



Ursula von der Leyen Chooses Banarasi Brocade Bandhgala for Republic Day, Blending Diplomacy With Indian Craft

India's Republic Day parade has always been about more than ceremonial display — it is a stage where politics, culture and symbolism converge. This year, at the 77th Republic Day celebrations on Kartavya Path, fashion quietly joined that conversation. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen made a striking yet understated statement by choosing Indian design over conventional Western formalwear, turning her outfit into an expression of cultural diplomacy.

As one of the chief guests — alongside European Council President António Luís Santos da Costa — her presence already signalled strengthening ties between India and the European Union. But it was her attire that drew attention for its thoughtfulness rather than extravagance.

Choosing Indian Craft Over Convention

While most international leaders lean toward classic suits or coats for formal state events, von der Leyen took a different route. She



stepped out in a tailored bandhgala, a silhouette deeply rooted in Indian menswear heritage that has evolved into a symbol of refined formal dressing.

The ensemble was designed by celebrated Indian couturier Rajesh Pratap Singh, known for his minimalist yet structured aesthetic. His work often blends traditional textiles with modern tailoring — a balance that suited

the occasion perfectly.

The jacket, cut in a sharp, structured form, projected authority and elegance while maintaining the ceremonial dignity expected at such an event. It was a look that felt both respectful and contemporary.

The Significance of Banarasi Brocade

The true highlight of the outfit lay in its fabric. Crafted from

Banarasi brocade, the jacket featured a rich purple-maroon base accented with intricate gold zari floral weaving. Banarasi silk is widely associated with heritage, celebration and skilled handloom artistry, often seen in bridal and festive attire.

By choosing this textile, von der Leyen embraced a piece of India's cultural identity. The fabric carries generations of craftsmanship from Varanasi's weaving communities, making it more than just decorative material — it represents history, artistry and tradition.

Transforming this ceremonial textile into a structured bandhgala gave it a modern edge, allowing it to sit comfortably within her polished European style while still honouring Indian roots.

Fashion as Soft Diplomacy

Her sartorial decision went beyond aesthetics. Clothing, especially at diplomatic events, often sends subtle messages. By wearing Indian design, von der Leyen signalled warmth, respect and engagement with the host country's culture.

Seated alongside President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, she stood out not because of flamboyance, but because of the quiet confidence her ensemble carried. It reflected a conscious effort to connect culturally, not just politically.

At a time when India and the EU are exploring deeper cooperation across trade, technology and policy, such gestures reinforce the spirit of partnership on a human level.

A Memorable Style Statement

Republic Day has seen many memorable fashion moments over the years, but this one resonated for its restraint and meaning. Von der Leyen's look demonstrated how traditional Indian craftsmanship can seamlessly fit into global diplomatic spaces without losing its identity. Her Banarasi brocade bandhgala ultimately became more than a garment — it was a bridge between cultures, stitched together with elegance and intent.

Andhra Pradesh's journey of recovery has begun: Governor Abdul Nazeer

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh's journey of recovery and transformation has begun after the state remained without a clear direction for several years, Governor S. Abdul Nazeer said on Monday.

Addressing the historic first Republic Day celebrations in the state capital, Amaravati, the Governor stated that every initiative and reform is aimed at reviving growth and fulfilling the aspirations of people.

"Today's celebration is historic. For the first time, the National Flag is being hoisted in Amaravati, the people's capital of Andhra Pradesh. For several years, our state remained without clear direction, its capital project stalled, its economic confidence shaken. The absence of continuity eroded investor trust and weakened financial stability," he said. Despite these challenges, the government worked with quiet determination to restore stability and rebuild confidence, he said. "This effort has not been easy. It has demanded discipline, resilience, and faith in our collective purpose. But the results are visible — projects are moving, institutions are regaining strength, and public trust is being rebuilt. The journey of recovery and transformation has begun," he said.

To guide this course, the government has anchored its actions in the Swarna Andhra 2047 vision to build a strong, inclusive, and globally competitive state by the centenary of India's independence, the Governor said, adding that the guiding framework for this vision is the Padi Sutralu — the 10 fundamental principles of governance. He listed out the initiatives taken and the progress achieved under these guiding principles.

The 10 principles are zero poverty, employment and skilling (Yuva Galam), population management & human resource development, water security, farmer-agritech, global best logistics & infrastructure, cost optimisation (energy & fuel), product perfection (Brand AP), swachh Andhra & safe Andhra and deep tech & smart governance. The Governor asserted that on this 77th Republic Day, they are celebrating not only the democracy but also the indomitable spirit of Andhra Pradesh — a state that rises stronger from every challenge. "My Government believes that governance must evolve with the times. Speed and transparency are now the new yardsticks of service delivery. Through technology, we are ensuring that help, information, and justice



reach citizens instantly — not in days, but in moments. This is what we call the Speed of Delivering Governance. As we march toward Swarna Andhra, we envision a state where every village is prosperous, every town dynamic, and every city sustainable," he said. The Governor stated that the Super Six implementation lies at the heart of the government's efforts to deliver dignity, pride, security, and happiness to every individual, and empowerment to every family in Andhra Pradesh. Voicing concern over the widening gap between the haves and the have-nots, he said the government is reversing this trend by combining robust welfare measures with wealth creation and improved living standards for all. Under NTR Bharosa, the monthly pension of Rs 4,000 is the highest in the country. The pension is Rs 6,000 for persons with disabilities. A total of 63.12 lakh pensioners are benefiting under the scheme.

Deepam 2.0 is providing 3 free LPG cylinders a year to poor households, benefiting 1.08 crore people. The Sthree Shakti free bus travel scheme, launched on August 15, 2025, has enabled 37.80 crore women, girls, and transgender persons to travel free, raising women's share of bus journeys from 40 per cent to 65 per cent. A new Family Benefit Management System with a dynamic "Family Score" will classify households and issue Family Cards from June 2026, increasing welfare coverage from 90.74 per cent to 98.15 per cent. He noted that the P4 Programme (Public-Private-People Partnership), launched on Ugadi 2025, is advancing the goal of "Zero Poverty" by uniting government, industry, and communities to uplift the bottom 20 per cent of the population. Over 1 lakh "Margadarsis" have adopted 10.30 lakh "Bangaru Kutumbalu," working family by family to eliminate deprivation.

Two state-of-the-art mobile medical vans inaugurated

Vijayawada: With the motto "Better Health, Happier Life, Higher Productivity," Vijayawada West MLA Yalamanchili Satyanarayana Chowdary (Sujana Chowdary) has set an ambitious goal to transform Vijayawada West into a model constituency in medical services. As part of this vision, M Venkaiah Naidu, former Vice-President of India, on Sunday inaugurated two state-of-the-art mobile medical vans under the "Sujana Health on Wheels" programme, implemented through the Sujana Foundation at a cost of Rs 1.35 crore. The two advanced medical vans have been designed to deliver quality healthcare at the doorstep. The first van is equipped with a senior doctor's chamber, examination room, blood laboratory and a pharmacy providing free medicines. The second van functions as a mobile diagnostic hub, fitted with modern equipment including X-ray, ECG and 2D Echo facilities. These vans will conduct special medical camps in



coordination with local Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHCs). Patients requiring advanced care will be referred to Vijayawada Government General Hospital, Mangalagiri NRI Hospital and other private hospitals, with a dedicated "Coordinator on Duty" appointed to assist patients. Venkaiah Naidu appreciated Sujana Chowdary for independently designing and implementing welfare programmes and stressed that healthcare should focus on prevention as much as treatment.

10,000 kg Ammonium Nitrate Recovered In

Rajasthan Ahead Of Republic Day, One Arrested

In a major security operation ahead of Republic Day, the Nagaur police in Rajasthan arrested a man and confiscated nearly 10,000 kilograms of ammonium nitrate from a farmhouse located in a relatively isolated part of the district. Officials described the recovery as possibly the largest seizure of the explosive substance ever made in the state. Nagaur Superintendent of Police Mridul Kachawa said law enforcement agencies had been tracking intelligence inputs for a long time about the illegal buying, selling and storage of explosive materials in the region. Based on these alerts, additional information was gathered and the District Special Team was activated to conduct a focused operation. Following the collection of both technical data and human intelligence, the police carried out a raid on January 24. During the operation, they



arrested Sulaiman Khan and recovered a huge stock of ammonium nitrate along with detonators, detonating cords and other equipment commonly used for blasting in mining activities. The materials were allegedly being stored at the accused's farmhouse. The seizure comes weeks after Rajasthan Police had intercepted a vehicle ahead of New Year's Eve and recovered 150 kg of ammonium nitrate and related materials, underscoring heightened vigilance during sensitive periods.

