



OPS backtracks on new party plan, fuels fresh speculation on AIADMK merger

In a significant political reversal, former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam (OPS) denied ever announcing the launch of a new political party - a notable departure from his earlier indications of forming an independent outfit. The shift comes immediately after he visits Delhi and has a meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, reigniting speculation about a possible rapprochement with the AIADMK leadership.

Party sources said Panneerselvam's softened position follows assurances from senior BJP leaders, and discussions are likely to begin soon to facilitate his return to the AIADMK. Sources indicate that a resolution enabling this could be taken up during the party's general council meeting scheduled for December 10, pointing to a potential recalibration of the opposition party's leadership dynamics.

OPS' political journey has been defined by sharp turns and dramatic breaks. Once the loyal stand-in for late Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa during her legal challenges,



Panneerselvam emerged as a rebel in 2017 when he accused V.K. Sasikala of attempting to seize control of the AIADMK. Although he briefly shared power with Edappadi K. Palaniswami (EPS) in a dual-leadership structure, the alliance frayed over time, culminating in his expulsion from the party in 2022. Since then, OPS has been heading the AIADMK Workers' Rights Retrieval Committee and had hinted at forming a new political party - a position he has now backtracked on.

The latest developments have also cooled the short-

lived camaraderie that OPS shared with TTV Dinakaran and senior leader K.A. Sengottaiyan following their meeting at the Devar Jayanthi celebrations in Pasumpon in October. Their separate visits to the Jayalalithaa memorial in Chennai this week further signalled distancing among the factions. Meanwhile, Dinakaran reaffirmed that his Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK) would not ally with the NDA as long as EPS remained the coalition's chief ministerial candidate.

Sasikala, once vocal about the need to reunite AIADMK factions, appeared more guarded this time. She merely commented that Sengottaiyan should not have rushed to join Vijay's Tamilaga Vetttri Kazhagam (TVK) and refrained from repeating her earlier calls for unity. With OPS, Dinakaran and Sasikala yet to arrive at a collective strategy, political observers say prospects for any immediate consolidation within the AIADMK remain uncertain, even as the countdown to the 2026 Assembly elections intensifies.

Telangana CM Revanth Reddy to Unveil Development Projects in Devarakonda



Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is set to visit Devarakonda in the Nalgonda district today, where he will lay the foundation stone and inaugurate a series of development initiatives. The CM is scheduled to address a gathering near Seripalli on the outskirts of Devarakonda, where he will also distribute cheques totalling ₹11.33 crore to women's groups as part of a bank linkage programme. Among the key projects to be inaugurated are the construction of a park in BNR Colony, which is allocated ₹2 crore, the establishment of a stadium and walking track at the Government Boys' College, also with ₹2 crore, and underground drainage works funded at ₹2.5 crore. District Collector Ila Tripathi, Superintendent of Police Sarath Chandrapawar, and MLA Balu Nayak have reviewed the arrangements for the Chief Minister's visit. District ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy, Komatireddy Venkata Reddy, and in-charge Minister Adhuri Laxman will also accompany CM Revanth during his visit.

CM Yogi pledges protection for Ambedkar, others social reformers' statues on Mahaparinirvan Diwas

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday paid tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on his Mahaparinirvan Diwas and announced measures to protect statues of the social reformers across the state.



