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GEAR UP FOR BATTLE AGAINST CHILD OBESITY

WHO’s new guidelines offer India a roadmap to combat childhood obesity through healthier diets and lifestyle changes

Fueled by changes in lifestyles and food habits, India may well have become an epicentre of the obesity crisis, particularly affecting children and young adults. The country is projected to account for more than 11% of the global childhood obesity burden by 2030 if current trends continue. Against this grim backdrop, the World Health Organisation’s first-ever global guidelines on integrated management of obesity in children and adolescents come as a welcome development and could go a long way in reversing the trend if implemented in the right spirit. Until now, the WHO had obesity recommendations only for adults. Given the alarming global rise in obesity—400 million children and adolescents were overweight in 2024—it has launched two sets of guidelines—covering 0 to 9 and 10-19 years—essentially focusing on structured diets, physical activity and behaviour-change support. Importantly, the global body has recommended that anti-obesity medications could be considered for adolescents only when supervised lifestyle programmes fail to achieve required health targets. It has said a strict no to pharmacological treatment, bariatric surgery or weight-loss devices for children aged 0-9 years, citing doubts over their safety and long-term effectiveness. The guidelines say that anxiety, depression and low self-esteem can contribute to unhealthy eating, physical inactivity and social withdrawal. According to the World Obesity Atlas 2026, over 14.9 million Indian children aged 5-9 years and 26.4 million adolescents aged 10-19 were living with overweight or obesity in 2025. India ranks second worldwide behind China and is growing fast. It is estimated that 20 million children could be living with obesity by 2040, while 56 million may be overweight. Also, at least 120 million school-age children could show early signs of chronic diseases such as hypertension and cardiovascular disease linked to high Body Mass Index (BMI). India’s challenges are particularly complicated because it confronts a double whammy: malnutrition and obesity simultaneously. The Indian Academy of Paediatrics’ guidelines, issued in 2023, recognised the gravity of the problem. They recommended that highly obese children be assessed for associated conditions such as hypertension, abnormal blood lipids, diabetes and fatty liver disease. India’s approach concurs with that of the WHO in recognising that containing obesity-related maladies requires a concerted effort involving parents, paediatricians and schools. The WHO’s new guidelines rooting for supportive environments for children are particularly important for India. A growing body of research has underlined that children with limited access to healthy food options often rely on poor and unhealthy diets. Policymakers should take note of the global health agency’s call for systemic change. Comprehensive national action plans are needed to prevent and treat obesity. The WHO’s guideline is not just clinical — it’s a preventive public-health call. Implementing the ‘lifestyle-first’ model through schools, primary care, and family-level behaviour change will be critical for India to avoid a tidal wave of early-onset diabetes and hypertension.

Rajnath Warns Pakistan of Stronger Strike Over Terror

New Delhi: Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday warned Pakistan that any fresh terrorist attack originating from its territory would invite an Indian military response stronger than Operation Sindoor, asserting that the country would strike at the source of terrorism. Addressing a defence conclave in New Delhi, Singh said India’s approach to terrorism had undergone a fundamental change, with the government moving beyond diplomatic condemnation to direct military action. "Whenever terrorists tried to drench the soil of India in blood, India gave a befitting response every time. The echo of that response must still be resounding in the ears of the masters of the terrorists," he said. Recalling the surgical strikes following the 2016 Uri attack, the Balakot airstrikes after the 2019 Pulwama attack and Operation Sindoor following the Pahalgam killings last year, Singh said India had demonstrated its resolve to strike terrorist infrastructure. "This was the first time in India's history that the Indian armed forces had struck a decisive blow on the chest of terrorism," he said, referring to Operation Sindoor. e said the operations reflected a change in the country's mindset. "Earlier, when terrorists attacked, previous governments would go to the world and cry foul. But this is the new India. Today, we do not cry foul. Now, India's armed forces are reaching the nursery of terrorism and uprooting it from the roots," he said. Singh said the fight against terrorism had become more complex with the emergence of lone-wolf attacks, white-collar terrorism and technology-driven threats. He identified five emerging security challenges



— Disinformation, Destabilisation, Disruption, Deception and Destruction — describing them as the "5D Security Threat". Referring to a recent incident in which a co-pilot allegedly attempted to crash a passenger aircraft, Singh praised Captain Smit Machhar for preventing a possible disaster. "A single alert and courageous individual could help foil an entire terrorist plot. The fight against terrorism requires not only the capabilities of security agencies but also the active participation of aware and responsible citizens," he said. Calling for a shift from traditional hard and soft power to "smart power", Singh said modern defence strategies must combine advanced weapons, artificial intelligence, human intelligence and cost-effective technologies. He cited Operation Sindoor as evidence of India’s growing confidence in indigenous defence systems, including the Akash missile system and BrahMos. The minister said the armed forces had issued five indigenisation lists covering 509 defence items, with a sixth list being prepared. Defence public sector undertakings had identified 5,012 items for indigenisation, of which 3,255 had been indigenised, he added.

Harish Rao demands Rythu Bheema benefits for families of deceased farmers

Siddipet: Former Minister T Harish Rao alleged that the Congress government’s failure to pay the Rythu Bheema premium had pushed thousands of families across Telangana into crisis, denying them the ₹5 lakh insurance benefit under the scheme. Harish Rao hosted the family members of 22 farmers from Siddipet who died after August 14, the deadline for payment of the premium, over lunch at his camp office. Accusing Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy of halting welfare schemes introduced by the BRS government, Rao said farmers’ families used to receive ₹5 lakh soon after the death of the insured farmer under the Rythu Bheema scheme. He alleged that the Chief Minister’s decision had left the families in distress. When he enquired about their plight, the widows of the farmers broke down, saying they had received no benefits following the deaths of their family heads. The former minister said the BRS government had paid ₹7,000 crore towards premiums between 2018 and 2024, benefiting more than 1.38 lakh farmers. Rao alleged that the Congress government had also discontinued schemes such as KCR Kit, fee reimbursement and sheep distribution, besides failing to fulfil commitments relating to



loan waivers, Rythu Bharosa and 24-hour power supply. Accusing Revanth Reddy of shifting the blame onto officials for power shortages, Rao said the Chief Minister was trying to mislead the public by threatening to suspend Transco officials over power cuts. Holding Revanth Reddy responsible for the electricity crisis, he said the Chief Minister should step down instead. Rao threatened to lay siege to the Chief Minister’s Office and the Secretariat unless the government paid ₹5 lakh in ex gratia to the families of farmers who had been denied the Rythu Bheema benefit. He demanded that the Congress government pay the scheme’s premium immediately to ensure that farmers’ families received the benefits.

BJP Alleges Large-Scale Corruption in 22-A Land List

Hyderabad: BJP Telangana president N. Ramchander Rao on Thursday alleged that large-scale corruption was taking place under the guise of the 22-A prohibited land list, with lakhs of acres — including agricultural land — being placed under restrictions. Addressing the media, Rao said people who had possessed land for 20 to 30 years were suddenly finding their assets included under Section 22-A of the Registration Act, leaving them uncertain about their ownership rights. He alleged that the process of removing land from the list had created scope for bribery, and pointed to the ACB arrests of revenue officials allegedly demanding bribes. He said affected persons were making repeated rounds of collector offices to seek clarification and relief. He said farmers in Bomraspet of Shamirpet mandal were anxious after about 1,500 acres were reportedly included in the prohibited list. Similar problems, he claimed, were being reported in Banjara Hills and Jubilee Hills, where the presence of even one government plot in a survey number was leading to the entire survey number being restricted. Rao alleged that the poor and middle classes were suffering losses, while influential persons and builders were benefiting. He demanded transparency in adding or removing lands from the 22-A



list and said justice must be done to affected landowners. The Congress government, he said, must answer for the issue. The BJP leader also criticised the state government over irrigation water and power supply, claiming that farmers dependent on borewells were receiving barely two to three hours of quality electricity, leading to crop damage and drought-like conditions. He alleged that power cuts were affecting towns as well and accused Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of shifting responsibility onto officials. Rao mocked Congress leaders for raising “vote chori” allegations in Delhi, and described Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi as “fake Gandhis.” He also alleged that foreign funds were being used to create internal unrest and accused the Congress of supporting anti-national forces during the anti-CAA agitation.