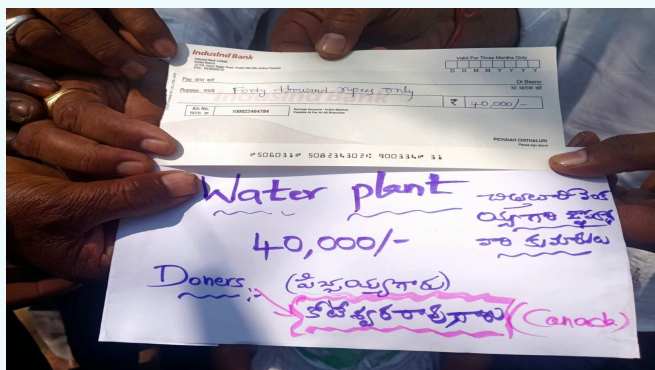
Grand Republic Day celebrations under the auspices of Nema Foundation Jaya Academy



Kodad Janavary 26 Metro Udayam.....

Republic Day celebrations were organized under the auspices of Nema Foundation and Jaya Academy. Members of the Foundation and Academy raised slogans like Bharat Mataki Jai, Jai Hind and Vande Mataram in wards 14 and 15 of Kodada town on Monday while remembering the sacrifices of the martyrs. After that, the national flag was unveiled and greetings of the Republic Day were conveyed. Youth members Chaitanya, Vivekananda, Yousub and others participated in this program.....

School Rs. Gift of water plant worth 40 thousand



Kodada January 26 Metro morning.....

On the occasion of the Republic Day celebrations, clean drinking water was made available to the students of Redla Kunta Mandal Parishad Primary School. In memory of former village sarpanch Swargiya Chittaluri Venkaiah, his sons Chittaluri Koteswara Rao and Picchaiah have donated Rs. A water plant worth 40,000 was donated to the school. As part of the ceremony held at the school on Monday, the principal handed over the check for the establishment of the plant to Thigala Naresh. On this occasion, HM said that the contribution of donors is very beneficial for the health of the students. In the program Subsarpanch Mallela Prasad, Secretary Nagalakshmi, Gangavarapu Lakshmana Rao, Ravi Shravan Kumar, Ravi Chander Ravinder Reddy, Jabbar Bullaya village heads participated in the program...

On the occasion of the 77th Republic Day, BRS state senior leader Nagesh Mudiraj hoisted the national flag.

Hyderabad, January :26, MetroUdayam



On the occasion of the 77th Republic Day, BRS State senior leader Nagesh Mudiraj hoisted the national flag at Indira Park Chowrasta and Ramnagar Ramalayam Chowrasta. On this occasion, he extended Republic Day greetings to the people of the country and the state. Nagesh Mudiraj said that the rulers in the country and the state are not acting according to the constitution, and are harassing the opposition by filing false and illegal cases against them. He added that such illegalities and atrocities did not occur during the 10-year rule of the TRS government. BRS senior leaders Suresh, Raghu, Nagasai, Ramesh Mudiraj, Shankar, Srinivas, and others participated in this program.

OCAMBAAA Annual Meet Held with Alumni, Faculty Participation



Hyderabad, metro udayam january 26....

The OCAMBAAA Annual Meet was held successfully on the university campus on Sunday, with alumni members gathering at around 11:00 a.m. after participating in the Republic Day celebrations. Following the celebrations, the alumni proceeded to the auditorium where the formal session commenced. The program began with a welcome address by the President of OCAMBAAA, who highlighted the objectives of the association

and briefly outlined its achievements over the years. The Honorary Chairman of OCAMBAAA and current Head of the Department, Prof. Y. Jahangir, greeted the alumni members and emphasized the importance of strengthening placement and internship opportunities through alumni support. Dean, Faculty of Management, Prof. D. Sreeramulu, extended his greetings to the alumni and appreciated their continued association with the institution. Chairman,



Board of Studies, Dr. G. Vidyasagar Rao, urged all stakeholders to work collectively towards achieving the goals of OCAMBAAA for the overall development of students and the institution. Former Presidents, past office bearers, and the current executive committee members, including Vice President K. Vamshi, General Secretary Murali Krishna, and Treasurer Dr. Srinivas, were present at the event.

As part of the program, the OCAMBAAA Alumni

Association presented medals to academic toppers. Special Guest Sri NVS Reddy addressed the gathering and described alumni as valuable assets to any educational institution. He later presented medals to toppers of MBA, MBA (TM), MBA (Evening), MBA (TM Evening), and MBA (TTM) programs. The event concluded with meaningful interactions, knowledge sharing, and discussions aimed at strengthening alumni-institution collaboration and fostering wisdom-building initiatives.

Pattipaka Janardhan in Republic celebrations with MLA



Kodada January 26 Metro morning.....

Republic Day celebrations were held in Kodada town on Monday. MLA Uttam Padmavathi Reddy participated as the chief guest in all the

government offices in these celebrations. Senior Congress party leaders warmly greeted District Perika Sangam General Secretary Pattipaka Janardhan Verma during the ceremony held at the library.

Later they paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi's statue by garlanding it. On this occasion Janardhan congratulated MLA Uttam Padmavathi Reddy, Pattana CI Sivashankar and SI Sudhir on Republic Day....

Hindu heritage must be protected amidst modern challenges:

- BJP State President Ramachandra Rao



Chikkadapally, 26 January Metro Udayam : BJP State President Ramachandra Rao said that there is a great need to protect Hindu heritage amidst modern challenges. The Nakshatra Sammelan (Star Conclave) was grandly organized under the auspices of Herbs Natural Institute Private Limited, an organization established with the aim of preserving Hindu culture, community networking, and empowerment. Ramachandra Rao participated as the chief guest and inaugurated the conclave. Speaking on the occasion, he said that this platform will stand as a milestone in bringing Hindu industrialists together. He stated that the role of organizations like HNI is crucial in protecting Hindu heritage. He praised it as not just a network, but a movement that empowers the youth through education, spirituality, and social activities. Under the auspices of HNI, awareness was raised on traditional hymns, dance performances, networking opportunities, spirituality, Vedic astrology, and health. The organization's president, Dr. Raja Rachuri, and other representatives participated in the program.

Mahaney's sacrifices are unforgettable.

Sarpanch Juneboina Guravaiah



Kodada January 26 Metro Morning

The 77th Republic Day celebrations were held in Revuru village under Chintalapalem mandal. Gram Sarpanch Juneboina Guravaiah unfurled the national flag at Gram Panchayat office. On this occasion, he said that the sacrifices of the nobles who fought for freedom cannot be forgotten and requested that the fruits of the country's independence should be shared by all and the people should participate in the development of the village. Later, sports equipments like volleyball, skipping ropes, tennicoite rings were handed over to local Zilla Parishad high school and primary school students....



Republic Day celebrations were held grandly in Jepalli.



Charakonda, 26 January Metro Udayam : The 77th Indian Republic Day celebrations were grandly organized by the BC, SC, and ST (JAC) organizations at the Ambedkar statue in Jepakilli village, Charakonda mandal. Mallepakula Jangamma-Narasimha attended the event as the chief guest, offered floral tributes to the Ambedkar statue, and hoisted the national flag. JAC leaders Vankeshwaram Ramesh and Saidulu, BRS senior leader and former ward member Velijala Venkatesh, Mallepakula Shekhar, BSP leader Ravikishan, JAC leaders Venkatesh and Ganesh, and many village elders participated in the program, making it a grand success.

SOUTH COAST RAILWAY GM SRI SANDEEP MATHUR GREETS NATION ON THE EVE OF REPUBLIC DAY



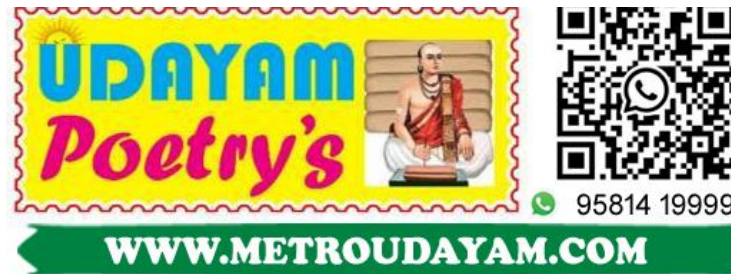
On the eve of the 77th Republic Day of India, Shri Sandeep Mathur, General Manager, South Coast Railway, extended warm greetings to the people of the nation and railway fraternity, reaffirming commitment to the ideals enshrined in the Constitution of India. In his message, Shri Sandeep Mathur highlighted that Republic Day is a proud reminder of India's democratic values and the guiding principles of Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. He emphasized that South Coast Railway remains steadfast in serving the nation by providing safe, efficient and passenger-centric rail services while contributing to inclusive growth and national development.

