

Revanth Mocks BRS Claims on TIMS

Hyderabad: Taking a dig at the BRS leadership over its claims on the Tims hospitals, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday narrated a humorous episode involving Sanathnagar MLA and BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao during their recent visit to Dr MCR Tims at Sanathnagar.

Revanth Reddy said BRS leaders seemed to wake up each morning and rush to government programmes whenever they learnt that a project was being inaugurated by the Congress government. He noted that after hearing that Tims Sanathnagar would be inaugurated by him or Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, the MLA visited the hospital with KTR on Sunday and claimed the BRS government had built it.

The Chief Minister said he had no objection to



their visit but recalled how the leaders later went to the mental hospital located behind the TIMS facility. According to him, while walking through the hospital they met an elderly patient. The MLA asked if he recognised KTR. When the patient said no, the MLA allegedly grew angry and insisted that KTR and his father KCR had built the TIMS hospitals.

Revanth Reddy said the patient responded calmly, telling the MLA that when he first came to the hospital he too used to claim he had built the Charminar, Golconda and

Hyderabad. Doctors had treated him, and he was now recovering. "You also get admitted and get treated by the doctors. You will remember everything," the patient reportedly told the MLA.

Using the anecdote, the Chief Minister questioned why the BRS leaders had not inaugurated the hospitals during their decade in power if they had actually built them. He added that the previous government had completed farmhouses at Erravelli, Janwada, Moinabad and Shankarpally without delay, but not the hospitals.

Purandeswari, Vishnu Vardhan Get Key BJP National Posts



Vijayawada: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national president, Nitin Nabin, has appointed Rajamahendravaram MP D. Purandeswari as the party's national vice-president and S. Vishnu Vardhan Reddy from Andhra Pradesh as the All Cells joint co-ordinator.

Hailing from Kadiri in Sri Sathya Sai district, S. Vishnu Vardhan Reddy has held several positions in the ABVP, BJYM and BJP, including AP BJP vice-president and state general secretary, since entering public life in 1992.

BJP supporters are of the opinion that the party's national leadership has recognised his long-standing services and elevated him to a national-level role within the organisation.

TG -SAFE Launch To Ensure Food, Drug Safety In Telangana: CM Revanth

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday said the creation of TG-SAFE reflects the state government's commitment to ensure safety, security and overall well-being of citizens in every aspect of life."Today, as Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential Drugs (TG-Safe) comes into force, with a single department to ensure safety and standards in our food & medicines, I hope all citizens join me in welcoming and taking its services for a safe Telangana," he said in a post on X.

Advertisement According to a Government Order (GO) issued recently, the Food Safety Department and the Drugs Control Department share common objectives relating to public health, consumer safety, quality assurance and effective regulatory enforcement. A unified administrative framework is required to improve surveillance, intelligence, enforcement, legal support and regulatory outcomes, it said. Therefore, the government has decided to establish a unified administrative structure for



the Food Safety Department and the Drugs Control Department.

The order further said the Food Safety Department and the Drugs Control Department would be merged under a unified administration known as the TG SAFE. The unified administration shall preserve the statutory provisions under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. The Commissioner, TG SAFE shall function as unified administrative control for the Food Safety and Drug Control Departments, it said. Senior IPS officer Avinash Mohanty, who was earlier posted as Director General, Drugs Control Administration, has been posted as Commissioner, Telangana SAFE, in addition to his normal duties.

Congress Committed to Kalyana Lakshmi, Shaadi Mubarak

Hyderabad: Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar on Monday said the Congress government was committed to implement the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes and accused the BRS of "shedding crocodile tears" over the issue.

He said the government was releasing funds for the schemes through the green channel and would take all necessary steps to ensure that poor families continued to benefit from them.

Prabhakar said a petition had been filed in the Telangana High Court challenging eight Government Orders (GOs) issued so far in connection with the Kalyana Lakshmi scheme. The court had issued interim orders staying the scheme, he said, adding that the government would appeal against the order before the Division Bench and hoped for a favourable verdict.

The Minister attributed the legal complications to "defective" GOs issued by the previous government in 2014. He said the present government would soon rectify the shortcomings and ensure that the schemes continued without interruption.

Prabhakar also said the government was examining whether the failure to file a counter affidavit in the case was due to a lapse by officials or those handling the government's legal matters. Action would be taken against those found responsible, he said.



He pointed out that Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak were welfare schemes aimed at reducing the financial burden on poor families during the marriage of their daughters. Though introduced in 2014 by the previous government, the Congress government was continuing the schemes irrespective of political considerations, he said.

According to government figures, Rs.16,375.87 crore has been spent under the schemes so far, benefiting 16,78,347 people. The Minister said the schemes were welfare measures and were not intended to enforce any law.

He said the State government had the constitutional authority under Article 162 to formulate and implement welfare schemes through executive orders within its jurisdiction.

Naidu Defends Mega DSC-2025 Teacher Recruitment, Cites Transparency

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Monday defended the Mega DSC-2025 teacher recruitment drive, asserting that the selection process was conducted with transparency. Addressing the Assembly, the Chief Minister said every candidate's selection is traceable and accountable. "Everything was transparent....every candidate selection is traceable and accountable," he said, adding that there was zero compromise while conducting the ex-

amination. Naidu said the teacher's recruitment through 'Mega DSC' fulfilled one of the core poll promises. He said 3.3 lakh aspirants had applied for the DSC examination, which offered 15,941 government teacher jobs. Noting that the entire examination procedure was completed in 148 days, the CM said 89 test sessions were conducted and 42,000 questions were compiled from 13 subjects. Naidu said the people who bagged jobs were happy and un-



derlined that their stories were moving, adding that some aspirants had prepared for seven long years. The CM said the southern state had implemented sports quota in DSC – 2025, adhering to the guidelines implemented by the Centre. Hitting out at YSRCP supremo YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Naidu accused the previous YSRCP government of having "failed" to fill a single teaching post. According to the CM, between 10 lakh and 12 lakh

students had quit government schools under the previous administration while one lakh students transitioned from private to government schools under the current political dispensation. Though there was no deviation from the teacher recruitment notification, he accused the opposition party of filing more than 300 cases against DSC-2025. Moreover, Naidu expressed astonishment that YSRCP was the "only" party which did not attend the House for more than two years.

Every Employee Working in the District Must Register on the Mee Pramanam App:

Nirmal District : Provide Necessary Information for the Census Handbook: District Collector Bhavesh Mishra

Nirmal District Collector Bhavesh Mishra directed officials to ensure that every employee working in government departments across the district registers on the Mee Pramanam facial recognition attendance app.

On Monday evening, the Collector held a review meeting with concerned officials on the registration of employees on the Mee Pramanam app and the preparation of the District Census Handbook.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that all regular, contractual and outsourcing employees working in every government department at all levels must



mark their attendance through the Mee Pramanam app. Departments that have not yet completed registration should do so immediately. He warned that strict action would be taken against employees who are negligent in recording their attendance through the app. Heads of departments were instructed to regularly monitor the attendance details of their staff.

The Collector also directed officials of the concerned departments to provide the required information for the preparation of the District Census Handbook. He emphasized that all information provided by each department should be accurate and complete.

Additional Collectors B. Venkateshwarlu and Kishore Kumar, DRO Rathod Ramesh, along with other officials and staff, attended the meeting.

Payam Venkateshwarlu’s Special Focus on Pinapaka Development

380.90 Crore for Road Development.. ₹33.72 Crore for Flood Protection
Singareni Deep Block Gives New Hope to Manuguru for the Next Two Decades

August 17: MLA Payam Venkateshwarlu is making special efforts for the overall development of the Pinapaka constituency, Congress leaders and public representatives said. They stated that the sanctioning of major funds for roads and flood protection works, along with the allocation of the Singareni PK OC-2 Deep Side Coal Block to Manuguru, would provide a strong foundation for the region’s future development.

380.90 Crore for Road Development
Under the first phase of the Hybrid Annuity Model, road development works covering 266 km in B h a d r a d r i Kothagudem district have been sanctioned with a tentative cost of ₹380.90 crore.

Of this, 21 roads covering 79.79 km in the Pinapaka constituency have been proposed for development. The works will cover several villages across Manuguru, Pinapaka, Aswapuram and Karakagudem



mandals, improving connectivity and transportation facilities in rural areas.

₹33.72 Crore for Godavari Flood Protection

Administrative sanction has been granted for ₹33.72 crore towards construction of flood banks along the right bank of the Godavari River, from Sanjeeva Reddypalem to Nagineprolu in Burgampadu mandal.

The proposed flood protection works are expected to strengthen the safety of people living in vulnerable areas during periods of rising Godavari water levels.