CM Adityanath arrived at the special tribute ceremony, where he was felicitated upon arrival. Alongside Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya, the Chief Minister paid floral homage to Dr. Ambedkar, remembering his contribution to the nation and the uplift of marginalised communities. Speaking at the event, CM Adityanath said, "Today, our government is going to take another important decision. In Uttar Pradesh, wherever statues of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar are installed, we have seen that some mischievous elements often try to vandalise or damage them. Our government will now create a system to protect these statues." "A boundary wall will be built around them for security, and wherever statues do not have a roof overhead, a canopy will be installed so that Babasaheb Ambedkar's statue is protected and respected. Every Dalit, SC, and BASTI resident will be connected to this initiative. I am once again on this occasion paying my respect to Babasaheb," he added. The CM further recalled Ambedkar's strong stance against anti-national attitudes, saying, "Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar had awakened us at that time too against all those dangers. Recall, he had made one statement then... I would like to mention one thing. Back then, a senior Congress leader — who, while serving as Congress President, had refused to sing 'Vande Mataram' in 1923... Babasaheb had then made a pointed remark: 'A person who is born on Indian soil, enjoys the benefits of India, yet does not consider this land sacred — such a person's statements can never be in the interest of the people of India.'" Mahaparinirvan Diwas, observed on December 6 every year, marks the death anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution. The day is commemorated across India with tributes, prayers, and discussions highlighting Ambedkar's life, his work for social justice, and his enduring legacy in advancing the rights of marginalised communities.

State govt clears `2,428 cr upgrade with new SPV

Vijayawada: The state government approved the creation of a new special purpose vehicle to execute the Centre's Amended BharatNet Programme (ABP) in the state, clearing the way for a major expansion and upgrade of rural broadband infrastructure. The move follows the Union government's in-principle approval of Rs 2,428 crore for the project, which aims to deliver high-speed connectivity to gram panchayats and unconnected villages under a revised, state-led implementation model.

The BharatNet initiative, funded through Digital Bharat Nidhi (formerly the Universal Service Obligation Fund), is among India's largest digital infrastructure programmes, designed to close the rural connectivity gap by extending



affordable broadband access and enabling e-governance, telehealth, digital education and rural enterprise networks. The Union Cabinet approved the programme's amended architecture in August 2023 with an outlay of Rs 1.39 trillion, including capital expenditure of Rs 42,847 crore and ten-year operating costs of Rs 48,717 crore under a Design-Build-Operate-

Maintain model.

Under the approved framework, Andhra Pradesh will establish Andhra Pradesh BharatNet Infrastructure Limited (APBIL) as the new implementing SPV, featuring equal representation from the State government and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). The project scope includes upgrading the

existing BharatNet network, extending IP-MPLS ring connectivity to roughly 480 newly identified gram panchayats, and integrating operations and maintenance of both the BharatNet and APSFL Phase-I networks under a single EPC contractor. The government said unifying network management would reduce fragmentation and enhance reliability across rural broadband routes.

The Infrastructure and Investment Department will now proceed with issuing tenders on behalf of the SPV to implement the programme based on the Union government's approved budget. Officials said the upgraded infrastructure will serve as a long-term digital backbone supporting public services and private-sector telecom expansion in rural Andhra Pradesh.

Trivikrama Rao appointed as Official Language Commission chairman

Vijayawada: The state government has appointed P Trivikrama Rao as chairman of the 'Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao Official Language Commission,' following a fresh notification issued in Telugu on Friday. The commission, earlier known as the AP Official Language Commission, was recently renamed by the Government of AP. The post had been vacant, prompting the State to constitute the new committee to strengthen the use of



Telugu as the official language in administration. The commission will function for two years, beginning

from the date of its formation. An officer of additional/assistant/executive officer rank from the Official Language Services will serve as the commission's executive officer. The commission is tasked with reviewing the use of Telugu across government departments, inspecting offices, framing procedures for official language implementation, restricting unnecessary use of English, and submitting recommendations to the State government for

V. Hanumanth Rao paid tribute to Babasaheb Ambedkar on death anniversary day

Hyderabad, December:6, Metroodayam : Congress party president Mahesh Kumar Goud, former Rajya Sabha member V. Hanumanth Rao, DCC president Motha Rohit, and PCC secretary Shambhula Srikanth Goud paid tribute to Babasaheb Ambedkar's statue by garlanding his statue. PCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud appealed to no one to commit suicide for BC reservation. Leaders who expressed grief over the death of Sai Ishwar Chari, who sacrificed himself for BC reservation, assured that the government would support his family. The Congress party said that it is sincere in giving 42 percent



reservation to BCs. There is no need to doubt the Congress. Rahul Gandhi will fight for BC reservation in Parliament. He said that in the coming days, BCs will be the rules. Speaking, V. Hanumanth Rao said that the Congress government at the Center will definitely be led by Rahul Gandhi as the Prime Minister. Let's achieve BC reservations. He said that justice will be done for BCs only if the BC Bill is included in the Ninth Schedule and the bill is passed in Parliament. He said that justice will be given to BCs only if a law is brought on the BC Bill. He said that it is possible only because of Rahul Gandhi. In this program PCC

