

# BRS Wanted BCs To Rear Sheep: CM Revanth

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy accused the previous BRS regime of keeping the Backward Classes communities away from education by encouraging them to pursue traditional caste-based professions. In contrast, he said, the Congress government was improving their educational standards, besides supporting caste-based professions.

“Unlike the previous government which asked people to rear buffaloes and sheep, stitch footwear, or catch fish while ensuring KCR’s family remained at the helm of affairs, we are encouraging education, besides ensuring that caste-based professions flourish,” the Chief Minister said.

“I reiterate that children from these communities should pursue education, become doctors, lawyers, and IAS officers, and play a part in rebuilding Telangana. We can change our children’s destinies, as there is greater awareness today,” Revanth Reddy said, after unveiling a statue of Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud at an event held at Tank Bund here on Tuesday. The state marked the birth anniversary of Sardar Pappanna, who fought the Mughals and briefly ruled from Golconda Fort.

Revanth Reddy reiterated that the Congress was working for social jus-



tice, while the BRS only looked at “family justice.” He urged the Goud community to consider the Congress government their own. “We will win 117 seats in the Assembly elections if you affirm that this is your government,” Revanth Reddy said, addressing the BC community.

“When KCR became Chief Minister, he appointed his son KTR as working president. When Revanth Reddy became Chief Minister, Mahesh

Goud became state Congress president. When KCR was Chief Minister, Harish Rao and KTR became key figures. When Revanth Reddy became Chief Minister, Ponnam, Vakiti, Seethakka, and Konda Surekha became ministers,” Revanth Reddy pointed out, highlighting what he called the difference in approach between him and former chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao.

“When KCR was CM, he made his daughter an MP and an MLC. I appointed the granddaughter of the heroic Chakali Iamma and Srikanthachari’s mother Shankaramma as members of the Telangana State Women’s Commission. KCR’s approach is based on family interests; mine is based on social justice. KCR represents the justice of the feudal lords (doralu), whereas ours is social justice,” Revanth Reddy said.

The Chief Minister reiterated his allegation that top leaders from the BRS were engaged in ‘black magic’. “They are performing occult rituals, hoping for drought and losses for farmers. How can they stoop so low just to get back to power,” Revanth Reddy asked. “Those who practice black magic deserve to be tied to trees and thrashed.”

## Drinking Water, Irrigation Needs-Govt Gears Up For Balancing Act

The focus of the irrigation department in this El Nino impacted monsoon is for a judicious balance between safeguarding drinking-water requirements, and meeting the irrigation needs of farmers, the government said on Tuesday. Officials of the irrigation department were cautioned not to paint any overly optimistic picture of water availability in reservoirs, and inform people about the factual position. Water management during the coming months must be guided by prudence, scientific assessment and actual availability, rather than optimistic assumptions about future rainfall, the officials were told. The government’s objective for the rest of the Kharif season is to use every dependable water source to protect standing crops, conserve supplies where inflows were uncertain and maintain complete transparency with farmers, the meeting was told.

The officials said it was possible to provide some irrigation, subject to constant monitoring on availability of water, from Devadula, Nizamsagar, Swarna, Sadarmat, Ramadugu, Buggalavagu, Ramapalli, Palem Vagu, Gouravavaram, Pocharam, Rajivsagar, Nilavayi, Vatti Vagu, Nalla Vagu, Palvai Purushotham Rao (Yerravagu) Project and Chelmelavagu (NTR Sagar) projects. The review, chaired by irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, was attended among others by irrigation secretary E. Sridhar, joint secretary K. Srinivas, engineer-in-chief (general) O.V. Ramesh Babu, tunnel expert Col. Parikshit Mehra, ENC (administration) T. Srinivas, and ENC (O&M and quality control) R. Madhusudhan Rao.



## Push for Clearances to Expedite Metro Phase-II



Hyderabad: Special chief secretary Jayesh Ranjan urged all stakeholder departments to issue no-objection certificates (NOCs) without delay to expedite the Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase-II project. At a co-ordination meeting on Tuesday, Ranjan highlighted the importance of timely clearances, emphasising that approvals are critical to securing permissions from the Centre and ensuring the project advances without delay. He said a coordination meeting with ministries and departments having existing, ongoing or proposed projects in the influence area of the seven Phase-II corridors was held at the Secretariat on Monday.

The meeting was part of the process to obtain clearance for the project from the Network Planning Group of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). Hyderabad Metro Rail managing director Safaraz Ahmad stressed the urgent need for metro

## CM Leaves For Delhi To Attend CWC Meeting



Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy left for Delhi on Tuesday to participate in a Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting in New Delhi on Wednesday. Following the meeting, Revanth Reddy is scheduled to embark on a 10-day tour to the United Kingdom and the United States of America later on Wednesday night till August 30 to pitch for investments in world class education in Telangana.

The CWC meeting, being attended by top leaders including AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Chief Ministers of Congress-ruled states, will formulate a roadmap to corner the Centre on national issues, primarily focusing on student protests and alleged Ram Temple donation irregularities. The meeting will also deliberate on the prevailing political scenario.

During the 10-day foreign tour, a delegation that includes senior state officials, aims to pitch Telangana as a premier global hub, secure industrial investments, and form academic partnerships. The core focus sectors are Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence, life sciences, green energy, and skill development.

# PM Cares Fund: High Income, No Spending

New Delhi: The government on Tuesday released the audited accounts of Prime Minister’s Care Fund for the financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25, which threw up more questions than answers. The fund, that was set up for emergency use during distress, is being criticised for not being utilised despite several incidences of devastation in the country.

The audit showed that even though the total receipts went up from Rs 7,188.63 crore in FY 23-24 to Rs 8,452.95 crores in 2024-25, both domestic and international donations fell substantially. Domestic donations to the PM CARES Fund fell by 30% to nearly Rs 479 crore during the fiscal year 2024-2025 while foreign donations also declined by 18% to Rs 92.8 lakh.

However, PM Cares Fund earned interest of Rs 470 crore for the fund parked with it which added substantially to its kitty. The biggest amount reflecting under receipts head was “refund from implementing agencies” which amounted to Rs 324 crore.

The spending was much less than the money received, with only Rs 87.84 lakh utilised in 2024-25 under PM Cares for Children head.

The report generated more questions than answers, as the Congress questioned the government why only 0.01% of the total amount was spent despite massive devastation and natural calamities across the nation. Activist Anjali



Bharadwaj questioned why there was no information on Rs 324 crore refunded by the implementing agencies.

“Utilised only 0.01% of available Rs 8,452 crore! Why is the PM CARES Fund keeping such large sums of money idle? Rs 324 crore was refunded by implementing agencies, but no information on what these payments were for and why these were refunded? Which agency refunded? Were refunds done to evade accountability for faulty equipment?

Why have accompanying notes to the audit report not been uploaded? A fund set up to help citizens during disasters, which has accumulated thousands of crores (including from foreign sources), is shrouded in secrecy. Still, no information available on sources of funds. The PM CARES Fund continues to evade public scrutiny by refusing to submit itself to the RTI Act,” wrote Ms Bharadwaj on X.

“Only 0.01% of the Rs 8,452 crore available has been utilised — even as natural calamities devastate communities across the country and thousands need relief and rehabilitation. Rs 8,452 crore sitting idle while people suffer. PM CARES? Hardly,” said Congress Rajya Sabha member Mr Pawan Khera.

