partners in the State amid reports of possible reconciliation between the two NCP factions.

Photographs of the meeting showed Modi receiving the veteran leader at the door of his room. The Prime Minister and Pawar were also seen sharing a laugh and exchanging notes.

Pawar submitted a memorandum detailing farmers' problems, including inadequate irrigation, erratic rainfall, drought, poor water management and shortcomings in the implementation of welfare schemes.

"The farmer does not merely want relief, grants or loan waivers, but a fair price for their hard work and a transparent, accountable administration," Pawar said

in the memorandum.

He urged the Centre to correct policy failures, improve water management and ensure that agricultural welfare programmes were implemented effectively. He said administrative apathy and policy shortcomings had aggravated farmers' distress.

The meeting, however, acquired political significance as it came amid reports that the NCP (SP) was exploring the possibility of reuniting with the Ajit Pawar-led NCP and moving closer to the ruling NDA.



Pawar and Sule had only a day earlier joined protesters at Jantar Mantar, where demonstrations were being held over the alleged NEET-UG paper leak. The NCP (SP) has supported the demand for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Quality Education Must Focus on Employment for IIIT Students

Nirmal District Staff Reporter : Skill-based learning should prepare students for global career opportunities: District Collector Bhavesh Mishra

Nirmal District Collector Bhavesh Mishra directed officials to ensure that IIIT students receive skill-oriented education so that they secure quality employment opportunities by the time they graduate.

On Wednesday, the Collector visited the Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies (RGUKT), Basara (IIIT Basara) campus and held a review meeting with university officials. Speaking on the occasion, he emphasized the need to design academic programs that enhance students' technical knowledge, communication skills, and industry-relevant competencies. He stressed the effective use of modern technology to prepare students for employment in leading national and international organizations.

The Collector instructed the university authorities to provide quality education along with all essential infrastructure and facilities for students. He advised officials to respond promptly to students' grievances and ensure their timely resolution. He also called for creating a better working environment and providing necessary facilities for faculty members, employees, and staff.

He further directed officials to ensure



uninterrupted power supply, safe drinking water, hygienic and nutritious food, and a clean campus environment. He emphasized expanding academic, digital, and sports infrastructure while giving top priority to student welfare. The Collector assured that the district administration would extend full support for the development of infrastructure required on the campus.

Later, the Collector inspected the proposed site for the construction of the new Tahsildar Office at Basara and issued necessary instructions.

Bhainsa Sub-Collector Ajmeera Sanket Kumar, IIIT Vice-Chancellor Govardhan, OSD Murali Darshan, Tahsildar Pawan Chandra, university officials, and staff participated in the programme.

MLAs submit request letter to DGP for traffic station

-Request to upgrade Zaheerabad town police station



Zaheerabad July:: Zaheerabad MLA Koninti Manikrao on Wednesday submitted a request letter to the Telangana State Director General of Police, seeking immediate upgrading of Zaheerabad town police station in Sangareddy district and setting up a separate traffic police station. He said that Zaheerabad town has a population of over one lakh and five villages have recently been merged into the municipality. He said that thousands of workers from other states live and work here as there are many small and big industries around the town. He also explained that there are 78 government schools, 62 private schools, 2 government colleges and 14 private colleges in Zaheerabad limits and that there is a high traffic flow of school buses, autos, RTC buses and other public transport vehicles every day. In this context, the MLA stated in his letter

that it is urgent to upgrade the Zaheerabad Town Police Station and establish a separate Traffic Police Station to effectively control the growing traffic problem along with maintaining public safety and law and order. MLA Koninti Manikrao requested the DGP to consider his request positively and immediately take necessary steps for the upgradation of the Zaheerabad Town Police Station and establishment of a new Traffic Police Station. Among those who met the DGP were Zaheerabad MLA Manikrao, Sangareddy MLA Chinta Prabhakar and former DCMS Joint Medak District Chairman Malkapuram Shivakumar.

BJP Protests Over NEET Issue :

Nizamabad June 22, 2026 ; The Bharatiya Janata Party staged a protest at Nikhil Sai Junction in Nizamabad, where party leaders burned an effigy of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

Addressing the gathering, Nizamabad Urban MLA Dhanpal Suryanarayana> criticised the Congress, alleging that it was attempting to create unrest in the country under the guise of the NEET issue. He claimed that the Union Government is committed to ensuring a fair investigation into the NEET paper leak and taking strict legal action against those involved.

The MLA also questioned the opposition's demand for the resignation of the Union Education Minister, stating that the Centre is



already addressing the issue through legal and administrative measures.

During the protest, police attempted to stop the effigy burning, resulting in a brief altercation between BJP workers and the police.

The demonstration was attended by BJP district leaders, office bearers, and party workers, who raised slogans in support of the Central Government and against the Congress.

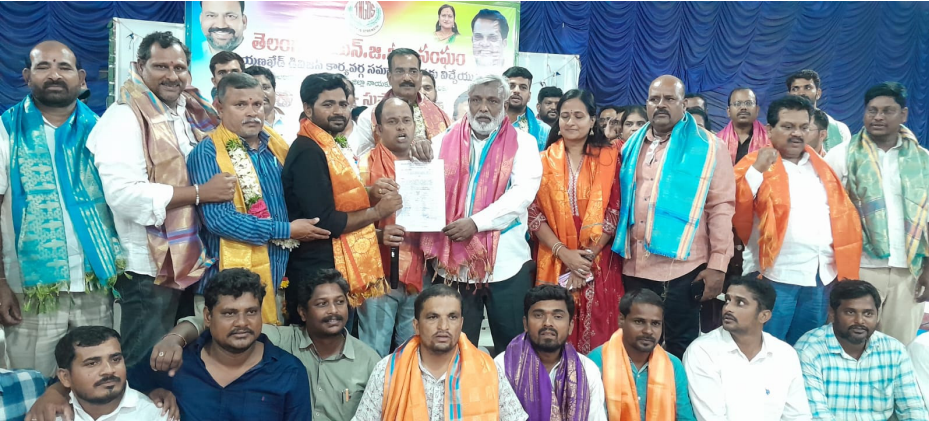
Narayankhed TNGOs Union Elects New Office Bearers Unanimously

District President MD.Javed Ali Calls on Employees to Prioritise Public Service

SANGAREDDY, Correspondent : July 22, 2026: The new executive committee of the Telangana Non-Gazetted Officers' Union (TNGOs), Narayankhed Taluk Unit, was elected unanimously on Tuesday under the supervision of District President MD. Javed Ali.

The newly elected office bearers are MD. Miskin as President, P. Dattu as General Secretary, K. Ravinder as Associate Secretary, and Bhaskar as Treasurer.

The Vice Presidents elected are Santosh Kumar, Rajitha, and Sayanna. Arun and Vittavva were elected as Joint Secretaries, Muzammil as Organising Secretary, and Rukma Reddy as



Publicity Secretary.

The Executive Committee members include Nagalakshmi, Laxman Kumar, Pandari, Suryakanth, Praveen, and Raju Naik.

The election process was conducted smoothly by District Associate President Kasini Srikanth, who served as the Election Officer.

District General Secretary V. Ravi, District Associate President Venkat Reddy, and District Treasurer Srinivas,Nirmala Raj Kumari State leader along with leaders of various employees' associations and a large number of government employees, attended the programme and congratulated the newly elected committee.

Speaking on the occasion, District President MD. Javed Ali urged employees to discharge their official duties with dedication and provide efficient public service while remaining united in safeguarding their rights. He also called upon members to work collectively to strengthen the union.

Newly elected President MD. Miskin assured that the union would work unitedly for the protection of employees' rights, welfare, and the resolution of service-related issues, while striving to strengthen the organisation with the support of all employees.

MLC and MLA inaugurate state-of-the-art operation theatre

Nagarkurnool: As part of the Telangana Government's commitment to making advanced healthcare services more accessible to the public, a new state-of-the-art Operation Theatre was inaugurated at the Government General Hospital in Nagarkurnool by MLA Dr. Kuchukulla Rajesh Reddy along with MLC Kuchukulla Damodar Reddy.

