

State requires Rs.2,200 crore to Rs.2,400 crore annually for fee reimbursement, says Revanth Reddy

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said Telangana needs up to Rs 2,400 crore annually for fee reimbursement and assured timely payments through a new mechanism. He said action would be taken against institutions making false claims and dues would be released only to eligible institutions.

Hyderabad: Amid growing demands from students and opposition parties to clear pending fee reimbursement dues, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said the State government requires between Rs 2,200 crore and Rs 2,400 crore every year to meet fee reimbursement commitments. City & Local Guides

He said the government had devised a mechanism to ensure timely payments and assured that fee reimbursement would no longer face delays in the future.

“From now on, fee re-



imbursement for a particular academic year will be paid in full during the same academic year, with funds deposited in advance directly into bank accounts,” Revanth Reddy told mediapersons in New Delhi.

The Chief Minister said a Vigilance and Enforcement probe was underway against institutions that allegedly claimed fee reimbursement by submitting inflated or fabricated figures despite lacking adequate infrastructure and

facilities.

He said dues would be released only to institutions that were found to be genuine and compliant with the prescribed norms.

Revanth Reddy also accused the BRS of trying to create a false impression that his government was responsible for withholding fee reimbursement payments. He said arrears inherited from the previous government had placed a financial burden on the State, adding that efforts were underway to resolve all pending issues.

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TPCC Coordination Meeting Underway in Delhi; Revanth, Ministers Attend



New Delhi: A coordination meeting of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) is currently underway at Indira Bhavan in the AICC office here on Wednesday. The meeting is being attended by Telangana in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, TPCC chief B. Mahesh Kumar Goud, and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhathi Vikramarka. Senior ministers including Raja

Narasimha, Uttam Kumar Reddy, and Seethakka, along with party leaders such as Vamshi Chand Reddy, are also participating. According to sources, discussions are focused on recent political developments in Telangana and strategies for strengthening party coordination.

Lok Sabha Adjourned, Anti-Paper Leak Bill Passed

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 by voice vote after a stormy debate marked by sharp exchanges between the Opposition and the Treasury benches. Replying to the discussion, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said the rate of suicides linked to paper leaks had declined over the past few years and asserted that the government had acted swiftly in the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak case. He said 52 FIRs have been registered since the anti-paper leak law came into



force in 2024, demonstrating the government's commitment to tackling examination malpractices.

Earlier, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi alleged that Home Minister Amit Shah had authorised

police excesses against student protesters during the NEET paper leak agitation and accused the RSS of influencing the education system. His remarks triggered loud protests from the Treasury

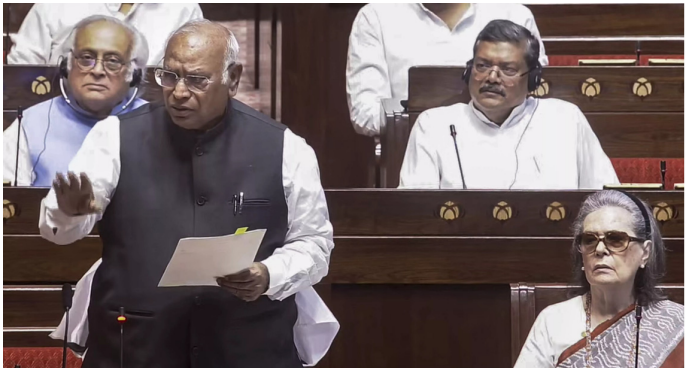
benches, with Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju demanding an apology. Gandhi also used an expression while narrating a conversation with a student that was objected to as unparliamentary and later expunged by Speaker Om Birla. The repeated disruptions led to two adjournments of the House before proceedings resumed. Amid the heated debate, the government maintained that the amended law would further strengthen safeguards against examination fraud and ensure a transparent and secure examination system.

Kharge-Nadda Clash in Rajya Sabha Over Police Action on Protesters

New Delhi: High-voltage drama and heated exchanges between the ruling government and opposition benches continued to disrupt proceedings in the Rajya Sabha during the ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament. The Upper House witnessed a sharp war of words between Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge and BJP leader J.P. Nadda over the issue of police action against protesters.

Raising the issue of alleged unauthorised intervention and the crackdown on protesters, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge demanded strict action against those responsible.

"I request you, people who have gone there unauthorised, they should be punished. Why have they gone? Who are they? Who ordered them? Who ordered? I am asking who are... who asked them to go there? Who ordered?



That is why..." Kharge stated amid sloganeering in the House. Responding to the allegations and specifically addressing comments made by CPI(M) MP John Brittas and Congress MP Mallikarjun Kharge, JP Nadda defended the police action, describing it as a "normal law and order situation." "Whatever my friend John Brittas has said, this is a very normal law and order situation that we have to understand. I have been a student activist. I have been arrested many times from the classroom in emergency days when the Congress party was ruling.

I have been arrested. I have been arrested," Nadda said.

Asserting that activists must be prepared to face the consequences of law-and-order situations, Nadda added, "It is a normal situation. A student activist has to face... and those who take law and order in their own hand, the police has to act accordingly. And the police has acted accordingly for those cases. They are trying to sensationalise. It is a normal law and order activity which the police undertakes."

Recalling his own expe-

rience during the Emergency, the BJP leader further remarked, "And any student activist who wants to do activism should face this. Even I have faced it not once, but many times. When there was the Emergency, I was arrested from the classroom, not once but twice. So this is a very normal situation."

Following the uproar, the Rajya Sabha adjourned to meet again at 12 Noon.

The incident relates to July 20, when protesters organised a 'Sansad Chalo' march from Jantar Mantar towards Parliament over their demands, during which instances of lathicharge and tear gas shelling were reported as security personnel moved to disperse the gathering. The 37-day-long CJP student agitation at Jantar Mantar was withdrawn after the government assured protesters of action on their demands.

RS Praveen Kumar questions selective security cover, vows legal action

BRS general secretary RS Praveen Kumar questioned the Congress government's decision to withdraw security cover for Opposition leaders, alleging political bias in the Security Review Committee's exercise. He demanded that the SRC report be made public and warned of legal action.

Hyderabad: BRS general secretary RS Praveen Kumar questioned the Congress government's decision to withdraw security cover for Opposition leaders under the guise of a Security Review Committee (SRC), while providing security cover to select Congress leaders without giving clarity on criteria. He demanded that the State government release the SRC report and clarify on criteria for security cover.

"The government must explain why security is being withdrawn for the BRS leaders, while it was being provided to non-consequential people. The BRS will challenge the exercise legally, if there is no response," he asserted.

Speaking to mediapersons at Telangana Bhavan on Wednesday, Praveen Kumar termed the SRC flawed and demanded that it be scrapped. He also sought the release of the committee's report, alleging that the review lacked transparency. "Even if Revanth Reddy becomes a former Chief Minister, his security will not be reduced. The same yardstick should apply to everyone," he said. The BRS leader blamed the Congress government for subjecting former Narsampet MLA Peddi Sudarshan Reddy to prolonged stress, leading to his hospitalisation. He alleged that Sudarshan Reddy, who had security cover for nearly 25 years due to threat perception, was among those whose security personnel were



withdrawn following the review. He said the former MLA had approached the court and secured relief in the matter, but the State government was yet to restore his security and renew his gun license.

"We thank the government for providing a green channel for shifting Sudarshan Reddy from Warangal to Hyderabad. However, the government must explain why his security cover has not been restored despite the High Court orders," he asked.

Praveen Kumar stated that Sudarshan Reddy exposed irregularities, including an alleged Rs 1,100 crore civil supplies scam, bunker beds scam, and other issues after the Congress came to power, following which he faced pressure from the ruling party. He accused the government of targeting the former MLA and demanded a probe into a conspiracy involving certain individuals and a construction firm.

Questioning the criteria adopted in the security review, the former IPS officer alleged that security had been withdrawn from several BRS leaders including

himself, while being retained or provided to others.

He sought an explanation for the differential treatment and maintained that the exercise was politically motivated.

He said the BRS would also pursue legal remedies against the security review process. He also questioned the government's justification for providing bulletproof vehicles to the Ministers, while claiming Telangana no longer faced a significant extremist threat. "My security has been withdrawn. In a notice served to me, the DGP said my bulletproof vehicle was being removed and security was being reduced as there is no extremist threat in Telangana. Similar reasons were given to Peddi Sudarshan Reddy. In such condition, why the government is providing security cover to the Chief Minister's brothers, former MLA Mynampalli Hanumantha Rao, former Ministers K Jana Reddy and A Indrakaran Reddy, former MLA Sampath Kumar, or Congress leader Sricharan Reddy," he questioned.

SCCL CMD Inaugurates 300 KW Solar Power Plant at APMEL

Record ₹23.33 Crore Net Profit Marks Golden Jubilee Year; Annual Power Savings of ₹24 Lakh Expected

Hyderabad Bureau | July 29, 2026: In a major step towards sustainable industrial growth, Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Buddha Prakash Jyothi virtually inaugurated a 300 KW Solar Power Plant at Andhra Pradesh Heavy Machinery & Engineering Limited (APMEL) in Vijayawada on Wednesday. He also inaugurated newly constructed CC and RCC roads within the plant premises.