The auditing of PM Cares Fund is done by a Mumbai-headquartered private Chartered Accountant firm, KKC & Associates LLP. While people questioned why the PM Cares Fund was not audited by a government agency like the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), several chartered accountants questioned why the audited statements do not have the UDIN (Unique Document Identification Number) as mandated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.

# CM Revanth Reddy Unveils Sardar Sarvai Papanna Statue on Tank Bund



Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday unveiled the statue of 17th-century Bahujan warrior Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud on the iconic Tank Bund, declaring that the memorial should inspire generations much like the Telangana Martyrs' Memorial.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister recalled that toddy tappers had long aspired to see a statue of Papanna installed at a prominent location. He revealed that he personally intervened to select the prime spot on Tank Bund—having a tourism department building vacated—to ensure maximum visibility for every visitor and tourist. Highlighting Papanna's historic legacy, the Chief Minister noted that the legendary ruler's valor and rebellion against Mughal tyranny are documented even in the British Library.

# Revenue Minister Under Fire for 22A Bungling

Hyderabad: Increasing instances of dubious decisions in revenue matters, including the latest inclusion of thousands of private properties in the prohibitory list under Section 22A, have left the state government in an embarrassing situation, both on the administrative and the political fronts.



Revenue minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, who had to cut a sorry figure following the huge public outcry over shifting of properties to the prohibitory list, offered his apologies for the Section 22A goof-up and blamed the official machinery, but the Opposition, on the other hand demanded minister's resignation. "It is not the revenue ministry anymore. It has become the robbery ministry," said BJP Assembly floor leader A. Maheshwar Reddy at a press conference here on Tuesday. Properties worth Rs 1 lakh crore were included in the prohibitory list, he alleged.

Following public outrage, senior BRS leader and former minister T.

Harish Rao went on a whirlwind visit to the colonies, where buildings constructed decades ago were included in the prohibitory list. He addressed street corner meetings with the property owners and demanded an independent inquiry into the fiasco.

The 22A controversy took a new turn with none other than Srinivas Reddy's Cabinet colleague and roads and buildings minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy weighing in. Suspecting foul play to defame the government, Venkat Reddy wanted the Chief Minister to get the issue thoroughly probed. He, however, gave credence to the allegation of bungling, declaring that he had alerted the authorities

Reaffirming his administration's commitment to social justice, CM Revanth Reddy said that Praja Palana ensures equal opportunities and welfare for marginalized sections, pointing to recent decisions to provide pensions for weavers and toddy tappers. Expressing political confidence, he declared that the Congress would return to power in the 2029 Assembly elections.

The Chief Minister also launched a sharp attack against the opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), accusing it of orchestrating coordinated disinformation campaigns on social media fueled by ill-gotten wealth to undermine the people's government.

Official sources told Deccan Chronicle that the origin for the massive inclusion of properties under Section 22A was pressure from a powerful minister to selectively include certain properties in the prohibitory list as part of the arm-twisting tactics to snatch property development projects. In some cases, the officials took a decision on their own, apparently to fleece the landowners and developers or individual property owners. In a few cases, however, the officials quietly forwarded the previous lists dating back to the 1950s and the 1960s without applying their minds.

The revenue department came under fire for including properties for which the successive governments issued regularisation proceedings and no-objection certificates to raise structures. Sources said Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy was thoroughly upset over the bungling and directed Minister Srinivas Reddy to resolve the issue at the earliest.

# Nearly 100 crore Indian electors issued special voter ID cards: ECI

New Delhi: After US President Donald Trump cited India's voter cards to make a case for the SAVE America Act, Election Commission officials on Tuesday said that nearly 100 crore electors have been issued 'special' Electoral Photo Identity Cards (EPIC).

They underlined that polling in India is held based on a photo identity card. The ECI has issued a special EPIC to "all" electors, which are close to a billion, they said.

Electors can also download their e-EPIC from a dedicated website. The officials also noted that electoral rolls in India are prepared for each of the 1.2 million polling stations by the booth-level officers (BLOs), who are employees of the state government, and they are concurrently audited by the booth-level agents (BLAs) appointed by political parties.

Polling in booths is also concurrently audited by polling agents appointed by the candidates. Similarly, counting of votes is also concurrently audited by the counting agents appointed by the candidates, the officials said.



Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar recently asked the US administration how elections in America can be held without a valid photo identification card, President Trump said, making a case for mandatory photo IDs for every US voter to curb "electoral fraud". In a post on Truth Social on Monday, Trump said less than 1 per cent of voters in India used postal ballots in the recent general elections, and every voter had a valid photo identity document.

The US president made the remarks to drum up support for the SAVE America Act, which would require Americans to show proof of citizenship to register to vote, impose a nationwide voter identification requirement and severely limit voting by mail.

"Earlier this month, India's Chief Election Commissioner, Gyanesh Kumar, asked our Administration How can you have Elections in the US without a valid Photo ID," Trump wrote. "India's last Election had 646,000,000 Voters! Less than one per cent voted by mail, and every single Voter had to have a VALID Photo Identity Document," Trump said.

# Bandi Sanjay Wants to Chase Cong, MIM Out of Country

KARIMNAGAR: Union minister of state for home Bandi Sanjay Kumar has called upon the people to chase both the Congress and All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (MIM) parties away from the country as they "insulted" the Vande Mataram song.

His argument was that both the parties lacked patriotism. While the Congress was interrupting the recitation of Vande Mataram, MIM was completely boycotting the song, he said and warned that the song would be recited on a



massive scale at Hyderabad old city's Bhagyalaxmi temple if MIM humiliated the song again.

Bandi Sanjay was interacting with the media persons here on Tuesday. He came down heavily on Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge for opposing the Vande Matram song in the middle of an I-Day event in the national capital.

"Merely migrating to India from Italy is not enough. It is mandatory for one to know the history, values, culture and traditions of the country and follow them," he ruled.

# BRS Protests in Adilabad, Ichoda for Continuing Shadi Mubarak, Kalyana Lakshmi

Adilabad: BRS leaders and cadre, including women, led by former minister Jogu Ramanna on Tuesday staged a dharna in front of the District Collectorate in Adilabad demanding that the state government continue Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes for the benefit of poor families.

Speaking to media persons, Ramanna alleged that the state government, led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, is planning to drop the Shaadi Mubarak and Kalyana Lakshmi schemes introduced by former chief minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao during his rule, ,



using the High Court's directives as a pretext. The former minister pointed out that lakhs of poor families have benefited from these schemes. He declared that people will not remain silent in case the state government drops the schemes.

BRS workers headed by Boath MLA Anil Jadhav also staged a rasta roko in Ichoda demanding the continuation of Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes. Those who participated in the protest programme included Adilabad BRS party president Ajay and senior leaders Sajiduddin, Younus Akbani, Dasari Ramesh, Jangili Prashanth, Swarupa Rani, Bodagam Mamatha, Parveen, Anajali, Saleem, Dharmapal, and Karuna.

# Vande Mataram row: We sang what Mahatma, Vajpayee sang, says Congress chief

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge defended Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi after a police complaint alleged disruption during the rendition of Vande Mataram at the party headquarters, arguing that if singing the full version is deemed a crime, then similar charges should apply to Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru, and Vajpayee, who also sang it.