Singareni Deep Block Brings New Hope to Manuguru

The allocation of the Singareni PK OC-2 Deep Side Coal Block to Singareni has been described as a major milestone for the development of Manuguru.

Leaders said MLA Payam Venkateshwarlu continuously pursued the issue with the government, along with trade unions and public representatives, highlighting the importance of the project for Singareni and the Manuguru region.

The Deep Side Block is expected to strengthen Singareni operations and provide greater employment security to workers. Leaders said the project could provide a strong foundation for employment, industrial activity and economic development in Manuguru for the next two decades.

MLA Participates in Victory Celebrations with Workers



On August 4, MLA Payam Venkateshwarlu attended the meeting held at the PK OC-2 project and participated in victory celebrations along with Singareni workers. The workers felicitated the MLA and appreciated his efforts.

The MLA also distributed sweets to the workers and interacted with them to understand their problems, working conditions and welfare requirements.

Thanks to CM and Ministers

MLA Payam Venkateshwarlu, INTUC leaders and Singareni workers expressed their gratitude to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, and Ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and Tummala Nageswara Rao for their support in securing the PK OC-2 Deep Side Coal Block for Singareni.

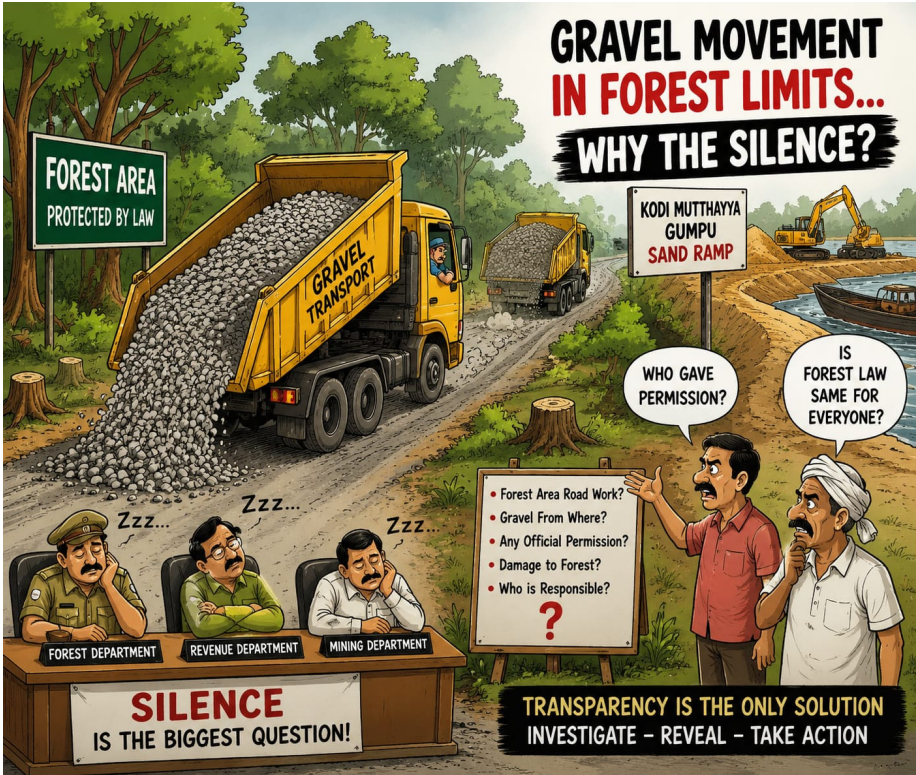
More Development Funds to be Secured

MLA Payam Venkateshwarlu said priority would be given to providing better road connectivity and basic infrastructure across every part of the Pinapaka constituency, along with the development of the Manuguru industrial region.

With major funds for road development, crucial approvals for flood protection works and the securing of the Singareni Deep Side Block for Manuguru, a strong foundation is being laid for the development of the Pinapaka constituency. The Deep Block is expected to provide a major boost to employment, industrial growth and the local economy for the coming two decades, leaders said.

Gravel Movement in Forest Limits Raises Questions

Questions Mount Over Gravel Being Transported to Kodi Mutthayya Gumpu Sand Ramp Road



Manuguru, August 17: The alleged dumping and transportation of gravel on the road leading to the Kodi Mutthayya Gumpu sand ramp has sparked widespread discussion in the Manuguru region. Questions are being raised over the movement and use of gravel within forest limits and the apparent silence of the concerned authorities.

While officials reportedly insist on rules and permissions when gravel is transported for ordinary village road works, locals are questioning why the same scrutiny does not appear to be evident in the case of the road leading to the sand ramp.

Who Granted the Permission?

Locals are demanding clarity on whether official permission was obtained for using gravel for road works within the forest area. If permission was granted, they want authorities to disclose which department issued it, under whose directions, and from where the gravel was transported.

They are also questioning how officials determined that no damage was caused to forest land or the surrounding environment.

Demand for a Comprehensive Inquiry

Locals have demanded a detailed investigation into the gravel transportation and road works connected to the Kodi Mutthayya Gumpu sand ramp. They want authorities to clarify whether Forest Department permissions were obtained and whether any rules were violated.

They further urged higher officials to inspect the site, verify the relevant permissions and documents, and make the facts public.

“Are Forest Rules Equal for Everyone?”

People have appealed to the authorities to take immediate action if any work within the forest limits is found to have been carried out without proper authorization. They also demanded an impartial inquiry into the matter, irrespective of who may be involved.

The key question now being raised by locals is: Are forest regulations applicable equally to everyone, or are there special exemptions for sand ramps? Authorities are being urged to provide a clear and transparent answer.

BRS Protests Against Alleged Move to Scrap Kalyana Lakshmi, Shaadi Mubarak

SANGAREDDY, Correspondent : August 17, 2026 : Alleging that the Congress government was conspiring to weaken and eventually scrap the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes, Sangareddy MLA Chinta Prabhakar said the BRS would continue its fight to protect the welfare schemes meant for poor families.

As part of the BRS party's call, party leaders and workers staged a large-scale protest in front of the Sangareddy Collectorate under the leadership of MLA Chinta Prabhakar on Monday. The protesters raised slogans against the government and displayed placards demanding the continuation of the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes.

Later, MLAs Chinta Prabhakar and Manik Rao, former MLA Chanti Kranthi Kiran and other BRS leaders submitted a memorandum to Additional Collector Pandu.

Speaking on the occasion, Chinta Prabhakar alleged that the Congress government was using a High Court judgment as a pretext to discontinue the schemes that had provided financial support to lakhs of poor families.

He said former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had stood by poor families like a guardian and provided financial assistance to nearly three lakh women beneficiaries, amounting to around 13,000 crore. He said the government had continued supporting poor families even during the Covid-related economic crisis.

According to Prabhakar, the schemes had reduced the financial burden of marriages for poor families and helped several girls continue their education. He said the schemes had provided significant financial security to economically weaker families and had received appreciation at the national level.

He alleged that the Congress had promised during the elections to provide one tola of gold to girls along with Kalyana Lakshmi assistance, but had failed to implement the promise after coming to power. Instead, the government had created uncertainty over the future of the exist-



ing schemes, he charged.

What happened to Kalyana Lakshmi? What happened to Shaadi Mubarak. When will pending online applications receive financial assistance. When will the one tola of gold promised during the elections be provided? Prabhakar asked.

He further alleged that many eligible beneficiaries had been visiting government offices for the assistance due to them since the Congress government came to power.

MLA Manik Rao alleged that the Congress government was attempting to discontinue the schemes only because they had been introduced by KCR. He questioned why the government had failed to properly present its case before the High Court despite receiving several opportunities.

He alleged that the government had deliberately failed to respond adequately to the issue and was now using the court's judgment as an excuse to stop the scheme.

Former MLA Chanti Kranthi Kiran questioned why the government, which could engage private lawyers in important cases involving the Chief Minister, ministers and the government, had allegedly failed to respond effectively in a matter concerning the interests of poor girls.

He alleged that the government had deliberately delayed the matter and was now citing the High Court judgment as a reason for discontinuing the scheme.

The BRS leaders said it was their responsibility as the opposition to oppose any attempt to discontinue schemes benefiting poor families. They warned that any move to scrap Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak would face strong resistance from the beneficiaries and their families.

The BRS leaders demanded that the two schemes be continued, the rights and interests of poor girls be protected, and financial assistance be released immediately to all eligible beneficiaries whose applications were pending.

Two-Week Training Programme for Frontline Supervisors Begins at Manuguru MVTC

Special training programme to continue from August 17 to 29

Manuguru, August 17: A special two-week training programme for frontline supervisors of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), Manuguru Area, commenced at the Manuguru Mining Vocational Training Centre (MVTC) on Monday. The programme will continue from August 17 to 29.

