

Revanth to Launch Indiramma Housing Towers Works in KPHB Today

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will lay the foundation stone on Thursday for the construction of Indiramma Housing Towers in Hyderabad, marking the launch of the state government's ambitious plan to provide affordable homes to poor and middle-class families in the city. The Chief Minister will perform the bhoomi puja for the Indiramma Housing Towers at KPHB Colony, where 480 flats have been proposed.

The state government has set a target of constructing one lakh Indiramma houses in Hyderabad. As part of the initiative, a pilot project comprising 12,000 flats is being taken up within the Core Urban Region (CURE), with 7,340 flats to be constructed in the first phase at 18 locations spread across 16 Assembly constituencies. The government has accorded administrative sanction of ₹807.40 crore for the first phase. Each Indiramma flat will have a carpet area of 400 square feet and a built-up area of 528 square feet. The government will provide a subsidy of ₹5 lakh for each flat, while the beneficiary will contrib-



ute ₹6 lakh. Families with an annual income of up to ₹6 lakh will be eligible. Applicants should not own a house, plot or flat within the CURE limits, and only one flat will be allotted per family. Applicants must apply for a project located in the Assembly constituency where they reside.

No certificates are required at the time of application. Applicants have to pay an application fee of ₹100 and a token advance of ₹10,000. The amount will be refunded if a flat is not allotted, while in the case of allotment, it will be adjusted against the beneficiary's contribution.

The government has prescribed reservations for different categories in the allotment. SCs will get 14 per cent, STs 5 per cent, BCs 16 per cent and persons with disabilities 5 per cent. Another 10 per cent will be reserved for government employees, outsourcing employees, Class-IV staff and sanitation workers. The remaining 50 per cent will be allotted under the general category. In every category, 30 per cent of the flats will be reserved for women.

The beneficiary contribution will be collected in stages. At the time of provisional allotment, the beneficiary has to pay ₹1 lakh, followed by ₹2 lakh after completion of the RCC structure and another ₹2 lakh during the finishing stage. The remaining amount will have to be paid at the time of handing over the flat.

Apart from KPHB Colony, the Indiramma Housing Towers will come up at Kowkoorin Malkajgiri, Raidurg in Serilingampally, Jalpally in Maheshwaram, Red Hills and the Niloufer site in Nampally, Patigadda in Sanathnagar, Gaddiannaram in Malakpet, Bandlaguda in Ibrahimpatnam, Pocharam in Medchal, Mylardevpally in Rajendranagar, Gajularamaram in Quthbullapur, Hakeempet Dargah in Khairatabad, Jubilee Hills, City Police Lines in Amberpet, Bowenpally in Secunderabad Cantonment and Kulsumpura Police Quarters in Karwan.

Government Aims to Make Telangana HIV-Free: Ponnam Prabhakar

Hyderabad: A massive awareness rally was organised in Hyderabad as part of efforts to create awareness among people about the prevention, early detection and treatment of HIV, AIDS, syphilis and other related diseases.

Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar flagged off the rally at the HMDA Grounds. Around 1,500 people participated in the rally, which was held from the HMDA Grounds to the Necklace Road Railway Station.

Ponnam Prabhakar said the state government, the Health and Medical Department and the Telangana State AIDS Control Society were working together to make Telangana an HIV-free state under the slogan "Be Positive – Stop HIV Positive."

"Today, we organised a campaign and rally with the aim of making Telangana AIDS-free. Many people participated in the rally, and we hope that Telangana will become AIDS-free in the coming days. We are also working towards building a drug-free and healthy Telangana,"



Ponnam said.

The Minister said awareness programmes would be conducted across the state for two months, starting from August 12, and urged people to participate in the programmes.

Ponnam said that necessary medical services and treatment were available to prevent the transmission of HIV from mothers living with the virus to their unborn children. He urged people not to panic and advised them to seek accurate information about HIV prevention, testing and treatment.

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Modi Highlights India's Strong Conservation Efforts on World Elephant Day

Hyderabad: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday stated that on World Elephant Day, we celebrate the majestic elephant, which has remained an integral part of India's ecological heritage.

He expressed gladness that India is home to over 60 per cent of the world's wild Asian elephants. The Prime Minister noted that our nation has 33 elephant reserves, which provide habitats for elephants and strengthen our efforts towards their long-term conservation. Modi also expressed pride in all forest personnel, scientists, veterinarians, mahouts, and the local communities who are integral to all such efforts.

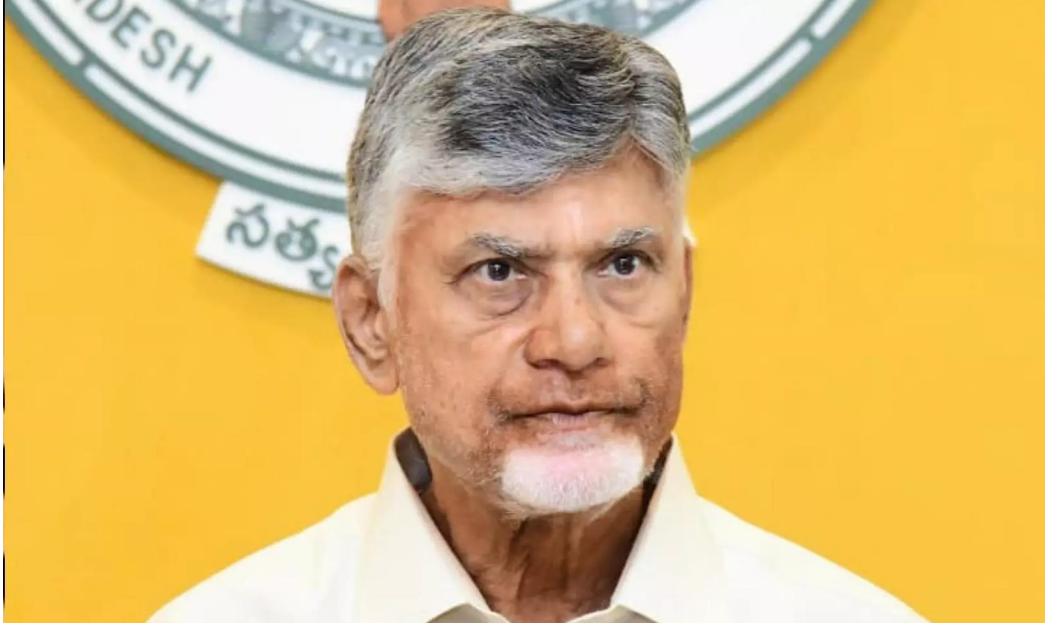
In a post on X, the



Prime Minister shared: "On World Elephant Day, we celebrate the majestic elephant which has remained an integral part of India's ecological heritage. It is gladdening that India is home to over 60 per cent of the world's wild Asian elephants."

"Our nation has 33 Elephant Reserves, which provide habitats for elephants and strengthen our efforts towards their long-term conservation. We are also proud of all forest personnel, scientists, veterinarians, mahouts, and the local communities who are integral to all such efforts," he added.

Naidu Greet Youth on International Youth Day, Calls them Andhra's Energy



Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday extended greetings to people on International Youth Day and said the youth represented the state's energy, strength and hope for the future. The Chief Minister said his government's efforts were ultimately aimed at creating a better future for the younger generation, with greater opportunities, freedom to dream and support to turn their aspirations into reality.

"You are our energy, our strength and the hope and promise of tomorrow. We are committed to building a future where every young person has the freedom, confidence and opportunity to choose their own path and live the life they aspire to," said Naidu in a post on X. He invited young people to join the government in shaping the future and extended his warm greetings to them on the occasion.

KTR launches AI Hub Switzerland platform in Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao launched AI Hub Switzerland in Hyderabad, a platform designed to help users, businesses and policymakers navigate artificial intelligence through tool comparisons, compliance frameworks, case studies, learning resources and guidance on responsible AI adoption.

Hyderabad: BRS working president and former IT Minister KT Rama Rao on Wednesday launched AI Hub Switzerland, a global artificial intelligence knowledge, comparison and compliance platform aimed at helping users, businesses and policymakers navigate the fast-changing AI landscape.

The launch event in Hyderabad was attended by AI Hub Switzerland founder Sridhar Gande and other dignitaries, including former Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao, Mahesh Bigala and NRIs

from the UK and the US.

AI Hub Switzerland is a hybrid platform (<https://ai-hub.host>) rather than a software integration service. It does not directly plug AI tools into computer systems. Instead, it functions as a curated directory and intelligence reference layer where users can compare more than 125 AI tools, 62 company and vendor profiles and 51 real-world case studies.

The platform also functions as a knowledge base and think tank. It tracks 23 AI compliance and governance frameworks, including the EU AI Act and



NIST standards, while building a wider network of companies, researchers and practitioners.

The objective is to support users at different

stages of AI adoption. For beginners and learners, it offers plain-English explainers, structured learning paths and resource libraries. Builders and de-

velopers can access tool comparisons, API breakdowns and integration guides.

For managers and executives, the platform pro-

vides real-world ROI data, vendor comparison tables and a consulting toolkit with assessment templates and implementation playbooks.

AI Hub Switzerland plans to expand into a global AI think tank through a contributor network of researchers, data scientists and engineers. It will support peer-reviewed benchmarks, whitepapers and technical evaluations, besides practitioner groups in healthcare, fintech and enterprise automation.

The platform has also announced a strategic working alignment with AI

Policy Labs, founded and headed by UK House of Lords member and AI consultant Uday Nagaraju. The collaboration will focus on linking AI technology with regulatory guidance, cross-border policy dialogues and research on AI's impact on civil society, labour markets and compliance.

Sridhar Gande said the initiative was aimed at bridging the gap between rapid AI innovation and responsible regulation while empowering enterprises and policymakers to build an ethical and efficient AI ecosystem.