Panaji: Amid the ongoing controversy over the rendition of Vande Mataram at the party headquarters, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday questioned the basis of a complaint filed against party leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, saying that if singing the national song in its previous version was a crime, then complaints should also be filed against Mahatma Gandhi, and former Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru and Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The remarks came after an alleged dramatic episode at the Congress headquarters, Indira Bhavan, on Saturday, where the full version of Vande Mataram was sung despite the party's stated position that only its first two stanzas would be rendered.

Kharge had unfurled the Tricolour at the party



headquarters during the Independence Day celebrations, followed by a rendition of Vande Mataram. However, the singing continued through the full version of the national song despite the party's stand to restrict the rendition to its first two stanzas.

Sonia Gandhi was reportedly the first to notice that the singers were continuing with the full version. She allegedly gestured towards Kharge and later appeared to communicate with the singers, asking them to stop.

A complaint was also filed on Monday with the Delhi Police against

ister, he (Prime Minister Narendra Modi) also sang the same Vande Mataram that he has been singing all these years."

"If this is a crime, then they have been committing this crime for 18 years. If this is the same crime, then file a case against Mahatma Gandhi. If this is the same crime, file a case against Nehru," he added. Kharge further said that the Congress had passed a resolution on national songs even before many of its current critics were born.

"Whatever you say, will it only happen? In the coming years, another government will come, so whatever they will say, that will happen only?" he asked.

On the issue of funding, Kharge said that stopping financial assistance was not appropriate and stressed the need to correct mistakes rather than halt funding.

# Villagers Protest Over Roads Damaged by Sand Lorries in Veenavanka

Veenavanka, August 18 : Hundreds of sand lorries transporting sand from the Manair River have severely damaged the main road connecting Pothireddypally with Veenavanka Mandal headquarters and Karimnagar district headquarters. Large potholes have made the road highly dangerous, particularly for two-wheeler riders.

Two days ago, a family traveling on a motorcycle with two young children reportedly fell into a large pothole and sustained serious injuries. The incident sparked anger among villagers, who expressed concern over the continued deterioration of the road.

Villagers alleged that quarry operators are earning substantial



profits from sand transportation while the public is being forced to suffer due to the damaged road. Demanding immediate repairs, residents staged a dharna at the sand quarry and urged authorities to allow sand transportation only after the road is restored.

The protest was led by Punjala Satish Goud, former sarpanches Madhukar

and Sammeya, Deputy Sarpanch Raparathi Sandhya, along with several community leaders and ward members. The villagers demanded immediate and permanent road repairs, strict regulation of sand-lorry movement, and urgent official intervention to prevent further accidents and possible loss of life.

## Repairs to Rain-Damaged Roads Must Be Taken Up: District Collector Bhavesh Mishra

Nirmal District : District Collector Bhavesh Mishra directed officials to undertake repairs to roads damaged due to the recent heavy rains.

On Tuesday evening, the Collector inspected the interstate highway near Bidrelli in Basara mandal, which was damaged by the recent heavy rains. He enquired with officials about the extent of damage to the roads and instructed them to take up repair works at the earliest.



The Collector emphasized that roads should be maintained properly to ensure that commuters face no inconvenience. He also directed officials to ensure that necessary road-sign boards are installed at appropriate locations.

Additional Collector B. Venkateshwarlu, Bhainsa Sub-Collector Ajmeera Sanket Kumar, R&B EE Subhash, Tahsildar Pavan Chandra, along with other officials and staff, participated in the inspection.

## Grand Celebration of Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud Jayanti at Collectorate



Nirmal District : Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud Jayanti celebrations were held grandly at the conference hall of the Collectorate on Tuesday.

District Additional Collector (Revenue) Kishore Kumar attended the celebrations and, along with officials, garlanded the portrait of Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud and paid floral tributes.

Speaking on the occasion, the Additional Collector praised Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud as a great warrior who fought against oppression and worked towards establishing a people-oriented and inclusive rule. He said that Papanna Goud's fighting spirit and ideals continue to inspire the present generation. He stressed the need to remember his sacrifices and services.

He said that Papanna Goud united the people and weaker sections against the oppression of the Mughal and Qutb Shahi rulers and built an army to fight for their rights. He urged everyone to take great personalities like Papanna Goud as role models and work towards fulfilling his ideals.

On the occasion, community leader Amaraveni Narsagoud recalled Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud's struggles and called upon everyone to move forward unitedly, inspired by his courage and determination.

DRO Rathod Ramesh, BC Welfare Officer Srinivas, SC Welfare Officer Dayanand, ED SC Corporation Shankar, Excise Officer Srinivas, other officials, community leaders and staff members participated in the celebrations.

# Ministers' Visit to Peddapalli District Several Development Works to be Launched Today

P e d d a p a l l i Correspondant August 18: Telangana Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, along with IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, will tour Peddapalli district on Wednesday, August 19. As part of their visit, the ministers will lay foundation stones for several development works being undertaken by the R&B Department in P e d d a p a l l i , Sultanabad, Manthani and Ramagundam. They will also participate in public meetings. The tour will



begin at 11:30 a.m., when the ministers arrive at the Peddapalli IDOC. From 11:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon, they will lay foundation stones for R&B development works at Garrepalli. From 12:10 p.m. to 1:45 p.m., they will participate in the foundation-laying ceremony for development works in Sultanabad, followed by a public

meeting. From 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., the ministers will have lunch at the residence of Government Whip and Peddapalli MLA C h i n t a k u n t a Vijayaramana Rao at Shivapalli.

Later, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., they will lay foundation stones for R&B development works at the Manthani Government Junior College ground and participate in a public meeting. From 4:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m., the ministers will lay foundation stones for several R&B development works in Ramagundam.

## “BHOOLAKSHMI” FOR THE POOR : KAVITHA

Hyderabad August 18, 2026 : Telangana Rashtra Sena Chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha said a fresh land distribution programme was essential to achieve social justice in Telangana and announced the proposed “B h o o l a k s h m i ” scheme, under which her party would distribute one acre of land to every poor family after coming to power.



Addressing the media at the Telangana Rashtra Sena office in Banjara Hills on Tuesday, Kavitha said social justice should not remain merely a political slogan but should bring about revolutionary and qualitative change in the lives of people.

She said land distribution was crucial for ensuring dignity and economic security for poor families, particularly BCs, SCs, STs and Adivasis. She claimed that the government has around 60 lakh acres of land under its control, besides lands associated with the Nizam and Bhoodan move-

ments, and argued that these lands could be utilised for the benefit of the poor.

Kavitha said her party had studied the availability of government land before proposing the Bhoolakshmi scheme. She alleged that lakhs of acres of Bhoodan land were unaccounted for and questioned why such land could not be distributed among deserving poor families.

Kavitha strongly criticised the Congress government, alleging that instead of distributing land to the poor, assigned lands were being taken away. She claimed that nearly 30,000 acres had been taken from poor people since the present government came to power.

She accused Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and his family of indulging in what she described as land exploitation and alleged that the government was using the name of industrial development to acquire poor people's lands.

Kavitha further alleged that the government was creating a “royal route” for land exploitation through Section 22-A. She also criticised the alleged misuse of land-related systems, re-

if the government was genuinely committed to social justice. She also raised questions over budgetary allocations for BC welfare and alleged discrimination in appointments and political representation.

Kavitha said women, BCs, SCs, STs and minorities should receive fair representation in both government and political organisations. She criticised the government over the representation of women in the Cabinet and raised questions over the treatment of BC leaders.

She said her party would continue organising meetings, protests and awareness programmes to build public support for social justice and put pressure on the government.