Rajasekhar's record in blood donation.. Humanity at the time of republic....



Kodada January 26 Metro Morning

The representatives of Swarna Bharati Charitable Trust praised that it is a great ritual to donate blood and be a life-saver for those in danger. On Monday, when a man from the town fell ill and asked for 'O positive' blood urgently, Chargundla Rajasekhar, the founder of the trust and a teacher, immediately responded. He donated blood at the Tirumala Blood Bank on the occasion of Republic Day. Rajasekhar has donated blood 44 times till now and has become a life saver for many people in danger. Yada Sudhakar, Vempati Venkataramana, Patti Narendra, Vangaveeti Rama Rao, Boggarapu Rammurthy, Ravikumar, Satish Kumar and others participated in this program and congratulated Rajasekhar....



CERTAINLY A DAY COME!

Believe it 100% correct!
Those who laughed at!
Those who called unfit!
Those who humiliated!
For those certainly come a day to realise!



May you be down now in their view!
You may be physically weak!
May your caste may be treated low by them!
May they insult you in every aspect!
Certainly a day come to teach them a lesson!

Your integrity may be hurt!
Your loyalty may be suspected!
May many frauds are thrown!
Minimum respect may be denied!
Certainly a day will come to open their eyes!

Just keep in mind, stones thrown on ripened fruit tree!
Even cat put in closed home, turn into a tiger!
Once your discipline, selflessness, generosity come out in public!
All those troubled you become Zero and out of map!
That's why this article is titled as "Certainly a day will come to your rescue"?

Composed by:
B. Satyanarayana Rao
(Ba. Sa Raa) Vijayawada.

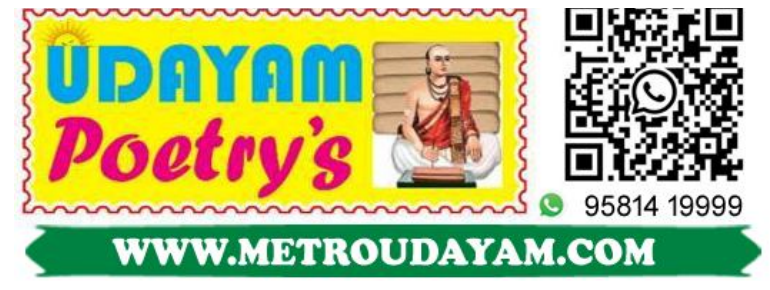
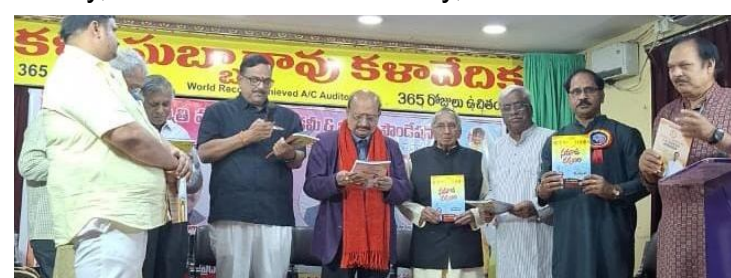
*"Samaja Darpanam" book... a testament to analytical literature: *

- Dr. Vamsi Ramaraju, Head of Vamsi Institutions

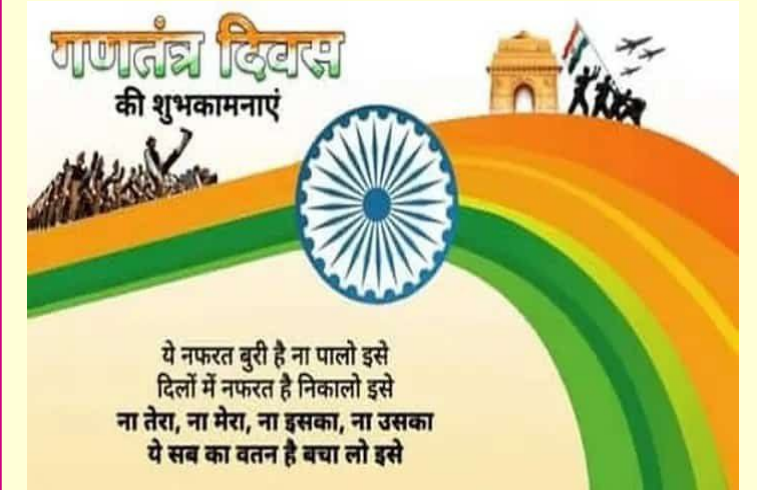


Chikkadapally, 26 January (Metro Udayam) :

Dr. Vamsi Ramaraju, head of Vamsi Institutions, said that the book "Samaja Darpanam" is a testament to analytical literature. A film music concert and a Bharatanatyam performance by Kumari A. Sindhuja, organized by Sri Jyothi Musical Academy, Ishan Foundation, and Vijaya Creations Cultural Service Organization at the Kala Subbarao Auditorium in Tyagaraya Gana Sabha, captivated the audience. Several singers from the twin cities, including Peri Vijayalakshmi, PV Ramana Murthy, Sridhar Srihan, Prasanna Vijay Kumar, Soumya, and Kumari Meena, participated and enthralled the audience by wonderfully singing approximately 75 excellent film songs. Kumari Sindhuja's Bharatanatyam performance, lasting about 45 minutes, held the audience spellbound. Her expression of emotions, dance skills, and coordination of rhythm and tempo mesmerized everyone. Later, Vamsi Ramaraju attended the program as the chief guest, unveiled the book 'Samaja Darpanam' written by the renowned writer and organization head Nageswara Rao, and addressed the gathering. He said that music and dance programs enhance mental well-being. They stated that this program, where art, literature, dance, and music were harmoniously presented on a single stage, touched the hearts of the audience. The audience expressed their desire for more such cultural programs in the future, emphasizing their importance to society. On this occasion, writer Nageswara Rao and the artists were felicitated and congratulated. The program was attended by the organization's secretary Vijayalakshmi, prominent writer and columnist for Eenadu, Sri Simhapuri Sriram Murthy, Ganasabha president Kala Janardhan Murthy, Srihari Srinivas, Sri Peri Kameswara Rao, Dr. Murthy, Sri Karra Sriram Murthy, and others.



पहिले भी खुद को धार्मिक कहने वाले कुछ लोगों ने धर्म को केवल अपने स्वार्थ के लिये उपयोग किया है, और आज भी उपयोग कर रहे हैं।... (शकील उवाच -१९८)



जो जिरम (शरीर) तक सीमित है वह पशुतुल्य है। हम केवल शरीर मात्र नहीं रखते हम रूह (आत्मा) भी रखते हैं। शरीर और आत्मा दोनों अलग अलग हैं। इतना ही नहीं बल्कि रूह और जिरम दोनों की खुराक (आहार) भी अलग अलग है। पैगंबर साहब मोहम्मद (स्व.) के पहिले उत्तराधिकारी इमाम अली इब्न अबू तालिब अलैहिस्सलाम ने शरीर और आत्मा के भोजन के फर्क को बहुत ही स्पष्ट रूप से बताते हुये कहते हैं के जो शरीर से जुड़ा है वह खाकर खुश होता है और जो आत्मा से जुड़ा है वह दूसरों को खिलाकर खुश होता है।

इमाम अली अलैहिस्सलाम फरमाते हैं के, "खाना शरीर का आहार है और खिलाना आत्मा का आहार है।" पशु से बेहतर कौन खा सकेगा भला? और मनुष्य से बेहतर कौन खिला सकेगा भला? जो शरीर से जुड़ा है उसे खाने में रस आता है, और जो आत्मा से जुड़ा है उसे खिलाने में मजा आता है। आत्मा से जुड़ा हुआ आदमी वाहे वह खुद भूखा भी क्यों ना रहे लेकिन दूसरों को खिलाकर खुश होगा। और जो शरीर से मात्र जुड़ा है वह खाकर ही खुश होगा।