Investment: SIPB Approves 25 Projects Worth Rs 2.08 Lakh Crore in AP

Vijayawada:The 20th meeting of the state investment promotion board chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu here on Wednesday approved proposals for 25 projects worth Rs 2,08,406 crore in sectors like industries, energy, IT, electronics and food processing.

These projects have a potential to generate 21,627 jobs, it is officially stated.

The Chief Minister directed officials to assess the extent of incentives that could be provided to promote industrial units, and to initiate steps to remit industrial incentives into escrow accounts from December. He also called for steps to promote setting up of industrial units in rural areas.

In the 20 SIPB meetings held so far, approvals have been given for 363 proposals to set up industrial units at an estimated investment of Rs 13.78 lakh crore, with a potential to create 10.86 lakh jobs in the state.

Naidu called for a study on the sectors wherein industrial units could be promoted and directed officials to focus on sectors such as green ammonia, lithium batteries and robotics. Officials, he said, must create awareness among people about industrial projects and counter misinformation on social media regarding possible environmental pollution from some projects.

Referring to the proposed data centres in north Andhra, he said 3.5tmc-ft of water could suffice for them.

Naidu said Godavari water could be taken by gravity through the Polavaram left main canal to meet the industrial requirements in Visakhapatnam. He asked officials to assess how upcoming industrial units would contribute to



developing an industrial ecosystem in the state.

He called for special efforts to construct hotels to attract tourists and promote the hospitality sector in Andhra Pradesh.

The Chief Minister directed officials to develop 175 MSME parks and make them accessible by September, with one park in each Assembly constituency, and ensure the setting up of industrial estates.

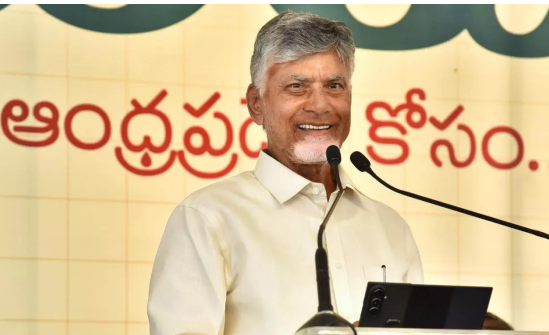
He said several defence sector projects coming up in the state were a matter of pride for the nation and called for the start of defence projects near Puttaparthi and aerospace projects near Hindupur. He also stressed the need to complete construction of the Mulapeta port so that it could be inaugurated in December.

Naidu directed officials to link logistics, modern warehousing and cold chain projects and improve road, rail and port connectivity to facilitate the transport of horticultural produce from Rayalaseema to international markets. He also pleaded for promoting the 'One Family-One Entrepreneur' programme in the state.

The 25 projects approved at the meeting are:

- O'Care Green Fuels — `616 crore, Kurnool district
- Jackson Green Renewable — `1,533 crore, Kurnool district
- FPEL Power — `480 crore, Vizianagaram district
- Waree Clean Energy Solutions — `15,000 crore, Kakinada district
- Aaradhya Biogas — `143.47 crore, Kurnool district
- Ushodaya Biogas — `143.47 crore, Nellore district
- Data Center Holdings India — `58,743 crore, Visakhapatnam district
- Munoth Lithium Battery Ltd — `500 crore, Tirupati district
- AIL Dixon India Ltd — `450 crore, Kadapa district
- ReNew AP Green Data Center — `85,200 crore, Anaparthi district
- AM Intelligence Labs Ltd — `31,387 crore, Visakhapatnam district
- CRR Hospitality LLP — `192.02 crore, Tirupati district
- RK2 Infrastructure — `150 crore, Tirupati district
- Sunrise Hotels India Ltd — `54 crore, Kakinada district
- JSP Hotels and Resorts LLP — Rs 63.79 crore, Krishna district
- Pavuluri Hotels — `58.74 crore, Tirupati district
- Agastya Green Energy Ltd — `7,799 crore, Kurnool district
- Akshay Green Tech Ltd — `1,600 crore, Visakhapatnam district
- Coromandel International — `2,125 crore, Srikakulam district
- Hindalco Industries Ltd — `880 crore, Chittoor district
- Estrella Logistics — `90 crore, Visakhapatnam district
- Gane Sai Mounisha Steel Wires — `66 crore, Vizianagaram district
- VPR Mining Infrastructure — `500 crore, Nellore district
- Jayaditya Agro Ltd — `300 crore, Kurnool district
- Prisoul Agro Industries — `330 crore, Nellore district

Naidu Stresses on Establishing Industrial Projects in Rural Areas



Amaravati: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to credit industrial incentives into escrow accounts from December.

While incentives are essential to promote industries, the government should also focus on determining the extent of incentives that can realistically be provided, the Chief Minister said. The Chief Minister stressed the need for plans to establish industrial projects in rural areas so that industrialisation contributes to the development of those regions.

The 20th State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) meeting chaired by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu approved investment proposals worth Rs.2,08,406 crore covering 25 projects. These projects are expected to create 21,627 direct jobs.

The Chief Minister directed officials to focus on attracting investments in emerging sectors such as green ammonia, lithium batteries and robotics, and to study the measures required to encourage industries in these fields.

He also called for creating awareness among the public about industrial projects being established across the State. He said misinformation was being spread by some groups by portraying industries as polluting units and creating misconceptions that could obstruct development.

The Chief Minister said the data centres being established in North Andhra would require only 3.5 TMC of water and directed officials to take steps to dispel misconceptions regarding data centres. He called for continuous monitoring of industrial development in the State and said fake campaigns were being carried out on social media by some political elements.

He stated that abundant water would be supplied to industries in Visakhapatnam through gravity flow from the Polavaram Left Canal. He also directed officials to analyse the value being added to the State's ecosystem by the industries being established in

Andhra Pradesh.

The Chief Minister called for hotels and other hospitality projects coming up in the State to have distinctive architectural designs that would attract tourists visiting Andhra Pradesh.

The Chief Minister said all defence sector projects being established in the State were a matter of pride for the nation. He directed officials to facilitate the establishment of defence projects near Puttaparthi and aerospace projects near Hindupur.

He directed officials to complete the construction of Moolapeta Port by December so that it can be inaugurated that month. He also called for integrating logistics, modern warehousing and cold-chain projects.

Road, rail and port connectivity should be strengthened to ensure that horticultural produce from Rayalaseema reaches international markets, he said.

The Chief Minister directed officials to accelerate the completion of investment agreements signed during the past year and projects approved by the SIPB. He set a target of completing the remaining 37 MSME parks by September this year, making industrial parks available in all 175 Assembly constituencies.

He also directed officials to take up the One Family-One Entrepreneur programme on a large scale.

Nellore Officials Alert As District's Second Paddy Crop Reaches Critical Stage

NELLORE: With the second paddy crop entering the crucial grain-formation stage, Nellore district administration has stepped up its water management efforts. Addressing a meeting of the Irrigation Advisory Board (IAB) at the Nellore collectorate on Wednesday, Endowments minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy said the next 30 days would be critical. He directed irrigation officials to ensure that water reaches tail-end fields without wastage.

The administration is targeting to irrigate 3.22 lakh acres of the second crop using water from the Somasila project. Officials have reviewed storage levels in the Somasila and Kandaleru reservoirs, requirement of water and supply to delta and non-delta areas. The minister called for coordination between the agriculture and irrigation departments to ensure the required water is supplied to the crop by



September 30. He directed formation of special teams comprising irrigation, revenue, agriculture, horticulture and police personnel, along with project and water-user committees, apart from local MLAs, to continuously monitor canals and field channels and address bottlenecks. Officials have been asked to take corrective measures at the siphon damaged at the 12-km point of the Kavali canal, which has affected the water flow, to protect crops in the areas concerned. Collector Himanshu Shukla said the coming 30 days would be crucial, with the next 15 days being particularly

important. He directed agriculture officials to provide precise crop maturity details canal-wise. He asked Irrigation officials to clearly report existing bottlenecks and proposed solutions.

MLAs Kakarla Suresh, Dagumati Venkata Krishna Reddy, Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy and Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy highlighted the local irrigation issues and stressed on water reaching the tail-end farmers. Somireddy said El Nino-related water stress could worsen the situation and asked authorities to prevent water wastage. Prashanthi Reddy said judicious use of water has enabled irrigation reach the tail-end areas in Kovur. She called for continuous monitoring until the crop is harvested.

275-Foot-Long Tricolour Leads Tiranga Rally In Nellore

A Tiranga rally featuring a 275-foot-long national flag was held in Nellore on Wednesday as part of the Independence Day celebrations.

Endowments minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy flagged off the rally, organised under the leadership of collector Himanshu Shukla. Students, elected representatives, officials, voluntary organisations and residents participated in the rally and marched towards VRC while raising patriotic slogans.

The minister said the rally marked the beginning of a series of programmes being organised in the district until August 15 under the theme 'Partners in Nation Building', in line with the directions of the Central and state governments.

He said tree-planting programmes and social media campaigns would follow, while the main Independence Day celebrations would be held at the Parade Grounds on August 15.

Ramanarayana Reddy said the Tiranga rally was aimed at fostering patriotism, national unity and respect for the sacrifices of freedom fighters. He called upon people to work together for



the glory and prosperity of the nation.

The minister appreciated the participation of public representatives, officials, media personnel, students and voluntary organisations, saying collective involvement would strengthen the spirit of national unity.

Zilla parishad chairperson Anam Arunamma, MLAs Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy, Dagumati Venkata Krishna Reddy and Kakarla Suresh, joint collector Mogili Venkateswarlu, DRO Vijay Kumar and Municipal Commissioner Y.O. Nandan were among those who participated.

SHORTCUT WILL CUT YOU SHORT, MODI TELLS GEN Z



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday urged the younger generation to read long-form content such as autobiographies in the "age of reels", cautioning that social media influencers could pull them in different directions and that chasing shortcuts could prove counterproductive.

"Shortcut will cut you short," Modi said while releasing former President Ram Nath Kovind's autobiography, Triumph of the Indian Republic: My Life, My Struggles, at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi.