NDMC’s Bid To Derail Lehra Do Tiranga March at Connaught Place



New Delhi: The CJP protesters and the Delhi administration seemed to be bracing for another showdown after the NDMC late on Thursday evening sought to derail Friday’s proposed “Lehra Do Tiranga” march at Connaught Place’s Central Park. In a sudden move, the civic body announced that Central Park would remain closed to the public on Friday and Saturday, hours after the Delhi High Court declined to restrain the CJP from holding the protest. The closure cast uncertainty over the gathering planned for 5 pm on Friday by CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke. Delhi police also warned of legal action against unauthorised gatherings in Connaught Place, while leaving open the possibility of allowing a select group of people to assemble at a designated spot to carry the national tricolour and sing the national anthem. DCP PRO Neha Yadav said prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) were already in force in Connaught Place and adjoining areas to maintain law and order and protect public and private property. Adding to the uncertainty for the protesters, the PRO also stressed that prescribed protocols governing the national flag and the national anthem would have to be followed. "When carrying or accompanying the national flag, and during the singing of the national anthem, prescribed rules must be followed, and the utmost respect, dignity, and decorum must be maintained toward both the tricolour and the national anthem," the PRO said. Besides the CJP, other outfits expected to join the “Lehra Do Tiranga” march include All India Students’ Association (AISA), the Students’ Federation of India (SFI) and the All India Students’ Federation (AISF). Sources disclosed that the government is closely watching the movements of the outfits organising the protests. The concerned authorities indicated that strong measures would be taken if the protests disturb peace and law and order. The CJP got a shot in its arm after the Delhi High Court refused to restrain it from holding the protest at Connaught Place. The court order came after it took on record the police’s assurance that all possible steps would be taken to regulate and control their activity. Addressing the media, CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke called on supporters to gather at Central Park with the national flag at 5 pm on Friday. Soon after the NDMC announced the closure, Mr Dipke, in a post on X, said, "If we announce 100 places, will Narendra Modi shut down all 100 places?" "Why is the Prime Minister shutting down Delhi to protect one man? Delhi has been turned into an India-Pakistan border. What does Gyanesh Kumar give Modi in return for this protection?" he asked. "If the government wants to detain this many citizens, Opposition leaders and students, let it declare an emergency outright," Mr Dipke added. The proposed march follows a series of demonstrations and detentions in the capital over allegations of electoral malpractice and demands for Mr Kumar’s resignation. Speaking alongside senior lawyer Prashant Bhushan, actor Prakash Raj, AISA president Neha Bora, SFI leader Aishe Ghosh and AISF national president Viraaj Devang, he criticised the detention of demonstrators demanding Kumar’s resignation amid allegations of electoral malpractice and the controversy surrounding electoral-roll revision. Mr Dipke accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah of waging a “war” against their own countrymen to protect the CEC. He also questioned the police action against protesters carrying the national flag. “Those who never embraced the tricolour are attacking it. Our comrades were walking in Connaught Place with the tricolour and have all been detained. When did holding the tiranga become a crime?” he asked. While Mr Bhushan called for a “regime change”, actor Prakash Raj alleged that Form 7 was being used to systematically erase targeted communities, particularly Muslim voters. "We are currently fighting to ensure that elections are conducted properly. But if this kind of brutality continues, there will certainly be regime change. Yes, we all want regime change... What is wrong with that? Regime change is the democratic right of every citizen," Mr Bhushan asserted. Ms Bora alleged that the police targeted journalists covering the protests, detaining them despite their press credentials and snatching their cameras. She also referred to an alleged sexual harassment incident involving a journalist, for which an FIR was registered, and accused the police of using force against people raising concerns over electoral rights. SFI leader Ghosh urged citizens to unite to defend democracy, saying she placed her faith in the people rather than the ruling BJP. “Gyanesh has helped BJP win the whole country,” she alleged. Referring to the treatment of the parents of Ankita Bhandari, a resort receptionist murdered in Uttarakhand in 2022, Ms Ghosh alleged that they had been dragged and treated brutally.

ASST. ENGINEER, TGSPDCL, MADANNAPET SECTION, SANTOSH NAGAR SUB DIVISION, HYDERABAD IS IN ACB NET

AMEER HUSSAIN CRIME BEURO CHIEF the (AO) Sri Pandala Sandhya Rakesh, Assistant Engineer, TGSPDCL, Madannapet Section, Santosh Nagar Sub Division, Hyderabad was caught red handed by the ACB Officials, City Range-II when he demanded and accepted the bribe amount of Rs.1,20,000/- from the complainant for doing official favour, i.e., "for sanctioning six (6) new electricity meters in place of the old missing meters by approving the Complainant's online applications.

The tainted bribe amount of Rs.1,20,000/- was recovered from the possession of the AO at his instance. Thus, the AO performed his duty improperly and dishonestly to obtain undue advantage.

Therefore, the AO is being produced before the Hon'ble Principal Special Judge for SPE & ACB cases, Nampally for judicial remand. The case is under investigation. The details of complainant are withheld for security reasons.

CELL PHONE NUMBER-1064 (TOLL FREE NUMBER): In case of a demand for a bribe by any Public Servant, the public is requested to contact the ACB Toll Free Number, i.e., 1064, to take action as per Law. ACB Telangana can also be contacted through social media platforms WhatsApp (9440446106), Facebook (Telangana ACB), and X (X/formerly twitter (@Telangana ACB). The QR Code of ACB is also displayed in all Government Offices and prominent public places to contact ACB, Telangana. The name and details of the victim/complainant will be kept secret.



NHM Employees' Strike Enters Third Day in Nagarkurnool

Nagarkurnool: Former MLA Marri Janardhan Reddy urged the state government to immediately resolve the legitimate demands of National Health Mission (NHM) employees, whose indefinite strike entered its third day on Thursday.

Janardhan Reddy visited the protest camp and expressed solidarity with the striking employees. He also participated in their cooking protest programme.

Speaking on the occasion, he said NHM employees played a crucial role in delivering healthcare services to the public. He urged the government to address the problems of employees who had been working for years on contract and outsourcing terms.

He demanded the



regularisation of eligible employees, job security and implementation of the principle of equal pay for equal work. He also called for a positive response from the government on salary hikes and other service benefits.

Janardhan Reddy urged the government to hold discussions with employee representatives, resolve their grievances and take steps to enable them to resume their duties.

NHM JAC district president Dr Balakrishna, general secretary Damagatla Kumar, Haimavathi, state committee member Ghouse Pasha, Kalpana, coordinator Praveen, Bheemudu, Ramakrishna Reddy, Dr Raju, Dr Jagan and others participated in the programme.

CP's Compassionate Gesture Wins Hearts of Elderly :



Nizamabad October 15, 2026 : Demonstrating compassion and commitment to social welfare, Nizamabad Police Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya, visited Lalan Old Age Home at Ankapur village in Arm?or Division, interacted with around 60 elderly residents, distributed clothes and personally served them lunch.

The Commissioner enquired about the residents' health, daily living conditions and personal concerns, patiently listening to their difficulties and assuring them of the importance of care, dignity and social support for senior citizens.

Emphasising the need to respect and protect the elderly, Sai Chaitanya said that old age often brings physical and emotional challenges, making the love, affection and support of family members and society essential. He urged people not to neglect senior citizens but to understand their needs, respect their life experiences and stand by them during difficult times.

He observed that meaningful public service requires offi-

cials to understand people's problems through direct interaction at the grassroots level. He also stressed the need to pay special attention to the welfare and healthcare requirements of those living in old-age homes.

Prominent doctors from the Arm?or region conducted medical examinations for the residents and provided necessary health advice as part of the visit. The programme reflected the police department's commitment to extending its service beyond law enforcement by fostering compassion, human values and community responsibility.

Arm?or ACP Venkateshwar Reddy, CCRB ACP Gurunaidu, Arm?or Rural CI John Reddy, Bheemgal CI Satyanarayana Goud and Arm?or SHO Chandrasekhar Reddy participated in the programme.

Doctors Dr. Shankar, Dr. Madhu Shekhar, Dr. Vamsi, Dr. Muthya Reddy, Dr. Linga Reddy and Dr. Dhanpal Sadan, along with old-age home representatives Sunitha, Nagamani, Damodar Reddy and Sankith Reddy, were also present.