Kavitha reiterated that her party's objective was to establish a socially just Telangana, with land ownership and economic dignity for poor families at the centre of its proposed agenda.

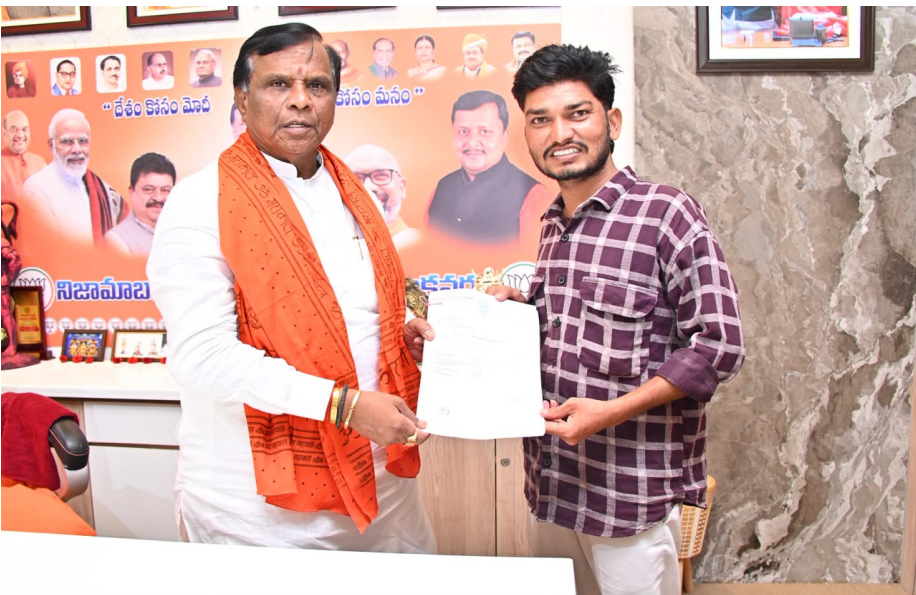
## MLA Dhanpal Hands Over Rs.5 Lakh LOC for NIMS Treatment :

Nizamabad August 18, 2026 : Urban MLA Dhanpal Suryanarayana Gupta handed over a Letter of Credit (LOC) worth ₹5 lakh to a family from Sarangapur for medical treatment at NIMS, Hyderabad.

Speaking on the occasion at his camp office on Tuesday, the MLA said he was giving special attention to helping eligible and financially disadvantaged people in the constituency obtain LOCs for advanced medical treatment. He said the financial difficulties faced by poor families were being brought to the notice of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.

The MLA said Kalpana of Sarangapur was suffering from a heart-related ailment and required treatment at NIMS. Accordingly, a ₹5 lakh LOC was provided to her family members.

Dhanpal said his objective was to save the lives of poor and needy people without any political discrimination. He also said advanced medical services were now available at AIIMS Bibinagar near Hyderabad.



He advised poor people suffering from long-term health problems and those requiring emergency surgeries to make use of the facilities at AIIMS. He said the Centre had invested thousands of crores of rupees in establishing the institution and bringing advanced healthcare services within reach of the public.



Wednesday 19, 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.

# KBR Park One-Way Sparks Traffic Chaos

Hyderabad: The KBR Park one-way traffic system got off to a turbulent start on Tuesday morning, with thousands of motorists facing prolonged delays, confusing lane changes and heavy traffic on stretches around Jubilee Hills and Banjara Hills. The morning saw a sharp increase in travel times as large volumes of vehicles entered the newly designated one-way loop.

Several regular commuters, accustomed to the old routes, were forced to move through unfamiliar entry, exit and lane-change points, resulting in vehicles slowing down, changing lanes and, at some locations, forming queues.

In the evening, however, things eased as the return traffic from Hitec City was managed efficiently by the police at Road No. 45 junction. Commuters heading from the Durgam Cheruvu cable bridge were alerted with multiple signboards and officials and the return route was more familiar.

Traffic came to a standstill at various points during the morning, particularly around Road No. 45 junction, KBR Park entrance, Jubilee Hills Check Post, Agrasen Island and roads connecting towards Banjara Hills. Commuters said journeys that normally take 15 to 30 minutes took considerably longer.

One commuter reported spending 45 minutes travelling from the eye hospital side towards Filmnagar. “It was painful. There was constant bumper-to-bumper traffic, and it was chaotic. But the traffic police helped me take the correct turn towards the left lane so that I could exit towards Filmnagar properly,” he said.

The five-km diversion around the



park is part of measures linked to the H-CITI project, which involves a series of flyovers and directional underpasses being constructed to ease traffic.

The congestion was not simply the result of the new route. The sheer volume of vehicles using the corridor during peak hours, combined with drivers trying to understand the new arrangement, created several temporary choke points. Motorists approaching lane-change locations often had to move across lanes to reach their intended exits, slowing the flow of traffic behind them.

Authorities identified major choke points at KBR Park junction, Road No. 45 junction, VVB Junction, Agrasen Island, Basavatarakam Circle and Venkatagiri, with thick inflow and outflow during peak hours. Road No. 45, with one portion heading towards Gachibowli via Cable Bridge and the other towards Jubilee Hills Check Post, experienced hurdles with lane changes.

In the evening, return traffic from Hitec City was managed efficiently by police at Road No. 45 junction. Commuters heading from the Durgam Cheruvu cable bridge were alerted with multiple signboards and officials not to take a right turn towards Jubilee Hills Check Post.

At Agrasen Island, where underpass construction has begun, several commuters heading towards Road No. 10 took the left lane while others took the right, which minimised congestion during peak evening hours.

Traffic police personnel were deployed at key junctions,

entry and exit points and other critical locations to guide motorists and manage the flow.

Hyderabad police commissioner V. C. Sajjanar told Deccan Chronicle: “Commuters today faced some confusion regarding the route and how to move, which was expected. We have already placed signboards across the park and at entry points, and we are increasing them to create more awareness.”

“I have been monitoring the traffic flow using drones, and after the peak traffic hours from 9 am to 12 noon, the flow was smooth. We expect the public to get used to this route in another three to four days, and after that the flow will be much better,” Sajjanar added.

Cyberabad traffic authorities said inflow from Jubilee Hills towards Madhapur had reduced by at least 20 per cent after the diversions.

Hyderabad traffic joint commissioner Joel Davis said pedestrians would not be abandoned. “At KBR Park junction, we have put in a 20-second pedestrian signal to allow pedestrians to cross. But we observed that the time is not enough for older civilians, so we are planning to increase it to 30 seconds from tomorrow.”

Police had previously conducted two rounds of trial runs before finalising the plan, and consultations were held with residents, walkers, welfare associations, hospitals and commercial establishments in the area.

For motorists, Tuesday’s congestion was as much an adjustment period as it was a test of the new system. With thousands of vehicles using roads that already operate close to capacity, even small hesitations or incorrect lane movements quickly created a chain reaction.

## BRS asks why Congress government failed to challenge stay on Kalyana Lakshmi, Shaadi Mubarak

Hyderabad: The Bharat Rashtia Samithi (BRS) on Tuesday questioned why the Congress government failed to file a counter petition in the High Court challenging the stay on implementation of the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes, despite officials allegedly preparing and submitting their remarks on the case.

Speaking to mediapersons at Telangana Bhavan here, the party general secretary R S Praveen Kumar suspected that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy himself stopped the government from filing the counter. He also demanded that Ministers Ponnampati Prabhakar and Vakati Srihari apologise to the people. He said the stay orders were a failure of the Law Department and the Chief Minister.