On the occasion, the MLA held a comprehensive review meeting with doctors and hospital officials. He directed the medical authorities to ensure prompt, quality, and transparent healthcare services for patients and instructed them to take all necessary measures to improve the efficiency of hospital services.

The MLA said the State Government is giving top priority to strengthening healthcare infrastructure and providing modern facilities in government hospitals to enhance public confidence. He reiterated that protecting public health is the



government's highest priority and ensuring better medical care for every poor family remains its key objective.

The programme was attended by District Medical and Health Officer Dr. Usha Rani, RMO Dr. Rohit, Municipal Chairman Theegala Sunender Kumar,public representatives, doctors, hospital staff, party workers, and a large number of local residents.

Protests in Support of Rahul Gandhi to Continue in Sangareddy Jaggareddy

SANGAREDDY, Correspondent :July 22, 2026: TPCC Working President Turpu Jay Prakash Reddy (Jaggareddy) on Wednesday said the Congress Party would continue its protest programmes in Sangareddy in support of Rahul Gandhi and students protesting over the alleged NEET paper leak issue.

Leading a massive bike rally along with DCC President Nirmala Jaggareddy, he said the party had already staged a road blockade on the Mumbai-Hyderabad National Highway on Tuesday to protest Rahul Gandhi's arrest. He announced that around 1,000 Congress leaders and workers would participate in a five-kilometre rally wearing black T-shirts on Thursday and that protests would continue as long as Rahul Gandhi's agitation continues.

The bike rally began at Ram Mandir in Ram Nagar and passed through IB Chowrasta, Bypass Road, Basaveshwara Chowk, Pothireddypally Chowrasta, the Collectorate and the New Bus Stand before concluding at Ram Mandir. Party leaders and workers raised slogans in support of Rahul Gandhi and criticised the BJP-led Central Government over its handling of the student protests.

Addressing the media after the rally, Jaggareddy alleged that students protesting in Delhi over the NEET paper leak were subjected to excessive police action. He criticised the Centre over unemployment and demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, holding him accountable over the alleged paper leak issue.

He further said Rahul Gandhi had demanded an apology from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the students and sought the resignation of



the Union Education Minister. Jaggareddy stated that the Congress would continue organising daily protest programmes in support of Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and the students.



Thursday 23, July, 2026

INDIA'S FIRST HYDROGEN-POWERED TRAIN SIGNALS JOURNEY TOWARDS CLEAN ENERGY

India's first indigenously built hydrogen-powered train, developed under the 'Make in India' initiative, is an important milestone in the country's ambition to decarbonise transport under the National Green Hydrogen Mission. While it is a laudable innovation that puts India among a select group of nations that have developed the hydrogen fuel-cell technology, a wider rollout will hinge on solving the cost, supply, and infrastructure challenges. The 89-kilometre-long Jind-Sonipat route in Haryana was recently flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The 10-coach train comprises two hydrogen-powered driving cars and eight passenger coaches with a total capacity of around 2,600 passengers, and has a design speed of 110 kmph. The Railways has developed the hydrogen fuel-cell train with the aim of deploying it initially on heritage and non-electrified routes before scaling up. Although hydrogen trains are unlikely to replace electric trains on India's heavily electrified mainlines, they offer a promising solution for routes where electrification is difficult or uneconomical. The launch has set in motion a transition towards cleaner, low-emission transport. It also signals India's intent to be among the global leaders in sustainable mobility. Powered by hydrogen fuel cells that emit only water vapour, the train offers an environmentally friendly alternative to diesel locomotives. With indigenous technology and a locally developed hydrogen ecosystem at Jind, the project demonstrates growing domestic capabilities in advanced engineering. It also complements the National Green Hydrogen Mission, which seeks to reduce India's dependence on imported fossil fuels while supporting the country's long-term net-zero ambitions.

India's broader green hydrogen production target is 5 million tonnes a year by 2030, backed by over \$2 billion in incentives. Therefore, scaling up reliable green hydrogen supply nationwide is still a work in progress. High costs, limited infrastructure, storage challenges, and widespread electrification of the railway network mean that hydrogen trains are likely to complement—rather than replace—electric trains. Their long-term success will depend on affordable green hydrogen, technological maturity, and targeted deployment on routes where they offer clear economic and environmental advantages. India's heavy reliance on imported crude oil, natural gas, and industrial feedstocks makes energy security a national priority, particularly during periods of geopolitical instability. Producing hydrogen domestically using renewable energy can help reduce exposure to volatile global energy markets and strengthen economic resilience. However, the euphoria surrounding the hydrogen train must be tempered with realism. Green hydrogen costs almost twice as much as the conventional grey variety. With over 95% of India's broad-gauge railway network already electrified, hydrogen-powered trains are unlikely to replace electric trains across the country. Instead, they may find their greatest value on non-electrified routes where conventional electrification is economically or technically difficult. The hydrogen train should therefore be viewed as a strategic demonstration. Its success will depend on India's ability to lower production costs, expand renewable energy capacity, and create a commercially viable hydrogen ecosystem

No Action Against Student Protesters, I will End Fast: Wangchuk To Govt

New Delhi: Activist Sonam Wangchuk on Wednesday said he would end his indefinite hunger strike if the Centre gives an unequivocal assurance that no punitive or retaliatory action would be taken against students and youth who participated in the protest against alleged examination irregularities. He also said that Union ministers J P Nadda and Jitendra Singh had already assured him that the government would positively consider his two other key demands.

In a letter addressed to the two ministers, Wangchuk said that Nadda and Singh, who visited him at the Medanta Hospital on Tuesday night, assured him that the government would positively consider providing adequate compensation to the families of students who died by suicide following the NEET paper 'leak', and holding a meaningful discussion in Parliament to ensure accountability for exam 'irregularities', including considering the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

"Therefore, I respectfully request an unequivocal assurance from the government that none of the young protesters will face any punitive or retaliatory legal action for participating in this movement. Their only 'offence' has been to raise their voice for a fair and accountable education system," Wangchuk wrote.

"If such an assurance is given, I shall end my fast with faith that the government has heard not only my appeal but also the aspirations of lakhs of young Indians. In the absence of such an assurance, I will be forced to continue my fast indefinitely," he wrote.

Sharing the letter on X, Wangchuk said, "An appeal to the government regarding breaking my fast... Once the assurance from the government comes, I will also appeal to the peacefully protesting students to halt the movement for now and enter into dialogue with the government."

Referring to the July 20 'Chalo Sansad' march, Wangchuk said it "remained very peaceful despite the atrocities and disproportionate use of force by the police".

"The entire nation and the world witnessed their patience and commitment to democratic protest. I sincerely hope that this faith in democratic institutions is not further undermined by any legal cases, harassment or vindictive action against those who participated," he said.

Around 65 MPs from different political parties had written to him, while several met him personally and urged him to end his fast, Wangchuk



said. "They have all urged me to end my fast, reminding me that I still have much work to do in the service of our nation. I agree with them. I want to live.

"I want to return to my students, to education, and to the work that has defined my life. But I cannot do so at the cost of the very young people for whom this movement began," he said.

"The future of our democracy depends not on how it treats those who agree with it, but on how it treats its young citizens when they dare to speak with courage, hope and conviction," he added.

Earlier on Wednesday, a delegation of opposition MPs, including Congress' Vivek Tankha, CPI(M)'s John Brittas and TMC's Sagarika Ghose, met Wangchuk at the Medanta Hospital and appealed to him to end his fast.

In a letter signed by the MPs from several opposition parties, they assured him that the issues of examination reforms and accountability in the education sector would be taken up in Parliament.

"The nation, especially its youth, needs your wisdom and guidance far more than your sacrifice... Just as the Union Territory of Ladakh needs Sonam Wangchuk, India needs you too – not in suffering, but in service," the MPs told him, while also assuring that they would press the government against any coercive action against the peaceful protesters.

Wangchuk has been on an indefinite hunger strike since June 28 after joining the Cockroach Janta Party-led agitation demanding accountability over alleged irregularities in competitive examinations, reforms in the education system and the resignation of Pradhan.

He is currently admitted to the Medanta Hospital after being shifted from the Safdarjung Hospital following a Delhi High Court order.