Addressing the gathering from Singareni Bhavan, Hyderabad, Dr. Buddha Prakash Jyothi said APMEL is being transformed into a diversified engineering enterprise under the guidance of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka.

Congratulating APMEL employees on their outstanding performance, the CMD said the company has achieved its highest-ever annual turnover of ₹63.13 crore and a



record net profit of ₹23.33 crore in its 50-year history. He described the achievement as a significant milestone during the company's Golden Jubilee celebrations.

The newly commissioned 300 KW solar power plant, built at a cost of ₹1.24 crore, is expected to reduce the company's annual electricity expenditure by approximately ₹24 lakh. APMEL currently spends around ₹60 lakh annually on electricity for its plant and residential colony. The investment is expected to be recovered within five years while promoting clean and renewable energy.

Dr. Buddha Prakash Jyothi also called upon APMEL to expand its business by manufacturing advanced industrial machinery and components to meet the growing demands of various sectors. He assured continued support from SCCL in adopting modern technologies and strengthening the company's future growth.

APMEL Chairman N.V.K. Srinivas said the company has successfully completed orders received from SCCL, Coal India Limited, and NMDC, and is preparing to secure more industrial projects in the coming years.

The programme was attended by SCCL Directors L.V. Suryanarayana, K. Venkateswarlu, Gautam Potru, M. Tirumala Rao, Executive Director (Coal Movement) B. Venkanna, General Manager (Coordination & Marketing) T. Srinivas, APMEL Managing Director Erranna, senior officials, and employees.

Rainfall Data Must Be Recorded Accurately and Updated Regularly: District Collector Bhavesh Mishra



Nirmal District Staff Reporter : Collector Directs Officials to Expedite Construction of the New Collector Camp Office

Nirmal District Collector Bhavesh Mishra directed officials to ensure that rainfall data recorded across the district is maintained with complete accuracy and shared promptly with the concerned departments.

On Wednesday, the Collector inspected the Groundwater Monitoring Centre at the Tahsildar's office in Nirmal town. During the inspection, he reviewed the system for recording rainfall and groundwater data and instructed officials to maintain records meticulously without any errors.

Later, he visited the Rain Gauge Station located within the premises of the electricity substation at Akkapur village in Nirmal Rural Mandal. He enquired about the procedures being followed for measuring and recording rainfall and instructed officials to ensure accurate documentation and timely transmission of rainfall data to the relevant departments. He stressed that every observation should be recorded in accordance with scientific standards.

Subsequently, the Collector inspected the construction of the new Collector Camp Office near Yellapalli. He reviewed the progress of the ongoing works with officials and directed them to expedite the construction and complete the project within the stipulated deadline. He also reviewed the works already completed and instructed the concerned officials to continuously monitor the remaining works and ensure that there is no compromise in quality.

The inspection was attended by CPO Gangareddy, Tahsildar Prabhakar, R&B Executive Engineer Subhash, Hydrogeologist Vamsi Krishna, and officials and staff from the concerned departments.

Speed Up SIR Digitisation Process: Chief Electoral Officer C. Sudharshan Reddy

EROs and Supervisors Must Re-Verify Every Entry Made by BLOs
Voter List Revision Has No Link to Government Welfare Schemes, Public Must Be Informed

Kothagudem District Correspondent | July 29: With only a few days left for the publication of the draft electoral roll under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) programme, Telangana Chief Electoral Officer C. Sudharshan Reddy has directed all District Election Officers to expedite the digitisation of voter data and ensure complete accuracy in every entry.

During a statewide video conference held from Hyderabad on Wednesday, the Chief Electoral Officer reviewed the progress of the SIR programme, voter data digitisation, data entry, and the rationalisation of polling stations with officials from all districts.

Addressing the officials, Sudharshan Reddy said that only four to five days remain before the publication of the draft electoral roll and instructed that all Enumeration Forms collected by Booth Level Officers (BLOs) be digitised without delay. He noted that certain errors had been identified during online data entry and warned that such mistakes could affect eligible voters. He directed officials to thoroughly verify every record before final submission.

He further instructed that every entry made by BLOs must be re-verified by Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), and Supervisors. Random inspections should be conducted, and all errors must be rectified within the next two days. He stressed that quality and accuracy should be given top priority while completing the digitisation process within



the prescribed timeline.

The Chief Electoral Officer also observed that digitisation in urban areas needs to be accelerated. Supervisors were asked to closely monitor the work of BLOs and ensure continuous coordination. He informed that 100 percent digitisation has been completed in eight Assembly constituencies, while more than 90 percent digitisation has been achieved in 80 Assembly constituencies across Telangana.

He directed officials to complete the rationalisation of polling stations as per the guidelines of the Election Commission of India. Draft electoral rolls should also be supplied to Booth Level Agents (BLAs), and acknowledgements or signatures must be obtained after distribution.

Sudharshan Reddy clarified that the ongoing SIR exercise has no connection whatsoever with any government welfare scheme. He instructed officials to create public awareness and immediately counter false propaganda suggesting otherwise. He also advised regular meetings with BLOs and representatives of political parties to explain the progress of the SIR programme.

Additional Collector Bhujanga Rao Distributes Disaster Response Kits to Apda Mitra Volunteers :

Nizamabad July 29:, 2026
Stressing the importance of community-based disaster preparedness, Additional Collector V. Bhujanga Rao urged Apda Mitra volunteers to remain vigilant and provide timely assistance during natural calamities and emergency situations.

Speaking at the distribution of disaster response kits to Apda Mitra volunteers at the Integrated District Offices Complex on Wednesday, he said that although natural disasters are unavoidable, their impact can be significantly reduced through proper planning, training and prompt action. He encouraged the volunteers to serve as the first line of support for people in distress and to discharge their responsibilities with dedication and commitment.

Officials of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) con-



ducted a practical session on the effective use of the emergency kits, which contain 14 essential rescue and relief items. They also trained the volunteers on disaster preparedness, safety measures, emergency evacuation, first aid, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and techniques to minimise casualties and property damage during emergencies.

The Additional Collector appreciated the volunteers for completing disaster management training and advised them to apply their skills confidently during emergencies while ensuring their own safety throughout rescue operations.

District Revenue Officer Geetha described humanitarian service during disasters as a valuable opportunity to save lives and urged the volunteers to work with compassion and a strong sense of responsibility.

District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) Project Director and Apda Mitra Nodal Officer Saianna said the State Government has equipped Apda Mitra volunteers with specialised training, identity cards, disaster response kits and insurance coverage to strengthen grassroots disaster management. He called upon the volunteers to make effective use of these resources and contribute actively to protecting communities during times of crisis.

Collectorate D-Section Supervisor Srinivas Rao, RSI Srinivas, officials from the Fire Services Department, the 7th Police Battalion and Apda Mitra volunteers attended the programme.

S.A. ALEEM APPOINTED TELANGANA RAKSHANA SENA PARLIAMENT CONSTITUENCY IN-CHARGE :

Hyderabad July 29, 2026 :
Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) President and MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha has appointed senior party leader S.A. Aleem as the Parliament Constituency In-Charge, entrusting him with the responsibility of strengthening the party's organizational network and expanding its activities at the parliamentary constituency level.

The appointment reflects the party leadership's confidence in S.A. Aleem's dedication, commitment, and long-standing service to the organization. The party believes that his experience and leadership will help further strengthen the



Telangana Rakshana Sena by reaching out to people from all sections of society and consolidating the party cadre. Expressing his gratitude, S.A. Aleem thanked TRS President Kalvakuntla Kavitha for reposing faith in him and assigning him this important responsibility. He assured the party leadership that he would work with sincerity and commitment to strengthen the organization, coordinate with party leaders and workers, and take the party's ideology and programmes to every village, town, and community across the Parliament Constituency.

He further stated that his priority would be to enhance the party's grassroots presence, mobilize public support, and work collectively with party workers to make the Telangana Rakshana Sena a stronger political force in the constituency.

Party leaders and workers welcomed the appointment and extended their congratulations to S.A. Aleem, expressing confidence that his leadership would infuse new energy into the party's activities and organizational expansion across the Parliament Constituency.

Ponguleti Assures Government Schools Will Rise to Corporate Standards

Nalgonda: Revenue minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Wednesday said that the state government is aiming to develop academic excellence in government schools that will enable students to compete with their counterparts from corporate schools.

Laying the foundation stone for ₹4.85 crore infrastructure development works at the Gollagudem Ashram Girls' High School at Edulapuram in Khammam district, Ponguleti pointed out that Chief Minister Anumula Revanth Reddy has accorded top priority to the education sector. Government educational institutions are being



transformed into destinations for quality education.

“Our budgetary allocation to the education sector clearly reflects this aspect. All necessary facilities are being provided in schools to ensure that students focus entirely on their studies without facing any hardships,” the minister underlined.

Stating that education should not get interrupted due to poverty, he asked parents to join their children in residential schools of the government, where quality education, nutritious food, and various facilities would be available to them.

Ponguleti pointed out that the Gollagudem Ashram School will have an additional hostel, dining hall, kitchen, extra classrooms, toilet blocks, cooking sheds, an overhead

tank, and solar fencing. The minister had his lunch with the students on the occasion.