“Who prevented the Advocate General and Additional Advocate General from appearing before the court?” he asked.

Praveen Kumar argued that welfare schemes could be implemented through government orders (GOs) under Article 162 of the Constitution, provided funds were approved in the State Budget. He reminded that separate legislation was not mandatory. He cited the



1955 Ram Jawaya Kapoor versus State of Punjab judgment and alleged that the government failed to place the relevant legal position before the High Court.

He said departmental officials had received communications soon after the case was filed in July and had sent their remarks and counter-related material, but the Law Department did not file the counter. He questioned why the government had engaged senior Supreme Court lawyers Siddharth Luthra and Abhishek Manu Singhvi for other cases but did not use them to defend Kalyana Lakshmi.

Praveen Kumar alleged that the government deliberately delayed the schemes for nine months and was now attempting to discontinue welfare

programmes introduced during the previous BRS regime. He warned that similar court stays on Aasara, Gruhajyothi, Mahalakshmi or Rythu Bharosa should not automatically become grounds for stopping their implementation.

The former IPS officer said the government was using attention-diverting politics, including public meetings at an alleged cost of Rs 15 crore each, to shift focus away from government issues.

On the 22A prohibited land list, Praveen Kumar alleged a major land scam and claimed that officials were seeking 30 per cent commissions to remove properties from the list. He questioned the toll-free number announced by Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, as it allegedly remained non-functional and unresponsive. He also alleged irregularities involving records of 22,000 transactions and inclusion of Indiramma housing plots in the prohibited list.

He urged the Ministers not to defend the Chief Minister but to explain to the people what was happening in the government.

## If singing Vande Mataram is a crime, file cases against Gandhi, Nehru: Kharge

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge questioned the complaint against Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi over the rendition of Vande Mataram, saying the same version was sung by Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He also opposed stopping financial assistance

Panaji: Amid the ongoing controversy over the rendition of Vande Mataram at the party headquarters, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday questioned the basis of a complaint filed against party leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, saying that if singing the national song in its previous version was a crime, then complaints should also be filed against Mahatma Gandhi, and former Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru and Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The remarks came after an alleged dramatic episode at the Congress headquarters, Indira Bhavan, on Saturday, where the full version of Vande Mataram was sung despite the party’s stated position that only its first two stanzas would be rendered.

Kharge had unfurled the Tricolour at the party headquarters during the Independence Day celebrations, followed by a rendition of Vande Mataram. However, the singing continued through the full version of the national song despite the party’s stand to restrict the rendition to its first two stanzas.



Sonia Gandhi was reportedly the first to notice that the singers were continuing with the full version. She allegedly gestured towards Kharge and later appeared to communicate with the singers, asking them to stop.

A complaint was also filed on Monday with the Delhi Police against Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, seeking registration of an FIR over an alleged attempt to disrupt the singing of Vande

Mataram during the Independence Day celebrations at the Congress headquarters.

Speaking to reporters, Kharge said: “Well, look, what complaint will they file? We sang the same Vande Mataram that Mahatma Gandhi sang. We sang what Jawaharlal Nehru sang. For the last 18 years, we have sung what they sang, including what their Central government under Vajpayee sang. And for 12 years, as Chief Minister, he (Prime Minister Narendra Modi) also sang the same Vande Mataram that he has been singing all these years. If this is a crime, then they have been committing this crime for 18 years. If this is the same crime, then file a case against Mahatma Gandhi. If this is the same crime, file a case against Nehru, he added.

Kharge further said that the Congress had passed a resolution on national songs even before many of its current critics were born. “Whatever you say, will it only happen? In the coming years, another government will come, so whatever they will say, that will happen only?” he asked.

## Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud's life is an example for everyone

District Collector Dr. Satya Sarada, MLA K. R Nagaraju

Warangal, Bureau : The 376th birth anniversary celebrations of Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud were held at the Warangal District Collectorate Conference Office.

Warangal District Collector Dr. Satya Sarada, IAS, presided over the program and Vardhannapet MLA K.R. Nagaraju was the chief guest.

On this occasion, the chief guest was MLA K.R. Nagaraju, District Collector Dr. Satya Sarada, Additional Collector Revenue G Sandhyarani, Additional Collector Local Body YV Ganesh, ZP CEO Ram Reddy, DRO Vijayalakshmi, BC Welfare Department Officer A. Pushpalatha, Assistant Officer Shankaraiah, along with Gowda Caste Sangha leaders Chirra Raju Goud, Gattu Ramesh Goud, Dr.



Lakshminarayana, Anantha Ramesh Goud, Laxman, Janagaon Srinivas Goud and others garlanded the portrait of Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud and later lit the lamp and inaugurated the program.

Speaking on the occasion, they said that the life story of Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud is exemplary for everyone. They said that Papanna Goud's services, who fought for the masses and stood by the oppressed classes, are memorable. They said that there is a need to convey his ideals to today's generation. They said that Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud's life is a history. They said that Papanna Goud, who was born in the Gowda caste, opposed the rulers for the masses, established Swarajya and served the people. He said that his struggle for the upliftment of the weaker sections of the society was inspiring. The Collector called upon everyone to work hard to provide the aspirations and services of Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud to future generations. Officials, public representatives, leaders of the Gowda caste association, representatives of various communities and others participated in this program

## Nagar Kurnool Police Crack Two Murder Cases, Arrest Accused

Nagar Kurnool : Police in Nagar Kurnool district solved two separate women murder cases within 48 hours and arrested the accused. The cases include the murder of Nagi Bangaramma under Taduru Police Station limits and the murder of Eeramma at Ippalapally Thanda in Bijinapally mandal.

Nagi Bangaramma (43), a resident of Rakonda village under Taduru Police Station limits, was murdered recently. Police identified Ennupothula Bhimayya (38), a resident of Taduru village, as the accused and arrested him.

According to the police investigation, Bhimayya had been acquainted with Bangaramma for the past four years. Police said that Bhimayya had borrowed some



money from her after she sold her agricultural land. As Bangaramma repeatedly demanded repayment, Bhimayya allegedly killed her to avoid returning the money.

In the second case, police solved the murder of Eeramma at Ippalapally Thanda in Bijinapally mandal. Police said Eeramma had no husband or children and owned around 2.5 acres of land, besides cash and other valuables. Her relative Chittamma allegedly targeted the property with the intention of acquiring it.

As part of the plan, Chittamma allegedly made Eeramma consume liquor on the night of August 15 and later slit her throat, resulting in her death. Police identified and arrested the accused following the investigation.

DSP Burri Srinivas said the accused in both cases would be produced before the court. He congratulated the police officers for cracking the two murder cases within 48 hours.

The DSP particularly appreciated CI Ashok Reddy, SIs Shamsuddin and Ramulu, and crime party constables Bheemudu and Ramesh for their key role in the investigation.

## BJP Maha Dharna on 25th of this month on public issues

Request letter to DCP Dhara Kavitha seeking permission

Warangal, Bureau; Warangal and Hanumakonda district presidents Ganta Ravikumar and Kolanu Santosh Reddy said that a large-scale 'Maha Dharna' program has been planned on 25th of this month to resolve long-standing unresolved public issues within the Warangal Greater Municipal Corporation.

The leaders politely met Warangal Central Zone DCP Dhara Kavitha on Tuesday and handed over a request letter, seeking legal permission to conduct this Maha Dharna program peacefully.