The programme was inaugurated by Manuguru Area Chief General Manager D. Venkata Rama Rao. Addressing the participants, he stressed that frontline supervisors must discharge their responsibilities with utmost commitment and ensure effective implementation of safety measures to prevent accidents in mines.

He advised supervisors to identify potential safety hazards faced by workers and staff while operating machinery and take preventive measures in advance. He also emphasised the need for continuous monitoring to control accidents and



urged the supervisors to achieve production targets while strictly adhering to safety standards.

As part of the training, supervisors will be given comprehensive awareness on workplace safety, accident prevention, workers' safety and precautions to be taken during emergency situations.

Officials advised frontline supervisors to work with the primary objective of creating accident-free workplaces and effectively implement the knowledge gained during the training in their respective duties.

Officials from the MVTC, Safety Department and other concerned departments participated in the programme.

Public Grievances Should Be Resolved Promptly:

Nirmal District Correspondent : District Local Bodies Additional Collector B. Venkateshwarlu

District Local Bodies Additional Collector B. Venkateshwarlu directed officials to resolve public grievances received through the Prajavani programme without delay.

The Additional Collector participated in the Prajavani programme held at the Collectorate conference hall on Monday and personally received petitions from the public.

Speaking on the occasion, he instructed officials of all departments to thoroughly examine each petition and respond immediately. He directed officials to resolve pending Prajavani applications at the mandal level without delay. He also advised the departments concerned to coordinate with one another to address public issues effectively.

As part of the Prajavani programme, people submitted petitions regarding education, healthcare, Indiramma houses,



pensions and land-related issues.

Additional Collector (Revenue) Kishore Kumar, DRO Rathod Ramesh, officials and staff from various departments, among others, participated in the programme.

Independence Day Celebrations Held at Baser Railway Outpost:

Baser, Nizamabad August 17, 2026 : The 80th Independence Day was celebrated in a patriotic atmosphere at the Baser Railway Outpost, which comes under the jurisdiction of Nizamabad Railway Station.

Mohammed Mehboob, Railway Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police, hoisted the National Flag at the outpost, marking the commencement of the Independence Day celebrations. Railway police personnel, railway staff, Government school teachers and students, and people from the surrounding locality participated in the programme.

The gathering paid tribute to the freedom fighters whose sacrifices paved the way for the country's independence. The occasion also highlighted the importance of maintaining national unity, integrity and harmony and encouraging the younger generation to uphold the values of patriotism and responsible citizenship.

On the occasion, Mohammed Mehboob conveyed his Independence Day greetings to the participants and distributed sweets among the railway police personnel, railway staff, teachers, students and members of the public.

Railway Head Constable Raghupathi, RPCs Murli, Suresh and Tirupati, Railway Station Master In-charge Ravinder, Government school teachers and students, rail-



way staff and local residents were present at the celebrations.

The programme concluded with a sense of national pride and enthusiasm, as the participants joined together to celebrate the country's 80th Independence Day.

NEET-PG Exam Arrangements Put in Place

Strong Security at Exam Centre; Special Focus on Candidate Verification, CCTV and Uninterrupted Power Supply

Bhadradri Kothagudem District Collector Ankit has directed officials to make foolproof arrangements for the NEET-PG 2026 examination scheduled to be held on August 30. He instructed all departments to work in close coordination to ensure that there is no malpractice or technical disruption during the examination.

The NEET-PG 2026 examination will be conducted from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM at Abdul Kalam Institute of Technological Sciences in Sujathanagar. This will be the only examination centre in the district, with 100 candidates expected to appear for the examination.

The Collector directed the Police Department to provide strong security at the examination centre. Strict frisking of candidates, surveillance of suspicious movements and effective measures to prevent malpractice should be ensured. Electronic devices, jewellery, water bottles and other prohibited items should not be allowed inside the examination centre.

Officials of the Electricity Department were instructed to ensure uninterrupted power supply throughout the examination. A special officer should be made available to continuously monitor the power supply. The internet connection, CCTV cameras and other technical facilities at the centre should be checked in advance to ensure smooth functioning.

The Sujathanagar Tahsildar was directed to inspect the examination centre in advance and ensure the availability of furniture, drinking water, toilets and other basic facilities. Section 163 will be enforced in the vicinity of the examination centre from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM, and nearby photocopy centres should remain closed during the examination hours.

The District Medical and Health Department officials were instructed to keep medical personnel available at the examination centre to provide emergency medical assistance to candidates. First-aid kits, essential medicines and ORS packets should be kept ready.



The Collector directed the sitting squad to maintain continuous vigilance to prevent malpractice and irregularities. Sujathanagar Tahsildar V. Krishna Prasad has been appointed as the Duty Magistrate. The Kothagudem RDO will supervise the examination centre and conduct inspections during the examination.

B. Srikanth, Principal of Abdul Kalam Institute of Technological Sciences, will serve as the Chief Superintendent, while H. Venkateswara Rao, Intermediate Education Officer, will serve as the Observer.

Collector Ankit made it clear that every official should discharge the duties assigned to them responsibly and without negligence. He warned that disciplinary action would be taken as per rules against officials found negligent in performing their duties.

He called upon the Police, Revenue, Electricity, Medical and Health, Education, NIC and other departments to work in close coordination for the successful and smooth conduct of the NEET-PG 2026 examination.

Additional Collector Venugopal, DRO Padmavathi, Kothagudem RDO Madhu, District Medical and Health Officer Dr. Tukaram Rathod, District Intermediate Education Officer Venkateshwarlu, Sujathanagar Tahsildar Krishna Prasad, Abdul Kalam College Principal Srikanth, police officials and representatives of various departments attended the meeting.

Applications to Be Resolved Promptly: District Collector Koya Sriharsha

Collector Receives Applications from the Public at Prajavani

Peddapalli Correspondent, August 17: During the Prajavani programme held at the Peddapalli Collectorate conference hall on Monday, District Collector Koya Sriharsha received applications from the public and enquired about their grievances. He directed the concerned officials to take immediate steps to resolve the issues. K. Narsamma of Uday Nagar in Peddapalli town submitted an application stating that she was a poor woman with a disability and did not own a house or land. She requested the sanction of a double-bedroom house. The Collector directed the Project Director, Housing, to submit proposals for allotting vacant double-bedroom houses available in Peddapalli. Kondra Ashok of Kodurupaka village in Sultanabad mandal stated that he had been suffering from paralysis for the past four and a half years and had two children. He requested an outsourcing job for his wife.



The Collector instructed the concerned officials to write to the Varadhi Society and take appropriate action, subject to the availability of an opportunity. P. Shankar of Kapulapalli village in Peddapalli mandal submitted an application seeking the sanction of an old-age pension. The Collector directed the District Rural Development Officer to take necessary action. P. Komuraiah of Kachapur village in Julapalli mandal stated that he had applied for Sada Bainama and that some details had been entered incorrectly. He requested that the errors be corrected and his land-related issue be resolved. The Collector directed the Tahsildar to take the necessary action. Relevant district officials and other officers participated in the Prajavani programme.

GCCs Looking Towards Tier-2 Cities After Proposal by SNAAYAN Technologies at W-Hub Startup Summit

Hyderabad, August 17: Amidst rising congestion in Hyderabad and the expansion of Global Capability Centers (GCCs) in the technology sector, Nagaraja mentor and keynote speaker at SNAAYAN Technologies emphasized the need for international organizations to focus on Tier-2 cities. Nagaraj participated in the 'Startup Innovation & Entrepreneurship Summit' organized by Burra Vinod under the aegis of W-Hub at Hotel Kakatiya in Warangal on Sunday. He spoke on topics such as data engineering, data & AI, GCCs, employment opportunities, and the startup ecosystem. Attending the event at the invitation of SNAAYAN Technologies founders Paripurnachari and Satyanarayana, and co-founder Shiva, Nagaraj outlined a model to develop Warangal into a "Tier-2 nearshore technology delivery



hub." He noted that if colleges in Warangal collaborate with startups and technology firms to continuously develop a skilled talent pool, students would acquire industry-relevant skills and local employment opportunities would increase. "By integrating skills, training, technology, and employment into a single ecosystem, technology services can be provided to international organizations directly from Warangal," Nagaraj stated. The 'Tier-2 Nearshore Delivery Hub' model proposed by SNAAYAN Technologies was a major highlight of the summit. In the picture: Keynote speaker Nagaraj and SNAAYAN Technologies co-founder Shiva at the W-Hub Startup Summit.