He commended the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) officials for their dedicated efforts toward developing the ashram schools.

Bhadrachalam ITDA project officer B. Rahul emphasised that “Uddeepakam,” a specially designed programme, is being implemented in ashram schools to improve learning skills among tribal students. He announced the “Varadhi” programme, which is designed to provide guidance on employment opportunities once students complete their education.

Guru Pournami celebrations grand manner in Zaheerabad

Zaheerabad July: A Guru is the embodiment of God who removes the darkness of ignorance and lights the light of knowledge. Gurus are those who guide life and lead on the path of righteousness, said the incumbents of Bardipur Dattagiri Maharaj Ashram, Sri Vairagya Shikhamani Avadhuta Giri Maharaj and Mahamandaleswar Dr. Siddheshwarananda Giri Maharaj.

Guru Pournami celebrations were held in Bardipur and Ranjol Dattatreya temples on Wednesday. In Ranjol, Pastapur Congress leaders Shuklavardhan Reddy and Sridhar Reddy Brothers performed special pujas and arranged food distribution for the devotees. Gopuja and Veda students performed foot worship for their parents, Guru Charitra Parayanam, Rudra Sahitya Datta Yajna, Rathsavam for Avadhutagiri Maharaj, and Tula Bharam with Rudraksha garlands was performed with devotion. Former Union Central Minister Bhagwant Khuba, former Zaheerabad MP BB Patil, former ZP Chairperson Sunita Hanumanth Rao



Patil, former SC Corporation Chairman Narottam and devotees from various places participated in the Guru Pada Puja and honored the Gurus. Along with devotees from Telugu states, devotees from Karnataka and Maharashtra also attended and participated. Dattagiri Charitable Trust Chairman Alladi Veeresham and Bardipur Festival Committee members made complete arrangements so that the devotees did not face any difficulties.

Parliament Panel on One Nation, One Election Gets Winter Session Extension

A joint committee of Parliament examining a bill to hold simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and state assemblies was on Wednesday granted a fresh extension till the end of the Winter session. Committee chairman PP Chaudhary moved a resolution seeking extension of the deadline for submission of the Committee's report till the first day of the last week of the Winter Session. The resolution was passed by voice vote. Winter Session of Parliament usually begins in the last week of November and concludes ahead of Christmas. The 41-member Committee is examining the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024 to implement the One Nation One Election framework. The Committee has



been conducting nationwide consultations on the proposed rollout of simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha, state assemblies and local bodies by 2029.

Akhilesh Links Ayodhya Donation Row to Paper Leaks

New Delhi: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday alleged that the reported embezzlement of donations at the Ayodhya Ram temple reflected the BJP government's failure to safeguard public faith, linking it to concerns over examination integrity.

Speaking in the Parliament House Complex, Yadav said, “The issue is the same. Those who could not protect donation boxes and the offerings made by devotees cannot be expected to prevent paper leaks or stop examinations from being cancelled. Those who can play with people's faith can also play with the future of our youth.”

Samajwadi Party MPs staged a protest in the complex, holding placards and raising slogans against the government over the alleged donation theft.

Yadav further alleged that the government itself was the “biggest crisis” facing the country. “The biggest crisis is this government itself. Until this government goes, these problems will continue,” he said.

SP MP Awadhesh Prasad, who represents the Faizabad constituency that includes Ayodhya, also criticised the BJP over the alleged incident, accusing it of shielding those involved. “I congratulate Akhilesh Yadav for exposing the matter. But it is unfortunate that the BJP government is trying to protect the big fish. This is not an ordinary theft. It is a dacoity involving the faith of crores of devotees of Lord Ram,” he said.

He also said, “This government came to power because of Ayodhya, and it will also go because of Ayodhya. In 2027, Akhilesh Yadav will become the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh. The BJP will not even win 50 seats. This is not Awadhesh Prasad speaking; this is the voice of Prabhu Shri Ram.”



Rajya Sabha clears Vande Mataram Bill, here's what you need to know

The Rajya Sabha has passed the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026, extending legal protection to the national song Vande Mataram. The law makes insulting or obstructing its rendition a punishable offence with up to three years' imprisonment or fine.

New Delhi: The Rajya Sabha, the Upper House of Parliament, on Wednesday passed the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026. The legislation makes the intentional insult of the national song ‘Vande Mataram’ or deliberate obstruction of its rendition a punishable offence.

With this amendment, ‘Vande Mataram’ now receives the same legal protection already extended to the National Flag, the Constitution and the National Anthem under the 1971 Act.

The Bill was cleared amid protests and a walkout by the Opposition.



Under the provisions of the Bill, obstructing or insulting the rendition of ‘Vande Mataram’ will attract a prison term of up to three years, a fine, or both. The legislation also emphasises the singing of all six stanzas of the national song.

This development follows a recent Home Ministry directive requiring states to play or sing the national song at official events, particularly those where the national anthem is performed.

The order specifies that “when the national song and the national anthem are sung or played, the national song will be sung or played first,” and that it must be rendered while standing at attention. The government has described the move as a step to safeguard national symbols and uphold the dignity associated with the song that played a pivotal role in India's freedom struggle.

other protected national symbols.

The government has stated that the change was necessary to safeguard a song that holds deep historical significance in the freedom struggle and was accorded equal status with the National Anthem by the Constituent Assembly in 1950.

The move comes at a time when the nation is marking 150 years of the composition of ‘Vande Mataram’, further underlining the intent to reinforce respect for this important national symbol. The government has described the step as necessary to safeguard symbols associated with national honour.

According to the provisions of the new law, acts such as deliberately insulting ‘Vande Mataram’, intentionally obstructing its singing, or any action considered contrary to national honour will attract criminal liability. The Bill provides for a maximum imprisonment of three years for offences related to the insult of national symbols.

The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act was enacted in 1971 to protect the dignity of India's key national symbols — the National Flag, the Constitution and the National Anthem (‘Jana Gana Mana’). The law made intentional acts of disrespect or obstruction towards these symbols a punishable offence, reflecting the country's resolve to uphold national honour after Independence.

The Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026, expands the scope of this existing Act to bring the National Song ‘Vande Mataram’ under the same legal protection.

The amendment specifically covers three categories of acts: deliberately insulting ‘Vande Mataram’, intentionally preventing or obstructing its singing, and any other action treated as contrary to the honour of the national song. All such acts will now attract criminal liability, with the law providing for a maximum imprisonment of up to three years.

The purpose of the amendment is to place ‘Vande Mataram’ on an equal footing with the

several programmes are being organised across the country to mark the 150th anniversary of ‘Vande Mataram’.

Composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and later included in his novel “Anandamath”, the song emerged as a powerful symbol of national consciousness during the freedom struggle and was subsequently accorded the status of India's National Song.

While the government maintains that the amendment strengthens respect for national symbols, the legislation is expected to spark further debate on the precise legal definitions of ‘insult’ and ‘obstruction’.

Questions are likely to arise over whether a clear distinction will be drawn between deliberate disruption and an individual's decision not to participate in the singing of the national song. The passage of the Bill in the Upper House marks a significant expansion of the legal framework protecting India's national symbols.

Push for Sugar Sector Revival: CS Calls for Action Plan to Expand Sugarcane Cultivation



Hyderabad: The State Chief Secretary, Sanjay Jaju, has directed officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan to significantly increase the area under sugarcane cultivation and revive the sugar industry, while enhancing its production capacity.

A meeting of the committee constituted under G.O. No. 86 for revival of sugar industries and expansion of sugarcane cultivation was held at the Secretariat on Wednesday under his chairmanship. Agriculture Secretary Surendra Mohan, Industries Special Secretary Krishna Aditya, representatives of sugarcane farmers, and agricultural scientists attended the meeting.

The Chief Secretary noted that out of 12 sugar factories in the state, only seven are currently operational. He said that to run these units at full capacity, around 50 lakh metric tonnes of sugarcane are required annually, while the present production

stands at only 20 lakh metric tonnes.

He pointed out that sugarcane requires less water compared to paddy and that adopting modern practices like drip irrigation can increase yields and reduce cultivation costs. During the 2026–27 agricultural season, around 19,000 farmers are cultivating sugarcane over 26,000 hectares across the state.

Officials were instructed to study incentives and policies implemented in other states to boost sugarcane cultivation and ensure adequate raw material supply to sugar mills, and to submit a report at the earliest.

Farmer representatives urged the government to provide an incentive of ₹500 per tonne for sugarcane, similar to that given to paddy farmers. They highlighted high investment costs and labour shortages as major challenges, and stressed that sugarcane can also support ethanol and power generation, seeking greater policy support for the sector.