Along with them, BJP state executive members Ratnam Satish Shah, Jalagam Ranjith Rao, District General Secretary Banna Prabhakar, District Secretary Ponugoti Venkat Rao, and others participated.



## Congress taking sides against deceased movement leader

Former MLA Nannapuneni Garam on removal of Peddi statue  
There is no reason to be afraid of filing illegal cases.. Nannapuneni

Warangal, Bureau; Former MLA of Warangal East constituency Nannapuneni Narender has come under intense fire over the removal of the statue of former Chief Minister KCR's movement companion, former MLA of Narsampet Peddi Sudarshan Reddy.

Speaking at a press conference organized at his

residence on Tuesday, Nannapuneni Narender said that the removal of the statue of the late former MLA and movement leader Peddi Sudarshan Reddy, who made significant contributions to the Telangana state formation movement, is painful. The Congress party, which has been scolding Telangana activists in the struggle for self-rule, is now again taking partisan actions against a deceased person, and former MLA Narender lashed out at the Congress government's approach. Local MLA Donthi Madhav Reddy appeared to be the reason for the partisan politics. He said that if a statue is removed, a statue of Peddi Sudarshan Reddy will be installed in every mandal, every village across the constituency, and that people are voluntarily coming forward to install statues of Peddi Sudarshan Reddy in many places before us, so let's see what the local MLAs will do.

Why was the statue of the movement leader removed?

While allowing the installation of the statue of Balasubrahmanyam, he questioned what was the point of removing the statue of Peddi Sudarshan Reddy, who fought for Telangana. He advised that the decisions taken without respecting the sentiments of the people should be revoked. At least after the funeral of Peddi Sudarshan Reddy, why is his family being discriminated against before his remains are buried in Bhadrachalam? He expressed his concern that the government is acting in a partisan



manner against the Peddi family.

He said that the defeat of local MLA Donthi Madhav Reddy in the upcoming elections is inevitable and this is the end of his political future.

The government should recognize the anger of the people and the use of power.

The government should reconsider the matter of removing the statue of Peddi Sudarshan Reddy and said that Peddi Sudarshan Reddy was the great leader who brought Godavari water to Pakhala. Even after his death, the statue was demolished in a bid to gain favor with him.

After the foundation stone of the joint Congress party, which left the family members in tears, the same local MLA said that in Warangal district, no leader has done such a move to gain favor with a deceased person in my politics for 30 years. It is shameful to file a case against me by installing the statue of Peddi. While the statue of Peddi Sudarshan Reddy was being installed, a constable arrived there for a hearing. If no one in Narsampeta constituency comes forward to file a case, it is understood that these Congress leaders have descended to the point where a police case is filed by a police constable. No one in Narsampeta town has installed a statue. They are not against the establishment

Only the local MLA, with his own agenda, blocked the police and officials with the power of authority and removed the statue, but the good deeds done by Peddi Sudarshan Reddy, who has made a nest in the hearts of the people, could not remove their aspirations, he said, adding that in the coming days, the people will strongly advise the Congress party leaders of this government.

Former corporators Diddi Kumaraswamy, , key leaders Neelam Raj Kishor, D. Sitaram, and activists of the Warangal East BRS Party participated in this program.

## Axis Max Life reports 17% YoY growth in Individual Adjusted First Year Premium in 3M FY'27; VNB increases by 33% YoY

First Quarter Financial Year 2027 ("3M FY'27") Highlights:

- Max Financial Services Limited reports 18% growth in consolidated revenue excluding investment income
- Axis Max Life's Private market share increases by 13 bps to 10.1%
- Individual Adjusted First Year Premium at ₹1,810 crores, grew 17%YoY
- Gross Written Premium: ₹7,607 crores, up 19% Year-on-Year (YoY)
- Measure of profitability – Value of New Business (VNB) at ₹446crores with a YoY growth of 33%
- New business margin improved by 315 bps to 23.2%; Total APE achieved growth of 15%
- Embedded Value at ₹30,415 crores, grew 15% with an Operating RoEV of 14.9%
- Individual New Business Sum Assured grew by 32%
- Assets Under Management (AUM) at crossed a key milestone of ₹2 lakh crores and grew by 11%

New Delhi, August 13, 2026: Max Financial Services Limited has recorded consolidated revenue excluding investment income at ₹7,289crores, growing 18% year-on-year in 3M FY'27. The consolidated revenue including investment income stands at ₹14,977 crores and consolidated Profit after Tax (PAT) at ₹118 crores in 3M FY'27 grew by 37%.

Axis Max Life Insurance Limited, formerly known as Max Life Insurance Company Limited ("Axis Max Life" / "Company"), has reported new business growth (Individual Adjusted First Year Premium)of 17% in 3M FY'27, reaching ₹1,810 crores. This has resulted in a private market share gain of 13 basis points (bps) to 10.1%. Axis Max Life has delivered a 15% YoY Annualized Premium Equivalent (APE) growth in the fiscal. At a channel level Proprietary channel APE grew of 15% YoY, driven by robust 27% growth from Online channel, reinforcing the Company's continued leadership within the E-commerce space. In the first quarter, Axis Max Life's partnership channels grew by 16%, supported by14% growth from Axis channel and and 21% from other partnershipsunderscoring the breadth and resilience of our distribution franchise.

Axis Max Life continues to make strong progress in the Group Credit Life segment, delivering 57% growth in 3M FY'27. It is noteworthy, that 45% of its GCL business has been sourced from partners added in last 3 years diversifying the presence in this segment.

During the quarter, the Company further strengthened its proposition for the self-employed customer segment. As a result, the Protection and Health business grew 44%, led by 57% growth in riders, reflecting increasing customer demand for comprehensive protection solutions. TheAnnuity business delivered an exceptional 116% growth during the quarter.

Further, in 3M FY'27, Axis Max Life has reported New Business Margins of 23.2% up from 20.1% during the same period last year. The Value of New Business, a measure of profitability, experienced a YoY growth of 33%. Additionally, Axis Max Life's individual renewal premium grew by 20% to

₹4,639 crores, taking the Gross Written Premium to ₹7,607 crores, an 19% YoY increase.

Sumit Madan, Managing Director and CEO, Axis Max Life, said,"Axis Max Life has begun FY'27 with strong momentum, delivering 17% growth in Individual Adjusted First Year Premium in Q1, outpacing the private market leading to an improvement in private market share to 10.1%. This performance reflects disciplined execution across our distribution. We continued to see broad-based growth across channels, led by strong momentum in both proprietary and partnership channels. Our disproportionate focus towards protection and retirement segment is reflected in increasing share of term and annuities.

At the same time, we are accelerating our digital and tech transformation to become an intelligence-led enterprise. We continue to embed AI, analytics and automation across customer acquisition, distribution, underwriting and servicing, enabling superior customer experiences, stronger productivity and faster decision-making. As customer expectations evolve, our focus remains on combining technology, innovation and human expertise to drive profitable growth, deepen customer engagement and create long-term value for all stakeholders."

Amrit Singh, Chief Financial Officer, Axis Max Life stated, "Our 3M FY'27 performance reflects a continued focus on quality growth and disciplined capital management. New Business Margin improved by 315 basis points to 23.2%, resulting in a 33% growth in Value of New Business to ₹446 crore. Renewal premiums grew 20% year-on-year, supporting a 19% increase in Gross Written Premium and reinforcing the resilience of our in-force franchise.