Tuesday 18, August, 2026

MODI’S OUTREACH TO YOUTH

The Prime Minister's Independence Day address reflects the flavour of the season, but the larger question is whether youth discontent will be viewed merely as an issue of jobs, education and technology, or whether the government is willing to understand it as a deeper demand for accountability and responsiveness

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s focus on the youth in his Independence Day address reflects the flavour of the season. It acknowledges the growing restlessness of Gen Z, but it remains to be seen whether the government will walk the talk on the big promises made from the ramparts of the Red Fort. Symbolic gestures and grand announcements would mean nothing if not followed by concrete, measurable action plans. The long-pending reforms in the education sector will help the youth prepare for jobs in emerging technology and innovation economies. Modi’s outreach to the youth included a promise to offer free online coaching for competitive exams and AI skilling programmes in an attempt to address post-globalisation anxieties. The big shift in the Prime Minister’s political messaging came days after Gen Z-led protests over exam paper leaks, and unemployment forced the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan as Education Minister. Addressing the challenges facing the youth, from employment worries to the incursion of artificial intelligence in everyday life, Modi promised that more than one crore youth would be provided AI skills in a “mission mode” drive over the coming year and the country’s digital public infrastructure would be used to provide free online coaching to students wishing to take various competitive exams. Also, there will be a nationwide sports talent hunt among children between five and 15 years of age ahead of the 2036 Olympic Games. The problem is that these themes have appeared repeatedly in election manifestos, government budgets and policy promises across states.

Employment, education infrastructure, online learning and, increasingly, AI have become recurring features of political messaging. The real question is not what is being promised, but how much of it is actually being implemented. The larger question is whether youth discontent will be viewed merely as an issue of jobs, education and technology, or whether the government is willing to understand it as a deeper demand for accountability and responsiveness. The Mood of the Nation tracker has been highlighting that inflation and unemployment are major concerns and need to be resolved. The youth would account for a third of voters in the 2029 general elections. Since they are bound to influence the outcome of the polls, the issues that concern them—education reforms being one of them—must be addressed on a mission mode. The biggest structural weakness of India’s education system begins much before competitive examinations. It has traditionally rewarded memorisation rather than understanding; marks rather than competence; examination performance rather than creativity; conformity rather than questioning; coaching rather than independent learning. The irony is that India can produce millions of students who obtain degrees while many do not acquire adequate communication, quantitative reasoning, problem-solving, digital or workplace skills. The multi-crore coaching industry has become a parallel education system and is particularly powerful because the formal education system does not adequately prepare students for high-stakes examinations.

UGC-NET Fiasco: Joshi Orders Audit of NTA Exam Processes

New Delhi: As the National Testing Agency (NTA) once again came under fire over question-paper errors that led to the re-examination of three UGC-NET subjects, Union education minister Pralhad Joshi on Monday met the secretary of the Department of Higher Education and directed the agency to conduct a thorough audit of all examination processes and submit a report on corrective action taken.

The minister issued the directions at a meeting attended by NTA director general Abhishek Singh, where the agency’s internal processes and protocols were reviewed. The NTA is reworking its systems to ensure that examinations are conducted fairly and without errors.

Joshi directed the agency to strictly comply with established examination protocols and carry out a complete overhaul of its confidential operations architecture, secluded rooms, air-gapped systems and device-deposit protocols on a war footing.

The minister was also briefed on organisational reforms initiated at the NTA following recent problems. More than 50 staff members have been removed, while professionals are being recruited for key leadership positions. “Ten new professional lead-



ership positions, including chief technology officer, chief finance officer, CISO, GM (test security) and GM (R and D and psychometrics), have been advertised and are being onboarded,” the ministry said.

Domain specialists from the private sector are also being brought in for cybersecurity, psychometrics, question-paper design and other specialised areas.

The action follows the NTA’s announcement late on Sunday that it would conduct re-tests for English, Commerce and Sociology papers of the UGC-NET June 2026 examination after a committee found multiple errors. English and Commerce will be held again on September 9 and Sociology on September 10.

Sources said candidates would not be charged an additional fee for the re-examination and that the number of qualifying candidates and subject-wise allocations would not be reduced because of the re-test.

The NTA had conducted UGC-NET June 2026 from June 22 to 30 across 87 subjects for Junior Research Fellowship, eligibility for appointment as assistant professors and admission to PhD programmes.

The agency constituted a committee after receiving complaints about errors in the three papers. The panel found factual, typographical and translation errors, misspelt names of scholars, garbled book titles, grammatical and punctuation mistakes and repetition of questions used in earlier examinations.

The NTA is now reviewing processes involved in setting, moderating, translating and composing question papers to prevent such errors at source and fix responsibility for lapses.



SSB Safeguards 2,450-km Open borders with Nepal, Bhutan: Bandi Sanjay

Hyderabad: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar inaugurated 48 newly constructed Type-III Separated Family Accommodation at the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) campus in Ibrahimpatnam, Hyderabad.

Improving residential facilities for personnel of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and enhancing Housing Satisfaction Ratio are among the priorities of the Modi Government. In SSB, construction of 10,029 residential units has been completed so far, while construction of 1,273 additional units is currently in progress.

In his address, Sanjay Kumar said that these accommodations are not merely buildings, but a symbol of the Government of India’s commitment to the welfare of SSB personnel and their families, who remain dedicated to the service and security of the nation.

He emphasized that a secure and contented family is the greatest source of strength for a confident and committed jawan. Sanjay Kumar said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and guidance of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the Ministry of Home Affairs remains committed to continuously strengthening the operational capabilities, modernization, infrastructure and personnel welfare of the Central Armed Police Forces.

Sanjay Kumar paid tribute to 51 bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice in the service of the nation and expressed his respect towards their families. Under the guidance of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Sashastra Seema Bal continues to work towards effective security of the open international borders, internal security, disaster response and strengthening community participation in border areas.

The Sashastra Seema Bal is entrusted with the important responsibility of guarding the approximately 2,450-kilometre-long open international borders between Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan.

Maintaining a balance between security, vigilance and sensitivity, SSB continues to take effective action against narcotics, arms trafficking, human trafficking, illegal immigration, counterfeit currency, wildlife crime and other forms of organized crime.

During the year 2025-26, SSB rescued 661 victims of human trafficking and apprehended 6,324 persons involved in illegal activities. In view of the changing security environment, SSB is continuously strengthening technology-enabled, intelligence - driven and mission - oriented border management. Modern technologies such as drones, CCTV systems, thermal imagers, night-vision equipment, GPS-based patrolling, secure digital communication systems and GIS-based planning are being utilized to enhance operational effectiveness.

In addition to border security, SSB plays an important role in internal security, counter-insurgency operations, election duties, maintenance of law and order, and disaster management. The Force has 18 dedicated relief and rescue teams that remain prepared for rapid response, search and rescue operations, and humanitarian assistance during natural disasters and other emergencies.

In border areas, in keeping with the spirit of “Win Hearts and Minds,” SSB is strengthening trust and participation with local communities through medical camps, skill development initiatives, sports activities, women empowerment programmes, awareness campaigns and livelihood-oriented initiatives. Initiatives such as bee-keeping are also helping connect local youth and rural communities with self-reliance and employment opportunities.

Govt To Soon Set Up High-Level Panel On 'Banking For Viksit Bharat'



New Delhi: Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday hinted that the government is likely to set up a high-powered panel for banking reforms soon, and it will examine how India’s banking sector can better support the country’s long-term economic goals and its vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047. Once constituted, the committee will study the sector and submit its recommendations to the government for quick action.

The finance minister also asked public sector banks (PSBs) to leverage their strengthened balance sheets to support the next phase of economic growth. The move of the government comes at a time when banks have already strengthened their balance sheets and reduced bad loans. But the government said that it would further accelerate the existing reforms in the banking system.

In her February budget announcement, she had proposed a high-level committee on ‘Bank-

ing for Viksit Bharat’ to comprehensively review the sector and align it with India’s next phase of growth. “We expect the announcement of the high-powered committee to look into the banking sector. Soon the committee will be announced. The committee would give its thoughts and recommendations to the government,”

Sitharaman said while addressing the two-day PSB confluence here.

The finance minister also highlighted that non-performing assets (NPAs) of banks are at their lowest level ever, providing a stronger foundation for the banking sector to undertake further reforms and support economic growth. “The ideas emerging from the banking leadership could provide substantive inputs to the committee and help the government move rapidly on its recommendations,” she said.

“Viksit Bharat 2047 is actually not too far away. We are in 2026, so less than 20 years is what we have before us,” she said, underlining the urgency for the banking sector to prepare for the country’s future financing requirements.

Department of financial services secretary Sanjay Lohiya also said that the asset quality of PSBs had improved sharply, with gross non-performing assets (NPAs) declining from a peak of 14.6 per cent in March 2018 to a record low of 1.93 per cent in March 2026, while net NPAs fell from 8 per cent to 2.39 percent during the same period.