Thursday 30, July, 2026

VOICE OF THE YOUTH GETS HEARD

The resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, bowing to mounting pressure from the student protests, is a welcome development as it signals the government's acknowledgement of the growing anger of the country's youth over an issue that is key to their future. It is a victory for the democratic voices that rose in unison against a system that has become indifferent to the concerns of the student community. What began as a satirical social media account grew within weeks into a genuine mass movement, giving vent to the youth's frustration over the botched 2026 NEET medical entrance examination following paper leak. The exit of the Minister, whose resignation was the key demand of the protesters led by the Cockroach Janata Party, and subsequent withdrawal of the five-week-long agitation should now pave the way for sincere effort to tackle the larger issue of education reforms. No lessons have been learned from the past instances of paper leaks. Also, no follow-up action has been taken on the recommendations of the high-powered committee constituted in 2024 under former ISRO chairperson K Radhakrishnan to secure the fairness of the public exam system. While Pradhan's resignation opens a window for wider talks, the real battle lies ahead. The larger issue here is about the institutional flaws and how to fix them. It is not about individual ministers but about reforming the examination system that failed the students. Apart from bringing examination reforms, there is a need for broader structural transformations in the education and skilling system.

The widespread spontaneous protests have exposed one of the deepest fault lines in the country's education system—the erosion of trust in public examinations. From the cancellation of the NEET-UG examination controversy to repeated paper leaks in recruitment tests conducted by State governments, millions of students have found themselves trapped in a cycle of uncertainty. In a belated response, the Centre came up with a draft legislation, amending the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, envisaging fairly stringent provisions—a jail term up to 10 years, a penalty up to Rs 10 crore, and statutory backing for fast-track courts. Speedy justice is welcome, but deeper systemic reforms are a must to restore public confidence. India requires a comprehensive overhaul that combines technology, institutional reforms, transparency, accountability and educational transformation. Strengthening the NTA, improving digital security and creating an independent auditing mechanism are essential. Stronger laws and fast-track courts may serve to punish or deter offenders, but only long-term reforms can eradicate the deep-rooted malaise. Gangs that exploit examinees for financial gain must be dealt with under a zero-tolerance policy. Coordinated investigations involving Central and State agencies and a robust legal framework can help dismantle these networks. The real objective should not simply be to prevent the next paper leak, but to build an examination system in which integrity is institutionalised.

Govt Should Be Ashamed: CJP's Dipke Warns of Fresh Protest

New Delhi: Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Wednesday said the government "should be ashamed" over its handling of student protesters and warned of a fresh nationwide agitation if action against them continued despite assurances given by the Centre.

Speaking to ANI outside the Delhi airport, Dipke alleged that students protesting against the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak had been subjected to excessive force and said the CJP would soon return to the streets if the government failed to change its approach.

"The government should not do all this. These were students who were protesting for their future, protesting for their rights. They were not enjoying doing this. They faced baton charges on July 20. Even if the government's greed is not satisfied after shedding so much blood, and if they continue to harass the students like this, we will hit the streets again, and we will do it soon. Using pellet guns on students as if they are terrorists? They should be ashamed! Were they terrorists? Amit Shah



and Narendra Modi should be ashamed," Dipke told ANI.

When asked whether the CJP would launch another agitation, Dipke reiterated, "We will do it very soon. If the Government does not agree, does not mend ways, we will have to do it."

Reacting to BJP MP Kangana Ranaut's remarks on Gen Z, Dipke dismissed them, saying, "Who even takes her seriously?"

His remarks come a day after CJP Chief Spokesperson Saurav Das warned of a nationwide protest if the government failed to provide written assurances on withdraw-

ing FIRs registered against student protesters.

Das had alleged that the Centre had assured the CJP that FIRs filed against protesters in Delhi and other BJP-ruled and NDA-governed states would be withdrawn, but no written confirmation had been provided despite the deadline lapsing.

Meanwhile, Aam Aadmi Party National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal extended support to the proposed agitation, saying, "They should go ahead; we support them. Ministers had stated at a press conference before the nation that the FIR would be withdrawn — so why was that lie told?"

The developments come after the Supreme Court directed states to release students below the age of 18 arrested during the nationwide protests over the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak, provided they have no criminal antecedents, while permitting investigations to continue in accordance with law.

TN MULLS PRIVATISING TASMALC LIQUOR SHOPS IN CORPORATIONS, MUNICIPALITIES

Chennai: The Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)-led Tamil Nadu government is considering the privatisation of Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMALC) liquor outlets operating in corporations and municipalities, sources said on Wednesday.

According to sources, the proposal is under consideration and, if implemented, would mark the first major move towards privatisation of liquor retail in the state since 2003, when the then AIADMK government placed liquor sales under the control of the state-run TASMALC.

The proposed move comes amid increasing scrutiny of the functioning of TASMALC outlets and recent efforts by the state government to tighten accountability in liquor sales.

Recently, the Tamil Nadu government introduced revised disciplinary norms for employees at state-run TASMALC outlets following directions from the Madras High Court. Under the updated guidelines, employees found charging custom-



ers more than the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) for liquor will face stringent action, with repeat violations attracting permanent dismissal from service.

The state has also witnessed public opposition to the opening of liquor establishments in sensitive locations.

Earlier on July 22, residents from six villages in Ramanathapuram district staged a protest and submitted a petition to the District Collector opposing the proposed establishment of a private liquor bar under the "Manamagizh Mandram" initiative in the Pamban tourist area.

The protesters alleged that opening a liquor bar in the area would adversely affect public safety, particularly for women, children and students, besides creating law and order concerns. They also argued that the proposed outlet would impact the sanctity of the Rameswaram region, which is regarded as a major pilgrimage destination and attracts devotees from across the country.

The petitioners urged the state government to prevent the establishment of the liquor bar, while Ramanathapuram District Collector Sivaguru Prabhakaran assured them that the matter would be examined and appropriate action taken after due consideration.

DSP Conducts Surprise Inspection at Karakagudem Police Station

Records, Case Management and Weapon Safety Reviewed Police Personnel Asked to Stay Alert and Use Technology in Crime Investigation

Manuguru July 29 : Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Ravinder Reddy conducted a surprise inspection at Karakagudem Police Station on Wednesday and reviewed the overall functioning of the station.

During the inspection, the DSP thoroughly examined station records, case management, weapon safety, and administrative procedures. He instructed the police personnel to remain vigilant while performing their duties and to ensure that all records are updated regularly and maintained accurately.

Addressing the staff, DSP Ravinder Reddy emphasized the importance of delivering efficient and transparent policing. He directed officers to make effective use of modern technology in the investigation and disposal of criminal cases to improve efficiency and achieve faster results.

He also stressed the need for proper maintenance and secure handling of weapons, while ensuring strict adherence to departmental rules and procedures. The station staff assured the DSP that his instructions would be implemented to further strengthen policing and improve public service.



Excise Officials Seize 600 Kg Black Jaggery Meant for Illicit Liquor Production in Veldanda

Nagarkurnool : Officials of the Kalwakurthy Excise Department seized a large quantity of black jaggery and other raw materials allegedly being transported for the manufacture of illicit liquor during vehicle inspections at Veldanda mandal in Nagarkurnool district.

According to Kalwakurthy Excise Circle Inspector J. Venkat Reddy, the team intercepted a Scorpio vehicle on the outskirts of Veldanda. During the inspection, officials found that the vehicle was carrying 600 kg of black jaggery powder (20 bags) and 120 kg of fermentation tablets, which were allegedly purchased from Begum Bazaar in Hyderabad.

The accused, identified as Islavath Raju of Mogli Thanda, was allegedly transporting the materials to Mannanur village for supplying them to persons involved in the illegal manufacture of country liquor.

The excise officials arrested the accused and seized the Scorpio vehicle along with the black jaggery and fermentation tablets. A case has been registered and further investigation is underway. CI Venkat Reddy warned that strict action would be taken against anyone involved in the manufacture, sale or transportation of illicit liquor within the Kalwakurthy Excise Circle.



Stay Alert Against Seasonal Diseases: DMHO Warns Health Officials

Dr. Tukaram Rathod Conducts Zoom Review Meeting with Medical Officers

Bhadradi Kothagudem | July 29, 2026""District Medical and Health Officer (DMHO) Dr. Tukaram Rathod has directed all medical officers to remain on high alert to prevent the spread of seasonal diseases during the ongoing monsoon season. He issued the instructions while conducting a Zoom review meeting on Wednesday to assess disease control measures, implementation of health programmes, and the functioning of government and private healthcare institutions across Bhadradi Kothagudem district.""Dr. Rathod instructed that, in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, all government and private hospitals, Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs), Area Hospitals, Teaching Hospitals, District Government Hospitals, Medical Colleges, and private clinics must ensure the availability of Anti-Rabies Vaccines (ARV) for dog-bite victims. He also directed every hospital to appoint a nodal officer to monitor dog-bite cases and prominently display the relevant information on public notice boards.""Medical officers were instructed to inspect all government and private hostels under their jurisdiction at least once every two weeks, conduct medical camps and health check-ups for students, and create awareness among hostel staff on hygiene and disease prevention. Kitchen staff were advised to maintain proper personal hygiene, including trimming hair and fingernails.""The DMHO directed ASHA workers and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) to conduct field visits in rural areas to identify people suffering from fever, diarrhoea, vomiting, cough, cold, and other symptoms, and immediately report such cases to the concerned medical officers. Special medical camps should be organised wherever necessary to provide timely treatment.""He further instructed officials to effectively implement the Action Plan activities conducted every Tuesday and Friday and submit weekly reports. These reports will help identify villages with a high incidence of seasonal diseases and enable immediate preventive measures.""Programme officers were asked to regularly inspect all Primary Health Centres and closely monitor seasonal disease prevention, immunisation programmes, Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) screening, Shramdan activities, Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA), Aarogya Mahila, Sickle Cell screening, identification of TB suspects, medicine distribution, and the conduct of medical camps.