इतिहास में कुछ लोग ऐसे भी लोग हमें मिलेंगे जो पशुओं की तरह थे। पशुओं की तरह ही नहीं बल्कि पशुओं से भी ज्यादा गुमराह (पशुप्राप्त) लोग थे। यह लोग भी खुदको सच्चे धार्मिक और सच्चे मुस्लिम कह रहे थे। केवल मुस्लिम ही नहीं बल्कि खुद को धर्म के नेता, धर्म के शासक और धर्म के संरक्षक मान रहे थे। यह जालिम दूसरों को कभी कुछ खिलाया ही नहीं। खिलाने की बात तो दूर खुद ही दूसरों का हक छीन छीनकर खाते रहे। ऐसी ही एक लूट इस्लाम के इतिहास में "बाग ए फदक" के नाम से भी सुरक्षित है।

पहिले भी खुद को धार्मिक कहने वाले कुछ लोगों ने धर्म को केवल अपने स्वार्थ के लिये उपयोग किया है, और आज भी उपयोग कर रहे हैं। इस तरह के लोग धर्म के नाम पर लोगों को लूटते रहे। ऐसे लोगों को धार्मिक कहना हमारी सबसे बड़ी भूल होगी। कभी समय मिले तो खुद को धार्मिक कहते हुये अनाथों को लूटकर खाने वाले, सत्यवादीयों को सताने वाले, और अपने बुरे कर्मों के कारण खुदा की लानत (ईश्वर के श्राप) पाये हुये लोगों का भी इतिहास ज़रूर ज़रूर पढ़ना चाहिए।

जो लोगों का हक लूट लूट कर खाते रहे और इस लूट को धर्म, भाग्य का नाम देते रहे ऐसे ही लोगों के कारण धर्म का विश्वास भी हुआ है। जो जो लोग ईश्वर को और धर्म को इनकार किया है उन्होंने धर्म के नाम पर किए जाने वाले शोषण को धर्मदेश माना। लोगों का शोषण करने वाले तथाकथित ढोंगी और झूठे पाखंडी धार्मिकों को सच्चे धार्मिक माना। झूठे धार्मिकों ने पीड़ितों के दुःख और पीड़ा को ईश्वर की इच्छा कहकर, ईश्वर का लिखा भाग्य कहकर समाज में फैलाते रहे। इस झूठ के विरोध करने के बजाय लोगों ने धर्म का ही विरोध करते रहे।

दिखावे की भत्ती करने वालों की और न्यायसंगत व्यवहार ना करके अत्याचार करने वालों की निंदा धर्म और धर्म के सभी पंथों ने किया है। पवित्र कुरआन में अध्याय १०७, सुराह अल माऊन में केवल दिखावे के लिये ईश्वर की भत्ती करने वालों की, और अपनी नमाज (ईश्वर भक्ति) के प्रति लापरवाह रहने वालों की, प्रलय (न्याय दिन) को झुठलाने वालों की, यतीमों (अनाथों) के साथ दुर्व्यवहार करने वालों की और सेज्जर्मों में उपयोग में आने वाले छेटी-छेटी चीजें भी पड़ोसी या ज़रूरतमंद लोगों को ना देने वालों की निंदा की गई है।

अगर हम कभी ऐसे पाखंडी, अधर्म और धिक्क, रिट, थापित लोगों को धार्मिक मानते हैं और उनके दुष्कर्मों को धर्म का हिस्सा मानते हैं तो हम जैसा अज्ञानी कोई और नहीं होगा। क्योंकि वास्तव में ऐसे अमानवीय और अधर्म कार्य करने का आदेश या अधिकार कभी धर्म ने कहीं भी, किसीको भी, कोई भी परिस्थितियों में नहीं दिया। कोई भी ज्ञानी और बुद्धिमान व्यक्ति इन अत्याचारियों ने धर्म के नाम पर किये हुए ऐसे अधर्म और अमानवीय कर्मों को धर्म मान कर धर्म को दोष दे नहीं सकता।



-डॉ. मोहम्मदशकील ताजमोहम्मद जाफरी
(शकील मंचरी), मंचर,
पुणे (महाराष्ट्र)
भारत

Dr. Trinadha Rao's Talent Shines in California Singing Competition

- Organizers presenting the award to Trinadha Rao



Chikkadapally, 26 January Metro Udayam : On the occasion of Republic Day celebrations, renowned international singer Dr. Trinadha Rao from Hyderabad emerged victorious in the singing competition titled "AIA Idol," jointly organized by the Association of Indo Americans and the Bay Area Telugu Association. The competition was held separately for juniors and seniors in Hindustani Classical and Bollywood songs categories. Trinadha Rao won in the Bollywood Seniors category. Consul General Srikar Reddy attended the subsequent event as the chief guest and delivered a speech. Speaking afterward, Trinadha Rao said that this was his first time participating in a Hindi singing competition and that this victory has inspired him to work towards singing more Hindi songs in the future. Organizer Mangina Prasad stated that Trinadha Rao has proven that he can sing Hindi songs wonderfully as well. Singers from various parts of the state participated in the competition. Following the singing competition, expatriate Indian artists entertained the audience with their dance performances celebrating Sankranti and Republic Day.

Grand Ratha Saptami Puja Celebrated in Moulali venkateswara Temple



Hyderabad, January 25, Metro Udayam

The Ratha Saptami celebrations were held grandly in Hyderabad. At the Annamacharya Sahita Sridevi Goda devi Sametha Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple on RTC Colony Road, Moulali, devotees celebrated the Ratha Saptami program grandly

from the morning. Early in the morning, devotees participated in the Ratha Saptami festival rituals, Surya Yatra Pratishtha, and Surya Namaskaram (sun salutations) program. Later, they performed Abhishekam (ritual bathing) of Lord Venkateswara, had a darshan (viewing) of the deity in his true form, and



received the sacred water and prasadam (offerings). Speaking afterward, they said that Ratha Saptami is also called Surya Jayanti (the birth anniversary of the Sun God). The Puranas state that the sun travels on the Uttarayana path on this day. They said that worshipping the sun today is very auspicious. They

wished that everyone would prosper with good health and longevity. The temple's honorary president Rameshwar Rao, president Anjaneyulu, members Hanumantha Rao, Sudhakar, Srinivas Rao, Shivanandam, Anjaiah, Prasad, Gayatri, and a large number of devotees participated in this program.

Launching the little book 'Bharataha Ganathanthra Madhimpu' grand successful

Jangaon, January 26, Metro Udayam: The little booklet 'Bharatha Ganathanthra Madhimpu' was launched at brahman street, Hanamakonda, the home of author Dr. Kasarla Ranga Rao. Invented by Dr. Kayita Venkatigaru. Shri Acharya Dr. Banna Ailaiah participated as the chief guest and introduced the book. Dr Yallambhatla Nagaiah presided over the meeting. Dear friends Mr. Meeraswamy, Palleru Veeraswamy, Niranjan, Kaladhar, Boora Bikshapati, Teacher Mallaiah and Meesa Rajamallaiah gave a heartfelt message. Voruganti Shobha and Gudi Kavitha were present. Driver Ramesh and Watchman Mallaiah assisted in the management of this program and others participated



Waqf Lands are Being Devoured..!!

Waqf Board land worth 40 crores misappropriated in Boduppal

*** Medchal Waqf Inspector and Sub-Registrar involved in quid pro quo..?**

*** Crores of rupees changing hands in land deals.. concrete plans for constructions**

*** Two acres of land grabbed with the encouragement of a former public representative**

*** Registration process carried out by altering serial numbers in the Gazette**

*** Survey number 69 remains unprotected despite after many complaints**

"Even God doesn't know the thief within the house... like the fence eating the crop... counting the rafters of the house where one has eaten..." So many proverbs come to mind when looking at their behavior! The attitude of these individuals, which is like biting the hand that feeds them, is questioning the integrity of government employees. Whether due to the indifference of higher officials or loopholes in the regulations, an incident of outright manipulation of documents with the malicious intent of looting crores of rupees has occurred in Boduppal! Their practice of eyeing valuable lands that yield immense wealth, operating on a 'you get this much, I get this much' basis, has resulted in the disappearance of Waqf lands. The way they created false reports and misled the higher authorities will undoubtedly surprise everyone.