"This is the age of reels. Social media influencers pull you here and there. In this age of shortcuts, remember one

thing," Modi said, drawing an analogy with warnings at railway stations against crossing tracks instead of using foot overbridges.

Urging young people to read about the lives of those they admire, Modi said autobiographies offered a different perspective on historical events and helped readers understand the struggles behind

individual achievements.

"Even if you want to go by shortcuts, I urge the youth — read autobiographies of whoever you admire. Autobiographies give you the chance to understand the events of history in a different way. They are close to history," he said.

The Prime Minister said Kovind's life demon-

strated how determination could help a person overcome adversity and rise to the country's highest constitutional office.

Describing the autobiography as a "heritage for Indian democracy", Modi said the younger generation had much to learn from the former President's life.

"We need many more

young people who would be like Kovind in future — people who are not defeated by circumstances but possess the determination to overcome every challenge," he said. Modi said that while Kovind's life and struggles were personal, "the victories of those struggles belong to Indian democracy".

Arvind Discusses Disability Welfare with Union Minister :

New Delhi, August 12, 2026 : Nizamabad MP Dharmapuri Arvind met Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar in New Delhi and discussed several issues concerning the welfare and empowerment of persons with disabilities in the Nizamabad constituency.

During the meeting, the MP explained the difficulties being faced by persons with disabilities and sought stronger measures to ensure that welfare schemes and government services are easily accessible to them.

He requested the expansion of assessment camps for the distribution of essential assistive devices, including wheelchairs, hearing aids and artificial limbs. He also urged the Centre to provide greater opportunities for persons with disabilities in education, employment and skill development.

MP Arvind stressed the need to strengthen accessibility facilities in government offices, educa-



tional institutions and public places so that persons with disabilities can access essential services without difficulty.

He informed the Union Minister that efforts were underway to ensure that all eligible beneficiaries in the Nizamabad constituency receive the benefits of Central Government welfare schemes.

Responding positively, Dr. Virendra Kumar assured MP Arvind that the Union Government would extend all possible support and cooperation for the welfare and empowerment of persons with disabilities.

Rajaka Community Leaders Meet Telangana BC Welfare Minister

Nirmal District Correspondent : Rajaka community leaders met Telangana BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar in Hyderabad and submitted a memorandum requesting that a statue of Chakali Ailamma be installed on Tank Bund. They also urged the government to give priority to the establishment of a Rajaka Bhavan and to the welfare and development of the Rajaka community.

Minister Ponnamp



Prabhakar responded positively to their requests.

The delegation met the minister under the leadership of Chityala Shwetha, Member of the Telangana State Women's Commission and granddaughter of Chakali Ailamma.

Chityala Sampath, president of the Chityala Ailamma Praja Sankshema Sangham, along with leaders Sunketa Poshetti, Kishtayya, P. Srinivas and others participated in the meeting.

BRS Leaders Hit Back at Congress Criticism of MLA Chinta Prabhakar

SANGAREDDY, Correspondent : August 12, 2026: BRS leaders on Wednesday strongly condemned the remarks made by Congress leaders against Sangareddy MLA Chinta Prabhakar and warned that personal attacks against their leader would not be tolerated.

Addressing a media conference at the MLA's camp office in Sangareddy, the BRS leaders accused Congress leaders of speaking beyond their level and challenged them to an open debate on the development of Sangareddy and Sadasivpet with supporting evidence.

They said Chinta Prabhakar had made significant efforts for the development of the Sangareddy constituency with the support of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and former minister T. Harish Rao. According to them, development works worth around 822



crore in Sangareddy town and 264 crore in Sadasivpet had been taken up.

If Congress leaders have any doubts about the development works, we are ready for an open debate in Sangareddy or Sadasivpet with facts and evidence, they said, adding that they were prepared to respond to criticism on development issues but would not indulge in personal attacks.

The BRS leaders recalled that Prabhakar remained accessible to people even during the COVID-19 pan-

dem, despite risking his health. They also said that even after losing the Assembly election, he continued to serve people by setting up a camp office near the Collectorate.

They alleged that Congress leaders should explain the facts regarding various development projects in Sangareddy. Referring to IIT Hyderabad, they questioned the Congress leaders' claim of having brought the institution to the region and asked why it was not named IIT Sangareddy if they had

played such a role.

They also criticised the Congress leadership over the development of Rajiv Park, alleging that promises made in the past had not resulted in its full-scale development despite changes in governments.

Stop making personal attacks against our leader and focus on the development of Sangareddy. We have complete information about your past and your record in government. If necessary, we will come out with evidence, the BRS leaders warned.

They also said that people were aware of the respective roles played by different leaders during the Telangana movement and the statehood struggle, and asked Congress leaders to first clarify their stand on the Jai Telangana slogan.

"Power is not permanent for anyone. Positions come and go, but development works undertaken for the people and the bond with the public remain permanent. We are ready for a debate on Sangareddy's development anywhere and at any time," the BRS leaders said.

SK Rasheed, Akbar Hussain, Kasini Srikanth, former Market Committee vice-chairman Sridhar Reddy, Lateef, Zafar, Aju, Majeed, Masood, Vishnu, Azeem, Kaleem Patel, Samad, Khamil, Khuddus, Wahab, Wajid, Chintu, Shravan Reddy, Akhil and others were present.

Students Should Pay Attention to Mental Health: Psychiatrist Dr. Ambuja

Nagarkurnool : A awareness programme on mental health was organised for students at the Government Science Degree College. Dr. Ambuja, Assistant Professor and Psychiatrist at the Government Medical College, Nagarkurnool, attended the programme as the chief guest and offered several suggestions to the students.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ambuja explained mental disorders, depression and the effects of mental stress. She advised



students to pay attention to their mental health along with their studies. She said that when they face problems such as stress and anxiety, they should not hide them but talk to their family members, teachers or mental health professionals.

Dr. Ambuja advised students to stay away from negative thoughts and develop the habits of getting adequate rest, exercising regularly and maintaining a positive outlook.

College Principal Madanmohan and faculty members Anjayya, Vanitha, Umadevi, Kodandaramulu, Ramakrishna and others participated in the programme.

National flag should be hoisted on every house": BJP Mahila Morcha leader Dwaraka Sridevi

Vemulawada, Aug 12: BJP State Mahila Morcha leader Dwaraka Sridevi called upon everyone to participate in the Har Ghar Tiranga* campaign to instill patriotic spirit.

On Wednesday, she hoisted the national flag in the 11th ward of Vemulawada town along with VHP President Palle Shyam Sunder Reddy, BJP leaders Gadapa Kishore Rao, Gundoji Gopal, Chekurti Naveen, Prashant, and Pradeep Rao.

Speaking on the occasion, she said the tricolor symbolizes the unity of the nation and the sacrifices of freedom fighters. She urged people to hoist the national flag on every house during Independence Day celebrations. She added that the Har Ghar Tiranga program will further strengthen national sentiment among citizens. She emphasized that respecting the national flag is the duty of every citizen and such programs help foster patriotism and social responsibility among youth. BJP leaders, Mahila Morcha activists, and locals participated.



Tricolour Flags Distributed Under Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign :

Nizamabad August 12, 2026 :Nizamabad Urban MLA Dhanpal Suryanarayana Gupta urged citizens to hoist the Tricolour at their homes and celebrate the spirit of patriotism as part of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign.

The MLA distributed National Flags to citizens at Gandhi Chowk in Nizamabad on Wednesday. Addressing the gathering, he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign in 2022 during the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence.

He said the campaign aims to inspire citizens to proudly display the National Flag at their homes and strengthen the feeling of patriotism and personal attachment towards the Tricolour.

Dhanpal recalled the Har Ghar Tiranga bike rally held in New Delhi on August 3, 2022, from the Red Fort to India Gate under the leadership of then Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu.

He appealed to the people of Nizamabad to



participate enthusiastically in the campaign and ensure that the Tricolour is proudly hoisted at every home.

The programme was attended by Nagolla Lakshminarayana, Bellal Shashank, Yerram Sudheer, Bantu Ramu, Bantu Preethi, Shyamala, Malkai Mahender, Sunitha Raju, Bobbili Suvarna Venu, Vaishnavi Sudha, Ippakayala Sumitra Kishore, Jyothi Murali and other Morcha leaders.



Thursday 13, August, 2026

INDIA’S INNOVATION CHALLENGE REMAINS

Though India has emerged as one of the world’s largest producers of scientific publications and patent filings, it continues to lag behind in research spending relative to the size of its economy. One of the reasons for this poor performance, compared with other major economies, is that R&D spending has traditionally been the exclusive domain of the public sector since independence, and the private industry was largely insulated from innovation. However, a positive shift is happening now. The latest report by the Department of Science and Technology on India’s research profile reveals a major milestone. For the first time in the country’s history, private industry’s share of the Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) stood at 51.8% in 2023-24, overtaking the combined spending of the central and State governments. This significant jump from 45.5% in 2021-22 is a welcome development. According to the Economic Survey 2025-26, India’s GERD stands at roughly 0.64% of GDP — a figure that has been virtually stagnant for more than a decade and is dwarfed by those of Israel (5%), South Korea (4.8–4.9%), the United States (3.5%), Japan (3.3%), and China (2.4%). The R&D spending hovered in the range of 0.6% to 0.85% for nearly 20 years despite India’s economy growing several-fold. The optics of private industry crossing the 50% threshold are encouraging, and they do bring India structurally closer to advanced economies where business enterprise typically funds 70–80% of national R&D. South Asians & Diaspora

While the private sector’s rising R&D share is a positive and necessary correction to India’s historically state-dominated research funding model, it is by itself not sufficient to close the technology gap with the countries it wants to compete with. India crossing the 50% mark in private contribution while spending less than 1% of GDP on R&D is a very different achievement from the US or China doing so while spending 2.5-3.5% of GDP. Understandably, private R&D follows sectors that promise near-term commercial returns: generic and specialty pharmaceuticals, IT services and software products, automotive components and EVs, and consumer-facing digital technologies. These sectors are undoubtedly important for boosting exports and generating employment, but they are not fully aligned with the areas most consequential for India’s strategic autonomy and long-term economic security: semiconductor fabrication, advanced materials, critical minerals processing, defence and aerospace systems, foundational AI models, and clean energy storage. A large share of private R&D is concentrated in a narrow set of sectors. Decades of a protected, import-substituting economy, followed by a services- and IT-outsourcing-led growth model, meant Indian firms could compete and profit without deep in-house research — unlike Korean or Chinese firms, which were pushed by export-oriented industrial policy. Also, public research institutions and private industry have historically operated in separate silos, with limited co-funded research or faculty-industry mobility, unlike the tightly integrated innovation ecosystems of the US or Germany.