Grand Bathukamma Celebrations Held at the Collectorate

District Collector Bhavesh Mishra Participates in Festivities

Nirmal : The Bathukamma festival celebrations were held with great enthusiasm on Thursday evening at the premises of the Nirmal District Collectorate.

District Collector Bhavesh Mishra offered prayers to the floral Bathukammas. Women officers, employees, and staff members from various government departments arranged colourful Bathukammas using flowers. The District Collector, along with the women employees, enthusiastically participated in the traditional Bathukamma dance, moving rhythmically to the festive songs.

Speaking on the occasion, Collector Bhavesh Mishra stated that the Bathukamma festival is closely associated with nature, agriculture, and farmers. He expressed concern over the difficulties faced by farmers due to the prevailing dry weather conditions and inadequate rainfall.

He hoped that the region would receive abundant rainfall and that farmers would overcome their difficulties and be



relieved of their problems. He also appealed to everyone to pray for the welfare of farmers and for favourable weather conditions.

On the occasion, the Collector extended his heartfelt Bathukamma and Dasara greetings to the people of Nirmal district, government officials, employees, and staff members.

In-Charge Additional Collector (Revenue) Rathod Ramesh, Treasury Officer Saroj, Women and Child Welfare Officer Vinuthna, Employment Officer Vijayalakshmi, along with officials and staff members from various government departments, participated in the celebrations.

Women's Participated Dandiya celebrations in Zahirabad

Zaheerabad October: As part of the Dussehra Navratri celebrations, women flocked to the Mega Dandiya program organized by PVR Garden in Zahirabad town of Sangareddy district. They danced enthusiastically and made a splash by dancing Dandiya. Speaking on the occasion, local court public prosecutor Rathod Subhash said that the Mega Dandiya program organized by the Rock Dance Studio Events team was commendable. He specially congratulated dance mas-



ters Vinod and Pool Singh who worked hard to make the program a success. He said that it is commendable to organize such programs that reflect Indian culture and traditions in addition to providing fun to women and young people. social worker Bandi Sudhakar said that the cooperation and support received from women for the Mega Dandiya program was very happy. He said that with their encouragement, they will work hard to organize more great programs in the coming days. Venkateswara Shopping Mall owner Neela Venkateshangupta, SI Vinay Kumar, PVR Garden owner Purushottam Reddy, Dr. Seetharama Raju, Narayana, Dr. Raj Kumar, prominent social worker Bandi Sudhakar and others participated.

APJ Abdul Kalam's Birth Anniversary Celebrated in Nagarkurnool

Nagarkurnool : The birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna and former President of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam was celebrated at the District Retired Employees Association building in Nagarkurnool on Thursday. Association district president Sridhar garlanded Kalam's portrait and paid floral tributes.

Speaking on the occasion, the speakers recalled Kalam's journey from a humble family in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, to becoming a renowned scientist and the 11th President of India. They highlighted his contributions to DRDO and ISRO, his key role in developing Agni and Prithvi missiles, and his recognition as the 'Missile Man of India'.

They said Kalam's life, dedication to science and message of dreaming big and working hard continued to inspire young people. District general secretary Venkat Shetty, mandal president Busireddy Sudhakar Reddy, secretary Yugandhar Reddy and other retired employees participated in the programme.



KTR alleges Rs 3,000-crore coal import scam, seeks white paper on power crisis

BRS working president KT Rama Rao alleged that Telangana’s power crisis was being used to facilitate expensive coal imports through a proposed deal with Bothra Logistics. He demanded a white paper and an independent probe, while questioning Singareni’s falling production and nearly Rs 60,000 crore in reported outstanding dues.

Hyderabad: Putting the Congress government in the dock, BRS working president KT Rama Rao described the ongoing power crisis in Telangana as a deliberate attempt to create an artificial coal shortage and facilitate foreign coal imports at inflated prices. He accused Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and the Congress government of being involved in an alleged Rs 3,000-crore scam by signing a prior agreement with a logistics company.

He demanded a white paper on the proposed imports and an independent investigation into the entire affair. He warned that the BRS would oppose any move that weakened Singareni or burdened the State with expensive imports, and demanded that the government publish a comprehensive report on the coal and power crisis.

In an open letter addressed to Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Union Coal Minister G Kishan Reddy, Rama Rao questioned the rationale for turning to expensive imported coal when Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) and other domestic sources could potentially meet the requirement. He said a prior agreement with Bothra Logistics for coal imports had raised suspicions about the company’s selection and the transparency of the procure-



ment process.

He said the move could benefit private interests at the cost of SCCL and impose an unnecessary financial burden on Telangana.

The BRS working president stated that the proposed arrangement could involve a commission of Rs 1,500 per tonne, potentially amounting to Rs 3,000 crore. He demanded disclosure of all discussions, tenders, agreements, proposed purchase quantities, prices, logistics costs and payments involving Bothra Logistics, the State government and Singareni.

Questioning the government’s claim of a shortage of suitable coal for the Yadadri Thermal Power Station (YTPS), he cited a February 15, 2018, Union Coal Ministry allocation for 14 million tonnes per annum of G9-grade coal from Singareni mines and a supply agreement dated April 27, 2022. He sought details of actual supplies and the reasons for the alleged shortfall.

Rama Rao also pointed to Singareni’s coal production declining from 70.02 million tonnes in 2023-24 to about 58 million tonnes in 2025-26. He questioned the failure to maximise domestic production, including supplies from the Naini block in Odisha and the Mahanadi region. He demanded an institution-wise account of nearly Rs 60,000 crore in outstanding dues reportedly owed to Singareni, including the amounts due, payments received and pending liabilities.

Accusing the government of shifting responsibility for power cuts onto officials instead of addressing planning failures, the former Minister demanded a production review, a domestic coal supply action plan and transparency in private contracts for coal and ash handling at the Yadadri plant. He also questioned Kishan Reddy’s role, alleging that the Union Minister was not acting to protect Singareni’s interests.

Warangal Hospital To Match Hyderabad Facilities: Ponguleti

Outpatient (OP) services at the Warangal super speciality hospital, which is expected to address the long-standing healthcare needs of people in the erstwhile Warangal district, will begin on October 20. The state government is accelerating efforts to make the hospital, equipped with advanced facilities, accessible to the public. While preparations are under way for a soft launch during Dasara, the government aims to make the hospital fully operational by December 15.

District incharge minister and state revenue, information and housing minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, panchayat raj minister Seethakka and Rajya Sabha member Vem Narendra Reddy, among others, visited the hospital building on Thursday. They assessed the facilities and the medical services set to commence.

Speaking on the occasion, Srinivas Reddy said the government was completing the MGM Super Speciality Hospital, which had been left unfinished by the previous government, on a war footing to make it available to the public. He announced that the hospital would undergo a thorough in-



spection again on October 17, after which a soft launch would take place during Dasara.

He said the government was accelerating the work despite its financial constraints to ensure that OP services began on October 20.

The minister said that once the hospital became fully operational, people would be able to access advanced medical treatment in Warangal on par with the facilities available in Hyderabad. Apart from the erstwhile Warangal district, patients from distant districts such as Adilabad, Karimnagar, Nalgonda and Khammam were also expected to benefit from the hospital.

He said the government aimed to reduce people’s dependence on expensive private healthcare and provide quality

treatment through government hospitals.

Full-fledged services by December 15

The launch of OP services will mark the beginning of medical operations at the hospital, with additional facilities expected to be introduced in phases. Srinivas Reddy said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy was taking a special initiative to ensure that the hospital became fully operational by December 15.

The hospital’s commissioning is expected to bring a significant change to Warangal’s healthcare sector and improve access to advanced medical services for people across northern and central Telangana.

SRIDHAR BABU REJECTS KTR’S ALLEGATIONS OVER SINGARENI

Hyderabad: IT and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu dismissed the allegations made by BRS working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) and other leaders regarding Singareni.

Currently, G-9 grade coal is being produced from nine mines in Singareni. Over the past ten years, an average of approximately four million tonnes of G-9 coal was supplied annually to thermal power plants that had fuel supply agreements.