Students Continue To Gather in Large Numbers at Jantar Mantar Despite Heavy Security, Metro Closure

New Delhi: Forty-eight hours after the police crackdown, and despite the overwhelming security deployment and the closure of Metro stations across the national capital to restrict access, hundreds of students marching through Connaught Place and adjoining areas continued to pour into Jantar Mantar throughout the day on Wednesday. Anger, despair and disillusionment spilled onto the streets, as slogans lashing out at the establishment, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and education minister Dharmendra Pradhan rent the air. But even in the middle of the outrage, the students hadn't lost their sense of humour. Three students moving through the crowd, handed out "Good Day" biscuits to fellow protesters, shouting: "Achche Din Le Lo. Achche Din Le Lo" (Take Good Day. Take Good Day).

Streets, pavements and every approach to Jantar Mantar were teeming with the police and paramilitary forces. Yet, a sea of students, backpacks slung over their shoulders, faces etched with excitement or determination, marched towards the protest site. As one approached the imposing police barricades near the Jantar Mantar, a young girl stood holding a flower and a placard that asked: "Do you think I am a terrorist?"

At the protest site, the mood was unmistakable. Jantar Mantar echoed with the thunder of claps, chants and slogans as hundreds of students vented their anger at the political establishment, aimed mainly at the top echelons of the ruling party. Above the crowd, placards rose like symbols of defiance. One of the placards, bearing an image of Bhagat Singh, carried the message: "Mere bachcho, ab pichche mat hatna" (My children, do not retreat now). Nearby, a young woman held up a hand-written poster taking aim at the BJP's much-invoked narrative of humble beginnings. It read: "Chai becho, bachcho ka bahvishya nahin" (sell tea, not the future of students). But not all were placards and posters. One student held up a tablet with the message: "Looks like the chaiwala did not like spilling tea." The Neet paper leak apparently shattered the fu-



ture of over 22 lakhs students.

But the protest was not defined by placards and posters alone. Amid thunderous clapping, slogans like "Bharat Mata ki jai", "Inqulab Zindabad", "Delhi Police hai hai" and "Jai Bhim" reverberated across the protest site. Beyond the slogans and placards, what stood out was the sense of camaraderie among the students. They came from different colleges, universities, schools, coaching centres, from various parts of Delhi, from different states, and yet, the differences seemed to dissolve at Jantar Mantar. Strangers shared water bottles, food packets and helped one another navigate the police barricades. What united them was a common demand: that India's education system be made fairer, more transparent and accountable. Differences in religion, caste and background faded before this shared conviction. Despite the heavily armed police and paramilitary personnel lining the route to the protest site, the students marched towards Jantar Mantar without any hesitation. The spontaneity with which slogans spread stood out. The moment one student walking across Sansad Marg raised a slogan targeting the ruling side, it was instantly picked up by others passing by. Within seconds, a lone voice developed into a chorus. Perhaps the most striking aspect of the protest was its boldness. In the past 12 years, such an open expression of anti-establishment sentiment by Gen Z had rarely been seen or heard.



NEET Row Blacks Out Parliament for Third Day

New Delhi: Parliament proceedings remained stalled for the third consecutive day on Wednesday over the Neet paper leak issue and police crackdown on protesters at Jantar Mantar. Opposition MPs led by Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra staged a "Black Day" protest inside the Parliament premises demanding the immediate removal of education minister Dharmendra Pradhan and a discussion on Neet irregularities. Under pressure, the government said it is willing to hold a detailed discussion in Parliament on the Neet issue.

Mr Gandhi, along with several other Opposition MPs, dressed in black, staged a protest outside Parliament on Wednesday against the alleged police brutality on protesting students. The Lok Sabha Leader of the Opposition expressed full support for the protesting students. Accusing the Modi government of destroying India's education system, Mr Gandhi, addressing a press conference later in the day, said protesters' demands, including Mr Pradhan's resignation, are fully legitimate and non-negotiable.

Dressed in black in solidarity with protesting students, Ms Vadra said, "Democracy is finished. What is happening in Parliament is undemocratic because debate on students' issues is not being allowed."

Referring to the Congress' protest outside Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 7, Lok Kalyan Marg residence on Tuesday, Ms Vadra said freedom of expression and the right to peaceful protest are bare essentials for democracy. "There is nothing undemocratic about that. What is undemocratic is what is happening in Parliament and on the streets... In Parliament, debate is not being allowed. The Leader of the Opposition is not allowed to speak, and neither are the other Opposition leaders. Whenever they rise to speak, they are stopped," she told reporters in the Parliament House complex.

"The Speaker says he has to ask the government whether a debate can take place. What is this? Democracy is finished," Ms Vadra said.

In Parliament, the Neet paper leak issue and police crackdown on protesters at Jantar Mantar and neighbouring areas rocked both Houses. The government said it is ready for an elaborate discussion on the issue and accused the Opposition of not allowing a debate by disrupting proceedings. "No business has been conducted in the two Houses since the beginning of the Monsoon Session on Monday," it said.

In the Lok Sabha, Mr Rijiju reiterated the government's willingness to hold a discussion on the Neet paper leak but left it to Speaker Om Birla to arrive at a consensus on the rule under which it will be held, its date and duration.

The Speaker said he has heard the views of all parties, as the government is willing to hold a discussion with an open mind. Mr Rijiju requested the Speaker to convene an all-party meeting of floor leaders to finalise the rules under which it will be held, its date and duration.

Maintaining that time will not be a constraint, Mr Birla said members will be allowed to speak as much as they want after they give a notice according to procedures. As Mr Birla asked Mr Rijiju to make a statement, Congress leader K.C. Venugopal intervened to assert that the Opposition is also seeking the resignation of the education minister.

"Our demand is simple. When the entire nation is feeling the pain of our students, all other business of the House should be set aside and this burning issue should be the top priority for Parliament," Mr Venugopal said.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav expressed anguish that while the BJP and the Congress members spoke, he was not allowed to participate. He said: "If the interests of youth and students are hurt, the opposition is bound to protest on the streets also."

Later, talking to reporters, Mr Rijiju said the government is ready for a "detailed discussion", as the people should know the steps taken by the government. He accused the Opposition of hitting the streets and not holding a debate in Parliament and said sensitive issues pertaining to the youth need discussion in Parliament. "Street protests will not yield results," he underlined.

Most Congress and SP members wore black clothes in the House to protest the Neet paper leak and police crackdown on protesters at Jantar Mantar and other areas on Monday.

Separately, Mr Pradhan met the Lok Sabha speaker in the Parliament House soon after the government told the Lok Sabha that it is willing to hold a detailed discussion on the Neet paper leak issue.

The Rajya Sabha also witnessed repeated adjournments after the government accused the Opposition led by the Congress of bringing in new conditions to not allow a discussion on the Neet paper leak issue. "I want to tell the Congress party through you (the Chair) that you (the Congress) are giving the wrong message outside that you want a discussion. When the government is itself saying that it wants a discussion, they (the Congress) are imposing conditions to not allow a discussion to take place by again and again coming up with excuses," Mr Rijiju said in the Upper House.

AP To Execute 36 Irrigation Projects At Cost Of Rs 35,555 Crore

Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh government would complete 36 major irrigation projects at an estimated cost of Rs 35,555 crore by the end of 2028.

Water resources minister Nimmala Ramanaidu told the media here on Tuesday that the government has prepared an action plan to complete the execution of 36 major projects on a priority basis. He noted that in the last two years, the government had allotted `24,611 crore to the water resources department in the Budget, Out of this, `12,484 crore was meant for the projects in Rayalaseema region. The minister released a two-years' progress report of the water resources department and said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu made substantial Budget allocations to the department.

He said that 11 irrigation projects on a priority basis would be completed in the north Andhra region in the next two years. "We had also completed the Handri-



Neeva project in two phases by allotting `3,870 crore in 100 days to transform the Rayalaseema region."

Referring to the expenditure incurred for taking up several irrigation projects, the minister said that the TD government had spent `66,000 crore in 2014-19 in which `12,000 crore was spent for the Rayalaseema projects.

He noted that the previous YSRC government had spent `32,059 crore in 2019-24 while the alliance government had spent `24,611 crore in 2024-25. Out of this, an amount of `12,484 crore was spent in Rayalaseema alone.