Jana Sena To Contest From 16 Panchayats In Kunavaram



Jana Sena will contest from 16 panchayats and eight MPTCs during the local body elections in Kunavaram mandal of Polavaram district.

This has been decided at a meeting of the Jana Sena held at Kunavaram on Tuesday.

Addressing cadres, party mandal vice president Bandaru Sambasiva Rao said ever since Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan has assumed office as the minister for Panchayat Raj, he has contributed to the development of the agency areas.

He pointed out that Pawan Kalyan demonstrated his commitment through action, achieving the historic feat of laying roads in regions that had lacked them for half a century.

Sambasiva Rao said as part of contesting the forthcoming elections, JS leaders and cadres have initiated ground-level action plans. He called upon Janasainiks and Veera Mahilas to prepare for the elections with the sole aim of victory in every contest and to unfurl the party flags in every village.

The Jana Sena leader said that the new voter list has been displayed in every panchayat office and the Jana Sena cadres should check out their votes and plan accordingly.

Sridhar Babu Hits Out at KTR Over Land Allocations



Hyderabad: Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu on Wednesday hit out at BRS working president K T Rama Rao (KTR), accusing him of misleading people with false statements on land allocations and other issues concerning Telangana.

Speaking to the media after a face-to-face meeting at Gandhi Bhavan, Sridhar Babu challenged KTR to explain to Telangana’s farmers the price received for the paddy grown at former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao’s farmhouse.

Responding to KTR’s allegations over land allocations, Sridhar Babu said the Congress government had allotted land strictly in accordance with prescribed rules and regulations. He said land was allotted at Rs.1.50 crore per acre, whereas the previous BRS government had allotted land

at ₹90 lakh per acre.

“We allotted five acres for Rs7.5 crore,” he said, asking KTR to explain the basis for the Rs.200 crore figure being quoted by him. The Minister said the HILT policy would benefit the people of Hyderabad and cautioned KTR against creating fear among industrialists.

He said obstructing Telangana’s development was not in the interest of the State and urged KTR not to vent his political anger on the people.

Sridhar Babu also criticised the BRS for what he described as “Goebbels-style propaganda,” saying people had rejected such propaganda in the Lok Sabha and local body elections.

On development, the Minister said the Congress government was continuing policies followed by previous governments. However, he alleged that the previous BRS government had caused serious damage to Telangana’s interests in the allocation of water.

“We will not compromise anywhere when it comes to Telangana’s rightful share of water,” Sridhar Babu said, adding that the State government would attend the upcoming Godavari River Management Board (GRMB) meeting and strongly argue for Telangana’s interests and rightful share of water.

BRS turncoat MLAs Danam Nagender, Pocharam Srinivas Reddy voice discontent with Congress

Hyderabad: Slowly but surely, the BRS turncoat MLAs who defected to the Congress appear to be regretting their decision. Their recent outbursts against the Congress government suggest that discontent is growing among them.

After Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender, Banswada MLA Pocharam Srinivas Reddy has now openly expressed his displeasure with the Congress government. Interestingly, both MLAs have pointed to a lack of coordination between the Ministers and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.

Last week, Danam Nagender said in an interview that a few Ministers were not taking the Chief Minister’s word seriously. He also criticised Revanth Reddy for trying to remain at the centre of every government and party programme.

The Banswada MLA has expressed similar views. Speaking to his followers on Tuesday, he again pointed to a lack of coordination between the Ministers and the Chief Minister. He said the Ministers were hardly following Revanth Reddy’s instructions.

Like Danam Nagender, who admitted that he was struggling to secure Rs.10 crore for constituency development, Pocharam Srinivas Reddy too said getting funds released for development works in his constituency had become a task.

The change in their attitude has left Congress leaders worried. More importantly, both MLAs have openly acknowledged the support extended by BRS chief K Chandrashekhara Rao in the past



for executing development works in their respective constituencies.

In April this year, Pocharam Srinivas Reddy staged a protest at Siddapur over the non-release of funds for development works.

He had said, “When I served as a Minister in the BRS government, officials would respond to my calls even at midnight. Government orders used to be issued in minutes. But in this Congress government, even MLAs’ calls are not being answered.”

Like the others, Patancheru MLA Gudem Mahipal Reddy had also switched loyalties to the Congress. Of late, however, he has been staying away from the Congress and actively participating in BRS programmes.

Though the turncoat MLAs have repeatedly said they joined the Congress with the expectation of constituency development, recent developments indicate that their purpose has not been served.

TGNPDCL Takes Steps to Improve Voltage, Reduce Losses



Hyderabad: TGNPDCL Chairman and Managing Director Karnati Varun Reddy stated that the company has taken several measures to improve voltage levels and reduce technical power losses, particularly in agricultural-dominated areas, through the installation of capacitor banks and voltage boosters.

The TGNPDCL caters to around 14 lakh agricultural pump sets. Since agricultural motors create a high inductive load on rural power feeders, the power factor tends to decline, resulting in increased current flow and voltage drops.

To address these issues, the TGNPDCL has installed 303 capacitor banks of two MVAR capacity and 89 capacitor banks of one MVAR capacity at 33/11 kV substations during the last two-and-a-half years, Reddy said.

He stated that these measures are aimed at ensuring quality and stable voltage supply to the farming community while significantly reducing technical power losses. In particular, capacitor banks have been installed at substations and 11 kV feeders to locally compensate for the reactive power demand caused by agricultural motors.

The CMD said that the installation of 392 capacitor banks is providing relief to the capacity of Power Transformers (PTRs). This has helped avoid the immediate need for installing additional power transformers at several locations.

He further stated that the capacitor banks installed at identified locations have reduced the requirement for 66 additional PTRs, resulting in an estimated saving of around Rs.21 crore.

Capacitor banks installed at 11 kV feeders have also contributed significantly to reducing technical power losses. The CMD stated that the initiative has resulted in an estimated reduction in technical losses worth approximately Rs.82 crore, thereby making a positive contribution towards improving the overall efficiency of the distribution network.

Since technical losses are closely linked to current flow, reducing reactive current through capacitor banks helps lower the current carried by the feeders and consequently reduces I²R losses.

Along with the installation of two MVAR capacitor banks at the substation level, TGNPDCL has also installed 600 kVAR capacitor banks at the 11 kV feeder level. Reddy explained that local reactive power compensation reduces voltage drop along the lines and particularly improves the voltage profile at the tail-end portions of long feeders.

As a result, agricultural pump sets as well as other consumers can receive a more stable and improved voltage supply. The installation of capacitor banks has also resulted in a significant improvement in the power factor at substations. By supplying reactive power locally, the amount of reactive power drawn from the grid is reduced, thereby improving the utilization of the existing distribution infrastructure.

Reddy stated that special attention is being given to preventing low-voltage problems in agricultural feeders. The combined use of capacitor banks and voltage boosters is helping improve voltage levels and provide better-quality power supply to farmers.

In areas with forest terrain and long-distance power lines, establishing a new substation for every low-voltage problem may not always be technically or practically feasible. In such locations, voltage boosters are being used wherever required to address voltage-related problems effectively.

As part of these measures, a total of eight voltage boosters have been installed in forest and remote areas in Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Bhadradi Kothagudem and Mancherial districts, the CMD said.

These measures are intended to strengthen the distribution network in geographically challenging areas, improve voltage at the tail ends of long feeders and ensure reliable and quality power supply to agricultural consumers and other consumers, Reddy said.

Reddy emphasized that TGNPDCL is adopting technology-based and cost-effective solutions such as capacitor banks and voltage boosters, along with new substations wherever necessary, to improve voltage quality, reduce technical losses and make optimum use of the existing power distribution infrastructure

Irregular heartbeats: Recognising rhythm disorders early

Heart rhythm disorders are often associated with major events, but sometimes, the earliest signals can be subtle, such as an irregular beat, a brief flutter, or a momentary racing pulse. These symptoms may point to arrhythmias, a condition in which the heart beats too fast, too slowly, or irregularly. While not every irregular heartbeat is dangerous, symptoms that are new, persistent, or concerning should be assessed by a qualified healthcare professional.

Ajay Singh Chauhan, General Manager for Abbott's Cardiac Rhythm Management business in India, Southeast Asia, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Korea, said, "For people living with heart rhythm disorders, what matters most is timely, effective care that fits seamlessly into their lives and helps them return to normal quickly. At Abbott, we aim to simplify this journey from enabling earlier detection through monitoring that utilizes Artificial Intelligence (AI) to helping patients receive the advanced care for treating bradycardia disorders.

Innovations like leadless pacemakers are designed to reduce lead related and infection complications while supporting the potential for faster recovery and greater comfort. As awareness and diagnosis grow, we remain focused on expanding access to these advanced solutions and partnering with doctors to deliver care that is not only clinically effective, but truly patient-centric.

Dr. Arun Gopi, Director Cath Lab and Electrophysiologist at Metromed International Cardiac Centre (MICC), Kozhikode, said, "Each year, many people rely on pacemakers to manage heart rhythm conditions. While traditional devices are effective, leadless pacemakers offer a less invasive option—with no visible scars and fewer procedure-related risks. For the right patients, this could mean faster recovery, greater comfort, and a quicker return to daily life.