Nitin Gadkari Defends E20 Fuel, Says Older Vehicles Face No Major Issues



The government on Wednesday said some rubber parts and gaskets in BS-III vehicles, introduced from April 1, 2005, and manufactured before 2016, might need to be replaced when operated with petrol containing 20 per cent ethanol (E20). However, even legacy vehicles did not exhibit any significant variations in performance, nor do they show abnormal wear-and-tear when operated with E20 fuel, according to the government.

The defence of the government came at a time when it faced strong criticism from opposition parties and some consumer groups over its impact on older vehicles not specially designed for higher ethanol blends. The critics have questioned the government on vehicle compatibility, raising concern about reduced fuel efficiency and higher maintenance cost of the consumers.

In support of the E20 fuel use, the government further said that many extensive studies have found no significant performance or durability issues in vehicles running on E20 petrol, asserting that even older vehicles generally do not require engine modifications to use the fuel.

“Studies have not shown any need to modify the car and two-wheeler engines. They confirmed that even legacy vehicles did not exhibit any significant variations in performance, nor do they show abnormal wear-and-tear when operated with E20 fuel,” said road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

Gadkari also said that a study for the evaluation of effects of E20 on two-wheelers and four-wheelers, was carried out jointly by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) Dehradun, Society of Indian Auto-

motive Manufacturers (SIAM) and Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI). “No issues were reported in parameters such as drivability, startability, metal compatibility, and plastic compatibility,” he said.

“Only in case of testing done on BS-III vehicles introduced from 1st April, 2005, and manufactured prior to 2016, some rubber parts and gaskets may require replacement, which can be easily managed during routine servicing regime of the vehicle,” the minister added.

The government has maintained that the transition has been phased and backed by extensive testing, while automobile manufacturers have said they continue to honour warranty claims for vehicles using E20 fuel. The minister also explained that an inter-ministerial committee (IMC), constituted on December 26, 2020, under the Niti Aayog, comprehensively examined vehicle compatibility and mileage/efficiency aspects of ethanol blending.

“This assessment was supported by research conducted by Indian IOCL, Automotive ARAI, and SIAM. The committee’s Roadmap for Ethanol Blending in India 2020-25, released in June 2021, was prepared after extensive consultation with automobile manufacturers, oil companies and agricultural experts, and examined material compatibility, engine calibration, fuel systems, drivability, durability, emissions and fuel efficiency,” he added.

INDIA GETS FIRST MILITARY MEDICINE FACILITY



New Delhi: Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday inaugurated the Department of Military Medicine at the Command Hospital (Central Command) in Lucknow, the country’s first dedicated academic and operational facility in the field.

Inaugurating the facility virtually, Singh said it would serve as a hub for research and development to address emerging threats, including those posed by weapons of mass destruction.

“Our soldiers are deployed in some of the world’s most complex regions and harshest climates, exposed to diverse challenges. This new department will develop medical protocols tailored for these operational environments,” he said.

He noted that military medicine studies the physical and mental stress faced by soldiers in combat situations and would enhance preparedness for evolving challenges. “In such a situation, the department will serve as a hub for research and development, equipping the nation to deal with emerging threats arising out of the rapid technologies advancements,” he said.

According to the Defence Ministry, the department has been conceived as a centre of excellence and will function as the principal academic, research and doctrinal hub for the Armed Forces Medical Services.

It will offer structured education and training in military and operational medicine, facilitate postgraduate programmes in areas such as combat medicine, combat surgery and trauma care, and promote indigenous research aligned with operational requirements.

The ministry said the facility would strengthen expertise in disaster response, field hospital deployment, mass casualty management and epidemic control, while also supporting humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

Singh said the department would provide a

training platform for young doctors of the Army Medical Corps in battlefield healthcare and advanced life support. “The department will open up a new career pathway for young medical professionals. Students will now be able to pursue super-specialisation in military medicine. This will not only enhance intellectual capital within the military, but also elevate India’s stature in medical research on the international stage,” he said.

He also emphasised the importance of preventive healthcare, calling it the first line of defence and linking it to combat readiness and national security. “Preventive healthcare is directly linked to combat readiness and national security. We can leverage technologies such as AI, wearable devices, predictive analytics, and advanced diagnostics to enhance real-time monitoring of soldiers’ health and the early identification of potential health risks,” he said.

The department will focus on areas including military trauma, combat psychiatry, environmental and operational medicine, medical logistics, CBRNe response, emergency and critical care, disaster medicine and research.

The ministry said the initiative, established under the Directorate General of Medical Services (Army), marks a step towards strengthening operational medical preparedness of the armed forces.

El Nino: Ensure All Crops Are Insured, CM Tells Officials

Amaravati: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu directed the collectors to ensure that all the crops sown get insurance coverage. There are indications that the El Nino effect could persist throughout the year, he said.

He asked the ministers and their supporting staff to constantly visit the fields. He suggested that an El Nino Control room should be set up to monitor the effect. The officials should ensure drinking water problems and fodder problems do not emerge from any place. Fodder necessary for the entire year should be kept in stock. Reports regarding the stocks should be submitted every week, he ordered.

On Tuesday, the CM held a review



meeting on the El Nino effect, precautionary measures to be taken by the government, awareness programmes scheduled for the farmers.

He suggested that the officials should give suggestions to the farmers on the weather conditions, crop study, taking the help of the agriculture universities students. He also suggested that the staff of the Rythu Seva Kendras should be appointed as conveners of action plan committees to work with the farmers in tandem.

Vamsadhara waters should be used to save the crops. In high-risk mandals, bore water can be used to save crops from drying up. He asked the officials to alert the farmers about the El Nino effect and its intensity beforehand.

Your suggestions

the El Nino effect in all districts could be more than estimated. Over 122 high-risk mandals were identified. Shortage of rain would be felt in Annamayya, West Godavari, Prakasam, Krishna and Kadapa districts. The El Nino effect can affect cotton being grown in 2.78 lakh hectares and paddy in 1.07 lakh hectares in these districts, the officials told him.

On fodder, they told Naidu that 286.30 lakh tonnes of it is available and would suffice the requirement for 5 months. They also informed him about the rainfall recorded in July and shortage of rain that is likely in June-November. Farmers can apply for insurance of their crops till July 31.

AP To Issue Recruitment Notification For 3,168 Posts On Sept. 15

The Andhra Pradesh government will issue the second-phase recruitment notification under the Job Calendar-2026 on September 15 to fill 3,168 government posts, with Minister Nara Lokesh directing officials to ensure a legally sound and error-free notification to avoid disputes.

Chairing a review meeting of the ministerial committee on employment generation, Lokesh stressed that the exercise should be conducted transparently and in accordance with all statutory requirements. Several ministers participated in the meeting virtually, while officials gave a presentation on vacancies across government departments.

Officials informed the committee that the government plans to fill 10,060 vacancies announced under Job Calendar-2026 in four phases. As part of the first phase, a notification was issued on May 15 this year to recruit 1,523 faculty members across various universities.

The second-phase notification, originally scheduled for August 15, was postponed owing to technical issues related to the implementation of Presidential Orders and representations received from employees’ associations. The notification will now be released on Sept 15.

Lokesh asked officials to complete preparations for issuing a combined notification on October 15 for the third and fourth phases of recruitment. The third phase will cover 2,388 posts, while the fourth phase will include 2,981 posts.

He said the chief minister wanted the vacancies to be filled according to the functional requirements of individual departments, and asked officials to proceed accordingly. Of the 2,388 posts in the third phase, 2,225 vacancies will be filled in the home department.

The ministerial committee also felt that the number of Group-I posts should be enhanced beyond the vacancies already identified. Lokesh asked officials to ensure that all 10,060 vacancies under the Job Calendar are filled on schedule, without giving room for legal or administrative disputes, and emphasised that the government should release a Job Calendar every year.

The complete details of vacancies under Job Calendar-2026 will be placed before the state cabinet at its meeting on August 6.

Home minister Vangalapudi Anita, municipal administration minister P Narayana, MSME minister Kondapalli Srinivas, tourism minister Kandula Durgesh, chief secretary Sai Prasad and senior officials of the APPSC etc attended the review.



Iranian missile attack on US forces in Jordan draws Trump’s strong warning



Washington: President Donald Trump has warned that the United States will respond with force after what he described as a surprise Iranian missile attack on American forces in Jordan.

“We’re going to beat the out of them,” Trump told Fox News, according to the network. He also warned that Iran was “going to get a beating.”

The President said the United States would strike back hard following the attack on its forces. “We’ll be hitting them hard,” Trump said in separate remarks reported by Fox News. “They’re going to get a beating.”

Trump said US forces had successfully intercepted the incoming ballistic missiles. The material provided by Fox News did not include details about the number of missiles launched, when the attack occurred or whether there

were any casualties or damage. His remarks signalled the possibility of a direct American military response against Iran or forces linked to Tehran. Trump, however, did not disclose the timing, scale or intended targets of any planned operation. The warning came as Trump also confirmed that overnight US strikes against Iran-backed militias in Iraq had been coordinated with the Iraqi government. He called the militias “a cancer on the world,” using unusually blunt language to condemn armed groups supported by Iran.