Harish Rao accuses Congress government of misusing Section 22-A, demands white paper

Hyderabad: Accusing the Revanth Reddy government of turning Section 22-A into a tool of harassment and corruption, BRS Deputy Floor Leader T Harish Rao demanded that the Congress government release a white paper on all lands added to the prohibited list since December 7, 2023.

Harish Rao alleged that the government was placing properties under Section 22-A without proper verification. Properties that had long been cleared under the Urban Land Ceiling Act were now being brought back under the prohibited list, he said during an informal interaction with media persons here on Monday.

Harish Rao pointed out that the Urban Land Ceiling Act had been repealed across the country in 1999. He said the then Andhra Pradesh government, headed by Chief Minister Y S Rajasekhara Reddy, had withdrawn the applicability of the law in the State in 2008.

“When lands were already cleared from the ceiling

restrictions, on what basis is this government once again bringing them under Section 22-A? This exposes the government’s lack of understanding and administrative control,” he asked.

He questioned the decision to include properties in Survey Nos. 8 and 9 of Srinagar Colony, where residents had been living for decades. He said even apartment flats purchased around 30 years ago were being subjected to Section 22-A restrictions, leaving ordinary citizens uncertain about the future of their properties.



Ponguleti Apologises, Forms Panel to Resolve 22A Issues



Hyderabad: Revenue and housing minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Monday apologised to the people for the hardships caused by administrative oversights and announced the formation of a high-level committee to resolve issues related to ‘Section 22-A prohibited lands’ in the state.

Briefing the media after conducting a review meeting at the Secretariat he said that instructions have been issued to resolve all ‘22-A’ applications across all districts by the end of August. A toll-free number (1800 5994788) has also been set up and anyone submitting a grievance will receive a response within three days and appropriate mea-

sures for resolution will be taken.

The minister directed the officials to provide clear reasons for the cases where registration cannot be processed. He further directed the officials to refund registration fees in case applicants have already paid.

The minister stated that a comprehensive report would be prepared regarding Bhoodan lands in the state, covering pending issues, disputes and potential solutions. He assured that genuine landowners would not face any injustice regarding the classification of lands as prohibited.

Over 92 Lakh Voters Will Be Receiving SIR Notices: CEO

Hyderabad: Telangana chief electoral officer C. Sudarshan Reddy on Monday said that over 92 lakh voters — over 60 lakh voters with anomalies, and 32 lakh unmapped voters — will receive notices as the SIR exercise enters the notice period.

Speaking to media persons after releasing the draft electoral roll, the CEO said that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) would distribute notices to each of the voters, similar to the manner in which enumeration forms were distributed. During the two-month “notice phase/disposal of claims and objections,” which will continue until October 15, EROs will scrutinise the eligibility of the voters concerned.

“EROs and AEROs will be sending notices in the format provided by the ECI. Those who receive notices have to reply to the ERO. The EROs, after conducting hearings, will dispose of each case during these two months,” the CEO explained.

He clarified that between 500 and 1,000 Additional AEROs would be deployed, apart from the existing staff of over 40,600, which includes DEOs (District Election Officers), EROs (Electoral Registration Officers), Assistant EROs, BLO Supervisors and Booth Level Officers (BLOs).

“In case any person is aggrieved by the decision of the ERO, he or she may appeal to the district magistrate or district electoral officer (DEO) within 15 days of the ERO’s order under Section 24(a) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, read with Rule 27 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. If the appellant remains dissatisfied, a second appeal may be made before the CEO within 30 days of the district magistrate’s order, as per Section 24(b) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, read with Rule 27 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960,” the CEO explained.

Replying to questions, the official clarified that, besides the draft electoral roll, the ASDD (absent, shifted, dead, or duplicate) list containing information on 73,39,235 voters had also



been uploaded. Poll officials identified a total of 9.22 lakh voters as dead, 11.25 lakh as absent, 45.18 lakh as shifted, 6.7 lakh as already enrolled and over 1 lakh as belonging to the “others” category.

“Booth-wise lists of ASDD voters whose names are not included in the draft roll have also been displayed on the notice boards of the respective ERO or AERO offices, gram panchayats and municipal offices. These lists have also been uploaded to the CEO’s website,” the CEO clarified.

Sudarshan Reddy clarified that voters whose names were not included in the draft electoral roll could submit Form 6 along with a declaration form. Replying to a question about the state government’s FRC (Family Register Certificate), the CEO made it clear that, following the clarification issued by the Election Commission, it could not be accepted.

“FRC is not acceptable, as clarified by the ECI,” the CEO said, adding, “However, the Family Member Certificate issued under the previous government in 2013 (Memo dated 25.06.2013) can be accepted.”

The official said that the number of polling stations had increased by 368. Following the rationalisation process, the number of polling stations increased from 35,985 to 36,353. The reasons included reducing the maximum number of voters at each polling station from the earlier 1,500 to 1,200. Separate polling stations were also created for remote areas located more than 2 km from existing polling stations.

BRS hits back at CM Revanth over 24-hour power claim

Hyderabad: A day after Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy claimed that farmers were being provided 24-hour power, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) hit back, saying officials themselves were admitting that only 10 to 12 hours of power was being supplied to farmers.

Former Minister Sunitha Laxma Reddy said it was a joke that the Chief Minister, who was making farmers spend sleepless nights, was claiming that he had made farming profitable.

Addressing the media here on Sunday, she alleged that the Chief Minister had failed to implement the farm loan waiver as promised.

She also questioned the introduction of the Urea app, saying farmers were facing increased hardships because of it. She asked whether farmers were happy with the new app.

Sunitha Laxma Reddy alleged that the Congress government was deceiving all sections of society, not just farmers. She said Revanth Reddy had promised

two lakh jobs but had deceived unemployed youth. She also questioned what had happened to his promise of an unemployment allowance and the ‘Rajiv Yuva Vikasam’ scheme.

She further alleged that Revanth Reddy had failed to fulfil his promise of providing Rs. 1 crore each to the families of workers who died at the Sigachi industry.

Condemning the remarks and objectionable language used by the Chief Minister in Sangareddy, Sunitha Laxma Reddy said he had spoken lies even on Independence Day. She alleged that Revanth Reddy had no clear policy and had done nothing for the State.Politics

She also criticised the Congress government for boasting about the distribution of ration cards. She pointed out that Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy had admitted in the Legislative Council that 6.47 lakh ration cards were issued during the BRS regime.

Seethakka Launches Public Grievance Cell In Mulugu District



Mulugu: Residents of Mulugu district will no longer have to travel to the district headquarters or Hyderabad repeatedly to seek solutions to their grievances, with a dedicated grievance redressal system being introduced at the mandal level for the first time in Telangana.

Minister for Panchayat Raj and rural development Danasari Anasuya Seethakka launched the mandal-level Praja Vani grievance cell at Govindaraopet in Mulugu district on Monday. She directed officials to receive every petition submitted at the grievance cell, set a specific deadline for its resolution and clearly inform applicants of the reasons if their grievances could not be addressed within the stipulated period.

The minister said people should not be forced to repeatedly visit government offices over the same issue. Problems that could be resolved at the mandal level, should be addressed locally, while matters requiring higher-level intervention should be referred to the concerned district or state authorities and the response communicated to the applicant.

She also instructed officials to register the mobile phone numbers of all applicants and inform them in advance about the expected time required to resolve their grievances.

Seethakka directed officials to establish a dedicated helpdesk at every MPPDO office to provide information and assistance to the public. She called for immediate action on urgent grievances and instructed officials to provide applicants with progress updates within a week on issues that required resolution at the district or state level.

The minister also directed officials to ensure that applications for pensions for single women and widows were received in full from all villages by August 31. She asked officials to pay special attention to eligible persons seeking pensions under various categories, including persons with disabilities, toddy tappers, handloom workers and thalassaemia patients.

Seethakka further instructed officials to visit remote villages and tribal habitations and directly assess the problems faced by residents. She said development works worth around Rs 50 crore would be taken up for road improvement in Pasra, Govindaraopet and Chalcvai, besides providing basic infrastructure in ST habitations and remote settlements.

She directed officials to work with sincerity and ensure that people developed confidence in the government’s commitment to reach out to them instead of making them run from office to office.

RTC Won’t Run EV Autos for Last-Mile Connectivity, Says Ponnam

Hyderabad: Transport minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Monday clarified that the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) has no intention of purchasing or operating electric autorickshaws as part of its last-mile connectivity initiative, amid concerns among autorickshaw unions.

He said the government’s objective was to strengthen last-mile connectivity by integrating existing public transport systems, including RTC, Metro Rail and Railways, to provide seamless and comfortable travel for passengers from the time they leave home until they return. “RTC has no plans that would jeopardise the livelihoods of auto workers and the RTC would not be purchasing electric autos,” the minister said.