The minister gave a presentation with regard to the progress of execution of several projects including the Polavaram, Veligonda, Handri-Neeva Sujala Sravanthi, several north Andhra projects, the Chinthalapudi and the 1,026 lift irrigation schemes in the state.

Modi Assures Strict Action on NEET Paper Leak

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday assured that those responsible for the alleged NEET paper leak would face the strictest possible punishment and urged National Democratic Alliance (NDA) lawmakers to reach out to students and reassure them that their interests would be protected.

Addressing the NDA Parliamentary Party's 'Mangal Milan' meeting, Modi emphasised that preventing examination paper leaks was a national responsibility and called for collective efforts to build a foolproof examination system, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju said after the meeting.

Quoting the Prime Minister, Rijju said the government acted swiftly after reports of the NEET paper leak surfaced, leading to arrests and prompt action against those allegedly involved. He added that the re-examination was conducted without delay to ensure students' futures were not adversely affected.

"The Prime Minister called for the strictest possible punishment for those responsible for the NEET paper leak and stressed that preventing such incidents is a national responsibility," Rijju said.



According to people familiar with the discussions, Modi also asked NDA MPs to engage with young people and reassure them that the government remained committed to protecting their interests. He said those arrested in connection with the paper leak would face the harshest legal action while urging lawmakers to counter what he described as opposition "conspiracies" aimed at misleading students.

The Prime Minister also appealed to NDA partners to remain united in ensuring the smooth functioning of Parliament and urged opposition parties to cooperate in legislative business. While political differences may exist, all MPs share a responsibility to work for the country's future and the welfare of its youth, he said.

The remarks came a day after protests over alleged examination irregularities turned violent in the national capital, where police used tear gas and lathicharge to stop demonstrators led by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) from marching towards Parliament. The protesters are demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the alleged NEET paper leak and broader reforms in the examination system.

During the meeting, Modi also highlighted the government's recent achievements, including the signing of Free Trade Agreements with several countries, and reiterated that farmers' interests would remain paramount in all such agreements, Rijju said.

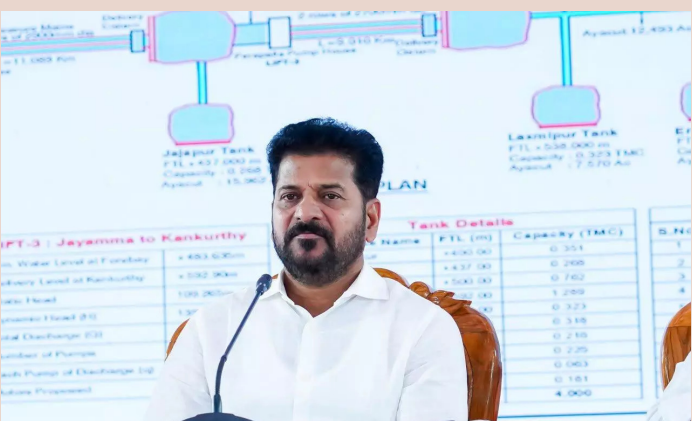
The meeting also welcomed newly elected Rajya Sabha members, with BJP president Nitin Nabin attending as a Rajya Sabha member for the first time after assuming charge of the party.

Revanth: Distribute Plots to Farmers Who Lost Lands to Industrial Corridor Within a Week

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday directed officials to distribute plots within a week to farmers who had lost their land to the Vikarabad industrial corridor. He expressed anger over the delay in allotting plots to the affected farmers and instructed officials to complete the process without further delay. The government has acquired 1,084 acres out of the planned 1,200 acres in Lagacharla, Polepalli and Hakimpet villages for the proposed industrial corridor and education hub.

The Chief Minister expressed dissatisfaction over the slow pace of work at the education hub coming up at Hakimpet in Dudyal mandal of Vikarabad district, and directed officials to speed up work. He warned that action would be taken against officials found negligent in executing the projects and said he would not hesitate to suspend those who failed to perform their duties.

The Chief Minister, who visited Hakimpet also reviewed the development works in his home Kodangal Assembly constituency with



legislators T. Ram Mohan Reddy of Parigi and B. Manohar Reddy of Tandur, senior officials of various departments and district officials. He inspected the progress of the Young India Integrated Residential School (YIIRS) being constructed in education hub.

Revanth Reddy directed officials to submit monthly progress reports on every project being taken up at the education hub. He said he would review the reports every month and would stay at the project site for a day every month to monitor the implementation. He instructed officials to ensure that the pace of construction was accelerated.

The Chief Minister had

announced the establishment of the education hub on 250 acres and allocated Rs 876 crore for the project. The allocation includes Rs 200 crore for the YIIRS, Rs 200 crore for a veterinary hospital and college, Rs 15 crore for an engineering college and Rs 6 crore for a degree college. The education hub will also have a medical college, nursing college, paramedical college, physiotherapy college and hostels for students.

During the review, officials briefed the Chief Minister on the progress of the Makthal-Narayanpet-Kodangal lift irrigation project. Revanth Reddy directed officials to ensure there was no further delay in land acquisition for the project. He said the government was ready to sanction funds and provide surveyors for the land acquisition process.

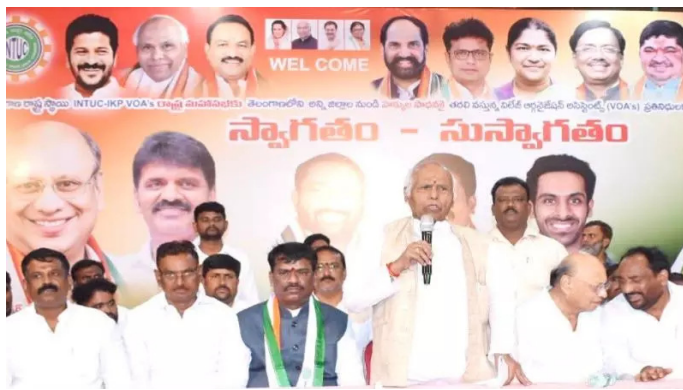
The Chief Minister also reviewed the progress of road and other infrastructure works in villages of the Kodangal constituency. He directed officials to ensure that no hamlet in the constituency was left without a proper road. Every village should have a BT road connecting it to the respective mandal headquarters, he said. He also instructed officials to construct buildings for newly formed gram panchayats and suggested appointing an Executive Engineer-level officer to continuously monitor the progress of development works.

In view of the El Niño impact, Revanth Reddy directed officials to prepare plans in advance to ensure that there was no drinking water shortage anywhere in the constituency. He asked officials to take proactive measures to meet the drinking water requirements of people during the coming months.

INTUC Assures Support To VOA Demands

Hyderabad: INTUC president Dr G. Sanjeeva Reddy on Tuesday extended support to the demands of village organisation assistants (VOAs), including higher wages, job security and welfare benefits. He said the INTUC would take up the issues with the state government during a statewide delegates' meeting of VOAs.

Dr Sanjeeva Reddy lauded the services rendered by VOAs in strengthening rural development, empowering women through self-help groups (SHGs), and effectively implementing government welfare programmes at the grassroots level. They deserved due recognition, job security, fair wages, social security, and welfare benefits, he said and added



that ensuring justice to these frontline workers was the responsibility of the government.

The INTUC supported key demands such as hiking the wages of VOAs to Rs 26,000 per month, implementing a comprehensive HR policy, bringing all VOAs under the definition of "workmen" so that they are entitled to legal protection and labour rights. The demands also include scrapping of GO No. 58 and a new government order to strengthen the rights, service conditions and welfare measures for VOAs.

The meeting attended by Janak Prasad, chairman, Telangana Minimum Wages Board, along with INTUC state leaders R.D. Chandrasekhar, Naganna Goud and Mogulla Raji Reddy.

WARANGAL: Revenue minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Tuesday assured farmers and the public that there was no need to panic over the possible impact of the El Nino conditions, despite forecasts of below-normal rainfall during the monsoon season. "The government's foremost priority is to safeguard farmers, ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply and mitigate the effects of deficient rainfall," he said.