Trump’s comments linked the Iranian missile attack in Jordan with the wider threat posed by Tehran-backed militias operating across the region. He did not say whether the strikes in Iraq occurred before or after the missiles were launched towards US forces.

Transparent Lottery Conducted for Selection of Two-Wheeler and Three-Wheeler Beneficiaries

District Collector Ankit Oversees Fair Selection Process Under PM-JUGA Scheme

Kothagudem District Correspondent | July 29: In a major initiative to strengthen the livelihoods of fishermen, beneficiaries for government-sponsored two-wheelers and three-wheelers were selected through a transparent lottery system under the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (PM-JUGA). The lottery was conducted on Wednesday at the IDOC Office under the chairmanship of District Collector Ankit, IAS, in the presence of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) District Committee.

Speaking on the occasion, Collector Ankit stated that the government is committed to ensuring that the benefits of welfare schemes reach only eligible beneficiaries



through a fair and transparent selection process. He said the lottery was conducted strictly in accordance with government guidelines and emphasized that transparency and accountability are essential for the successful implementation of welfare programmes.

District Fisheries Officer G. Siva Prasad informed that 274 applications were received for two-wheelers and 26 applications for three-wheelers. The Fisheries Department allocated 51

two-wheelers and 12 three-wheelers to Bhadrak Kothagudem district. As the number of applications exceeded the allotted vehicles, beneficiaries were selected through a computerized lottery conducted under the supervision of the District Collector-led PMMSY District Committee.

The lottery process was carried out in the presence of committee members, representatives of Fisheries Cooperative Societies, fishermen, and officials from various departments.

ency. Officials said the final list of selected beneficiaries has been approved, and the vehicles will be distributed after completing all formalities as per government norms.

The programme was attended by Additional Collector (Revenue) D. Venugopal, DRDO M. Vidya Chandana, Zilla Parishad CEO B. Nagalakshmi, District Agriculture Officer V. Baburao, District Irrigation Officer K. Maheswara Rao, Lead District Manager V. Ramireddy, KVK Programme Coordinator Dr. T. Bharat, District Fisheries Officer G. Siva Prasad (Convener), progressive fisherman Pittala Sailu, presidents and members of Fisheries Cooperative Societies, fishermen, and officials from various departments.

MLA Payam Venkateswarlu Extends Support to Poor Family

3 Lakh LOC Sanctioned for Medical Treatment
Government Will Always Stand by People in Times of Need, Says MLA

Manuguru Correspondent | July 29: In a humanitarian gesture, Pinapaka MLA Payam Venkateswarlu handed over a Letter of Credit (LOC) worth ₹3 lakh to support the medical treatment of Chetti Rambai, a resident of Kalva Bazaar in Ashwapuram village of Ashwapuram Mandal, at the MLA Camp Office in Manuguru on Wednesday.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Payam Venkateswarlu said that the government is committed to standing by people during times of hardship and ensuring that deserving families receive timely assistance.

He stated that government welfare schemes have become a great source of relief for poor families facing financial difficulties in meeting medical expenses. The MLA assured that every effort would be made to ensure that all eligible



beneficiaries receive the benefits of welfare schemes without delay.

The beneficiary's family expressed their gratitude to the government and the MLA for providing timely financial assistance for the medical treatment.

MLA Dhanpal Highlights the Sacred Role of Gurus on Guru Purnima :

Nizamabad July 29, 2026 : Nizamabad Urban MLA Dhanpal Suryanarayana Gupta celebrated Guru Purnima with devotion by performing Pada Puja to his spiritual mentor, Kona Samundar Srinath Sharma, and his wife at Bingi Kalyana Mandapam in the city. The MLA, accompanied by his family, offered prayers and sought the blessings of his Guru on the auspicious occasion.

Speaking after the ceremony, Dhanpal said that the Guru occupies the highest position in Indian culture, equal to the Divine, as a Guru dispels the darkness of ignorance and guides disciples towards knowledge, wisdom and righteousness. He observed that the centuries-old Guru-Shishya tradition continues to be one of the greatest strengths of India's spiritual and cultural heritage.

The MLA stated that Guru Purnima is a day of expressing gratitude to teachers and spiritual guides who shape the lives of individuals through education, values and discipline. He noted that saints, sages and spiritual seekers across the country mark the occasion by offering prayers, undertaking new spiritual practices and paying homage to their Gurus.

Quoting the traditional belief that "Guru is Brahma, Guru is Vishnu and Guru is Maheshwara," Dhanpal said that offering Pada Puja, dakshina, clothes, fruits and books is a symbol of respect and gratitude towards one's Guru. He added that while parents bless a child with life, it is the Guru who provides purpose, character and direction, making Guru Purnima a festival that celebrates knowledge, humility and moral values.

Earlier, the MLA visited the Datta Ashram at Mallaram, where he offered special prayers and sought blessings for the peace, prosperity and well-being of the people.



Three Amrabad Tiger Reserve Beat Officers Honoured with NTCA Award 2026

Nagar kurnool : In a proud moment for the Telangana Forest Department, three Forest Beat Officers from the Amrabad Tiger Reserve were honoured with the prestigious National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) Award-2026 during the Global Tiger Day celebrations held in New Delhi on Wednesday.

The awards were presented by Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Chairperson of the NTCA, in the presence of Kirti Vardhan Singh, Vice-Chairperson of the NTCA.

The award recipients are K. Tejashree, Parveen Begum and M. Mamatha, all serving as Forest Beat Officers in the Amrabad Tiger Reserve.

They were recognised for their exceptional contributions to tiger conservation, wildlife protection, habitat improvement, anti-poach-



ing operations, forest conservation, community participation, and voluntary village rehabilitation.

The award ceremony was attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the National Tiger Conservation Authority, and Forest Departments from across the country.

The awardees dedicated the honour to all frontline forest personnel serving in the Amrabad Tiger Reserve and expressed gratitude to the Telangana Government, the Forest Department, and their senior officers for their continued guidance and support.

Paisabazaar's Free Credit Score programme touches 60 million consumers in its mission to build a credit-fit India

Hyderabad, July 28, 2026: Paisabazaar, India's leading marketplace for financial products, today announced that over 60 million consumers have now checked their free credit score on its platform. Reaching consumers across 850+ cities and towns, the milestone reflects Paisabazaar's decade-long commitment to improving credit awareness, expanding access to credit, and helping millions become credit fit.

Since launching its free credit score platform in 2017, Paisabazaar has focused on making credit information simple, accessible and actionable for every Indian. Consumers on the Paisabazaar platform can instantly access their credit scores from all four credit bureaus, free of cost, in multiple Indian languages, making it one of the country's most comprehensive credit awareness platforms.

Over the last decade, Paisabazaar has consistently invested in technology, consumer education and brand initiatives to deepen credit awareness across India. The platform has played a pivotal role in taking credit awareness beyond metropolitan India, helping consumers across smaller cities, towns and underserved segments understand, monitor and improve their credit health.

Santosh Agarwal, CEO, Paisabazaar, said: "Crossing 60 million consumers marks an important milestone in our mission to build a more credit-aware and credit-fit India. Going forward, our focus is on helping every consumer navigate their credit journey with confidence—whether it's building a credit history, improving credit health, or accessing the right financial products. We will continue to leverage technology and data-driven insights to make credit more transparent, inclusive and empowering for millions of Indians."



The Paisabazaar platform, over the years, has evolved beyond providing free credit scores. Consumers on the platform receive personalised insights through the Credit Health Report, which highlights the factors impacting their credit profile and recommends actionable steps to improve it. For consumers with damaged credit aiming to rebuild their credit history, Paisabazaar offers a comprehensive Credit Improvement Program, including AI-led insights, expert guidance and personalized advice.

Credit Progression is another key aspect of Paisabazaar's commitment to expanding access to credit, helping consumers build healthier credit profiles. This includes large yet credit-starved segments like new-to-credit consumers, who are offered builder products such as secured credit cards, helping them build strong credit profiles over time and access formal credit.

Credit healthy consumers, on the other hand, benefit from personalised and pre-approved offers from lenders, supported by Paisabazaar's proprietary Chance of Approval model, which helps them identify and apply for offers with certainty.

Paisabazaar continues to enhance the platform with technology-led innovations and data-driven insights, making credit management more intuitive and accessible. As India's digital credit ecosystem matures, the company remains focused on empowering consumers across every stage of their credit journey—from first-time borrowers building their credit history to experienced borrowers seeking the best credit opportunities—while advancing its larger mission of building a more financially aware and credit-fit India.

World Tiger Day Awareness Programme Held at Jam Government High School

Nirmal District Staff Reporter : On the occasion of World Tiger Day, an awareness programme was organised at the Government High School in Jam village of Sarangapur Mandal.

The programme was attended by District Forest Officer Nagini Bhanu as the chief guest.

Addressing the students, she explained the importance of tigers, their crucial role in maintaining ecological balance, and the need to conserve them for protecting biodiversity. She also highlighted the significance of wildlife and forest conservation.