Vice Presidents Officer Yusuf Joy Jagadishwar Rao, Nawab Mujahid Alam, PCC General Secretaries Kathi Venkataswamy, Madhu, Satyam, Ottikuti Rama Rao, State Congress Linguistic Cell Chairman Rajesh Agarwal, PCC Secretaries Yadagiri Goud, Shambhula Srikanth Goud, Former Corporators P Narayanaswamy, Dindi Rambabu, Gariganti Ramesh, Puli Jagan, Satibabu Goud, Rammohan, Edelli Prabhakar, Sheikh Jamir, Gaddam Sridhar, Kota Anil, Ravula Sudhakar, C Sudhakar, Jangir Bhai, Akbar Bhai, Gaddam Sridhar, Farid, Laxman and others participated.

Tributes on the death anniversary of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar



Hyderabad, December:6, Metroodayam On the death anniversary of the architect of the Constitution, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Superintendent of Gandhi Hospital, Additional DM Dr. Vani paid tribute to the statue of Ambedkar by garlanding it. Speaking, he called on everyone to follow the spirit of the architect of the Constitution. RMO 1 Dr. Seshadri, Dr. Rajani, Dr. Kalyan, Dr. Janardhan, Dr. Meenakshi, Dr. Pravalika, Dr. Tarunam, Dr. Hasitha, Dr. Savitri, Srinivas, Shivaji and others participated in this program.



Hyderabad, December:6, Metroodayam : BRS state leader Nagesh Mudiraj paid tributes by garlanding the statue of Ambedkar at Basheer Bagh on the occasion of the 69th death anniversary of the architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.

Antaram village celebrates 69th death anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. BR Ambedkar

Chevella December 6 (Metro udayam) The 59th death anniversary of the world intellectual Bharat Ratna Babasaheb Dr. BR Ambedkar, the hope of the weaker sections, was celebrated in a grand manner on Saturday under the patronage of the people of Antaram village. They paid tribute by garlanding the portrait of Dr. BR Ambedkar.



Ayappa Maha Padipuja was held in grand style at the residence of National BC Youth Association President Kanakala Shyam Kuruma....

Hyderabad December:06 (Metro udayam) : Ayappa Maha Padipuja was held in grand style at the residence of National BC Youth Association President Kanakala Shyam Kuruma Guruswamy in Mathura Nagar Colony, Mansurabad last night on the occasion of his birthday. Hundreds of Ayyappa Swamis, devotees, as well as people from surrounding colonies attended this Maha Padipuja under the auspices of Bachu Vishwanath Gupta Guruswamy in large numbers and participated with devotion. Bhajans and



palanquin procession under the auspices of Amberpet Vijayender

Guruswamy were the special attractions of this mahotsavam, which was a feast for the eyes. The procession of the Swamis with the beautifully decorated palanquin further enhanced the spiritual atmosphere throughout the colony. Speaking on the occasion, Kanakala Shyam Kuruma Guruswamy said, "No matter how busy everyone's life is, dedicating some time in the day to spirituality will bring peace to the mind and happiness to the family." The chief guest of the program was BC Welfare Association National President Jajula Srinivas Goud, other state leaders, and Guruswamys—Suryaprakash, Mallesh, Maliga Lingam, Harish, Raghu Yadav, Shashidhar Reddy, Naresh Prajapati, Hayathnagar Seenu, Satyanarayana, Dende Anand, Janakiram, Babu, and Sridhar Guruswamys—participated.