Boduppal, January 26 (Metro Udayam)

The fact that prohibited lands exist in Survey Number 69 of Boduppal, within the Boduppal circle, is widely known. While two acres of land in the area are shown under the Waqf Board, the commencement of construction a few months ago suddenly became a subject of controversy. With the backing of a former public representative from Boduppal, some individuals initiated this scheme and began construction on a total of 36 plots. One construction project has recently started, and plans are being made to undertake illegal constructions on the remaining plots as well. It is noteworthy that this entire affair, which is happening under the supervision of a Waqf inspector from Medchal, has been conducted through illegal means from the very beginning. Despite a social activist filing a complaint with the District Collector, Waqf higher officials, and revenue officials, the lack of any corrective action is raising many suspicions.

*** Fake report to the Waqf board CEO!**

The path has been cleared for the illegal registration of the Waqf land in Survey Number 69 to some individuals. All the necessary arrangements for this have already been made, and the registration process is expected to be completed in a day or two days. The Medchal Waqf officer, having received a huge bribe, is personally overseeing and facilitating the registration process. It is reliably learned that the land grabbers have paid him approximately one and a half crore rupees. In this context, the serial numbers in the gazette were also manipulated, and using a different loca-



tion as a pretext, preparations were made to complete the registration in Survey Number 69. It is reported that the inspector conducted a secret investigation without anyone's knowledge and submitted a false report to the Waqf Board CEO, thereby misleading him. Following complaints in this matter, the said Medchal Waqf officer reportedly received a reprimand.

This is the 'secret' behind the registration:

According to the records, Waqf lands exist in that area under Survey Number 69, RR/104, Waqf Board Gazette Number 6A, DT 9-2-89, and Serial Number 2748. However, it is heard that the Medchal Waqf officer is cooperating with the registration by showing RR/102, Waqf Board Gazette Number 6A, DT 9-2-89, Serial Number 2746 as 10/10 (vacant land), thereby misleading the court and obtaining an order stating that there are no Waqf lands there. Using this pretext, he has reportedly struck a huge deal to register two acres of land for unscrupulous individuals. With

ample cooperation from the Sub-Registrar, everything is reportedly ready to secretly complete this process. Locals are astonished to see how a former local public representative and officials have all colluded and are systematically proceeding to plunder lands worth crores of rupees. This incident of irregularities did not end here; there are many more stories and details behind it.



Protect Waqf lands: Aleem, Social activist

Hundreds of acres of Waqf lands in Boduppal are being encroached upon. Some individuals are exploiting the loopholes in the Waqf Board and, with the help of the sub-registrar and Waqf inspector, are illegally amassing crores of rupees. Higher authorities should investigate this matter and protect these lands.



Telangana focused on expanding welfare schemes, strengthening agriculture: Governor

Hyderabad: The Telangana government, during the last two years, focused on expanding welfare schemes and strengthening agricultural support, and developing infrastructure, along with significant investments in digital education, new universities, and boosting the IT/ITES sector through tech parks and innovation initiatives, all while sustaining strong economic growth and improving law and order, Governor Jishnu Dev Varma said on Monday.

During his speech at the 77th Republic Day celebrations, the Governor listed various schemes implemented for welfare and development.

He stated that the government is according the highest priority to the welfare of farmers. Round-the-clock quality power supply is being provided to the agricultural sector, and farm loans up to Rs 2 lakh have been waived, involving an expenditure of Rs 20,617 crore and benefiting around 26 lakh farmers.

The Governor mentioned that the Rythu Bharosa assistance was enhanced last year from Rs 10,000 to Rs 12,000 per acre per

annum, strengthening input support to cultivators. In addition, every grain produced by farmers is being procured, along with a bonus of 500 rupees per quintal on fine variety paddy.

During the current Kharif season, around 72 lakh metric tonnes of paddy were procured from 14.24 lakh farmers, with payments amounting to Rs 17,079.50 crore till date. A further Rs 1,453 crore was disbursed as a bonus subsidy.

He pointed out that Telangana has emerged as India's leading producer of paddy, supported by robust agricultural infrastructure. The state has also expanded its presence in international markets, exporting rice to countries such as the Philippines.

The Governor stated that for the first time, a Farmer Commission has been constituted to enhance farmers' economy and promote sustainable agricultural practices through modern technologies, soil health management, organic farming, and effective implementation of welfare schemes - thereby improving productivity and reducing indebtedness.



He said the problem-ridden Dharani Portal was replaced with the farmer-friendly Bhu Bharati Act to resolve long-standing land disputes.

After a long gap, the government has successfully completed the recruitment in Group I, Group II, Group III and Group IV categories through the Telangana Public Service Commission. As many as 62,749 youth have been given jobs through the Public Service Commission, the Police Recruitment Board and other recruitment agencies till date, he said.

To provide employment in the private sector, the government had recently initiated the Digital Employment Exchange of Telangana (DEET) to empower the youth by enhancing their employability at zero cost. A total of 1,22,337 job seekers were enrolled, and 1,892 employers were onboarded.

Governor Varma said the Young India Skill University was established by the government to impart employable skills among youth. Major reforms in the school and higher education sectors were also introduced. The government is setting up a

Young India Sports University in the Future City, which will be an integrated sports hub.

The government has upgraded ITIs into Advanced Technology Centres, to skill youth in high-demand sectors, bridging the gap between industry and academia with training, scholarships and job support, aiming to make Telangana a global skill capital.

"The government firmly believes that the future of the state is shaped in classrooms and has therefore undertaken several initiatives to strengthen the government education system, enabling it to compete on par with private institutions," he said.

An Education Commission was appointed to formulate effective education policies. Mess charges were increased by 40 per cent and cosmetic charges by 200 per cent to improve facilities for students.

"Young India Integrated Residential Schools, each on 25 acres, are being established to provide equal opportunities to students. Recently, a Young India Police Residential School was started for the children of police personnel," he added.

Support Urged for Rapolu Abhinav in Bar Council Elections: OU TS JAC Chairman



Hyderabad, metro udayam January 26: OU TS JAC Chairman Gaddam Ashok has appealed to voters to support and ensure the victory of Rapolu Abhinav, who is contesting as a member in the upcoming High Court Bar Council elections scheduled to be held on January 30.

Addressing a press conference held on Monday evening at the Arts College premises of Osmania University, Gaddam Ashok highlighted the long-standing legal and social service background of Abhinav's family. He recalled that Abhinav's father, Rapolu Bhaskar, rendered invaluable legal services to SC, ST, and BC communities and fought relentlessly in courts to secure justice for the underprivileged.

Ashok stated that Abhinav, as a worthy successor to his father, would continue the legacy of delivering speedy justice and upholding social justice for marginalized sections of society. He emphasized that the Rapolu family has consistently stood by the poor and worked for the protection of their rights. Several leaders, including Naveen, Bhaskar, Shekhar, and Nagaraju, were present at the press meet and expressed their support for Rapolu Abhinav.

WALT AIR DIVISION MARKS 77th REPUBLIC DAY

Waltair Division of East Coast Railway celebrated the 77th Republic Day with a great fervour, operational excellence and people-centric growth. Addressing officers and staff on the occasion, Shri Lalit Bohra, Divisional Railway Manager, Waltair, highlighted the Division's exceptional performance across freight, passenger services, infrastructure, safety, sustainability and welfare.

Waltair Division continues to stand tall as one of the top five freight-earning divisions of Indian Railways. During the year, the Division achieved a record loading of 66.7 million tonnes, registering nearly 13% growth over the previous best, the highest growth among the top ten divisions. Goods earnings touched ₹8,212 crore, reflecting a growth of about 19%, while gross revenue crossed ₹9,147 crore, marking 17.5% growth over last year and 12% above target. With over 61 million tonnes loaded in just nine months, Waltair Division emerged as the Number One Division in Indian Railways in terms of incremental growth in freight earnings, recording an exceptional increase of ₹1,220 crore over the previous year. Passenger services also witnessed robust growth. From 1 April 2025 till date, the Division operated 230 special trains (over 500 trips),



handled 1,803 passing-through special trains, and augmented more than 5,800 coaches to clear extra rush. During the Sankranti season alone, over 50 special trains with 112 trips were operated. Passenger performance reached new highs with 2.74 crore originating passengers, an 8% increase, and passenger earnings of ₹703 crore, the highest ever for the Division. Key initiatives included permanent augmentation of the Visakhapatnam-Secunderabad Vande Bharat Express from 16 to 20 coaches, introduction of LHB and Vistadome coaches on the Araku route, conversion of 23 originating trains to LHB rakes, and increased frequency of the Udhna-Brahmapur-Udhna Amrit Bharat Express to tri-weekly. Six Amrit Bharat trains flagged off by the Hon'ble Prime Minister are now passing through Waltair



Division, enhancing north-south and north-east connectivity.