Addressing a review meeting with collectors from six districts and senior officials from various departments, the minister said the government was closely monitoring the situation and would take measures to minimise the impact of a potential drought.



He directed officials from the irrigation, panchayat raj, rural water supply, agriculture and revenue departments to work in close coordination to prevent drought conditions from worsening in the erstwhile Warangal region.

The minister said senior IAS officer A. Sridevasena,

appointed special officer for the erstwhile Warangal district to oversee drought management measures, would coordinate with district administrations and review rainfall deficit, groundwater levels, agricultural conditions, drinking water availability and irrigation needs. Periodic reports would be submitted to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and the Cabinet.

Srinivas Reddy said the government would prepare a report on the prevailing situation and submit it to the Centre to seek financial and technical assistance, if required. Officials said information was also being compiled in case Central teams visited the state to assess the situation.

CONGRESS READY FOR DEBATE ON BRS MISRULE

NIZAMABAD:TPCC chief B. Mahesh Kumar Goud said the Congress was ready for a debate on the BRS government's ten-year rule versus the two-and-a-half years of people's governance under the Revanth Reddy administration. Former minister K.T. Rama Rao was shedding crocodile tears over jobs after doing nothing about unemployment, and former minister T. Harish Rao, who handled the irrigation portfolio, was now lamenting about the drought-like situation, he said.

During the BRS regime, only the family members of

then Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao got jobs, while the Congress government had provided 70,000 jobs under its people-centric governance, Goud told mediapersons at Congress Bhavan here. He was speaking along with Congress MLAs P. Sudarshan Reddy and R. Bhupathi Reddy after taking part in various programmes here on Tuesday. Goud said that the Congress government had fulfilled the majority of its election promises.

He said the BRS regime had wasted over 71 lakh crore on the Kaleshwaram project.



Chandrashekar Rao, who had taken all the decisions himself, was now claiming he had nothing to do with them, Goud noted. Many unemployed youth lost their lives during the BRS

regime and people were no longer believing false propaganda, he said. "The people have not forgotten the misrule of the BRS government," he said.

Countering criticism by the BJP, Goud alleged that its leaders "were behaving like thieves". He claimed that a BJP MLA was openly talking about grabbing private properties and added that under the pretext of the SIR, attempts were being made to remove the votes of poor people. The Congress was preventing attempts to delete voters' names and protecting the vote of every per-

son, he said.

Goud asked if the BJP-led Centre had provided the two crore jobs that it promised. BJP MP Dharmapuri Arvind should explain how many jobs he had brought to the undivided Nizamabad district, Goud said. "Why has Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan not been removed despite the many scandals," he asked, and said the lathicharge on students in the Capital was inhuman and condemnable. "It feels as though the country is under authoritarian rule," the TPCC chief said.

Ensure Zero Student Dropouts in Government Schools: District Collector Bhavesh Mishra

Nirmal District Staff Reporter : District Collector Bhavesh Mishra directed officials to take all necessary measures to ensure that there are no student dropouts in government schools.

The Collector chaired a review meeting on the Education Department at the Collectorate conference hall on Wednesday evening.

During the meeting, he reviewed the quality of teaching, facilities being provided in government schools, and other educational aspects. He instructed that both teachers and students must mark their attendance daily through the FRS (Facial Recognition System). Teacher attendance should not fall below 90 percent on any day. He also directed officials to complete the pending FRS registration of newly admitted students.

The Collector instructed education officials to interact with the parents of students who are frequently absent or have remained absent for a long period and motivate them to ensure regular school attendance. He emphasized the completion of



APAAR ID registration for all students and advised officials to immediately report any technical issues encountered during the registration process. He further directed that children who do not have Aadhaar cards should be assisted in obtaining them.

He stressed the need to increase enrolment in pre-primary schools and encouraged the adoption of modern teaching methods, group discussions, teacher-student interactions, and continuous motivation to improve the academic performance of slow learners. He also instructed officials to conduct regular meetings with parents to discuss students' progress and other school-related issues.

The Collector called for special attention to Class 10 students to help them achieve better academic outcomes.

District Education Officer Bhojanna, Mandal Education Officers, Complex Headmasters, other officials, and staff attended the review meeting.

Maharashtra Border Security Further Strengthened

Nirmal District Staff Reporter : Nirmal SP Dr. G. Janaki Sharmila, IPS Plants Saplings at Tanur Police Station as Part of Van Mahotsavam-2026

Conducts Annual Inspection; Directs Officers on Border Security, Crime Control and Community Policing

As part of Van Mahotsavam-2026, Nirmal District Superintendent of Police Dr. G. Janaki Sharmila, IPS, visited Tanur Police Station under Mudhol Circle, located along the Maharashtra border. She was warmly welcomed by police officials with a sapling, followed by a ceremonial Guard of Honour.

The SP later joined school students in the Van Mahotsavam programme and planted around 300 saplings. Addressing the students, she said that environmental protection is a shared social responsibility and encouraged every student to plant at least one sapling and nurture it. She emphasized that the true objective of Van Mahotsavam is fulfilled only when the planted trees are properly protected and grown.

Following the plantation programme, the SP conducted the annual inspection of Tanur Police Station. She reviewed station administration, maintenance of law and order, crime prevention measures, record management, community policing, the beat system, CCTV surveillance, the malkhana (property room), armoury, police vehicles, and the progress of investigations. She issued necessary directions to the officers for improving overall policing standards.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Janaki Sharmila stated that public trust is the greatest strength of the police department. She instructed all police personnel to respond to every complainant with courtesy and provide prompt, transparent and quality police services.

Highlighting the strategic importance of Tanur Police Station, situated on the Maharashtra border, the SP directed officers to remain highly vigilant against inter-state crimes. She instructed them to strengthen vehicle inspections at check-posts and intensify efforts to curb illegal liquor transportation, ganja and narcotics smuggling, and illegal cattle transportation. She also stressed the need for stronger coordination with the Maharashtra Police and continuous surveillance of inter-state criminal movements.

The SP further directed officials to give top priority to the safety of women and children and to create widespread public awareness about cybercrimes, online frauds and child marriages. She advised officers to effectively utilize modern technology for professional investigations and improve the quality of investigations to enhance conviction rates in courts.

She also instructed the police to focus on eradicating ganja, illicit liquor and other narcotic substances, strengthen community policing, and encourage villagers to install CCTV cameras. The SP emphasized maintaining the 5S system, cleanliness, discipline and punctuality in police stations to ensure better public service delivery.

The programme was attended by Bhainsa ASP Sai Kiran, IPS, Mudhol Circle Inspector Ravindra Naik, Tanur SI Sheikh Zubair Khan, school students, police officers and police personnel.



Shabbir Ali Joins Congress Protest :

Telangana Government Advisor Mohammed Ali Shabbir joined the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee's Raj Bhavan Chalo protest in Hyderabad, organised against the reported arrest of Rahul Gandhi.

Police stopped the protesters on their way to Raj Bhavan and took Mohammed Ali Shabbir into preventive custody before shifting him to Panjagutta Police Station.

Addressing the media, Shabbir Ali alleged that the Centre was weakening democratic values by taking action against opposition leaders. He said the arrest of Rahul Gandhi was an attempt to suppress the voice of those raising public issues.

Referring to the NEET examination controversy, he demanded that the Central Government accept responsibility, or



der strict action against those responsible for the paper leak, and seek the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

He also appealed for justice, financial assistance, and comprehensive support for families affected by the examination issue, stating that students' futures must be pro-

tected.

The Congress leader reaffirmed that the party would continue its protests through democratic means until the students' demands are addressed and accountability is fixed.

Several Congress leaders and party workers participated in the protest.