As more people look for treatment that fits their lifestyles, such innovations are especially valuable in India, where follow-up care can be challenging, helping simplify care and improve overall patient experience and outcomes.

Heart rhythm care is evolving with more tools to help physicians' diagnosis and less invasive treatment options, such as leadless pacemakers that can offer greater comfort and convenience for eligible patients. However, the most critical step remains early action. Seeking timely medical advice can help identify issues early and open access to advanced treatments, improving quality of life and long-term heart health. Ultimately, greater awareness and proactive care are key to making the most of these advancements."

This is especially relevant in India, where cardiovascular disease remains a significant public health challenge. According to the WHO, cardiovascular illnesses, affect millions of people globally each year. Arrhythmia can affect individuals at any age, though older adults are more likely to experience it, with both incidence and frequency increasing sharply over time. In fact, it is estimated that up to 60% of older adults may experience some form of arrhythmia. Within this broader cardiovascular burden, rhythm disorders deserve greater attention because they can sometimes be overlooked or mistaken for stress, exhaustion, or lifestyle-related fatigue.

Arrhythmias occur when the heart's electrical system does not function normally, causing the heart to beat too fast (tachycardia), too slow (bradycardia), or irregularly, as seen in atrial fibrillation. Some arrhythmias may cause noticeable symptoms such as palpitations, breathlessness, fatigue, dizziness, or fainting, while others can remain silent and only be detected during a medical evaluation.

While not all irregular heartbeats are dangerous, some can increase the risk of serious complications such as stroke, heart failure, or even sudden cardiac arrest if left untreated. That's why it's important to listen to your body. If something feels off - especially if symptoms are new or persistent - seeking medical advice early can make all the difference in protecting your long-term cardiovascular health.

Treating arrhythmias is not one-size-fits-all approach. The right course of action depends on the type of rhythm disorder, its severity, and the individual patient. In some cases, simple lifestyle changes or medications may be enough to restore a healthy rhythm. In others, doctors may recommend specialised procedures to correct abnormal electrical signals or even implant a device that helps the heart maintain a regular beat.

Pacemakers have long been an established treatment option, particularly when the heart beats too slowly or when electrical signals do not travel properly through the heart. Traditional pacemakers are usually placed under the skin in the upper chest and connected to the heart through thin, insulated wires called leads. This implantation method leaves a physical scar or bulge on the patient's chest and around 1 in 8 patients may suffer from the device pocket and lead associated complications such as infection, lead dislodgement or fracture.

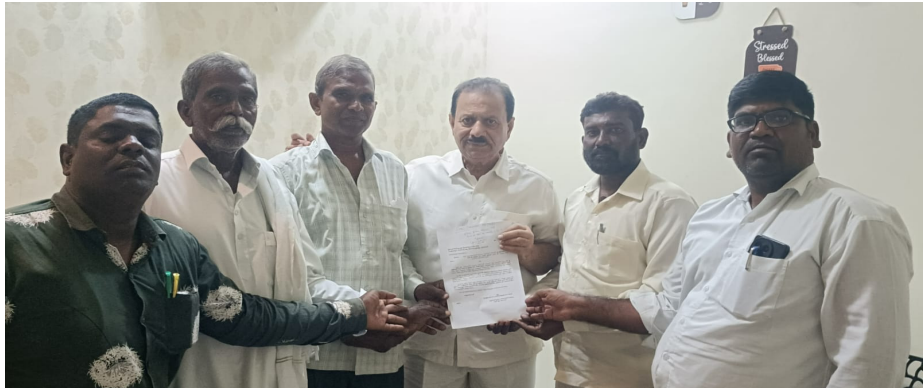
Today, advances in cardiac care are opening up new possibilities. For select patients, leadless pacemakers offer a more discreet, minimally invasive alternative. These tiny, self-contained devices - now available in India - are smaller than traditional pacemakers and implanted directly inside the heart using a catheter inserted through a vein in the leg. With no wires and no chest incision, they represent a significant step forward, designed to simplify treatment while improving comfort and recovery.

Request for Funds for Sri Datta Sai Ashramam Development

Nirmal District Correspondent : Members of the Sri Datta Sai Ashrama Committee from Pyaramoor village in Sarangapur Mandal, along with Committee Chairman Ram Reddy and Congress leader Mirda Sayanna, met former Union Minister Dr. Samudrala Venugopalachary at the Maruthi Inn Hotel in Manjulapur, Nirmal town. They submitted a petition requesting the sanction of funds for the construction of a compound wall and other development works at the Sri Datta Sai Ashramam in Pyaramoor village.

Dr. Samudrala Venugopalachary assured the delegation that funds for the development of Sri Datta Sai Ashram would be sanctioned immediately.

Temple committee members Bhoja Reddy and Ramakrishna, along with Congress Sarangapur Mandal Social Media Coordinator Saakpelli Surender, were present.



Ramraj Cotton opens new showroom in Kacheguda

Hyderabad:Ramraj Cotton, known for its traditional white dhows and local fabrics, has opened a new showroom in Kacheguda. It has further expanded its retail outlets in Hyderabad, making cotton fabrics more accessible to the consumers of this region. The showroom was inaugurated by Lions District Governor Shri Suresh Jagnani. Shyam Mandir Pujari Shri Ram Charan Maharaj lit the traditional lamp. Owner Shri Kunal Goyal made the first purchase at the showroom.

Ramaraj Cotton offers its customers a wide range of traditional and contemporary fabrics made from the finest cotton fabrics through this new showroom. Customers can buy a wide range of Dhoti here like bordered Dhoti, wrinkle-free Dhoti, fragrance-free Dhoti, embroidered Dhoti, Mylkan Dhoti,



Panchakacham Dhoti, silk Dhoti. Also, this store offers cotton shirts, embroidered shirts, linen shirts, designer shirts, silk shirts, Dhoti-shirt pairs in various colors and styles. Apart from Dhoti and shirts, this showroom also has belts, handkerchiefs, socks, towels, men's, women's and children's underwear and clothes. Women have cotton, silk sarees, leggings and other types. A comprehensive range of traditional and daily wear is available.

Ramz Cotton Culturener, Founder and Chairman Shri K.R. Nagarajan said, "Our new showroom in Kacheguda will further strengthen our retail presence in Telangana. There is a strong demand for traditional wear in

Hyderabad. We are happy to offer a wide range of Ramaraj Cotton Dhoti, Shirts and Traditional Wear to the customers in this region. Our aim is to make authentic, comfortable and quality traditional wear easily accessible. Similarly, we will build a strong retail network across the country. We are committed to expanding into new markets and bringing India's rich textile traditions to more customers."

We hope that this new showroom will serve customers in Kacheguda and nearby areas. Ramraj hopes to provide them with a convenient location to offer a wide range of cotton traditional and modern local wear

Eligible Beneficiaries Must Receive ‘Cheyutha’ Pensions Transparently: District Collector Bhavesh Mishra

Nirmal District Correspondent : District Collector Bhavesh Mishra directed officials of all concerned departments to work in coordination to ensure that every eligible beneficiary receives pensions under the state government's prestigious 'Cheyutha' pension scheme in a transparent and speedy manner.

Speaking at a high-level review meeting with officials at the Collectorate meeting hall on Wednesday, the Collector reviewed the receipt of applications for new Cheyutha pensions, online registration, verification of eligibility, and the progress of Indiramma houses, Vanamahotsavam, and Telangana Jalasiri programmes. He issued several key directions to the officials.

The Collector informed that applications for new Cheyutha pensions would be accepted until August 31 and instructed officials to take special care to ensure that government welfare benefits reach every eligible person. He directed that all applications received should be registered online.

People from rural areas can submit their applications to the Gram Panchayat Secretary or MPDO office, while residents of ur-



ban areas can submit their applications at the Municipal Commissioner's office, he said.

Officials were directed to immediately commence the construction of Indiramma houses without keeping any works pending and complete them within the prescribed deadlines. He instructed officials to review the progress of house construction on a mandal-wise basis and take necessary measures.

The Collector directed officials to plant sap-

lings according to the targets set under the Vanamahotsavam programme and give special attention to their protection and survival. He also instructed officials to speed up the construction of soak pits, borewells and farm ponds under the Telangana Jalasiri scheme.

The Collector made it clear that strict measures should be taken to completely control the use of single-use plastic in the district. Along with creating extensive awareness among people in rural and urban areas, he directed officials to seal shops found selling banned plastic items and impose heavy fines. He called upon all departments to work in coordination to develop the district as a plastic-free district.

Additional Collector B. Venkateshwarlu, DRDO Vijayalakshmi, DPO Srinivas, Municipal Commissioners Ravibabu and Sundar Singh, MPDOs, MPOs and officials from various departments participated in the meeting. Eligible Beneficiaries Must Receive 'Cheyutha' Pensions Transparently: District Collector Bhavesh Mishra

Allegations Against Me Are Baseless

False allegations aimed at damaging my political future: Dalit leader Tagaram Shankar Lal

Peddapalli correspondent Manthani, August 12: : Dalit leader Tagaram Shankar Lal stated that the allegations made against him are completely baseless and that false accusations are being levelled against him because some people cannot tolerate his political growth. Speaking at a press conference held at the Manthani Press Club on Wednesday, Shankar Lal said the meeting was organised to bring the facts before the public and the media. He alleged that attempts were being made to damage his political future by making false allegations against him. He said the accusations had also caused mental and political distress to him and his family. He recalled that when his wife, Tagaram Sumalatha, was serving as a ZPTC member, he had an opportunity



to gain politically by switching parties. However, he chose not to do so and continued with commitment without seeking personal benefits, he said. Regarding the allegations against him, Shankar Lal said he would fight the matter legally and expressed his full faith in the judicial system. He thanked the people for their continued support and said he would continue work-

ing for the public in the future. His wife and former ZPTC member Tagaram Sumalatha, along with Vemunuru Jakkayya, Naulla Sampath Maharaj, Bobbili Venkanna, Puluri Ramanna, Gaddala Shankar, Ulla Srinivas, Boddu Rajababu, Chityala Sammaiah, Manthani Sudhakar, Indaram Ellaiah, Vemula Rajesh, Vemula Rajender, Manthani Sammaiah, Puliganti Mallesh, Kesarapu Naresh, Kasipet Madhunaiah, Manthani Lingaiah, Bashaveni Mallesh Yadav, Akudari Naresh, Manthani Raja Pochayya, Manthani Kistaiah, Arepalli Mallaiah, Manthani Satish, Inugala Kondaiah, Manthani Shankar and Buddharathi Sammaiah, among others, attended the press conference.