So far this year, Singareni has supplied more than 25 million tonnes of coal to thermal power plants in Telangana as well as other states. Of this, only 1.20 million tonnes (12 lakh tonnes) was G-9 grade coal. Of that, 0.52 million tonnes was supplied to Telangana GENCO power plants alone, he said, addressing a press conference here on Thursday.

The Fuel Supply Agreement to supply 14 million tonnes of G-9 coal annually to the Yadadri Thermal Power Plant was made during BRS regime. That agreement was made by taking into consideration the increased production expected from new mines that Singareni would undertake in the future.

Then why did those new mines not come up? Since Singareni did not participate in the coal block auctions conducted by the Central government, the crucial Koyagudem-3 and Sattupalli-3 blocks were



not secured by the company.

As a result, Singareni lost the opportunity to produce nearly 10 million tonnes of quality coal annually. “We obtained approvals for the Naini coal mine and commenced production within just two years. During your tenure, you did not even look towards Naini,” he said.

“We obtained mining approvals for Tadicherla Block-2, which was sanctioned by our UPA government in 2013. Through an auction, we secured the Manuguru PK OC-2 Dip Side Block for Singareni. With these, Singareni’s production capacity will increase in the coming days,” the Minister explained.

In Singareni, which has 137 years of extensive mining experience, a technology-based, multi-layered system is in place to monitor every stage, from coal production and loading to transportation, weighing and final distribution.

“If you have evidence, bring it out. Otherwise, stop tarnishing the integrity of Singareni’s workers and officials,” he added.

The site visit certificate was introduced only for the benefit of Singareni. It was not intended for the benefit of any individual. Contractors undertaking work must have a complete understanding of the work they are going to carry out in advance.

After winning the tender, the work should proceed without any obstacles. This is the purpose of this condition. The people’s government is working towards a single objective. “We are securing new coal mines for Singareni. We will continue to work towards securing more mines in the future. Along with coal production, we are taking steps to expand Singareni into critical minerals, thermal power and solar energy sectors,” the Minister said.

NACOF Serves Defamation Notice On RS Praveen

Hyderabad: NACOF India Ltd. (National Federation of Farmers’ Procurement, Processing and Nand Retailing Cooperatives of India Ltd.) has served a legal notice on BRS leader and former IPS officer RS Praveen Kumar over allegedly false and defamatory allegations he made against the federation at a press conference on September 17 regarding the TGSWREIS tender for food provisions and cleaning materials.

NACOF has given him seven days to withdraw the allegations, remove related videos and social media posts, and issue a formal written apology on the same platforms.

If he fails to comply, the federation will initiate civil and criminal proceedings seeking damages and injunctive relief, NACOF said. The federation rejected the allegations made by Praveen Kumar and the BRS as baseless and incorrect. NACOF, a multi-state cooperative federation registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002, is regulated by the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies



under the Union ministry of cooperation. According to the legal notice, NACOF participated in an open, competitive e-procurement tender notified on May 22, 2026. Following a comprehensive evaluation of all bids, it was declared the lowest bidder (L1). It received a formal Letter of Award on August 19, 2026, and furnished the required performance security.

Since then, NACOF has been supplying provisions and cleaning materials to residential institutions and welfare hostels across all 33 districts of Telangana under its rate contract. The federation said every stage of the tender process was documented and alleged that Praveen Kumar had provided no evidence to substantiate his claims.

Shah Hails Assam Crackdown, 945 Held in Drug Cases

NEW DELHI: Union home minister Amit Shah on Thursday congratulated Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and the state police for an anti-narcotics crackdown that led to 945 arrests, registration of 547 cases and seizure of drugs worth over Rs 182 crore.



In a post on X, Shah said the drive also involved action against 703 drug hotspots, while attachment of properties worth nearly Rs 31 crore was under process.

“A decisive blow to drug networks!” Shah said, congratulating the Chief Minister and police for the sustained crackdown.

He said the Vision Document on Narcotics Control 2026-29, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Nasha Mukh Bharat initiative, reaffirmed the Centre’s commitment to dismantling drug networks, targeting their financial operations and protecting young people from narcotics.

“The fight against drugs will continue with unwavering resolve,” Shah said.

MURMU INAUGURATES NATIONAL SARAS MELA, HIGHLIGHTS ROLE OF WOMEN’S SHGS

President Droupadi Murmu said rural women had become wealth creators and drivers of development while inaugurating the National SARAS Mela in Vijayawada. Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan highlighted plans for SHE Marts and stronger market access for women-led self-help groups

Vijayawada: President Droupadi Murmu said on Thursday that rural women were no longer mere beneficiaries of government schemes but had become wealth creators and were emerging as drivers of development.

Inaugurating the National SARAS Mela, organised by the Union Ministry of Rural Development and the Andhra Pradesh government in Vijayawada, she said the Centre had given a distinct momentum and direction to the empowerment of rural women through the ‘Lakhpati Didi’ initiative.

“Increased participation in various modern sectors, such as digital services and renewable energy, has opened up new avenues for skill development for our rural sisters. Today, rural women are no longer merely beneficiaries of government schemes; they have become wealth creators and are emerging as drivers of development,” she said.

She said that, under the comprehensive vision of Antyodaya, the Centre had placed women-led institutions at the heart of the Rural Livelihood Mission. As a result, women were leading the transformation of villages.

She said women’s Self-Help Groups (SHGs) had made significant contributions to the rural economy. In



about 12 years, the number of women associated with these groups had increased to more than 10 crore.

The President said the goal should not be limited to making women ‘Lakhpati Didis’; in the coming years, efforts should be made to help them become ‘Crorepati Didis’.

“In the past, women relied on others for even the smallest things; today, however, they have not only become self-reliant but have also reached a point where they can serve as a source of support for others,” she said.

President Murmu said the benefits of development should reach every village and every home to achieve the goal of a developed India by 2047. She said innovative SHGs and SARAS Melas had to play a leading role in this regard.

The President noted that SARAS Melas had established themselves as progressive rural marketplaces. They had strengthened direct connections between rural women en-



trepreneurs and consumers across the country. The events had also given women opportunities to connect directly with urban markets and improve their marketing capabilities.

The President visited the SARAS stalls and interacted with Lakhpati Didis.

Union Minister for Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan highlighted initiatives undertaken by the Centre and the Andhra Pradesh government to support women in SHGs.

“Our Lakhpati Didis have done wonders. Now Lakhpati Didis are not just Lakhpatis anymore; they’ve become Millionaire Didis too,” he said.

“The SARAS Mela will no longer be limited to just Delhi; SARAS Melas will also be organised in different states across the country, so that our sisters can get a proper platform. Moving forward from this, we will also establish SHE Marts in every district,” he said.

Chouhan said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Andhra

Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu were committed to ensuring the financial self-reliance of women in SHGs.

“Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is further strengthening DWCRA (Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas) women by providing them with technical support. There are 11 lakh SHG groups in Andhra Pradesh. The state leads the way in transforming SHG members into ‘Lakhpati Didis’,” he said.

He said the ‘SHE Marts’ initiative would facilitate large-scale marketing of products manufactured by women in SHGs.

“We will implement the Andhra Pradesh model for the marketing of products made by women. We envision a significant contribution from women in Self-Help Groups towards the creation of a Viksit Bharat,” he said.

Andhra Pradesh Governor S Abdul Nazeer, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, Union Ministers K Ram Mohan Naidu, Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar and Kamlesh Paswan, and Secretary of the Union Ministry of Rural Development were present.

Women’s Empowerment Key For Viksit Bharat, Say Union Ministers

VIJAYAWADA: Union ministers Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Dr. Pemmasani Chandrasekhar on Thursday stressed on the need to empower women’s self-help groups (SHGs) through financial support, technology, skill development, and wider market access to achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the National Saras Mela 2026 in Vijayawada, Pemmasani declared that 15,000 women from Andhra Pradesh would receive specialised training over the next 15 days in entrepreneurship, business management, and marketing.

He pointed out that around 3.5 crore women across the country have become Lakhpati Didis against Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s target of six crore. Women’s groups have received loans of approximately ₹13 lakh crore, compared to annual credit transactions of around ₹23,000 crore in 2014.