Infrastructure upgradation continued at a rapid pace with completion of 21 km of doubling, 36 km of third line and 43 km of automatic signalling works. Electronic Interlocking was commissioned at six stations, 162 Thick Web Switches were laid, and traction infrastructure was strengthened through sub-station upgrades at S. Kota, Tyda, Gidam, Duvvada and Simhachalam. Overall train examination increased to 21.36 rakes per day in FY 2025-26, while operational innovations enabled evacuation of 2-3 additional iron-ore rakes per day. Safety remained paramount with KAVACH implemented in 175 locomotives, illumination of over 90 tunnels, 185 km of track renewal, removal of 7 permanent speed restrictions, and deployment of advanced systems such as Hot Axle Box Detectors, AI-based OHE monitoring and ultrasonic testing.

Passenger safety was further enhanced with the introduction of AI-enabled RoboCop "ASC Arjun" at Visakhapatnam station.

On the sustainability front, Visakhapatnam station earned the Platinum Green Railway Station Certification. Under the Net Zero Mission, over 1,800 kWp of solar capacity has been commissioned, resulting in energy savings exceeding ₹57 lakh, with plans to double capacity. Employee welfare initiatives included 133 compassionate appointments, timely settlement of dues for over 400 employees, and effective grievance redressal through the ASTHA Centre, which has handled about 15,000 calls and resolved nearly 1,900 grievances. Concluding the address, the DRM paid homage to railway personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty and reaffirmed that Waltair Division's efforts remain firmly aligned with the national vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

77th Republic Day celebrations were held grandly in Himayat Nagar Division

Hyderabad January:26 (Metro udayam)

On the occasion of the 77th Republic Day today, Himayat Nagar Division Corporator Mahalakshmi Raman Goud hoisted the national flag at 20 locations in the Himayat Nagar division and extended Republic Day greetings to all the people. Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender attended the event as the chief guest. Senior Congress leaders, party workers, and local residents of the division also participated in the program.



Odisha tableau shines at R-Day parade, showcasing culture, self-reliance

Bhubaneswar: Odisha's tableau was prominently showcased during the national parade at the Kartavya Path, New Delhi, on the occasion of the 77th Republic Day celebrations on Monday.

According to an official statement, the tableau was presented on the theme 'Samruddhi Ka Mantra, Aatmanirbhar Bharat', highlighting Odisha's pivotal contribution to building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat through indigenous production and sustainable development.

"The tableau depicted Odisha's holistic development journey, seamlessly blending agricultural prosperity and rich cultural heritage with modern industry, innovation, skill development and advanced technology. It showcased the state's effective use of natural resources, human capital and technological capabilities, underscoring its growing role in India's social and economic



progress. The narrative illustrated a continuous transformation from Koraput coffee symbolising agricultural excellence to silicon semiconductors representing Odisha's emergence in high-tech manufacturing," informed the state government.

The front part of the tableau was designed as the lower portion of Lord Jagannath's chariot, symbolising Odisha's spiritual and cultural foundation. Rotating replicas on the upper section portrayed women's empowerment, featuring a traditional

Pattachitra-style female figure holding symbols of folk culture and knowledge, alongside a modern representation of women's leadership across sectors, including industry and technology.

At the centre, Koraput coffee highlighted sustainable livelihoods and agricultural success, while a silicon semiconductor chip reflected Odisha's strides in advanced electronics. The Mukhyamantri Kamadhenu Yojana, aimed at achieving self-reliance in milk production, was represented through a Dokra-crafted bull. An idol of Lord Ganesha showcased Odisha's stone carving excellence, and a replica of the Konark Sun Temple at the rear symbolised the state's timeless architectural and artistic legacy. Live demonstrations by artisans on the tableau deck displayed stone carving, Sabai grass handicrafts, and Pipili applique

work. The tableau was richly adorned with Sambalpuri textiles, Pattachitra art, traditional tribal paintings, silver filigree work, and Manabasa Gurubar folk paintings, reflecting Odisha's vibrant cultural identity. Cultural performances of the Odia folk dance Chaiti Ghoda dance, a tradition dating back to the 16th century, added vibrancy and conveyed Odisha's role in advancing a self-reliant India.

It is noteworthy that Odisha's tableau won first place nationally in 2024 for its theme on women's empowerment through handicrafts and handlooms. Additionally, the state's 2025 tableau on handloom and weaving traditions was selected for the 'Dekho Apna Desh' programme during Bharat Parv, held from January 26 to 31 near the Red Fort.

Republic Day an occasion for honest assessment of Constitutional values: Mayawati

New Delhi: The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) on Monday extended heartfelt greetings to the people of India and Indians living across the world on the occasion of the country's 77th Republic Day, while calling for an honest assessment of whether the nation has truly progressed in line with the Constitution's original spirit. In a press statement issued on January 26, BSP national president, former Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mayawati, said Republic Day should not merely be a day of promises and claims, but a moment for serious introspection on the state of political, social and economic democracy in the country. "Leaving aside the maze of tall promises and claims, it is necessary to honestly assess whether the Centre and state governments are limited to mere talk or whether the country has achieved the desired progress in political, social and economic democracy in accordance with the true spirit of the Constitution, leading to an improvement in people's living standards," the BSP chief said.



Congratulating citizens, she extended "heartfelt greetings, warm congratulations and best wishes for a life of dignity and self-respect" to all Indians on Republic Day. Referring to the implementation of the Constitution drafted under the leadership of Dr B.R. Ambedkar, Mayawati said it was necessary to evaluate what kind of development has taken place in a country of nearly 140 crore people, particularly in addressing poverty and unemployment. She questioned why a vast majority of people remain dependent on limited government assistance while wealth continues to be concentrated among a small section.

77th Republic Day celebrations held grandly in Boduppall Circle

Thotakura Vajresh Yadav hoisted the national flag at the Congress party office



Medipally, January 26 (Metro Udayam) : The 77th Republic Day celebrations were held grandly on Monday in the GHMC Boduppall Circle. On this occasion, DCC President Thotakura Vajresh Yadav hoisted the national flag at the Congress party office. Deputy Commissioner Shailaja hoisted the national flag at the Boduppall Circle office. <Party president Pogula Narasimha Reddy, former mayors Thotakura Ajay Yadav and Amar Singh, former deputy mayor Kurra Shivakumar Goud, former corporators, and officials participated in the program.



"Tiranga Bike Rally" under the auspices of RV Foundation



Chief Guests: Vajresh Yadav and Nakka Prabhakar Goud

Tungathurthi Ravi grandly organized a bike rally with 250 bikes

Youth and Congress party members participated enthusiastically

Medipally, January 26 (Metro Udayam)

On the occasion of the 77th Republic Day, a "Tiranga Bike Rally" was grandly organized on Monday in Medipally 9th Division and Peerzadiguda 10th Division, under the Boduppall Circle of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, under the leadership of RV Foundation Chairman and Peerzadiguda Congress Party President Tungathurthi Ravi. The chief guests at the event were Medchal District Congress Party President Thotakura Vajresh Yadav, senior Congress leader Nakka Prabhakar Goud, Medchal District B Block President Mahesh Goud, General Secretary Kotha Kishore Goud, former Mayor Amar Singh, Kotha Sushanth Goud, and others, who flagged off the bike rally. The rally, which started from Uppal Depot with approximately 400 bikes and 650 young people, proceeded enthusiastically with slogans and patriotic songs through Peerzadiguda Kaman, Aurora College, CPRI Road,

Medipally Police Station, and the Warangal main road, before concluding back at Uppal Depot.