Speaking at the Ministers’ Quarters on Monday, as autorickshaw unions prepared to strike from midnight on August 23, Prabhakar said the government was committed to resolving issues faced by autorickshaw drivers.



“The issues faced by autorickshaw drivers had already been discussed in the Cabinet. The transport department would discuss with the labour department to take measures to resolve all outstanding issues.”

The minister said a welfare board would be established as soon as possible, fulfilling the government’s promise regarding the welfare of autorickshaw workers.

Prabhakar said autorickshaw unions had been seeking a fare increase. Autorickshaw fares were last increased in 2012, and there had been no revision for nearly 14 years. He said the government was taking into account the difficulties faced by autorickshaw workers due to rising petrol, diesel and vehicle prices, as well as increasing maintenance costs.

The minister said the Cabinet had decided to provide financial assistance of up to Rs 1.5 lakh per vehicle for retrofitting existing petrol and diesel autorickshaws into electric vehicles, keeping the welfare of autorickshaw workers in mind.

Congress PAC Meeting in Adilabad Witnesses Ruckus

Adilabad: Differences surfaced among Congress leaders in Adilabad district during a political affairs committee (PAC) meeting held at Utnoor on Monday in the presence of minister Jupally Krishna Rao, AICC in-charge Sachin Sawant and DCC president Naresh Jadhav. The meeting witnessed heated arguments between party leaders, leading to a ruckus.

At the beginning of the meeting, Adilabad Assembly constituency in-charge Kandi Srinivas Reddy allegedly scolded former Adilabad market committee chairman Sanjeev Reddy for attending the PAC meeting and reportedly used abusive language against him.

Sachin Sawant and in-charge minister Jupally Krishna Rao tried to pacify Srinivas Reddy, but he allegedly continued abusing Sanjeev Reddy. At the request of Jupally Krishna Rao, Sanjeev Reddy left the meeting hall. Sawant reportedly warned Srinivas Reddy against creating a nuisance and using abusive language against fellow party leaders during the PAC meeting.

Reacting to the incident, Sanjeev Reddy alleged that Srinivas Reddy had a habit of stooping to a low level and revealing his “real face” by using abusive



language against fellow party leaders. He said it was up to the party high command to take action against him. He further alleged that the ruckus at the PAC meeting was pre-planned and that information about it had been passed on to a section of the media in advance.

Referring to the incident, Kandi Srinivas Reddy described it as “a storm in a teacup” and said everything would be settled soon.

boAt Launches New PartyPal Speaker Series with Karaoke ProTuner, DJ Controls and RGB Lighting, Starting at Rs.9,499

Eight-model party speaker lineup brings powerful boAt Signature Sound, real-time vocal tuning, DJ effects and immersive lighting to karaoke nights, house parties and celebrations.

National, 17 August 2026: boAt, India's No. 1 audio and wearables brand, announced the launch of its new PartyPal speaker series, an eight-model lineup designed to turn everyday gatherings into more immersive and interactive entertainment experiences. Comprising the PartyPal 650, PartyPal 600 Plus, PartyPal 500, PartyPal 390 Plus, PartyPal 230, PartyPal Boom, PartyPal Ultra and PartyPal Rumbi, the new PartyPal range combines powerful boAt Signature Sound, Karaoke ProTuner, DJ controls, dynamic RGB lighting and versatile connectivity for everything from house parties and karaoke nights to larger celebrations. The series will be available at prices ranging from ₹9,499 to ₹24,999.

As consumers increasingly turn homes and personal spaces into hubs for entertainment and social gatherings, expectations from party speakers are evolving beyond powerful sound. Karaoke, DJ effects, dynamic lighting and wireless connectivity are making entertainment more participative, allowing consumers to do more than simply listen to music. The new PartyPal series has been designed around this shift, bringing sound, performance and interactive features together in one entertainment platform.

Commenting on the launch, Gaurav Nayyar, CEO, boAt, said: "Music has always brought people together, and increasingly, consumers want products that make those shared moments more engaging and interactive. With the new



PARTYPAL 650

boAt | PartyPal Series

PARTYPAL 600 PLUS

PartyPal series, we are going beyond powerful sound to create a complete entertainment experience built around how India celebrates — from karaoke and house parties to larger gatherings. By combining boAt's audio expertise with features that encourage participation and fun, we want to make great entertainment more accessible, spontaneous and memorable for everyone."

With ProTuner On, Anybody Can Sing Along

Built around the campaign thought, "Anybody can Sing with ProTuner mics" the new

PartyPal lineup introduces Karaoke ProTuner, a built-in auto-tuning feature that enhances vocals in real time, making karaoke more enjoyable and accessible regardless of singing ability. Combined with boAt Signature Sound, in-built DJ controls and immersive RGB lighting, the feature puts participation at the heart of the PartyPal experience.

Across the portfolio, users can experience boAt Signature Sound, immersive RGB lighting, multiple playback modes, support for wired and wireless microphones, guitar connectivity, Bluetooth streaming and extended battery life.

The range has been designed to cater to different entertainment occasions, from intimate gatherings and karaoke sessions to larger indoor and outdoor celebrations.

PartyPal 650 Leads the Lineup

Leading the portfolio is the PartyPal 650, delivering 300W boAt Signature Sound for high-energy entertainment. Equipped with Karaoke ProTuner and dual UHF wireless microphones, it enhances vocals in real time for a more engaging karaoke experience.

The PartyPal 650 also features in-built DJ tracks and a dedicated Bass Drop Pad for live sound effects, while dynamic RGB LEDs synchronise with music to create an immersive party atmosphere. Through the boAt Hearables App, users can personalise sound profiles, lighting effects and speaker settings.

With built-in wheels for portability, up to five hours of playback, and support for Bluetooth v5.3, TWS Mode, AUX, USB, TF card, guitar and wired microphones, the PartyPal 650 brings together sound, karaoke, DJ features and connectivity in one entertainment system.

Pricing and Availability

The new PartyPal series will be available at prices ranging from ₹9,499 to ₹24,999, depending on the model. The PartyPal 650, PartyPal 600 Plus, PartyPal 500, PartyPal 390 Plus, PartyPal 230, PartyPal Boom, PartyPal Ultra and PartyPal Rumbi are available on the official boAt website, Amazon India, Flipkart and leading retail outlets nationwide.



Vishwa Vishwani Institute of Systems & Management (VVISM) formally inaugurated its 21st PGDM batch on Monday. Held at C K Prahlad Hall, the event brought together the institute's leadership, industry veterans

and the newest cohort, marking the beginning of a two-year journey of learning, discovery and transformation.

The ceremony began with the lighting of the lamp and an invocation, followed by the inaugural address by

GSS Venkateshwara Rao, President of Vishwa Vishwani Institutions and one of the institute's founding members. Rao spoke about VVISM's institutional growth and emphasised the importance of emotional

VARADHI 2026

intelligence, self-evaluation and an entrepreneurial mindset in shaping the students' journey.

Welcoming the new batch, Dr. V. Jayashree Veluthakkal, Dean & Director, VVISM, emphasised that personal transformation was as important as academic achievement. She urged students to pursue personal excellence, go beyond established standards and "raise the bar". She encouraged them to enter the programme with curiosity, lead with courage and graduate as capable, future-ready leaders.

Special Guest Ajeet Mishra, Co-Founder and Managing Director of DiaCare Solutions Healthcare and a VVISM PGDM alumnus from 17 years ago. Returning to the institute as an industry leader, Mishra addressed the students on entrepreneurship, innovation, research and continuous learning, offering them a tangible perspective on the possibilities that a VVISM education can open up.

Chief Guest Mrs. Lakshmi Nair, Co-Founder of Mindsparc Pvt. Ltd. and a veteran of more than three decades in



global consulting with Accenture and IBM, shared insights on self-awareness, identifying strengths, build-

ing confidence and developing resilience to face life's challenges. Her experience provided the stu-

dents with an industry perspective on the qualities required to navigate professional and personal life.

Public Grievances Must Be Resolved Promptly: Collector Ankit

**Every Petition Must Be Disposed of Within the Stipulated Time
Prajavani Extended to Mandal Level for Greater Public Accessibility**

Kothagudem, August 17: District Collector Ankit directed officials to give top priority to resolving public grievances received through the Prajavani programme within the stipulated time. He said there should be no delay or negligence in addressing petitions submitted by the public.

Collector Ankit, along with Additional Collector Venugopal, Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Vidya Chandana and District Revenue Officer Padmavathi, received petitions and grievances from people during the Prajavani programme held at the IDOC office on Monday.

People from various parts of the district brought forward issues relating to land disputes, revenue matters, welfare schemes, employment, pensions, housing, basic infrastructure and social security.