The union minister said Andhra Pradesh’s policy of waiving processing, inspection, and documentation charges on loans of up to ₹20 lakh has helped each DWCRA group save around ₹33,000. Seeing its success, the centre has extended this model to other states. The centre had also introduced the LokOS (Lok Operating System) digital platform to improve transparency and maintain SHG financial records.

At the Saras Mela, which had so far been con-



finied to Delhi, around 1,500 women representatives from different states are showcasing handicrafts, handloom products, and traditional goods.

Training will focus on product quality, packaging, branding, retail partnerships, and online sales

emmasani asked public representatives to encourage women to participate in the Saras Mela.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu are committed to making SHG women financially independent.

He said Andhra Pradesh has around 11 lakh SHGs and is among the leading states in developing Lakhpati Didis.

The union minister said the central government would expand marketing of SHG products through She Marts.

CM Naidu To Offer Silk Robes To Kanaka Durga On Moola Nakshatram

Vijayawada: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu would offer silk robes to Goddess Kanaka Durga on behalf of the state government at the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy temple atop Indrakeeladri on Friday.

The event, between 4pm and 4.30pm, would coincide with Moola Nakshatram during the Dasara Sharannavaratri celebrations.

Elaborate arrangements have been made to handle an expected turnout of 2.5 to 3 lakh devotees, prioritising ordinary devotees’ convenience and safety. VIP, protocol, recommendation-based and antarataya darshans have been cancelled. All queue lines would be for free darshan, with devotees allowed to worship Goddess Saraswati in her Moola Nakshatram alankaram from the mukha mandapam.

Private vehicles would not be allowed uphill, and all existing vehicle passes, including service passes, would remain temporarily suspended. Only vehicles required for emergency official duties would be permitted.

NTR district collector Lakshmisha said 450 CCTV cameras would monitor crowd movement. Drinking water, buttermilk, biscuits and annaprasadam would be distributed at holding



points and along queue lines. Alternative darshan arrangements through the Mahamandapam had been made in case of rain. A specialised technical team would continuously monitor hill rocks to ensure safety.

SP Rajasekhar said 3,500 police personnel were on duty, with another 900 deployed for Friday. Hourly bulletins on waiting times and other updates would be issued through the control room, while digital screens would disseminate information. Data analytics would help estimate darshan waiting times.

Endowments commissioner Ramachandra Mohan said the temple footfall has increased this time. A QR-code-based feedback system was being used to address devotees’ concerns.

Meanwhile, the fifth-day Nagarotsavam of Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy was held grandly on Thursday evening, with the presiding deities taken in a decorated procession during the auspicious Pradosha period. Goddess Kanaka Durga appeared as Sri Lalitha Tripura Sundari Devi.

Temple executive officer Seena Naik inaugurated the procession by breaking a coconut. Saxophone music, Kerala’s Panchavadyam, Tamil Nadu’s Nayandi Melam and women’s Kolatam performances enlivened the procession along the Krishna riverfront and ghat road. Thousands of devotees offered coconuts and harati. Special rituals and mangala harathi were performed at the temple’s Rajagopuram.

YSRC Fields Kalyani For Vizag Mayor, Sravani From Vizianagaram

Visakhapatnam: Opposition YSRC has finalised on Thursday its mayoral candidates from Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram.



Srikakulam Lok Sabha constituency in 2009 but lost. During the YSRC rule, Kolagatla Sravani had been elected as a corporator and went on to become the deputy mayor of Vizianagaram. She is tipped to succeed her father during the 2029 elections.

MLC Varudu Kalyani will contest from Visakhapatnam, while Kolagatla Sravani, daughter of former MLA and minister Kolagatla Veerabhadra Swamy will bid for the mayoral post from Vizianagaram.

Varudu Kalyani became an MLC in 2021. Her term expires next year. She is the state president of YSRC women’s wing. She has a B. Sc. in Agriculture and did her MBA from Osmania university.

Kalyani contested on Praja Rajyam Party ticket from

Lokesh Meets President Murmu, Presents Mangalagiri Handloom Saree



VIJAYAWADA: Education Minister Nara Lokesh met President Droupadi Murmu here on Thursday morning and presented her with a Mangalagiri handloom saree and an Etikoppaka handicraft as mementoes.

Lokesh, who called on the President at Novotel Hotel, felicitated her with a shawl. President Murmu was in the city to attend the Dasara Sharannavaratri celebrations at the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy temple on Indrakeeladri and the Saras Ajivika Mela.

After a two-day visit to NTR district, the President departed for New Delhi by a special aircraft from Gannavaram at 2.45pm on Thursday.

Governor S Abdul Nazeer, along with Union rural development minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union minister of state for rural development Pemmasani Chandrasekhar, and Union minister of state Kamlesh Paswan, saw the president off at the airport.

State home minister Vangalapudi Anitha, chief secretary Sai Prasad, DGP Harish Gupta, 4(A) Girls NCC battalion commanding officer Colonel Praveen Yadav, Krishna district collector Balaji and SP Vidya Sagar bid farewell to the President.

15cnr31 and 32: Minister Nara Lokesh offers a bouquet and presents Kondapalli Toy to President Droupadi Murmu in Vijayawada on Thursday.

Misappropriation of Kallur Gram Panchayat Funds: Cheque Powers of Sarpanch and Deputy Sarpanch Suspended for Six Months

Nirmal : Nirmal District Collector Bhavesh Mishra announced on Thursday that action had been taken against the Sarpanch and Deputy Sarpanch of Kallur Gram Panchayat in Kuntala mandal over the alleged misappropriation of funds and violations of financial regulations in the utilisation of funds allocated under the 15th Finance Commission.

The Collector stated that an amount of Rs. 5,85,933 in Gram Panchayat funds had allegedly been transferred, in violation of the prescribed rules, to the personal bank account of a family member of the Sarpanch. An inquiry report also revealed that Rs. 1,85,043 from the 15th Finance Commission grant had been spent in violation of the established norms.

The inquiry was initiated following complaints regarding the utilisation of Gram Panchayat funds without obtaining prior approval from the Gram Sabha and undertaking works without adhering to the prescribed quotation and tender procedures.



Based on the findings of the inquiry, show-cause notices were issued to Sarpanch Penta Dasarath and Deputy Sarpanch Suryavamshi Narayana. After examining their explanations, the authorities decided to take disciplinary action. The Collector stated that their responses were unsatisfactory and that financial irregularities had been established during the inquiry.

Accordingly, under Rule 42(1) of the Panchayat Raj Act (G.O.Ms. No. 30, dated January 20, 1995), the cheque-signing powers of Sarpanch Penta Dasarath and Deputy Sarpanch Suryavamshi Narayana have been suspended for six months, with immediate effect. The Deputy Sarpanch was also held responsible in this regard as he had jointly signed the cheques.

To ensure that essential activities and development works in the village are not affected, permission has been granted to withdraw funds through the joint signatures of the Kallur Gram Panchayat Secretary and the Kuntala Mandal Panchayat Officer.

The District Collector warned that the misuse of government funds and violations of prescribed rules would not be tolerated under any circumstances. He emphasised that every rupee of public money must be spent transparently and exclusively for the welfare of the people.

Farmers Advised to Avoid Paddy Cultivation During Yasangi Season Amid Drought Concerns: Collector Koya Sri Harsha

Farmers should be encouraged to cultivate less water-intensive crops. Estimates to be prepared for paddy arrivals at procurement centres and private markets

District Collector reviews Agriculture and Horticulture Department activities



Peddapalli October 15: District Collector Koya Sri Harsha held a review meeting with officials of the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments at the Integrated District Collectorate on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector advised farmers to avoid paddy cultivation during the Yasangi (Rabi) season in view of the possibility of drought conditions. He urged farmers to make cultivation decisions based on water availability and stated that they could consider leaving their fields

fallow if necessary. He directed officials to encourage farmers to cultivate less water-intensive alternative crops, such as maize, pulses and vegetables, instead of paddy. He also stressed the need to create widespread awareness among farmers about alternative crops that can yield produce within a short period. The Collector instructed officials to provide appropriate guidance to farmers to prevent crop losses during drought conditions and ensure the efficient utilisation of available water resources. He directed Agriculture and Horticulture Department officials to remain accessible to farmers at the field level and guide them in selecting suitable alternative crops. Regarding paddy procurement during the Vanakalam (Kharif) season, the Collector instructed officials to prepare advance estimates. He asked them to assess the quantity of paddy likely to arrive at Paddy Procurement Centres (PPCs) across the district and the quantity expected to be sold in private markets. He stated that a comprehensive procurement plan should be prepared based on these estimates to ensure the smooth management of paddy procurement. The Collector emphasised that Agriculture and Horticulture Department officials must work in coordination and provide appropriate advice to farmers on crop selection in view of the anticipated water shortage. District Cooperative Officer Srimala, District Agriculture Officer Srinivas, District Horticulture Officer Prasad and other concerned officials attended the meeting.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Inaugurates New Telangana Handloom Development Corporation Office in Nampally Dudem Venkataramana Assumes Charge as Chairman of Telangana Handloom Development Corporation

Hyderabad, October 15: Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar congratulated Doodem Venkataramana on assuming charge as the new Chairman of the Telangana Handloom Development Corporation and inaugurated the corporation's new office at Chenetha Bhavan in Nampally, Hyderabad.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister emphasised the need to create extensive marketing opportunities for handloom products across the state. He said the government was committed to improving employment opportunities and ensuring greater economic benefits for handloom workers.