On this occasion, the chief guests said that Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar had provided India with a great and superior constitution, unlike any other country in the world, emphasizing unity in diversity. Stating that India, as a united democratic nation, holds a prominent position in the world today, and emphasizing the importance of remembering the freedom fighters and everyone who contributed to the drafting of the Constitution, he specially congratulated R.V. Foundation Chairman Tungathurthi Ravi for successfully organizing the Tiranga rally. Tungathurthi Ravi expressed his special gratitude to the youth and Congress party members from the Boduppall circle who participated in the massive bike rally in such a short time. He said that such programs contribute to fostering national unity and patriotism. In this program, Pogula Narasimha Reddy, Karre Rajesh, Srinivas Reddy, Prabhakar Reddy, Kavadapu Ram Reddy, Anji Reddy, Yasaram Mahesh, Padma Reddy, Suman Naik, Kiran Reddy, Jangachari, Bhaskar, Pawan Goud, Ramesh, Mazhar, Nagaraju, Taviti Prashanth, Somaiah, Uday Goud, Sairam, Sharath Goud, Kapil, along with many other youth and Congress party leaders, participated in large numbers.

Gurmeet Choudhary: Laughter Chefs is a beautiful chaos



Mumbai: Actor Gurmeet Choudhary has described his stint on the popular reality show Laughter Chefs Season 3 as an emotional and unforgettable journey, calling it a "beautiful chaos" where laughter, food, friendship, and love came together seamlessly.

On Sunday, the winner of the third season was announced, where Team Kaanta, which included Aly Goni, Krushna Abhishek, Kashmera Shah, Abhishek Kumar, Samarth Jure and Jannat Zubair, won the trophy.

As the show came to an end, Gurmeet, who featured in the show with his wife Debinna Bonnerjee, took to Instagram, where he shared a string of images from the show.

"Laughter Chefs isn't just a show it's an emotion. A beautiful chaos where madness, love, food, friendship and laughter come together to create something truly special..." What made this journey unforgettable for Gurmeet "was the people."

"Every single person on this set came with a pure heart, genuine warmth and madness in the best way possible.. Huge cheers to the winning team Kanta and to my brother @aebysbortoshine, what a win, what a moment!"

He then spoke about his group, called Team Churi, featuring Karan Kundra, Elvish Yadav, Tejasswi Prakash, Isha Malvia, Vivian DSena, Isha Singh, Gurmeet Choudhary and Debinna Bonnerjee.

"I love you guys. We truly had a ball. You all cooked, I happily enjoyed Pure fun, pure madness, pure memories.. @bharti.laughterqueen oh my darling what a woman, what strength. Shooting through pregnancy till the very last days, still spreading laughter like magic. Nothing but love and respect always. You know it. Chef Harpal Ji a true star, grace and wisdom in every word.." "@krushna30 bhai what talent, what energy, what a powerhouse. Much love always to you and our star Bhabhi kash @kashmera1 @alygoni Bhai officially declaring you the best chef. Period."

Gurmeet added: "Karan & Elvish & Vivian bro our star cooks of team Churi @samarthjurel your energy Isha & Eisha & Teja & Jannat best divas in the house And last but never least my wife, my constant, my strength, my biggest cheerleader. Always aching it, always being the best partner in everything I do. Grateful beyond words @debinabon On to the next... Because the show must go on.. #TeamLaughterChefs Thank you @colorstv & team."

'Bigg Boss 5' fame Sidharth Bhardwaj returns to reality TV with 'The 50': I thrive in chaos

Mumbai: Sidharth Bhardwaj, who has been seen in shows such as 'Splitvilla 2' and 'Bigg Boss 5', has opened up about his return to the reality television space after a really long hiatus, saying that the unique and chaotic format of the upcoming show 'The 50' drew him back to the genre.

"After a long absence from reality TV, I chose The 50 format because I think it's very different. It's never been done in India. It sounds very chaotic and sounds very fun. I thrive in chaos, so that's one of the biggest reasons I chose this," Sidharth told IANS.

He added that he has Bigg Boss, "so it sounds similar to Bigg Boss. I've done Splitvilla, where alliances were very important, so it sounds similar to that. So that's one of the reasons."

Reflecting on his reality TV jour-



ney, Sidharth said he considers himself among the few contestants who experienced Bigg Boss, Splitvilla and Roadies during their rawest phases. He believes those experiences taught him valuable lessons.

"I am one of those rare contestants who faced Bigg Boss, Splitvilla and Roadies in their most raw era, and I feel that it helped me understand that no matter what the situation is in a reality show, one must keep calm and try to understand what the situation demands rather

than, you know, following the herd mentality and going and fighting."

"So that's what it's helped me with, because I've also made my mistakes and I've learned from my mistakes," he added.

Sidharth also explained why he stayed away from reality shows for years after Bigg Boss 5, apart from a stint on Fear Factor. He said he did not want to take up projects that felt smaller than what he had already done.

"Yeah, after Bigg Boss 5, I didn't do a lot of reality shows, but I also did do Fear Factor. So one of the main reasons was that there was nothing comparatively as big or bigger than all the shows I've done. And I didn't want to do something way smaller. And you know, we are contestants over there. So that was one of the reasons."

Inclusive growth is the goal of Praja government: Naini

Hanumakonda: Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy on Sunday said that the Congress-led Praja government is committed to the development of all sections of society and views minorities as equal partners in governance. He asserted that, unlike divisive politics based on religion, the present government is working to ensure equal opportunities for every citizen.

Addressing a programme at the Indoor Stadium in Hanumakonda, organised by the District Minority Welfare Department, the MLA distributed sewing machines to 200 minority women beneficiaries under the Indiramma Minority Women Shakti Scheme. He participated in the event as the chief guest. Speaking on the occasion, Naini Rajender Reddy said the Praja Government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, is implementing focused welfare and development programmes aimed at the upliftment and economic empowerment of minorities. He remarked that earlier governments treated minorities merely as a vote bank, whereas the current government



considers them partners in progress and governance.

The MLA further stated that scholarships and fee reimbursement for minority students are being released on time and that minority hostels, coaching centres and vocational training institutes are being strengthened. He added that special funds are also being allocated for improving basic infrastructure in minor-

ity colonies. Urging beneficiaries to make effective use of the sewing machines, he assured them of continued government support. He said this initiative was only the beginning and announced that another 200 sewing machines are ready for distribution, with steps being taken to ensure that benefits reach every eligible person.

11 jawans injured as Maoists trigger blasts on Karregutta Hills in Chhattisgarh

Raipur/Bijapur: At least 11 security personnel were injured when Maoists triggered multiple IED blasts in the Karregutta Hills area near the Bijapur-Telangana border in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region, police officials said on Monday.

The serial explosions on Sunday targeted a joint anti-Naxal operation team comprising personnel from the District Reserve Guard (DRG) of Chhattisgarh Police and the elite CoBRA unit of the CRPF.

Reports confirm that ten of the injured belong to the DRG, while one is from CoBRA. All the personnel were promptly evacuated and admitted to hospitals, where their conditions are reported as stable following medical treatment. The blasts occurred in quick succession during the search operation in the dense,



hilly terrain of Karregutta, police insiders told IANS, evading to provide details of the incidents. The police insiders said detailed information will be issued later. The Karregutta Hills have long been regarded as a major stronghold and safe haven for Maoists. The first explosion took place on Sunday morning, followed

by additional detonations through the afternoon, designed to inflict casualties and spread terror just before the national festival on January 26.

Security forces immediately launched a large-scale search and recovery operation in the aftermath. Teams are combing the area to locate and defuse remaining IEDs planted by the insurgents.

This comes amid intensified anti-Maoist efforts in southern Chhattisgarh, where coordinated operations by central and state forces have been stepping up pressure on Naxal groups.

The Karregutta Hills, straddling the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border, have witnessed heightened activity in recent times, including prior encounters and the establishment of new security camps in surrounding regions to extend administrative reach.

The latest IED attacks appear aimed at disrupting these gains and intimidating forces ahead of Republic Day celebrations, which have seen symbolic flag-

hoistings in previously inaccessible villages, police sources said. On the other hand, the police department has released a statement that the flag-unfurling ceremony took place on Republic Day 2026.

The security forces achieved a significant symbolic victory by unfurling the national Tricolour at a newly established security camp in the Karregutta Hills, a former Maoist stronghold in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district.

Situated at an altitude of approximately 5,000 feet, the hill had long served as a key sanctuary for Naxalites in the Bastar region. The unfurling of the flag in this high-altitude Maoist core zone represented not just a ceremonial act but a powerful assertion of India's sovereignty and the triumph of democracy over violence, the statement said.

The Karregutta Hills, rising steeply along the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border, had been a focal point of large-scale anti-Maoist drives that resulted in significant setbacks for insurgent groups.