High Court Quashes Criminal Case Against Seethakka Lower Court Orders Set Aside



Bureau Chief, Hyderabad, July 22: State Minister and Mulugu MLA Danasari Anasuya (Seethakka) has received relief from the High Court. The High Court quashed the criminal case registered against her regarding a hunger strike held in Hyderabad, in which she demanded the inclusion of COVID-19 treatment under the Arogyasri scheme. Justice Sujana heard the matter on Tuesday and delivered a verdict setting aside the actions taken and orders issued by the Special Judicial First Class Magistrate Court for Excise Cases. This effectively brought an end to the criminal proceedings against Seethakka in Case No. CC 308/2024. On April 26, 2021,

Seethakka, along with several Congress leaders and activists, had staged a hunger strike at the Dharna Chowk in Indira Park, Hyderabad, demanding the inclusion of COVID treatment in the Arogyasri scheme. The Gandhinagar police had registered a case against them under IPC Sections 188, 269, and 270, as well as Section 51(b) of the Disaster Management Act, alleging that they conducted the protest without police permission and violated COVID protocols by failing to maintain social distance or wear masks. Subsequently, following the completion of the investigation and the filing of the charge sheet, the Special Judicial First Class Magistrate Court for Excise Cases took

cognizance of the matter and proceeded with the trial. Against this backdrop, Seethakka approached the High Court. In her petition, she argued that the case registered against her was not legally valid and that there were legal flaws right from the stage of the court taking cognizance of the case. She contended that for a trial under Section 188 of the IPC, a written complaint from the concerned public servant or their superior is mandatory; however, in this instance, the court initiated proceedings based solely on the police FIR and charge sheet, which she claimed was unlawful. She further argued that the mandatory legal procedure under Section 51(b) of

the Disaster Management Act was not followed and that, since no complaint was lodged by an authorized person as required under Section 60, there were no grounds to continue the trial. Additionally, lawyers representing Seethakka brought to the court's attention that for IPC Sections 269 and 270 to apply, there must be prima facie evidence indicating a risk or occurrence of disease transmission resulting from the accused's actions—elements that were entirely absent in the allegations and evidence against her. It was argued that these charges do not

apply for merely participating in a peaceful protest and that judgments from the Supreme Court and various High Courts have clarified this position. After examining the arguments, Justice Sujana concluded that there was no legal basis to continue the criminal proceedings against Seethakka; consequently, the court set aside the lower court's orders and quashed the case. Arguments in this case were previously presented by Senior Counsel Krishna Kumar Goud, and subsequently by Senior Counsel Ashok Reddy and Advocate M.S. Siva Rao.



HC Seeks Delhi Police Response Over Excessive Force During CJP March

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday issued notice to the Centre and Delhi Police on pleas alleging excessive use of force during the July 20 protest march to Parliament.

A bench of Chief Justice D.K. Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia directed the authorities to preserve all records related to the incident, including CCTV footage and videography.

"Let a counter affidavit be filed on behalf of the respondents within four weeks," the court said.

"In the meantime, we direct that the relevant record in relation to the incident as mentioned in the writ petitions, including the CCTV footage and videography, shall be preserved as per the SOP of the Delhi Police or the Union of India," it added.

The matter has been posted for hearing on September 11.

Senior advocates N. Hariharan, Vikas Singh and Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for the petitioners, alleged that police used excessive force against protesters, including women and children, during the march.

They sought an inquiry into the incident, stating that the protesters were exercising their right to protest against alleged irregularities in the NEET examination.

Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju opposed the pleas, submitting that they were based on social media posts and were not maintainable.



Axis Max Life Introduces ‘Smart RISE’, a Retirement Product Combining Guaranteed Annuity with a NIFTY 50-Linked Variable Component



Vizag , July 9 2026: Axis Max Life Insurance Ltd. {formerly known as Max Life Insurance Company Ltd.} ("Axis Max Life"/ "Company"), has launched Axis Max Life Smart Retirement Income with Sustained Earnings Plan [Smart RISE] (UIN: 104N160V01), a retirement product that combines guaranteed annuity component with a benchmark-linked component tied to the NIFTY 50 Index, allowing customers to secure stable retirement income while leverag-

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- This product combines a guaranteed fixed income for financial certainty with a NIFTY 50-linked variable annuity.
- It allows policyholders to customize their retirement timeline by choosing a deferment period to accumulate and grow their corpus before payouts begin.
- The product features a critical Legacy-planning benefit that returns the purchase price to nominees in the event of the demise of the annuitant(s).

ing growth potential. The plan allows policyholder to customize their retirement timeline by selecting a deferment period, during which no annuity is payable. Upon the completion of this deferment phase, the annuitant begins receiving regular payouts. The payouts comprise of the following components:

Guaranteed Annuity: A fixed, dependable income stream that remains constant throughout the entire policy term, ensuring foundational financial certainty.

Variable Annuity: An Index-linked income stream tied directly to the performance of the

NIFTY 50 Index, offering policyholders a reliable mechanism to gain from the market upside.

Vaibhav Kumar, Head - Products, Ecommerce and Enterprise COE said, “The introduction of a Variable Annuity product marks a major milestone for Axis Max Life as we continue to expand our comprehensive retirement portfolio. By launching an index-linked variable annuity option, we are positioned to address emerging customer needs and enhance our presence in the retirement space. This offering also addresses a modern retiree’s evolving expectations for strong financial protection, flexibility, and a reliable pension, reinforcing our commitment to securing their long-term financial freedom.”

INDIA TO HOST ONE OF THE LARGEST INTEGRATED DEFENCE, AVIATION, AIRPORT INFRASTRUCTURE, AEROSPACE & BUSINESS PLATFORM

These two transformative Exhibitions to Showcase India's Growing Leadership in Defence Manufacturing, Aviation and Airport Infrastructure and Management

Hyderabad, India, 20th July: India is poised to emerge as a global meeting point for the defence, aerospace, aviation and airport infrastructure industries during September 10-12, 2026 as AEDEX + AIRPORT , bring together policymakers, global technology providers, defence manufacturers, airport developers, investors and industry leaders under one roof at Yashobhoomi, India International Convention & Expo Centre (IICC), New Delhi.

With India accelerating its emergence as a global aerospace, defence manufacturing and aviation powerhouse, the three-day AEDEX + AIRPORT beginning on September 10, 2026, will witness a grand convergence of leading defence organisations, aerospace manufacturers, technology innovators, policymakers, research institutions and international industry leaders at India International Convention & Expo Centre (IICC), Dwarka.

AEDEX + AIRPORT - International Exhibitions and Conferences 2026 are designed to serve as a premier business and technology platform for defence manufacturers, aerospace companies, government agencies, armed forces, research organisations, technology providers, Infrastructure providers, and global investors to showcase next-generation technologies, foster strategic partnerships and explore new business opportunities across the aerospace, defence and airport ecosystem.

The events are supported by the Ministries of Civil Aviation, Commerce & Industry, MSME, DRDO (Ministry of Defence), the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, CSIR, and the Make in India and Start Up India initiatives, as also Industry organisations of Aeronautical Society Of India, The Drone Federation of India and Air Cargo Forum India.

India's aerospace and defence sector has been undergoing unprecedented transformation, driven by the Government's flagship initiatives such as Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat, which seek to promote indigenous manufacturing, technological innovation, private sector participation and export competitiveness.

Supported by policy reforms, increased capital expenditure and growing international collaborations, the Indian aerospace and defence market is projected to reach USD 70 billion by 2030, creating significant opportunities for domestic and global industry participants.

The recent approval of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme marks another major milestone in India's journey towards defence self-reliance. The ambitious fifth-generation fighter aircraft project is expected to significantly enhance collaboration between the public and private sectors while accelerating indigenous research, advanced manufacturing and technology development. The initiative further reinforces India's long-term commitment to building globally competitive defence capabilities under the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

India's airport sector is experiencing rapid transformation and massive infrastructure expansion, solidifying its position as the World's third domestic aviation market. With the number of operational airports more



than doubling since 2014, the sector is backed by the multi- million- dollar by the Government and private sector.

Against this rapidly evolving landscape, AEDEX +AIRPORT 2026 will provide a timely platform for industry stakeholders to engage with India's leading defence and aviation organisations, including Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR - NAL), Kochi International Airport , DGQA (Ministry of Defence) etc while exploring collaborative opportunities with international partners. Participation is from 10 Countries (Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Singapore, South Korea, UAE, USA) to name a few.