He stressed the importance of promoting Telangana's handloom textiles and securing wider recognition for them at both state and national levels.

The minister suggested that handloom shawls should be preferred over ordinary silk shawls at temples, official functions, felicitation ceremonies for teachers and distinguished personalities, and other public events. He also called for handloom shawls to be given prominence during occasions when political leaders exchange greetings and honour one another.

He urged the concerned authorities to issue appropriate instructions and guidelines to all government departments to encourage the use



of handloom products.

Highlighting the need for comprehensive development of the sector, Ponnam Prabhakar said measures should benefit every stakeholder in the handloom industry, from raw material suppliers and weavers to those involved in processing and marketing. He emphasised that handloom workers must receive fair market access and adequate returns for their hard work.

The minister stated that the development of the handloom sector would help ensure economic security and a dignified social standing for weavers.

He also encouraged the newly appointed chairman to work with greater dedication towards the advancement of the handloom sector, drawing inspiration from his own journey of hard work and commitment from his student days to his political career.

MLA Backs NHM Staff Demands :

Nizamabad October 15, 2026 : Urban MLA Dhanpal Suryanarayana Gupta has extended his support to National Health Mission (NHM) employees staging a protest at NTR Chowrasta in Nizamabad, assuring them that their demands would be raised during the next Assembly session.

Addressing the protesting employees on Thursday, the MLA questioned why Telangana could not regularise NHM staff when similar measures had been implemented in other states. Describing their demands as justified, he assured them of his full support in pursuing their grievances.

Dhanpal stressed the need to provide employees with periodic increments and bonuses. He also called for insurance coverage for NHM employees and employment for one eligible family member, based on educational qualifications, in the event of an employee's death.

The MLA reiterated that the concerns of NHM personnel deserved serious consideration and



assured the protesters that he would take up their issues with the government.

NHM district protest representatives, including president Sandeep, Narayana, Akshay and Vishal, along with other employees, participated in the demonstration.

Nizamabad Tightens Vigil on Private Healthcare Facilities :

Nizamabad October 15, 2026 : The district administration has stepped up its focus on regulating private healthcare facilities, with the District-Level Clinical Establishments Act Committee directing officials to intensify inspections, enforce registration norms and protect patients from irregular practices.

The review meeting, chaired by the Additional Collector (Local Bodies), assessed the implementation of the Clinical Establishments Act and Rules and considered applications for permanent registration and renewal. The chair instructed officials to ensure that every establishment met the prescribed standards before its application was recommended for approval.

The inspection teams were directed to scrutinise the educational qualifications, professional credentials and registration status of personnel employed in laboratories and diagnostic imaging centres, including MRI and X-ray facilities. The functioning, maintenance and servicing records of medical equipment must also be verified during inspections.

Highlighting patient rights and financial transparency, the Additional Collector directed healthcare establishments to display their applicable tariffs prominently and prevent unauthorised or excessive charges. The committee also called for strict vigilance against unethical referral practices, particularly commission-based payments to RMPs for directing patients to hospitals and diagnostic centres.

The meeting reviewed cases involving unauthorised medical practice, with police officials reporting that FIRs had been registered and certain clinics seized. The concerned departments were instructed to monitor such establishments and take appropriate legal action against confirmed violations. Healthcare facilities facing public complaints or adverse media coverage were also ordered to undergo thorough inspections.

The committee stressed that fire safety and biomedical waste management must remain essential components of regulatory inspections. Every hospital should ensure that at least one employee is trained in fire safety and emergency response. Fire extinguishers must be regularly inspected, properly maintained and refilled within the prescribed validity period. Compliance with biomedical waste segregation, handling, storage and disposal requirements must also be verified.

Officials were directed to initiate action against establishments operating with expired registrations and ensure timely



renewals. The meeting also examined the use of the prefix "Dr." by physiotherapists, directing officials to verify their qualifications and registration credentials and ensure that professional designations are displayed in accordance with applicable rules.

DM&HO Dr. Rajasree informed the committee that all applications for registration and renewal must be submitted through the designated Clinical Establishments Act web portal. Offline applications would be rejected. The Additional Collector further instructed officials to improve inspection standards and seek assistance from the police department and the Indian Medical Association whenever required.

Following scrutiny of the applications, the committee approved permanent registrations and renewals for eligible establishments, subject to the prescribed requirements. It also discussed a proposed medical-legal awareness programme for government and private medical practitioners scheduled for October 24, 2026, at the IDOC Conference Hall.

Those who attended included IMA President Dr. Vishal, Police Inspector Suresh Kumar, IMA Armoor President Dr. Ramaraju, Deputy DM&HO's Dr. Vidya of Bodhan and Dr. Ravinder of Armoor, CEA Programme Officer Dr. Suprita, Dr. Kirthana, District Health Educator Venugopal, MPHEO Suresh and Data Entry Operator Sampath.

Bengaluru Leaders Spotlight India’s Rs.50,000 Crore BESS Push Ahead of The Battery Show India

Bengaluru, October 14, 2026: The Battery Show India, organised by Informa Markets in India, brought together senior industry and technology leaders in Bengaluru for a media roundtable ahead of the 4th edition of the show, scheduled for October 22–24, 2026, at India Expo Mart, Greater Noida. The discussion focused on scaling domestic capabilities across advanced battery technologies, grid-scale BESS, power electronics, smart-grid solutions, battery management, manufacturing and R&D, as India accelerates renewable energy integration and strengthens grid flexibility and reliability. The roundtable comes amid the Government’s recent approval of a ₹50,000 crore incentive scheme for 50 GWh of BESS deployment, part of a larger ₹1.86 lakh crore programme to strengthen renewable energy and transmission infrastructure.

The roundtable featured perspectives from senior representatives across energy storage, smart-grid technology, advanced research, power systems, industrial technology, market intelligence and the broader business ecosystem. Dignitaries included Mr. Ramesh Shivanna, Director, Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI); Mr. I B Rao, Managing Director, Pom Power Systems; Mr. Tirumaleswara Reddy K, Co-Founder & CTO, Smartgrid Analytics; Prof. Aninda J. Bhattacharyya, Professor and J.C. Bose National Fellow, Indian Institute of Science; Mr. Ketan Chitnis, Chief Operating Officer, Lineage Power Private Limited; Mr. Amol Kotwal, Vice President – Energy & Environment Growth Advisory, Frost & Sullivan; alongside Mr. Rajneesh Khattar, Senior Group Director, Informa Markets in India.

Mr. Ramesh Shivanna, Director, Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI), said “Battery energy storage systems are emerging as a key enabler of India’s energy and mobility transition, supporting renewable energy integration as well as the shift from fossil-fuel vehicles to electric mobility. While around 9 GW of storage capacity has been installed so far, the potential stands at around 236 GW, creating significant opportunities for manufacturing, investment, employment and domestic supply chains. At the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce, we see strong potential for Karnataka, particularly Bengaluru, to emerge as a hub for EV and energy-storage manufacturing, and have proposed dedicated mobility and EV parks with incentives for MSME manufacturers. Against this backdrop, The Battery Show India is a valuable platform for the industry to showcase new technologies and innovations, understand emerging policy and industry requirements, and build connections across the battery and energy-storage ecosystem.”