Later, she presented appreciation certificates and mementoes to the students who excelled in the essay writing and drawing competitions conducted as part of the World Tiger Day celebrations.

The programme was attended by Ramakrishna Rao, Karipe Ravali (Sarpanch, Jam), Nazir Khan (Deputy



Forest Range Officer, Sarangapur), local public representatives, teachers, Forest Department staff, and students.

The students enthusiastically participated in the programme and took a pledge to protect tigers, conserve forests, safeguard the environment, and contribute towards preserving nature.

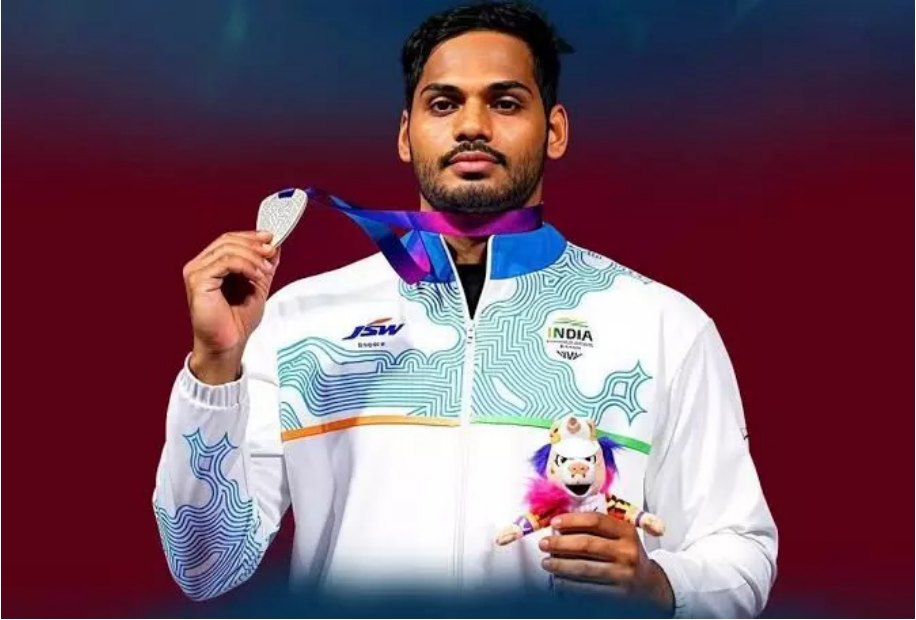
Glasgow CWG: Weightlifter Ajay Babu Wins Silver, Emulates Father’s Medalling Feat

Valluri Ajay Babu found a place in the sporting history of Andhra Pradesh, winning a silver medal in the Commonwealth Games at Glasgow in weightlifting.

Notably, he emulated his father Valluri Srinivasa Rao, who won bronze in the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi.

Ajay Babu delivered a remarkable performance in the men's event, setting a Commonwealth Games record of 149kg in the snatch, and lifting 181kg in the clean and jerk for a total of 330kg. He narrowly missed gold by just one kilogram, finishing behind Malaysia's Erry Hidayat Muhammad, who secured gold with a Games record total of 331kg (147kg snatch and 184kg clean and jerk).

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Srinivasa Rao said the family's journey in weightlifting began in their native



village, where he established a modest training centre after joining the Indian Army in 2002. He retired in 2024. Financial support and professional coaching in the army helped him win AP's only medal at the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

"Today my son Ajay Babu has become the lone medal winner for AP at these games. The training he received from me and the army has paid off. This medal will also help him, a hawaladar now, earn promotion as a junior commissioned officer in the army," he said.

Srinivasa Rao said the family remains fully committed to the sport. His wife, Venkatalakshmi, prepares special diets for them, while their younger son, 18-year-old Akhil, is also training to reach the international stage despite narrowly missing success at the National Games.

Rao said around 50 youngsters are currently undergoing weightlifting training at the Kondavelagada centre, which has emerged as one of AP's leading hubs for the sport. He expressed confidence that several of them would go on to represent India internationally.

Srinivasa Rao also revealed plans to establish a modern weightlifting academy in the village, estimating that equipment alone would cost around `50 lakh, and appealed for government support to help nurture future champions from the region.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi jumps to 48th in ICC T20I rankings

India's Vaibhav Sooryavanshi climbed 230 places to 48th in the ICC T20I rankings after a stellar series in Zimbabwe, while Shubman Gill regained the No. 1 ODI batter ranking. West Indies and Pakistan players also made significant gains in the latest rankings.Indian politics news



Hyderabad: Seam bowlers called the shots in the first match of the ICC World Test Championship series between the West Indies and Pakistan in Tarouba, which the home side won by 90 runs, and the movements in the ICC Men's Test Player Rankings reflect that.

Player of the Match Justin Greaves finished with a career-best match haul of seven for 39 and gained 21 places to reach a career-high 48th position and his team-mate Jayden Seales moved up five places to 24th after finishing with a five-for in the second innings. Greaves has also advanced eight slots to ninth in the all-rounders' list.

Pakistan's Mohammad Abbas, who has been ranked as high as third (in 2018), made his first appearance in the top 20 since late 2021 as he advanced nine places ahead to 17th after his match haul of eight for 85.

The batting rankings see Pakistan captain Babar Azam move up four slots to 15th after an unbeaten 58 in the second innings while Shan Masood's 109 in the first innings has lifted him eight places to 36th. Shai Hope's 92 in the first innings has taken him from 51st to 39th and Kavem Hodge is up to 60th after a seven-slot gain.

India captain Shubman Gill begins his third stint as the top-ranked ODI batter after New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell conceded the top spot, missing the final ODI against the West Indies in Bridgetown due to a low-grade hip strain.Indian politics news

The New Zealand pair of Will Young (up three places to joint-38th) and Tom Latham (up five places to 46th) and the West Indies' Sherfane Rutherford (up 13 places to 45th) have moved up the batting rankings. With the ball, Namibia's Bernard Scholtz had remarkable figures of 10-2-21-1 against the Netherlands and 10-2-14-0 against Nepal to move up five places to seventh in the ODI rankings.

India's teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has surged ahead to 48th position in the ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings after his Player of the Series effort in Zimbabwe helped him gallop 230 places. He finished with 151 runs in three innings that boasted a 19-ball 50 in the first match and a 49-ball 81 in the third.



Shubman Gill to lead India in Sri Lanka Tests

India named Shubman Gill as captain for the upcoming two-Test series in Sri Lanka, starting August 15 in Galle. KL Rahul will serve as vice-captain, while fitness clearance is awaited for Sai Sudharsan and Jasprit Bumrah. Geographic Reference



Hyderabad: Shubman Gill will lead India in the away two-match Test series against Sri Lanka, according to a BCCI media release on Tuesday.

The Indian team will play a four-day practice match in Colombo from August 7.

It is also informed that Sai Sudharsan and Jasprit Bumrah's availability will be subject to fitness clearance from the BCCI Centre of Excellence.

Washington Sundar is not available for selection for the first Test.

The first Test will be played at Galle from August 15, the second at Colombo from August 23.

The team: Shubman Gill [C], KL Rahul [VC], Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rishabh Pant [WK], Sai Sudharsan, Dhruv Jurel [WK], Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Manav Suthar, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Gurnoor Brar, Devdutt Padikkal, Saransh Jain.

CWG 2026: Rain, Risk, and the Rulebook — Why Athletics Goes On Despite the Downpour?

Glasgow: Glasgow's unpredictable weather has become as much a talking point as the medals themselves at the 2026 Commonwealth Games. As rain lashed the athletics arena yet again, many spectators were left asking the same questions: Why are the events continuing? What if an athlete gets injured? Why can't the schedule be changed or a reserve day be kept?

The concerns are understandable. Watching sprinters explode out of wet starting blocks and long jumpers land on slippery runways naturally raises fears about safety. Yet athletics, unlike many other sports, has long learned to co-exist with the elements.

Why doesn't athletics stop because of rain?

The simple answer is that rain alone is not considered dangerous enough to halt competition.

World Athletics regulations allow competitions to continue in wet weather as long as the venue remains safe and there is no immediate threat from severe weather. Also, modern synthetic tracks are designed with advanced drainage systems that prevent water from accumulating, allowing athletes to maintain grip even during heavy showers.

Officials constantly monitor conditions throughout the session. If the surface becomes unsafe or visibility is significantly affected, they have the authority to delay or suspend competition.

What about the risk of injury?

There is no denying that rain increases the challenge.

Sprint starts become trickier, throwing circles and runways require extra attention, and ath-



letes must adjust their techniques to avoid slipping. However, elite athletes train in varying weather conditions throughout the year and are expected to adapt.

Organisers also take several precautions: Ground staff regularly dry-throw circles and jump runways. Officials inspect the track before each event. Athletes are allowed additional warm-up measures when necessary. Equipment is checked to ensure it remains competition-ready.

Why aren't reserve days kept?

This is perhaps the biggest misconception among fans.

Athletics competitions involve dozens of events spread across morning and evening sessions over several days. Hundreds of athletes compete in heats, semifinals and finals, many of whom are also entered in multiple disciplines.

Introducing reserve days would create a domino effect: Television broadcast schedules would be disrupted. Medal ceremonies would have to be rescheduled. Athletes competing in multiple events could face clashes. Travel and accommodation plans for thousands of athletes, officials and volunteers would be affected.