Speaking on the occasion, Collector Ankit said Prajavani was an important platform provided by the government to understand people's problems directly and ensure their speedy resolution. He instructed officials to examine every petition carefully and take necessary action within the prescribed timeframe.

The Collector made it clear that there should be no scope for negligence or unnecessary delay in resolving public grievances. Officials were directed to immediately forward petitions to the concerned departments based on the nature of the issue. Problems that can be resolved immediately should not be kept pending, while complicated matters should be continuously monitored until justice is delivered to the affected persons.

He further instructed officials to improve coordination among departments and regularly review the status of petitions received



through Prajavani. Every department should respond responsibly and ensure that government services reach all eligible beneficiaries in a timely and transparent manner.

Collector Ankit said Prajavani programmes were also being conducted at MPDO offices in the mandals, apart from the district headquarters. He urged people to make use of the facility available at their nearest MPDO office to submit their grievances and seek speedy resolution.

He also advised the public to submit necessary supporting documents along with their petitions, as this would help officials process

and resolve the issues more quickly.

Important Petitions Received During Prajavani

Banoth Chandramouli of the 17th Division of Kothagudem Municipal Corporation submitted a petition stating that the ration shop in his locality was being operated by non-locals and requested that it be handed over to local residents for the convenience of the people. The Collector forwarded the petition to the Tahsildar for inquiry and necessary action.

Sharaba Narasimha Rao of Madras Thanda in Tekulapalli mandal sought financial assistance through the ST Corporation. He stated that his loan application had been pending for a long time and requested its early examination and sanction. The petition was forwarded to the Tekulapalli MPDO for necessary action.

Residents of Ward No. 4, behind Jodipampula area in Illandu Municipality, complained that some persons had encroached upon a six-foot government lane, causing difficulties in laying drinking water pipelines and for emergency movement. They requested removal of the encroachments. The Collector forwarded the petition to the Municipal Commissioner for necessary action.

Jakka Yamuna of Kamalapuram village in Mulakalapalli mandal submitted a petition seeking appointment to the vacant Anganwadi helper post at Chalamanna Nagar. She stated that she had applied for the post, completed certificate verification and stood ahead in the merit list. The petition was forwarded to the Women and Child Welfare Department official for necessary action.

Revanth Offers Prayers At Medaram, Launches Welfare Schemes

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy offered special prayers to Goddesses Sammakka and Saralamma at Medaram in Mulugu district on Sunday. Amid traditional rituals and drum beats, priests welcomed him at the sacred gaddes, where he offered jaggery equivalent to his height as a customary offering.

Revanth Reddy prayed for the welfare, prosperity and good health of the people of Telangana. He inspected development works underway at the shrine and planted a sapling on the temple premises, stressing the importance of environmental protection.

The Chief Minister inaugurated a water treatment plant to provide clean drinking water to devotees visiting Medaram. He also launched the distribution of new social security pensions, handing over sanction letters and cheques to 24 widows and single women under the rural development programme. Each beneficiary will receive ₹2,016 per month. He said the government would ensure that all eligible people benefit from welfare schemes.

Revanth Reddy interacted with women devotees and enquired about the benefits they were receiving, particularly the free bus travel facility.



He later met self-help groups, discussed their livelihoods and financial empowerment, and posed for a group photograph with them.

Meanwhile, panchayat raj minister Danasari 'Seethakka' Anasuya tied a Rakhi to the Chief Minister at Medaram in advance of Raksha Bandhan on August 28, as he is expected to be on a foreign tour at the time.

The Chief Minister arrived by special helicopter from Bichkunda and was accorded a warm welcome by ministers, MPs, MLAs, public representatives and officials. Tribal priests in traditional attire received him with drum beats. PCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud, ministers

Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Seethakka and Adluri Laxman, MPs Vem Narendra Reddy, Kadiam Kavya and Balaram Naik, Government Whip Ramchander Naik, MLAs Kadiam Srihari, Gandra Satyanarayana Rao, Nayini Rajender Reddy and others attended the programme.

Kalyana Lakshmi scheme row: BRS to stage protests across Telangana



Hyderabad: Charging that the Congress government was hatching a conspiracy to scrap the Kalyana Lakshmi scheme, BRS working president KT Rama Rao called upon party leaders and activists to stage protests across the State on Monday.

He accused the Congress government of deliberately trying to discontinue the scheme under the guise of a High Court verdict. Rama Rao asked party leaders to stage protests at constituency and mandal headquarters to thwart what he called the conspiracy and expose the Congress party's deceit. He made the remarks during a teleconference with party MLAs, MLCs and others, on Sunday.

The BRS working president said the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes were not merely welfare programmes but initiatives deeply linked to the self-respect of women from poor families.

BRS chief K Chandrashekhara Rao launched the schemes on October 2, 2014, shortly after the formation of Telangana. Initially, Rs. 51,000 was offered under the scheme. The amount was later increased to Rs. 1,00,116.

During the BRS tenure, financial assistance of Rs. 13,000 crore was provided to nearly 13 lakh women. The Kalyana Lakshmi scheme was also continued during the COVID-19 pandemic, he said.

"The Congress party promised to provide

'tulam' gold (10 grams) in addition to Kalyana Lakshmi, but attempts are being made to scrap the scheme," Rama Rao said.

He charged that beneficiaries were being denied the benefits and made to wait for long periods. In some cases, beneficiaries were forced to make repeated rounds of government offices even after their children had been born, he alleged.

Similarly, the distribution of cheques for applications approved after long delays had also stalled, he said. Rama Rao demanded that the government immediately process all pending eligible applications and release the financial assistance.

"Why did the government fail to file a counter-affidavit despite being granted four extensions? The government pays huge sums to private lawyers to argue cases involving issues like corruption but has acted negligently regarding the Kalyana Lakshmi scheme," Rama Rao said.

He alleged that the Congress government was determined to completely halt the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes under the guise of the High Court verdict.

He warned that if the schemes were cancelled, the women of Telangana and their families would teach the Congress government a fitting lesson. Geographic Reference

Rama Rao asked the BRS cadre to confront Congress leaders in every village and ward and conduct extensive campaigns among the public. He said this would make people question Congress leaders.

BRS demands recall of smart food cards, CAG audit into Rs 100-crore spend

Hyderabad: After the Congress government launched the distribution of smart food security cards, the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) termed the initiative a cheap party campaign and demanded that the cards be recalled. It also sought a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) audit of the exercise. Downloading Interactive

In a sharp attack, BRS MLC Dasoju Sravan condemned what he called a criminal waste of Rs. 100 crore in public funds under the guise of distributing 1.05 crore laminated PDS ration cards. The cards were launched on August 15 across 119 constituencies.

He said the expenditure came at a time when Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy was claiming financial helplessness in clearing long-pending fee reimbursement dues for impoverished students and pension as well as gratuity benefits for retired employees.

Over Rs. 100 crore was spent to replace active e-cards with glossy, laminated cards carrying oversized portraits of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, he alleged. Nearly Rs. 100 was spent on each card, factoring in cloud servers, specialised web portals, printing, lamination and logistics across 33 districts. He charged that the entire



exercise amounted to a waste of taxpayers' money.

In 2021, Congress leaders, including Priyanka Gandhi, took to the national stage to denounce Prime Minister Narendra Modi's photograph on CoWIN vaccination certificates. They had described it as a "disgusting abuse of public funds for personal PR during a humanitarian crisis".

The Election Commission subsequently ordered the removal of the Prime Minister's photographs during State elections in Goa, Uttarakhand and elsewhere. Sravan questioned why the same moral standard was not being applied to Revanth Reddy and Uttam Kumar Reddy.

"Food security under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) is a statutory, constitutional right and not a personal feudal charity disbursed from the pockets of Congress Ministers," Sravan said.

The BRS MLC maintained that by displaying the Civil Supplies Minister's portrait alongside that of the Chief Minister, the Congress government had openly flouted the Supreme Court's orders.

He said that once the Model Code of Conduct came into force for the impending local body or GHMC elections, the Election Commission would inevitably freeze or order the reprinting of the 1.05 crore cards. This, he said, would force taxpayers to bear another Rs. 100 crore as a penalty for what he described as the government's reckless narcissism.

The BRS demanded that the photographs of the Chief Minister and Civil Supplies Minister be removed from all ration cards. It also sought the reissue of standardised PDS cards bearing only the official State Emblem. The party further demanded a CAG audit of the approximately Rs. 100-crore procurement, printing, server setup and lamination contracts. It sought recovery of the allegedly squandered public funds directly from the authorities responsible

Congress leaders occupy front row, Collector pushed back in Sangareddy event

Sangareddy: Congress government has been humiliating the district collectors by ignoring the protocol during the official meetings organised at government expense.