Mr. Amol Kotwal, Vice President - Energy & Environment Growth Advisory, Frost & Sullivan, highlighted “India’s aggressive renewable energy expansion, with a target of 500 GW of capacity by 2030-31, makes battery energy storage systems critical for managing intermittency, ensuring grid reliability and making renewable power available when required. With renewable capacity at around 295 GW, including nearly 170 GW of solar, the need for storage will only increase. India is also moving towards greater self-reliance in BESS through three key layers, domestic cell manufacturing, local production of components such as inverters and power systems, and standardised procurement and tariff frameworks that provide long-term visibility to the ecosystem. We expect local manufacturing to scale significantly over the next few years, improving supply availability and driving greater cost competitiveness. The Battery Show India is therefore a timely platform to bring together this growing ecosys-



tem and showcase the technologies and capabilities shaping India’s battery energy storage and EV markets.”

Mr. I B Rao, Managing Director, Pom Power Systems & Services, said “We entered the battery energy storage market in India in 2022, when the concept was still relatively new. The sector has since evolved rapidly, and we are now seeing strong demand, particularly from Maharashtra and Karnataka. We operate primarily in the commercial and industrial segment, with systems up to 5 MW, and have already deployed a 150 kW energy storage system at ANERT, Kerala, which has been operational for 1.5 years, as well as a solar, storage and EV charging project at Bharat Electronics. At The Battery Show India, we are showcasing lithium battery-integrated EV charging systems that can support a 200 kW EV charger with just 30–50 kW of grid power, making them suitable for remote locations. We are also expanding our lithium-based UPS portfolio, including a recent 400 kW battery and 600 kW UPS order, alongside hybrid inverters, BMS solutions and BRESS systems featuring 125 kW power and 250–260 kWh batteries with liquid cooling.”

Prof. Aninda J. Bhattacharyya, Professor and J.C. Bose National Fellow, Indian Institute of Science, said “India’s energy-storage ambitions, including the requirement of around 300 GWh, make self-reliance across the battery value chain critical. While lithium-ion will continue to play an important role, we need to look beyond it at the R&D level and develop technologies that leverage materials available in India. Sodium-ion is particularly promising, given sodium’s abundance, lower dependence on critical minerals and potential cost advantage, while India also has strong research capabilities in solid-state, multivalent, aqueous and flow-battery technologies. With lithium-ion research spanning nearly 60 years, this is the right time to accelerate the development and industrialisation of next-generation chemistries. The Battery Show India provides an important platform for academia, industry and investors to connect, accelerate innovation and build a more self-reliant energy-storage ecosystem in India.”

Mr. Ketan Chitnis, Chief Operating Officer, Lineage Power Private Limited, said “Over the last four years, The Battery Show India has evolved significantly, reflecting the rapid growth of India’s energy-storage ecosystem and its increasing global relevance. At Pace Digitech & Lineage Power, we have already deployed 1.5 GWh of battery energy storage systems, including more than 500 MWh with MSEDCL, giving us valuable real-world data on system performance and grid requirements under Indian conditions.



This experience has reinforced that there is no one-size-fits-all battery technology: lithium-ion and sodium-ion can serve different applications depending on response time, duration and lifecycle requirements. At the same time, recent global supply-chain disruptions underline the need for localisation, particularly for critical components. We are therefore focusing on application engineering, indigenously developed PCS and EMS, grid-forming solutions and next-generation battery technologies through our R&D centre in Pune. The Battery Show India is an important platform to bring this ecosystem together and accelerate collaboration towards a more resilient and self-reliant energy-storage industry.”

Mr. Tirumaleswara Reddy K, Co-Founder & CTO, Smartgrid Analytics, said “Renewable energy generation is inherently variable, making it challenging for power plants to meet their committed schedules and often exposing them to higher Deviation Settlement Mechanism (DSM) penalties. Battery energy storage systems can play a critical role in addressing this challenge by balancing over- and under-injection, stabilising grid operations and enabling plants to meet their committed power schedules. At SmartgridAnalytics, we have already supported around 95 GWh of renewable energy deployments and nearly 9 GWh of BESS deployments across 21 countries and 21 grid codes. Our AI-based ARA platform combines renewable generation forecasting, BESS sizing, price forecasting and 15-minute scheduling to optimise battery charging and discharging, reduce DSM penalties and improve revenue opportunities. With ARA now tested and ready for market deployment, we are also preparing to launch the solution in the coming weeks, further strengthening our software capabilities for renewable energy and BESS management.”

Mr. Rajneesh Khattar, Senior Group Director, Informa Markets in India, said “India’s energy transition is increasingly moving from renewable capacity addition to the larger challenge of integrating that power reliably into the grid. The Central Electricity Authority has projected a requirement of 236 GWh of BESS by 2031–32, while the Government’s recent approval for deploying 50 GWh of BESS under the Green Energy Corridor further underlines the scale and urgency of the opportunity. As storage becomes a core part of India’s power infrastructure, the focus will need to extend across battery technologies, manufacturing, grid integration, power management, safety and digital intelligence. Bengaluru, with its strong base of technology companies, research institutions, engineering talent and smart-grid capabilities, is well positioned to contribute to this transition. The Battery Show India provides a platform to connect these

capabilities with the rapidly expanding battery and energy storage market and facilitate technology collaboration, partnerships and new business opportunities.”

Bengaluru and Karnataka are emerging as an important part of this transition, supported by a strong technology, research, engineering and clean-mobility ecosystem. Karnataka had 6,805 public EV charging stations as of March 31, 2026, the second-highest number among Indian states, while 1,571 additional EV chargers have been approved for the state under the PM E-DRIVE scheme. Karnataka’s clean mobility policy also envisages dedicated charging and battery-swapping infrastructure along major corridors, including the Bengaluru-Pune and Bengaluru-Mysuru highways.

The city’s research ecosystem further strengthens its role in advanced energy technologies. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has active research programmes covering batteries, supercapacitors, fuel cells, power electronics, EV charging and battery management systems, creating opportunities for stronger industry–academia collaboration in next-generation energy technologies. The dialogue highlighted the need for an integrated ecosystem connecting battery manufacturing, BESS, renewable energy, grid management, power electronics and digital intelligence, while scaling technology, safety, manufacturing capabilities and commercial deployment in parallel. Scheduled for October 22–24, 2026, at India Expo Mart, Greater Noida, the 19th edition of Renewable Energy India (REI) Expo is to be referred to as Asia’s most comprehensive clean energy convergence. Together, REI and TBSI form Asia’s most influential clean energy gathering, uniting global manufacturers, innovators, investors and policymakers on a platform where India’s clean energy ambitions meet global technology, capital and innovation. This edition will have over 800 exhibitors representing 1,000+ brands and an expected footfall exceeding 55,000 industry leaders, senior government representatives and distinguished global dignitaries.

The Battery Show India will feature exhibitors and brands from Korea, Japan, Germany and China, including a dedicated German Pavilion, specialised BESS Hall and companies such as CATL, Lineage Power and Hithium, POM Power System, DDEV group, IPower Battery, Bharat Cell & supported by Ministry of Heavy Industries. The show will also host 40+ conference sessions, an Energy Storage Summit, four CXO conclaves and 500+ industry speakers and moderators, alongside the Renewable Energy India Expo creating a broader platform for stakeholders across electric mobility, batteries, renewable energy and grid infrastructure.

Prem Nagar Youth Association Organises Annadanam with Devotion and Grandeur Ramakrishna Anna and Family Sponsor the Annadanam Programme



Hyderabad, October 14:: A grand Annadanam programme was organised at Kotha Prem Nagar on the occasion of the Navaratri celebrations under the auspices of the Prem Nagar Youth Association. The programme was conducted with great devotion and spiritual fervour. Special prayers were offered to Goddess Durga, followed by the distribution of Annadanam (sacred food) to devotees.

The programme created a spiritually vibrant atmosphere, with a large number of devotees and local residents of Prem Nagar participating enthusiastically and seeking the blessings of Goddess Durga.

Ramakrishna Anna and his family members sponsored the Annadanam programme, extending their support towards the religious and charitable initiative. Their contribution helped facilitate the distribution of food prasadam to devotees during the auspicious Navaratri celebrations, reflecting their commitment to service and devotion.