The exhibitions will showcase a comprehensive range of aerospace and defence technologies covering military aviation, defence electronics, avionics, missile systems, unmanned aerial systems (UAS), counter-UAS technologies, autonomous platforms, avionics,aerospace components, Aero Structures, precision engineering, additive manufacturing, advanced materials and composites, cyber security, artificial intelligence, robotics, digital solutions, simulation technologies, navigation systems, logistics solutions, testing and quality assurance, Airport technolo-

gies, aircraft interiors, maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO), and next-generation defence manufacturing technologies.

AEDEX + AIRPORT 2026 is expected to attract participation from defence public sector undertakings, aerospace original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), private defence manufacturers, defence contractors, system integrators, MSMEs, start-ups, engineering companies, research laboratories, academic institutions, technology developers, export promotion agencies, financial institutions and international country pavilions representing major global aerospace and defence markets.

The events will also draw senior representatives from defence ministries, armed forces, homeland security organisations, defence procurement and acquisition agencies, public sector enterprises, international delegations, defence attachés, trade missions, procurement specialists, supply chain professionals, space and geospatial organisations, naval and maritime security companies, MRO service providers, consultants, investors and venture capital firms.

Beyond the exhibition floor, AEDEX + AIRPORT 2026 will feature a comprehensive programme of high-level conferences, strategic knowledge sessions and expert-led discussions focusing on defence modernisation, indigenous manufacturing, Airport modernisation , emerging technologies, global supply chains, exports, innovation and international collaboration.

Dedicated Buyer-Seller Meets, B2B networking sessions, international pavilions and a Start-up and Innovation Pavilion will facilitate business partnerships, technology transfers and investment opportunities across the defence value chain.

The events will provide exhibitors with an opportunity to enhance brand visibility among government decision-makers, defence procurement agencies, armed forces, global buyers and industry leaders while enabling participants to explore joint ventures, technology partnerships, export opportunities and collaborative research initiatives.

This apart, it will offer valuable insights into evolving defence procurement policies, indigenisation programmes and government support mechanisms that are shaping India's future aerospace and defence landscape.

As India continues to strengthen its position as a trusted global defence manufacturing and technology partner, AEDEX + AIRPORT 2026 is poised to become one of the country's leading international platforms for innovation, strategic collaboration and business development.

Bringing together policymakers, industry leaders, defence organisations and technology pioneers from across the world, the events aim to contribute meaningfully to India's vision of becoming a globally competitive hub for aerospace and defence manufacturing.

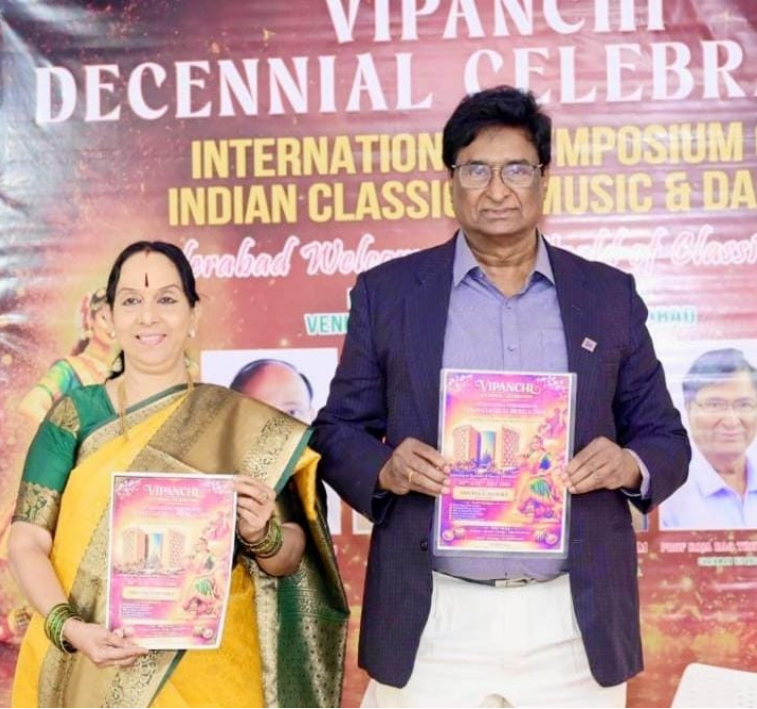
Dr. Abhay A. Pashilkar, Honorary President of SIATI, said the event offers MSMEs, startups and established companies a unique platform to connect, learn and expand their business horizons.

International Classical Music Dance Symposium at Shilpakalavedika starts on 25 th

- Kamasutra Kuchipudi Dance by Dr Swathi Somanadh Group
- Lifetime Achievement Awards to Dr Nallan Chakravarthula Murthy, Dr Alekhya Punjala and Dr Kaushiki Chakravarthy

Prof. Dr. Raja Rao Tripuraneni, founder Chairman of the Vipanchi organization, said that on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Vipanchi, we are conducting Indian classical music and dance symposium, to promoting, protecting and spreading Indian classical music and dance, an international level is being held for two days from the 25th July. He explained that former Vice President of India Mr M. Venkaiah Naidu and Orissa Governor his Excellency Sri K. Haribabu will inaugurate this conference. These details were disclosed in a press conference held at Somajiguda Press Club on Wednesday. On this occasion, Dr. Rajarao Tripuraneni along with famous Kuchipudi dance guru Dr. S.P. Bharathi, a member of the Central Sangeet Natak Academy, unveiled the brochure of the conference.

Dr. Rajarao Tripuraneni, professor of Mahindra University, said that besides the two Telugu states, music and dance artists from the country and abroad are participating. He explained that the conference starts at nine in the morning with nadaswaram and ends at 10 at night with dance performances by famous artistes. Mr M. Venkaiah Naidu, Mr K. Haribabu, Culture Minister Mr Jupalli Krishnarao, AP Deputy Speaker Mr K. Raghurama Krishnamraju, senior retired IAS officer Dr. L. V. Subrahmanyam, Maharashtra Telugu Association Chairman Mr Pucha Venkataramana, Mahindra University Vice Chancellor Dr. Meduri Venkata Somayazulu, Continental Coffee MD Mr Challa Rajendraprasad, Nuziveed Seeds Director Smt Mandava Ashapriya and others will participate. Karnatic music torch bearer Dr. Nallan Chakrabortula Murthy, Renowned Hindustani classical singer Dr Kaushiki Chakraborty, Renowned Kuchipudi dancer Prof. Dr. Alekhya Punjala will be felicitated



with Vipanchi lifetime achievement awards. In the Sangeet Nritya Abhinaya lecture conference, Central University in-charge Vice Chancellor Acharya Dr. Anuradha Jonnalagadda, Sitar scholar Dr. Anupama Bhagwat, Music directors Dr. Vyjarsu Balasubrahmanyam, Padmashri

Awardee Deepika Reddy, Dr. Kalakrishna, Dr. Ayyagari Shyama Sundar, Violanist Dr. Ashok Gurjale, Dr. Raghava chary, Dr. Rajyalakshmi Seth, Dr. Ramaprabha Yarramilli, Dr. Shailaja Desai and other prominent people are participating.

'Kamasutra' dance drama on the first day of the conference On the first day of the Vipanchi International Symposium at 6 pm, Renowned dance guru Dr. Swathi Somnath will present a Kamasutra dance Drama written by Bnim, by her "Tradition" disciple group. There will be dance performances by Kum Katragadda Himanshi, Smt Padmapriya Ashapriya, Bengaluru-based Smt Anupama Bhagwa and Smt Padmaja Viswas troupe will perform folk music. Malaysian dancer Smt Geeta Govardhanam Hazare and her troupe will perform Andhra Natyam in the concluding session. Mr Uppalapu Jaya Vigneshwar and Mr peddi Raju from Chennai, mandolin concert. Mr Satyanarayanan Krishnababu's keyboard vinyasam, Bangalore-based Smt Archana Mishra Kathak, Smt Sonali Mohanty Odissi, Hyderabad artist Mr Hari Mangalampalli troupe will perform Bharatanatyam. Free entry for art lovers, artists and researchers. However, Dr. Raja Rao Tripuraneni asked that only those who have registered for free will be provided with tea snacks and meal facilities and will be provided. For free pre-registration 98499 91499 can also be contacted on WhatsApp and get the relevant registration link.