Health is real wealth: Actor Rajendra Prasad



Guntur: Popular film actor Rajendra Prasad on Sunday emphasised that health is the real wealth, far more valuable than money or social status. He was speaking after participating in the "10K Walk" organised in Guntur city to promote fitness and healthy living. Addressing the gathering, Rajendra Prasad said that maintaining good health is the main reason he continues to entertain audiences on the silver screen even today. He appealed to people of all age groups to make regular exercise a part of their daily routine, stressing that a healthy lifestyle leads to a happy and productive life.

MLA Sujana Chowdary expressed happiness over the successful organisation of the programme under the inspiring slogan "Walk for Health – Walk for Guntur."

He said such initiatives play a key role in creating awareness about the importance of physical fitness among the public.

MLC Alapati Rajendra stated that the "Walk for Health – Walk for Guntur" programme has been conducted continuously for the past 16 years, reflecting its strong commitment to public health.

He voiced concern over the growing tendency of youth being drawn towards unhealthy habits and welcomed the efforts of the organisers and the Eagle Team in promoting a positive message. The programme was conducted under the guidance of NRI Educational Institutions and KITS Educational Institutions, with sponsorship from the Sujana Foundation.

Several prominent personalities participated in the event, including Narasaraopet MP Lavu Sri Krishnadevarayalu, MLAs Kanna Lakshminarayana and B. Ramanjaneyulu, AP Mahila Commission Chairperson Rayapati Sailaja, Eagle Chief Ake Ravi Krishna, film actress Kamna Jethmalani, along with a large number of students from various educational institutions, making the event a grand success.

Mom Alia Bhatt flaunts hand-made Indian flag by Raha this Republic Day

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt wished everyone on Republic Day by sharing a picture of an Indian flag, made by her little bundle of joy, Raha Kapoor. Alia took to the Stories section of her Instagram handle and posted a photo of the hand-



made tricolor, along with the words, "Happy Republic Day," followed by the Indian flag and folded hands emojis. Apart from Alia, several other prominent names from the Indian film industry also used social media to wish everyone on the 77th Republic Day. Veteran actor Kamal Haasan wrote on the micro-blogging site, "The Indian Republic was born when our forefathers chose to throw off the imperial yoke and govern themselves through the Constitution. Its strength lies in respecting diversity, federalism, and the democratic spirit. As long as the Constitution lives in our conduct, the Republic remains strong. Happy #RepublicDay to all my fellow Indians." Akshay Kumar also took to his X (Earlier known as Twitter) handle and posted a special Republic Day message in Hindi. He shared, "Say with pride, we are Indians". Expressing pride in being Indian, he concluded the post with spirited chants of "Jai Hind and Jai Bharat." Actor Suniel Shetty penned, "Freedom gave us a voice. The Republic gave us responsibility. May we always honour it. For the tricolour. For the nation. Always Jai Hind. Jai Bharat". Megastar Chiranjeevi added, "Warm wishes to all my fellow Indians on the 77th Republic Day ??? ...Let us honour our Constitution and stand united for a stronger, progressive India. Jai Hind." Furthermore, Anil Kapoor, Anupam Kher, Hrithik Roshan, and others also wished everyone on the Republic Day. Shifting our focus back to Alia, she tied the knot with actor Ranbir Kapoor on April 14, 2022, in an intimate ceremony after being in a relationship for some time.

HIL: Kalinga Lancers and Ranchi Royals face off for glory in title clash

Bhubaneswar: The stage is set for an exciting showdown in the Men's Hockey India League (HIL) 2025-26, with Kalinga Lancers taking on Ranchi Royals in the final at the renowned Kalinga Hockey Stadium on Monday. With the season's top prize at stake, two of the most steady and well-rounded teams in the tournament will compete for the title.

Kalinga Lancers secured their place in the final by finishing first in the league with 16 points and then narrowly defeating Ranchi Royals 2-1 in a tense Qualifier 1. This effort highlighted their dominance and composure under pressure. Ranchi Royals demonstrated great resilience by bouncing back strongly. After finishing second in the league and narrowly losing Qualifier 1, they came from behind to beat Hyderabad Toofans 3-2 in Qualifier 2, securing their spot in the final and keeping their championship hopes alive.

The Lancers have been the most defensively resilient team this season, allowing only 8 goals in the league stage. Their success relies on a tight defensive organisation and highly effective penalty corner execution.

Belgian star Alexander Hendrickx has been their key player, leading the team with ten goals, all scored from penalty corners. The Lancers also have the second-best penalty-corner conversion rate at 29.7%, keeping them a consistent threat in the opposition circle.

Playing at home in Bhubaneswar, they will benefit from enthusiastic crowd support as they strive to finish a nearly flawless campaign with the title.

Speaking ahead of the Final, Kalinga Lancers' captain Arthur Van Doren said, "This has been a special season for us, and reaching the Final is a reward for the consistency and hard work of the entire group. We know Ranchi



Royals are a dangerous side, especially in attack, so we will need to be at our best. Playing the final in Bhubaneswar is a huge motivation for us, and we are determined to give our fans a performance to remember."

Ranchi Royals reach the final as the league's most aggressive team, having netted the most goals (25) during the group stage. Their forward line has been excellently guided by Belgian striker Tom Boon, who is the league's leading scorer with 18 goals, comprising five field goals, ten penalty corners, and three penalty strokes. Notably, Boon marked his birthday by scoring a hat-trick in Qualifier 2 against the Toofans on Sunday.

The Royals' penalty-corner unit has demonstrated consistent excellence, and their skill in striking swiftly and overturning matches has become a defining feature of their campaign.

Ahead of the final showdown, Ranchi Royals captain Tom Boon stated, "We have shown a lot of character to reach the final, and

the mindset in the group is very positive. We respect the Lancers and what they have achieved this season, but finals are about handling the moment and delivering on the day. We believe in our quality, our attacking strength, and our ability to rise to big occasions."

Kalinga Lancers and Ranchi Royals have faced off twice in the tournament so far, with the Lancers winning both times. They secured a 4-2 victory in the league stage and narrowly defeated the Royals 2-1 in Qualifier 1. Although the Lancers have the statistical edge, both matches were highly competitive, promising another exciting showdown in the final.

With the Men's HIL trophy at stake, the winners will claim pride, build momentum, and make history. For the Lancers, it's a chance to end a strong season with a trophy on their home field. For the Royals, it's an opportunity to turn their season around dramatically and emerge as champions.

Sunny Deol meets the family of PVC Flying Officer Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon

Mumbai: As "Border 2" continues to entertain movie buffs on the big screen, the protagonist Sunny Deol got the opportunity to meet the family of Param Vir Chakra Flying Officer Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon, the character lived on the screen by Diljit Dosanjh. Sunny published a picture with one of the family members of the braveheart on his Insta handle and wrote, "It was a privilege to meet the family of our hero Param Vir Chakra Flying Officer Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon being portrayed by @diljitdosanjh, whose true story of unmatched bravery you will see in the film. Meeting his family was so warm and memorable. (sic)"

"#Border2 is a salute to all soldiers and their families who carry their legacy with quiet courage," he added.

Ahead of the release of the drama, Sunny visited the Indian aircraft carrier



INS Vikrant. He even posted snaps from the visit on social media in which he was accompanied by singers Anu Malik, Sonu Nigam, and the producers of "Border 2". "Some places don't just surround you, they change you. INS Vikrant

filled me with immense pride, strength, and courage. A moment I'll carry forever. Salute to our Navy, our forces, and the spirit that protects our motherland every single day. Jai Hind," Sunny wrote the caption. Starring Varun Dhawan, Ahan Shetty, Diljit

Dosanjh, Mona Singh, Sonam Bajwa, Medha Rana, and Anya Singh, "Border 2" is presented by Gulshan Kumar & T-Series, in collaboration with J.P. Dutta's J.P. Films.

Backed by Bhushan Kumar, Krishan Kumar, J.P. Dutta, and Nidhi Dutta, the project has been made under the direction of Anurag Singh.

Refreshing your memory, J.P. Dutta's blockbuster hit "Border" reached the audience in 1997. The project enjoyed an ensemble cast with Sunny Deol, Jackie Shroff, Suniel Shetty, Akshaye Khanna, Puneet Issar, Sudesh Berry, and Kulbhushan Kharbada in significant roles, along with Tabu, Pooja Bhatt, Rakhee Gulzar, Sharbani Mukherjee, Sapna Bedi, and Rajiv Goswami as the supporting cast.