The members of the Prem Nagar Youth Association coordinated the arrangements and ensured the smooth conduct of the programme. A large number of local residents participated in the event and received the Annadanam. With the active involvement and cooperation of the local community, the programme was successfully completed.

Speaking on the occasion, Annadanam sponsor Ramakrishna Anna and his family members expressed their happiness at having the opportunity to offer food prasadam to devotees during the sacred Navaratri festival. They stated that Annadanam is considered one of the noblest forms of service, as providing food to those in need is a meaningful way of serving humanity.

They further said that they considered it a blessing from Goddess Durga to have the opportunity to organise such a service-oriented programme. They prayed for the continued blessings of the Goddess upon their family and expressed their wish for all family members to enjoy good health, happiness, prosperity and well-being. They also stated that they would continue to extend their support to religious, spiritual and social service activities in the future.

The Annadanam programme organised by the Prem Nagar Youth Association reflected the spirit of devotion, generosity and community service. The participation of local residents highlighted the importance of unity, mutual cooperation and service to society.

Devotees expressed their prayers and wishes for the blessings of Goddess Durga to be bestowed upon everyone during the auspicious Navaratri celebrations



Karthik Subbaraj’s associate Hide & Seek: A Heart-warming tale of love.

Suhas has been working on his big film, Mandaadi for over an year and now, as it became a huge blockbuster, he is back to weave a heartfelt romance with his next film, Hide & Silk.

Suhas has been working on his big film, Mandaadi for over an year and now, as it became a huge blockbuster, he is back to weave a heart-felt romance with his next film, Hide & Silk. The movie is directed by Rajendra Bala who is a former associate of the acclaimed film maker Karthik Subbaraj. Lubber Pandu, DC fame, Sanjana Krishnamoorthy, is playing the leading lady role.

The movie team unveiled title glimpse today and it beautifully captures Suhas weaving a saree, supported by Tanikella Bharani's poetic voiceover. The narration highlights how every saree connects with the destiny of the woman meant to wear it, and Suhas adding emotion of wanting to see who wears his first hand woven saree.

This film marks the first Telugu production of renowned production house Stone Bench Studio. Having successfully produced 18 films across the Tamil and Malayalam industries, producer Kaarthikeyan Santhanam is entering into Telugu Cinema with his beautiful tale. Varthika Jain is co-producing the film.

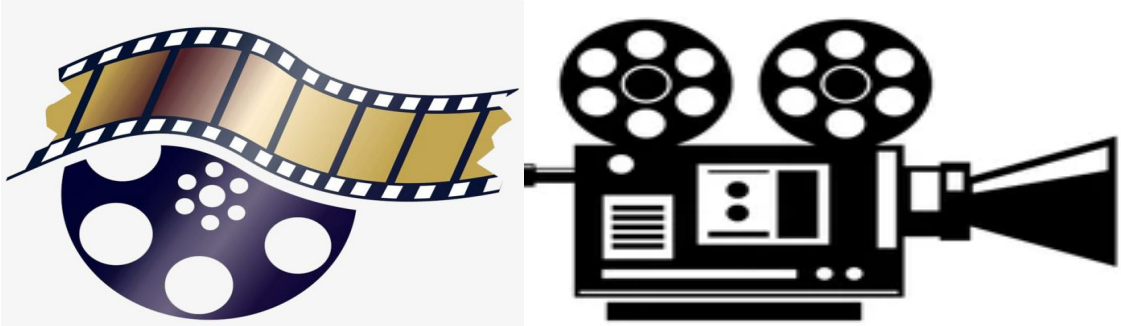
The title glimpse increases curiosity to watch the destiny crossed love story between a weaver and the person who wears the saree. It beautifully manages to weave an emotional connection between two individuals in a never-seen-before manner. More details about the movie release will be announced soon.

Supritha Naidu Looks Radiant in Traditional Orange Saree

Bandaru Sheshayani Supritha (popularly known as Supritha Naidu) looks radiant in this sunny outdoor portrait. Draped in a bright orange embroidered saree with silver borders and a matching blouse, she pairs the look with traditional gold jewellery and a soft smile against lush green foliage.

Born on 8 August 2001 in Hyderabad, Supritha is the daughter of Telugu actress Surekha Vani. She began as a social media influencer known for dance videos, vlogs, and lifestyle content. Her acting journey started in 2019 with the short film Money Minded Girlfriend, followed by more shorts and music videos.

She made her feature film debut with the women-centric comedy Lechindi Mahila Lokam (2026) and is set for her lead role in the romantic entertainer Chowdary Gari Abbayi Tho Naidu Gari Ammayi opposite Amardeep Chowdary. She also appeared in the horror-thriller Amaravathiki Aahvanam (2026).



CINEMA

Aadi Saikumar announces crazy Pan-India project

Aadi Saikumar is stepping into a captivating and marvelous world with Trishul Entertainments' highly ambitious Production No. 3.a

Aadi Saikumar is stepping into a cap-tivating and marvelous world with Trishul Entertainments' highly ambitious Pro-duction No. 3. The Pan-India film is be-ing produced on a grand scale, bringing a gripping narrative filled with divine mys-tery and suspense to big screens.

The project was announced with a powerful and ominous poster featuring a magnificent cobra coiled majestically around a trident. Set deep inside a shad-owy forest resembling an ancient ritual site, the eerie poster is surrounded by an-cient weapons, glowing oil lamps, and hanging bells that instantly grab attention.

Directed by Navarrasan, the movie features a highly intriguing screenplay with spectacular vision. Produced by Prashanth G Rudrappa, the film prom-ises a distinctive cinematic experience



shaped by spirituality, ancient beliefs, and the chilling mysteries of the unknown.

The intense drama will be elevated by a scintillating back-ground score and songs from renowned music director B. Ajaneesh Loknath. Building huge anticipa-tion, the makers have scheduled to reveal next update on Dasara day, on 20th October. The team is promising a never-seen-before thrilling cinematic ex-perience.

BSS Haindava Teaser: Goosebumps Visuals and Concept

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Bellamkonda Sreenivas is choosing intrigu-ing scripts and he joined hands with director Ludheer Byreddy for an intriguing fresh mytho-logical mystical actioner, Haindava. The movie is produced by Mahesh Chandu on a massive scale and the makers have unveiled the teaser of the film locking 27th November release.

The teaser showcases Bellamkonda Sreenivas as an atheist who questions every belief in God. We see him investigating smug-gling of figurines from an ancient temple in a village. He starts to interfere in all their activi-ties, but temple priest strongly believes in the prophecy of Lord Vishnu going out of the temple to stop a catastrophe.

Bellamkonda Sreenivas is incredible and his screen presence is exceptional in the film. His performance as an atheist and submission to the character are praise-worthy. Ludheer's vi-sion in presenting Lord Vishnu and the frames involving VFX, avatars of Vishnu and magic are



crafted brilliantly.

Teaser doesn't reveal the entire story but gives us glimpses of strong moments that would give goosebumps while watching on screen. Sam CS background score works perfectly to elevate each scene and the fresh concept in an action based mystery raises further curiosity. Haindava looks like a sureshot winner from the teaser.

Don't Sleep Teaser: Psychological visual epic

Revered cinematographer Shamdat Sainudeen who worked for many blockbusters is directing a psychological visual epic, Don't Sleep.

Revered cinematographer Shamdat Sainudeen who worked for many blockbusters is directing a psy-chological visual epic, Don't Sleep. The movie teaser has been unveiled by Naga Chaitanya, Dulquer Salmaan and Vijay Sethupathi. More than 15 celeb-rities attending the launch event showcasing their respect to the craftsman.

The teaser explores how leading man, Indhra Ram, is scared to sleep as dreams start haunting him. His dreams come true making him fear to even think about sleeping. His psychological breakdown is coupled further when death starts chasing him and if he sleeps, he would die. Shamdat explored this idea like an visual epic.

V. Chudamani is producing the film with high level production values and no compromise. Each visual and performance is crafted with utmost concentra-



tion to make it a worthy film for audiences to enjoy in theatres. Vennela Kishore, Taba Reema, Joyeetha Banerjee, Deva Katta are playing prominent roles in this intriguing film.