In the current situation, everyone must learn martial arts



Hyderabad, December:6, Metroodayam : Taekwondo Championship Association Treasurer Maruthi Varaprasad said that in addition to building self-confidence among the athletes, they should be trained in a way that makes them confident in defending themselves. The 2nd Telangana State Level Inter School, Taekwondo Sub-Junior 2025 competitions were held at Saroornagar, Indoor Stadium on Sunday. He attended the event and inaugurated the competitions. Later, he said that in the current situation, everyone should definitely learn martial arts. He said that along with self-defense, they can develop physical strength. Later, Maruthi Varaprasad said that they should bring out the hidden talent in children and make them the best athletes. They advised that victories and defeats are common in every competition and that one should not be discouraged by defeat. They said that if one tries again, success will surely come. 400 people participated in these competitions and the winners were presented with certificates by Mir Wahaj Ali Khan, Maheshwar, Kommaiya, Mallika, Gurram Krishna, Narasimha, B, Krishna.



Uppal December:06 (Metro udayam) At Chilkana intersection, under the auspices of BC JAC, a grand tribute was paid to Sai Eshwar Chari, who had sacrificed his life by pouring petrol on his body and setting himself on fire for the BC movement for 42 percent BC reservations, by garlanding his portrait. Similarly, at Uppal intersection, Warangal Highway was blocked and a protest was held on the main road. On these occasions Nerdham Bhaskar Goud, Gajjala Sathyaraj Goud, Ambati Jagadish Mudiraj, Jalli Mohan, Gane Srikanth, Puppala Venkateswarlu, Gaddam Sai, Bal Chander, Telangana Sampath, Pittala Naresh Mudiraj, Kompalli Ravinder, Sangi Swami Yadav, Kompalli Raj Kumar, Boda Vidyasagar, Nagarjuna, Ashok Chari, Koyyada Prasad Goud, Seetharamulu Chari, Matta Ramesh Goud, Kavali Narasimha, Gurralla Mallesh, Krishna Mudiraj, Dhananjaya Chari, and others participated in this program.



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Hyderabad December:06 (Metro Udayam) : Today, on the occasion of World Disabled Day, a program called (Vikasam) for the disabled and a program for the disabled was organized at the Amberpet Football Ground under the auspices of the Hyderabad Metropolitan City Corporation. Amberpet MLRA Kaleru Venkatesh, Himaith Nagar Corporator Mahalaxmi Raman Goud, Golnaka Corporator Lavanya, Bagh Amberpet Corporator Padma Venkat Reddy, Are Peetha provided equipment to all the disabled, UCD Rajitha Reddy, Amberpet Circle R Peace and others participated in this program.



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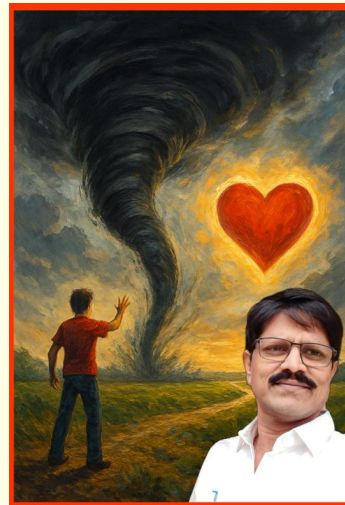
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The Book

I picked up the book?Touched its cover,
Felt its scent linger on my Hands

The pages,the writing each Line a steady pulse.
Every book,in libraries, on Shelves,in book-
stores—Temples and echoing halls
In the churches,museums

Of sacred text;?in galleries,?Schools and universi-
ties;?on Street corners,?in archives?In every place
and form?Becomes a scripture,?a Vessel of
courage?from Someone?who dared to Write

I love to read
Knowledge is Power?Reading a treasure.
I lose myself?in the worlds
With in Reading

Reading, reading?books
Become windows?that
Never close.
There is such?deep value
in Reading
Read,read,read

--@Dr Seshni Moodliar
Rensburg



ARMED FORCES FLAG DAY SPECIAL

THE STORY OF TWO FLAGS.