Following the protocol of meetings at district level, the Collectors must be made to sit in the first line even during the Chief Minister's and Ministers meetings organised by the government departments.

He must be given priority after the Chief Minister, and Ministers unless any senior IAS officer attends the meeting. However, the Sangareddy Collector Prateek Jain was

made to sit in the second row during the Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's public meeting held at Ambedkar Stadium on Saturday.

While Prateek Jain was sitting in the second row, Congress leaders like T Jagga Reddy, A Chandrasekhara and several other leaders, who were holding no protocol positions, were made to sit in the first row. Shockingly, Revanth Reddy, his cabinet colleagues Uttam Kumar Reddy, D a m o d a r a Rajanarasimha and G Vivekananda did not even utter Prateek



Jain's name even though he and his team worked for a week to make arrangements for the programme.

While the programme was organized at the expense of the civil supplies department, Congress leader Jagga Reddy, his wife Nirmala, son and daughter stole the show.

meeting at Jagga Reddy's residence on the same day, forced the Collector and other officials to attend at the private place.

It is not only the Collector, the entire revenue and other department officials were feeling humiliated at the hands of Congress leaders. Congress leaders are also ill-treating the police officials as well. It is only at district level, the Congress leaders were behaving similarly at mandal and village level, taking a queue from the Chief Minister, Ministers and MLAs.

During a groundbreaking ceremony of KJC India Private Limited organised in May 2026, the Ministers G Sridhababu and D a m o d a r a Rajanarasimha did not utter even the Collector's name. Furthermore, the ministers, who held a review



Manasa Varanasi Radiates Traditional Glamour

Manasa Varanasi continues to captivate hearts with her effortless grace and artistic screen presence.

Former Femina Miss India World 2020 winner Manasa Varanasi continues to captivate hearts with her effortless grace and artistic screen presence. Stepping seamlessly into Indian cinema, she made her Telugu film debut in the action-drama Devaki Nandana Vasudeva (2024), playing a compelling triple role. Expanding her acting range, she starred as the vibrant female lead, Mithra, in the romantic drama Couple Friendly (2026) alongside Santosh Sobhan.

In this stunning click, Manasa blends traditional aesthetic brilliance with modern charm, exuding an undeniable glow that commands attention. Draped in rich ethnic attire, her captivating smile and classic Indian features make this portrait a breathtaking visual delight.

Success Of These Films Making Tollywood Smile

Begin typing your search above and press return to search.
That led Tollywood to believe that the era of average films working at the box office is over. But the belief didn't last forever.

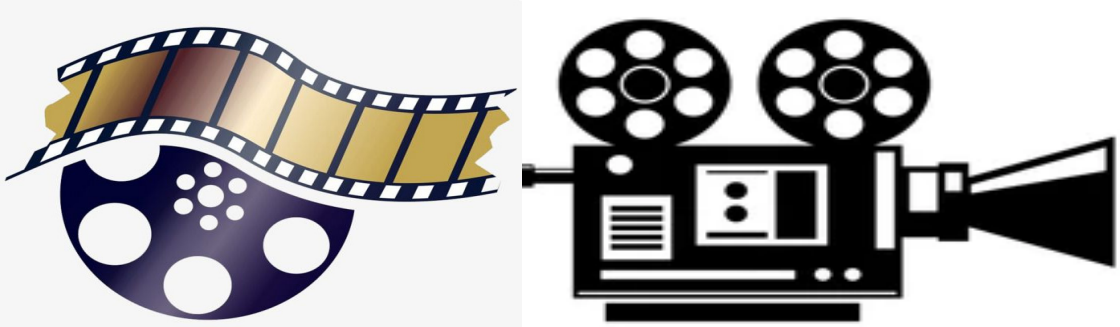


At the end of 2025, whenever a small film or a routine commercial film hits cinemas, its ability to get ticket sales used to end by the end of the first day's first show itself. Only if the content clicks will the film work, or else, the film will have to stare at empty seats. That led Tollywood to believe that the era of average films working at the box office is over. But the belief didn't last forever.

In recent times, movies like Maa Inti Bangaaram, Lenin, Chennai Love Story, Korean Kanakaraju and now Viswananth & Sons have all got average ratings from critics, issues in the second half and then got slammed on release day for half-baked content. But then, the films have received a warm welcome at the box office and made crores in just the first three days of release. That proved a fact that decent content is enough for the audience to get excited and watch.

Also, some say that the audience got bored of watching movies and web series on OTT, and the extra charges being levied by the digital streaming sites in the name of subscription are another reason that moved many audiences to theatres these days. So an average film still works in theatres, and the last few months are proof of that.

Needless to say, the success of these films is making Tollywood smile, and more films are likely to be sent to theatres from now onwards, irrespective of their OTT deals, as the box office itself is bearing fruit.



CINEMA

Sree Vishnu Turns Naxal for his Next Comrade Kalyan

After winning over audiences with comedy-centric films such as Samajavaragamana and Single, young actor Sree Vishnu is now set to explore a completely different side with his upcoming film Comrade Kalyan. The actor plays a comrade in the action entertainer, which is set against an intriguing period backdrop and blends action with romance, emotion and humour.

“It will be a completely different role for Sree Vishnu and will showcase his fiery side. The film has an



intriguing period backdrop and combines action with romance and emotion,” says a source.

Sree Vishnu appears in a rugged comrade avatar, dressed in dark green and sporting a red scarf. He is seen

walking through a forest with a rifle slung over his shoulder. The poster also features Satya and Mukku Avinash alongside him as fellow comrades. While the armed characters establish the serious backdrop of the story,

their cheerful expressions hint that the film will balance its intense action with humour and lighter moments.

Set against the Andhra-Odisha border in 1992, the film features Mahima Nambiar as the female lead. Following

the positive response to the title glimpse and the first two singles, the makers have now announced a major update regarding the film's release date.

For Sree Vishnu, who has often tickled the funny bones of audiences with his comic timing and distinctive sense of humour, taking on a serious and purposeful character marks a new challenge.

“It is a new challenge for Sree Vishnu, and he is confident of impressing Telugu audiences with this serious role,” adds the source.

IA Chinni Chinni: Aneish and Anaswara sizzle

Aniesh has mesmerised audiences with his confidence to pull-off a differently abled mute person role in his debut movie, Itllu Arjuna. Venky Kudumula is turning into a producer with the film and Mahesh Uppala is directing it. The first single, Hai Re and glimpse have created buzz and anticipation for this romantic action drama.

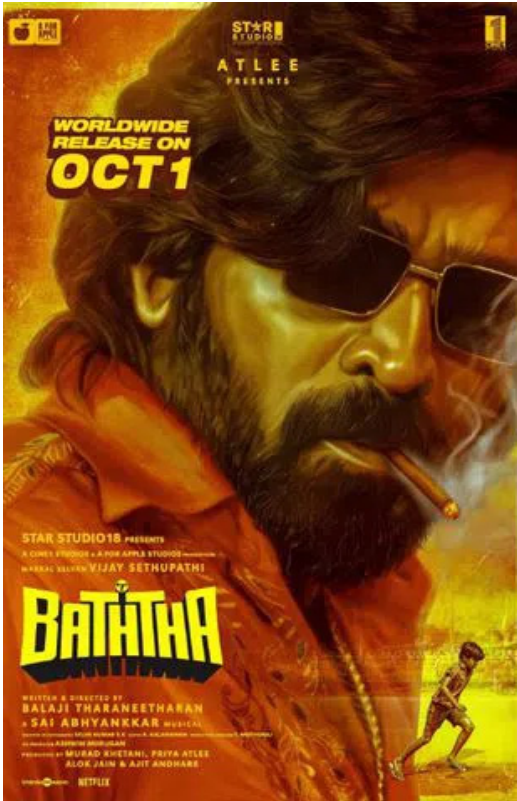
The makers have released second single, Chinni Chinni and it is sung by Mohit Chauhan. The song has a great energy and EDM beats enhance it to next level. S Thaman is composing music for the film and he brought Anirudh Ravichander to sing the first one and now, Mohit Chauhan. They both rocked the songs with their energy and vocals.

Chinni Chinni is brilliantly picturised by Mahesh Uppala and choreography is smooth. Aniesh dance moves are smooth and his leg work stands out. His expressions have to convey what he is feeling and he did a splendid job. Leading Lady Anaswara Rajan is cute, beautiful and her chemistry with Aniesh is sizzling.

Thaman with his music is becoming the biggest highlight of this film. Aniesh is doing hundred percent justice to his addictive beats on the big screen. The second single, further enhances the vibe and sets the tone perfectly for this grand October release.



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.

Lijamol 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.