Unlike cricket or tennis, where one match can simply move to another day, athletics operates as a tightly packed timetable with very little flexibility.

Could the rules change in future?

Climate change has led to more frequent extreme weather events, prompting discussions across international sport about weather protocols. However, reserve days for major athletics championships remain highly unlikely because of the sheer scale of scheduling challenges.

Instead, organisers are investing in better drainage systems, improved weather forecasting and stronger safety protocols rather than rewriting the competition calendar.

Fans' concern is valid

Many spectators at Glasgow 2026 believe athlete safety should come before schedules.

"If the rain is this heavy, why risk injuries?" was a question repeatedly heard around the stadium. Others wondered why organisers could not simply postpone events by a day.

Their concerns reflect genuine care for athletes, but under current international regulations, rain itself is considered part of outdoor competition. Only when weather poses a serious threat to safety do officials intervene.



CINEMA

Romanchakam Overseas Release Confirmed

Sandeep Reddy Vanga's upcoming production Romanchakam has received an exciting overseas update. After the huge success of Arjun Reddy and Animal, overseas distributor Nirvana Cinemas is once again joining hands with Vanga Pictures for the film's international release.

The makers officially announced that Romanchakam will have its US premieres on September 2, 2026, one day before its worldwide theatrical release on September 3, 2026. Nirvana Cinemas, which successfully released Sandeep Reddy Vanga's previous blockbuster films overseas, will now handle the international distribution of Romanchakam.

The announcement has increased excitement among Telugu movie fans living abroad. Many movie lovers are happy to see the successful partnership



between Nirvana Cinemas and Vanga Pictures continue once again.

Romanchakam is the first production from Sandeep Reddy Vanga under his own banner. The film is presented by Sandeep Reddy Vanga under Bhadrakali Pictures, while Pranay Reddy Vanga is producing the project.

The movie stars Sumanth Prabhas and Ananthika Sanilkumar in the lead roles. It is directed by Venugopal Reddy, who is expected to bring a fresh and entertaining story to the big screen.

Earlier, the makers released the title poster, which attracted good attention on social media. The film carries the interesting tagline "Love, Comedy, and Suspense," giving audiences a hint that the movie will offer a mix of romance, fun, and thrilling moments.

Sandeep Reddy Vanga became one of India's most popular filmmakers after directing Arjun Reddy, which was later remade in Hindi as Kabir Singh. He also delivered the blockbuster Animal, starring Ranbir Kapoor. At present, he is busy directing Spirit, starring Prabhas.

Even though Sandeep is focusing on directing Spirit, he has also stepped into film production with Romanchakam. The movie is being promoted as a youthful entertainer with an engaging storyline.

With Nirvana Cinemas taking care of the overseas release, expectations are high for a strong opening in international markets. Fans are now eagerly waiting for the trailer, songs, and more promotional updates before Romanchakam hits theatres worldwide on September 3, 2026.

Trivikram Faces Anil Ravipudi Comparisons After Venkatesh's Character Reveal

The first character glimpse from Trivikram Srinivas' much-awaited family entertainer Aadarsha Kutumbam, starring Victory Venkatesh, has generated mixed reactions on social media. While many fans are excited to see the successful actor-director duo reunite, others have drawn comparisons between Trivikram Srinivas and director Anil Ravipudi.

A section of moviegoers felt that Venkatesh's characterization in the teaser resembled the fun-filled, family-oriented roles crafted by Anil Ravipudi in films like F2 and F3. Some viewers ex-



pected the glimpse to instantly reflect Trivikram's signature style and the vintage charm associated with his writing, but felt the brief introduction did not entirely meet those expectations.

However, industry observers point out that the reactions stem largely from the enormous expectations surrounding the project. The Trivikram-Venkatesh combination has long been awaited, and even a short character introduction has sparked widespread discussion online.

The comparisons with Anil Ravipudi are also understandable, given his successful track record of directing Venkatesh in comedy entertainers within a similar genre. Nevertheless, many believe it is too early to judge the film based on a brief glimpse alone.

The real test will lie in how Trivikram develops the character, establishes the film's world, and infuses it with his trademark dialogue, emotional depth, and storytelling style. With expectations running high, all eyes are now on how the acclaimed filmmaker delivers his vision in Aadarsha Kutumbam.

Rashmika, Pooja Hegde Were Considered for Lenin Item Song, Reveals Thaman

In his latest interview, music composer SS Thaman shared a surprising detail about a missing sequence in the movie. He revealed that the makers had initially planned a special item song featuring Rayalaseema slang. He composed the track, and the team considered casting popular actresses like Rashmika Mandanna, Pooja Hegde, or Preity Mukundhan (Kannappa fame). Just before shooting began, the filmmakers decided to scrap the song entirely. They felt it would interrupt the flow of the narrative and draw negative feedback in reviews.

Thaman admitted that he was upset initially by the decision. He even exited the film's official WhatsApp groups in frustration. Things got sorted later. Meanwhile, Thaman has shifted his focus to Megastar Chiranjeevi's 158th film. He mentioned watching an impressive footage clip of Chiranjeevi recently.

Expressing complete confidence in the project, the composer of films



like They Call Him OG and Daaku Maharaaj predicted that the movie would become a blockbuster hit. He hinted that fans will get a clearer picture around August 22.

Ritu Varma Pens Heartfelt Note as Hit Film 'Pelli Choopulu' Completes 10 Years

Marking 10 years of the blockbuster hit Pelli Choopulu, actress Ritu Varma shared a heartfelt note thanking audiences for their enduring love. The star is currently gearing up for Sankalp Reddy's upcoming historical action entertainer Bharatavarsha alongside Gopichand

Hyderabad: Actress Ritu Varma, who played the female lead opposite Vijay Deverakonda in director Tharun Bhascker Dhaassyam's superhit Telugu film 'Pellichoopulu', has now penned a heartfelt note of gratitude on the occasion of the film completing 10 years.

Geographic Reference

Taking to her Instagram page, Ritu Varma said, "Ten years later and my heart is still full. It's hard to believe that a small film made with so much love has become such a timeless part of so many people's lives."

She further went on to add, "Pelli Choopulu gave us far more than we could have ever imagined. It gave us memories, friendships, opportunities, and most importantly, it gave us all of you."

She concluded the note saying, "To everyone who laughed with us, rooted for these characters, and carried this film in their hearts over the years... thank you. Your love is the reason this journey continues to feel as special today as it did on release day. Yours always, Chitra."

Ritu Varma has an interesting set of films lined up next. One of her most eagerly awaited films is director Sankalp Reddy's upcoming historical action entertainer, 'Bharatavarsha', which features Telugu star Gopichand in the lead.

The makers of the film had recently announced that the gifted actress plays the character of Sathyavathi in their film and had also released her first look poster on the occasion.

Taking to its social media timelines to release her first look poster, production house Srinivasaa Silver Screen had said, "Deadly aim. Fierce presence. Wishing @riturv a very Happy Birthday as she transforms into #SathyaVathi in #Gopichand33."

The first look poster of Ritu Varma in the film had her taking aim with a bow and arrow.

The film, which has triggered huge interest in fans and film buffs, is being produced by Srinivasaa Chitturi of Srinivasaa Silver Screen, with Pavan Kumar presenting it.

Sources say that the film is being mounted on a massive scale with a lavish budget.

In October last year, the unit of the film had shot an explosive action sequence.

Sources close to the unit had told IANS that the sequence that was shot was being referred to as the interval action sequence and that it would be a major highlight of the film.

The high-octane interval action sequence was supervised by stunt choreographer Venkat Master. The massive sequence, sources claim, would have audiences on the edge of their seats.

Director Sankalp Reddy, known for his unique storytelling and technical brilliance, will look to bring to life a pivotal yet often overlooked chapter of Indian history in this film. Sources say he is looking to deliver a visually stunning and emotionally resonant narrative.

History

Cinematography for the film is by Soundar Rajan while the film is to have music by Anudeep Dev. The film has three stunt choreographers and two dance choreographers. The stunt masters for the film are Venkat, Pruthvi, Real Satish while the dances have been choreographed by Shankar and Vijay Polanki.



Keerthy Suresh in Talks for Special Song?

After Shruti Hassan, Samantha and Sreeleela, noted actress Keerthy Suresh in talks for a special song in "The Paradise". She worked with Nani in Dasara and tasted success and it was directed by Srikanth Odela. Now, the trio will reunite for The Paradise. Keerthy is not playing the leading lady but she is reportedly doing a special song in the film, which is probably the first time she is doing a special song in another film.



While working on The Paradise, Keerthy developed a strong bond with director Srikanth Odela, and she has already worked with Nani in the past for Nenu Local. Considering her relationship with the two, she seems to have agreed to the special song, composed by Anirudh Ravichander, who is again a dear friend of Keerthy.

The film's shoot is currently in progress and Srikanth seems to have designed the special song in an interesting manner. Keerthy is reportedly a perfect choice, as per the reports from the team.

The actress' addition will definitely add value to the film. In Telugu, the actress will next be seen as a leading lady in Vijay Deverakonda's Rowdy Janardhana and the untitled film directed