Grand Mehendi Celebrations Mark Ashada Month Conclusion

Nagarkurnool : Mehendi celebrations were organised at the Government Science Degree College in Nagarkurnool on the occasion of the conclusion of the Ashada month. The event was conducted under the aegis of the Women Empowerment initiative of the college, with women faculty members and girl students participating enthusiastically.



Students attended the celebrations in traditional attire and enjoyed applying Mehendi to one another. The college premises witnessed a cheerful and festive atmosphere. The celebrations added enthusiasm among the students and provided them an opportunity to participate in a traditional cultural activity.

College Principal Madan Mohan said that such cultural programmes help promote creativity, self-confidence and a spirit of friendship among students.

Faculty members Umadevi, Vanitha, Shobharani, Shailaja and others participated in the programme.

In Zahirabad grand welcome to Setwin Chairman Giridhar Reddy

Zaheerabad August: Congress leaders extended a grand welcome to State Setwin Corporation Chairman N. Giridhar Reddy. Chairman Giridhar Reddy, who returned home after completing his foreign tour, received a grand welcome in Zaheerabad on Wednesday. Local leaders presented a bouquet to chairman. Congress party presidents of Zaheerabad and Nyalkal mandals P. Narsimha Reddy, K. Bhaskar Reddy, former Vice MPP Ramulu, congress leaders Kura Narsimlu, K. Bheemaya, Mallareddy, Imam Patel, Harshavardhan Reddy and others were present at the event.



Harish Rao questions delay in opposing AP proposal on Telangana irrigation projects

Hyderabad: BRS Legislature Party deputy leader T Harish Rao on Wednesday questioned the Telangana government's delay in opposing Andhra Pradesh's proposal to review seven irrigation projects in the State, ahead of the Godavari River Management Board (GRMB) meeting on August 18. He was reacting to Telangana's letter to the GRMB objecting to the inclusion of the issue in its agenda

The State government wrote the letter to the GRMB days after Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy said Andhra Pradesh had been raising the issue for the last 12 years and that there was nothing new in its objections.

Reacting to the latest development, Harish Rao asked why the government had remained silent when Andhra Pradesh sought review of the permissions granted to



all seven irrigation projects in the GRMB meeting agenda, despite BRS's caution. He said the Congress government was writing letters only after being questioned by the BRS and demanded that the AP proposals be immediately withdrawn from the GRMB agenda.

The former Minister warned that Telangana should consider boycotting the GRMB meeting if the issues were not removed from the agenda. He also announced that the BRS would mobilise thousands of people to lay siege to the GRMB office at Jala Soudha, if the meeting scheduled in Hyderabad on August 18 was held without withdrawing the agenda items. "We will not tolerate any attempts by Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and his Andhra Pradesh counterpart N Chandrababu Naidu to threaten Telangana's water rights," he declared.

Revanth Orders HMRL to Add Coaches, Speed Up Old City Metro

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday directed Hyderabad Metro Rail Ltd (HMRL) to increase the number of coaches in trains in accordance with growing passenger demand. He also instructed officials to expedite works related to the Old City Metro corridor as part of Phase-II.

At a meeting, he observed that passenger traffic was increasing by the day, and directed officials to take measures to meet the growing demand including by acquiring more coaches. Revanth Reddy directed officials to complete the road widening works by acquiring land along the 7.5-km stretch in Old City from MGBS to Chandrayangutta early and initiate the tendering process for the Metro Rail works.



With regard to the 7.5-km MGBS-Chandrayangutta corridor under Metro Phase-II, Revanth Reddy asked officials to consult Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) and obtain advice on the latest technologies that could be adopted. He stressed the need to make use of contemporary technology and expertise to ensure efficient implementation of the Old City Metro Rail.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister also re-

viewed the preliminary arrangements for the Invest Telangana Global Summit 2026 scheduled to be held in Future City in December. He directed officials to begin advance preparations and ensure smooth and successful conduct of the summit.

He suggested that a programme be formulated to honour prominent personalities in different sectors of the business and industrial world during the summit.

emphasised that the Global Summit should be organised to international standards with a strong focus on attracting investments to the state. He directed officials to submit comprehensive details of the investments attracted to Telangana and the progress achieved following last year's summit.

He also asked them to prepare a detailed action plan to achieve further progress in investments and strengthen Telangana's position as an attractive global investment destination.

Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, special chief secretary Jayesh Ranjan, government advisers K. Ramakrishna Rao and N.V.S. Reddy, HMRL managing director Sarfaraz Ahmed and additional managing director B. Ajith Reddy and other senior officials attended the meeting.

Govt Approves Polymer Rs 10, Rs 20 Notes for Trials

New Delhi: The government has approved the introduction of one billion polymer banknotes of Rs 10 and Rs 20 for field trials, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), with the recommendation of its central board, had sent a proposal to the government in terms of Section 25 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, for introduction of one billion pieces each of Rs 10 and Rs 20 polymer banknotes for field trials and for regular issuance of polymer banknotes in these two denominations after successful completion of field trials, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

"The proposal has been approved by the government. As per the RBI, these polymer banknotes are proposed to be issued along with paper substrate-based banknotes," she said.

The RBI has informed that the procurement process is presently at an initial stage, she said.

Therefore, she said, at this



point of time, it would not be possible to practically determine the exact timeframe for introduction of polymer banknotes or the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon.

Replying to another question, Sitharaman said the average retail inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), has declined steadily from 5.4 per cent in 2023-24 to 4.6 per cent in 2024-25 and further to 2.1 per cent in 2025-26.

Owing to the commodity price shock and elevated global energy prices stemming from the West Asia crisis, a seasonal pickup in vegetable prices, and the expected unfavourable El Nino conditions, retail inflation rose to 3.9 per cent in Q1 of 2026-27, she said.

However, she said, it is still below the Reserve Bank of India's inflation target of 4 per

cent.

"The 56th meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council has brought in a two-rate structure with a standard rate of 18 per cent, a merit rate of 5 per cent and a special de-merit rate of 40 per cent for a select few goods and services (but inclusive of earlier compensation cess rate, and hence with no increase in overall tax burden)," she said.

This resulted in rationalisation of rates on many goods and services from 28 per cent to 18 per cent, 18 per cent to 12 or 5 per cent, and from 12 per cent to 5 per cent/nil.

In addition, she said, with a view to reduce input costs, boosting domestic manufacturing, promoting export competitiveness and supporting strategic sectors, the government announced in Union Budget 2026-27, rationalisation of Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on a host of goods with effect from February 2, 2026.

Modi Asks People to Hoist Tricolour

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday urged people to celebrate Independence Day by hoisting the Tricolour at every home across the country.

In an Instagram post, Modi said, "Come, let us make Har Ghar Tiranga a celebration in every home."

The Prime Minister urged people to celebrate August 15 with pride and honour and pay tribute to the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the country's independence.

"Come, let us celebrate August 15 with pride and honour, pay tribute to the freedom fighters, and pledge to build a developed India (Viksit Bharat). The Tricolour in every home, the Tricolour in every household, the Tricolour in every heart. Come, let us hoist the Tricolour at every home," Modi said.

The Prime Minister also shared a video of the NDA Parliamentary Party meeting, 'Mangal Milan', held at the GMC Balayogi Auditorium in the Parliament House Complex, where ministers and MPs greeted him by waving the national flag and raising 'Vande Mataram'



and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' slogans. Modi joined the NDA parliamentarians, holding a national flag and waving it to-

wards the members present.

On August 9, Modi had called upon citizens to participate enthusiastically in the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' movement and renew their collective resolve to contribute towards building a 'Viksit Bharat'.

He had said that the Tricolour was a symbol of India's pride and a constant source of inspiration for every citizen to give their best for the nation.

Modi also expressed happiness that this year's 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign is dedicated to 'Vande Mataram', as the nation marks the 150th anniversary of the national song.

In a post on X, the Prime Minister had said, "Our Tricolour is our pride and a constant source of inspiration to always give our best for the nation. Let us participate enthusiastically in the #HarGharTiranga movement and renew our collective resolve to contribute towards building a Viksit Bharat. Glad that this year's efforts are dedicated to Vande Mataram and that too at a time when we are marking its 150th anniversary."

CM Targets 15% Economic Growth For AP

Vijayawada: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has called for a comprehensive action plan to achieve a 15 per cent economic growth rate for Andhra Pradesh, amid concerns over the impact of El Nino on the state's economy. Naidu on Tuesday directed the planning department to formulate plans to achieve AP's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) targets despite the El Nino crisis. He stressed the need for an approach covering factors from the state level to the grassroots and called for greater use of technology across departments, similar to the commercial

taxes department.

Earlier, the planning department officials presented the monthly economic report for July 2026 to Naidu at his camp office. The report said the state's growth rate had remained higher than the national growth rate over the past two years, with real GSDP growth rising from 6.5 per cent in 2023-24 to 9.9 per cent in 2025-26. The report recorded growth across the agriculture, industrial and services sectors. Industrial production increased by 8.2 per cent in July compared with June 2026, while spice production rose by 304 per cent during April-June, reaching



89,383 metric tonnes. Vegetable production increased by 44.8 per cent, livestock and meat production by 9.6 per cent, egg production by 5.1 per cent and marine shrimp production by 17 per cent. General exports increased by 10.5 per cent to '16,322 crore, while STPI exports grew by 32.2 per cent. Commercial vehicle purchases increased by 51.6 per cent. Technology integration helped GST collections rise by 21 per cent to '13,282 crore. Mineral production increased by 17.9 per cent and

power consumption by 22.2 per cent.