Behind the flag of every country one finds a fascinating story to know.A flag stands for the identity,authority,unity and communication of a country and its people.Our National Flag,the tricolour,too tells a tale behind its birth,adoption,purpose,a nd power.

We adopted the flag as our official flag on July 22 1947 and hence that day every year is observed as our National Flag Day.In fact the idea to have a flag for our country actually came to an Indian soldier in South Africa in 1890s.

The soldier was none other than Pingali Venkaiah from Andhra Pradesh who joined the British army at the age of 19 and was taking part in the Boer War in South Africa.While saluting the British National Flag,he thought of a flag for India. Later while attending the AICC meeting in 1906 in Calcutta,Venkaiah couldnt stand the sight of Congress leaders saluting the British National Flag.Pingali,highly educated and a polyglot,spoke eloquently about the importance of having a flag for the Congress Party and the leaders including Gandhi there gave him a free hand to design a flag.

In 1921 during the meetings of the Congress Party in Vijayawada,Venkaiah

showed to Gandhi a model flag for the Congress Party.In the year 1923,the Congress Party finally endorsed it after making some changes and eventually in 1929 at Lahore meeting the Congress Party officially adopted the flag with a Charakha in the middle designed by Venkaiah as the Partys flag.The Party in 1931 appointed a committee to design a flag for the country.



In the course of time with some major changes,the flag of the Congress Party designed by Venkaiah was endorsed as the National Flag with Ashoka Chakra in the middle on July 22 1947 and on the morning of August 15th 1947 the National Flag was given to our first President of India.

Hence we observe July 22 every year as the National Flag Day.We also observe another day,December 7th,as the Armed Forces Flag Day.

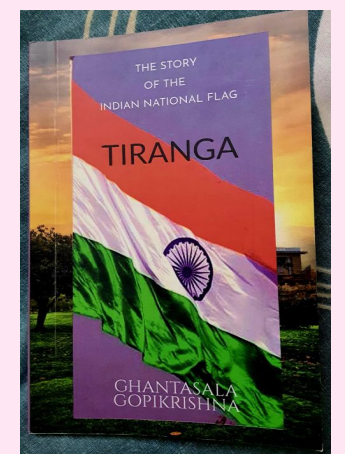
We all know that our armed forces work under three distinctive,independent service wings namely Army,Navy,and Airforce that come under the Defence Ministry with the President of India

being the Supreme Commander.These three armed forces have their own,distinctive uniforms,emblems,insignia, and even three different flags.All these things were designed by the first Government of India as per the suggestions proffered by Lord Mountbatten and came into use from 26th January 1950

In 1949 our first Denfence Minister Baldev Singh felt that Indians soldiers fought wars in many countries for the British and after the Independence also they played a big role in the unification of the country.In all these activities many of our soldiers lost their lives,leaving their families in a helpless and rudderless situation.Therefore in order to help the widows and bereaved families of soldiers, the Govt earmarked funds under different heads.

In the same year a committee appointed by the Minister decided to observe December 7th as Armed Forces Flag Day in honour of all our serving soldiers and those killed in action.For this purpose a tricolor flag was designed with red,navy blue,and light blue horizontal stripes representing our Army,Navy and Airforce respectively with their insignia namely the crossed swords,a fouled anchor,and a flying eagle at the centre(see the picture).

On this day,small token flags are giving to the general public at schools, offices,and other public places before collecting donations from them.Since 1949 we have observed this Flag Day and members of kendriya sainik Board(KSB),Rastra



Sainik Board(RSB) and District Ex-Servicemen Welfare Board(DSWB)collect donations through out the year.In 2023 about 300 crores of rupees from the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund were used for the family welfare of our soldiers.

People all over the country wear those small token Armed Forces Flags on their shirts proudly on December 7th in honour of our soldiers and their selfless service.It was on December 7th in 1941 Japanese forces attacked the Pearl Harbour,killing some thousands of American soldiers and compelling the U S to join the Second World War.And hence the Committee appointed by Baldev Singh chose December 7th as our Armed Forces Flag Day.