We also strengthened our core financial foundations, with Embedded Value increasing 15% to ₹30,415 crore and Operating RoEV improving to 14.9%. These outcomes reflect our emphasis on sustainable profitability, capital efficiency and consistent value creation for shareholders."

Key Financial Summary of Axis Max Life:

| ₹ Crores                            | 3M FY'27 | 3M FY'26 | YoY      |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Individual Adjusted FYP             | 1,810    | 1,553    | 17%      |
| Total APE                           | 1,922    | 1,668    | 15%      |
| Renewal Premium                     | 4,639    | 3,873    | 20%      |
| Gross Written Premium               | 7,607    | 6,397    | 19%      |
| Number of Policies (000's)          | 187      | 166      | 12%      |
| Individual New business Sum Assured | 1,17,277 | 89,079   | 32%      |
| Assets Under Management             | 2,02,621 | 1,83,211 | 11%      |
| Embedded Value                      | 30,415   | 26,478   | 15%      |
| RoEV                                | 14.9%    | 14.3%    | 60 bps   |
| New Business Margins                | 23.2%    | 20.1%    | 315 bps  |
| Value of new business               | 446      | 335      | 33%      |
| Solvency                            | 198%     | 199%     | -100 bps |

Ponnam: Congress Committed to Kalyana Lakshmi, Shaadi Mubarak

Hyderabad: Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam 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 en-



sure 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.

We Will Add 10,000 Beds In Telangana Hospitals: Revanth

Hyderabad:Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday said the previous government only laid foundation stones for hospitals but never built them, while the Congress government had completed them after coming to power.

Inaugurating the Dr MCR Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences (Tims) at Sanathnagar, he said opposition parties had failed to complete the proposed Tims hospitals and the Warangal Super Speciality Hospital. The present government had taken up completion of Tims at Sanathnagar, LB Nagar and Alwal, besides the Warangal hospital, promising that one hospital would be completed every six months.

He announced that

Osmania General Hospital, LB Nagar Tims, Alwal Tims and the Warangal Super Speciality Hospital would be ready by December 9, 2027, adding that these projects would together provide about 10,000 beds.

The Chief Minister said each hospital would have a separate director and be managed on the lines of corporate hospitals. Funds would be sanctioned for facilities for attendants accompanying patients. He directed the health minister to frame a system of incentives for doctors who spend extra hours in government hospitals and perform more surgeries under Aarogyasri and the Chief Minister's Relief Fund



(CMRF). He said the move should encourage doctors to focus on government services rather than private practice. Pointing

to the rising cost of private healthcare, he said Tims hospitals were being established to provide treatment to poor patients. Since coming to power,

the government has spent ₹2,700 crore under Aarogyasri and ₹2,526 crore through the CMRF, taking total healthcare support for poor people to

₹5,226 crore. He added that ₹21,800 crore had been spent on the Health and Medical Department in two years.

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, health minister Damodar Rajanarasimha, transport minister Ponnam Prabhakar, MP Anil Kumar Yadav, MLAs, MLCs, Tims director Dr Narendra Kumar, officials, doctors and healthcare staff attended the programme.

Minister for roads and buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said the Chief Minister had repeatedly asked him about completion of the Sanathnagar, Alwal and LB Nagar Tims hospitals. He said Alwal Tims would be ready by Dasara and LB Nagar Tims by De-

cember. He added that more than 20 per cent of work on the new Osmania General Hospital had been completed and assured it would be finished within the timeframe.

Venkat Reddy requested MEIL to maintain equipment at Dr MCR Tims for three to five years and urged the Chief Minister to name LB Nagar Tims after Prof. Jayashankar.

Health minister Damodar Rajanarasimha said the government wanted public hospitals to provide services at a level comparable with corporate hospitals.

The Chief Minister also launched TG Safe and Aarogya Deepika Polyclinic services at the programme.

AP Leads States in AI Skilling With 1.08 Lakh Job-Ready Youth

VIJAYAWADA: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's technology-led push is helping Andhra Pradesh build one of the country's largest pools of certified talent in emerging technologies.

In a significant achievement, the state has recorded the highest number of candidates completing AI and Big Data Analytics (BDA) certification courses under the Centre's FutureSkills PRIME programme.

According to data furnished by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in the Lok Sabha on August 12, as many as 1,53,783 candidates in Andhra Pradesh were enrolled or trained in AI and

BDA over the past three years. Of these, 1,08,895 candidates have completed training or secured certification, placing Andhra Pradesh at the top among all states in terms of AI/BDA candidates completing certification programmes.

The figures underline the growing scale of the state's technology-skilling ecosystem, with the emphasis shifting from mere enrolment to creating a job-ready talent pool in technologies expected to drive the next phase of the digital economy.

The AI and BDA numbers are part of a wider FutureSkills PRIME footprint in the state. Andhra Pradesh has



recorded more than 4.34 lakh candidates enrolled or trained across the programme, including over 2.13 lakh candidates in AI and BDA.

FutureSkills PRIME, a MeitY initiative imple-

mented in partnership with NASSCOM, focuses on skilling, reskilling and upskilling youth in emerging technologies. Its industry-aligned courses cover areas including artificial intel-

ligence, big data analytics, Internet of Things, cyber security, blockchain and augmented and virtual reality.

The programme has

witnessed significant participation nationally, with more than 34 lakh registrations, 23 lakh enrolled or trained candidates and 13 lakh candidates completing training or certification. Around 86 per cent of the participants are from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, highlighting the programme's role in taking advanced technology skills beyond major IT hubs.

For Andhra Pradesh, the growing certified talent base is expected to strengthen the state's ability to attract investments and generate high-value employment in emerging technology sectors. It also provides a potential workforce for the state's ambitions to de-

velop Visakhapatnam as a technology and AI hub and build Amaravati as a modern, technology-driven capital.

Naidu has consistently positioned technology and innovation as key drivers of economic growth, while electronics minister Nara Lokesh has been promoting investments, emerging technologies and high-value employment opportunities.

With more than one lakh candidates already completing AI/BDA certification under FutureSkills PRIME, Andhra Pradesh is seeking to convert its expanding technology talent base into a major economic advantage in the emerging AI and quantum technology landscape

# 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-

asures 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 Chalvai, 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.

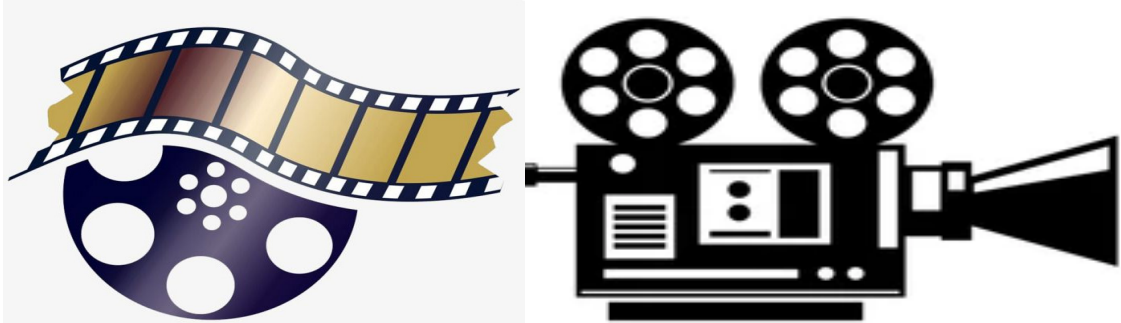
Sachin Sawant and in-charge minister Jupally Krishna Rao tried to pacify Srinivas Reddy, but he allegedly continued abusing Sanjeev Reddy. At the request of Jupally Krishna Rao, Sanjeev Reddy left the meeting hall. Sawant reportedly warned Srinivas Reddy against creating a nuisance and using abusive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



CINEMA

Big Opp & Challenge In Front Of Mass Raja

On August 21st, Mass Raja Raviteja is coming up with the film “Irumudi”, whose trailer was released recently.