Telugu Beauty Shivani Nagaram Wins Hearts With Her Graceful Fashion

Shivani Nagaram is an emerging Indian actress making waves in the Telugu film industry. Trained as a classical dancer and singer, her journey into acting began when she attended an audition encouraged by her mother, standing out among dozens of hopefuls to capture the attention of filmmakers.

Shivani made a highly acclaimed feature film debut in the rustic drama *Ambajipeta Marriage Band* (2024), playing the intense female lead Lakshmi opposite Suhas. She quickly followed this success with the viral hit romantic comedy *Little Hearts* (2025), which earned her widespread recognition, critical applause, and prestigious honors like the NTR Film Award.

Known for her natural charm, Shivani frequently captures attention with her versatile style photoshoots. From serene beachside portraits in traditional sarees that celebrate her Telugu roots to effortless, modern casual ensembles, her visual aesthetic reflects a relatable yet graceful persona that resonates with fans.

Driven by a focus on script quality over quantity, Shivani's career is on a fast upward trajectory. She recently reunited with Suhas for the comedy-drama *Hey Balwanth*. Her impressive early streak and expanding pan-South appeal continue to position her as one of Tollywood's most promising talents.

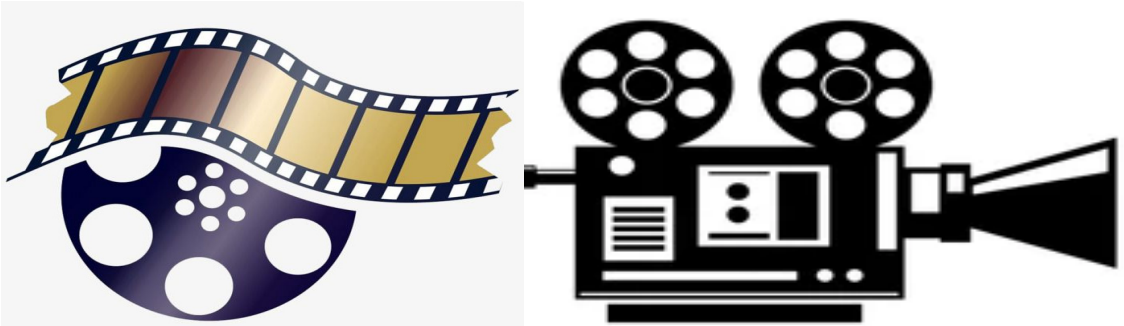
Sankranthi 2027: Chaos & Confusion Coming

Every year, the only big season when Tollywood can easily mint money, even with mediocre films, is none other than the Sankranti season.

Every year, the only big season when Tollywood can easily mint money, even with mediocre films, is none other than the Sankranti season. After witnessing one such hungama last year, this year we have already seen Mana Shankara Varaprasad Garu making ₹300 crores, the likes of “The Raja Saab” collecting huge despite flop talk, and other movies also making a mark around the Sankranti 2026 season. So, what's next for the upcoming season?

Already, Anil Ravipudi has confirmed that his next, featuring Venkatesh and Kalyan Ram in the leads, is going to hit cinemas on Sankranti eve. Though the likes of Chiranjeevi's next with KS Bobby, Sharwanand's film *Bhogi* being directed by Sampath Nandi, Raviteja's upcoming movie that has Hasith Goli directing it, are setting their eyes on a Sankranti 2027 release, surely there is no confirmation coming from the same. That's a bit confusing. However, if Anil Ravipudi's film is surely joined by Chiranjeevi's movie, that itself will be huge, and if the likes of Nagarjuna's 100th film, Balakrishna's *#NBK111* directed by Gopichand Malineni also join the race, then it's going to be chaos. Though *#NBK111* is eyed for December, the same production house is bringing *Fauzi* in the first week of last month, so naturally the plan is to occupy the Sankranti slot only. Even Sithara is trying to repeat Pongal magic by bringing Karthi's next by the MAD director for the season.

Well, for now, none of the films has wrapped shooting and been censored, so nothing is sure about the release of these films for Sankranti 2027.



CINEMA

Maadhav's Maremma confirms Ganesh Chaturthi weekend release

Maadhav formed a good impression with his looks and glimpse of his upcoming debut film, Maremma.

Maadhav formed a good impression with his looks and glimpse of his upcoming debut film, *Maremma*. The movie is a rustic intense action drama with Deepa Balu as the leading lady. Manchala Nagaraj is directing the film and incidentally he is debuting as a director too. Mayur Reddy Bandaru is producing it without any compromise.

The makers have announced the release date and they have locked 10th September. They locked the date around Ganesh Chaturthi weekend and it will give an advantage for long weekend. The makers also released a powerful poster with Maadhav in a rugged look.

Maadhav looks perfect and dynamic in the poster, highlighting the film's grounded aesthetic and intense tone. The artwork captures a symbolic face-off between the lead character and a sacred cow, teasing a plot heavily anchored in local folklore, belief systems, and high-stakes drama.

Maremma focuses on a deeply personal story embedded in rural culture and human connection, offering Maadhav, who is nephew of Ravi Teja, a strong platform to showcase both his action capabilities and dramatic range. The makers will roll out nationwide promotional events in the weeks leading up to the release.



Toxic Manasaagadhe Single: Yash and Tara exude magnetic chemistry

Yash is back with his most crazy, highly anticipated actioner, *Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups*. The movie has created such frenzy across the nation and world with its teasers that people are eager to witness the film on big screens. The makers have amplified the promotional campaign of the film and first single, *Tabaahi* became a monstrous hit.

Now, they have unveiled the second single, *Manasaagadhe* with Tara Sutaria taking the center stage alongside Yash. The new track explores the delicate, softer, and more playful dynamics of their characters, Raya and Rebecca. Yash and Tara Sutaria's chemistry is sizzling and brings out the free spirited romance out perfectly.

The song delves deep into quieter emotions, tender moments, and the unspoken longing that rests beneath a carefree romance. Composed by the talented trio of Tanishk Bagchi, Arslan Nizami, and Faheem Abdullah, the song is a soulful romantic anthem sung by Siddharth



Basur across all five language versions. The visuals and production values stand out.

Directed by Geetu Mohandas and produced by KVN Productions, *Monster Mind Creations* on a massive scale, the movie is gearing up for 26th August release. With a stellar ensemble cast featuring Nayanthara, Rukmini Vasanth, Kiara Advani and Huma Qureshi, the movie promises to be a cinematic spectacle that should be witnessed on big screens.

Is Chennai Love Story Expecting Too Much?

One topic that is creating discussion is the film's runtime. Reports say *Chennai Love Story* will have a runtime of around 3 hours after trimming a few minutes from its original cut. For a romantic drama, this is considered quite long.

The makers of *Chennai Love Story* are showing a lot of confidence before the film's release. Hero Kiran Abbavaram, director Ravi Namburi, writer-producer Sai Rajesh, and the entire team have been actively promoting the movie. Since Sai Rajesh earlier delivered the blockbuster *Baby*, many fans are naturally comparing the new film with that emotional love story.

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A long runtime is not always a problem. If the story is engaging, emotional, and keeps the audience interested, viewers usually do not mind sitting for three hours. Many successful films have proved that. However, if the screenplay becomes slow or contains unnecessary scenes, the lengthy runtime can make the audience feel bored.

This is why a three-hour runtime can be seen as both a strength and a risk. Only directors who have complete confidence in their story usually choose such a long duration. Whether that confidence pays



off depends entirely on how the audience responds after release.

The team has also been calling the film a "cult classic" even before its release. That has attracted attention on social media. However, many movie lovers believe that a film cannot be called a cult classic by its makers. It is the audience who decides that over time. If viewers continue to love a movie even years after its release, only then does it earn that special tag.

At the same time, the film's trailer and songs have received a decent response. Music by Mani Sharma

is also expected to be one of the film's biggest highlights. These factors have increased curiosity among movie lovers.

Now, all eyes are on the film's release. If *Chennai Love Story* delivers strong emotions, memorable performances, and an engaging screenplay, the long runtime may not matter at all. But if the narration feels slow, the duration could become a challenge. Whether the film reaches the level of *Baby* or becomes a true cult classic is something only the audience can decide after watching it.