**M SOMASEKHAR PRASAD
HOD DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH RETD
GANDHINAGAR HYDERABAD 500020**



Mr Renukuntla Murali Recommended for Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award 2026 in the UK

Hyderabad / Oxford, LondonUK: In a proud moment for India and the Telugu community, Mr. Renukuntla Murali has been officially recommended for the prestigious "Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award 2026," to be presented on India's Independence Day, 15th August 2026, in the United Kingdom.



The announcement was made on 4th December by Dr. Deepak Singh, representing the NRI Society, who acknowledged Mr. Murali's significant contributions and positive impact in his field. Dr. Singh stated that Mr. Murali's dedication, leadership qualities, and commitment to social welfare make him an outstanding candidate for this international honour. Mr. Renukuntla Murali's has numerous achievements, which earned him this recognition. The Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award is presented annually to individuals who embody Gandhian values such as integrity, service, and humanitarian leadership. Mr. Murali's nomination highlights not only his personal accomplishments but also the growing global presence of Indian professionals making meaningful contributions to society. The award ceremony will bring together dignitaries, NRIs, professionals, and community leaders in the UK to celebrate excellence and leadership inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's principles.

---By Dr. Seshni Moodliar Rensburg United Kingdom / India? Doctor, psychiatrist, Writer, Poet & Cultural Commentator

Former Mayors Jakka Venkat Reddy politely met with BRS working President KTR

Medipally December:06 (Metro udayam)- On the occasion of the birthday of former Mayor of Peerjadiguda Municipal Corporation



Jakka Venkat Reddy, BRS Working President KTR was cordially met at Telangana Bhavan and received his blessings. On this occasion, KTR felicitated former Mayor Jakka Venkat Reddy with a shawl and conveyed his heartfelt greetings. He praised his public service, perseverance and efforts for the development of the city. He expressed confidence that stable decisions will be taken on future activities with the aim of everyone moving forward in coordination to strengthen the BRS party. Former corporators Donthiri Harishankar Reddy, Kolthuri Mahesh, Minority President Jilani Pasha, Youth Presidents Prabhu, Rajasekhar, Satish, Mallam Venkatesh Goud, Madhusudhan Reddy, Joseph Reddy and others participated in this program.

The hope of the oppressed classes is Dr. BR Ambedkar...BSP Medchal District President Banoth Ravinder Naik

Medipally December:06 (Metro udayam) The architect of the Indian Constitution DR. Babasaheb Ambedkar, On the occasion of DR. B.R. Ambedkar's 69th death anniversary, a floral wreath was laid at the Martyrs' Stupa in Medipally under the auspices of the Bahujan Samaj Party and a tribute was paid to Ambedkar's portrait. Speaking as the chief guest, Medchal Malkajgiri District President Banoth Ravinder Nayak praised him as a great man who opposed this ladder sys-



tem and provided equal rights to the oppressed people in the Indian Constitution and was rec-

ognized as a world intellectual. This program was organized under the auspices of BSP Party District

General Secretary Sukka Dayanand. BSP Medchal Assembly In-charge Mallepogu Vijayaraju, Uppal Assembly In-charge Konda Apparao, PMC President Srinivas Nayak, Peddi Ravikanth, Congress leaders Barre Nagaraju, Pasham Satyam, Madisetty Yellaiah, Kutadi Venkatesh, Bhaskarachari, Katapaka Balaiah, Kiran, Ratlavath Srinivas, Srinivas, MRPS Medipalli Mandal President Bandari Sai, Kutadi Sampath, BRS leader Varikala Srinivas Chari and other leaders participated.

Union Bank Members' Service Program at ZPHS Medipally



Medipally December:06 (Metro udayam) : On the occasion of the death anniversary of Union Bank Ex.president N.V. Satyanarayana Union Bank Members Karunakar and Murali organized a service program at ZPHS Medipally by donating food plates to the students in his memory. The union members reflected their social responsibility by identifying the needs of the students and providing them with plates that would be useful to them. Their service program transmitted a good message in the school. On this occasion, Principal L.Satyaprasad teaching staff and students heartily appreciated the service spirit of the Union Bank representatives. School sources said that such service programs that uphold their responsibility towards the society are exemplary for more people.



Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Death Anniversary Commemorated Grandly in Nacharam



Hyderabad, Metro Udayam, December 6 —Under the leadership of Nacharam Ambedkar Sangham President Erpula Nursing Rao, BJP Urban Ranga Reddy District Vice-President Mallela Nursing Rao, Gowdalli Ramakrishna and others, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's death anniversary was observed grandly in Nacharam, Uppal Mandal. Several leaders garlanded Ambedkar's statue and paid rich tributes. Leaders including Erpula Chinna, Utkuri Kumar Goud, Darshan Goud, M. Santosh Reddy, MRPS State Leader Korapaka Anji Madiga, Ramesh, Yogesh, Ramakrishna Reddy, Vamsi, Naresh and others participated in the 69th death anniversary event of the chief architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, and offered their respects at his statue.

SHRI PARAMESWAR FUNKWAL, GM EAST COAST RAILWAY, INSPECTS KEY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AT VISAKHAPATNAM REGION

Shri Parameswar Funkwal, General Manager of East Coast Railway, conducted an on-site inspection of the ongoing 3rd and 4th line works progress between Visakhapatnam- Gopalapatnam and Vadlapudi and Gate Junction. The inspection aimed to assess the project milestones and ensure timely completion in line with operational and safety standards for enhanced railway capacity and efficiency. Divisional Railway Manager Shri Lalit Bohra and other Senior Officials from East Coast Railway Head Quarters and from the Waltair Division took part in the inspection. General Manager also inspected the Simhachalam station to review the progress of the Amrit Bharat Station redevelopment works. He reviewed the various developmental activities, station building works, provision of amenities, various facilities etc. The Amrit Bharat station is an important project for



providing high standard passenger amenities and modernized facilities at important tourist and pilgrim destinations. Later, Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal graced the concluding ceremony of the 72nd Men's and 11th Women's All India Railway Weightlifting Championship 2025-26 as the Chief Guest. The event showcased exceptional athletic talent across the Indian Railways fraternity, featuring 180 weightlifters representing 17 teams from various railway zones and competing in 16 Men & Women categories. The championship fostered a spir-

it of sportsmanship and promoted a culture of fitness. Speaking on the occasion, the General Manager commended the team efforts of ECoRA and Waltair for successfully conducting the event on short notice and elevating it to a grand scale. He appreciated the players for their energetic participation and dedication to sporting discipline throughout the competition. General Manager presented trophies and mementos to the winners, runners-up, and special awardees. DRM Shri Lalit Bohra was the Guest of Honour of the function. Distinguished guests



present during the ceremony were; Shri Ajay Samal, General Secretary ECORSA & Chief Engineer (Construction); Shri E. Santharam, ADRM (Infrastructure); Shri K. Rama Rao, ADRM (Operations); Shri M. Haranath, Sports Officer & Sr. DFM; Treasurer & Sr. DPO Shri Jusuf Kabir Ansari, along with other officers. Further, General Manager attended the 63rd Civil Defense Day celebrations and the joint Civil Defense demonstration by East Coast Railway and South Eastern Railway. The event featured a live demonstration by Civil

Defense personnel illustrating rescue operations from high-rise structures, underscoring East Coast Railway's commitment to disaster preparedness and employee safety. Various rescue operations were conducted by Civil Defense volunteers, highlighting life-saving techniques and first aid treatment for the injured. The program was organized under the guidance of Shri Anand Kumar Mutatkar, Senior Divisional Safety Officer, Waltair Division, and also witnessed the participation of Deputy General Manager South Eastern Railway, Shri Pankaj Kumar Gupta. General Manager, ECoR congratulated the Civil Defense personnel on the occasion of Civil Defense Day celebrations and appreciated their efforts during disaster management calls. He praised the various tactics demonstrated by the volunteers that aid in saving lives during emergencies.