On August 21st, Mass Raja Raviteja is coming up with the film “Irumudi”, whose trailer was released recently. Until now, there are different opinions on this film; however, after the release of the trailer, the film is carrying different expectations. But then, there is a big opportunity and a big challenge before the senior star hero through this movie. Here goes it.

Apparently, there are no big mass films at the box office right now, as the likes of Viswanath & Sons are not catering to the mass audience, while Korean Kanakaraju has also explored the max from the box office already. That presents a big opportunity before the movie, as a slight positive talk will also take the film’s reach to the next level. That’s a good sign, but then there is a threat too.

The biggest challenge is that Mass Raja has to prove anything in just 1 week with regard to the movie. Because on the 26th, the massive “Toxic” wave is going to hit the box office. Irre-



spective of the Day 1 talk, the film is likely to strike the box office very hard, leaving no scope for other movies to survive. That will make things challenging for Irumudi for sure.

Irumudi features Raviteja in the lead and is directed by Siva Nirvana, whose recent films haven't done very well at the box office.

Comrade Kalyan confirms eagerly awaited release date

Sree Vishnu’s upcoming film Comrade Kalyan has locked its worldwide release date.



Sree Vishnu's upcoming film Comrade Kalyan has locked its worldwide release date. The makers announced that the film will arrive in theatres on October 9th, promising audiences a theatrical experience packed with action, entertainment, emotion and a slight revolutionary edge.

The release announcement was made through an intense new poster featuring Sree Vishnu in a rugged avatar, walking through a forest alongside a group of armed comrades. Sporting a dark-green outfit and a red scarf, the actor’s commanding look sets the tone for a film that appears to explore a world of rebellion, camaraderie and conflict.

Directed by Janakiram Marella, Comrade Kalyan is produced by Venkata Krishna Karthi and Seetha Karnati. Kona Venkat is presenting the film. The film songs composed by Vijai Bulgani have been super successful raising anticipation.

The October first week release places Comrade Kalyan in the festive theatrical window, giving Sree Vishnu’s entertainer perfect chance to score a blockbuster success. With its striking visual world and mass-oriented presentation, the film is expected to generate further curiosity as the release date approaches.

KOKA crosses gigantic 1 Million tickets milestone

The movie is registering strong audience traction at the ticket counters and it has already crossed a gigantic milestone of 1 million+ tickets sold across BMS and District apps.



Varun Tej has delivered a big hit with his new movie Korean Kanakaraju. The movie is registering strong audience traction at the ticket counters and it has already crossed a gigantic milestone of 1 million+ tickets sold across BMS and District apps.

It is using the National Holiday Independence Day advantage perfectly. Many shows registering housefulls across the two states, today, showcasing the demand. It is trending with 2.34K tickets booked per hour in its second weekend. In a day and age when film run has become limited, KOKA trending in its second weekend with other big releases shows the box office stamina of Varun Tej.

Directed by Merlapaka Gandhi, the film's entertainment value is being praised by audiences with many watching it on repeat in theatres. S. Thaman has composed the music, while UV Creations and First Frame Entertainment have produced the film, on massive scale.

Satya’s comedy timing is being praised by all. Varun Tej has become the talk of the town with his striking performance in two different shades. Trade analysts are predicting the movie to earn huge profits making use of big holiday weekend, further.

Sairabhanu FL: Graceful and Lovely

Begin typing your search above and press return to search. The newly released first look poster perfectly sets an engaging tone for this much-awaited romantic entertainer, leaving audiences eager for more.



Aadi Sai Kumar is back to charm the audience with his exciting new film, Sairabhanu. The newly released first look poster perfectly sets an engaging tone for this much-awaited romantic entertainer, leaving audiences eager for more.

The vibrant design prominently highlights the movie's catchy tagline, "A Fun Filled Journey of Love, Faith & Destiny," hinting at a captivating and emotional comedy. Aadi Sai Kumar looks fresh and handsome in a traditional white outfit, while leading lady Bandhavi Sridhar looks beautiful and graceful in a classic black burqa. Together, their warm chemistry while riding the motorcycle makes for a striking image.

Director Phani Krishna Siriki has crafted an engaging storyline aiming to bridge cultural differences through humor, faith, and deep emotion. Backed by passionate producer Razesh Danda, this visually appealing poster offers just a small glimpse of the beautiful journey the makers have in store for audiences.

Manasa Varanasi’s Divine Darshan at Tirumala

Manasa Varanasi, the graceful Femina Miss India 2020 winner who reached the Top 13 at Miss World, is steadily carving a niche in South Indian cinema.

Manasa Varanasi, the graceful Femina Miss India 2020 winner who reached the Top 13 at Miss World, is steadily carving a niche in South Indian cinema. A former computer science engineer and financial analyst from Hyderabad, she transitioned from pageantry to acting with elegance and determination. She made her movie debut in the 2024 Telugu film Devaki Nandana Vasudeva, playing the pivotal role of Satyabhama (alongside Satya, Radha and Rukmini).

Her poised screen presence earned her early recognition. In 2026, she starred as the lively Mithra in the bilingual romantic drama Couple Friendly opposite Santosh Sobhan, which resonated well with audiences. She is currently filming her Tamil debut alongside Sasikumar and exploring more Telugu projects. Recently, the actress was spotted at the sacred Tirumala temple seeking the divine darshan of Lord Venkateswara Swamy, dressed in a traditional green and cream saree with a warm namaste. Fans and devotees celebrated her humble spiritual visit. Govinda Govinda! May Lord Balaji’s blessings continue to light her path in cinema and life.

Is Ritika Nayak Korean? Her BTS Connection Revealed

Ritika Nayak is currently enjoying a successful phase in her acting career. The young actress has made a name for herself in Telugu cinema with a series of popular films. Now, she is in the news for a different reason. Ritika recently spoke about her love for Korean pop culture and revealed her admiration for BTS member SUGA.



In a recent interview, Ritika was asked about the picture on her mobile phone wallpaper. She immediately showed her phone to the interviewer. Her wallpaper had a picture of the world-famous South Korean music group BTS. When asked about her favourite BTS member, Ritika quickly named SUGA.

Ritika also spoke about what she would do if she got a chance to meet SUGA in person. She said that she might not be able to speak much because she would be too excited. She joked that she would simply look at him and say, “Hi, I am a big fan of you.”

The actress also shared her disappointment about BTS not including India in its current world tour plans. She said she hopes the group will visit India and perform live for fans in the future. BTS has a huge fan following in India, and Ritika is also a proud fan of the group.

Interestingly, Ritika's love for Korean culture has a connection with her latest movie. She is part of the film Korean Kanakaraju, which has a Korean connection in its title and story. Her interest in Korean music and BTS has now made the connection even more interesting for fans.

Ritika entered Telugu cinema with Ashoka Vanamlo Arjuna Kalyanam in 2022. She impressed audiences with her performance and later gained more attention with Mirai. Her recent film Korean Kanakaraju has added another success to her growing career.