The state received 3.10 crore domestic tourists and 35,951 foreign tourists in July, according to the report. Investment inflows also remained encouraging, with mega projects worth '2.88 lakh crore grounded and registering 75.4 per cent progress. Investments of around '60,000 crore in the MSME sector recorded a 73.6 per cent increase. Tax and non-tax revenues also registered growth, the report said.

In the second quarter, the agriculture sector recorded 13.5 per cent growth while the industrial

and services sectors grew by 10.6 per cent and 9.9 per cent, respectively. The growth supported the state's economy and the implementation of welfare schemes while maintaining financial discipline, according to the report. Referring to deficient rainfall under the influence of El Nino, inadequate inflows into the Krishna river, low water levels in the Srisailem and Nagarjunasagar projects and declining groundwater levels, Naidu directed officials to coordinate and take measures to prevent these factors from adversely affecting the GSDP. He

called for comprehensive data analysis and corrective measures to address shortcomings. He also directed every department to manage its resources efficiently, achieve higher targets and ensure that measures to increase the state's growth rate did not impose any additional price burden on the people. The Chief Minister asked officials to prepare contingency plans focusing on water availability, value addition to products and other critical factors, while ensuring that products meant for international markets were not adversely affected.

Rybakina rallies past Osaka to reach Canadian Open semifinals

Elena Rybakina fought back from a set down to defeat Naomi Osaka 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4 and reach the Canadian Open semifinals. The world No. 2 overcame three break points in the deciding set before sealing victory.



Montreal: Elena Rybakina rallied from a set down to beat Naomi Osaka 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4 in a thrilling comeback victory to move into the semi-final of the Canadian Open.

Osaka scored the decisive break early in the first set, breaking Rybakina in her first service game of the match. The world No. 2 had a chance to break back the very next game, but Osaka fought off three break points to hold. Rybakina would not force another break point for the remainder of the set as Osaka took the first 6-4.

Rybakina found her form in the second set. Despite being broken in two of her first three service games, the Australian Open champion would earn two breaks of her own and getting to a tiebreaker that she would win, forcing a third and deciding set.

The turning point of a thrilling third set came with Rybakina serving down 3-2 and facing triple

break point. The 27-year-old fought back, saving four break points in total to steal all the momentum with a crucial hold.

Osaka began to lose her composure deeper into the match, kicking her racquet after being broken to go down 4-3. Rybakina would finish the match in style, smashing three aces to seal the win and move on to the semifinal.

"I was just trying to fight," Rybakina said in her on-court interview. "The first game of the match was really tough because it cost me the set, and then in the second I was just trying to stay closer to the score, even if I'm losing. And yeah, just fight, and I'm super happy that I won this match."

The world No. 2's next opponent is a quite unfamiliar one again – Coco Gauff. The two met just once in their careers, which happened to be in Toronto 2022.

Telangana Athletes Do Well In Water Sports At National Level



HYDERABAD: Athletes from Telangana state win 18 medals in different categories of water sports at national level competitions conducted at the multiple venues in Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Rajasthan.

State athletes won eight medals from the Asmita Canoe Sprint National Championship — Sub-Junior category held at Bhopal. In the 500-metre canoe singles event, K. Anusha got silver while the doubles pair of M. Bindu & P. Jaswika won gold. In 1000-metre canoe singles N. Bindu took silver as P. Jaswika & K. Anusha clinched gold in doubles. In the Canoe Fours category K. Bindu, P. Jaswika, R. Rekha and K. Anusha won gold.

In Kayak singles, M. Chandan won a bronze medal, while in Kayak Fours M. Chandan, Shravanthi, Avantika and Sindhu secured silver medals.

In the Sub-Junior National Rowing Championship held in Kolkata, Telangana athletes competed in 10 events and secured six medals with three golds, one silver and two bronzes.

In Under-13 boys double sculls category, M. Yashwanth & S. Shivaram won gold. On the girls side Ch Dhatri and R. Taruni secured gold. In the girls single sculls, A. Varshitha bagged gold. S. Devendramma & K. Lavanya won silver in the girls pairs event.

Aamir, Lalu, Nithin & T. Upendra from the Boys Four and the Girls quartet of N. Aarushi, V. Amani, V. Akshitha & R. Niharika won bronze medals. Telangana also secured two medals in the swimming event from National Junior Swimming Championship in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

In the 50-metre Backstroke, Aarush Das won his first-ever national-level medal, a bronze, in 29.44 seconds.

Shivani Karra clocked 1:01.28 for a silver in the women's 100-metre Freestyle event. Shivani had already won a gold and silver earlier in the same championship.

The State Sports department congratulated the medal winners. Telangana Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari; Sports Advisor to the Government of Telangana A. P. Jithender Reddy; Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, IAS; Sports Authority of Telangana Chairman K. Shiva Sena Reddy; and Vice-Chairperson & Managing Director Dr A. Sonibala Devi, IFS, congratulated the athletes for bringing glory to Telangana at the national level.

The officials also appreciated the coaches who were part of the athletes' success. The coaches felicitated included Rowing coaches Ismail Baig (Dronacharya Awardee), Olympian Manjeet Singh (Dhyan Chand Awardee), and G. Geethanjali



India to host Afghanistan for three-match T20I series in Delhi

India and Afghanistan will face off in a three-match T20I series at Delhi's Arun Jaitley Cricket Stadium in September. Afghanistan will host the fixtures, with matches scheduled for September 13, 15 and 17 as bilateral ties continue to strengthen.

Mumbai: Delhi is set to become the stage for another chapter in the growing India-Afghanistan cricket relationship, with the two boards confirming a three-match T20I series at the Arun Jaitley Cricket Stadium in September.

Afghanistan will be the host, despite all three matches being played in India. The arrangement continues Afghanistan's recent practice of staging home fixtures outside the country, with India serving as one of its principal venues.

The opening T20I will be played on September 13, followed by matches on September 15 and 17. All three encounters will be held at the same venue.

For Afghanistan, the series represents another opportunity to test itself against one of the leading sides in world cricket while further strengthening its association with the BCCI. The fixtures form part of Afghanistan's Future Tours Program.

"The BCCI remains committed to supporting the growth of cricket in Afghanistan and providing its players with opportunities to compete at the highest level. Bilateral cricket is an important part of this, as it allows teams to play regularly against quality opposition and gain valuable experience. We welcome the Afghanistan Cricket Board to India for this series and look forward to working closely with them to make it a successful



one. We believe there is scope to do more together and will continue to support Afghanistan cricket while strengthening the relationship between the two cricketing nations," BCCI President Mithun Manhas.

Geographic Reference

The series will also complete a three-format cycle between the teams in 2026. India and Afghanistan met in a Test and ODI series in June, following their previous three-match T20I contest in January 2024.

BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia said, "The India-Afghanistan cricketing rivalry has produced some thrilling encounters over the years, with both teams boasting quality cricketers. Afghanistan's players are also quite popular among fans in India, which is a reflection of the strong bond that has developed between the two cricketing nations. India hosting Afghanistan for their historic first Test in 2018 was another significant milestone in this journey, and since then, we have continued to see regular bilateral engagements between the two teams.

"We recently hosted Afghanistan for a Test and ODI series in June, and this T20I series will mean the two teams have now competed against each other across all three formats. We look forward to welcoming the Afghanistan team to Delhi and are confident that this will be an exciting and memorable series."

For Afghanistan Cricket Board chairman Mirwais Ashraf, the series carries significance beyond the cricket itself.

"This series holds great significance for Afghanistan cricket and represents another important step in the development of our longstanding relationship with the BCCI. Hosting India for a bilateral series in India is a significant milestone for us, and we highly value the cooperation and support of the BCCI in making this event possible.

"We have hosted our home fixtures in both India and the UAE in recent years, and given the importance and scale of this series, we believe India provides an excellent setting for the event. We are confident that the series will create valuable opportunities across commercial, technical, and cricketing areas, while adding a new dimension to our bilateral engagement. We look forward to a successful series and to further strengthening our partnership with the BCCI," Ashraf said.

DDCA President Rohan Jaitley also welcomed the decision to bring the series to the capital, saying, "We are delighted to welcome both teams to the Arun Jaitley Stadium for what promises to be an exciting T20I series. We look forward to hosting the teams and providing them with the best possible facilities and a memorable experience. I am confident that the three matches will give fans in Delhi an opportunity to enjoy some exciting cricket and further add to the rich history of international cricket at this iconic venue."

The three-match series will begin on September 13, with Delhi hosting all three Afghanistan home fixtures.

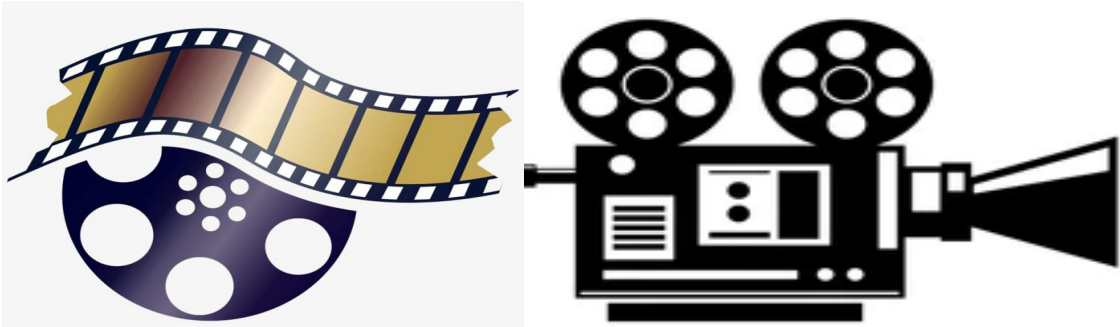
1st T20I- September 13
2nd T20I- September 15
3rd T20I- September 17

Chelsea Signs Chavarria as Replacement Left Back For Cucurella

London: Chelsea signed Pep Chavarria from Rayo Vallecano on Wednesday as a replacement for left back Marc Cucurella. Cucurella joined Real Madrid at the start of the offseason. Chelsea now has another Spaniard at left back, with Chavarria signing a deal until 2031. He helped Rayo reach the Conference League final last season and finish eighth in La Liga for the second straight year. "This is a dream for me as Chelsea are one of the biggest clubs in the world," Chavarria said. "It is a big opportunity but I am prepared and will work hard to help the team achieve success." Un-



der new manager Xabi Alonso, Chelsea has also signed defenders Maxence Lacroix, Marco Palestra and Geovany Quenda, midfielders Morgan Rogers, Jordan Henderson and Valentin Barco, and striker Danny Welbeck this offseason.



CINEMA

Romanchakam title track impresses with Energetic Love Vibe

“Romanchakam,” presented by blockbuster director Sandeep Reddy Vanga and produced under the Bhadrakali Pictures banner, stars Sumanth Prabhas and Ananthika Sanilkumar in the lead roles. The film is produced by Pranay Reddy Vanga and directed by debutant film-maker Venugopal Reddy.

The movie is gearing up for a worldwide grand theatrical release on September 3. Meanwhile, the film’s musical promotions are progressing successfully. The previously released song “Radha Ramana” received a huge response from music lovers. Now, the makers have released the title song from the film.

The second single from Romanchakam arrives with a completely different vibe and instantly grabs attention with its peppy energy. The song showcases Sumanth Prabhas and Ananthika Sanilkumar as a couple hopelessly immersed in love, with absolutely no concern for what is happening around them.

This track has been composed by music director Vasuki Vaibhav, who blends a catchy beat with a beautiful melody and also delivers an energetic vocal performance. Renowned lyricist Chandrabose has penned mature and effortless



lyrics that capture the emotions of young love.

The song beautifully portrays the excitement of first love and the cute, intimate moments that only lovers can truly experience. Sumanth Prabhas and Ananthika are the real visual highlights, as their expressions, dance moves and chemistry make the love story feel spontaneous rather than forced.

Romanchakam is directed by Venu Gopal Reddy and features Sumanth Prabhas and Ananthika Sanilkumar in the lead, with Upendra Limaye, Venkatesh Kakumanu, Narendra Ravi, Mani Aegurla and Sai Sohan in important roles. Pavan Kumar Pappula is the cinematographer, Meeraqh handles dialogues.

Irumudi will be a huge blockbuster - Ravi Teja

Irumudi starring Ravi Teja has become one of his most anticipated films. Shiva Nirvana is directing it in the production of prestigious production house Mythri Movie Makers. Priya Bhavani Shankar is playing leading lady with Baby Nakshatra as daughter of Ravi Teja. The movie trailer is released today to an unanimous positive reception.

The makers have held a grand trailer launch event at Bhimavaram in front of huge number of crowd. Mythri Ravi thanked Ravi Teja for accepting the role and he called him an all-rounder actor star who can pull off such a character. He promised to audiences that movie will be phenomenal.

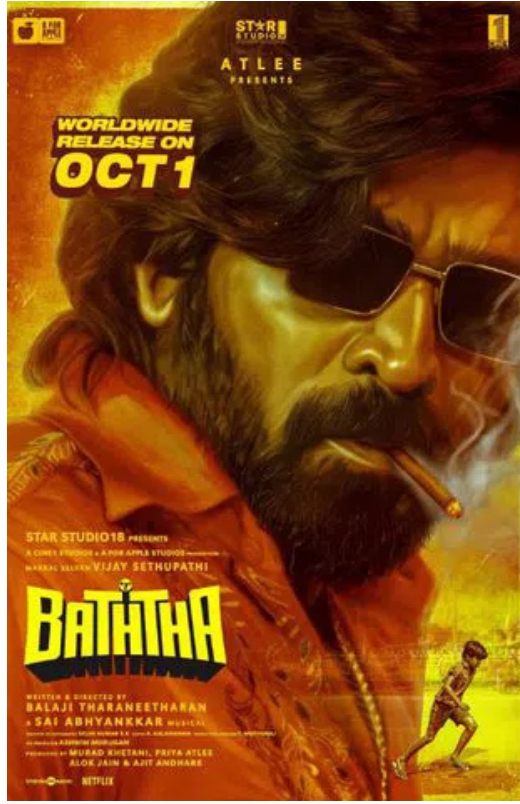
Ravi Teja preferred to talk more about the film at another major pre-release event. But he shared his connection with Bhimavaram calling it his grandparents Village. He called Irumudi as a special film and stated that he is sure that it will be a big blockbuster and he will talk about it more about in the success events.

Shiva Nirvana stated that he never spoke



about the film until today as he wanted to showcase the trailer and then speak. He stated that Irumudi is about the emotional strings attached between a father and a daughter; a devotee and Lord Ayyappa. He stated that the film will be raw, intense and layered with all elements. He promised to deliver a completely immersive experience with the film to audiences in theatres. Irumudi with huge hype and anticipation is releasing on 21st August, worldwide.

Vijay Sethupathi’s ‘Baththa’ to release worldwide on October 1



Chennai: The makers of director Balaji Tharaneetharan’s upcoming film, featuring popular Tamil star Vijay Sethupathi in the lead, on Wednesday announced the title of the film as ‘Baththa’ and said that it would hit screens worldwide on October 1 this year. Geographic Reference The film, presented by Star Studio18 and well known director Atlee, and jointly produced by A for Apple Studios and Cine1 Studios Production, marks the third collaboration between Vijay Sethupathi and director Balaji Tharaneetharan.

Their previous films together — ‘Naduvula Konjam Pakkatha Kaanom’ and ‘Seethakathi’ — were both critically acclaimed with ‘Naduvula Konjam Pakkatha Kaanom’ going on to emerge a superhit. Needless to say, the fact that the two have once again come together for ‘Baththa’ has raised the expectations of fans and film buffs from the film.

‘Baththa’ will also mark the reunion of Vijay Sethupathi with director Atlee. It may be recalled that director Atlee and Vijay Sethupathi had earlier worked together in the immensely popular pan Indian blockbuster ‘Jawan’. While Atlee had directed Vijay Sethupathi in Jawan, he has produced ‘Baththa’. Also, while Vijay Sethupathi had played a pivotal role in ‘Jawan’, he has now played the lead in ‘Baththa’, which is being presented by Atlee.

Lijomol Jose, who played a pivotal role in ‘Jai Bhim’, is playing the female lead in this film, which has music being scored by Sai Abhyankkar, one of the most promising young composers.

Cinematography for the film is by Selvakumar SK while R. Kalaivanan has served as the film’s editor. T. Muthuraj is the Production Designer, and Ashwin Murugan has worked as the film’s co-producer.

‘Baththa’ has been produced by Murad Khetani, Priya Atlee, Alok Jain, and Ajit Andhare. Bringing together leading actor Vijay Sethupathi, director Balaji Tharaneetharan, and some of Indian cinema’s prominent production houses, Baththa is set to release in theatres worldwide on October 1.



Rashi Singh’s Playful Orange Saree Look Wins Hearts

Turning playfully over her shoulder, she wears a bright orange embroidered blouse and matching saree, adorned with orange bangles, a bindi, and a flower in her long curly hair.

Rashi Singh radiates charm in this vibrant traditional look. Turning playfully over her shoulder, she wears a bright orange embroidered blouse and matching saree, adorned with orange bangles, a bindi, and a flower in her long curly hair. Her expressive eyes and soft smile create an engaging, lively portrait.

Born in Bhilai, Chhattisgarh, Rashi Singh worked briefly as an air hostess after participating in beauty pageants before entering films. She made her acting debut in the Telugu romantic drama Sashi (2021) as Sunitha opposite Aadi Saikumar.

She followed it with roles in Prem Kumar (2023), the horror-comedy Bhoothaddam Bhaskar Narayana (2024) as Lakshmi, and the crime thriller Prasanna Vadanam (2024) as ACP Vaidehi, earning praise for her performance. Later credits include Blind Spot (2025), Paanch Minar (2025) as Khyathi, and Santhana Prapthirasthu (2025). She has also appeared in the web series Papam Pasivadu (2023) and 3 Roses Season 2 (2025).

Recent and ongoing projects feature Transfer Trimurthulu (2026) as Lakshmi opposite Vadde Naveen and the female-centric entertainer Gossip (2026), directed by Vaibhav Koundinya. This colorful, spirited image reflects the fresh energy she brings to Telugu cinema.

Krithi Shetty goes Fanaa over a beautiful melody

Krithi Shetty has a strong presence on social media but she doesn't post too many reels. But whenever she decides to drop one, she makes sure that viewers' skip a beat. Recently, she posted a reel for highly melodious and addictive song, Fanaa from High movie and it is spell-binding.

S. Krishna has written and directed the film while he is also playing the leading role. With leading lady Ananya Sharma, he presented a wonderful chemistry on screen in the song. Famous lyricist Ramjogayya Sastry has written the lyrics for this song composed by Vivek Badisa and sung beautifully by Shahzad Ali. The qawwali style composition gives an instant high of romantic emotions upon first hearing. Even Krithi Shetty fell in love with the song due to this quality.

We see her waiting for her significant other to fulfil her desires to have such a great romantic ballad and make memories in the video. Her dressing sense, beautiful frames, visual aesthetics would compel audiences watch it on repeats.

Recently, High makers unveiled this song in front of 300 social media influencers as the story revolves around the new-age influencers. S Krishna is producing the film with Harish Peddi and Sekhar Divvela. The first single leaves a very positive impression on the film. With Krithi's reel, definitely the song's reach is going to increase enormously increasing buzz for the film to next level.

